Disproportionate Minority Youth Contact Assessment Report

Allen County, Ohio

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PHASE ONE

August 2007 – 15 October 2008

Background

In 2002, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) modified the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act of 1974, to include "Disproportionate Minority Contact," as opposed to the earlier "Disproportionate Minority Confinement." This Act was designed to reduce the possibility of minority youth having disproportionate contact with the Juvenile Justice System. In 2007, the Ohio Department of Youth Services (ODYS) identified Allen County, Ohio, as one of fourteen urban counties whose minority youth populations is large enough to possibly impact DMC. In August 2007, the Allen County Disproportionate Minority Youth Contact (DMC) Committee was formed. This committee would eventually become a subcommittee of the Allen County Safe Neighborhood Grant Committee. The committee has met regularly since August 2007.

The Allen County Safe Neighborhood Grant Committee is a large community collaboration consisting of representatives from the following agencies: Crossroads Crisis Center, Family Resource Center (FRC), Family and Children First Council (FCFC), Partnership for Violence-Free Families (PVFF), Children Services, Arc of Allen County, Upthegrove Family Enrichment Center, Lima Urban Minority Alcohol and Drug Abuse Outreach Program (UMADAOP), Juvenile Probation and the Lima Police Department. Additionally, the Lima Police Chief and the Lima City Schools Superintendent are also active Safe Neighborhood Grant Committee members.

There is a core group of regular attendees that includes representatives from: the Family and Children First Council, Lima Police Department, Diversion, Juvenile Probation, Allen County Children's Services Board (CSB), Lima Urban Minority Alcohol & Drug Outreach Program (UMADAOP), Partnerships for Violence Free Families (PVFF), and the faith-based community, in addition to the Lima City Schools Superintendent, the (newly hired) South Middle School Principal, the Juvenile Judge, the Juvenile Prosecutor, an Executive from the Family Resource Center, and the third party evaluator.

African Americans are the largest minority in Allen County and were identified as the minority that is overrepresented in the DMC study. A sustained effort was made to include African Americans on the Allen County DMC Committee. African American community leaders and clergy have been at the table; however, regular attendance was a challenge.

Each of the fourteen counties, involved in the DMC initiative, was asked to identify the areas of disproportionality in their respective counties. The DMC Technical Assistance Manual identifies

nine major "Decision Points" in the Juvenile Justice System where DMC can exist. Those Decision Points are: Arrest, Referral, Diversion, Detention, Petitioned/Charges Filed, Delinquent Findings, Probation, Confinement in Secure Correctional Facilities, and Transfer to Adult Court. Each of the fourteen counties was tasked with reviewing available data and choosing Decision Points to address in 2007-2008. Each county could address one or more Decision Points. It was also important for counties to identify areas where data was unavailable, so that situation could be addressed.

The nine Decision Points are arranged in the Relative Rate Index (RRI) table, which provides a measure of statistical significance for each Decision Point, based on county-specific data. The RRI table for Allen County follows. The RRI is based on activity at each Decision Point. This is not an indication of likelihood. The Index is calculated by looking at relative volume, or rate, of activity by minority youth, compared to the relative rate of activity for White youth, in each Decision Point. A value of 1.00 indicates that the values are approximately the same for Whites and African Americans (in the case of Allen County). The higher a number is from 1.00, the more likely that the difference is not due to random chance. An RRI with a value above 1.00 does not necessarily indicate something negative. For example, if the RRI for Diversion was well above 1.00, that would possibly indicate that more African American youth than White youth are being diverted. A value below 1.00 indicates that the relative rate of activity in that Decision Point is lower for African American youth than for White youth.

The Allen County DMC Committee did not limit their inquiry to a review of agency data and the RRI's. The committee also drew from the experiences of the committee members, many of whom have been very active in several agencies over the years. Their perspectives and insights added a qualitative aspect to the data analysis. Committee members were asked to provide data from their agencies on an ongoing basis and were extremely dependable about this task. Their commitment speaks to the group's conviction to reduce DMC in Allen County. The committee continues to seek out opportunities for collaboration with other Allen County agencies to address DMC and its underlying causes.

According to the DMC Technical Assistance Manual, "DMC is a complex and longstanding phenomenon that demands steadfast and sustained efforts." DMC, unfortunately, is a multi-faceted issue that is not going to be resolved in the course of one year. The manual describes the phases of the DMC Reduction Cycle. Phase 1 is identification. Phase 2 is assessment and diagnosis. Phase 3 is intervention. Phase 4 is evaluation. Phase 5 is monitoring. However, the process does not end there; it begins again with Phase 1, and is an ongoing process.

Overview

The Allen County DMC Committee viewed the past year as their initial phase in the ongoing DMC reduction process, for that reason, the report is labeled "Phase One." The report timeline begins with the Allen County DMC Committee inception and ends with the Title II grant application deadline. The Phase One report outlines several key decisions made by the committee during the past year including minority focus (African American), geographic area (zip code 45804), and program implementation (Olweus).

The committee accepts that this year's efforts did not eradicate DMC in Allen County and that DMC may never be fully eradicated. Nevertheless, the members remain committed to sustaining the Disproportionate Minority Contact Reduction Cycle in Allen County and have begun initial conversations around identification of 2008-2009 foci and strategies.

Relative Rate Index & Decision Point Selection

The Allen County evaluation included data from 2003 – 2008. However, the most recent data available for each decision point was given precedence.

Table 1 includes Relative Rate Index data for Allen County, Ohio, for the years 2004 – 2007. This table juxtaposes RRI data for African American youth against data for "All Minorities." Race data, included later, indicate that the minority of focus in Allen County should be African American youth.

Table 1: Allen County Relative Rate Index

	African American Youth				All Minorities			
Decision Point	**2004**	**2005**	**2006**	**2007**	**2004**	**2005**	**2006**	**2007**
Juvenile Arrests	4.18	5.35	4.92	3.84	3.21	3.90	4.24	3.31
Referred to Juvenile Court	3.94	4.81	3.18	4.28	3.06	3.66	3.56	3.90
Cases Diverted	0.63	0.61	1.01	0.60	0.62	0.60	0.79	0.62
Cases Involving Secure Detention	0.97	1.12	2.00	1.19	1.10	1.29	1.77	1.42
Cases Petitioned (Charges Filed)	0.80	0.73	1.00	0.59	0.98	0.80	1.01	0.64
Cases Resulting in Delinquent Findings	0.88	1.01	0.87	1.15	0.90	1.03	0.87	1.14
Cases Resulting in Probation Placement	1.62	1.14	1.29	0.99	1.46	1.25	1.26	1.15
Cases Resulting in Confinement in Secure Juvenile Correctional Facilities	1.17	0.94	1.38	1.69	1.08	0.82	1.62	2.15
Cases Transferred to Adult Court	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Law Enforcement Agencies Reporting	6/10	6/10	13/13	8/14				

Again, the target value is 1.00. A value above 1.00, such as 4.28 for Youth Referred to Juvenile Court, indicates an overrepresentation of minority youth; a value far below 1.00 indicates an underrepresentation of minority youth (compared to White youth). A value of 0.00 for a Decision Point, such as Cases Referred to Adult Court, indicates that less than five events occurred in this category and it cannot be calculated.

Allen County selected two Decision Points to initially address. Table 2 indicates that Decision Points 1 and 2 were directly addressed in 2007 – 2008.

Table 2: Allen County RRI's Addressed in 2007-2008.

			Decision Point Addressed In 2007 - 2008	
Decision Point	**RRI Rate 2007 African American**	**RRI Rate 2007 All Minorities**	**YES**	**NO**
Juvenile Arrests	3.84	3.31	✓	
Referred to Juvenile Court	4.28	3.90	✓	
Cases Diverted	0.60	0.62		✓
Cases Involving Secure Detention	1.19	1.42		✓
Cases Petitioned (Charges Filed)	0.59	0.64		✓
Cases Resulting in Delinquent Findings	1.15	1.14		✓
Cases Resulting in Probation Placement	0.99	1.15		✓
Cases Resulting in Confinement in Secure Juvenile Correctional Facilities	1.69	2.15		✓
Cases Transferred to Adult Court	0.00	0.00		✓

The following is an overview of some of the data used to determine the two DMC Decision Points that were selected, and the seven Decision Points that were not selected, for 2007-2008.

Decision Point 1 - Juvenile Arrests

- Selected as a Decision Point to address in 2007 – 2008.
- Relative Rate Index data indicated that Juvenile Arrests had the highest disproportionality in 2006, but decreased slightly in 2007.

