

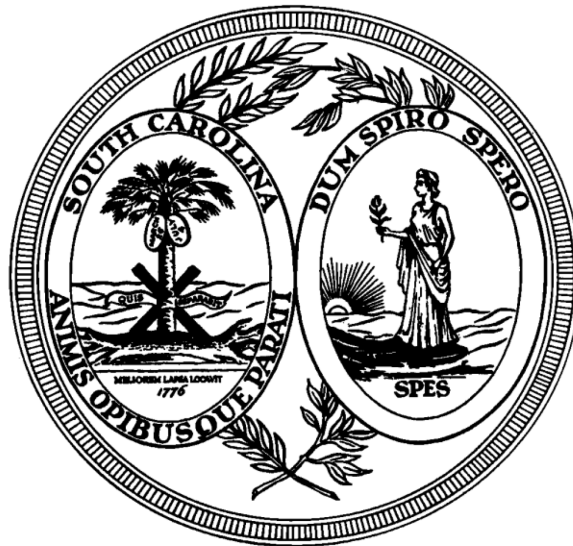
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South Carolina STATE STRATEGY

JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM
FEDERAL FISCAL YEARS 2008 - 2011



South Carolina Department of Public Safety
Office of Justice Programs

CONTENTS

	Page
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
DATA AND ANALYSIS	5
DRUGS	5
State Geography and Infrastructure	5
State Overview	5
VIOLENT CRIME	7
GANGS	8
JUVENILES	10
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	11
CHILD ABUSE	11
ELDER ABUSE	12
COURTS	13
RESOURCE NEEDS	15
PREVENTION	15
LAW ENFORCEMENT	16
JUDICIAL	17
VICTIMS	17
RECORDS MANAGEMENT and INFORMATION SYSTEMS	18
PRIORITIES AND THE NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY	21
SELECTED PROGRAMS	25
COURT SYSTEM EFFICIENCY	25
CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION SYSTEMS	25
DRUG and VIOLENT CRIME ENFORCEMENT	26
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	27
CHILD/ELDER ABUSE	28
STATE FORENSIC and LOCAL DRUG ANALYSIS LABORATORIES	29
LAW ENFORCEMENT EQUIPMENT	29
WHITE COLLAR CRIME	30
COORDINATION EFFORTS	31
STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION	31
OTHER COORDINATION EFFORTS	32
REFERENCE LIST	37

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as amended, Section 503(a)(1), South Carolina's *Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2008-20011 State Strategy* is a statewide strategy for drug and violent crime control programs to improve the functioning of the criminal justice system, with an emphasis on drug trafficking, violent crime and serious offenders. The format of the *State Strategy*, as required by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, begins with the Executive Summary. The next section, Data and Analysis, provides information and research to support the need for programs to be funded. This is followed by Resource Needs which describe in general the resources the state uses to address identified crime problems and the gaps that need to be filled. The State Strategy is also required to show the relationship of its priorities to the *National Drug Strategy*. The next section concerns selected programs that the State Administering Agency plans to fund and describes performance measures that will be collected related to each program. Finally, coordination efforts with other federal and nonfederal programs and funding sources are discussed. Based on this strategy, the Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program may provide personnel, equipment, training, technical assistance and information systems support for the apprehension, prosecution, adjudication, detention and rehabilitation of persons who violate criminal laws.

Implementation of the JAG Program in South Carolina has been a cooperative effort among federal, state and local agencies working to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the criminal justice system. A wide array of programs and projects have been initiated through JAG grants and subsequently supported by state or local monies once grant funding was no longer available. Services provided by these grant funds have primarily addressed state and local law enforcement initiatives, followed by criminal justice records improvement, court system efficiency, substance abuse treatment and crime prevention.

Efforts to reduce juvenile drug and violent crime in South Carolina through prevention and education endeavors have been successful, notably through the School Resource Officer (SRO) program. By bringing law enforcement personnel into the public schools and taking a proactive rather than a reactive stance, these projects encourage students to avoid becoming involved in illegal activities. The positive feedback received from participants and continued interest in establishing SRO projects indicate that this will remain an important funding area. Also, with the reported increased presence of gangs, funding of gang investigators and other anti-gang initiatives will be given added importance.

Providing relief to the state's overburdened criminal court system has been accomplished by various methods and will continue to be a funding priority. Caseload data show that funding additional personnel in solicitor's offices has been one method of attacking the problem. Grant-funded drug prosecutors remain an important component of multijurisdictional narcotics task forces. Through these additional positions, solicitors can keep pace with the increase in drug-related cases that are generated through task force investigations. Specialized prosecution units for violent crime, domestic violence and child/elder abuse have also made an impact on the quality of prosecution efforts for these types of cases.

Improvement of criminal justice information systems through advanced technology and automation of records has continued through projects implemented with JAG grants. More departments have acquired LIVESCAN devices allowing them to improve the quality of fingerprints submitted to SLED. Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) equipment has allowed more agencies to analyze latent prints retrieved from crime scenes and has led to the identification of hundreds of offenders who otherwise may have avoided arrest and prosecution. The use of computerized information systems has also progressed, and enhancements are constantly being made to the databases through which agencies access information concerning individuals in prisons and jails, disposition of court cases, and persons wanted on outstanding warrants. The South Carolina State Law Enforcement Division has mandated that all departments, regardless of size, transmit incident report information electronically to them for inclusion in the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS). Helping agencies meet this mandate will continue to be a priority in the coming year. Additionally, the South Carolina Judicial Department has implemented a project for a case management system for all levels of court within the state. Continuing to support this project at the magistrate and municipal court level will also continue to be a priority to the extent permitted by our 2008 JAG allocation.

Grant-funded narcotics and violent crime task forces continued to prove effective by bringing together law enforcement agencies from neighboring jurisdictions for the purpose of sharing resources and investigating offenders who cross jurisdictional boundaries. Joint operations yielded more arrests and seizures of drugs and assets than any one of the agencies could have attained by themselves. Task forces that have full-time prosecutors as members of their teams are a positive trend. For years this additional component has been beneficial by allowing the prosecutors to advise on the legal aspects of investigations and bring appropriate cases to federal court where longer sentences may be handed down. The creation of Multi-jurisdictional Task Forces (MJTF) has produced more comprehensive investigations by targeting individuals who have committed both violent and drug-related crimes as well as improving cooperation between law enforcement and solicitor's offices.

The priority of funding child/elder abuse investigations has steadily gained attention and has developed into a highly effective program area. Improved casework performed by specially trained officers and the increase in arrests they are able to make by concentrating solely on these crimes are significant achievements. Also impressive is the degree of interagency cooperation that has resulted from these projects. Improvements in the handling of incidents and a reduction of victim trauma (by decreasing the number of interviews and redundant questioning) have been attained by coordinating the efforts law enforcement agencies with those of other organizations such as the local Department of Social Services. Dedicated Child/ Elder Abuse Prosecutors have also been funded.

Domestic violence will continue to be a priority. Investigators and prosecutors specializing in domestic violence cases have been funded over the past few years and the demand for these services is expected to increase. In addition, subgrantees are working with related agencies (such as social services) to coordinate efforts and ensure these crimes are reported and prosecuted. This multidisciplinary approach will be encouraged in future projects.

Until recently, drugs and other illegal substances submitted to SLED for analysis created a backlog, delaying cases going to trial. This situation has been eased somewhat by using grant funds to establish regional drug analysis labs at several local departments in accordance with SLED standards using grant funds. However, an expansion of sites throughout the state complete with appropriate staff and equipment is still needed to handle the volume of tests.

The JAG Program has provided tens of millions of dollars to support drug control and system improvement initiatives in the past several years, resulting in clear advancements in South Carolina's criminal justice system. Ultimately, achievement of the *State Strategy* objectives relies on both the priorities established through the process described earlier as well as the subject matter and quality of the applications submitted by potential subgrantees. Through communication with local agencies, the expansion and replication of successful projects, and the implementation of innovative concepts, the Office of Justice Programs will continue to administer funding to worthwhile projects that further the reduction of crime in South Carolina.

