

DRUG-RELATED VIOLENCE AND DRUG-USING VIOLENT OFFENDERS

**Presented to the
Charlotte Homicide Task Force
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Why We Should Study Drug/Violence Relationships?

- To facilitate cost effective crime prevention
- Used to classify offenders, prisoners, and delinquents for incarceration, treatment, probation risk, parole potential
- Drug use and violence are critical public safety concerns with some common causes/correlates
- Drug abusers and violent offenders both commit disproportionate numbers of crimes; begin offending earlier; continue offending longer; are difficult to treat/manage; and are dangerous.

2004 Charlotte Homicide Victim and Offender Arrest Data

60 homicides in 2004. Thirty-four (34) of the victims had local arrest records with a combined total of **406 arrests**.

1 arrested for murder, 4 arrested for rapes and armed robbery
21 arrested for drugs accounting for fifty charges
8 charged with at least one robbery
19 arrested for at least one aggravated assault

Forty-Three (43) of the suspects charged with homicide had local arrest records for a combined total of **423 arrests**.

12 had no local arrest history
2 committed suicide
3 had outstanding warrants for murder
23 had at least one drug arrest
5 had previous arrests for murder

A Framework for Examining Drug/Violence Relationships

- **Psychopharmacological Violence** — resulting from the pharmacological properties associated with use/abuse of a drug
 - Example - a bar fight between two intoxicated patrons
- **Economic-Compulsive Violence** — a drug addict commits a violent offense in an effort to get money or drugs
 - Example - a heroin junkie who commits an armed robbery for drug money
- **Systemic Violence** — associated with the illicit distribution of drugs/drug trade;
 - Examples include territorial disputes, deals gone bad, retribution for lost drugs/money, enforcement of market rules/regulations, revenge/retaliation
- **Multi-dimensional Violence** — a crack user, who is also drunk, commits a homicide while robbing another drug dealer

Psychopharmacological Relationship to Violence by Drug

- Alcohol
- Marijuana
- Cocaine
- Heroin
- PCP
- Amphetamines
- Barbiturates
- Strong
- No relationship
- Weak to moderate
- Weak to none
- Moderate to strong
- Moderate to strong
- Weak to moderate

Economic Compulsive Relationship to Violence by Drug

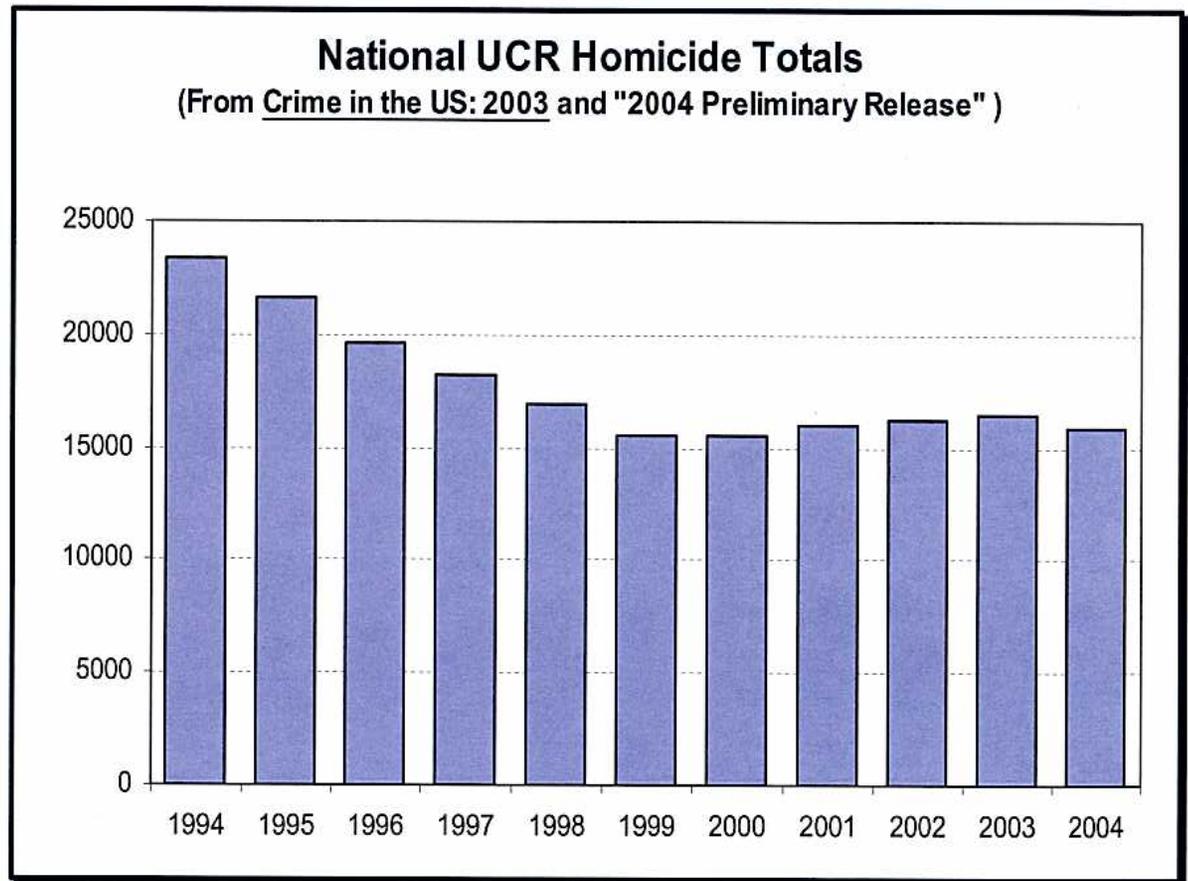
- Alcohol
- Marijuana
- Cocaine
- Heroin
- PCP
- Amphetamines
- Barbiturates
- None
- None
- Moderate
- Weak
- None
- Moderate
- None

Systemic Relationship to Violence by Drug

- Alcohol
- Marijuana
- Cocaine
- Heroin
- PCP
- Amphetamines
- Barbiturates
- **ANY NEW, CHANGING OR UNSTABLE ILLICIT DRUG MARKET**
- Not applicable
- **Moderate to strong**
- **Strong**
- Moderate
- Weak/limited use
- **Strong** (methamphetamines)
- Weak
- **STRONG**

U.S. Homicide Totals

| National Homicide Totals by Year | | |
|----------------------------------|-------|----------|
| Year | Cases | % Change |
| 1990 | 23438 | |
| 1991 | 24703 | 5.4% |
| 1992 | 23760 | -3.8% |
| 1993 | 24526 | 3.2% |
| 1994 | 23326 | -4.9% |
| 1995 | 21606 | -7.4% |
| 1996 | 19645 | -9.1% |
| 1997 | 18208 | -7.3% |
| 1998 | 16974 | -6.8% |
| 1999 | 15522 | -8.6% |
| 2000 | 15586 | 0.4% |
| 2001 | 16037 | 2.9% |
| 2002 | 16229 | 1.2% |
| 2003 | 16503 | 1.7% |
| 2004 | 16137 | -3.3% |