Decision Point 2 - Referred to Juvenile Court

- Selected as a Decision Point to address in 2007 – 2008.
- The RRI data for youth referred to Juvenile Court was slightly lower than the RRI for Juvenile Arrests in 2006.

- Interestingly, RRI data for 2007 indicate that the Juvenile Arrest RRI is now close to the 2006 Youth Referred to Juvenile Court RRI.

Decision Point 3 – Cases Diverted

- Not selected as a Decision Point to address in 2007-2008.
- Diversion – Unofficial Involvement
    - Special Referrals
        - Male = 285
        - Female = 292
        - Became an Official Complaint = 57
    - Unofficial Runaway
        - Male = 1
        - Female = 0
        - Became an Official Complaint = 0
- Diversion – Official Involvement
    - Curfew Violation Complaints
        - Male = 135
        - Female = 46
    - Runaway Complaints
        - Male = 13
        - Female = 9
    - Truancy Complaints
        - Male = 44
        - Female = 37
    - Ungovernable at Home Complaints
        - Male = 2
        - Female = 3
    - Ungovernable School Complaints
        - Male = 8
        - Female = 2
    - Offense Involving Underage Person
        - Male = 56
        - Female = 31
    - Share, Consume, Possess
        - Male = 5
        - Female = 3

Decision Point 4 – Cases Involving Secure Detention

- Not selected as a Decision Point to address in 2007-2008.

- In 2007, there were 392 detention commitments
    - 312 were male
    - 80 were female
    - 147 were African American males
    - 28 were African American females
    - 122 were White males
    - 46 were White females
    - 43 were “Other” males
    - 6 were “Other” females
    - All charges upon intake
        - F1 = 7
        - F2 = 22
        - F3 = 12
        - F4 = 24
        - F5 = 46
        - MM =16
        - M1 = 128
        - M2 = 37
        - M3 = 2
        - M4 = 30
        - VFO = 178
        - Unruly = 51
        - Other = 3

Decision Point 5 – Cases Petitioned (Charge Filed)

- Not selected as a Decision Point to address in 2007-2008.
- In 2006, there were 1762 charges submitted between the Allen County Sheriff’s Office and the Lima Police Department. There were 1024 juveniles.
- 150 Disturbance Relative to School charges were filed, more than any other charge filed
- 15 Concealing / Possession of a Weapon at School charges were filed
- 8 Assault of a School Official charges were filed

Decision Point 6 – Cases Resulting in Delinquent Findings

- Not selected as a Decision Point to address in 2007-2008.
- Total number of Delinquent Complaints screened in 2007 = 734
    - Diverted complaints = 198
    - Not diverted due to: Chose court / Claiming Innocence = 18
    - Failed to show for initial meeting = 8

    - Ineligible complaints = 507
    - Court ordered complaints = 3
        - Successful = 3
        - Unsuccessful = 0

Decision Point 7 – Cases Resulting in Probation Placement

- Not selected as a Decision Point to address in 2007-2008.
- In 2006, 259 youth were placed on probation in Allen County
    - 192 /259 were male
    - 67 / 259 were female
    - 126 / 259 were Minority youth
    - 133 / 259 were Non-Minority youth
    - Most Serious Offense – Males
        - 133 Misdemeanor; 47 Felony; 8 Unruly; 4 JTO
    - Most Serious Offense – Females
        - 53 Misdemeanor; 5 Felony; 7 Unruly; 2 JTO
- In 2006, the average age of males on probation was 14.705 years
- In 2006, the average age of females on probation was 14.864 years

Decision Point 8 – Cases Resulting in Confinement in Secure Juvenile Correctional Facilities

- Not selected as a Decision Point to address in 2007-2008.
- In 2006, a total (all races) 36 youth were committed to ODYS
    - 25 youth previously served a T.C. commitment
    - 9 youth previously served a DYS commitment
    - 3 youth were committed on Motions to Invoke or Motions to Execute
    - 18 youth were from intact families
    - 18 youth were from non-intact families
    - 27 youth were from families that did not receive public assistance
    - 9 youth were from families that did receive public assistance
- Of the 48 cases represented from 2006:
    - 27.08% of the cases were Felony 5
    - 20.83% of the cases were Felony 4
    - 29.17% of the cases were Felony 3
    - 10.40% of the cases were Felony 2
    - 12.5% of the cases were Felony 1

Decision Point 9 – Cases Transferred to Adult Court

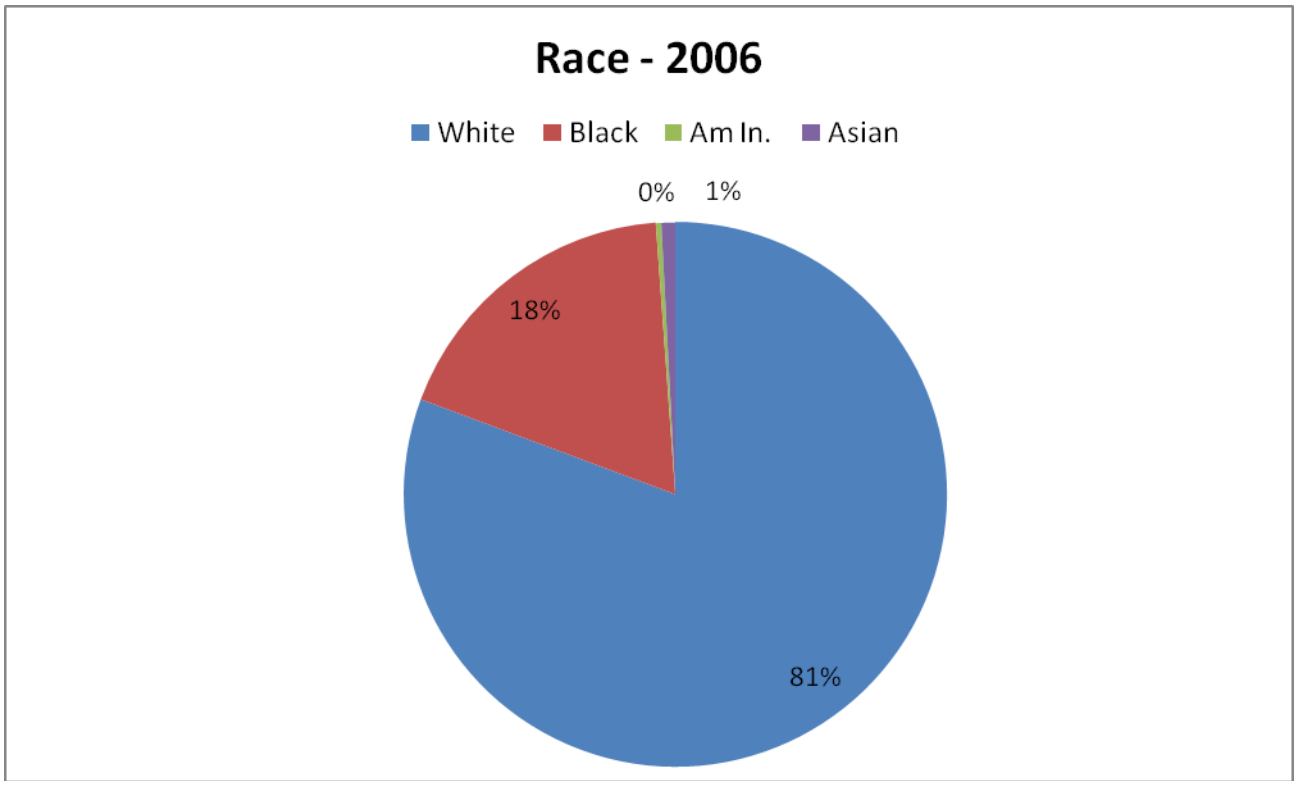
- Not selected as a Decision Point to address in 2007-2008.

- The number of cases is too small
- There was only 1 minority youth transferred to Adult Court in 2007

Target Group Selection - Race

After the DMC Committee selected the Decision Points that would be addressed first, they determined their target population. The committee considered the racial composition of Allen County. Chart 1 is based on 2006 Allen County youth racial composition data from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) "Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2006" website. As anticipated, the data indicates that the Black / African American population is the largest minority in Allen County and accounts for 18 percent of the youth population. The remaining 1 percent of the Allen County's population is either American Indian (0.32 percent), or Asian (0.83 percent).