DATA AND ANALYSIS

DRUGS

State Geography and Infrastructure

Although South Carolina is a small state, ranking 40th of the fifty states in terms of total land area, the state has a coastline of 187 miles and a system of intra-coastal waterways that reaches beyond its borders to the southern tip of Florida. The seacoast has numerous bays and harbors as well as the major Atlantic seaport of Charleston.

South Carolina's highway system includes five numbered interstate routes- 95, 20, 26, 77, and 85. These corridors and our rail system allow for effective passage of contraband through the state, to and from northern, southern and western points of supply and distribution. In addition, South Carolina has numerous county and private airstrips that provide another source of transit for operations in the importation of cocaine and marijuana.

South Carolina continues to be extremely vulnerable as an importation base and transit area for illicit drugs bound for the eastern seaboard of the United States. With its extensive coastline, numerous rural airstrips and matrix of interstate highways, South Carolina represents an attractive transshipment point.

State Overview

South Carolina's drug law arrest rate per 10,000 population increased 1.9 percent from 2005 to 2006 and increased 235.7 percent since 1976. Information provided by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) indicates that there were 36,222 reported drug law arrests in South Carolina in 2006. The drug law arrest rate includes arrests for crimes related to the possession, distribution or manufacture of illegal narcotic substances. Although crack cocaine is the most trafficked drug in the state, it appears that more people continue to be arrested for using marijuana in South Carolina. There also continues to be a problem with methamphetamine in the state. More inmates within the South Carolina Department of Corrections are serving time for drug offenses than any other offense category, 20.6 percent of the 23,390 inmates in FY 2006.

According to the United States Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), South Carolina is identified as an end user, a staging area, and transshipment state for all illegal drugs. There has been increased evidence of activity extending to major distribution hubs, such as southern California (methamphetamine, marijuana and cocaine), southern Florida (cocaine and Ecstasy), New York City (cocaine and heroin), and southern Texas/Mexico (marijuana, methamphetamine and diverted/illicit drugs). Investigations cross numerous statewide and national jurisdictions and are becoming more complex.

Although cocaine hydrochloride (HCI) and crack cocaine abuse have long endured as South Carolina's major drug threat, methamphetamine poses an increasing threat because of its cheaper cost, relative ease of production, and longer-lasting effects. The DEA reports that methamphetamine manufacturing and trafficking had shown a steady increase from 2002 through 2004 but decreased dramatically after new programs were enacted over the past two years. Interstate 95, "America's Drug Pipeline," is a major route between New York City and Miami, Florida. From Mexico and the Southwest border states, traffickers travel daily on Interstates 20 and 85 to supply Northeastern states with cocaine, marijuana, methamphetamine, Ecstasy, and heroin.

The following information provides a more detailed picture of how specific drugs are affecting the state according to the DEA's South Carolina 2007 Fact Sheet.

Marijuana is the most prevalent illegal drug of abuse in South Carolina, with Mexico as the primary source. Traffickers use passenger vehicles, tractor-trailers, commercial aircraft, buses, and trains, as well as express parcel services to import marijuana from Mexico through California. Also, members of the South Carolina National Guard and The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) routinely eradicate small patches of locally grown marijuana.

Cocaine trafficking remains at stable to moderately increased levels in the major metropolitan areas of the state which include the population centers of Columbia, Greenville and Florence. An increase in trafficking has also been noted in recent years along the coast, particularly in the tourist areas of Myrtle Beach and Charleston. Cocaine hydrochloride (HCI), which is converted into crack cocaine once it arrives in South Carolina, and crack cocaine are readily available and distributed throughout the state. An array of smuggling methods is used to include private vehicles, commercial tractor-trailers and containerized cargo.

Heroin is available in multi-gram quantities throughout South Carolina and is routinely packaged in "bindles" for distribution. The most common source locations for heroin distributed in the state are New York, New Jersey and Mexico. Heroin supply sources use a variety of concealment methods, including express mail and land transportation to bring heroin into the state. Although the heroin user population has historically been a limited and stable group generally located in the inner cities, recent information indicates an increasing pattern of heroin use by a younger population in "experimental" or "party" situations.

The DEA reports that methamphetamine manufacture and abuse has shown a steady decrease over the years of 2005 and 2006. Mexico and local suppliers are the primary sources for methamphetamine in the state with Atlanta reported as a source city. Legislation curbing access to over-the-counter cold and allergy medications containing pseudoephedrine has been a deterrent to clandestine laboratory operators and their associates. The "Meth Watch" and "Drug-Endangered Children" programs in the state have also addressed the immediate and long-term needs of minor children found entangled in their parents' illicit drug habits. A report by the National Drug Intelligence Center released in December, 2007, reflects that the wholesale-level prices per pound of Mexican ice methamphetamine have increased in a number of cities nationally, possibly due to decreased availability in those markets. The

report listed prices per pound in Greenville, South Carolina have increased from between \$12,000 and \$15,000 in December of 2006 to between \$25,000 and \$27,000 in June of 2007.

Ecstasy (MDMA) is readily available in several cities in South Carolina, predominantly in the areas of Greenville and Columbia and cities along the state's coast. Recently, there has been a significant increase in Ecstasy distribution throughout the state with traffickers based out of Columbia distributing a substantial portion of the Ecstasy sold. Recent data indicates that Atlanta, Georgia, has become a significant hub for MDMA distribution in South Carolina. Attempts are being made by law enforcement agencies to infiltrate organizations distributing Ecstasy. However, the high cost of Ecstasy currently available on the streets is hampering their efforts because they do not always have access to the amount of funds for "buys" needed to make trafficking and distribution charges.

There have been increasing incidents of LSD distribution and abuse as well as occurrences of Rohyphol and Ketamine appearing in nightclubs in communities along the coast and the upstate of South Carolina.

Diversion of OxyContin®, hydrocodone products, such as Vicodin®, and pseudoephedrine continues to be a problem in South Carolina. Primary methods of diversion being reported are illegal sale and distribution by health care professionals and workers, and "doctor shopping" (going to a number of doctors to obtain prescriptions for a controlled pharmaceutical). According to investigations by the DEA's Columbia District Office Diversion Group, Oxycontin, Methadone, Fentanyl and Hydrocodone pose the greatest concerns. These Schedule II and III drugs are usually taken in combination with benzodiazepines and Soma, a non-controlled drug that is highly abused.

The physical movement of drug proceeds is usually by commercial tractor-trailers and privately owned vehicles that are frequently equipped with special electronically controlled compartments. Money transfers, vehicle and real estate purchases, clothing stores and detail shops are also part of the process of laundering money throughout the state.

DEA Mobile Enforcement Teams (MET) are a cooperative program with state and local law enforcement counterparts conceived in 1995 in response to the problem of drug-related violent crime in towns and cities across the nation. Since the inception of the MET Program, 473 deployments have been completed nationwide, resulting in 19,643 arrests. In South Carolina, there have been six MET deployments since the inception of the program: two in Spartanburg and one each in Greenville, Dillon, North Charleston and Orangeburg.

VIOLENT CRIME

South Carolina has consistently ranked among the states with the highest annual violent crime (murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault) rate. The state ranked 1st in the nation in 2006, for the fifth consecutive year. The state's violent crime rate has been higher than the national rate every year since 1975. Compared to the national rate of 47.4 in 2006, South Carolina's violent crime rate was 76.9, a .04 percent increase from 2005 to 2006.

South Carolina's murder rate ranked fourth nationally and it increased 13.5 percent from 2005 to 2006. Firearms were involved in 68.6 percent of the murders, with handguns alone being involved in 44.9 percent of all murders. Violence within the family accounted for 19% of murders while violence between people known, but not related to, one another accounted for 49% of murders. Murder victims were more often male (74%) than female (26%) and more often non-white (59%) than white (41%). Young adults from 22 to 35 accounted for 38% of murder victims. Those arrested for murder were also disproportionately male (89%), minority (69% black) and young (45% between 22 and 34).

South Carolina's rape rate decreased 5.0 % from 2005 to 2006. This decrease resulted in the state ranking 12th nationally. Rape victims were most often assaulted by someone known to them but not related (58.4%) or a family member (16%). Rapes usually occurred in private residences (72.1%) and weapon use was usually hands, feet or fists (88%). Rape victims were most often young adults: 24% were 17 to 21 years old; 8% were 22 to 24 years old; 26% were 25 to 34 years old; and 23% were between the ages of 35 and 44.

