

SAFE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

CA CITIES GANG PREVENTION NETWORK PRESENTATION

September 2009

Participating Cities

CURRENT CITIES

Modesto

Oakland

Oxnard

Salinas

Stockton

POSSIBLE 2ND PHASE CITIES

Sacramento

San Francisco

Union City

SIMILAR EFFORTS

Los Angeles

The Approach

- 1. Community & civic leadership standing & acting together to deliver a powerful anti-violence message**
- 1. The use of in-depth qualitative & quantitative data to guide & inform efforts**
- 2. Employ respectful face-to-face communication to deliver the message**
- 1. Message's power is enhanced by providing realistic alternatives to violent lifestyles, backing that up w/targeted enforcement**

The Evidence

Quasi-experimental replications in 6+ cities (all vetted for publication in refereed academic journals). What this literature is telling us:

- 1. Achieved reductions in violence from 37-63 %**
- 2. Reduces recidivism**
- 3. Works across a wide variety of settings**
- 4. Requires strong commitment of community & civic leadership**
- 5. Results driven by the communication component**

3-Part Message

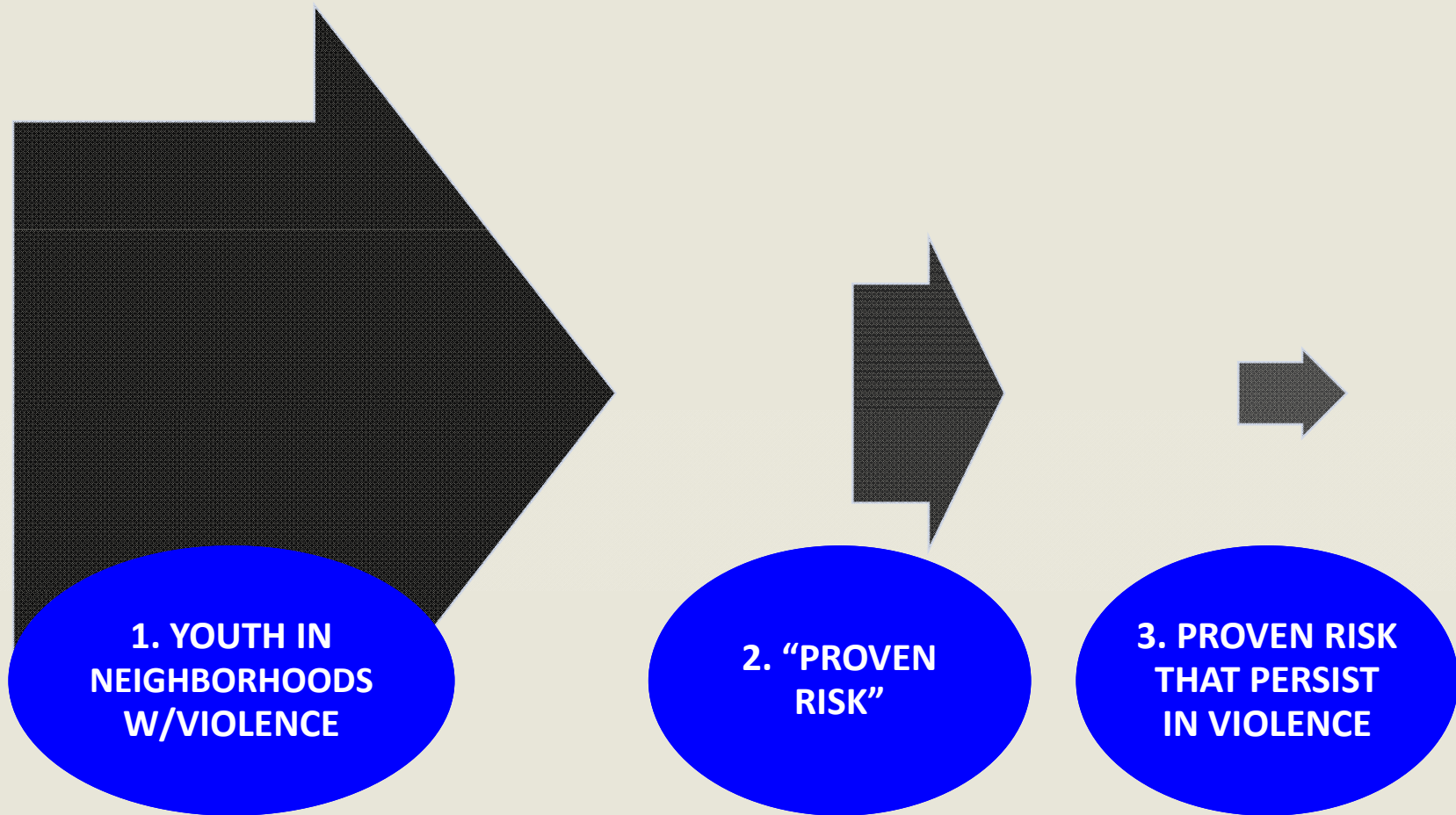
- Health providers, law enforcement, victims of violence talk about the cost of violence
- Ex-offenders, outreach workers, service providers emphasize that there are alternatives to violence
- Faith & other community leaders talk about community norms: violence is wrong

(Via face-to-face meetings w/highest-risk youth in places w/civic & community importance)

The Meetings

- Held in places of community/civic importance: churches, city halls, courts, community centers
- Not too many: 15-25 highest-risk young men (& their families, friends, community supporters)
- Presentations are to the point: 3-4 minutes, overall length less than an hour – no lectures or scare tactics
- Meetings end w/immediate connection to a pathway leading to employment (& services). Food may be served. Intakes & assessments done right then.

Using Data to Shift LE Strategic Focus



Shifting the focus: the products

- 1. Changes tone & content of LE communication w/proven risk:**
 - frank but respectful anti-violence message
 - interaction is an entry point for services
 - allied w/community leadership
- 2. Enforcement resources allocated to highest risk groups: more bang for enforcement buck**
 - 1. As per Chicago PSN eval, reduces recidivism for proven risk, shifts LE attention away from low- & med-risk youth, keeping them out of CJ system**

Where we are. Where we're going

HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Implementation in Oakland & Salinas over next few months; other 1st phase cities late this/early next year**
- **Work w/PICO affiliates (5 cities) to strengthen community role in communicating anti-violence message**
- **Continue work on building employment pathways/menus for highest-risk young people**
- **Explore “Ceasefire/Ceasefire” partnerships for 1-2 cities**

PS: Some Examples

- **PICO: follow “call ins” w/community gatherings (bbq’s, etc.) at churches to express support for youth**
 - Provide supports (trans, work clothes, lunches)
 - Enter a “covenant” w/them against violence
- **Working w/WO Capt. to develop “job vouchers” for OPD to give proven-risk youth**
 - Change nature of interaction w/PD
 - Echo anti-violence message

PS: Ceasefire (Chicago) **vs.** Ceasefire (Boston)

- Research: most effective strategies for reducing violence **community-wide** in the **near-term**.
- Similar theories of change: enhance risks/costs associated w/violent behavior, widen decision alternatives, change norms, (Skogan, 2008, ES-2).
- Complementary: joint implementation can reduce violence & strengthen community voice in delivering effective anti-violence message.