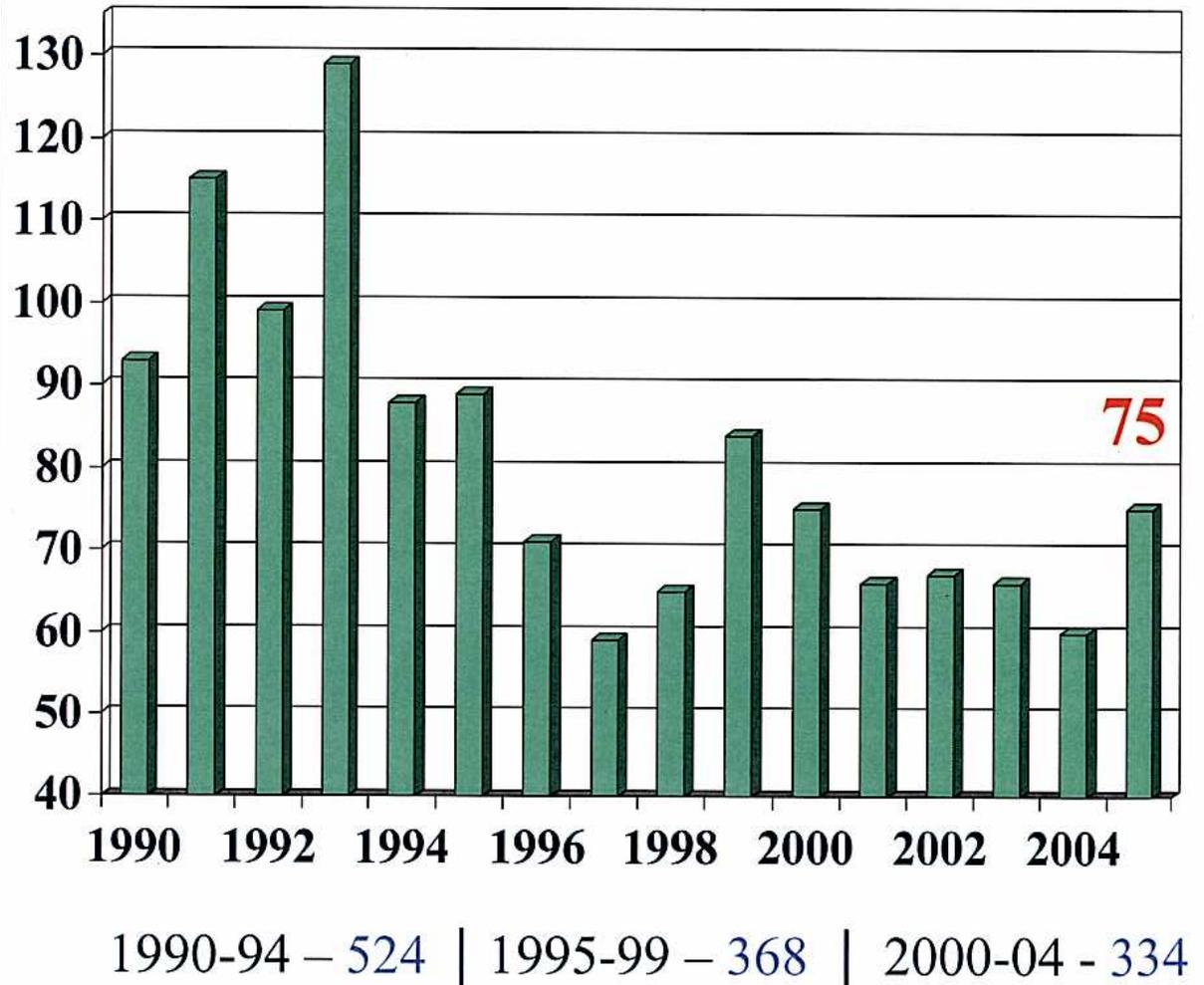


*Number is calculated based on 3.6% decrease in FBI's preliminary release notes

Source – CMPD Homicide Task Force Presentation

Charlotte Homicides

| <i>Year</i> | <i>Total Homicides</i> |
|-------------|------------------------|
| 1990* | 93 |
| 1991* | 115 |
| 1992* | 99 |
| 1993 | 129 |
| 1994 | 88 |
| 1995 | 89 |
| 1996 | 71 |
| 1997 | 59 |
| 1998 | 65 |
| 1999 | 84 |
| 2000 | 75 |
| 2001 | 66 |
| 2002 | 67 |
| 2003 | 66 |
| 2004 | 60 |
| 2005 | 75+ |



Source – CMPD Homicide Task Force Presentation

Homicide Trends in the U.S.

- Most homicides are intra-racial
- Stranger homicides are more likely to cross racial lines than those involving friends & acquaintances, but homicides most are not stranger homicides
- Young African American males (18 -24) have the highest victimization & offender rates

Population, Homicide, & Victimization Rates by Race – 2000 U.S. Census and 2004 UCR/SHR

- **Black/African-American**

- **12.3%** of the 2000 Population

- **47.7%** of the 2004 homicides

- **47.0%** of the 2004 homicide victims

- **White/Caucasian**

- **75%** of the 2000 Population

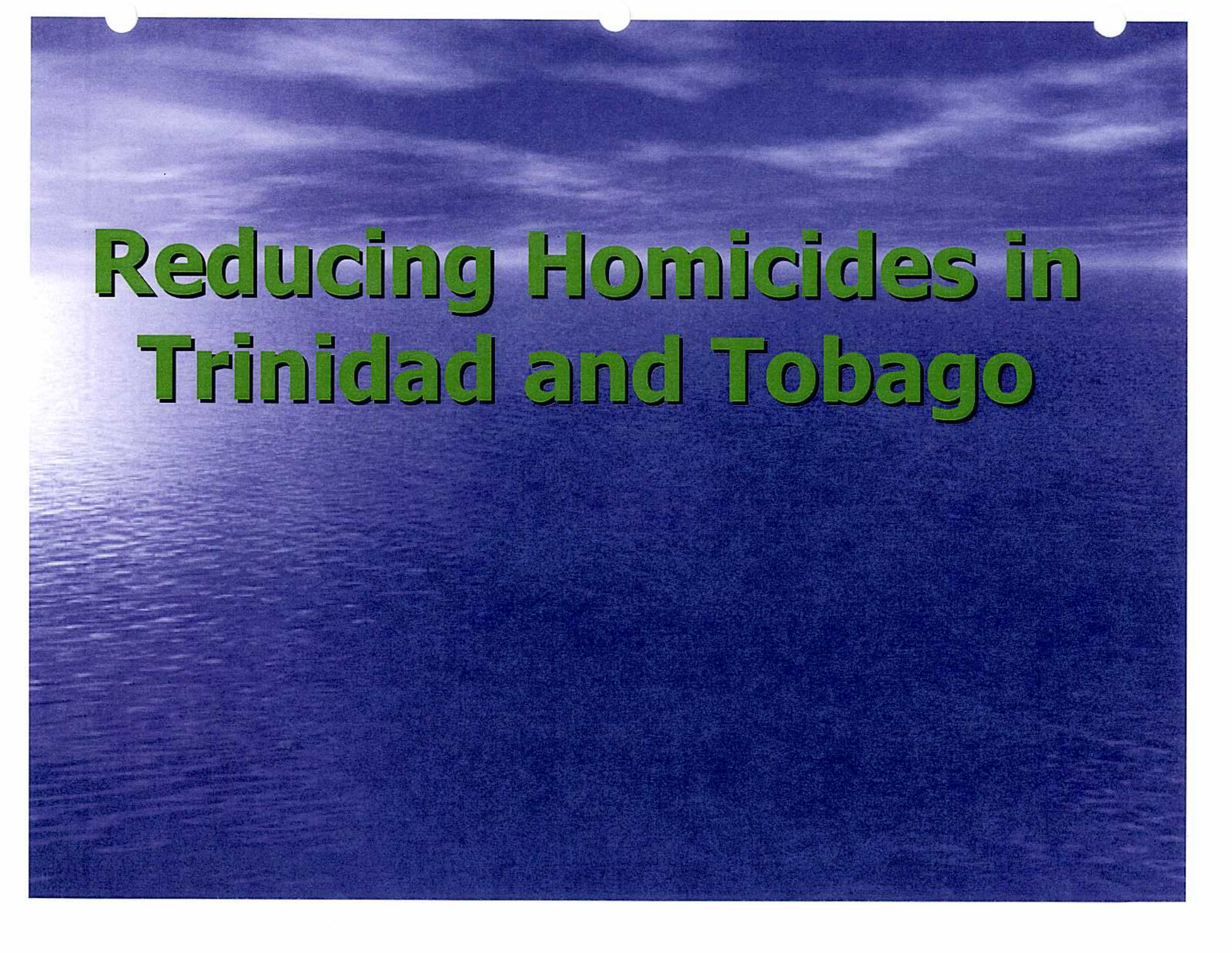
- **49.4%** of the 2004 homicides

- **49.0%** of the 2003 homicide victims

Charlotte Homicides by Primary Circumstance (not up to date)

