

Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency

Annual Report to the Governor and General Assembly

2006

Walter M. Phillips, Jr., Esq.
Chairman

Michael J. Kane, Esq.
Executive Director

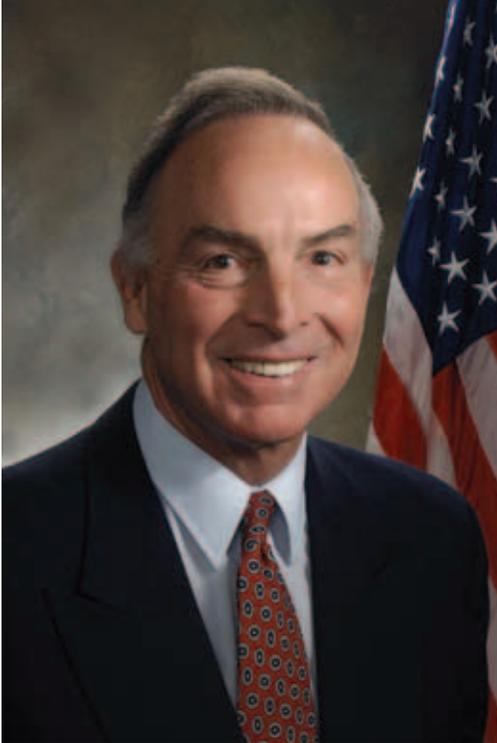
MISSION

The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency promotes a collaborative approach to enhance the quality of justice through guidance, leadership and resources by empowering citizens and communities and influencing state policy.

VISION

The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency strives to be a state and national leader by providing innovative services and programs that promote justice for all citizens and communities of Pennsylvania.

VALUES ■ COMMITMENT ■ DEDICATION ■ RESPECT ■ INTEGRITY ■ OPTIMISM ■ TEAMWORK



Dear Governor Rendell and Members of the General Assembly,

Innovation. Collaboration. Restoration.

These three words sum up the vision of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD).

Innovation to meet the challenge of combating crime and delinquency and the root causes in times of tight budgets and increased demand on resources.

Collaboration among public officials, law enforcement, the courts, corrections, parole and probation and others who serve the criminal and juvenile justice systems.

Restoration of victims of crime to the emotional, physical and financial life they previously enjoyed.

Pennsylvania's justice system has undergone dramatic changes in recent years. Law enforcement skills today must not only include traditional methods of evidence gathering, but also expertise and equipment to take advantage of the evolving field of forensic science. Ever-increasing caseloads have raised the need for better efficiency through technology in the commonwealth's courts. Jail and prison populations have increased substantially, straining the resources of corrections and parole officials, demanding innovative solutions to offender management. Crime victims have experienced an unprecedented recognition of rights and expansion of services on the way to achieving a truly balanced system of justice.

Every step of the way, PCCD played a vital role in helping to bring about these changes by working with our colleagues in the criminal and juvenile justice systems to identify opportunities and overcome challenges.

The Commission, through its advisory committees, works with partners in government and the criminal and juvenile justice systems, as well as schools, non-profit organizations, citizen groups, clergy and professional organizations to initiate, coordinate and fund programs and services. Drawing on the expertise of members of the Commission and the advisory committees as well as staff, it facilitates collaboration between stakeholders to find solutions to the problems of crime and delinquency in the commonwealth.

The following pages contain a few examples of how PCCD put that vision into action in 2006. These are only representative of the many ways the Commission has channeled federal and state tax dollars and fees assessed against offenders to programs which improve public safety, reform lives and assist victims.

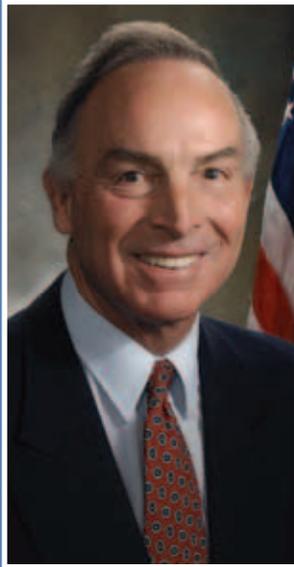
As chairman and on behalf of the entire Commission, I hope that this annual report will provide an understanding of how the Commission is working to improve the lives of all Pennsylvanians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Walter M. Phillips, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Walter M. Phillips, Jr., Esq.

Chairman



Walter M. Phillips, Jr., was appointed chairman of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency by Governor Edward G. Rendell on March 22, 2004.

Mr. Phillips spent ten years as a prosecutor at the federal, state and local levels, serving as assistant district attorney in the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and special prosecutor/deputy attorney general for police and official corruption in Philadelphia.

For the last two years that he was in the United States Attorney's Office, Mr. Phillips served as chief of that office's narcotics unit where he prosecuted international narcotics traffickers and major organized crime figures.

For three years, Mr. Phillips served as chairman of the Philadelphia Ethics Board under former Mayor William Green.

Currently, Mr. Phillips is of counsel to the law firm of Obermayer, Rebmann, Maxwell & Hippel, LLP, in Philadelphia, where his areas of practice include white collar criminal defense, employment and commercial litigation.

Mr. Phillips received his undergraduate degree from Princeton University and his law degree from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law.



Errika Fearbry Jones has served as vice chair of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency since May 28, 2003.

Ms. Jones is director for the Pittsburgh Youth Intervention Project (PIYP) for the Pittsburgh Board of Education. This United States Department of Justice Project is one of four in the country. The PYIP initiative is a collaborative strategy that focuses school district staff, law enforcement personnel, government officials, and community members on solutions to address gang/youth violence. In addition, Ms. Jones has worked with the Department of Justice as a national trainer on the Comprehensive Gang Model, has served as a C-SPAN panelist discussing alternatives to gangs, and as a panelist for the Department of Justice's nationally telecast "Preventing Gangs in Our Communities" series.

Prior to her current position, she worked with former Pittsburgh Mayor Tom Murphy as the city's youth policy director. In that position, she spearheaded Pittsburgh's Serious Juvenile Offender initiative, managed the curfew and truancy facility, and developed/implemented policies that affected young people throughout the city.

She is the first African American and the first woman named as vice chair. She is also the chair of the Evaluation Advisory Committee.



Michael J. Kane was appointed executive director of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency by Governor Edward G. Rendell on June 20, 2005.

Mr. Kane previously served as Deputy Secretary for Enforcement at the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue.

During his 18-year career as a federal and state prosecutor, Mr. Kane served as an assistant United States attorney for the Middle District of Pennsylvania and senior deputy attorney general in the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General. He was chief deputy district attorney in Denver, Colorado, and served as a special prosecutor in Boulder, Colorado.

Mr. Kane is a 1975 graduate of St. Joseph's College (now University) in Philadelphia and a 1979 graduate of the University of Colorado Law School in Boulder.

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Building Healthy And Safe Communities

Pennsylvania Weed And Seed: Reclaiming Neighborhoods And Lives



When drugs, guns and violence take over a neighborhood, social deterioration is inevitable. Families move. Businesses close. Schools struggle to educate already at-risk children.

To help these communities reduce crime and enhance the quality of life, Pennsylvania launched the Weed and Seed program in 1996 and PCCD was asked to oversee it. Ten years later, Weed and Seed is changing lives across the commonwealth.

The concept of Weed and Seed is fairly simple: “weed” the neighborhoods of drugs, guns, nuisance bars and violent offenders through intensive law enforcement efforts, then “seed” the community with a blend of economic and social programs that are designed to attack the underlying causes of crime such as poverty, unemployment, illiteracy and lack of job skills training.

The beauty of the Weed and Seed program is that it is community driven, explained Nancy Chavez, Weed and Seed director.

“It’s not government telling communities what to do – it’s communities telling government what they need to succeed,” she said. “Residents who live there identify the problems that are harming the community, help to mobilize their neighbors and local leaders, and craft a revitalization plan to turn things around.”

Like the federal Weed and Seed program, Pennsylvania’s program blends law enforcement with community building. But unlike the federal program, which initially targeted only large cities when it was launched in 1991, Pennsylvania’s program seeks to revitalize smaller communities.

In Weed and Seed, citizens identify a target area, usually several blocks in the community that have the

highest rates of crime, poverty and unemployment. For months, state and local police work with prosecutors and probation/parole agencies to conduct undercover operations to attack crime and criminals.

Although law enforcement efforts always remain a core part of the program, the undercover operations eventually give way to programs that will seed the community for growth.

“Weed and Seed sites will see a blend of economic and social programs, including afterschool activities for kids, job skills training for the unemployed or underemployed, low interest loans for home ownership or new businesses, substance abuse treatment for those who need it, and partnerships between police and probation to manage offenders and reduce recidivism,” Chavez said.

The program provides leadership training to citizens so they can take charge of the revitalization in their community. The success of Weed and Seed relies on the involvement of the entire community, including elected officials, non-profit organizations, churches and faith leaders, schools and universities, businesses, law enforcement officials, and social service and health care agencies.

So far, PCCD has invested more than \$27 million in Pennsylvania’s 15 Weed and Seed sites. More than 170,000 citizens living in the target areas are working hard to reclaim their neighborhoods.

City	2006 Funding
Aliquippa	\$216,500
Allentown	\$280,000
Chester	\$249,925
Coatesville	\$280,000
Easton	\$274,954
Erie	\$275,000
Harrisburg	\$273,750
Lancaster	\$265,000
McKeesport	\$305,000
New Kensington/Arnold	\$187,500
Norristown	\$275,000
Reading	\$280,000
Sharon/Farrell	\$275,000
Wilkinsburg	\$275,000
York	\$330,000
Total:	\$4,042,629

Investing In Proven Prevention Strategies



PCCD is committed to investing in young people – the foundation for our future.

