



BYRNE CRIMINAL JUSTICE INNOVATION PROGRAM



Pictured Above: Target Neighborhood: Mantua - Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Now in its third year, the Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program (BCJI) is supporting comprehensive efforts to reduce crime and spur revitalization in 46 of the nation's most distressed neighborhoods. As the inaugural class of 15 sites enter their final months of program implementation, they are noting a number of ways that BCJI is making a difference in their communities. Highlights of these sites' work and results follow.

Diverse Site Network

From the inception of BCJI in October 2012, the program supported partnerships in cities large and small, with focus on neighborhoods home to as few as 4,500 (Charleston, WV) and as many as 115,000 people (Brooklyn, NY). Crime conditions in these communities vary, but most sites are using BCJI to address hot spots of violent crime, as well as other drug and disorder issues centered around nuisance properties and problem businesses.

Planning for Results

The first 15 grantees spent from 8 months to two years conducting comprehensive analysis of the drivers of crime in their communities. This work involved:

- Convening a management team of leaders from law enforcement, municipal agencies, community development organizations, service providers and neighborhood groups
- Working with researchers to examine crime patterns and physical, economic and social conditions around hot spots



The BCJI Model

BCJI seeks to reduce crime and improve community safety as part of a comprehensive strategy to advance neighborhood revitalization.

The following are distinctive elements of the BCJI approach.

PLACE-BASED:

BCJI targets crime hot spots – typically micro places in communities that have struggled with crime for years.

COMMUNITY-ORIENTED:

BCJI champions active roles for residents in identifying problems, selecting strategies and creating safe environments.

DATA-DRIVEN AND EVIDENCE-INFORMED:

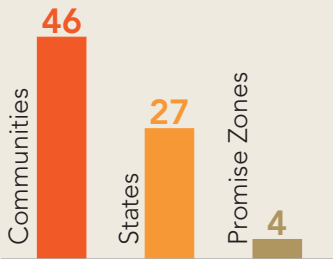
Researchers are engaged in the day-to-day work of BCJI, helping partners examine problems, assess possible solutions and monitor progress.

COMPREHENSIVE:

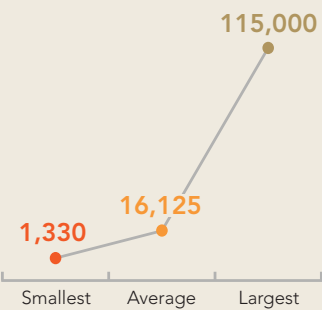
Recognizing that crime is linked to challenges of poverty, social isolation and distrust, BCJI supports crime-fighting efforts linked to community building and revitalization.

BCJI Fast Facts 2012-2014

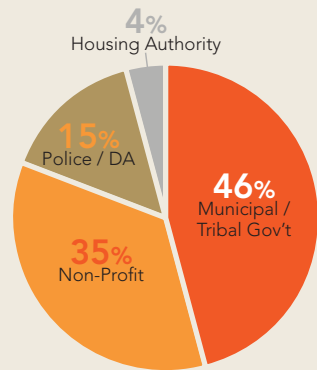
Geographic Breadth



Target Area Population



Coordinating Agencies



Resources

\$30.7 million awarded

23 Planning/
Implementation

12 Planning/
Enhancement

11 Planning
Only

- Engaging residents to help define problems, select strategies and participate in program implementation
- Investigating evidence-based practices relevant to local problems

Comprehensive Strategies

This process yielded 15 site-specific BCJI Plans backed by diverse, "cross sector" teams, data from multiple sources and evidence about what works. The plans articulate a variety of ways in which BCJI partners are collaborating to address crime and spur revitalization, including:

- Focused deterrence strategies with parolees to reduce gun violence
- Targeted police foot and bike patrols
- Abatement and rehabilitation of vacant and problem properties
- Blight reduction and beautification efforts following CPTED principles
- Drug market interventions
- Wraparound service programs for at-risk youth and people coming home from prison

Results

The first BCJI leaders to begin implementation started in mid-2013, following their customized plans which were reviewed and approved by BJA. In the ensuing months, they have documented promising results in the following areas.

Crime and Risk Reduction

Many sites have seen drops in crime in their target areas since the launch of their BCJI work. While results vary and it is too soon to cite trends, promising changes have strengthened many BCJI leaders' resolve to continue the approach.

Examples of early results include a 20% drop in Part 1 crimes along Detroit's Morang Avenue corridor in 2014, which comprises a major local high school and is the focus of the BCJI crime-fighting and engagement efforts in that city. In Milwaukee, Part 1 crime dropped 23.7% around hot spots and 11.5% in the BCJI target area overall from 2013 to 2014, while Part 1 crime increased by 2.5% citywide. In Buffalo, violent crime decreased by 19% in the target area from 2013 to 2014.

Other sites have documented notable enforcement actions stemming from BCJI. For example, Portland Police arrested four people last year who were collectively responsible for 28 gang shootings over a short period. The Multnomah County District Attorney's Office credits the arrests to a new level of data-sharing and coordination among law enforcement agencies and community members stemming from BCJI. Shootings in the target area dropped in the following months.