South Carolina's robbery rate was less than the national rate every year from 1975 until 2006, except for 1999 and 2000. However, the gap has narrowed to just over one percent and South Carolina ranked 16th nationally in 2006. The state robbery rate increased by less than one half of one percent from 2005 to 2006. Robberies most often occurred between strangers (54%) followed by situations where the relationship was unknown (31%). Robberies involving victims and offenders who knew one another were uncommon (15%). Firearms were involved in 55% of robberies.

The state's aggravated assault rate has been a continuing source of great concern. The state's aggravated assault rate has been higher than the national rate every year since 1975, and South Carolina ranked first among the states since 2002. The aggravated assault rate increased less than one percent from 2005 to 2006 to 58.2 compared to the national rate of 28.8. Aggravated assaults occurred most often between people who knew one another. Assaults between family members accounted for 23% of the total. Assaults between people who knew one another but were not related accounted for 52% of the total. Firearms were involved in 23% of aggravated assaults.

South Carolina has devoted great time and effort to developing an accurate and efficient crime reporting system. The state was a pioneer in crime reporting, having implemented a state wide incident based reporting system in 1976. South Carolina participated in the FBI's pilot testing of NIBRS in 1991 and for several years was the only state to have virtually 100% participation in NIBRS reporting among law enforcement agencies. Although there is speculation that this effective crime reporting system might contribute toward the state's high crime rates relative to other states, it almost certainly provides a highly accurate and reliable basis for internal comparisons within the state over time.

GANGS

South of Carolina has a rapidly-growing gang problem. In the past, gang affiliation and activity was mostly limited to youth gangs involved in schoolyard brawls according to reports

from grant-funded School Resource Officers across the state. Recently, however, law enforcement has observed that aging gang members continue their affiliation beyond school age, and their criminal involvement escalates as they mature. They also report that the majority of the gang-related crime that has been observed thus far relates to drug trafficking and violent crimes associated with drug trafficking. According to the South Carolina Gang Survey, conducted by the University of South Carolina in 2005, law enforcement agencies that responded identified 500 separate gangs in the state. Of these, 157 included in their name the name of national gangs, such as Bloods, Crips or Gangster Disciples. The study noted that although these groups adopt the name of the larger group, they are not necessarily an official division of the larger group. (More likely, members of these groups have migrated to South Carolina from areas such as Chicago or New York in order to continue their illegal activities.) The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, using data provided from the South Carolina Incident Based Reporting System (SCIBRS), identified a total of 778 gang related criminal incidents in South Carolina for 2006 and 685 gang related criminal incidents in 2005. That represents a 13.5% increase from 2005 to 2006. In 2006, there were five homicides that were reported to SCIBRS as gang-related. Also, there were 296 aggravated assaults, 145 of which were committed by juveniles. There were six incidents of rape, of which four involved juvenile gang activity.

Many of the gangs in South Carolina identify themselves as neighborhood sets or “crews” (e.g. the Six Deuce Brim and Tree Top Piru, the 48 Street crew, etc.) that are often loosely affiliated with national organizations such as Bloods and the Crips. These sets are often identified by School Resource Officers, who have proven to be an excellent source for intelligence on active groups. School Resource Officers in Myrtle Beach have confiscated gang rule books, known as “Books of Knowledge”, from members of the Gangster Disciples. This department has also identified almost 15 members of the Six Shot Crew. This group has members that range in age from 17 to 23 and have been known to carry weapons, commit armed robberies, and are involved in narcotics distribution. Gang investigators in the Greenville metropolitan area have identified over 1,800 gang members. The majority of these claim affiliation to Blood, Crip or Folk sets.

South Carolina’s fast growing Hispanic population, mostly from Mexico and Central America, has presented unique challenges for the law enforcement community. The 2005 National Gang Threat Assessment reported that Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) is active in narcotics distribution across the South and is known to be particularly aggressive towards law enforcement. Gang officers in Richland County (Columbia area) report a dramatic increase in the presence of members of MS-13. This organization has a strong presence in Charlotte, NC and members have begun to relocate to suburban border communities in South Carolina in order to avoid detection and continue their criminal enterprises. Intelligence from the Myrtle Beach Police Department indicates that there has been MS-13 graffiti in a public housing project and they have also identified several members of Vatos Locos and the Mexican Mafia in the area. The area members of Vatos Locos are primarily age 15-19 and have thus far been involved in property crimes including vandalism and tagging. The Greenville area also has reported MS-13 graffiti, but reports no formal law enforcement contact with the group. The area is home to several other Hispanic gangs, including Vatos Locos and the Latin Kings.

The Lowcountry area of the state, including Charleston, Berkeley, and Dorchester counties, has reported 32 known gangs in the area and these groups have been responsible for crimes ranging from vandalism to murder-for hire. The majority of the crimes are narcotics related. Anecdotal evidence from the North Charleston Police Department indicates that South Carolina is home to over 1,000 members of the Insane Gangster Disciples, with over half of these persons living in the Lowcountry.

An additional group that is active in the state is the Hells Angels. The Myrtle Beach area plays host each year to the Harley Davidson Rally, which attracts over 100 Hells Angels members from across the country and internationally according to area law enforcement agencies. The state is home to almost 20 known members, with several prospective members. This group is heavily involved in prostitution, narcotics and extortion. Law enforcement in Lexington County also reports a local chapter of the Warlocks, which is another nationally known outlaw motorcycle gang.

The South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC) has long been a strong partner in anti-gang efforts across the state. The Security Threat Group (STG) Unit is currently monitoring over 2,000 inmates that have been identified as being associated with gangs. Of these, they have identified over 100 separate groups. The STG reports identifying groups that other law enforcement do not report in their jurisdictions, such as the Five PerCenters, Latin Queens, Texas Syndicate and the Asian Pride. The group also reports the presence of sets like the Aryan Brotherhood and various cult groups. The SCDC is a significant source of gang information, as all inmates have been photographed and documented, including any tattoos.

JUVENILES

While the causes of delinquency are complex in nature, the following information provides insight into social factors that may influence delinquency. In the South Carolina Kids Count 2005, it was reported that 7,296 children lived in foster care as of 2005; and 229,000 (or 22 percent) children and youth under age 18 lived in families with incomes below the poverty level. There were 106,000 of our children under age 18 with no health insurance in 2005. Furthermore, there were 7,470 births to mothers aged 15 to 19 in 2004 and an infant mortality rate of 9.3 per 1,000 live births.

The South Carolina Youth Risk Behavior Survey 2005 showed that in 2004-05 students in both middle and high school reported exposure to violence and drugs. Results from middle school students showed that 38.6% reported that they had carried a weapon, 58.4% of those were males. Additionally, 11% reported that they had missed school in the last thirty days due to fear of violence. The survey revealed that 8.2% of middle school students had been offered, sold or given illicit drugs at school and 12.8% had used marijuana. For high school students, 20.5% had carried a weapon (32.7% of those were males) and 7.5% had carried a gun. Survey results reported that 12.8% of the high school students considered themselves gang members and 10.1% had been threatened with a weapon at school in the past 12 months. Additionally 38% reported using marijuana with 19% having used marijuana in the past 12 months.

Juvenile crime is a matter of great concern because delinquent patterns of behavior, if not interrupted, may persist into and throughout adult lives. South Carolina's juvenile violent

crime rate decreased 11.6% to 11.4 from 2005 to 2006. A total of 25,820 juvenile cases were referred to South Carolina solicitors in 2006, representing a 1.5% decrease from 2005 but a 135.8% increase since 1983. In 2006, 59% of all dispositions in South Carolina Family Court resulted in a sentence of probation supervision. In 2006, 2,090 children were admitted to the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Reception & Evaluation Center, representing a 4.7% decrease from 2005. A total of 1,952 children were committed to DJJ long term institutions, representing a 4.6% increase over 2005. Long term commitments to DJJ have remained fairly constant since 1998, after they nearly doubled from 1996 to 1998.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

In South Carolina from 1991 to 2004, domestic violence accounted for 29.9% of murders, 29.3% of sexual violence, 36.6% of aggravated assaults and 50.6% of simple assaults. Overall, 41.9% of incidents of murder, attempted sexual violence, robbery, aggravated assault, simple assault and intimidation were domestic related. Persons aged 18 to 34 made up 53.9% of domestic violence victims. Additionally, 76% were female and 24% male. Although the numbers of victims were evenly divided by race (51% non-white and 49% white), the domestic violence victimization rate among non-whites was more than double the rate for whites. Spouses accounted for 37.7% of domestic violence victims, family members 31.5%, romantic partners 28.2% and ex-spouses 2.5%.