PCCD is committed to investing in young people – the foundation for our future. One of the roles we value most is educating community leaders about programs that research has shown are effective at reducing youth violence and delinquency, then providing resources so that communities can carry out these programs.

Two ways we do this are through Communities That Care and our research-based delinquency and violence prevention initiative.

Communities That Care is a violence and delinquency prevention planning system developed by social scientists who identified risk factors that, when present in the lives of children, can lead to violence and delinquency. These include the availability of drugs and guns, family conflict, poor school performance, economic deprivation, persistent antisocial behavior, and peer pressure.

Through Communities That Care, communities mobilize to identify the particular risks that impact their children, and then develop strategies to reduce those risks. Communities also assess their positive factors that increase the likelihood that a child will grow into a healthy, productive adult.

More than 100 communities across Pennsylvania have implemented the Communities That Care prevention planning process through the efforts of PCCD. In 2006, PCCD awarded more than \$2 million to help sustain these efforts.

In addition – and often through the efforts of Communities That Care sites – PCCD awarded another \$6 million to communities to carry out evidence-based prevention programs. These are programs that have been deemed effective at reducing adolescent violent crime, aggression, delinquency, and substance abuse.

For example, in Dauphin County, the communities that comprise the Lower Dauphin School District came together in 2001 to create a Communities That Care site that was funded by PCCD.

When analyzing the problem behaviors and risk factors that were impacting their youth, community leaders realized that substance abuse, the availability of drugs, and school dropout rates were serious issues among their students. So also was family management; the community had seen a significant rise in the number of child abuse cases being reported to authorities.

Community leaders sprung into action and over the past five years, they've created opportunities for children from preschool to high school, as well as programs that encourage parents to play a more vibrant role in their children's lives.

The site began with a program that sent books to preschoolers on their birthday.

"Some kids were coming to kindergarten having never had a book in their hands, and other kids were virtually reading," explained Kathy Peffer, community mobilizer. "There was a huge disparity among preschoolers."

That program grew into a mobile library housed in a donated bus that travels the 89 square miles, most of them rural, that comprise the Communities That Care site. The program lends books to children of all ages.

Over the past few years, many new opportunities have been added, including programs to enhance parenting skills, prevent bullying and help children make healthy choices. Peffer said the district's Breakfast Buddies program – a Big Brothers Big Sisters program that connects mentors with at-risk kids during breakfast once a week – has shown significant results in the children.

"There's been an 80 percent improvement in self confidence, 42 percent in their attitude toward school and a 38 percent improvement in their relationship with their peers," she said.

In fact, community leaders and youth got some long overdue recognition in 2006 when they were profiled for a story in *Time Magazine* about efforts to address female bullying.

Helping Youth Offenders Grow Into Law Abiding Citizens

Restoring Victims And Communities

These young people are the changing face of juvenile justice in Pennsylvania. Once focused primarily on offender supervision and rehabilitation, today's juvenile justice system places balanced attention to community protection, youth redemption and victim restoration.

When a 14-year-old girl was paralyzed in a shooting at a church carnival in Pittsburgh, youth offenders built a wheelchair ramp at her home so she could continue to live there.

At Loysville Youth Development Center in Perry County, young people who have been arrested for crimes work with Habitat For Humanity to build or restore homes for the needy.

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Last year marked the 10th anniversary of Act 33, which is the legislation that established balanced and restorative justice as the mission of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system. The old system, while well meaning, focused primarily on rehabilitating the offender. Victims were on the outside, looking in.

Michael Pennington, director of PCCD's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, explained that as a result of Act 33, offenders now are required to develop skills and competencies that prepare them for the future. It is also critical for offenders to understand the wrongfulness of their actions. Once a crime is committed, the juvenile incurs an obligation to repair the harm done to the crime victim and community to the fullest extent possible.

PCCD plays a significant role in helping counties confront these challenges. It provides funding to the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research at Shippensburg University so that it can coordinate, aid and train juvenile court judges, juvenile probation officers, prosecutors, defense attorneys and victim advocates as they carry out the mission of the juvenile system.

PCCD's Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee works closely with the Juvenile Court Judges'

Commission, the National Center for Juvenile Justice, the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research at Shippensburg University, the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers and other key stakeholders to develop policies, guidelines and expectations for all who work within the juvenile system, and to track the outcomes of the youth that pass through it.

Juvenile offenders today participate in a coordinated array of programs including victim-offender conferencing, independent living, mental health treatment, drug and alcohol counseling, youth aid panels, monitoring of schoolwork, recreational and cultural activities, and performance monitoring and sanctions. Juvenile court judges not only require young offenders to pay restitution, but when assigning community service, they try to identify projects that have value to crime victims and the community.

In Philadelphia, for example, crime victims whose homes have suffered property damage can have repairs made by offenders in the Mitchell Program at St. Gabriel's Hall. In one case, a woman whose bedroom windows were shot out – and who was on disability and had no homeowner's insurance – said she didn't know what she would have done had youth offenders not replaced her windows.

The changes are paying off.

In 2005, youth offenders performed more than 536,000 hours of community service, paid \$2.3 million in restitution to their victims, and contributed an additional \$353,775 to the state Victims Compensation Assistance Program. In addition, 87 percent of the youth offenders whose cases were closed last year successfully completed their supervision, 94 percent completed their community service projects, and 85 percent made full restitution to their victims.

Project Addresses Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder In Girls

By the time she was 18 years old, Patti had been repeatedly raped by her stepfather and beaten so severely that she couldn't go to school. She also watched helplessly as he raped and beat her mother.

So it was no surprise to those in the juvenile justice system when Patti ended up there after getting into fights at school and behaving defiantly and disrespectfully.

As many as 89 percent of the girls in Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system exhibit symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder from past abuse, said Dr. Ron Sharp, director of psychological services for Alternative Rehabilitation Communities Inc. and chairman of PCCD's Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee. He believes many of these girls commit crimes to act out their anger from childhood traumas.

"They may have been physically, sexually or emotionally abused, or may have witnessed family abuse or community violence," Dr. Sharp said.

Dr. Sharp was at the helm when PCCD launched a post-traumatic stress disorder project back in 1999 to address the widespread problem among girls in the juvenile system. Seven years later, the project is stronger than ever. In fact, last year, it captured national and international acclaim.

The project began when PCCD awarded funds to Alternative Rehabilitation Communities Inc. to develop a curriculum for girls who had committed a crime, were in residential placement and were showing signs of post-traumatic stress disorder. The curriculum was, and continues to be, the only one in the country designed specifically for girls in the juvenile justice system.

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Dr. Sharp said the project helps the girls understand the disorder and how common it is among female offenders, and teaches them to help themselves. Most girls are in the program at least 15 weeks.

"If they are ever to have a sense of self-esteem, the ability to set boundaries or have personal relationships, we have to uncover the trauma, help them understand and overcome it, then help them build a future for themselves," Dr. Sharp said.

The girls participate in group counseling sessions and various therapeutic exercises, including creating art projects that express their hopes and fears.

They explained that post-traumatic stress disorder had caused them to experience flashbacks, depression and feelings of hurt, regret, anger, and being unwanted.

But through the program, Patti said, she has learned "to open up and talk about my past and not let it ruin my life."

In 2005, PCCD took the project statewide by funding a post-traumatic stress disorder demonstration project in Westmoreland County where hundreds of treatment providers have been trained to teach the curriculum. As a result, more than 400 girls in residential treatment centers across Pennsylvania have participated in the program.

The project has been featured at numerous state and national conferences, and in October 2006, was recognized with awards of excellence from the National Juvenile Justice Trainers' Association and the International Training Association of Correctional Personnel.

Plans for 2007 call for creating an educational program for girls who are on probation but not placed in a residential treatment facility.

"Think about the worst things that could happen in life, and these girls have been through it," said Deb Ciocco, the project leader in Westmoreland County. But through the post-traumatic stress disorder project, the girls "are better at understanding who they are, avoiding delinquent behavior and being as healthy as they can be."

Aftercare Strategies Help Create Transition To Success

Juvenile offenders who are returning home from residential placement face difficult challenges such as peer pressure, high-crime neighborhoods and unstable family situations that can determine their success or failure.

The key to confronting and overcoming these challenges is a strong aftercare system that supports youth after they leave placement and helps them to focus on education, home life, treatment for mental health or substance abuse issues, and workforce preparation.

PCCD's Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee identified aftercare as one of the biggest challenges confronting the juvenile justice system. As a result, it is working with the state Department of Public Welfare, Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, state Department of Education, Juvenile Law Center, the National Center for Juvenile Justice, the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers and others to develop better aftercare programs.

The project got a huge boost in 2004, when Pennsylvania was the first state chosen to participate in Models for Change, a national juvenile justice reform project funded by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. The intent of Models for Change is to create a more effective and fair juvenile justice system nationwide. The MacArthur Foundation promised to spend \$7.5 million over five years helping Pennsylvania strengthen its juvenile justice system, including its aftercare services.

In 2006, MacArthur pledged an additional \$2.5 million for Pennsylvania's reform efforts.

Pennsylvania's goal is to develop a comprehensive aftercare system by 2010. PCCD is contributing \$1.8 million over three years to fund pilot projects in four counties: Allegheny, Cambria, York and Lycoming.

For example, Allegheny County's pilot program is working to eliminate the delay between the times when youth offenders are discharged from residential placement to when they re-enter their home school district. Right now, the disruption is as

little as one week to as much as one month, depending on paperwork delays, transportation issues and not having books for students, explained Jim Rieland, director of Allegheny County Adult and Juvenile Probation.

"We want to develop a strategy to get kids back into their schools in a timely, seamless way," Rieland said.

The county has hired three education specialists to work with residential placement providers to determine how to improve the transition.

