

Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Intervention Plan

The commitment for the reduction of disproportionate minority contact (DMC) in the Jacksonville community has been a grassroots effort for over five years. Originally, the community focus was to reduce the number of young African-American males incarcerated in the city of Jacksonville. However, over time and after considerable local research, findings indicate that exposure to and the witnessing of domestic violence by children is an overwhelming indicator of future violent behaviors and contact with law enforcement.

As identified in the Jacksonville's Juvenile Justice Comprehensive Strategy (JJCS) there are five priority risk factors that contribute to domestic violence. These priority risk factors bring to the forefront the fact that families are faced with multiple challenges in our community. These risk factors are as follows:

1. Economic deprivation
2. Family management problems
3. Early academic failure
4. Lack of commitment to school
5. Availability and the use of drugs

Additionally, research findings of Dr. Michael Hallett, University of North Florida (UNF) Associate Professor of Criminal Justice entitled, "Revenue Maximization for Helping At-Risk-Kids (H.A.R.K.): Children Who Witness Violence in Jacksonville", confirms the JJCS findings.

Dr. Hallett's findings state:

1. Juvenile witnesses of violence in Jacksonville are disproportionately African-American and live in neighborhoods with comparatively lower per capita incomes.
2. As a whole, male and female children are roughly equal in the overall number of witnessed incidents, however gender proportions of witnesses vary dramatically by zip code.
3. Children who witness 3 or more instances of violence have a higher subsequent arrest rate than children who witness 1-2 instances of violence.
4. Generally in the data, as per capita income goes up, the number of juveniles witnessing domestic violence goes down (based on US Census tract data for highest frequency street addresses by zip code).
5. Generally in the data, as the percentage of population enrolled in college goes up, the number of juveniles witnessing domestic violence goes down (based on US Census tract data for highest frequency street addresses by zip code).

6. Generally in the data, as the percentage of 16-19 year olds with no high school diploma and currently not enrolled in school (“high school dropouts”) goes down, so too does the number of juvenile witnesses to violence (based on US Census tract data for highest frequency by zip code).

Currently, to focus on a number of issues that at risk juveniles confront, The City of Jacksonville has an aggressive truancy program, “Truancy Interdiction Program (TIP),” in operation. Truancy is generally recognized as a gateway behavior to delinquency and is often connected with property crimes that occur during school hours. It is often the first indicator that a child is headed down the wrong path: an early warning sign of problems that could lead to more serious infractions and negatively affect the rest of his or her life. Studies have shown that approximately three-fourths of incarcerated criminals in the U.S. were habitual truants during their school years.

TIP’s mission is to reduce juvenile crime and violence, prevent and deter the onset of truancy, improve school attendance for habitual truants, improve academic performance, increase student and family commitment to school, just to list a few. The program’s mission addresses two of the five JJCS priority risk factor, early academic failure and lack of commitment to school.

Since TIP’s inception, from 1998 to present, over 20,000 students have been processed for truant behavior. As a result of the processings, daylight juvenile residential burglaries has been reduced by 38%, the school attendance of truants has improved, there has been a reduction in truant recidivism, and there has been and overall decrease in the truancy rate for Jacksonville.

TIP works to redirect truant students back to school and toward more productive behavior. A comprehensive approach is taken while working with families. Referrals and resources are made available to help deal with the root causes of problem behavior.

A sample of statistics from Dr. Hallett’s “Revenue Maximization for Helping At-Risk-Kids (H.A.R.K.): Children Who Witness Violence in Jacksonville” and TIP’s “School Year 2002-03 Truancy Statistical Report” are shown. Dr. Hallett’s statistics show trends for juvenile witnesses of domestic violence by race and neighborhood, TIP’s statistics show risk factors for truancy by race and neighborhood. When comparing the data it is evident that Black youth residing on the Northside of Jacksonville are at an increased risk for DMC and truancy.

Risk Factor	Number of Juveniles	Source
<i>Juvenile witness to violence in Year 1995-2003</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Zip Code 32209 * 1244 ▪ Zip Code 32210 878 ▪ Zip Code 32206 707 ▪ Zip Code 32208 651 ▪ Zip Code 32218 560 <p>* DMC Pilot Project Zip Code</p>		UNF, Dr. Hallett
<i>Juvenile witness of violence in Year 1995 – 2003</i> By race and gender <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Black Male 3072 ▪ White Male 1802 ▪ Black Female 3042 ▪ White Female 1213 		UNF, Dr. Hallett
<i>TIP School Year 2002-2003 Truancy Statistical Report</i> By Race: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ White 2016 ▪ Black 2942 By Gender: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Male 3456 ▪ Female 1668 		TIP Truancy Report
<i>TIP School Year 2002-2003 Truancy Statistical Report</i> By Area: Northside Zone 5 (Zone 5 includes zip Codes 32209 and 32208)	859	TIP Truancy Report

Because zip code 32209 shows the highest incidence of exposure to domestic violence and contact with law enforcement through truancy, this will be the target zip code for the DMC pilot project.

