

CRIME OBSERVATORY PROJECT
CITIZEN SECURITY AND JUSTICE
GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (CSJ/GIS) PROGRAMME

CONCEPT

Under the Auspices of the Centre for Public Safety & Justice, University of the West Indies.

Background

Jamaica has seen a sharp increase in homicides and violence related injuries over the last three years. In 2005 alone, the number of homicide recorded by the police was 1,675 cases. The treatment of violence related injuries accounts for 50% of the recurrent budget allocated to referral hospitals. Some of our high schools are now guarded by police officers on a daily basis. Dispute and conflict resolution is also a frequent topic amongst education interventions in schools and other institutions.

In 2006, the Jamaica Constabulary Force saw a decrease in shootings and other types of wounding over the first 5 months period. Interventions including Operation King Fish and Crime Stop have seen the Force respond within their limited resources. On a daily basis, intervention plans are hampered by scarce funding, inadequate staffing, and coordination of data and social interventions at the divisional level. The established of a Crime Observatory which has been used in several countries (eg Columbia and Wales) to reduce the impact of crime is being proposed.

The Crime Observatory monitoring and implementation capabilities will enhance the work being done by the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) in the following ways:

1. The system will help to highlight all the problem areas, hot-spots or spatial statistical analysis of the prevalence of crime and violence related injuries and assessment of impact of social programme
2. Through the collection, analysis and reporting of Crime & Violence Related Injuries, the system will standardize the way crime data is analyzed and interpreted. The system will also see the JCF fulfilling the targets set in its Corporate Plan.
3. The Coordinating of crime data with data from other agencies
4. Monitoring and evaluation of the impact of specific interventions on violence related injuries and local crime rates
5. It will provide an inter-sectorial team to assist in the coordination and implementation of crime reduction and violence prevention strategies

Crime Observatory Overall Objectives:

- To monitor and statistically assess incidences of crime and violence to find correlations between violent injuries, social and/or economic factors.
- To integrate Violence Related data from hospitals retrieved from The Jamaica Injury Surveillance System (JISS), into community policing activities
- To conduct spatial analysis on the communities affected, against intervention efforts to see short and long term results.
- To provide a mechanism for long term surveillance and evaluation of crime and violent injuries for the stakeholders.
- To increase collaboration and exchange of information between organizations on violence prevention
- To support the implementation and monitoring of existing and proposed national action plans for crime and violence prevention.
- To enhance capacity for the collection of data on crime and violence related injuries with a specific focus on use of Geographic Information System (GIS) technology.
- To support the promotion of primary prevention of crime and violence, particularly through public education.
- To support the strengthening of systems/services for victims of violence.

Crime Observatory Project Strategy

The Crime Observatory would meet monthly to review data and plan the crime and violence prevention activities within the overall Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) strategy for the police divisions Kingston Central and Kingston Western.

The proposed members' of the Crime Observatory task force would include:

1. Representative from Area 4 Police
2. Operations Officer – Divisional Levels

3. Community policing- National level
4. Community policing- Divisional Levels
5. Local Church
6. Representatives from DPP's Office
7. Local School
8. Hospital Doctor -Accident and Emergency Unit KPH
9. Metropolitan Parks and Markets
10. KSAC –Mayor's office –Town Clerk
11. Citizens Security and Justice Programme (CSJP)
12. Ministry of National Security –Statistician
13. Ministry of Health GIS Officers
14. Social Development Commission (SDC) Rep.
15. Constabulary Force GIS Officers
16. Violence Prevention Alliance
17. Kingston Action Forum
18. Fire Brigade National/Divisional Rep.
19. Private Sector of Jamaica
20. Crime Prevention Programme Coordinator- MNS
21. Centre For Public Safety and Justice - UWI

This framework is intended to assist the Ministry of National Security with the prevention and management of crime and violence in Jamaica and strengthen Community Policing, Crime Prevention Organizations, Community Security Initiatives, Community Based Organizations and Safe School Programmes.