Chart 1: 2006 Racial Composition of Allen County Youth



Next, Allen County looked at the number of youth, under age 18 that had contact with the Allen County Juvenile Justice System. African American youth were the most represented minority with 435 juvenile arrests. There were two Asian youth arrested and no American Indian, or Pacific Islander youth arrested in 2007. Table 4 includes data for all nine Decision Points, race-disaggregated, for 2007.

Table 4: Number of Youth with Allen County Juvenile Court Contact in 2007

	White N	Black or African American N	Hispanic or Latino (any race) N	Asian N	Other, Unknown, or Mixed N	Total Juveniles N
Juvenile Arrests	555	435	0	2	6	998
Referred to Juvenile Court	284	248	4	0	15	551
Diverted	125	66	1	0	6	198
Involving Secure Detention	168	175	0	0	49	392
Filed	488	251	11	1	29	780
Resulting in Delinquent Findings	362	214	9	1	22	608
Resulting in Probation Placement	123	72	8	0	16	219
Resulting in Secure Confinement	28	28	0	0	13	69
Transferred to Adult Court	0	1	0	0	0	1

***Two race categories have been removed because their values were equal to zero – Hawaiian or Pacific Islander and American Indian*

Arrest data from the previous table indicates that fewer African American youth were arrested than White youth in 2007. However, a different picture emerges when looking at individual law enforcement agencies. The Lima Police Department accounts for 574 arrests in 2007. The number of African American juveniles that were arrested is nearly double that of White youth. Table 5 includes the number, and percentage, of youth arrested by the Lima Police, disaggregated by race.

Table 5: Percent of Youth by Race That Were Arrested by the Lima Police Department in 2007

Law Enforcement Agency	White N	Black or African American N	White %	Black or African American %
Lima Police Department	194	380	33.80%	66.20%

***All categories, except African American and White, have been removed because their values were equal to zero.*

The percent of African American arrests is down slightly from the previous year. In 2006, the Lima Police Department had 784 juvenile arrests. Seventy percent of arrests involved African American youth. Twenty-nine percent of youth arrested were White. Less than 1 percent of arrests that year were Asian or youth for which no race data was available.

The committee determined that the appropriate minority focus in Allen County is Black / African American youth.

Target Group Selection – Disturbance Relative to School

Allen County DMC Committee discussions began to gravitate around Disturbance Relative to School charges and other school-related offenses. The committee was concerned by the number of those charges and that these charges are gateway offenses into the Juvenile Justice System. Reducing school-related charges, Disturbance Relative to School charges in particular, became a priority. The data collection became a challenge.

There are different ordinances between the city school system and the rural systems; even if the offense is the same, the charges are different. If a school-related offense is reported to the Lima Police Department, it is considered a Disturbance Relative to School, an alleged M1 charge. If that same school-related offense occurs in Allen County Sheriff's Department jurisdiction, the youth is charged with Disorderly Conduct, M4. Disturbance Relative to School charges are differentiated by two levels. "Level A" charges are minor rule violations and infractions. "Level B" charges are violence or assault charges. Diversion can take all Disorderly Conduct charges, but only Level A (non-assault or violence) Disturbance Relative to School charges.

The number of Disturbance Relative to School charges filed in the city of Lima is much higher than the number of Disorderly Conduct charges by the Allen County Sheriff's Department, and so the focus initially became the city of Lima, instead of the entire county.

Looking at all charges filed by the Lima Police Department in 2006, the top five charges were: Disturbance Relative to School charges (150), Curfew (140), Petty Theft (75), Domestic Violence (60), and Obstructing Official Business charges (57). Aggregating data from all law enforcement agencies in 2006, Disturbance Relative to School is the third highest charge behind Curfew and Petty Theft charges.

Between January 1, 2006 and December 31, 2006, there were 150 Disturbance Relative to School charges filed by the Lima Police Department, many of those at Lima Senior High School. Table 12 indicates that Disturbance Relative to School charges for 2006, were predominately filed against African American youth. Furthermore, African American Disturbance Relative to School charges outpace those of White students by at least 2:1. The gender data in Table 12 are aggregated.

Table 12: 2006 Disturbance Relative to School Charges by Race, Gender Aggregated

	All Youth N	All Youth %
Black	66	61.68%
Hispanic	0	0.00%
Mix	8	7.48%
White	33	30.84%
Total	107	100.00%

Table 12 data was gender disaggregated to determine gender differences. Black / African American females are represented slightly more than African American males, 62.86 percent and 61.11 percent respectively. White males are represented slightly more than White females, 31.94 percent and 28.57 percent respectively. The number of Black / African American females charged with Disturbance Relative to School is double the number of White females. The committee reported that the number of offenses by females, in general, is increasing. Table 13 provides data for all of the racial categories used in those reports.

Table 13: 2006 Disturbance Relative to School Charges by Race, Gender Disaggregated

	Male N	Male %	Female N	Female %
Black	44	61.11%	22	62.86%
Hispanic	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Mix	5	6.94%	3	8.6%
White	23	31.94%	10	28.57%
Total	72	99.99%	35	100.03%

There seems to be a spike in the number of Disturbance Relative to School charges in the 10th grade. The committee believes that the majority of those were former South Middle School students. Currently, data to determine this is not readily available. However, zip code data for these students indicates that many of them live in the 45804 zip code when they are charged,

but with student mobility issues, that does not verify that these are former South Middle School students.

Target Group Selection – Age of Target Population

The Allen County DMC Committee reviewed Lima City Schools Discipline Infraction Summary Data sheets. Three focal points were identified that would be considered Disturbances Relative to School. All three of these disciplinary infraction categories were notably higher than other offenses and are similar in nature. Those offense categories were: "Fighting or Violence," "Disobedient or Disruptive Behavior," and "Harassment or Intimidation" offenses. Further analysis indicated that the overwhelming majority of these offenses occurred at the middle school level.

Table 6 looks at the number and percentage of "Fighting / Violence" infractions. These data are for all students in the Lima City School district and include five elementary schools, three middle schools, and four high school (including alternative programs). Table 6 indicates that the vast majority of Fighting / Violence disciplinary infractions occur at the middle school level.

Table 6: Fighting / Violence Infractions Reported at All Lima City Schools

	2005-2006 N	2005-2006 %	2006-2007 N	2006-2007 %
Elementary	127	23.96%	245	26.63%
Middle School	245	46.23%	571	62.07%
High School	158	29.81%	104	11.30%
Total	530	100.00%	920	100.00%

Table 7 looks at the three individual middle school that constitutes the Middle School category from Table 6.

Table 7: Fighting / Violence Infractions Reported by Each Middle School

Middle School	2005-2006	2006-2007
North	33.47%	24.87%
South	38.37%	35.38%
West	28.16%	39.75%

As Table 8 indicates, most "Disobedient / Disruptive Behavior" infractions occur at the middle school level. Moreover, those infractions increased by 12 percent between school years 2005-2006 and 2006-2007. Additionally, the number of infractions at the high school level fell dramatically, while the number of infractions in the elementary grades increased.

Table 8: Disobedient / Disruptive Behavior Infractions Reported at All Lima City Schools

	2005-2006 N	2005-2006 %	2006-2007 N	2006-2007 %
Elementary	546	13.64%	720	12.77%
Middle School	2616	65.33%	4360	77.30%
High School	842	21.03%	560	9.92%
Total	4004	100.00%	5640	100.00

Again, looking at only the three middle schools that form that category, Table 9 provides the percentage of infractions at each middle school.

Table 9: Disobedient / Disruptive Behavior Infractions Reported by Each Middle School

Middle School	2005-2006	2006-2007
North	31.69%	33.17%
South	37.27%	28.94%
West	31.04%	37.89%

The final statistic drawn from the Lima City Schools Discipline Infraction Summary Data sheets regards Harassment / Intimidation infractions. Following the pattern of the previous tables, Table 10 demonstrates that substantially more infractions occur in the middle school than any other school. Although the number of infractions is low, 26 during the 2006-2007 school year, and is down from the previous school year, the number of infractions at the middle school level is five times that reported by the high school, and nearly double the number reported by the elementary schools.

Table 10: Harassment / Intimidation Infractions Reported at All Lima City Schools

	2005-2006 N	2005-2006 %	2006-2007 N	2006-2007 %
Elementary	3	7.50%	7	26.90%
Middle School	29	72.50%	16	61.54%
High School	8	20.00%	3	11.54%
Total	40	100.00%	26	100.00%

Finally, Table 11 looks at those sixteen Harassment / Intimidation infractions by individual middle school. There is a marked difference between South Middle School and the other middle schools.