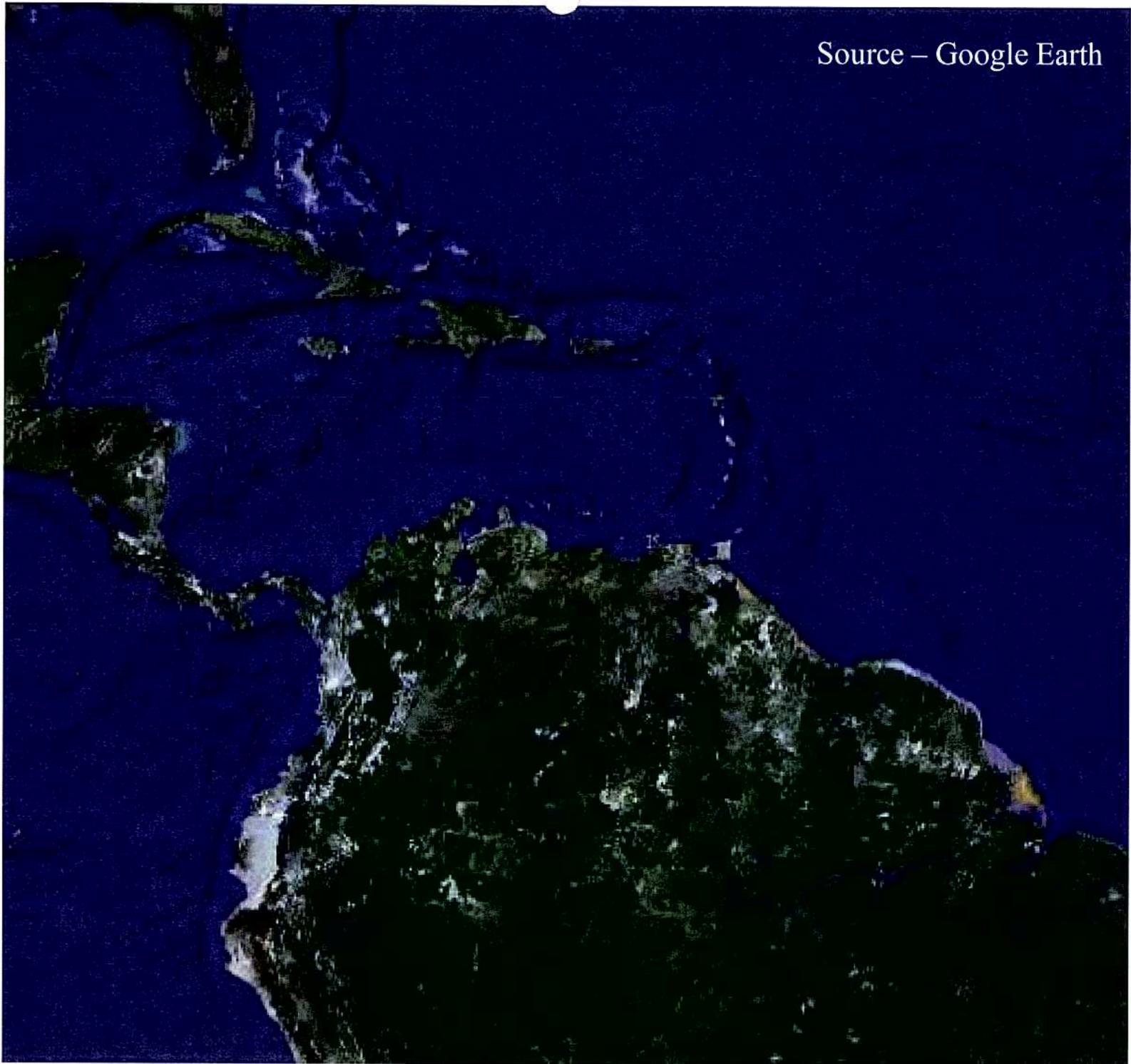
| Circumstance | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Domestic | 12 | 11 | 16 | 16 | 11 | 12 | 10 | 8 |
| Drugs | 14 | 14 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| Robbery | 13 | 17 | 13 | 18 | 10 | 12 | 14 | 8 |
| Rape | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Argument | 12 | 21 | 29 | 20 | 27 | 11 | 16 | 10 |
| Undetermined | 13 | 21 | 12 | 7 | 14 | 19 | 16 | 17 |
| Gang Involvement | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 2 |
| Total | 65 | 84 | 75 | 66 | 67 | 66 | 60 | 49 |