One key strategy is the pre-release conference. Two weeks before a youth's scheduled discharge, a meeting is held to address all the details to return the youth to school. The conference includes anyone who would be involved in the transition, including parents and representatives from the residential placement facility, the home school district, and the juvenile probation office.

"The goal is that if a youth is released on Friday, he or she is in school on Monday morning, books in hand and being welcomed by the principal," Rieland said. "If kids fail in the educational setting and are not engaged in extracurricular activities or with someone at the school, the chances of success are slim—we'll see an increase in and return to delinquent behavior. Other counties face the same issues and we want to be able to say, 'Here's a blueprint of what needs to happen to make this work.'"



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Youth Survey Guides Program Development

The Pennsylvania Youth Survey, released in the summer of 2006, delivered a punch to parents of teenagers across the state.

The survey's good news was that students in the 6th, 8th and 10th grades reported less drinking, smoking and experimenting with drugs than their peers in years past, indicating that prevention efforts were paying off.

The alarming news was, nearly one-third of the state's high school seniors admitted they had been binge drinking – consuming five or more beverages in a row – within the past two weeks. One-fourth of the seniors admitted they had gotten behind the wheel after drinking or doing drugs.

PCCD conducts the youth survey every two years to measure the prevalence of substance abuse and violence among 6th, 8th, 10th and 12th grade students statewide.

The purpose is to better understand attitudes and behaviors so that parents, schools, legislators, substance abuse specialists, law enforcement officers and others who play a role in the health and safety of children have critical information concerning changes in the patterns of use and abuse of harmful substances and behaviors.

The survey is voluntary and anonymous. To ensure its validity, more than 14,300 students from urban, suburban and rural schools are randomly selected to participate. Schools receive individual findings, while also learning how their kids measure up against the rest of the state. Pennsylvania's outcomes are then measured against national outcomes in the "Monitoring The Future" study, conducted by the University of Michigan.

Additionally, dozens of school districts not selected for the random sampling choose to participate on their own to learn about trends and behaviors within their district.

Dave Bender, executive director of the Council on Drug & Alcohol Abuse in Lancaster County, awaits the data every two years so he can evaluate how students in his county compare to state and national averages. He can also break down the data by school district to identify where a district is doing well or falling behind, and help districts develop strategies in response.

Bender said that schools are recognizing that many of the issues—substance abuse, gambling, depression and violence—are interrelated. The youth survey data helps districts integrate prevention programs with intervention efforts.

"We need a comprehensive, thorough response to kids—communication skills, coping skills, learning to identify and respond to feelings without masking or subduing those feelings with violence or acting out,"

Bender said. "The overall message is that we need to put in significant resources now to address these issues before they get worse."

Bender sees the data as an impetus for the entire community.

"Employers need to look at the data and realize that what kids do in school now will carry into college, if they make it that far, and/or into the workplace," he said. "As adults, we can't just turn our backs—it's our responsibility to find ways to make kids feel safe."

Among the key findings of 2005 Pennsylvania Youth Survey:

- Alcohol is the drug used most often by students in all grade levels. Overall, 58 percent of all students surveyed admitted to drinking alcohol at some point in their lives;
- As with alcohol use, binge drinking (consuming five or more drinks in a row) tends to become more pervasive as students grow older. One percent of 6th graders, 6.7 percent of 8th graders, 19.6 percent of 10th graders and 33.7 percent of 12th graders admitted to binge drinking;
- Almost 24 percent of 12th graders admit to driving after drinking, which is an increase from previous years. Of those students, 22.9 percent admit to driving after smoking marijuana;
- More than 5 percent of high school seniors used prescription drugs for non-medical purposes;
- Overall, 36 percent of students have gambled for money. Gambling was measured for the first time in 2005;
- Approximately 34 percent of students said they were depressed or sad most days, and 24 percent said they sometimes feel "life is not worth it." Forty-one percent of those with high symptoms of depression reported alcohol use in the preceding month, compared to 19 percent for those with low symptoms of depression; and
- Seniors who reported earning mostly D's and F's were more likely to binge drink (55 percent) than students who earned A's and B's (26 percent).

To view the entire 130-page report,
visit PCCD's Web site at
www.pccd.state.pa.us

Empowering Victims To Restore Their Lives

Meeting The Needs Of Crime Victims

One of PCCD's most vital roles is ensuring that victims of crime get the help they need to transcend their trauma and move forward with their lives. The Office of Victims' Services seeks to do just that in a number of ways, including overseeing the Victims Compensation Assistance Program, administering funding to agencies that work with crime victims, training professionals regarding the rights of crime victims, and ensuring that those rights are being carried out.

"Our overriding mission is to ensure that all crime victims know their rights and know the programs and services that are available to them," said BJ Horn, director of the Office of Victims' Services. "We strive to ensure that all victims know that there are caring people waiting to help them every step of the way."

The office works with all partners in the juvenile and criminal justice systems, including victim advocacy organizations, police officers, prosecutors, district magisterial judges, judges, and probation and parole staff.

In 2006, PCCD awarded more than \$28 million in state and federal funds to these partnering organizations to support a broad array of programs and services for victims.

For example, it administered nearly \$14 million in federal Victims of Crime Act funds to agencies across the state to provide victims with crisis counseling, shelter,

programs for elderly victims of crime, programs for families who have lost a loved one to homicide, as well as court, medical and legal advocacy.

PCCD awarded and oversees the nearly \$6.5 million in state Rights and Services Act (RASA) funds, which are generated from penalties assessed on Pennsylvania offenders. These funds enable county-based victim advocacy programs to promote the rights and services that are guaranteed to crime victims under Pennsylvania's Victim's Bill of Rights. PCCD also awarded and oversees more than \$3 million to programs that serve victims whose offenders are youth in the juvenile justice system.

Finally, PCCD administered \$4 million in federal STOP Violence Against Women Act funds to counties that promote a coordinated, comprehensive approach to addressing violence against women. These agencies must illustrate that law enforcement officers, prosecutors and victim advocates are working together to respond to the needs of victims.

PCCD's Victims' Services Advisory Committee provides policy and legislative guidance to PCCD and ultimately, to the Governor and state lawmakers, on issues that impact crime victims and victim advocacy organizations. It also defines and promotes high quality standards of service for victim service professionals.

Responding To Community Tragedies

When a stone is tossed into water, it creates ripples that reach far beyond the point of impact. So, too, it is with crime. When someone becomes a victim of crime – particularly violent crime – the pain and trauma affects all who know the victim. And often, it affects even those who don't.

PCCD funds and trains the Keystone Crisis Intervention Team, known as KCIT. The KCIT is a team of specially trained victim advocates who respond to community tragedies. They provide crisis intervention to those who have been affected by the crime, and support caregivers such as mental health professionals, police officers and clergy so that they can meet the continuing needs of the community.

"We are here for when a community experiences a trauma that has overwhelmed its resources and its ability to respond," said Mary Claire Mullen, the KCIT's state coordinator.

When a stone is tossed into water, it creates ripples that reach far beyond the point of impact. So, too, it is with crime.

A community, she said, can be a municipality, a neighborhood, a school district, and even an employer. All responses by the KCIT are shaped to the specific needs of that community.

In 2006, the KCIT responded to four tragedies, including a murder-suicide that shook one community, and a series of school shootings that devastated another.

The KCIT's services are confidential and available 24 hours a day through the Office of the Victim Advocate.

The KCIT's services must be requested by someone with authority at the scene of the crime.

Overcoming The Financial Burden Of Crime

Aubria Cleckley was gunned down by an abusive ex-boyfriend in December 2000 shortly after she broke up with him.

Despite efforts to save her life, Aubria, 21, died the next morning at a Pittsburgh hospital.

As if the murder of her only daughter wasn't devastating enough, Pauletta Vaughn was confronted with another heartbreak: She didn't have the funds to bury Aubria and pay the enormous medical bills.

Pauletta and her husband sought help from family and friends, and tried unsuccessfully to cash out a retirement fund. Then a victim advocate told her about PCCD's Victims Compensation Assistance Program (VCAP), which reimburses victims for certain out-of-pocket expenses.

"Without the fund, I don't know what I would have done," Pauletta said. "VCAP was the biggest help and the people were so kind and compassionate."

To many victims, the financial impact of crime is almost as devastating as the crime itself. PCCD's Office of Victims'



To many victims, the financial impact of crime is almost as devastating as the crime itself.

Services administers VCAP to help ease the financial burden resulting from a crime and allow a victim to focus on recovery and healing.

VCAP covers a variety of expenses incurred by victims, including medical and counseling expenses, loss of earnings, loss of support, stolen benefit cash, relocation or funeral expenses, and crime-scene clean-up. Advocates throughout the state work closely with victims to determine if they meet the eligibility requirements of the program.

The program was established in 1976. That year, 199 claims were filed, \$90,000 was paid out and it took an average of 44 weeks to process a claim. In 2006 – the program's 30th anniversary – VCAP celebrated significant progress. Last year, 7,253 claims were filed, \$12 million was paid out and the average claims processing time was eight weeks.

VCAP continuously strives to identify ways to improve the compensation process and is nationally recognized for its innovations. One of the most significant enhancements was streamlining the process through DAVE (Dependable Access for Victimization Expenses), an automated information and tracking database system. Victim service providers use DAVE to file compensation claims electronically and monitor the status. Claimants can access DAVE to check claim status, payment history and be notified of outstanding documents that need to be submitted.

To ensure that all victims know about VCAP, the Office of Victims' Services works diligently to provide outreach and training to individuals and agencies that serve or have contact with victims of crime, including police departments, hospitals and medical organizations, victim service agencies, prosecutors, social service agencies, and funeral directors.

"When you lose a child to violence, it's hard enough to deal with the loss, let alone trying to figure out how you are going to pay for the funeral and burial. It's all so overwhelming," Pauletta said. "We were so grateful for the compensation program. It allowed us to give Aubria the beautiful service and burial that she so deserved."