Table 11: Harassment / Intimidation Infractions Reported by Each Middle School

Middle School	2005-2006	2006-2007
North	39.13%	6.25%
South	60.87%	81.25%
West	0.00%	12.50%

After review of the previous data, the Allen County DMC Committee further refined its target population to be Lima City middle school students. At this point, the assumption was

GAP Analysis

The committee discussed possible reasons for the spike in Disturbance Relative to School charges around 10th grade and for the high number of disruptive behaviors in the middle schools.
The committee decided that the next step was to identify service gaps related to schools.

Analyses and conversations revealed that the Olweus Bully Prevention Program has not successfully been implemented at either South or North Middle School. Additionally, Olweus has not been successfully implemented at Freedom Elementary. The program has been very successful at Lima's West Middle School, as well as at Unity Elementary and Liberty Elementary. South Middle School staff members participated in Olweus training in January 2006, but emigration of those staff members prevented the program's successful implementation. In fact, at the beginning of the 2007-2008 school year, only one Olweus-trained staff member remained at South Middle School.

Three factors drove the decision to focus on the implementation of a DMC reduction program at South Middle School. First, this was the most obvious gap in services. Second, this gap was relatively one of the easiest to rectify in year one as the program is already well established and well accepted in other Allen County schools. Third, disciplinary inconsistencies at South Middle School contributed to the increased Disturbances Relative to School incidences at the high school level.

Based on the data collected, the committee identified South Middle School students to receive intervention in year one of the DMC initiative. The committee would like to bring Olweus into North Middle School when possible.

South Middle School Focus Groups

The customized Olweus training is based on input from students. Students are given a pretest that augments customization. The committee decided to conduct focus groups to garner valuable input from South Middle School students on issues specifically related to their feelings of safety at school.

Focus group interviews were conducted with children from South Middle School. Potential participants were selected by two school officials. The questions were pre-approved by the Lima City Schools Superintendent, as well as the South Middle School Principal, a few weeks before the interviews were conducted. Interviews were conducted on a Friday and Monday.

A total of four groups of students were interviewed at South Middle School. Group 1 was comprised of 5th & 6th graders, and Group 2 was comprised of 7th & 8th graders. Those interviews were conducted on May 9, 2008. Group 3, comprised of 5th & 6th graders, and Group 4, comprised of 7th & 8th graders, were interviewed on May 12, 2008.

According to the Ohio Department of Education, the racial composition of South Middle School is primarily African American (60.7 percent of the student body), with another 11.2 percent of students identified as Bi-Racial. Therefore, focus group participants were predominantly African American. Table 14 contains the demographic composition of the focus groups.

Table 14: Focus Group Participant Demographics & Interview Dates

	Group 1 5/9/08	Group 2 5/9/08	Group 3 5/12/08	Group 4 5/12/08
Total participants	***10***	***9***	***8***	***10***
Male	5	4	4	6
Female	5	5	4	4
5th Graders	5	0	3	0
6th Graders	5	0	5	0
7th Graders	0	6	0	4
8th Graders	0	3	0	6
African-American – total	8	6	4	7
Caucasian – total	2	3	4	3
African-American Female	3	4	2	3
African-American Male	5	2	2	4

Caucasian Female	2	1	2	1
Caucasian Male	0	2	2	2

Selected participants received a parental waiver that was provided by South Middle School. Students were given a token for an extra lunch snack if they returned a signed waiver. Children that participated in the focus groups received a second token that entitled them to a specially boxed pizza for lunch. Parental waivers were collected, and retained, by the school.

Participants were called to the office either by the principal or by the guidance counselor. Students were lead into a small conference room that sits directly behind the school's main reception area. The room had one large table around which all children, and two facilitators, were able to sit in comfortable chairs. This conference room was as distraction-free as possible. Only the focus group facilitator and the focus group scribe were present during the interviews to augment participant honesty.

No identifiers were collected. Students were not asked their names, nor did the facilitators have a list of participants' names. Participants were asked not to refer to their classmates by name. Grade level data was obtained by a show of hands. Race data was based on observation.

Participants heard brief, age-appropriate instructions and asked if they had any questions before beginning the focus group. The process of audiotaping was explained. Confidentiality was explained, including telling the participants that neither facilitator even knew participants' names. Participants were told that they did not have to answer any questions that they did not feel comfortable answering. When it was determined that the participants were comfortable with the process, audiotaping began.

All focus groups were audiotaped but not videotaped.

Each student was required to answer only the first question. This ensured that each participant had the opportunity to answer and gave participants a feel for the process. After that, each participant was free to pass on any question and some participants exercised this option.

All focus groups were conducted by the same two facilitators; one male, one female. One facilitator primarily led the focus group while the second facilitator acted as scribe and captured key quotes. However, both facilitators asked follow-up questions as needed.

The focus groups averaged a little less than one hour, with one running about fifteen minutes over and one, about fifteen minutes under. After all interview questions were asked, participants were asked if they had anything else to add that might be "helpful to the process" and were once again asked if they had any questions. Some participants were very interested in the process and asked a mixture of procedural questions. Students were then dismissed to their next class.

Focus group tapes were transcribed and content analyses were conducted on all questions. On 7 August 2008, there was a debriefing meeting to discuss those findings with the new South Middle School Principal, the Olweus Program Director, the grant administrators, and the focus group facilitators. The focus group findings drove the customization of the South Middle School Olweus training.

The following are some of the key areas that emerged from the focus group data analysis and were discussed at the focus group debriefing.

FINDING #1 - *There is a difference between the 5th & 6th graders and the 7th & 8th graders.*

All participants were asked to answer the first question. The responses to this first question are indication of the differences in the feelings of safety between the 5th & 6th graders and the 7th & 8th graders that were heard throughout the focus group interviews. Students were asked to "Please tell me how safe from violence you feel when you're at school?" Students were instructed to rate this on a continuum from 1 (not safe at all) to 10 (very safe). The means for the 5th & 6th grade groups ($\xi = 5.7$ and $\xi = 5.31$) were lower than the means for the 7th & 8th grade groups ($\xi = 8.39$ and $\xi = 8.3$), indicating that the 5th & 6th graders are more fearful at school.

There are differences in what the two groups are afraid of while at school. The 5th & 6th graders specifically mentioned threats by other students, bullying, and play fights that turn into real fights. The places that the 5th & 6th graders feel fearful and intimidated are opportunities for intervention by the school. Those areas are: hallways, locker rooms, outside - the "big field", and the cafeteria.

The 7th & 8th graders are the group with the power; they believe this and the 5th & 6th graders believe this. The older students were predominantly fearful of getting hurt and of mass-killings – things beyond their control.

FINDING #2 – *Teachers*

This finding was based on student responses throughout the focus group process. Students have a dichotomous view of teachers. Students feel teachers "do not do enough" but at the same time, the consensus was that teachers make students feel safe. Students feel safest in the areas where teachers are present, like classrooms.

This finding indicates that the school can influence students' feelings of safety.

FINDING #3 – *Close-kin issues*

Another finding from the overall focus group process is that family equals safety. Students from all four grades indicated that another family member (siblings, cousins, etc.) in the school or classroom increases their feelings of safety. While this increased feeling of safety is positive, it can have negative ramifications. It is like a fellowship that pulls them in; a student may not have been part of a disagreement but, if a family member is involved, they become involved. Some students shared anecdotes of fights they became involved in only because a family member was involved.

FINDING #4 – *Disruptive behavior*

Disruptive behaviors are those behaviors that will result in some sort of negative consequence, anything from a checkmark to out-of-school suspension. Students were asked to tell the facilitators what "disruptive behavior" is. There was confusion among 5th & 6th graders and consensus among 7th & 8th graders. The 7th and 8th graders seem to have a better understanding of the rules.

This is an opportunity for improvement by South Middle School. The Olweus training standardizes school behavioral expectations as well as consequences for infractions. This should lead to a reduction in student confusion.

FINDING #5 – *Feelings regarding police being called to the school*

Students were asked "How you feel when the police show up at school after there has been some sort of disruptive behavior?" There is a difference between how 5th & 6th graders and 7th & 8th graders feel when the police are called. Student feelings ranged from scared or nervous to safe.

FINDING #6 – *Extraneous circumstances*

Throughout the focus group interviews, the facilitators heard that the impetus for fights and other issues that arise at school sometimes stem from forces outside the school walls. There seems to be some indication that home-related factors such as fights before school, etc., adversely affect the students and will lead to issues once the student arrives at school.