Source – CMPD Homicide Task Force Presentation



Reducing Homicides in Trinidad and Tobago

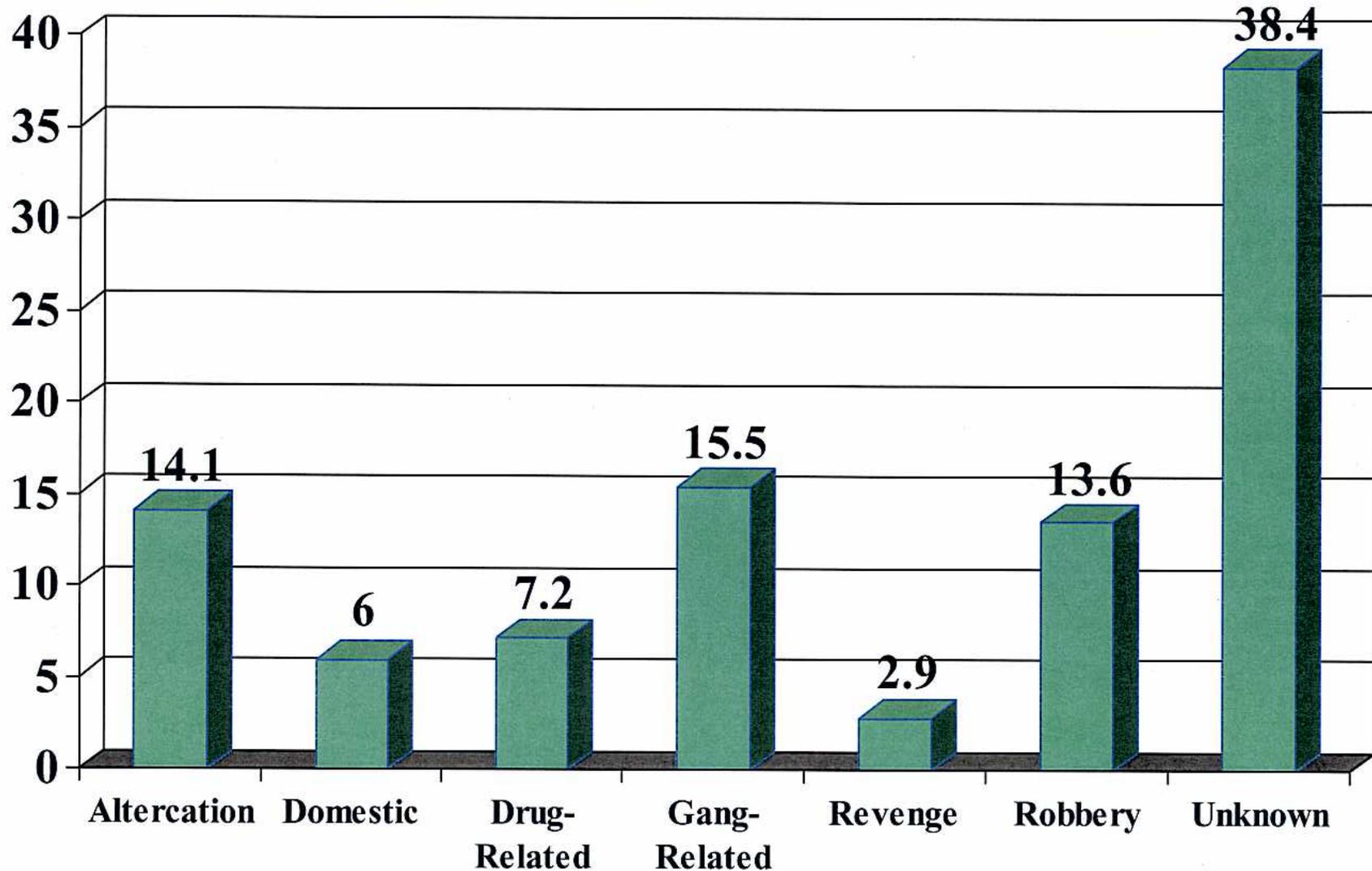
Source – Google Earth



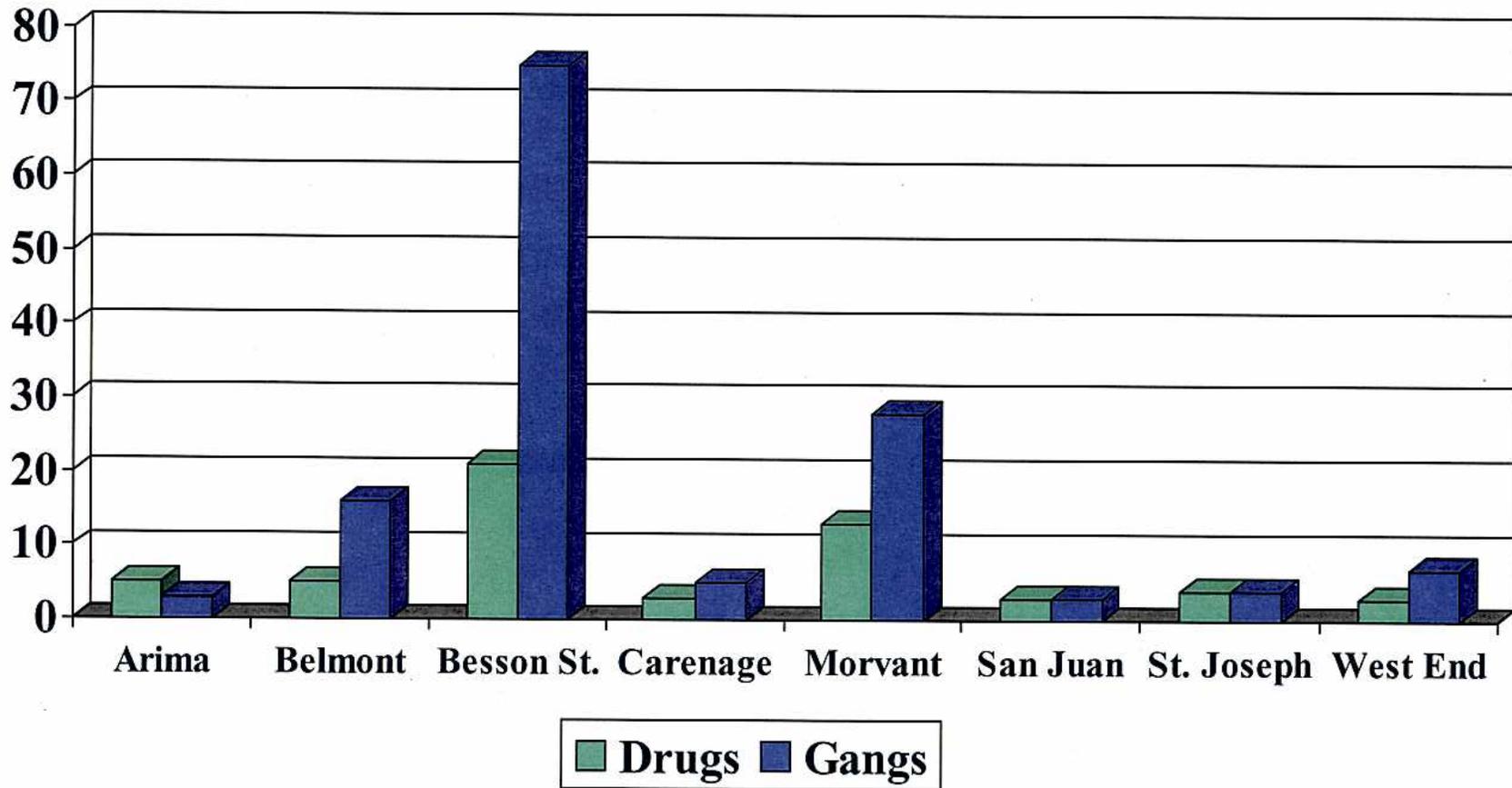
Source – Google Earth



2001-2005 Trinidad Homicides by Motive/Circumstance (N=1,131)



Trinidad Homicides by Police Station: Drug-Related and Gang-Related



Trinidad Homicide Motives by Primary Weapon Used (2001-2005)

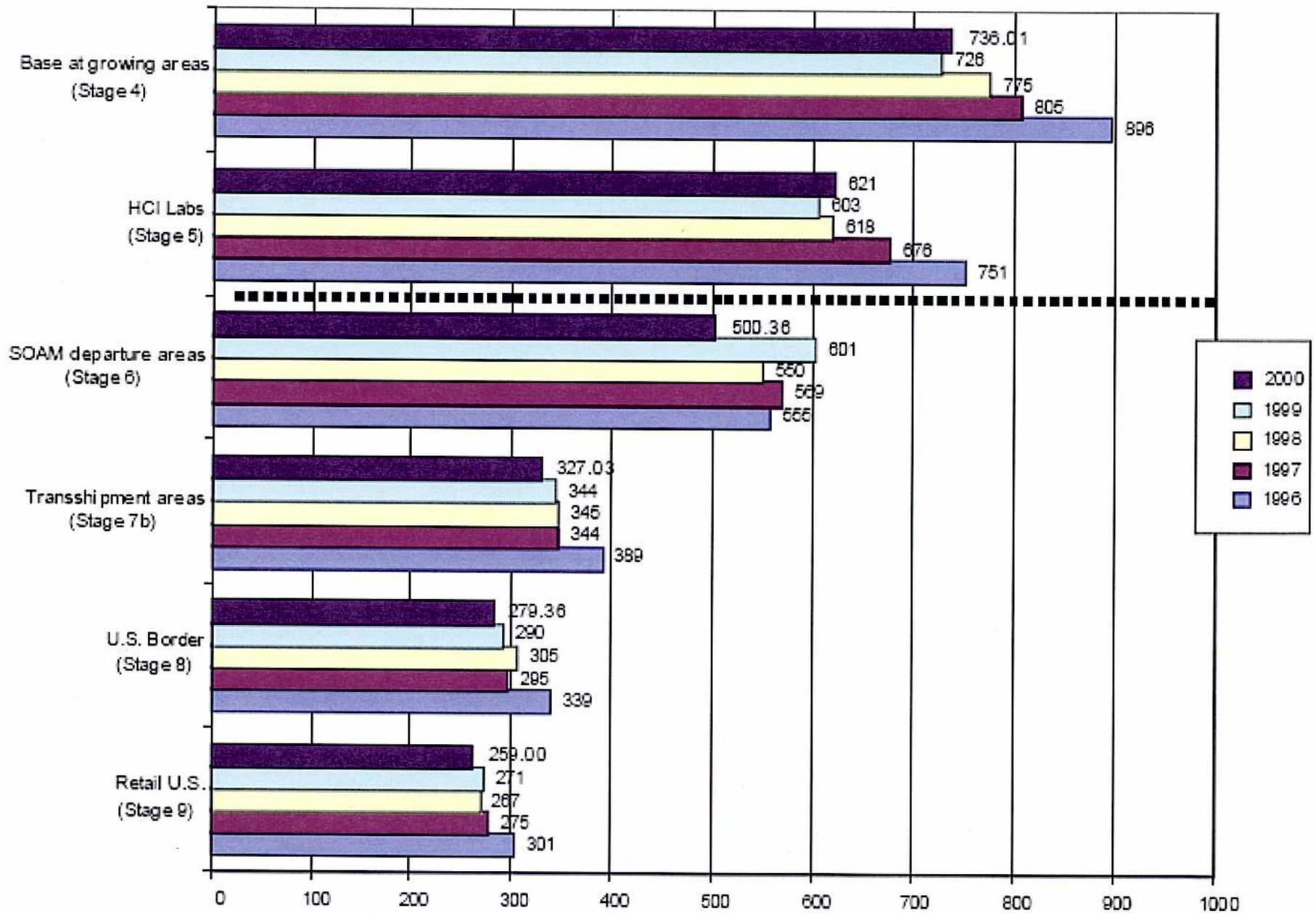
| Motive/Circumstance | Blunt | Body | Stab | Gun | Other/UK | Total |
|---------------------|-------|------|------|-----|----------|---------------------|
| Altercation | 11 | 6 | 49 | 30 | 4 | 159 (14%) |
| Domestic | 9 | 9 | 37 | 19 | 26 | 68 (6%) |
| Drug-Related | 4 | 2 | 1 | 87 | 5 | 81 (7%) |
| Gang-Related | 1 | 1 | 4 | 93 | 1 | 175 (16%) |
| Revenge | 3 | 3 | 15 | 70 | 9 | 33 (3%) |
| Robbery | 5 | 6 | 20 | 58 | 10 | 154 (14%) |
| Others | 7 | 4 | 11 | 56 | 22 | 27 (2.5%) |
| Unknown | 5 | 3 | 11 | 67 | 14 | 433 (38%) |
| Total | 60 | 44 | 199 | 711 | 116 | 1,131 (100%) |