Additionally audits will be conducted on the operations of the intervention programs being carried out by the CSJP and CSI communities affected by a high prevalence of violence.

The communities involved in the programme are:

Kingston Western

1. Rose Town
2. Denham Town
3. Wilton Gardens (Rema)
4. Arnett Gardens
5. Trench Town
6. Jones Town
7. Hannah Town/Craig Town
8. West Downtown
9. Tivoli Gardens
10. Newport East

Kingston Central

1. Campbell Town
2. Woodford Park
3. Allman Town (Southern Section)
4. Kingston Gardens
5. Fletchers Land
6. Central Downtown
7. South Side
8. Rae Town
9. East Downtown (Eastern Section)

Communities in KSA which the Ministry of National Security will monitor the adoption of Community Policing (2006-2007) are:

- Grants Pen
- Waterhouse
- Drewsland
- Denham Town
- Hannah Town
- Fletchers Land
- Tower Hill
- Trench Town
- Rose Town
- August Town
- Brown Town
- Matthews Lane

Specific Project Objectives:

1. ***To secure hardware and software needed for data gathering, spatial and statistical analysis.***

The focus of procuring software and hardware is an integral part of the project. Specific Industry standard software (ArcGIS version 9.1 including Spatial Analyst Extension) should be purchased and developed to enable the proper implementation of a GIS. This will be complemented by the purchasing of the necessary hardware to facilitate the smooth operation of the software.

2. ***To enlist technical officers to coordinate and execute the project.***

The services of a project coordinator will have to be enlisted to get the project envisioned and started. A systems analyst will be needed to review what is available and what is

needed. A GIS specialist will be needed to guide the system development, software acquisition, implementation, training and analysis & reporting activities.

3. *To provide training in the use of GIS to the agencies and other stakeholder involved.*

The purpose of this section is to provide a suitable knowledge base in the collection, control, storage, and use of geographic information systems to complement the services provided by CSJ and other agencies. These training courses will concentrate mainly on software and data manipulation from the various data systems which will be used to gather intelligence on violent related injuries and homicide.

The trainees should be working directly or indirectly with the agencies involved in the data collection exercises. The officers should also be able to give support and training when and where needed by other agencies.

Government, Non-Government, and other agencies are expected to benefit generally from the improved analysis skills of the trainees. The officers are expected to provide improved reliable reports on violent related injuries and homicide, as well as intervention efforts carried out under the program.

4. *To conduct systematic and strategic research for the target areas (communities involved).*

This section will cover the activities which will see the researched based approach being taken to evaluate the current situation in each community. Taking into account the possibility that each community has its own unique set of problem, the strategic approach being taken will encompass a detailed analysis of each community, the extent of the problem, the effect of interventions to date and the recommendations for the way forward.

5. *To provide specific spatial reports looking at community status, rates and concluded effects.*

This will see the development of specific reports based on the requirements of each agency/organization involved. The reports will be developed to look at the long term and short term effect of violence on communities, residents and other business interests. Such reports should help to guide policy decisions for micro and macro economic and social activities within these areas and the metropolitan areas in which they exist.

6. *To evaluate the interventions and their effects on the communities being surveyed.*

The monitoring and evaluation of any programme and its implications are essential to its success and continuity. This however can only be done with best available data being provided by superior surveillance systems throughout the entire programme. The dynamics such as demographics, socio-economic status and the availability of accessibility to information will be a vital part of the evaluation exercise.

7. To publish the results in both print and electronic media (including the Internet), providing access to partners and stakeholders.

The use of information derived from the analysis of data specific to a community or a group of communities, will play a great role in the education and development planning for the communities involved. While the initial picture presented for these communities might be a dark and dismal one, improvements through interventions should also be highlighted and such pictures in geographical form should be made available to the public, especially the communities. The publishing of this information will help to build trust between the communities and agencies involved in the programme.