PA's Victims Compensation Assistance Program Celebrated 30 Years in 2006

The number of claims submitted to the program has increased more than 3,500 percent since 1976.

1976	199 claims filed
1986	2,234 claims filed
1996	2,468 claims filed
2006	7,253 claims filed

The program has seen a continuous increase in money paid to and on behalf of crime victims.

1976	\$90,000 paid
1986	\$2.8 million paid
1996	\$4.2 million paid
2006	\$12 million paid

The average time it takes to process a claim has decreased dramatically.

1976	44 weeks
1986	52 weeks
1996	26 weeks
2006	8 weeks

Enhancing Justice Through Technology

Success Continues For Protection Order Project

This is significant because research shows that victims are most at risk when they separate from their abuser – and often, that’s the same time they obtain a protection order.



Last year marked a significant milestone in Pennsylvania’s Protection From Abuse Database (PFAD) project.

Philadelphia became the 63rd – and largest – county to connect to PFAD, meaning that protection orders are now electronically transferred from the courts to the Pennsylvania State Police for inclusion in the commonwealth’s central registry. Additionally, the protection orders also are entered into the federal protection order registry through the National Crime Information Center.

The move enhanced safety for victims of domestic violence because, for the first time, Philadelphia’s protection orders were available immediately to law enforcement officers statewide. This is significant because research shows that victims are most at risk when they separate from their abuser – and often, that’s the same time they obtain a protection order. Judges in Philadelphia approve, on average, 100 protection orders each day.

In the past, it could take as long as 32 hours for an order to be entered into the state police system.

The automation also reduced the workload and the chance for error for the state troopers who previously had to manually enter the data into their central registry for protection orders.

“One state trooper told us that he can now do in two hours what used to take him an eight-hour shift,” said Stephanie Trukenbrod, technical team leader of the PFAD

project at the PA Coalition Against Domestic Violence. “That gives him six hours to work on other kinds of important police work.”

Last year was the 10th anniversary of the PFAD project, created by the coalition using federal funds awarded by PCCD. PFAD is an electronic repository of pleadings and orders in protection from abuse cases - including information when an offender violates an order - available free of charge to authorized users. These users include police officers, the courts, domestic violence advocates, prosecutors, district magisterial judges and private attorneys.

The database differs from the PA State Police protection order registry because it contains the full text of orders, instead of just a summary. Law enforcement officers who have access to the state’s Justice Network have the opportunity to view both the summaries contained in the state police registry or the full text of the order, which may contain important information when making potentially life-and-death decisions.

A 2004 study of PFAD conducted by the National Center for State Courts on behalf of PCCD called it “an indispensable tool” that has literally reshaped the processing of obtaining a protection from abuse order.

PCCD looks forward to working with the PA Coalition Against Domestic Violence and PA State Police as two more counties – Lehigh and Bucks – are connected to PFAD in 2007.

Online Grants Management Improves Information Flow

Every year, PCCD awards approximately 1,000 new grants totaling more than \$100 million in federal and state funds. Until recently, that meant tens of thousands of pages of letters, reports, project summaries and fiscal information going back and forth in the mail between PCCD and the grantees.

Not anymore. PCCD created Egrants, a Web-based system that streamlines the entire grant process. Through Egrants, agencies can discover funding opportunities, apply for and receive grants, submit financial and progress reports, communicate with PCCD staff, ask for project modifications and, in the end, close out the grant.

“Egrants has transformed the way we do business here at PCCD,” said Sally Hitz, manager of grants management. “Through Egrants, we have improved our performance measures, we have better monitoring and reporting capabilities, we have enhanced communications with grantees, and we have streamlined the entire grant process.”

The system allows PCCD staff to spend more time providing technical assistance and training to state, county and municipal agencies rather than managing paperwork, ultimately saving money and enhancing public safety.

Egrants offers several benefits to agency users, including instant access to current grant information,

simplification of the grant process, paper reduction, cost savings, one-time data entry and error checking. Because all grant data is now available through one source, project management and grant reporting is faster and easier.

The system has significantly decreased the amount of paper used for grant submission and management. Users do not need to submit multiple copies to PCCD; they simply print out one signature page for submission. For agencies that need or prefer to retain a hard copy, a grant can be printed directly from the system.

More than 900 applications were submitted online in 2006. In addition, quarterly fiscal and program reports are being submitted electronically.

During 2006, PCCD pioneered an online Egrants help center for external users that allows constituents to forgo time out of the office for specialized Egrants training with an online tutorial, quick start guides, and frequently asked questions.

Electronic Fingerprints, Photos Helps Police Identify Offenders

Willis Cole, a police officer in New Cumberland, Cumberland County, was responding to a robbery in August 1994 when one of the robbers shot him in the chest, killing him.

In the hours after Officer Cole's murder, police identified and apprehended his killer. But they also identified a shocking and sad truth: the man who killed Officer Cole had been in police custody days earlier. And despite the fact that he was wanted on an outstanding warrant for another crime, he was released after lying about his identity.

With today's technology, this likely wouldn't have happened.

Until recently, when someone was charged with a crime, it took police days – often weeks – to accurately identify the offender. After rolling the suspect's fingerprints on paper, police would mail the fingerprint card to Pennsylvania State Police, who would try to match it to fingerprints already on file and mail a response back to the police department.

By that time – as in the case of Officer Cole's killer – the offender often had been released. If the offender lied to police, authorities had no way of knowing that until the fingerprint results came back in the mail.

One of PCCD's technology priorities is helping law enforcement agencies purchase real-time fingerprint and photo imaging equipment so they can instantly identify offenders. Today, at more than 80 percent of Pennsylvania's police departments, when an offender is fingerprinted and photographed, that information is electronically sent to the Pennsylvania State Police Automated Fingerprinting Identify System (known as AFIS) and Commonwealth Photo Imaging Network (known as CPIN). Within seconds, officers know if the offender has past arrests and outstanding warrants.

The photo imaging network archives offender mug shots, tattoos, birthmarks and scars.

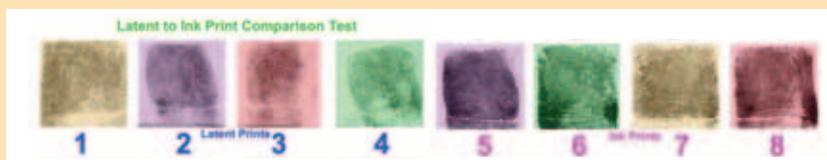
The technology also is helping law enforcement agencies solve crimes. For example, in Philadelphia in 2004, a man shot three children, killing one of them. While the victims and witnesses could not identify the shooter, they did remember a distinctive tattoo on his neck. Police were able to search the CPIN, entering his ethnicity and characteristics of the tattoo, and compile a virtual photo lineup. Witnesses immediately recognized the offender and within three hours, he was in custody and charged with homicide.

PCCD also funds the creation of central booking centers to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of offender identification and processing. A central booking center is a location that serves multiple police departments and includes CPIN, AFIS and video arraignment, where the offender and district magisterial judge can see and talk with each other via a television monitor.

Central booking centers save time and money for law enforcement agencies because when police arrest someone, instead of spending hours processing the offender themselves, they simply drop the suspect off at the central booking center and head back to the streets. The booking center's staff fingerprints and photographs the offender, and holds that person until arraignment before a district magistrate.

Pennsylvania was one of the first states in the nation to combine these technologies and as of today, PCCD has coordinated and funded more than 100 central booking centers across Pennsylvania.

In December, PCCD awarded a \$1 million grant to the PA Chiefs of Police Association to continue the growth of central booking centers across the state.



Reducing Recidivism Among Adult Offenders

Treatment Courts Combine Justice With Treatment

Treatment courts (drug courts, DUI courts) are specialty courts that oversee cases involving non-violent offenders with substance abuse problems. The goal of these courts is to reduce recidivism by addressing the offender’s substance abuse problems that likely contributed to the crime.

“Traditional criminal justice doesn’t get to the root of the problem that led to the crime,” said Kaethe Schumacher, statewide drug court coordinator for the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts. “Treatment courts tackle that problem directly.”

PCCD coordinates and funds treatment courts across the state. Philadelphia’s treatment court, founded in 1997 by Judge Louis Presenza, was the state’s first drug court. Today, there are 17 adult drug courts, seven juvenile drug courts and five DUI courts in Pennsylvania. Many other counties are planning to establish treatment courts.

Treatment courts provide comprehensive supervision, substance abuse testing, treatment services, and immediate sanctions and incentives. Participants are strictly monitored and held accountable through frequent court appearances, drug testing, work and school performance, and attendance at Alcohol Anonymous or Narcotics Anonymous meetings.

“We know what they are doing at every turn,” said Shea Madden, executive director of West Branch Drug and Alcohol Abuse Commission, which oversees the treatment court for Lycoming County. “It’s not an easy program—more than one person has turned it down and told us it’s easier to go to jail.”

In Lycoming County, the drug court offers many levels of care to offenders – both inpatient and outpatient. The program typically takes 18 months to complete and six months of sobriety are required to graduate.

The program boasts a 60 percent graduation rate. Some participants have returned for additional help instead of returning to criminal behavior. The program works with individuals as long as they show a willingness to change, Madden said.

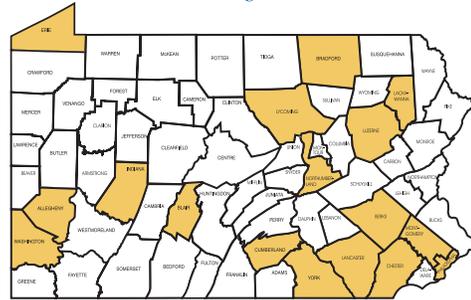
This community-based alternative helps to alleviate prison overcrowding by freeing up jail cells for more serious or violent offenders. It can also save money. For example, in Lycoming County, it costs an average of \$8,100 per participant in drug court, whereas a year in the Lycoming County Prison is nearly \$17,000.