Supply vs. Demand

Where do we focus our limited resources?



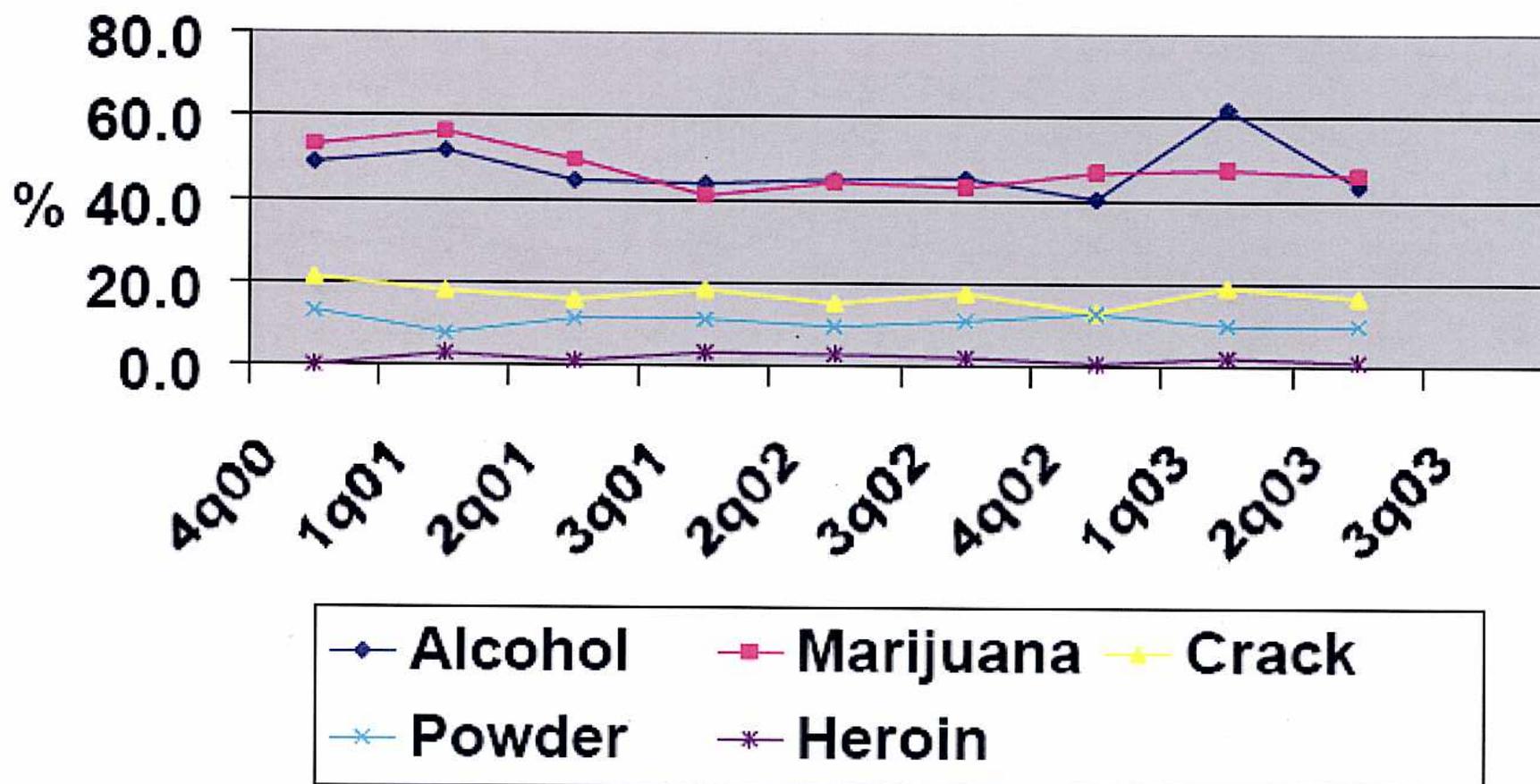
Figure 6 - Actual Production and Consumption-Bases Estimates (pure metric tons)



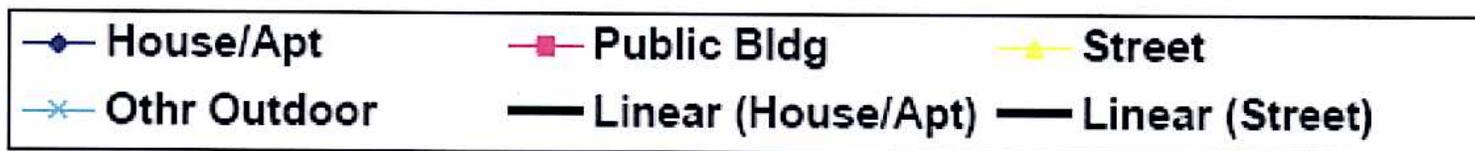
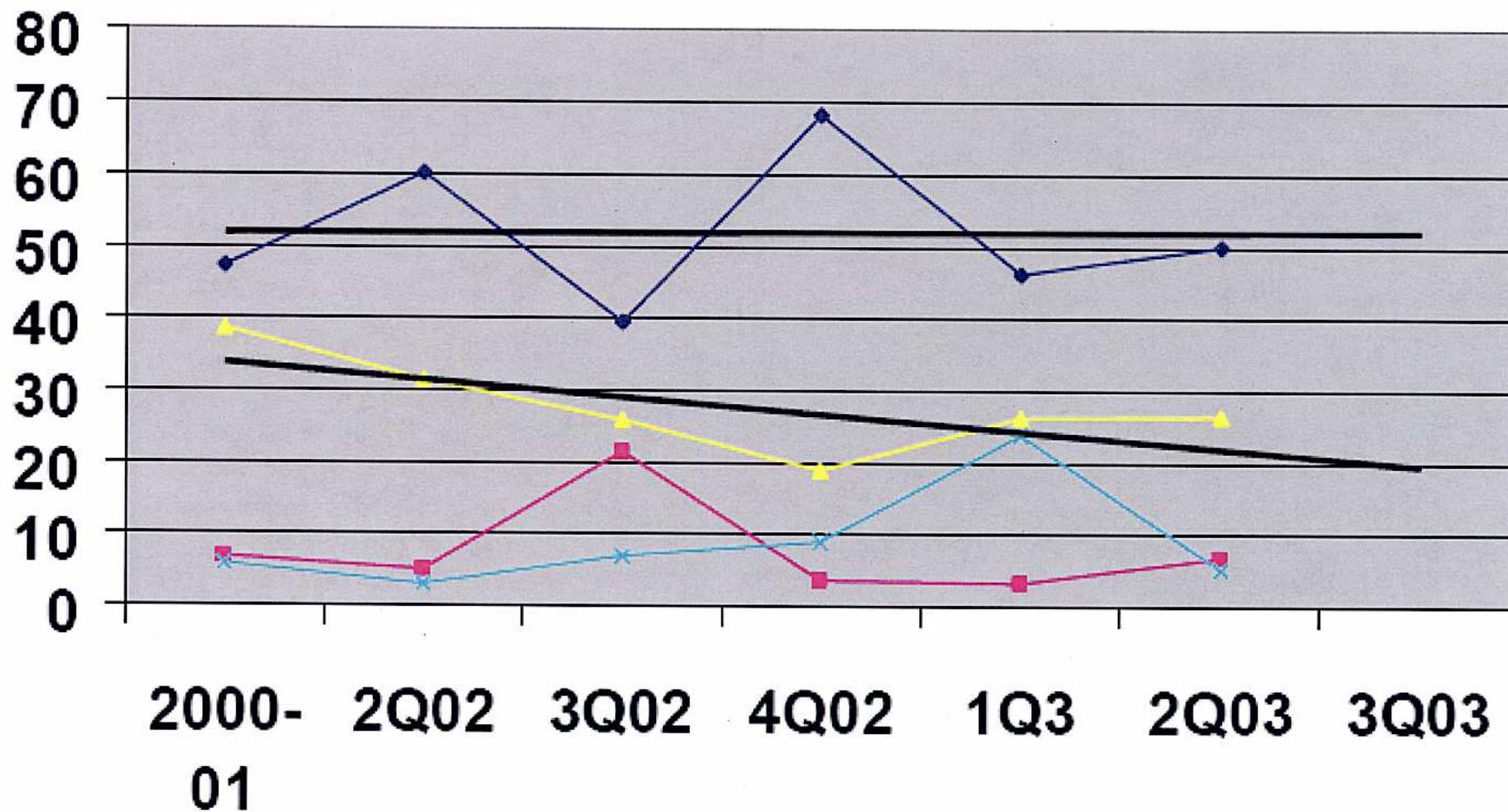
Source – Estimation of Cocaine Availability; ONCDP, 2002