The issue of respect is huge with the focus group participants. Students indicated that they do not want to feel disrespected. They want to be treated with respect by the teachers and staff. Feelings of disrespect seem to lead to anger.

One issue may be that these students have to assume adult roles and responsibilities at home then they come to school where they are expected to act like middle schoolers. This duality of roles causes conflict.

FINDING #7 – *Student transience*

During the informal, debriefing portion of the focus groups, some youth commented that they had previously attended a different middle school. This was not a formal focus group interview question, but it did merit follow-up. According to the Ohio Department of Education, South Middle School students are more mobile than students at either of the other two middle schools. As Table 15 indicates, the mobility of the Lima City Middle School students has steadily increased since school year 2003-2004, and South Middle School students have the greatest mobility. Focus group feedback indicated that moving from one middle school building to another sometimes made it difficult to adjust to different behavioral expectations.

Additionally, a few students that had previously attended other schools commented on the absence of Olweus at South Middle School.

Table 15: Students in a Building Less Than A Full Academic Year, by Middle School

Middle School	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
North	15.0%	13.2%	15.6%	20.2%
South	18.6%	15.6%	19.1%	22.3%
West	13.7%	13.0%	11.3%	17.2%

The committee has not collected data regarding this statistic but committee members considered different possible reasons for the increased mobility. It is not known if increased mobility increases DMC. Service providers note a seeming increase in the number of youth that are living with grandparents, aunts, uncles, and other guardians. In the case autopsies, several youth seemed to bounce from placement to placement. Another possible explanation is that parents move with the goal of putting their child in another school system.

As the DMC Committee continued to look at other factors that may influence DMC in Allen County, they found that poverty and issues related to poverty are increasing. The DMC Technical Assistance Manual refers to these issues as Specific Risk Factors and includes the following example; minority youth living in "disorganized neighborhoods." This is an area that the DMC Committee intends to continue data collection but the following are some data garnered in the initial investigation.

Ohio Department of Education (ODE) data indicates that the Lima City School District median income decreased from $ $21,501 (SY 2005–2006) to $20,778 (SY 2006-2007). Data for the current 2007-2008 school year are not available yet. Furthermore, ODE data indicate that 88.6 percent of South Middle School students are economically disadvantaged, compared to 72.5 percent of North Middle School students, and 69.6 percent of West Middle School students.

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) has released the May 2008 "Ohio Unemployment Rates by County." The rankings are as follows 1 (highest unemployment ranking) – 88 (lowest unemployment ranking). Allen County was ranked 35th with an unemployment rate of 6.3 (Not seasonally adjusted). The highest unemployment rate was 8.8 (Morgan County) and the lowest was 4.2 (Delaware County).

The Annie E. Casey Foundation has a major initiative known as CLIKS (Community-Level Information on Kids), in association with the Children's Defense Fund-Ohio. This site has data for county-level poverty indicators. For example, the number of children receiving food stamps

in July of 2005 was 4,922. Allen County had the 21st highest number of children receiving food stamps in the state.

CLIKS data for Allen County "children in poverty" indicate that 4,623 children under the age of eighteen were living below the Federal Poverty Line in 2004. Only eighteen counties had a higher number of children living in poverty.

CLIKS data indicates that 7,279 Allen County children applied for free or reduced school lunches in October 2005. ODE data indicates that in 2007, 85.64 percent of South Middle School students received free lunches. The percent of South Middle School students that received free and reduced lunches was even higher (91.58 percent).

In Phase Two, Allen County will continue data collection around poverty indicators. The Allen County DMC Committee will continue to look for ways to partner with other agencies, and work to reduce the impact of poverty issues on DMC in Allen County, especially the 45804 zip code.

Another factor that may increase DMC is a lack of cultural awareness. A portion of the ODYS grant enabled the Allen County DMC Committee to present a tuition-free, cultural diversity training on March 13, 2008. Dr. Michael Lindsey presented "Faces of Diversity" to 72 Allen County community members, leaders, and agency representatives. The committee distributed evaluations to all participants. Fifty-six evaluations were returned and analyzed. Comments were largely favorable.

Case Autopsies – Summaries

In Phase One, the Allen County DMC Committee gathered data in an effort to identify points of DMC. As a component of that identification process, the committee requested "Case Autopsies" to look for patterns or similarities between court-involvement histories of the Allen County minority youth committed to the Ohio Department of Youth Services (ODYS) in 2007. Additionally, the committee examined the impact of Disturbance Relative to School charges on these sixteen minority youth.

The Allen County DMC independent evaluator conducted the sixteen case autopsies and data analyses. The youth were African American or "Bi-Racial". There were fifteen males and one female.

The following is only a summary of each youth's involvement. Diversion and Allen County Juvenile Justice System involvement prior to commitment are included. Turquoise-highlighted text indicates formal or informal Diversion involvement related to school. No other diversion data is included herein. Yellow-highlighted text indicates other school-related charges of special interest. Green-highlighted text indicates Disturbance charges, whether or not dismissed. Red text indicates a change in the original charge.

Identifiers are removed but dates of birth (DOB) and commitment dates are retained to show the chronology of each youth's progressive entrenchment in the system. School discipline information from the Disposition Investigation Report (DIR) is included.

Case Autopsy #1

Black / Male
DOB = 2-10-91
DYS Admit Date = 5-8-07

School Discipline	Total Days	Reason
Suspension	multiple	Disruption of class

10-17-05	Disturbance Relative to School, M1
	Menacing, M4 dismissed
02-07-06	Disturbance Relative to School, M1 dismissed at state's cost
01-14-06	Assault, M1 (matter certified here by another county's Juvenile Ct.)
05-03-06	Menacing, M4 (matter certified here by another county's Juvenile Ct.)
	Adjudicated – ungovernable – unruly
01-05-07	Felonious Assault, F2
01-29-07	Petty Theft, M1 dismissed
05-10-07	***Probation terminated unsuccessful; youth committed to ODYS***

Case Autopsy #2

Black / Male
DOB = 9-2-90
DYS Admit Date = 7-03-07

School Discipline	Total Days	Reason
Suspension	8	Class disruption / poor attendance
Other	0	Home instruction but never attended
		Expelled last year and sent to ISEP

04-09-02	Disturbance Relative to School, M1
11-14-02	Special Referral – complainant school
12-18-02	Ungovernable at School
08-22-03	Petty Theft, M1 Unauthorized Use of Property, M4
06-08-04	No lights on bicycle at night
04-07-05	Petty Theft, M1
06-01-05	No lights on bicycle at night
06-08-05	Unruly – Curfew dismissed
08-08-05	Robbery, F2 Attempted Robbery, F3
07-11-06	Drug Abuse, MM
09-07-06	Drug Abuse, MM
09-12-06	Ct.1 Assault, F4
	Ct.2 Offense Involving Underage Person, M1
	Ct.3 Resisting Arrest, M2

	Ct.4 Disorderly Conduct, MM
06-27-07	***Probation terminated unsuccessful; youth committed to ODYS***

Case Autopsy #3

Black / Male
DOB = 10-5-91
DYS Admit Date = 9-11-07

School Discipline	Total Days	Reason
Suspension	10	Failure to comply with school rules
Other	0	Placed in alternative school but removed from that program b/c of problems

Student removed from North, South, West and Perry Middle Schools, as well as Allen County's Alternative School.