During FY 2006, 1,797 cases of domestic violence-related offenses were investigated by JAG grant funded investigators in six agencies in South Carolina. This resulted in 985 arrests.

Complimentary to the JAG program, the Violence Against Women Act funding in South Carolina supports domestic violence related services including shelters, counseling and victim advocates. From October 2005 through September 2006, 6,450 victims received some form of service under these programs. From October 2006 through September 2007, this number was 15,068. These grants also support training to recognize, respond and/or investigate instances of domestic violence. During the 2005-06 grant year, 3,082 practitioners participated in some area of this training and in the 2006-07 grant year that number was 7,195.

CHILD ABUSE

According to the South Carolina Department of Social Services, statewide there were 16,728 reports of child abuse or neglect reported in 2005-2006. Of these, 6,226 (37%) were founded. Greenville, Richland and York counties were the top three counties with reports of child abuse and neglect.

According to findings discussed in Sexual Violence Against Children in South Carolina: 1991-2005, nearly two-thirds of all victims of sexual violence were under the age of 18. The rate of sexual violence against children increased 37.5% from 1991 to 2005, compared to a 13.3% decrease for adults over the same time period. Among children, the highest victimization rate was among ten to fourteen year olds. Although girls were the primary

target of sexual violence against children (82.6%), 17.4% of child sexual violence victims were boys. White children accounted for 62.1% of child victims of sexual violence. Children were most often sexually attacked in the child's residence and other private homes (77.5%).

As computer technology advances, the Internet is often being used by perpetrators to target young victims. Young people continue to be bombarded with pornography and sexual approaches over the Internet, according to a study by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. The study found that one in seven young people between 10 and 17 who regularly use the Internet received unwanted sexual solicitations. A third of the young people surveyed saw unwanted online sexual material during the same period. This was despite increased use of filtering, blocking and monitoring software in households of youth Internet users. On-line harassment was also reported by 9% of the youth surveyed. Grant-funded investigators in South Carolina have reported that they are continuing to see many cases involving the use of computers and the internet.

ELDER ABUSE

According to the United States Census Bureau projections, the percentage of South Carolinians age 65 and over will increase significantly by the year 2030. In the 2000 Census, 12.1 percent of the population was 65 and older. By 2010, this age group will make up 13.6 of South Carolina's population. By 2030, about 1.1 million people 65 and over will live in South Carolina, making up 22 percent of the population - a 133.7 percent increase from 2000. South Carolina is projected to rank 15th in the nation in 2030 with a percentage of the population aged 65 and older. If these projections are correct, there will be almost as many people older than 65 as there will be children younger than 18 by 2030. This marks a major shift in population from the 2000 Census, which showed twice as many children younger than 18 as adults aged 65 and over.

Elder abuse includes sexual, physical, or emotional abuse as well as financial exploitation. Many cases involve neglect by the caregiver that fails to provide food or medicine and not maintain safe living conditions. Like children, elderly citizens are often the victims of abuse because many are unable to care for themselves or to provide a defense against the violent actions of others. Caregiver stress in many instances escalates to physical abuse of the elder person being cared for. Another growing problem is financial exploitation of the elderly that includes the theft of assets (often by those closest to them), telemarketing scams, and Medicaid fraud.

According to the Mature Adults in South Carolina 2006 State Report, in state fiscal year 2004-05, 3,521 incidents involving 3,599 adults were reported to the Department of Social Services as needing Adult Protective Services due to abuse, neglect or exploitation. Of those reports, 2,011 percent, or 57 percent, were substantiated. Sixty-eight percent of the total adults reported were over the age of 60 and fourteen percent were over the age of 85. Of these substantiated cases, 24 percent involved neglect by another, 66 percent involved self-neglect, seven percent involved abuse, one percent involved psychological abuse and 12 percent involved exploitation.

Unfortunately, the problem of elder abuse still remains largely hidden. While there are no official national statistics on the prevalence of elder abuse, the National Center on Elder Abuse estimates that as many as 84 percent of abusive situations may go unreported. Also, during fiscal year 2004, 5,251 complaints of abuse, neglect and exploitation regarding nursing homes, board and care homes, assisted living facilities and other adult care facilities were reported to the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program with 4,075 resolved.

COURTS

Criminal justice professionals report that delays in the judicial process often hinder effective prosecution. If too much time passes between an incident/arrest and the subsequent hearing or trial, witnesses may be difficult to track down and testimony as to what occurred may no longer be clear. Specialized prosecutors and investigators for major and time intensive cases can speed the advance of these cases through the system. Also slowing the court process is the lack of adequate indigent defense resources. Computerization of court records is still a problem for many smaller judicial jurisdictions with no standardized format and ability to share information. In an effort to rectify this shortcoming, the South Carolina Judicial Department, with JAG and other federal funding, has implemented a statewide technology plan to automate all systems within the judicial department and allow for the sharing of information between judicial jurisdictions. They have also begun implementation of a case management system statewide.

RESOURCE NEEDS

Law enforcement officers, judges, treatment, prevention and education professionals across South Carolina are working to maximize services as budgets remain flat or decline. With extremely tight state and local budgets, Byrne funding is essential in many instances for agencies to implement needed programs. Even so, financial resources to fund more personnel, equipment and supplies are not the only needs identified by criminal justice agencies. Increasingly, improved coordination among federal, state and local criminal justice agencies is cited as a way to maximize resources. Innovative minds in all areas of criminal justice are exploring the uses of automation, computers and emerging technologies to reduce the time necessary to complete routine tasks, free up personnel for more important work and gain greater accountability. Finally, leaders in criminal justice are increasingly focused on the evaluation of existing programs and methods to ensure that available funding is spent effectively. The following is a summary of resource needs in the South Carolina criminal justice system.

PREVENTION

Because the future of our society rests in the hands of today's young people, it is of vital importance to take all steps possible to keep them from becoming involved in criminal activity. A key element in prevention is to familiarize youth with law enforcement and the responsibilities of officers in order to foster relationships based on respect. In this regard, the School Resource Officer (SRO) program has functioned in South Carolina for several years with great success and will continue to be implemented in most schools. However, additional funding is needed to hire officers. SROs receive specialized training, provide pupils with law-related education, counseling services and referrals to social service agencies. They also serve as a deterrent to misconduct by being present full-time at the schools. While all middle and high school students would gain from the interaction with law enforcement, children living in high drug and crime areas and otherwise classified as "at-risk" would receive the most benefit. Early intervention via after school and summer activities initiated and overseen by SROs (e.g. Explorer Clubs, sporting events, camps) can serve to instill pride and self-determination in juveniles and promote academic achievement.

A growing area of concern relates to an increase in drugs and violence linked to a larger gang presence in the state. Specialized gang investigators and other anti-gang initiatives are needed to stem this growing problem before it becomes unmanageable. Public awareness and prevention education would be beneficial for the entire community but, in particular, to young people who are targeted for recruitment into gangs.

On a wider scale, more participation in community-policing efforts would assist in crime prevention. It has been shown that creating mutually beneficial partnerships between citizens and law enforcement can lead to the elimination of street drug sales, the demolition of crack houses and safer neighborhoods. The reluctance to modify traditional methods of policing or

thinking must be overcome if lasting progress toward achieving a crime-free environment is to be made. However, law enforcement agencies who want to make this effort often initially need financial assistance to implement the programs.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

As officers have become more specialized in the types of cases they handle, the importance of their receiving appropriate training has grown. Narcotics officers would benefit from courses on conducting undercover drug buys and keeping up with the methods of operation employed by those in the illegal narcotics trade. Investigators specializing in family violence (domestic violence, child abuse and elder abuse) need to learn more about handling these types of crimes for their own protection and for the welfare of those involved in the incidents. With a growing Hispanic and Asian population in South Carolina, officers should also be trained in cultural factors and language to help them effectively and appropriately handle situations involving these individuals. Additionally, white collar and computer crimes and financial exploitation of the elderly are complicated and difficult to investigate requiring specialized training. After receiving specialized instruction, these officers could go on to share their knowledge with others in their departments.