ADAM SURVEY RESULTS FROM CHARLOTTE, NC: 2000-2003

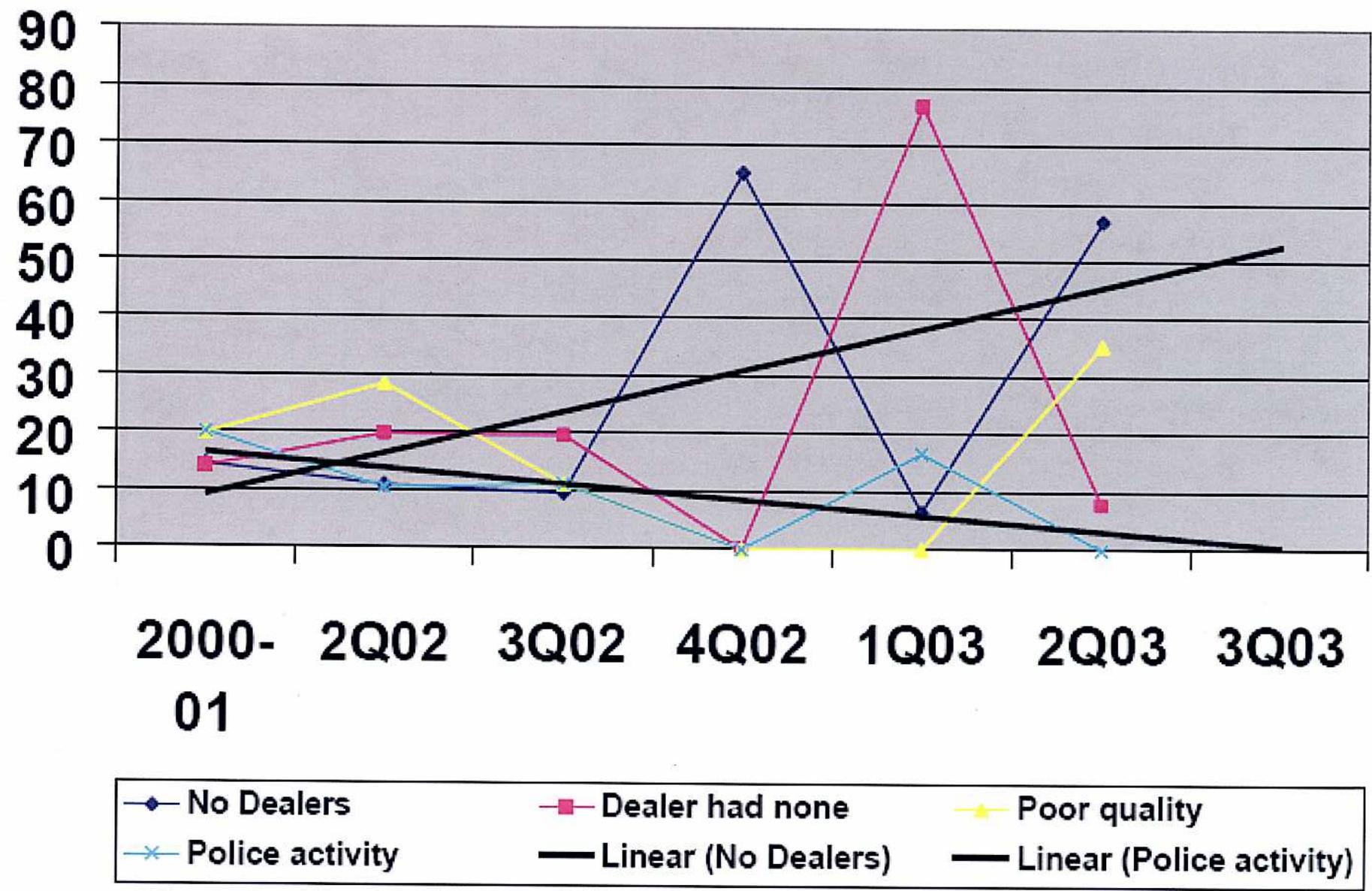
Self Report Use 30 Days



LOCAL CRACK COCAINE MARKET: 2000-2003



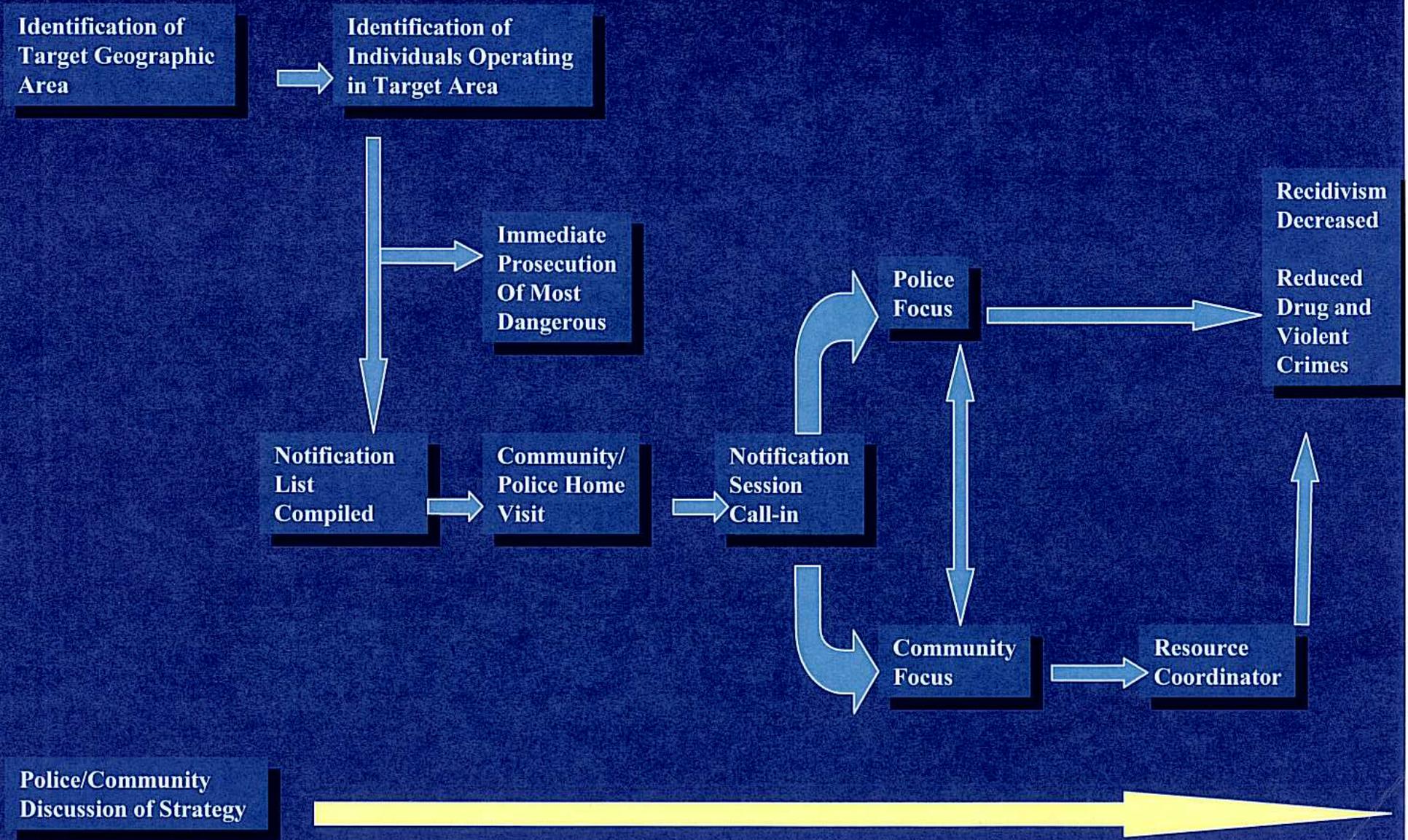
REASON CRACK NOT PURCHASED: 2000-2003



Identification Phase

Notification Phase

**Resource Delivery
Community Support Phase**



**ASSESSING THE
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
DRUG USE AND SERIOUS
VIOLENCE:
A MULTI-CAUSAL APPROACH**

Kuhns Dissertation

Common correlates to both drug abuse and violent offending

■ **Environmental**

- low SES
- bad neighborhoods
- unstable living conditions

■ **Familial**

- early separation
- low attachment
- harsh/inconsistent parenting
- violence within the family

■ **Attitudes/Associations**

- favorable toward drug use and violence
- delinquent peers (e.g., gangs)