Treatment courts work best for people who want to change but need additional structure to do so, Schumacher said. Many treatment courts offer ancillary services, such as assistance with employment, housing and family issues.

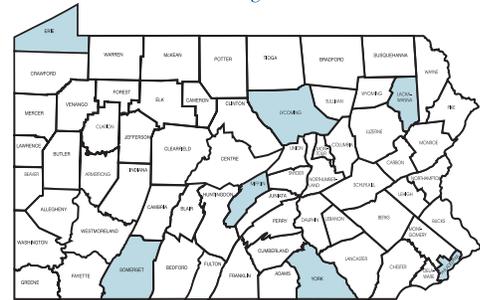
A 2006 National Institute of Justice study, “Drug Courts: The Second Decade,” states that drug courts have coerced an impressive number of substance-involved offenders – many of whom have co-occurring mental, emotional and physical health problems – to receive treatment, counseling and other services that they need if they are to lead productive and law-abiding lives. Furthermore, a 2004 National Drug Control Strategy Update hailed drug courts as “one of the most promising trends in the criminal justice system.”

Counties With Treatment Courts:

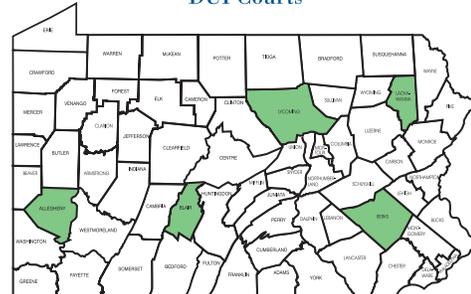
Adult Drug Courts



Youth Drug Courts



DUI Courts



Program Offers Treatment, Hope For Non-Violent Offenders

Treatment-based restrictive intermediate punishment (RIP) programs allow non-violent offenders with substance abuse problems to serve their sentence in the community while undergoing treatment for their addiction. The program's top priority is community safety, but its underlying goals are to reduce recidivism by helping offenders become law-abiding citizens while also freeing up jail space for more serious or repeat offenders.

For 10 years, PCCD has been working with counties to create treatment-based RIP programs that meet the unique needs of that county and its offenders. Those sentenced to these RIP programs may have to wear an electronic monitoring ankle bracelet, live at a work release center when they are not at their place of employment, be placed on house arrest and have to undergo constant drug testing while also participating in substance abuse treatment. Those who fail to meet the rules face going to prison.

Research shows treatment-based RIP is a good investment. A recent PCCD-funded study of several RIP programs concluded that offenders who successfully complete a treatment-based RIP program were 24.4 percent less likely to be rearrested than similar offenders sentenced to prison, jail, or probation.

In 2006, PCCD awarded \$15.2 million in grants to 25 counties for treatment-based RIP projects. For example, it gave funding to Renaissance Crossroads in Lebanon County, a 34-month program that includes three primary phases: inpatient, outpatient and probation.

The inpatient component includes intensive drug or alcohol treatment as well as individual or family therapy. During the outpatient phase, individuals are electronically monitored, working and participating in outpatient therapy. They are then released to traditional probation and required to attend alumni meetings.

The program is performance-based and has a zero tolerance policy for violations.

"We are consistent and hold participants accountable," said Lebanon County's Chief Probation Officer Sally Barry.

Renaissance is a collaboration between law enforcement and the treatment community. An advisory board that includes a judge, a public defender, probation officers, the warden and treatment counselors meets monthly.

"We come from different perspectives, but it's more effective than just treatment or just law enforcement,"

Barry said. "We want to do what we can to help a person lead a positive, proactive, crime-free lifestyle."

Barry said the long-term nature of the program is beneficial for participants.

"Individuals change in the program," she said. "You can't change years of a person's life in a 28-day program; you have to break down and rebuild."

For example, Ben was 40 years old, abusing drugs and facing three to seven years in prison when he was sentenced to Renaissance.

"At first I wasn't interested," he recalled. "I didn't want to change. I still had my street mentality, my jail mentality."

Ben said it took eight months in the program before he began to change. Through the program, Ben learned to be accountable for his actions and to make healthy decisions. He is one of two program alumni who now work at Renaissance.

"Now that I'm on the other side, I'm in a unique position to help the guys here," Ben said. "They value my perspective because I used to be them. I know what it is; I've been there."

"I'm glad the program was here when I needed it," he added. "If I hadn't gone through with this, who knows where I'd be?"



"At first I wasn't interested," he recalled. "I didn't want to change. I still had my street mentality, my jail mentality."

Helping Adult Offenders ReEnter Their Communities



Of the nearly 80,000 adult offenders who are incarcerated in state and county prisons across Pennsylvania, more than 90 percent someday will be released back into society.

Of the nearly 80,000 adult offenders who are incarcerated in state and county prisons across Pennsylvania, more than 90 percent someday will be released back into society.

The commonwealth's top criminal justice priority is reducing the likelihood that these offenders will commit new crimes.

PCCD is uniquely positioned to aid in reentry efforts for two reasons. First, it has the funds to launch pilot projects, monitor the success, and, when they are effective, to duplicate them statewide. In counties across Pennsylvania, PCCD is working with agencies including probation and parole, educators, employers, social services, and drug and alcohol treatment providers on new programs designed to reduce recidivism.

For example, in Philadelphia, PCCD is funding a program that provides intensive mental health and substance abuse treatment to offenders with both disorders who are reentering their communities. In Adams County, it

is funding transitional housing and aftercare programs for female offenders who are being released from the county jail and need somewhere to live. Indiana County's Locked In With Keys program, funded by PCCD, helps inmates obtain an education and employment so they can be successful upon their release.

Another way that PCCD is positioned to help state and county agencies reduce recidivism is through the development of county criminal justice advisory boards.

"It makes sense to engage criminal justice advisory boards because everyone who needs to be involved in reentry efforts is already at the table," said Jim Strader, PCCD's deputy director of the Office of Criminal Justice System Improvements. "These advisory boards put counties in a position where they can develop a comprehensive strategy for reintegrating state and county inmates."

Responding To Needs Through Innovation

Putting More Officers On The Streets

Amid the growing gun violence that was claiming so many lives in many Pennsylvania communities this past year, Governor Edward G. Rendell in July announced \$10 million in state funding for a program to put more police officers on the streets.

He called the program Police on Patrol, and assigned the task of administering it to PCCD.

By September, more than \$9.6 million in grants was on its way to 15 communities, giving them the resources to hire 195 new officers. In November, a second wave of grants totaling \$300,000 was announced, with the funds going to five additional communities to hire a total of six new officers.

“With this money, our cities and communities will have more police officers to stop gun traffickers who terrorize our neighborhoods and streets,” Governor Rendell told a Philadelphia audience when announcing the grants. “Additional officers are needed to stop gun violence because they can stop gun traffickers.”

Under the guidelines for the new program, communities had to illustrate how the new officers would be used to reduce violent crime. Each community that was awarded a grant was given \$50,000 per police officer per year – above budgeted planned hires – for three years, and they had to commit to funding the position for three years after the Police on Patrol grant expired.

“It is critical that we support cities as they work to reduce crime, gun trafficking and street violence,” Governor Rendell said. “The Police on Patrol program helps communities hire additional police officers to work in problem neighborhoods, improving safety and

enhancing the quality of life for people who work or do business there.”

These communities were awarded funds:

Community	Amount	Number of Officers
Philadelphia	\$4,905,840	100
Pittsburgh	\$2,000,000	40
Reading	\$250,000	5
Allentown	\$250,000	5
Chester City	\$250,000	5
Harrisburg	\$250,000	5
Erie	\$250,000	5
Altoona	\$250,000	5
Wilkes-Barre	\$250,000	5
Bensalem Township	\$250,000	5
Pottstown	\$200,000	4
Williamsport	\$150,000	3
Chester Township	\$150,000	3
York	\$150,000	3
New Castle	\$100,000	2
Bethlehem	\$100,000	2
Coatesville	\$50,000	1
Hazleton	\$50,000	1
Shamokin	\$50,000	1
Darby Borough	\$50,000	1
Total:	\$9,955,840	201

New Notification System Could Save Lives

PCCD last year was awarded a \$1.25 million grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to create the Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification (SAVIN) system that will notify citizens when an offender is released or escapes from a county prison.

The system is a huge boost to public safety in Pennsylvania because it will notify interested residents – including crime victims and law enforcement officers – when an offender is back in the community. Right now, notifications are made by victim advocacy organizations that are often understaffed and overwhelmed. Some notifications are not taking place in a timely manner.

“The day Pennsylvania’s SAVIN makes its first phone call, the commonwealth will be much safer than it was the day before,” said PCCD Chairman Walter Phillips. “SAVIN will complement the good work already underway

in Pennsylvania by victim advocacy organizations. It will relieve some of their burden when it comes to notifying victims and their families that an offender is back on the streets, and allow them to focus their efforts on helping victims stay safe in those situations.”

And SAVIN isn’t just limited to victims.

“SAVIN is available to everyone,” Mr. Phillips said. “For example, if someone in your neighborhood has been arrested for selling drugs or molesting a child, you can sign up to be notified when that person is released from the county jail.”

PCCD, working with the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Institute, will coordinate the development of SAVIN statewide, which will operate around the clock when completed.

Eight counties will serve as pilot sites and will be integrated into the SAVIN system in 2007. They are Philadelphia, Allegheny, Chester, Dauphin, Cumberland, Lancaster, Lehigh and Erie. Together, those eight counties represent 46 percent of the state's county jail population.