Favorable collaborations between agencies on local, state and federal levels need to be stressed to avoid fragmentation of services and to launch successful multi-jurisdictional investigations. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the formation of task forces that incorporate law enforcement agents from neighboring cities and counties. However, care must be taken to ensure that all participating departments are aware of their responsibilities and that cooperation and coordination with other agencies remains a top priority. The inclusion of assistant solicitors in the task forces is of great importance. Besides being on-hand to help guide the agents' investigations, they may be cross-designated as special assistant US attorneys and be empowered to bring a number up to the federal level for prosecution. This blending together of law enforcement and prosecutorial elements is a worthwhile trend that makes for stronger cases against offenders and better assures that court hearings will proceed in a timely manner. Fatality Review Teams that examine cases of elder deaths, much like Child Fatality Review Teams, would help ensure that cases where death resulted from abuse would not be written off as natural deaths.

Over the past several years, the lack of adequate drug testing facilities in law enforcement agencies has consistently been mentioned as a significant contributor to delay in prosecuting criminal cases. Until recently, the overwhelming majority of substances to be examined were submitted to the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED), and the limited number of criminologists there were unable to keep pace with the demand. This situation has been eased somewhat by establishing regional drug analysis labs at several departments in accordance with SLED standards. However, continued expansion of subgrantee sites throughout the state, complete with knowledgeable staff and technically advanced equipment, is needed to handle the escalating volume of tests.

JUDICIAL

Efforts to more effectively handle offenders should include the implementation or expansion of specialized courts, such as Domestic Violence Courts, Mental Health Courts, and Drug Courts. Drug Courts and Mental Health Courts have shown to be effective in allowing non-violent offenders a chance to receive treatment instead of being processed through the system and given probation or jail time, neither of which is likely to keep the individual from recidivating.

A second area of need regarding the increase of court efficiency is that of personnel. The addition of prosecutors generally leads to a decrease in the number of pending cases. Prosecutors should receive training in elder abuse, especially financial exploitation, and computer-related crimes, which are increasing. There should be a close working relationship between prosecutors and investigators, especially in the specialized courts.

South Carolina also supports projects which focus on improving the operational effectiveness of the court process by expanding prosecutorial and judicial resources and implementing court delay reduction programs. In this area, the key components are personnel and automation. Increasing resources in one area of the justice system can have an adverse effect on other components of the system. It is important in this area to focus on coordination between all agencies to better manage the court dockets. The South Carolina Judicial Department has begun implementing an initiative, with the help of grant funds, to provide reliable information systems on which to improve efficiency in day-to-day operations. This is being done by automating processes, providing connectivity and improving technology. The first stage of this initiative included the county Clerk of Court offices. The current stage is expanding the development of a statewide case management system.

VICTIMS

Domestic violence continues to be a problem in South Carolina. According to a report by the Violence Policy Center, South Carolina ranked seventh, per 100,000 population, in the nation in 2005 in female deaths at the hands of abusive men. Children who witness domestic violence often learn to be violent and take these values and behaviors into their own relationships. Suggestions for changes in the way these cases are handled include: forming specialized units of law enforcement officers; creating more Domestic Violence Courts capable of mandating appropriate counseling, treatment, incarceration, and monitoring; establishing batterer treatment programs; and establishing prevention programs in schools to teach non-violent relationship skills.

The issues of child and elder abuse have become more prominent in South Carolina, as well as throughout the entire country. In response to the likelihood that the problems are much more pervasive than the statistics indicate, more law enforcement agencies are creating specialized units which specifically deal with allegations and incidents of these types of

abuse. However, with elder population numbers expected to rise as the “baby boomers” begin “aging out”, the need for these specialized personnel will undoubtedly increase. Additionally, reports of financial exploitation of the elderly by family members and caretakers, or by telecommunication fraud, and Medicaid fraud have shown an increase in the past few years.

Creating additional child/elder abuse units within city and county agencies would not only focus resources on the problem but also enable more investigators to share their knowledge with fellow officers. In particular, elder abuse needs to be better documented so that law enforcement agencies can begin to develop methods to address and solve the problems of senior citizens who are taken advantage of or abused by caregivers. The elderly often have special problems that can only be solved through multidisciplinary teams of law enforcement and service providers. In addition, more investigation of child and elder abuse will necessarily mean an increased need for specialized prosecutors.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS

The South Carolina State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) has recognized that the availability of information that can be shared by departments throughout the state and beyond is crucial to the future of the criminal justice system. In the area of offender identification, support must continue for equipment such as the Automated Fingerprint Identification Systems (AFIS) which enable criminologists to enter latent fingerprints from a crime scene and compare them to a series of like prints electronically transmitted from the state’s central database at SLED. The ongoing use of Live Scan Devices will also be encouraged, with the electronic scanning of prints being more efficient than the traditional inking method. SLED is building a database of palm prints, in addition to fingerprints, in anticipation of future requirements for the FBI national database. The Live Scan Devices have the ability to transmit the arrestees’ prints to the state agency via phone lines replacing the need to send them on print-out cards. SLED’s software integration also allows departments, through the use of Verification Stations, to receive transmissions back from the central database to assist in verifying the identity of the persons being fingerprinted.

Another South Carolina priority is to integrate the criminal justice information system. Law enforcement agencies, solicitor's offices, judges, the S.C. Department of Juvenile Justice, the S.C. Department of Corrections and the S.C. Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services need access to fully automated criminal history records. While significant technological advances and systems improvements have occurred in recent years, the various components of the South Carolina criminal justice system are still, to a large extent, "islands." Although the criminal justice system is a continuum, offenders are processed through the system as new entities at each juncture. Major concerns are the duplication of information on each offender, uniform sentencing sheets and the inadequacy of information exchange among system components. While the technical means of accomplishing this system continue to be worked on by software and hardware developers, policy issues and procedural requirements for this system must also be developed as well as the fiscal resources required and how the system will fit in with other informational systems.

Docket management, automation and staffing at the local court level, as well as automated disposition reporting from all levels of the court system remain high priorities. The South Carolina Judicial Department's initiative discussed in the Judicial section has taken great strides toward the achievement of automating and connecting all levels of court. However, there is still much work to be done and Byrne funding will be needed, particularly by the local courts in the system.

One of the best tools available to investigators is the rapidly expanding area of forensics. Criminal investigators need the best and most modern equipment to examine crime scenes and evidence. The results of drug testing, DNA testing, latent fingerprint examination, blood alcohol testing, firearms testing and tests on trace evidence must be available to state and local law enforcement agencies quickly in order to thoroughly investigate criminal cases and supply legally sufficient evidence to prosecutors. In addition, laboratory technicians and criminalists must be properly trained to conduct these tests so they provide incontrovertible results that withstand scrutiny by judges and defense attorneys.

Most drug law arrests require drug testing to verify the substance as illegal. Test backlogs can be up from six months to a year and, in most cases, offenders will not accept a plea arrangement and/or the solicitor cannot prosecute the cases until the drug test results have been received. Incarcerated pre-trial defendants are very expensive to house and arrestees who post bond are likely to reoffend. Solicitors' caseloads continue to increase because these cases cannot be processed. Therefore, the number of regional drug analysis laboratories in areas that have high drug arrest rates should be increased.

PRIORITIES AND THE NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY

STRATEGY PRIORITY: COURT SYSTEM EFFICIENCY

PRIORITY EFFORTS:

- Improving Court Technology
- Specialized Prosecutors

RELATIONSHIP TO THE NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY:

- Goal 3- Disrupting the Market for Illicit Drugs

This priority is directly related to Goal 3- disrupting the market: attacking the economic basis of the drug trade- by aiding prosecution efforts.