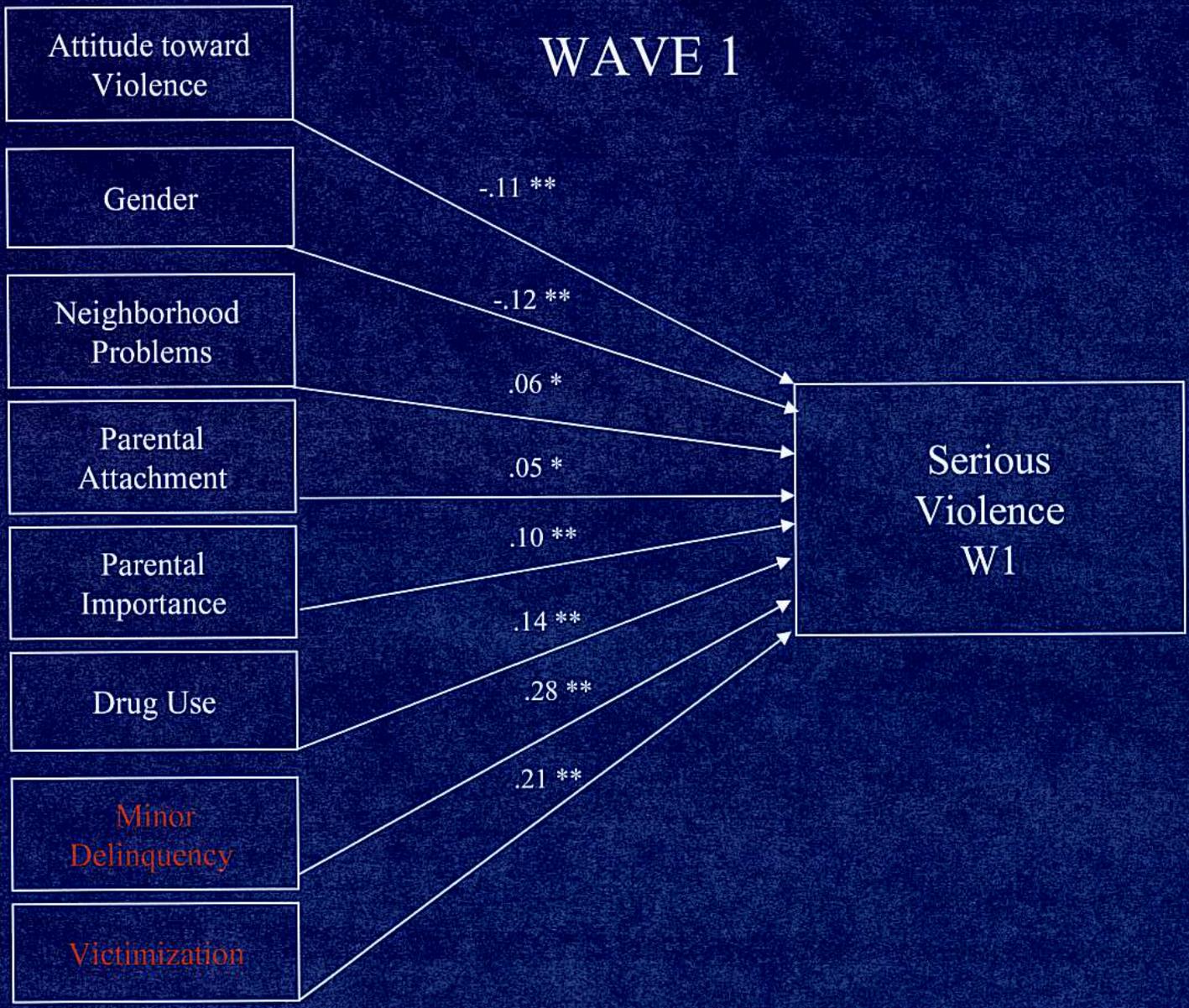
■ **Individual Characteristics**

- male
- minority
- school difficulties

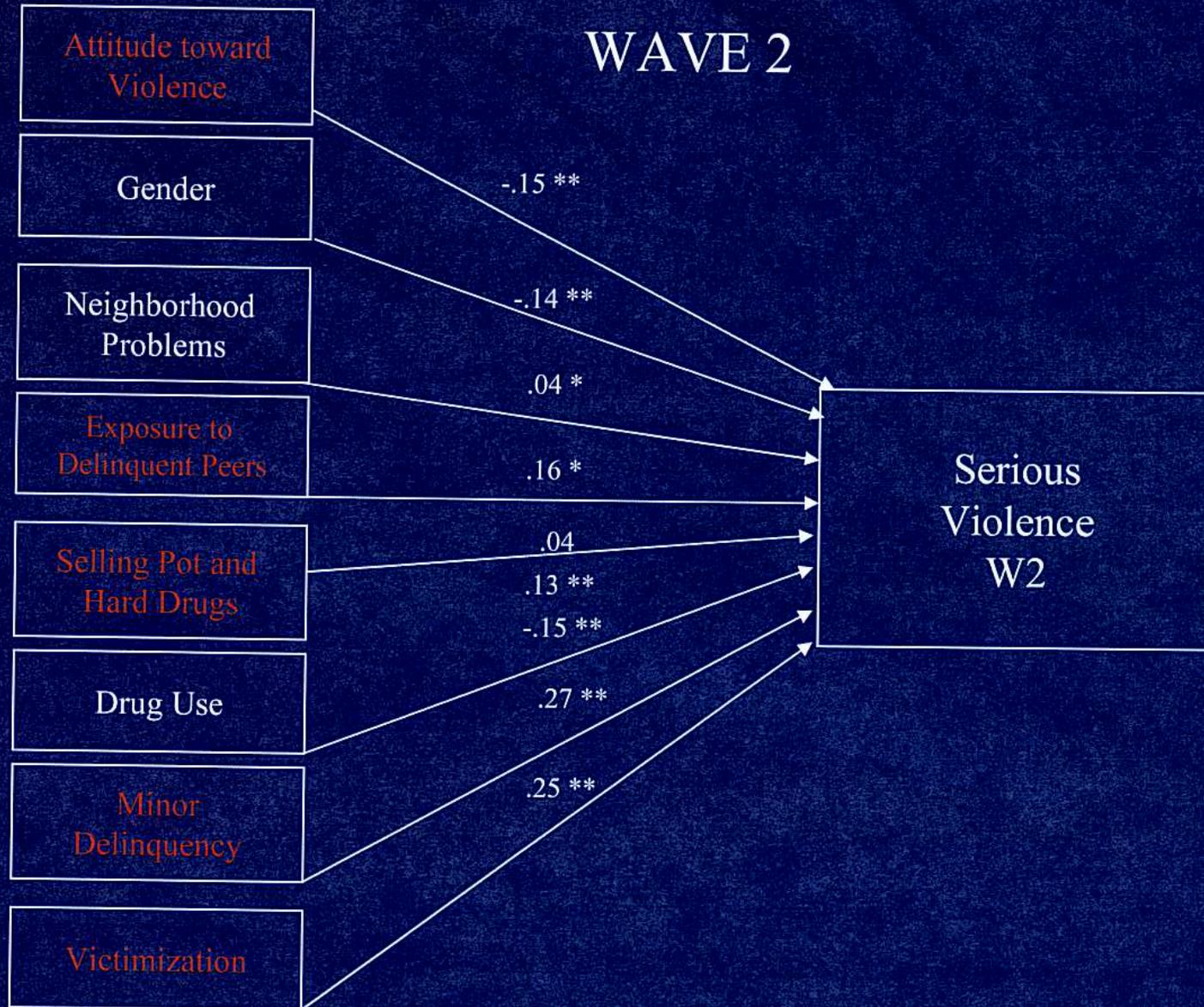
■ **Conduct/Behavior**

- higher reported crime
- early drug use
- involvement in drug dealing
- conduct disorder when younger
- continued offending patterns
- often victimized

WAVE 1



WAVE 2



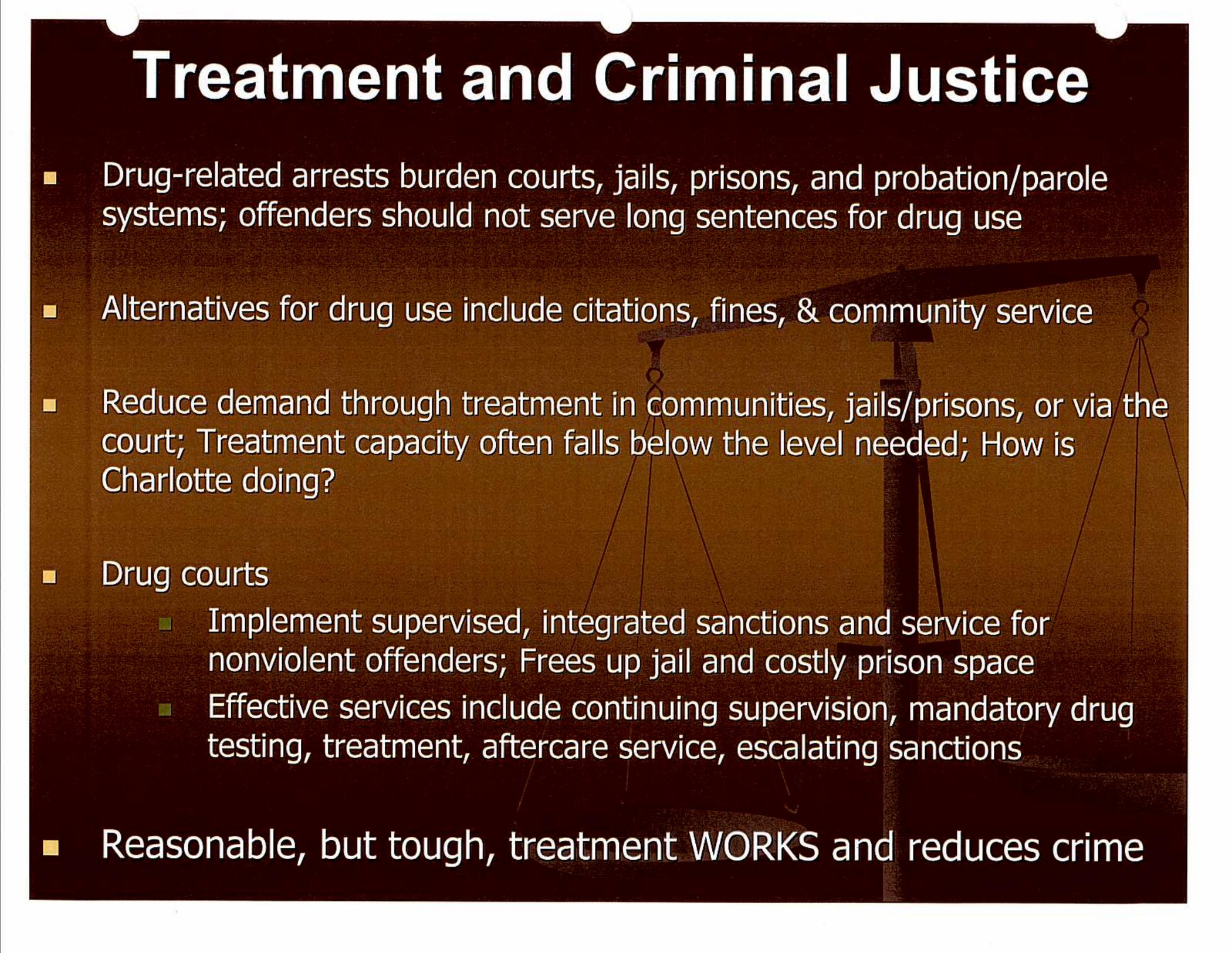
Dealing w/ Drug Using Violent Offenders

- Efforts to reduce drug related violence should target specific individuals at critical points.
- Efforts should focus on young males living in disordered neighborhoods, who are involved in minor delinquency, have been repeatedly victimized, and who develop attitudes favorable toward the use of violence (e.g., carry guns).
- Youth who become involved in drug dealing at younger ages would be at increased risk.
- Youth who learn favorable attitudes towards violence (from violent parents) would be very challenging.

Addressing Demand for Drugs and Reducing Drug Related Violence

- To reduce demand, you must reduce the number of hardcore drug users and violent offenders must be removed quickly
- Focus resources on the most dangerous drugs – alcohol, methamphetamines, unstable, violent, or emerging drug markets
- CJ system must use sanctions to mandate treatment in lieu of punishment; compelled treatment works if matched with users and strengthened with consequences for failure

Treatment and Criminal Justice



- Drug-related arrests burden courts, jails, prisons, and probation/parole systems; offenders should not serve long sentences for drug use
- Alternatives for drug use include citations, fines, & community service
- Reduce demand through treatment in communities, jails/prisons, or via the court; Treatment capacity often falls below the level needed; How is Charlotte doing?
- Drug courts
 - Implement supervised, integrated sanctions and service for nonviolent offenders; Frees up jail and costly prison space
 - Effective services include continuing supervision, mandatory drug testing, treatment, aftercare service, escalating sanctions
- Reasonable, but tough, treatment WORKS and reduces crime