PCCD estimates that the SAVIN system will be operating statewide by 2008.

The SAVIN system was created after Mary Byron was shot to death in Louisville, Kentucky, in 1993 by her ex-boyfriend three days after he was released from jail. The ex-boyfriend had been serving time for stalking, assaulting and raping the 21-year-old woman. No one ever notified Byron that he was being released from prison.

Criminal Justice Advisory Boards Coordinate Programs, Projects

The first time Delaware County's criminal justice advisory board saved the county money – not to mention potentially bad publicity – was nearly 10 years ago, when the county was in the midst of building a new prison.

Already one of the more technologically advanced counties, Delaware County court officials relied heavily on videoconferencing for arraignments, preliminary hearings and other court appointments.

"We were at a criminal justice advisory board meeting and they were talking about the progress in building the new prison and someone asked if it was going to be equipped for videoconferencing," said Phil Damiani, court executive director. "Had that question not come up at that time, and had we had to retrofit the prison to accommodate videoconferencing, it would have cost so much more money."

Today – nearly 15 years after Delaware County launched its criminal justice advisory board – that's just one of many examples Damiani cites when asked how the board has influenced criminal justice policy and practice over the years.

"The concept of a criminal justice advisory board is fairly simple," said Jim Strader, a deputy director at PCCD who helps counties to create the boards. "Key players in the county's criminal justice system come together to improve the effectiveness and quality of justice, be that through reformed policies and practices, enhanced coordination among agencies, new technologies or improved gathering of data."

Nearly 40 counties now have criminal justice advisory boards, although many are new and still evolving. All are comprised of policy-level administrators including judges, county commissioners, prosecutors, police chiefs, the jail warden, chief probation officers, public defenders, directors of health and human services, victim service professionals, substance abuse providers and others who work to administer justice within a county.

In response, local, state and federal officials joined forces to develop an automated system that provides victims and others with immediate notification when an offender moves through the system. Last year, Congress appropriated \$8 million towards helping states launch SAVIN programs to improve community safety.

Pennsylvania is one of 16 states chosen to receive SAVIN funding in the first round of grants. SAVIN will complement an existing system operated by the state Office of Victim Advocate that provides notification to crime victims regarding offenders within the state Department of Corrections and the state Board of Probation and Parole.

For the past 15 years, PCCD has awarded grants and provided technical assistance to counties to foster the development of these boards. In 2006, it hosted a conference on criminal justice advisory boards.

"From PCCD's perspective, criminal justice advisory boards provide the foundation for our agency to work with counties on problems impacting the count and local criminal justice system and strategies to address these problems," Strader said. "From a county's perspective, the boards provide individuals who work within the criminal justice system with enhanced access to judges and commissioners, and also provide a forum for a wide range of voices when planning for future needs."

Damiani agreed.

His county's board recently played a key role in helping Delaware County improve services to offenders with mental health and/or substance abuse issues.

"Our board has subcommittees that tackle different issues and one of them addresses behavioral health," Damiani said. "We were looking for a way to provide better services for people with mental health or substance abuse problems because so often, they fall through the cracks."

PCCD was offering funding to counties that could demonstrate a need within the criminal justice system. Delaware County, through its advisory board, was able to illustrate that the hiring of court liaisons to evaluate all offenders admitted to the county prison would result in the identification and more timely treatment of those with substance abuse and mental health issues.

PCCD awarded the county funds for the liaisons.

"This has been a tremendous help to our courts because there's better connectivity, better transition into the community after incarceration, better information during court proceedings," Damiani explained. "Now we don't have people sitting around in jail with nothing happening. Now, they are getting treatment."

More Than Eight Million Americans Were Victims Of Identity Theft In 2005



To help Pennsylvania citizens prevent, detect and respond to identity theft, PCCD last year launched an identity theft public awareness campaign.

It created a Web site, www.IdentityTheftActionPlan.com, that includes helpful information on how identity theft occurs, prevention tips, what to do if you're a victim, statistics about the crime, identity theft laws, real life stories, and information for law enforcement agencies that investigate these crimes.

The cornerstone of the Web site is an action plan that allows residents to take stock of their personal and financial resources -- and to be ready to fight back if something should happen to them.

PCCD also created a 30-second public service announcement, called Shadow Stealer, that is posted on the Web site and also was made available to television stations statewide.

The campaign is the third tier of PCCD's identity theft project. In late 2004, PCCD hosted an identity theft symposium that drew law enforcement officers, prosecutors, banking officials, victim advocates and others affected by the crime. Following the symposium, PCCD recognized the need for better law enforcement education on the problem of identity theft, so it coordinated statewide trainings that drew 250 officers.

PCCD's identity theft project was driven by Chairman Walter Phillips, who himself was a victim of identity theft in early 2004.

"I came home one night to find a call on my answering machine from some bank I never heard of. They wanted to know when I was going to make a payment on my new car," Chairman Phillips said.

The trouble was, he hadn't bought a new car.

Mr. Phillips came to learn that someone used his identity to purchase a new, \$50,000 Lexus. Police believe his information was stolen from medical records following surgery. The offender eventually was arrested.

"I can tell you from personal experience that the faster you detect and report identity fraud, the less damage you will suffer," Chairman Phillips said. "I encourage all citizens to take five minutes to fill out the action plan so you have all of your important information in one place if you ever need it. Should you become a victim, you'll be glad you have it."

PCCD's identity theft project was funded through federal Edward Byrne/Justice Assistance Grant dollars.

To visit the Web site, go to
www.IdentityTheftActionPlan.com

ID Theft At A Glance:

- In 2005, nearly 8.9 million Americans – 4 percent of the population – became victims of identity theft.
- The average amount of fraud per victim is \$6,383, however, since most financial institutions do not hold victims responsible, the average out-of-pocket expense is \$422.
- The average time spent trying to resolve the situation is 40 hours.
- The most common way that identity theft happens is through lost or stolen wallets, checkbooks, credit/debit cards.

* Statistics from Javelin Strategy and Research 2006 Identity Fraud Survey

Evaluating The Effectiveness Of Our Programs

Research & Evaluation Drive Programs, Priorities

Across Pennsylvania, thousands of programs are underway in schools, communities, police departments, probation and parole agencies, courtrooms and prisons to reduce crime, serve crime victims, and help turn offenders into law-abiding citizens.

But do they work?

Answering that question is one of PCCD's Center for Research, Evaluation, and Statistical Analysis's (CRESA) many responsibilities – and it's at the heart of everything that PCCD does.

The primary purpose of CRESA is to oversee the research and evaluation of criminal justice endeavors – including projects and programs funded by PCCD – to determine where best to invest state and federal dollars.

Doug Hoffman, the CRESA's director, explained that his staff examines research to decide the best approaches to problems confronting the criminal and juvenile justice systems so that Pennsylvania can make the best use of limited resources.

With violent crime rates rising and prison populations at all-time highs, the CRESA is often called upon to provide statistical data and to examine the effectiveness of programs and technologies designed to prevent crime, respond to victims, reduce recidivism, strengthen communities and enhance justice.

Sometimes, the CRESA studies and reports on existing research. Other times, it coordinates new research funded by PCCD. As a result, programs are continually undergoing changes to improve them.

For example, a recent evaluation of the state's Protection From Abuse Database commended the project for improving safety for domestic violence victims and called it an "indispensable tool," but also recommended ways to enhance the database and its usefulness to law enforcement agencies, including the electronic transfer of protection orders from a county courthouse to the state police registry. Today, electronic transfers are taking place in nearly every county, meaning that law enforcement agencies are able to access the information instantly.

Most of PCCD-coordinated research is funded through the federal Edward Byrne/Justice Assistance Grants programs.

Staff at the CRESA also provide guidance to PCCD staff to help them learn how to use data to design or enhance their programs, and to collect outcomes information that will determine if they met their goals or if they need to make changes to improve effectiveness.

Across Pennsylvania, thousands of programs are underway in schools, communities, police departments, probation and parole agencies, courtrooms and prisons to reduce crime, serve crime victims, and help turn offenders into law-abiding citizens.

The CRESA hosted a symposium in April 2006 that drew participants from police departments, jails and prisons, local and state governments, and community-based organizations to learn about the latest criminal and juvenile justice research. A workshop was offered to help attendees define goals, objectives and outcomes to ensure consistency with program expectations.

Here is a brief overview of research projects funded by PCCD that were completed in 2006.

Improving Outcomes of Batterer Counseling

PCCD funded a demonstration project at the Domestic Abuse Counseling Center in Pittsburgh to determine if case management, in addition to batterer counseling, would improve outcomes with African-American men arrested for domestic violence.

Research shows that African-American men are more likely to drop out of counseling and be re-arrested. In the study, a sample of 202 African-American men received both counseling and case management, including individual assessment, service referrals, and periodic monitoring of individual needs and referral contacts. The outcomes of this sample were compared with outcomes of another sample of African-American men who received only batterer counseling.

The study outcomes showed little benefit from case management. These outcomes could correspond to several challenges faced in implementing the project, getting men to comply with referrals and the scope of the referrals. There was some indication that when the referral system was improved, so did the outcomes.

Risk/Needs Assessment in the Department of Corrections

The Pennsylvania Department of Corrections oversees more than 40,000 offenders in 26 institutions. Decision-making based on sound inmate assessment is foundational to effective correctional strategy. PCCD funded a study to evaluate the integrity of three standardized assessment instruments that the corrections department uses to

classify inmates and determine appropriate treatment. This project examined criminal history data, institutional behavior data (e.g., institutional misconduct) and recidivism data of more than 1,000 inmates from 21 institutions.