STRATEGY PRIORITY: DRUG AND VIOLENT CRIME ENFORCEMENT

PRIORITY EFFORTS:

- Multi-jurisdictional Task Forces
- Methamphetamine Enforcement
- Gang Investigators
- School Resource Officers
- Crime Scene/Forensic Investigators
- Undercover Stolen Goods Investigations

RELATIONSHIP TO THE NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY:

- Goal 1- Stopping Drug Use Before It Starts: Education and Community Action
- Goal 3- Disrupting the Market for Illicit Drugs

The reduction of drug and violent crime relates to the National Drug Control Strategy in terms of Goal 1 by stopping use before it starts through the efforts of School Resource Officers and Gang Investigators in public awareness and education programs. Establishing and maintaining multi-jurisdictional task forces, increasing the number of specialized investigators and improved crime scene collection and analysis all relate to Goals 3 National Drug Control Strategy by, for example, disrupting the flow of drugs, increasing asset forfeiture, impeding local drug production and, in general, reducing drug-related crime and violence.

STRATEGY PRIORITY: CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION SYSTEMS

PRIORITY EFFORTS:

- LIVE SCAN Device and Verification Station
- Records Improvement Systems

RELATIONSHIP TO THE NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY:

- Goal 3- Disrupting the Market for Illicit Drugs

The improvement of criminal justice information services results in more efficient identification of suspects and offenders and more rapid criminal history checks which aids in the arrest and prosecution of perpetrators thereby relating to Goal 3 of the National Drug Control Strategy.

STRATEGY PRIORITY: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

PRIORITY EFFORTS:

- Domestic Violence Investigators
- Domestic Violence Prosecutors

RELATIONSHIP TO THE NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY:

- Goal 1- Stopping Drug Use Before It Starts: Education and Community Action
- Goal 2- Intervening and Healing America's Drug Users
- Goal 3- Disrupting the Market for Illicit Drugs

Investigation and prosecution in the area of domestic violence is related to Goal 3 of the National Drug Control Strategy, because many incidents of domestic violence escalate with the use of alcohol and illegal narcotics and reducing the presence of drugs and alcohol may help decrease the level of violence within the family. There is also a relationship with Goal 1 as education and community action may help prevent or reduce family violence and to Goal 2 whereby treatment for drug and alcohol use may be part of court sanctions.

STRATEGY PRIORITY: CHILD/ELDER ABUSE

PRIORITY EFFORTS:

- Child/Elder Abuse Investigators
- Child/Elder Abuse Prosecutors

RELATIONSHIP TO THE NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY:

- Goal 1- Stopping Drug Use Before It Starts: Education and Community Action
- Goal 2- Intervening and Healing America's Drug Users
- Goal 3- Disrupting the Market for Illicit Drugs

Investigation and prosecution in the area of child/elder abuse is related to Goal 3 of the National Drug Control Strategy because many incidents of abuse arise from the use of illegal narcotics and helping to reduce the presence of drugs will serve to decrease cases of abuse and neglect. As with domestic violence, Goal 2 may be related by treatment plans through court sanctions and Goal 1 through education and awareness efforts.

STRATEGY PRIORITY: STATE AND LOCAL FORENSIC LABORATORIES

PRIORITY EFFORTS:

- Enhancement of Laboratories
- Regional Drug Analysis Laboratories

RELATIONSHIP TO THE NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY:

- Goal 3- Disrupting the Market for Illicit Drugs

The enhanced capabilities and efficiency of forensic laboratories relates to Goal 3 of the National Drug Control Strategy by supporting the development of scientific information and data to assist in disruption of criminal organizations and the arrest and prosecution of its participants.

STRATEGY PRIORITY: LAW ENFORCEMENT EQUIPMENT

PRIORITY EFFORTS:

- Providing basic law enforcement equipment to agencies that do not receive direct JAG awards.
- Enhancing officer safety through proper equipment.

RELATIONSHIP TO THE NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY:

- Goal 3- Disrupting the Market for Illicit Drugs

Enhanced officer safety and adequate basic law enforcement equipment relates to Goal 3 of the National Drug Control Strategy by supporting the ability of law enforcement in the investigation and disruption of criminal organizations and the arrest and prosecution of its participants.

STRATEGY PRIORITY: WHITE COLLAR CRIME/IDENTITY THEFT INVESTIGATORS


PRIORITY EFFORTS:

- Specialized Investigators

RELATIONSHIP TO THE NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY:

- Goal 3- Disrupting the Market for Illicit Drugs

Identity theft and other white collar crimes have been linked to supporting drug related and other organizations. This relates to Goal 3 of the National Drug Control Strategy by supporting the disruption of criminal organizations and the arrest and prosecution of its participants.



SLELECTED PROGRAMS

Selected programs that South Carolina plans to continue funding during the next four years are discussed on the following pages. The programs are each discussed under the state's funding priority that is most appropriate.

1. COURT SYSTEM EFFICIENCY:

Drug Crimes Prosecutors Violent Crime Prosecutors

National Priorities: Goal 3: Disrupting the Market for Illicit Drugs

Authorized Program Area: B: Prosecution and court programs.

Description of Program: The overall goal of this program to improve court effectiveness is to reduce the overall backlog in the court system and achieve higher conviction rates by aggressive prosecution of adult violators of drug and violent crime laws with the addition of equipment and resources to more effectively manage caseloads.

Performance Measures:

- Number of additional prosecutors and other judicial personnel hired.
- Number of cases prosecuted.
- Number of outstanding cases by age of case.
- Total value of funds and assets seized and forfeited.

2. CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION SYSTEMS:

LIVE SCAN Device Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) Records Management Systems Upgrade

National Priorities: Goal 3: Disrupting the Market for Illicit Drugs

Authorized Program Area: F: Planning, evaluation, and technology improvement.

Description of Program: The goal of the criminal justice information system programs is to improve the completeness, accuracy and timeliness of criminal history records information at the S.C. Central Criminal Records Repository (CRR) located within the S.C. Law Enforcement Division (SLED). The objectives focused on improvements throughout the entire spectrum of criminal history records. This included projects to achieve the following: automate records management systems; enhance access of law enforcement agencies to

criminal history records information; develop the capability to electronically report criminal record dispositions to the state repository; improve identification of offenders through latent fingerprints collected via Automated Fingerprint Identification Systems (AFIS); improve upon the quality of inked fingerprint cards; and decrease the time it takes to fingerprint a suspect and allow for the electronic transmission of prints to SLED.

Performance Measures:

- Number of criminal justice records automated.
- Number of systems enhanced or automated.
- Number of fingerprint records electronically transmitted.
- Number of fingerprint records rejected.
- Number of positive identifications made through fingerprints.
- Number of inquiries resulting in arrest.
- Number of training sessions attended.

3. DRUG AND VIOLENT CRIME ENFORCEMENT:

- Narcotics Multi-jurisdictional Task Force**
- Violent Crime Multi-jurisdictional Task Force**
- Methamphetamine Enforcement**

National Priorities: Goal 3: Disrupting the Market for Illicit Drugs

Authorized Program Area: A: Law enforcement programs.

Description of Program: Enhancement of existing efforts in enforcement, prosecution and conviction of major drug and violent crime offenders through shared critical resources and elimination of jurisdictional problems is the goal of these programs. This is accomplished through the formation of true, separate and distinct entities that pool manpower, equipment, intelligence and other pertinent resources. While providing assistance to local, state and federal law enforcement agencies, the task forces jointly plan operations and strategy for targeting drug and violent crime offenders. Coordinating efforts with prosecutors to build stronger cases and raise the conviction rate is a primary objective.

Performance Measures:

- Number of offenders arrested.
- Number of offenders prosecuted.
- Number of drug seizures.
- Quantity of drugs (by weight and drug type) seized.
- Total value of funds and assets forfeited.
- Number of training courses task force personnel attended.

School Resource Officer

National Priorities: Goal 1: Stopping Drug Use Before It Starts

Authorized Program Area: C: Prevention and education programs.

Description of Program: The goal of the School Resource Officer (SRO) program is to bridge the gap between police officers and adolescents in order to increase positive attitudes toward law enforcement and reduce juvenile crime and drug use through counseling, teaching about the criminal justice system and taking a personal interest in the students. The objectives of this project focus on maintaining a safe and secure environment on the school campus which would then be conducive to an educationally stimulating atmosphere, prevent criminal activities and disturbances, and promote positive attitudes regarding the role of police in society.