10-23-03	Petty Theft, M1
12-01-03	Obstructing Official Business, M2 dismissed
01-06-04	Special Referral – complainant school
03-23-06	Disorderly Conduct, M4
07-11-06	Drug Abuse, MM dismissed
07-20-06	Menacing, M4
07-24-06	Riding Bike at Night Without Lights
06-13-07	Vandalism, F5
06-22-07	Ct.1 Criminal Trespass, M4
	Ct.2 Criminal Trespass, M4 dismissed consistent w/ the plea agreement
09-12-07	***Probation terminated unsuccessful; youth committed to ODYS***

Case Autopsy #4

Black / Male
DOB = 11-6-88
DYS Admit Date = 4-16-07

School Discipline	Total Days	Reason
Suspension	3 times	Disrespect to teachers; slapped another student
Expulsion	yes	Disrespect to teacher

04-27-01	Special Request – Truancy and Behavior
03-05-02	Special Request – Truancy and Behavior
06-26-02	Grand Theft, F5 Attempted Grand Theft, M1
06-10-03	Rape, F1 Attempted Rape, F2
08-31-05	No Lights on Bicycle at Night
09-02-05	Petty Theft, M1
02-23-06	Grand Theft, F5 Attempted Grand Theft, M1
04-16-07	***Probation terminated unsuccessful; youth committed to ODYS***

Case Autopsy #5

Black (also listed as Bi-Racial) / FEMALE
DOB = 12-27-90
DYS Admit Date = 12-11-07

School Discipline	Total Days	Reason
Suspension	10	Set multiple fires in school bathrooms
Expulsion	180	Set multiple fires in school bathrooms
Other	5	1 day suspension for rule violations & truancy

02-08-07	Arson, F4 Attempted Arson, F5
10-02-07	Ct.1 Aggravated Arson, F1
	Ct.2 Aggravated Arson, F1
12-05-07	***Probation terminated unsuccessful; youth committed to ODYS***

Case Autopsy #6

Black / Male
DOB = 6-11-92
DYS Admit Date = 9-27-07

01-27-00	Special Referral – complainant school - Truancy
03-28-02	Special Referral – complainant school - Truancy
11-27-02	Special Referral – complainant school - Behavior
05-13-03	Special Referral – complainant school - Behavior
09-15-03	Special Referral – complainant school - Behavior
11-26-03	Special Referral – complainant school - Behavior
03-01-05	Special Referral – complainant school - Truancy
10-13-05	Special Referral – complainant school
04-20-06	Domestic Violence, M1
01-18-07	Unruly – Curfew
07-18-07	Unruly - Runaway
07-18-07	Ct.1 Noise Limitations, MM
	Ct.2 Obstructing Official Business, M2 dismissed at state's cost
08-13-07	Carrying Concealed Weapon, F4
09-07-07	Vandalism, dismissed
09-28-07	***Probation terminated unsuccessful; youth committed to ODYS***

Case Autopsy #7

Black / Male
DOB = 8-9-89
DYS Admit Date = 2-13-07
Dropped out of school in 2005 and did not have GED as of 2/5/07

01-30-03	Special Referral – complainant school - Behavior
05-19-03	Special Referral – complainant school - Behavior
10-20-03	Special Referral – complainant school - Behavior
12-04-06	Walking on the Street dismissed
12-14-06	Ct.1 No Operator's License dismissed
	Ct.2 Reckless Operation
12-18-06	Ct.1 Failure to Comply w/ an Order/Signal by a Police Officer, F3
	Ct.2 Receiving Stolen Property, F4
	Ct.3 Obstructing Official Business, M2
02-07-07	***Probation terminated unsuccessful; youth committed to ODYS***

Case Autopsy #8

Bi-Racial / Male
DOB = 9-5-89
DYS Admit Date = 3-21-07

School Discipline	Total Days	Reason
Suspension	14	Disruptions at school
Expulsion	180	2 separate 90 day expulsions for fighting and "smelling like marijuana"

03-20-01	Special Referral – complainant school - Behavior
12-05-02	Special Referral – complainant school – Behavior
12-05-03	Disturbance Relative to School, M1 Reduced D.C.2917.11(A)(E)(3)(6)M4
10-12-05	Special Referral – complainant school – Behavior
10-12-06	Special Referral – complainant school - Behavior
01-05-07	Ct.1 Trafficking Cocaine, F3
	Ct.2 Trafficking Cocaine, F3
	Ct.3 Trafficking Cocaine, F3
	Ct.4 Possession of Cocaine, F5 dismissed
	Ct.5 Possession of Cocaine, F4 dismissed
	Committed in the vicinity of a school
01-10-07	Intimidation of a Witness, F3 dismissed
03-16-07	***Probation terminated unsuccessful; youth committed to ODYS***

Case Autopsy #9

Black / Male
DOB = 5-4-91
DYS Admit Date = 11-14-07

School Discipline	Total Days	Reason
Suspension	0	For excessive tardies and truancies
Expulsion	0	For excessive tardies and truancies

Each of these is listed as zero even though it indicates that he was suspended/expelled

11-02-99	Special Referral – complainant school - Behavior
09-25-03	Special Referral – complainant school – Behavior
01-09-04	Petty Theft, M1
09-19-06	Unruly – Curfew
09-20-06	Ct.1 Speeding
	Ct.2 No Operator's License
06-07-07	Possession of cocaine, F3 Possession of cocaine, F4
11-26-07	***Probation terminated unsuccessful; youth committed to ODYS***

Case Autopsy #10

Black / Male
DOB = 12-09-90
DYS Admit Date = 6/27/07

School Discipline	Total Days	Reason
Suspension	10	Not following teacher's directions
Expulsion	80	Disruption of school & rules

11-22-99	Special Referral – complainant school - Truancy
12-07-00	Special Referral – complainant school – Truancy
09-15-03	Special Referral – complainant school - Behavior
12-08-04	Ct.1 Assault, F5
	Ct.2 Disturbance Relative to School, M1 dismissed
04-25-06	Possession of Crack Cocaine, F4
09-12-06	Ct.1 Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, M4
	Ct.2 Drug Abuse, MM dismissed
05-18-07	No Operator's License
06-07-07	Possession of Cocaine, F2
06-27-07	***Probation terminated unsuccessful; youth committed to ODYS***

Case Autopsy #11

Bi-racial / Male
DOB = 1-16-90
DYS Admit Date = 9-11-07

School Discipline	Total Days	Reason
Suspension	10	Too many truant days
Other	0	Placed on home instruction 2-12-07 'til end of school year

01-23-01	Special Referral – complainant school - Behavior
10-25-01	Special Referral – complainant school – Behavior
10-09-02	Special Referral – complainant school - Behavior
02-25-03	Disturbance Relative to School, M1 Disorderly Conduct, MM
05-10-05	No Lights on Bicycle at Night
07-19-05	Ct.1 Robbery, F2 Attempted Robbery, F3
	Ct.2 Petty Theft, M1 dismissed
10-04-05	Harboring Vicious Dogs, M3 dismissed
01-17-06	Obstructing Official Business, M2
05-18-06	Ct.1 No Moped Operator's License
	Ct.2 Failure to Display Moped License Plate
06-10-07	Receiving Stolen Property, M1 dismissed
07-25-07	Felonious Assault, F2
09-13-07	***Probation terminated unsuccessful; youth committed to ODYS***

Case Autopsy #12

Black / Male
DOB = 2-14-90
DYS Admit Date = 05-03-07

12-05-02	Special Referral – complainant school - Behavior
11-05-03	Special Referral – complainant school – Behavior
06-01-04	Disturbance Relative to School, M1
07-09-04	Ct.1 Criminal Trespass, M4
	Ct.2 Drug Abuse, MM dismissed
08-05-05	Ct.1 Rape, F1
	Ct.2 Rape, F1
	Ct.3 Rape, F1
05-03-07	***Probation terminated unsuccessful; youth committed to ODYS***

Case Autopsy #13

Black / Male
DOB = 12-3-92
DYS Admit Date = 2-13-07

09-30-04	Gross Sexual Imposition, F3
08-16-06	Ct.1 No Operator's License
	Ct.2 No Seatbelt Driver
	Ct.3 No Headlights
08-21-06	Unauthorized Use of Property, M1 dismissed
08-21-06	Unruly, Curfew Violation dismissed
09-08-06	Vandalism, F5
02-13-07	***Probation terminated unsuccessful; youth committed to ODYS***

Case Autopsy #14

Black / Male
DOB = 6-2-89
Warrant to Convey Date = 12-07-07

School Discipline	Total Days	Reason
Expulsion	80	Rule #1, Rule #8- school violations

06-10-02	Unruly – Curfew
06-06-03	Ct.1 Grand Theft, F5
	Ct.2 Grand Theft, F5
	Ct.3 Grand Theft, F5 dismissed
	Ct.4 Grand Theft, F5
	Ct.5 Criminal Damaging, M2 dismissed
	Ct.6 Criminal Damaging, M2 dismissed
07-02-03	Obstructing Official Business, M2 dismissed
09-28-05	Attempted Felonious Assault, F3 dismissed
10-05-05	Ct.1 Felonious Assault, F2
	Ct.2 Trafficking Cocaine, F5
	Ct.3 Possession of Cocaine, F5
12-07-07	***Warrant to Convey***