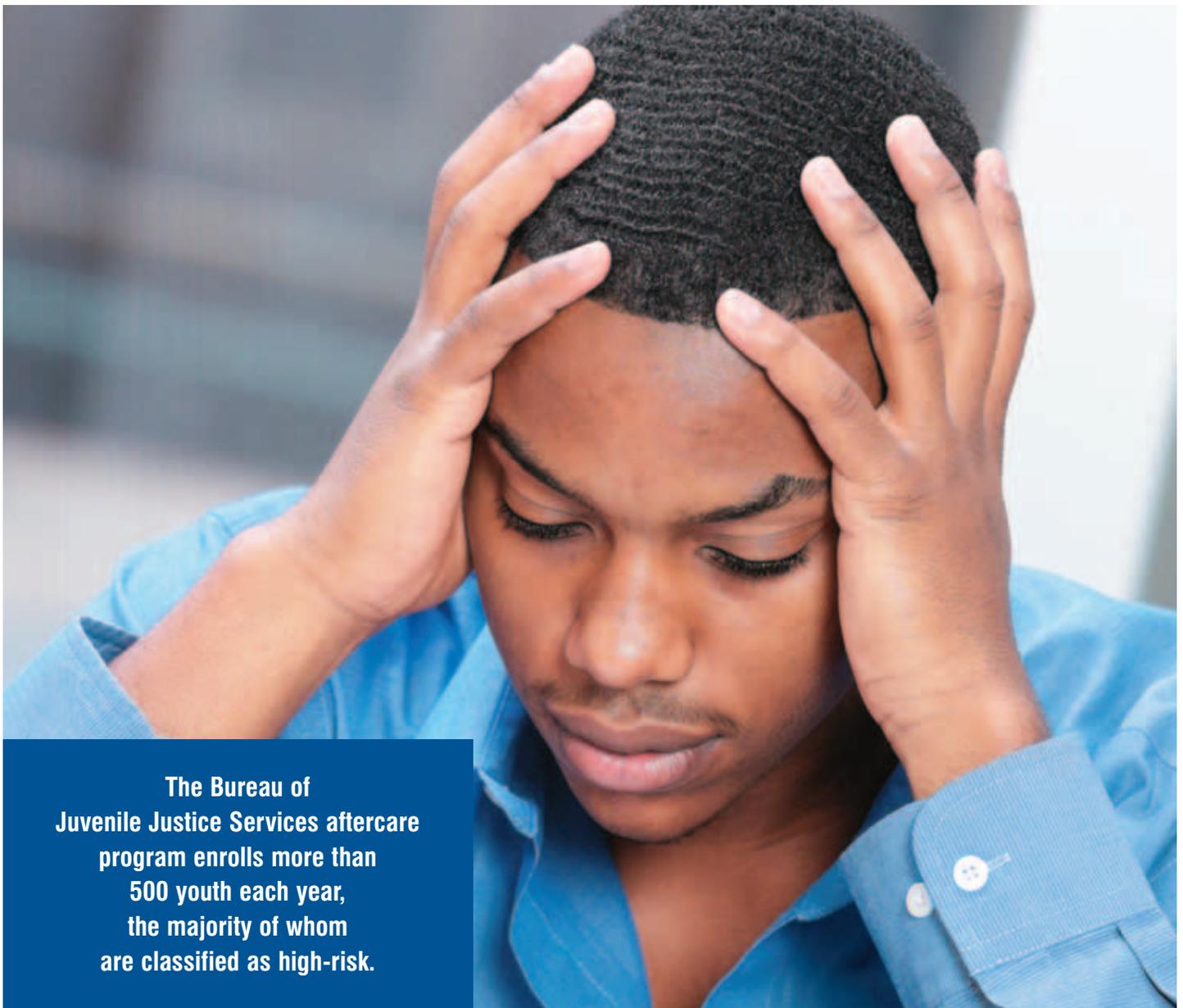
The results of the study show that the assessment instruments are reliable, valid, and have structural integrity, and are suitable for use among offenders of different race and gender.

Evaluating Juvenile Justice Aftercare

The Pennsylvania Bureau of Juvenile Justice Services (BJJS) is one of six major aftercare initiatives funded by PCCD and operates in a group of counties containing more than 70 percent of Pennsylvania's population. The BJJS aftercare program enrolls more than 500 youth each year, the majority of whom are classified as high-risk.

BJJS has adopted a new model of aftercare, moving from a treatment-based model to a case management-based model of service delivery. The case management model focuses on extensive assessment, individualized planning, transition from life in a placement facility to life in the community and reintegration efforts. A study was conducted to evaluate the design and implementation of this new model.

Resulting data from the evaluation shows that the aftercare program is research driven, mission-based and guided by a case management model; clearly relates to the Balanced and Restorative Justice goals of competency development, community protection and accountability; and provides a uniform approach to community reintegration and aftercare across the participating counties.



The Bureau of Juvenile Justice Services aftercare program enrolls more than 500 youth each year, the majority of whom are classified as high-risk.

Reducing Crime Through Training And Education

Training Police Officers To Help Citizens Improve Safety

PCCD's Bureau of Training Services trains police officers as crime prevention officers.

Every year, hundreds of municipal, county and state law enforcement officers, as well as campus security, participate in a 29-hour crime prevention course developed by PCCD that educates officers about how to teach citizens to prevent crime and victimization.

Pennsylvania's crime prevention officers play an immeasurable role in public safety. For example, they teach elementary school children about the dangers of talking to strangers or riding a bicycle without a helmet. They educate teenagers about what can happen when they drink and drive, experiment with drugs, talk online with strangers, or give in to peer pressure. They show business owners how to improve their security and teach elderly citizens how to avoid becoming victims of fraud and identity theft.

Pennsylvania, through PCCD, is one of a few states certified by D.A.R.E. America to train police officers to

Pennsylvania's crime prevention officers play an immeasurable role in public safety.

teach the Drug Abuse Resistance Education curriculum to elementary, middle and high school students.

Every October, during National Crime Prevention Month, PCCD recognizes citizens with the Governor's Award for Outstanding Citizen Crime Prevention for their extraordinary efforts to reduce crime in their neighborhood.

One of the highlights of PCCD's Bureau of Training Services is the annual crime prevention conference that takes place every December. This past year, more than 200 law enforcement officers from across the state gathered to talk about the latest crime trends and cutting edge prevention programs.

Understanding And Recognizing Signs Of Terrorism

The Terrorism Awareness and Prevention program is a crime prevention project created by PCCD's Bureau of Training Services shortly after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks to educate the public on what they can do to recognize and report terrorism.

Today, more than 3,000 law enforcement, safety, security, and emergency responder personnel have been trained to present the program to community groups, volunteer and professional organizations, private industry, and government workers across Pennsylvania.

The online version, which can be accessed through PCCD's Web site or directly at www.pa-aware.org, has reached many more of the commonwealth's citizens.

The success of this program hasn't ended there. PCCD has responded to hundreds of requests for the curriculum

program from local, state, military and federal agencies as well as homeland security and crime prevention professionals across the country, and law enforcement in several foreign countries. The commission offered these trainings to crime prevention associations in California, Oregon, Missouri, Wisconsin, Virginia, Kansas, and Florida.

Pennsylvania's Terrorism Awareness and Prevention program has been a featured presentation at a National Sheriffs' Association meeting and several National Crime Prevention Council conferences. Ohio, Wisconsin, Virginia, Maine, Alabama and Iowa have established similar, statewide programs based on our program or provide a link to it.

In 2007, PCCD has been invited to return to the National Crime Prevention Council annual conference to host a panel discussion on how various states and communities are using this program.

PCCD continues to offer instructor training at crime prevention academies, and the course is free of charge upon the request of a law enforcement or public safety agency.

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Training Constables And Deputy Constables

State law requires that all deputy sheriffs in Pennsylvania complete an initial 760 hours of basic training in order to be certified, and 20 hours of continuing education every two years to maintain their certification.

Training Deputy Sheriffs

State law requires that all deputy sheriffs in Pennsylvania complete an initial 760 hours of basic training in order to be certified, and 20 hours of continuing education every two years to maintain their certification. PCCD oversees this training.

In 2006, basic training was held three times at Penn State University and completed by 49 deputy sheriffs. The training included classes in civil and criminal law, prisoner transport, courtroom security, use of force, crisis intervention, first aid, firearms, defensive tactics, custody and emergency vehicle operations, investigations, motor vehicle code, and terrorism indicators.

New deputy sheriffs who previously worked in law enforcement and had already completed a basic training comparable to the 760-hour course can attend waiver training, an abbreviated, two-week basic training course to achieve certification. In 2006, 117 deputy sheriffs underwent waiver training.

Another 863 deputies completed their required continuing education during 2006, which, in the last two-year cycle, included courses on infectious disease prevention, drug detection, domestic violence, and cultural diversity.

For those deputies who want to further their education, PCCD oversees merit courses, some offered online, on topics such as advanced security, health and wellness, and criminal law. These courses are optional but offer deputy sheriffs the opportunity to enhance their skills and professionalism.

The Deputy Sheriffs' Education and Training Board provides PCCD with recommendations regarding training issues and needs affecting the state's 2,096 deputy sheriffs.

PCCD, by law, oversees the training and certification of Pennsylvania's nearly 1,200 constables and deputy constables.

In order for constables or deputy constables to perform judicial duties, they must complete an 80-hour basic training that includes courses on civil and criminal law, mechanics of arrest, courtroom security, prisoner transport and custody, crisis intervention and use of force. Annual recertification requires that they complete an additional 20 hours of continuing education.

In 2006, PCCD offered a total of 176 training courses for constables and deputy constables, with 106 constables/deputy constables completing basic training and an additional 1,157 constables and deputies completing their continuing education to qualify for recertification.

Also, all constables and deputy constables who want to carry a firearm must pass an initial 40-hour firearms course, as well as an annual 20-hour firearms continuing education course. In 2006, 980 constables and deputy constables were certified to carry a firearm through the firearms courses.