Performance Measures:

- Number of students served.
- Number of law related education classes presented.
- Number of gang awareness/prevention classes presented.
- Number of incidents reported.
- Number of arrests made.
- Number of extra-curricular activities attended.
- Number of conferences held with students, faculty and parents.
- Number of training courses officers attended.

4. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic Violence Investigators and Prosecutors

Domestic Violence-Child/Elder Abuse Investigators and Prosecutors

Domestic Violence Court

National Priorities: Goal 1: Stopping Drug Use Before It Starts
Goal 2: Intervening and Healing America's Drug Users
Goal 3: Disrupting the Market for Illicit Drugs

Authorized Program Area: A: Law enforcement programs and B: prosecution and court programs.

Description of Program: The primary purpose of this program is to improve investigation and prosecution of cases of domestic violence through increased resources, to improve coordination of the various agencies responsible for family welfare, and to increase the number of officers and prosecutors with specialization in these areas. Successful prosecution and a decrease in the number of cases dropped is also the objective of the Domestic Violence Court with the added aim of providing access to treatment for offenders and victims. A

secondary purpose is to take a proactive stance in an effort to prevent further abuse by raising public awareness regarding these problems. Together, these efforts should then cause a decline in the cases of domestic violence and other criminal activity associated with such acts.

Performance Measures:

- Number of offenders arrested.
- Number of offenders prosecuted.
- Number of charges made by offense.
- Number of offenders completing treatment programs.
- Number of training courses grant personnel attended.
- Number of public awareness presentations made.

5. CHILD/ELDER ABUSE:

Child/Elder Abuse Investigators and Prosecutors

Child/Elder- Domestic Violence Investigator

- National Priorities:** Goal 1: Stopping Drug Use Before It Starts
Goal 2: Intervening and Healing America's Drug Users
Goal 3: Disrupting the Market for Illicit Drugs

Authorized Program Area: A: Law enforcement programs and B: prosecution and court programs.

Description of Program: This program's goal is to improve law enforcement response to crimes of child abuse, child neglect and abuse of the elderly. The objectives of the program are: increased investigators' skills in child/elder abuse investigation; increased coordination among agencies responsible for child/elder welfare; increased successful prosecution of child/elder abuse cases and penalties levied by the court; decreased child/elder abuse homicides; and increased knowledge of all law enforcement officers, other professionals who come into contact with children/elders, and the general public regarding signs of child/elder abuse and reporting requirements.

Performance Measures:

- Number of offenders arrested.
- Number of offenders prosecuted.
- Number of charges made by offense.
- Number of offenders completing treatment programs.
- Number of training courses grant personnel attended.
- Number of public awareness presentations made.

6. STATE FORENSIC and LOCAL DRUG ANALYSIS LABORATORIES

Regional Drug Analysis Laboratories

National Priorities: Goal 3: Disrupting the Market for Illicit Drugs

Authorized Purpose Area: A: Law enforcement programs.

Description of Program: The broad goal of this program is to increase the ability to solve crime by providing sufficient, modern laboratory equipment, laboratory facilities and other technology to rapidly analyze evidence and return accurate results to requesting agencies. The objectives of this program include: substantial reduction of drug analysis backlog and turnaround time that, in turn, improves drug disposition rates for law enforcement agencies and judicial circuit solicitor's offices; improvement in drug test results' reliability through state-of-the-art technology; and increased knowledge of laboratory technicians through training in current technology and procedures.

Performance Measures:

- Number of positive drug analysis by type of drug.
- Number of negative drug analysis by type of drug.
- Number of analysis conducted for other agencies.
- Number of training courses lab personnel attended.
- Total value of equipment purchased.

7. LAW ENFORCEMENT EQUIPMENT

Law Enforcement Equipment

National Priorities: Goal 3: Disrupting the Market for Illicit Drugs

Authorized Purpose Area: A: Law enforcement programs.

Description of Program: The broad goal of this program is to increase the ability of agencies to properly equip their personnel. This in turn increases officer safety and their ability to enforce laws and solve cases.

Performance Measures:

- Reduction in amount of repairs compared to old equipment.
- Improvement in officer safety.
- Number of times equipment used.
- Number of training courses related to equipment use.
- Total value of equipment purchased.

8. WHITE COLLAR CRIME:

White Collar Crime/Identity Theft Investigators

National Priorities: Goal 1: Stopping Drug Use Before It Starts
Goal 3: Disrupting the Market for Illicit Drugs

Authorized Program Area: A: Law enforcement programs.

Description of Program: This program's goal is to improve law enforcement response to white collar crime. Identity theft and other white collar crimes have been linked to supporting drug related and other organizations. The objectives of the program are: increased investigators' skills in white collar crime investigation; increased successful prosecution of white collar crime cases and penalties levied by the court; and increased knowledge of all law enforcement officers, other professionals and the general public regarding signs of potential white collar crime victimization.

Performance Measures:

- Number of offenders arrested.
- Number of offenders prosecuted.
- Number of charges made by offense.
- Number of training courses grant personnel attended.
- Number of public awareness presentations made.

COORDINATION EFFORTS

STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION

In the development of South Carolina's *FFY 2008-2011 State Strategy*, a variety of information-gathering techniques and analytical procedures were used to identify successful federal, state and local efforts and to respond to the specific needs and concerns throughout South Carolina. The process attempted to include as many points of view as possible and all significant competing interests. This information was compared to the criminal justice data gathered during the past year and to previous State Strategies. This plan examines the nature and extent of the problem, summarizes current efforts and promotes coordination of drug and violent crime control efforts by illustrating existing state and local collaboration activities. The Strategy also identifies goals and recommendations designed to meet the challenge of controlling violent crime and substance abuse.

Throughout the year, contacts seeking data and comments for the *Strategy* were made by staff members of the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) with the following agencies:

- * **State and Local Criminal Justice System, Drug Treatment and Education/Prevention Agencies:** S. C. Law Enforcement Division; S.C. Department of Corrections; S.C. Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services; S.C. Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services; S.C. Department of Education; S.C. Court Administration; S.C. Department of Juvenile Justice; S.C. Criminal Justice Academy; S.C. Department of Mental Health; S.C. Attorney General's Office, S.C. Bar and the S.C. Commission on Prosecution Coordination. In addition, contacts were made with several of the state's Sheriffs, Chiefs of Police, and Solicitors, as well as organizations including the S.C. Law Enforcement Officers Association, the South Carolina Police Chief's Association, and the South Carolina Sheriff's Association.
- * **Federal Agencies:** Federal Bureau of Investigation; Drug Enforcement Agency; U.S. Customs; U.S. Attorney's Office; Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms and Office of National Drug Control Policy.
- * **Public, Legislative and Executive Agency Review:** The opinions of various citizens groups and non-profit agencies were included. The intergovernmental review process also solicits public input. A Public Notice was posted on the SCDPS, Office of Justice Programs website announcing that the proposed statewide drug strategy was available for public review and comment.
- * **Justice Assistance Grant Program:** Semi-annual progress reports and annual evaluation reports were analyzed for each of the JAG grant projects. In addition, on-site monitoring of these grants provided many insights into criminal justice needs throughout the state.
- * **Federally Funded Programs:** The S.C. Department of Public Safety (SCDPS), Office of Justice Programs, is responsible for the following grant programs: JAG, Residential

Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners, Bullet Proof Vest Partnership, Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant, Title 5 Formula Grant, Victims of Crime Act, Violence Against Women Act, and Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant Program. The project administrators of these programs coordinate during staffing of grants on projects that impact areas of specific interest to another grant program.

* **Advisory or Policy Board:** The South Carolina Public Safety Coordinating Council (PSCC) was created to administer certain responsibilities of the SCDPS and coordinate certain activities between the department, the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) and municipal and county law enforcement agencies. As part of their responsibilities, the PSCC oversees the process for the solicitation of applications for public safety grants and reviews and approves the disbursement of funds. Members of the PSCC include the Governor, Chief of the S.C. Law Enforcement Division, Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Chairman of the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee, and Director of the S.C. Department of Public Safety or their representative(s). Additionally, the Governor appoints a Sheriff, Chief of Police and victim of crime representative as members of the PSCC.