Pictured Target Neighborhoods clockwise from top left: Brownsville - Brooklyn, New York; Brownsville - Brooklyn, New York; East End - Dayton, Ohio, Albina - Portland, Oregon

Physical and Economic Improvements

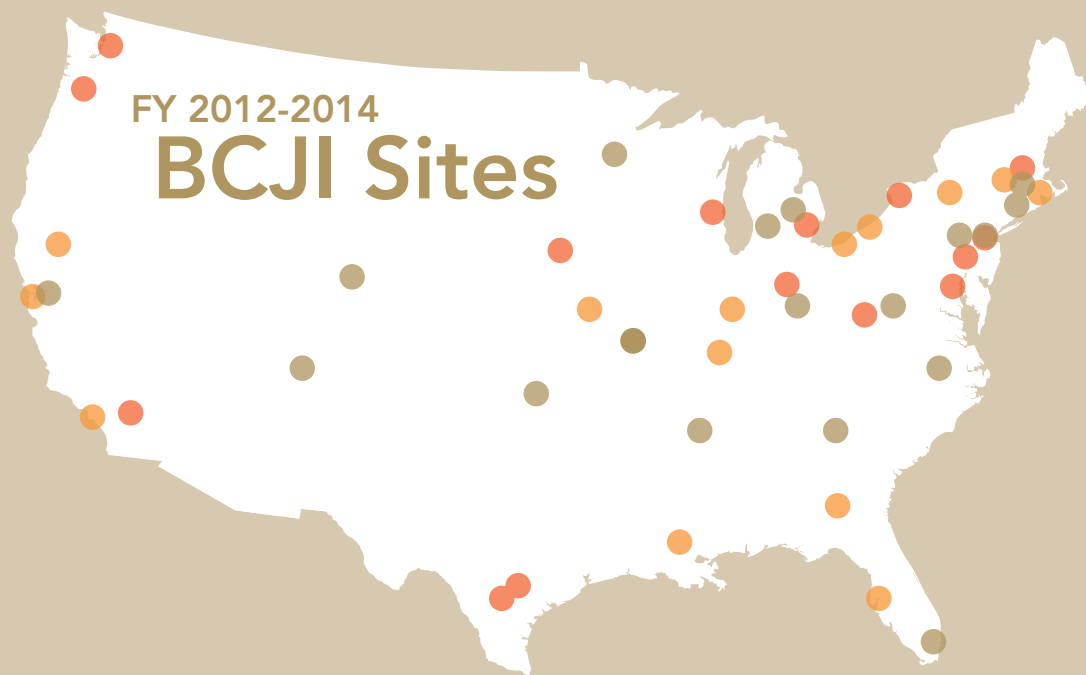
Eleven BCJI sites have executed some form of abatement action related to problem properties, many of which have turned former nuisances into community assets. In Charleston, a bar that was previously the site of repeat calls for police service due to drugs and prostitution was shut down following an organizing and enforcement effort led by the BCJI team. The property is now an eatery, popular among residents of a nearby senior housing complex.

In Milwaukee, Habitat for Humanity has built four new homes and is rehabilitating two others, bringing homeowners with a stake in the community to key blocks near hot spots that the BCJI team is seeking to stabilize.

Other sites have achieved “wins” in reclaiming public spaces and commercial areas. In San Bernardino, a crime-prone vacant lot is now home to a community garden and mural. In Brooklyn, high school students are collaborating with professional planners to redesign a crime-ridden retail corridor.

Social Cohesion and Collective Efficacy

BCJI has also yielded mechanisms for people to get involved in their communities and build mutual trust with law enforcement. Sites have collectively sponsored hundreds of community events since late 2012, bringing out thousands of people in neighborhoods where fear and isolation have historically been the norm. Many of these events have explicitly encouraged positive,



● FY 2012 Sites

Austin, TX
Baltimore, MD
Brooklyn, NY
Buffalo, NY
Charleston, WV
Dayton, OH
Detroit, MI
Lowell, MA
Milwaukee, WI
Omaha, NB
Philadelphia, PA
Portland, OR
San Antonio, TX
San Bernardino, CA
Seattle, WA

● FY 2013 Sites

Baton Rouge, LA
Cleveland, OH
Corning, CA
Erie, PA
Evansville, IN
Kansas City, MO
Los Angeles, CA
Nashville, TN
Providence, RI
San Francisco, CA
Springfield, MA
Syracuse, NY
Tampa, FL
West Albany, GA

● FY 2014 SITES

Alameda County, CA
Battle Creek, MI
Coahoma County, MS
Denver, CO
Durham, NC
Flint, MI
Huntington, WV
Highland County, OH
Miami-Dade County, FL
Minneapolis, MN
New Haven, CT
Newark, NJ
Phillipsburgh, NJ
Rockdale County, GA
Towaoc, CO
Tulsa, OK
Worcester, MA

non-confrontational dialogue and problem-solving among police and residents including youth.

In Seattle, more than 100 resident leaders completed nine months of intensive problem-solving training and now lead implementation of crime reduction strategies in youth violence hot spots as part of a diverse Community Task Force. In Philadelphia, 31 block leaders who live around the worst crime hot spots are now trained ambassadors for beautification, greening and other actions that will help the community respond to problems with litter, abandoned properties and crime.

Many sites are examining how resident perceptions of police change as they pursue BCJI. In Austin, early results are promising, with survey results showing significantly better perceptions of police in targeted hotspot areas as compared to other parts of the community. Other sites have resolved systemic problems that left unchecked, erode residents' confidence in the justice system and destabilize communities. In San Antonio, the BCJI team created a facility in a community center where people can meet with their probation officers and access supportive services. It resolves a problem uncovered during BCJI planning - that lack of transit access to central probation offices caused higher re-vocation rates in the Eastside neighborhood, as people were forced to choose between making it to work or to probation meetings.

Sustaining a Model

Though BCJI funding will end for these sites by early 2016, most aspire to continue the collaborative, data-driven approach to improving neighborhood safety and well-being that is BCJI's hallmark.

For more information about the BCJI model and site activity, please visit:

www.lisc.org/BCJI