The Constables' Education and Training Board provides training recommendations to PCCD regarding the training of constables and deputy constables.

PCCD's Web site includes a "constable finder," which enables citizens to verify the certification status of constables and deputy constables.



Shaping Criminal Justice Policy And Legislation

One of the office's primary functions is to serve as a watchtower over the nearly 6,000 bills introduced by the legislators each year.

PCCD's Policy and Legislative Affairs office advises the agency, the Rendell administration and state legislators regarding the impact of bills, amendments and public policy on Pennsylvania's criminal and juvenile justice systems.

One of the office's primary functions is to serve as a watchtower over the nearly 6,000 bills introduced by legislators each year. The office tracks the bills that affect the state's quality of justice and, when passed by both chambers of the General Assembly, provides a detailed analysis to the Governor's office and other state agencies.

"Sometimes, a well-intentioned bill can have unanticipated effects that a lawmaker may not have realized," said Dennis Hoyle, director of the Policy and Legislative Affairs office. "Our job is to evaluate the impact of potential legislation for all who are involved in the drafting process and, when appropriate, to lend assistance in crafting that legislation so that it achieves the overall goal."

The office also helps to identify and resolve issues with current state and federal legislation. For example, the federal Violence Against Women Act reauthorization bill requires that states pass a law by 2009 that prohibits law enforcement agencies from polygraphing sexual assault victims as a condition for investigating the crime or prosecuting an offender. If Pennsylvania does not comply, the state will lose more than \$3.7 million in funding that ultimately aids victims of crime. PCCD's Policy and Legislative Affairs office will work with legislators to get this law passed.

The office also serves as the principal point of contact between the members of the General Assembly, their constituents and PCCD. The office's response to these inquiries can result in significant benefits to Pennsylvania's citizens. For example, PCCD receives dozens of calls from legislators' offices on behalf of constituents who are crime victims. The appropriate referral to PCCD's Office of Victims' Services can mean the difference between a crime victim obtaining help to overcome trauma or continuing to live with frustration and fear. Other calls might involve disseminating information about PCCD's training or grant programs.

During 2005-2006, the office handled more than 150 telephone information requests from members of the PA

General Assembly, their constituents, and members of the U.S. Congress.

The policy role of the office is to coordinate program and policy development, and to recommend changes to existing policies that affect the agency and those involved in the criminal and juvenile justice systems.

In 2006, PCCD's chairman, Walter Phillips, at the direction of Governor Rendell, championed legislation and policy designed to make the commonwealth a safer place to live by embarking on a media campaign to advocate for gun laws that could curb the epidemic of gun violence. Most notably, he worked to educate citizens about the importance of legislation that would limit the number of handguns someone could purchase to one a month. Research shows this legislation could curb what's known in law enforcement circles as "straw purchases," which are guns purchased legally by someone who then turns around and sells them illegally to someone else – often convicts who are not permitted to purchase guns.

The state House of Representatives in September voted not to pass One Handgun A Month legislation, but even so, Chairman Phillips, along with anti-gun violence advocates statewide, was able to increase dialogue on the issue.

As the Policy and Legislative Affairs office looks forward to 2007, it has made it its mission to increase its effectiveness as an integral conduit of information flow between and among PCCD, the Governor's office, the General Assembly, other state agencies, and stakeholder constituencies. As such, it will become an asset to each. To that end, it will embark on a range of efforts to increase the proficiency of staff and raise the profile of the office and PCCD.

Three top priorities for the office are to:

- Review all enabling, and governing statutes relevant to PCCD's operation, identify faults and omissions and make recommendations for corrective legislation;
- Develop and maintain personal relationships with key legislators and/or their staff, and to;
- Formally present PCCD vision, mission and operations, as defined by the Governor, the chairman and the executive director, to the General Assembly and other state agencies.

PCCD Grant Funding

State

Blueprint for a Safer Philadelphia	3	6,825,000
Violence Reduction	1	800,000
Intermediate Punishment	59	3,387,815
Drug Education and Law Enforcement (D.A.R.E.)	307	2,012,559
Partnership for Safe Children	58	5,016,000
Research-Based Delinquency and Violence Prevention	82	5,965,000
Restrictive Intermediate Punishment-Drug & Alcohol	26	15,825,000
Substance Abuse Education and Demand Reduction	8	901,556
Victim/Witness Services	73	6,617,562
Victims of Juvenile Offenders	134	3,338,680
Weed and Seed	37	3,042,719
TOTAL STATE FUNDS IN SFY 2005-2006	788	\$53,731,891

State Funding Streams

Blueprint For A Safer Philadelphia funds are awarded to organizations across Philadelphia to reduce violence.

Violence Reduction funds target the reduction of violence in municipalities other than first class cities.

Intermediate Punishment funds are awarded to counties to provide alternatives to incarceration for certain non-violent offenders.

Drug Education and Law Enforcement Grant Program funds are awarded to police departments for youth substance abuse education programs taught by police, such as D.A.R.E.

Partnership for Safe Children funds are used to sustain Communities That Care initiatives, provide training and technical assistance and support the implementation of evidence-based programs.

Research-Based Delinquency And Violence Prevention funds are awarded to communities to carry out specified research-based youth violence and delinquency prevention programs.

Restrictive Intermediate Punishment funds are awarded to counties to provide treatment-based alternatives to incarceration for certain non-violent offenders with addiction issues.

Substance Abuse Education and Demand Reduction funds develop projects that provide research-based approaches to prevention, intervention, training, treatment and education services to reduce substance abuse; to create statewide programs to educate about the dangers of substance abuse and increase public awareness of the benefits of a drug-free Pennsylvania; and to devise statewide programs to educate employers, unions, and employees about the dangers of substance abuse in the workplace.

Victim/Witness Services funds are fines and penalties collected from offenders in the criminal justice system and distributed to district attorney offices and victim advocacy agencies to carry out the responsibilities under the Crime Victims Act, which outlines the prosecutor's office responsibilities to victims of crime who are processed within the criminal justice system.

Victims of Juvenile Offenders funds are awarded to victim advocacy agencies and district attorney offices to carry out the responsibilities under the Crime Victims Act, which outlines the prosecutor's office and juvenile probation department's responsibilities to victims of crime who are processed within the juvenile justice system.

Weed And Seed funds are awarded to the state's 15 Weed and Seed sites to continue programs that reduce crime and revitalize neighborhoods.

* State funded awards made from SFY 2005-06 appropriations

** Federal funds awarded by the Commission between 7/1/05 and 6/30/06

Federal

Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program	4	314,314
Drug Control & System Improvement	134	8,187,916
Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Block Grant	2	350,000
Juvenile Accountability Block Grant	47	2,248,078
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act	20	2,555,494
Local Law Enforcement Block Grant	2	372,800
National Criminal History Improvement Program	4	1,506,626
National Forensic Science Improvement Act	9	528,473
Project Safe Neighborhood - Middle District	16	447,776
Project Safe Neighborhoods - Western District	1	40,000
Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program	1	215,700
Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Act	4	2,915,450
STOP Violence Against Women	94	4,086,965
Title V of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act	17	625,940
Victims of Crime Act	133	14,321,262
TOTAL FEDERAL FUNDS IN FFY 2005-2006	489	\$38,732,465
TOTAL STATE AND FEDERAL	1277	\$92,464,356

Federal Funding Streams

Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program funds are intended to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime, which may include funding for technical assistance, training, personnel, equipment, supplies, contractual support, and information systems for criminal justice.

Drug Control And System Improvement funds provide seed money to assist state and local government entities to implement a wide range of drug enforcement, correctional treatment/supervision victim services, juvenile justice and criminal justice system improvement projects.

Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws funds support enforcement operations and campus/community coalitions aimed at preventing underage drinking.

Juvenile Accountability Block Grant funds support state and local efforts to hold delinquent youths responsible for their offenses through accountability-based sanctions.

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention formula grant funds are used to provide match-free subgrants to units of local government and private non-profits for a broad range of juvenile justice and delinquency prevention projects.

Local Law Enforcement Block Grants provide funds to units of local government to underwrite projects that reduce crime and improve public safety. The program emphasizes local decision-making and encourages communities to craft their own responses to local crime and drug problems.

National Criminal History Improvement funds enhance the quality, completeness and accessibility of the commonwealth's criminal justice record information and to collect the information and develop procedures necessary to ensure the accurate and timely identification of individuals who are ineligible to purchase a firearm and to provide for the safety of the commonwealth's citizens.

National Forensic Science Improvements are funds designed to improve the quality, timeliness and credibility of forensic science services for criminal justice purposes.

Project Safe Neighborhood funds bring together federal, state and local agencies to focus community attention and energy on reducing gun violence. Each U.S. Attorney is required to establish a task force to develop a comprehensive gun violence reduction strategy and assess how new resources can impact resolution of the problem.

Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program funds assist states and units of local government in the development and implementation of residential substance abuse treatment programs within state and local correctional and detention facilities in which prisoners are incarcerated for a period of time sufficient to permit substance abuse treatment.

Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Act funds support programs/projects that prevent school violence/drug use and help schools and communities create safe, disciplined, and drug-free environments that support student academic achievement.

Statistical Analysis Center funds support state efforts to improve the availability of information to identify and manage issues related to state and local justice systems.

STOP Violence Against Women funds promote a coordinated, multidisciplinary approach to improving the criminal justice system's response to violence against women. This approach envisions a partnership among law enforcement, prosecution, the courts, victim advocates and service providers to ensure victim safety and offender accountability.

Title V of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act funds provide sustainability support for local Communities That Care (CTC) initiatives across the state.

Victims of Crime Act funds support direct services for victims of crime. Every county receives funding based on a formula that averages the five most recent years of Uniform Crime Report statistics, local penalty collections, and county population.

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