OTHER COORDINATION EFFORTS

The South Carolina Department of Public Safety and the Office of Justice Programs are also involved, both directly and indirectly, in many efforts to recognize and address the criminal justice needs and concerns within the state. These efforts involve federal, state and local agencies and funding. Some examples are:

U. S. Attorney's Office:

Federal Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee (LECC): The LECC has been primarily involved from the perspective of this office in identifying critical drug, and more recently, violent crime-related training needs in the state and offering opportunities to federal, state and local law enforcement personnel to learn about important enforcement areas. For example, seminars on narcotics task forces, law enforcement and schools, and domestic violence have been very well received by the law enforcement community. During this past year, members of the Office of Justice Programs actively participated in seminars, both as speakers and attendees, as well as serving as members of the LECC Executive Board and Training, Drug and Violent Crime Subcommittees.

Violent Crime Task Force: The District of South Carolina's Violent Crime Task Force was an innovative program organized in October, 1993 and was the first of its type. This unique task force was created to target, investigate, indict, prosecute and convict habitual career criminals. The law enforcement entities detailed to the program consist of local police officers, state prosecutors, and federal agents who now work in cooperation rather than in competition. The creation of this multi-jurisdictional program has enabled the U. S. Attorney's Office to double the allotment of prosecutors and allow complex conspiracy investigations involving multiple defendants to proceed in both state and

federal court. Currently, there are task forces in Columbia, Charleston, Greenville, Florence, Rock Hill, and Orangeburg. The Office of Justice Programs acts as a member of the Violent Crime Task Force by funding local law enforcement efforts such as Violent Crime Task Forces and Multi-jurisdictional Narcotics Task Forces.

Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) and Anti-Gang Initiative: These national programs were created to fund innovative projects to reduce the incidence of gun violence and criminal gang activity. Types of programs include dedicated gun or gang prosecutors and investigators, training, community outreach efforts and programs aimed to reducing the incidence of gun and gang-related crime. These programs are implemented through the United States Attorney's Office (USAO) for the District of South Carolina. The Office of Justice Programs has been designated to serve as the fiscal agent for the sub-grant programs. Staff members monitor sub-grantee progress through telephone and e-mail contacts, progress reports and on-site visits.

Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA):

Methamphetamine Training and Education Program: The DEA sponsors law enforcement officers from South Carolina to attend specialized training to deal with clandestine methamphetamine (meth) labs conducted at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

South Carolina Methamphetamine Action Group:

Drugs of Abuse Conference: The South Carolina Methamphetamine Action Group is comprised of the following federal, state, and local agencies: S. C. Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services, Carolina's Institute for Community Policing, Clemson Institute for Economic and Community Development, Greenville Technical College, Lexington Richland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council, Parenting Partners, Richland County Sheriff's Department, Shoreline Behavioral Health Services, S. C. Association of Prevention Professionals and Advocates, S. C. Department of Education, S. C. Department of Health and Environmental Control, S. C. Department of Public Safety, S. C. Department of Social Services, S. C. Emergency Medical Service Association, S. C. HIV/AIDS Council, S. C. Criminal Justice Academy, U. S. Attorney's Office—District of South Carolina, U. S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

The South Carolina Drugs of Abuse Conference (SCDAC) is the most comprehensive examination of drug use in South Carolina. The SCDAC is designed to integrate instruction from nationally recognized speakers with the experience of South Carolina professionals. The past statewide summits examined the impact of, and solutions to, drug abuse in South Carolina, especially the methamphetamine problem. The SCDAC takes a look at drugs of abuse and how they are interrelated to other problems in a given town, city, or region. Often times, the problems created by drugs of abuse are more than one agency or organization can handle so the SCDAC promotes "Solutions through

Partnership.” Each of the member agencies provided staff support for the planning and management of the conference as well as monetary support for different costs associated with the production of the conference. As part of its support for this training endeavor, the South Carolina Department of Public Safety, Office of Justice Programs provided funding for speaker expenses.

South Carolina State Law Enforcement Division (SLED):

NIBRS/NCIC: SLED has mandated that all departments, regardless of size, submit incident data electronically. Agencies must also have the means to electronically access SLED’s criminal records using NCIC technology. OJP has been working closely with law enforcement agencies, primarily small and medium size, across the state to upgrade their computers and purchase software to meet this mandate. Byrne (JAG) funds have been the major source of funding for many of these agencies.

Live Scan and Automated Fingerprint Information Systems (AFIS): SLED has begun to establish a database of palm prints to enhance their fingerprint database. Using Live Scan device technology, law enforcement agencies across the state can collect near perfect fingerprints and palm prints from arrestees to send electronically to SLED’s database. Verification of the offender’s identity has also been made easier. The fingerprints are then forwarded to the FBI database. Palm prints will be forwarded once the FBI has established their palm print database. AFIS technology allows agencies to search these databases for a match to latent fingerprints. A major source of funding for this technology has been Byrne (JAG) grant funds.

Computer Crime Center (CCC): SLED’s Computer Crime Center began with Byrne grant funding and was later further enhanced with direct federal funding. The CCC conducts cyber crime investigations, which have predominantly involved internet child pornography. They also perform forensic examinations of computers and provide information and technical assistance to law enforcement agencies across the state. The Secret Service has designated the Computer Crime Center (CCC) as an Electronic Crimes Task Force (ECTF), one of only thirteen in the country and the only one not managed by the Secret Service on a day to day basis. Representatives from different states have visited the CCC to view the facility and operation in an effort to replicate it in their respective jurisdictions.

Homeland Security: SLED administers federal funds for homeland security efforts in the state. The Office of Justice Programs assisted SLED in the first year preparation for the administration of these funds. OJP continues to cooperate with SLED in these efforts. In addition, OJP has coordinated its efforts with other emergency preparedness endeavors in the state to avoid duplication of funding.

South Carolina Judicial Department:

Court System Efficiency Improvements: The South Carolina Judicial Department (SCJD) initiative has provided reliable information technology systems on which to build, improved efficiency in day-to-day operations by automating processes, and improved both education and technology within the state's forty-six county Clerk of Court offices, county magistrates' offices and municipal courts. Through their website, SCJD now provides court calendars, assignments, reports, procedure manuals and forms. SCJD is now in the process of implementing a statewide case management system (CMS). Much of this total effort has been funded either with Byrne (JAG) funds or direct federal funding.

South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS):

Enforcement of Underage Drinking Task Force Grant: DAODAS has received federal funding to expand the Task Force's efforts statewide to reduce underage drinking and increase enforcement. The Administrator of the Office of Justice Programs is a member of the Task Force. The Task Force has been coordinating with the Governor's Cooperative Agreement for Prevention Task Force (G-CAP) to establish a common web link between all state agencies that have an interest in prevention with a standardized resource page for each agency.

South Carolina Attorney General's Office:

STOP Violence Against Woman: With funding from Violence Against Women grants, the Attorney General's Office has developed law enforcement protocols and prosecution procedures for criminal domestic violence, criminal sexual conduct and stalking crimes. This includes conducting training in this area for prosecutors, victim advocates and judges.

Internet Crimes Against Children-SC Task Force: Through Congressional direction, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) created the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force Program. South Carolina's Task Force is operated through the Attorney General's Office and works closely with SLED- the chief ICAC investigation agency in the state. The purpose of the ICAC program is help law enforcement agencies develop an effective response to cyber enticement and child pornography cases that encompass forensic and investigative components, training and technical assistance, victim services, and community action.

South Carolina Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging:

Adult Protection Coordinating Council: This Council was created by Article Three of the South Carolina Omnibus Adult Protection Act in 1993. The Council was created because of the depth of concern about the need for frequent, continued coordination and cooperation among the entities involved specifically in the adult protection system. It is

thought to be the only council of its type in the United States. The twenty-two member Council is composed of twenty public and private organizations and two gubernatorial appointees including a representative from the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy.

Summer School of Gerontology: The mission of this school, held annually, is to build knowledge and skills, promote professional and personal development and enhance credentials. Students represent various agencies and institutions throughout the state including the Department s of Health and Human Services, Social Services, Health and Environmental Control, Mental Health, and Area Agencies on Aging, Councils on Aging, colleges/universities, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, hospitals, law enforcement, and home health agencies.

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