Acknowledging that the neighborhood with the highest contact with law enforcement is primarily a Black community, the pilot project is in the process of developing cultural sensitivity training for School Resource Officers (SRO) in the context of Jacksonville’s Sheriff’s Office’s SRO program. The project will seek technical assistance from recognized experts in the development of the cultural diversity training.

In keeping with the JJCS priority risk factors, Dr. Hallett's study, Revenue Maximization for Helping At-Risk-Kids (H.A.R.K.): Children Who Witness Violence in Jacksonville, and TIP's data, the DMC sub-committee has developed a preliminary DMC model that will act as a catalyst for providing at-risk juveniles and their family's a suite of wrap-around intervention services. These services will be provided through collaborative partnerships and a Centralized Assessment Hub. The preliminary DMC conceptual model will comprise of three component phases:

Phase I: Assessment - includes steps 1 and 2 from the *DMC Client Service Model* (attached)

- Referral made to DMC from community, these community sources can include but are not limited to Juvenile Justice programs, Courts, Community Based Organizations, and Duval County Schools
- Client completes the initial intake process conducted at the Centralized Assessment Hub
- Emergency referrals provided, follow-up of referrals within 3-6 hours
- Non-emergency referrals provided, follow-up of referrals within 24-48 hours

Phase II: Evaluation – includes step 3 from the *DMC Client Service Model* (attached)

- Client receives referral and assignment to Service Provider Hub
- Service Provider Hub makes contact with client and conducts initial intake and verifies needed services
- Service Provider Hub initiates wrap-around services which include follow-up on referrals made at assessment
- Information updated into databases
- Provides on-going support to and monitoring of client
- Distributes and collects client satisfaction surveys

Phase III: Collaborative Partnership – includes steps 4 and 5 from the *DMC Client Service Model* (attached)

- Provider receives and follows-up client referral
- Provider provides feedback to Service Provider Hub status of client referral
- Update client information in database
- Adhere to oversight policies
- DMC conduct oversight and monitoring of providers and clients

In summary, the preliminary *DMC Client Service Model* is designed to implement a service delivery platform that reduces juvenile DMC by implementing strategies that address Dr. Hallett’s findings as they correlate to the JJCS priority risk factors:

Dr. Hallett’s Findings	Priority Risk Factor	DMC Model Strategy
Juvenile witnesses of violence in Jacksonville are disproportionately African-American and live in neighborhoods with comparatively lower per capita incomes.	Family Management / Availability and Drug Usage	Provide services to African American and other minority youths in high risk zip code 32209 Counseling / Drug Intervention Services
As a whole, male and female children are roughly equal in the overall number of witness incidents; however, gender proportions of witnesses vary dramatically by zip code.	Family Management / Availability and Drug Usage	Provide services to African American and other minority youths in high risk zip code 32209 Counseling / Drug Intervention Services
Children who witness 3 or more instances of violence have a higher subsequent arrest rate than children who witness 1-2 instances of violence.	Family Management / Availability and Drug Usage	Provide services to African American and other minority youths in high risk zip code 32209 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Counseling / Drug Intervention Services ▪ Domestic Violence Services ▪ Legal Aid Services
Generally in the data, as per capita income goes up, the number of juvenile witnesses goes down (based on US Census tract data for highest frequency street addresses in zip code).	Family Management / Economic Deprivation	Provide services to African American and other minority youths in high risk zip code 32209 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Counseling ▪ GED Education
Generally in the data, as percentage of population enrolled in college goes up, the number of juvenile witnesses goes down (based on US Census tract data for highest frequency street addresses in zip code).	Early Academic Failure / Lack of Commitment to School/Economic Deprivation	Provide services to African American and other minority youths in high risk zip code 32209 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Counseling ▪ GED Education
Generally in the data, as percentage of 16-19 year olds with no high school diploma and currently not enrolled in school (“high school dropouts”) goes down, so too does the number of juvenile witnesses to violence (based on US Census tract data fore highest frequency	Early Academic Failure / Lack of Commitment to School/Economic Deprivation	Provide services to African American and other minority youths in high risk zip code 32209 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Counseling ▪ GED Education