Case Autopsy #15

Bi-Racial / Male
DOB = 12-16-90
DYS Admit Date = 1-10-07

11-14-02	Felonious Assault, F2 Assault, M1
11-21-02	Petty Theft, M1 Unauthorized Use of Property, M4
03-19-03	Ct.1 Disturbance Relative to School, M1 dismissed
	Ct.2 Disturbance Relative to School, M1 dismissed
04-04-03	Petty Theft, M1
05-22-03	Petty Theft, M1
08-16-04	Ct.1 Receiving Stolen Property, M1 dismissed
	Ct.2 Receiving Stolen Property, M1 dismissed
	Ct.3 Receiving Stolen Property, M1 dismissed
	Ct.4 Criminal Damaging, M2
	Ct.5 Criminal Damaging, M2
09-10-04	Criminal Damaging, M2
02-23-05	Ct.1 Public Indecency, M4
	Ct.2 Disorderly Conduct, MM dismissed
06-20-05	Petty Theft, M1 dismissed
06-21-05	Ct.1 Rape, F1 Attempted Rape, F2
	Ct.2 Rape, F1 dismissed
06-24-05	Petty Theft, M1
01-12-07	***Probation terminated unsuccessful; youth committed to ODYS***

Case Autopsy #16

Black / Male
DOB = 10-15-91
DYS Admit Date = 9-11-07

School Discipline	Total Days	Reason
Suspension	10	Several times, placed on home instruction
Expulsion	0	Not expelled due to special ed. status
Other	0	Placed on home instruction remainder of the year

03-01-99	Special Referral – complainant school - Truancy
12-07-00	Special Referral – complainant school - Truancy
09-15-03	Special Referral – complainant school - Behavior
03-22-01	Disturbance Relative to School, M1 dismissed
04-13-01	Disturbance Relative to School, M1 dismissed
09-22-03	Disturbance Relative to School, M1
03-28-05	Attempted Possession of a Deadly Weapon in School Safety Zone, M1
	Possession of a Deadly Weapon in School Safety Zone, F5
03-15-06	No Lights on Bicycle
05-10-06	Ct.1 Obstructing Official Business, M2 dismissed
	Ct.2 Persistent Disorderly Behavior, M4
05-26-06	Criminal Damaging, M2
01-29-07	Walking in the Street
06-29-07	Aggravated Burglary, F1 Burglary, F4
09-19-07	***Probation terminated unsuccessful; youth committed to ODYS***

Case Autopsies - Analyses

Special Referrals:
Allen County uses "special referrals" as an attempt to keep youth out of the system. A school calls Diversion to set up a one-time meeting between Diversion and a problematic student. These meetings are to inform a student that their current behaviors, left unchecked, will culminate in court involvement. Twelve of the sixteen youth had school-related special referrals for a total of 32 special referrals. Again, these are supposed to be one-time meetings. This speaks to Allen County's efforts to keep youth from becoming court-involved.

Disturbance Relative to School:
Eight of the sixteen youth had Disturbance Relative to School (DRS) charges. The eight youth had a total of 13 DRS charges (dismissed or not).

Other school-related offenses:
1 / 16 youth - Possession of Cocaine in the Vicinity of a School
1 / 16 youth - Possession of a Deadly Firearm in a School Safety Zone
1 / 16 youth - Attempted Possession of a Deadly Firearm in a School Safety Zone

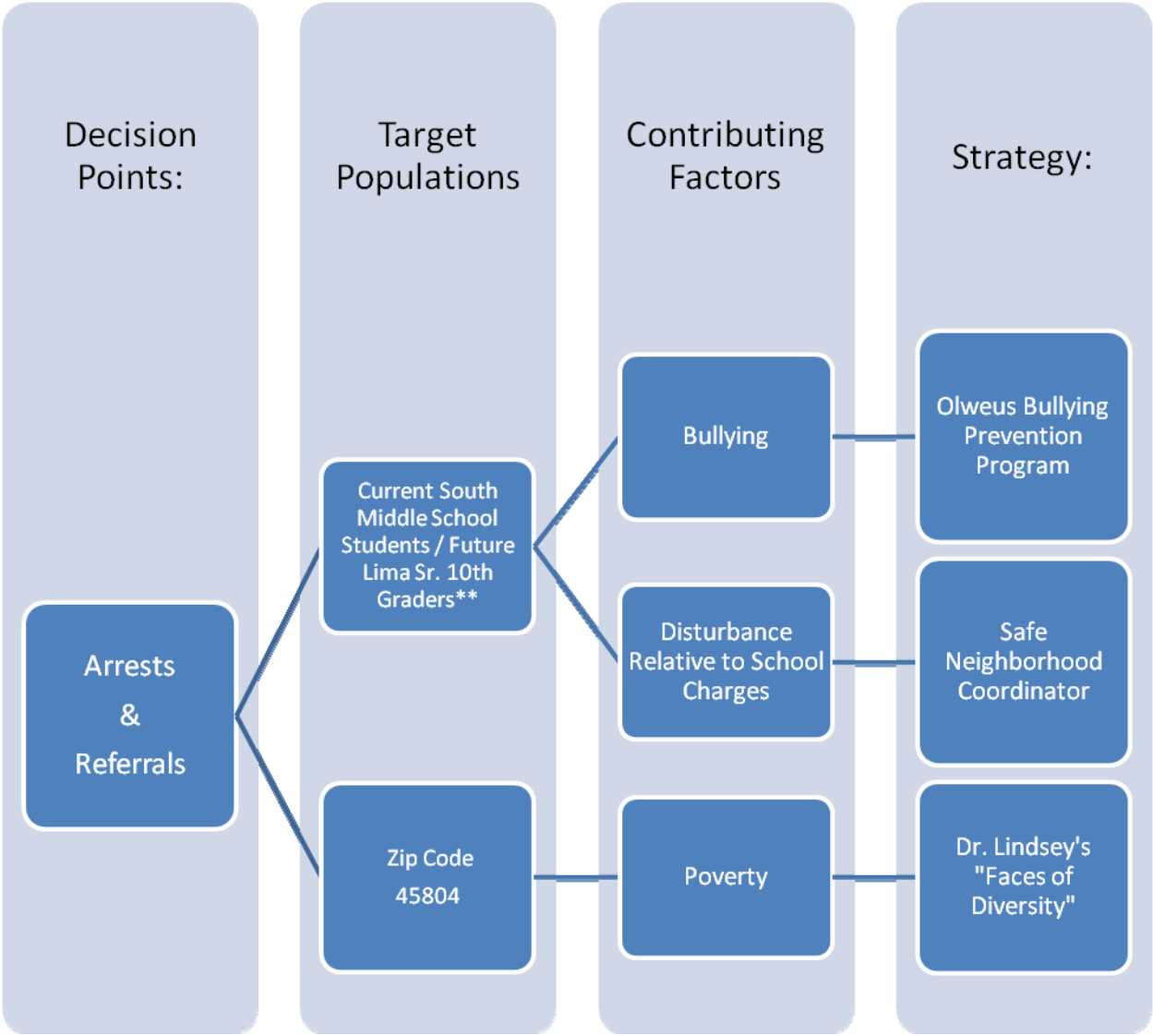
After initial analyses, the Allen County DMC Committee began to view school-related offenses as "Gateway offense." Thirteen of the sixteen minority youth DYS commitments had school-related offenses, which either initiated or continued, system involvement.

The level of charge that sent each youth to ODYS:

- F1 = 2 (Aggravated Arson; Rape)
- F2 = 6 (Felonious Assault - 3; Possession of Crack Cocaine; Attempted Rape - 2)
- F3 = 1 (Trafficking Cocaine)
- F4 = 4(Assault/Physical Harm; Carrying a Concealed Weapon; Burglary; Possession of Crack Cocaine)
- F5 = 3 (Vandalism of a Business Property - 2; Theft)

Nine youth had offenses of violence.

Logic Model



**The program recipients are South Middle School students but, the Committee expects to see a reduction in Disturbance Relative to School charges as those students become sophomores at Lima Senior High School.

Olweus Bullying Prevention Program Implementation

Olweus is a nationally recognized initiative targeted at elementary, middle school, and junior high students. Olweus is a prevention aimed at keeping problem behaviors from escalating. The committee felt that the implementation of a prevention that keeps youth out of the Juvenile Justice System all together would be the appropriate initial strategy for reducing Decision Points 1 and 2. The Olweus' goal is to make school a positive, safe environment.

The absence of Olweus at South Middle School potentially had several impacts but two key areas were identified: incidents at South Middle School and incidents at the high school level.

The committee expects that Olweus implementation at South Middle School will:

- Result in a reduction of Lima High School Disturbance Relative to School charges when the students that are 8th graders in 2008, enter the 10th grade.
- Decrease the number of "Fighting or Violence" offenses
- Decrease the number of "Disobedient or Disruptive Behavior" offenses
- Decrease the number of "Harassment or Intimidation" offenses
- Increase in communication between South Middle School teachers and students.

According to Olweus literature, one of the most noted changes is an increased communication between students and teachers. The specific mechanism for that communication is school-specific. This communication is intended to keep problematic behavior from escalating. The key is addressing incidents consistently. Faculty and staff are trained to be cognizant of signs of bullying and to be standardized in their response.

The two-day Olweus training culminates in the drafting of bully prevention guidelines, tailored to the particular school and students. These guidelines will provide consistency from classroom to classroom, and throughout the school as a whole.

UPDATE: The DMC Committee hired a Safe Neighborhood Coordinator to work closely with South Middle School for one year. The coordinator continues to provide program support.

UPDATE: Sixty-two South Middle School Olweus school faculty and staff members completed Olweus training on 11 & 14 August 2008. The formal guidelines were drafted and implemented.

Process Outcomes & Outputs

In Phase One, the Allen County DMC Committee:

- formed a strong foundation with representation from a broad spectrum of stakeholders.
- actively collected and reviewed data.
- identified and addressed a service gap at South Middle School.
- interviewed and hired one of the Safe Neighborhoods Coordinator candidates.
- committed to funding the Safe Neighborhoods Coordinator position for one year.
- helped draft the responsibilities for that coordinator position.
- presented a tuition-free, cultural diversity training on 13 March 2008. Dr. Michael Lindsey presented "Faces of Diversity" to 72 Allen County community members, leaders, and agency representatives.
- purchased Youth Crime Mapping Software for the Lima Police Department in April 2008. This computer software package allows the Police Department to look at crimes in a variety ways. Data can be analyzed by a specific geographic areas, school address, or specific crime. This software package will be extremely helpful in the coming months of continued data analysis.

Phase One training-related outputs and outcomes:

- At least two committee members attended each Institute.
- The independent evaluator attended 3 Institutes.

Phase One data-related outputs and outcomes:

- Case autopsies were completed for the 16 minority youth DYS commitments in 2007.
- Four focus groups were conducted at South Middle School on 9 & 12 May 2008.
- The South Middle School focus group debriefing was conducted 7 August 2008. The newly hired South Middle School Principal participated in the debriefing and immediately implemented some changes based on the data.
- South Middle School students did not complete the Olweus pretest. Therefore, focus group analyses became the sole conduit for the youth input for the Olweus training.
- Sixty-two South Middle School faculty and staff participated in Olweus training on 11 & 14 August 2008.
- The customized Olweus roles and responsibilities were drafted at the Olweus training.
- South Middle School implemented Olweus.
- South Middle School reported changes were implemented to address specific focus group findings such as an increased presence by teachers outside of the classroom.

Recommendations

Recommendation #1

Implement OLWEUS Bullying Prevention program at South Middle School.

Recommendation #2

Hire a City of Lima Safe Neighborhoods Coordinator, responsible for the coordination of anti-violence programming, including Olweus.

Recommendation #3

Conduct Olweus training for South Middle School teachers and staff.

Recommendation #4

Continue efforts to expand cultural awareness in Allen County.

Recommendation #5

Continue data collection and analysis. Possible foci are the emergent areas identified:

- Poverty issues
- The increased rate of female criminal involvement
- The increased severity of first offences

Recommendation #6

Continue case autopsies and look at family-related issues such as:

- Out-of-home placements or guardianship changes
- Parental cooperation and involvement in the justice system
- Sibling involvement in the juvenile justice system

Recommendation #7

Disposition Investigation Reports (DIR) should include more comprehensive school histories in order to track school-related patterns such as school transience.

Recommendation #8

Continue to seek out, and build, strong community partnerships and put together a comprehensive plan that provides universal, as well as targeted services for youth in the 45804 zip code.

Recommendation #9

Continue to assess the impact of poverty-related issues in Allen County, especially the 45804 zip code.

Recommendation #10

Continue efforts to maintain a minority presence at the table.

Linkages

Two Lima City Middle Schools lack the OLWEUS Bullying Prevention Program. It will be easiest to implement at South Middle School because there is considerable buy-in by the South Middle School administrators for the implementation of this program. This buy-in is top-down. The recently hired South Middle School Principal has been extremely engaged in the process.

According to focus group analyses, bullying and intimidation are two key issues at South Middle School. Some students specifically mentioned Olweus because of their positive experiences with that program at other schools they attended in the past.

Students indicated inconsistencies in how disruptive behaviors are handled by the school. The establishment of Olweus' customized, school-wide guidelines should help to combat these inconsistencies at South Middle School.

Data indicate that many school-related offenses at the high school level, such as Disturbances Relative to School, come from former South Middle School students once they enter high school. The implementation of anti-violence programming is expected to reduce the number of school-related charges.

Olweus is a universal program meaning that every student at South Middle School is eligible to participate. The expectation is that Olweus' implementation will benefit all South Middle School students. The Allen County DMC Committee began with the implementation of a universal program at South Middle School and plans to augment this with targeted-programming in Phase Two of the DMC reduction strategy.

Objectives and Expected Outcomes

Objective #1

Conduct South Middle School OLWEUS training.

Objective #2

Observe a decrease in disturbances relative to school when the students that are 8th graders in 2008-2009, become sophomores.

Objective# 3

Observe a decrease in the number of disciplinary infractions related to "Fighting or Violence" at South MS on the Lima City Schools Discipline Infractions Summary Data Sheets.

Objective #4

Observe a decrease in disciplinary infractions related to "Harassment and Intimidation" at South M. S. on the Lima City Schools Discipline Infractions Summary Data Sheets.

Objective# 5

Observe a decrease in the number of disciplinary infractions related to "Fighting or Violence" at South M. S. on the Lima City Schools Discipline Infractions Summary Data Sheets.

Objective #6

The Safe Neighborhoods Coordinator will monitor the progress of the OLWEUS program at South Middle School.

Objective #7

Observe an increase in communication between South M. S. teachers and students.

Objective #8

Provide services for South M. S. youth before they enter the Juvenile Justice system. Provide referrals to other services for youth that enter the Juvenile Justice system.

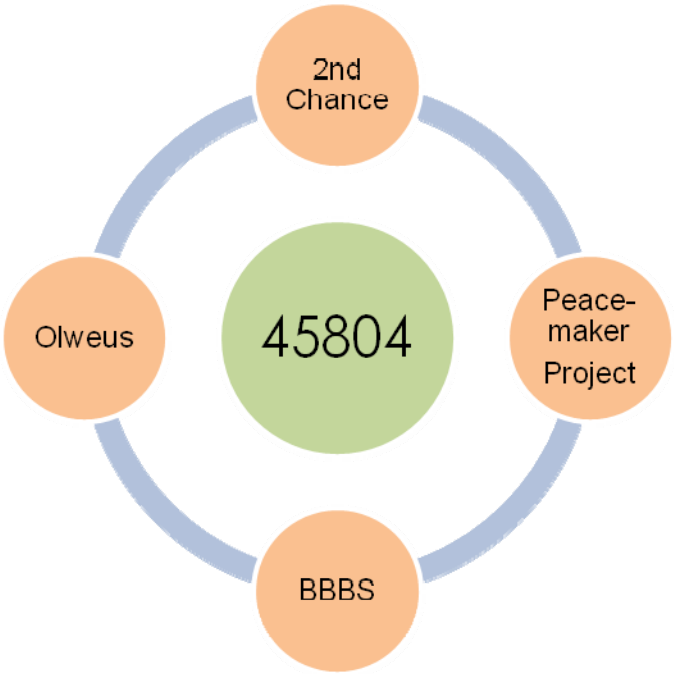
Implementation Resources Needed

In Phase One, monies from this grant funded:

- South Middle School's Olweus training materials
- Olweus implementation at South Middle School
- The Safe Neighborhood Grant Coordinator position for a period of one year
- Dr. Lindsey's Faces of Diversity training

Next Step – A Comprehensive Plan & Title II Applicants

The Allen County DMC Committee worked with four community agencies that applied for Title II funds. This comprehensive plan will provide:

- Mentors for minority youth at South Middle School – Big Brothers Big Sisters
- 2nd Chance Behavioral Intervention Team at South M. S. – Crossroads Crisis Center
- Olweus Bullying Prevention training at Freedom Elementary – Partnerships for Violence-Free Families (PVFF)
- Peace Makers curriculum at Lima Senior High School - Lima Urban Minority Alcohol and Drug Abuse Outreach Program (UMADAOP)

This programming is targeted at reducing DMC in 45804 zip code and would look like the following graphic.