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CHICAGO

Crime lab

Priorities for a Public Health Research Agenda to
Reduce the Threat of Firearm-Related Violence

IOM Workshop
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Roseanna Ander, Executive Director

Priority Research Topics

1. Firearm Access by High Risk Possessors
(descriptive/mixed methods research)
2. Illegal/Socially Undesirable Gun Carrying
(descriptive/mixed methods)
3. Evaluations of Municipal Level Interventions
and Strategies (RCTS/RD)



1. Firearm Access by High Risk Possessors

- Firearms are not like drugs—for the most part criminals don't make or grow their own guns
- Almost all crime guns start in the legal market
- We know almost nothing about the pathway from FFL to criminals
- Methodologies: Surveys, Ethnographic Research, Administrative Data Analysis



2. Illegal/Socially Undesirable Gun Carrying

- Illegal gun carrying in public: proximate cause of the majority of US urban homicides
- “Stop & Frisk” is hugely socially costly
- What influences decisions to carry/not carry?
- Methodologies: Surveys, Ethnographic, Administrative Data Analysis; Behavioral Econ/Information Experiments



3. Municipal Level Intervention Experiments

- Municipalities are constantly innovating, trying new strategies (law enforcement, education, social service, education, etc)
- No shortage of good ideas but a huge dearth of good evidence
- Methodologies: RCTs, RD designs, etc

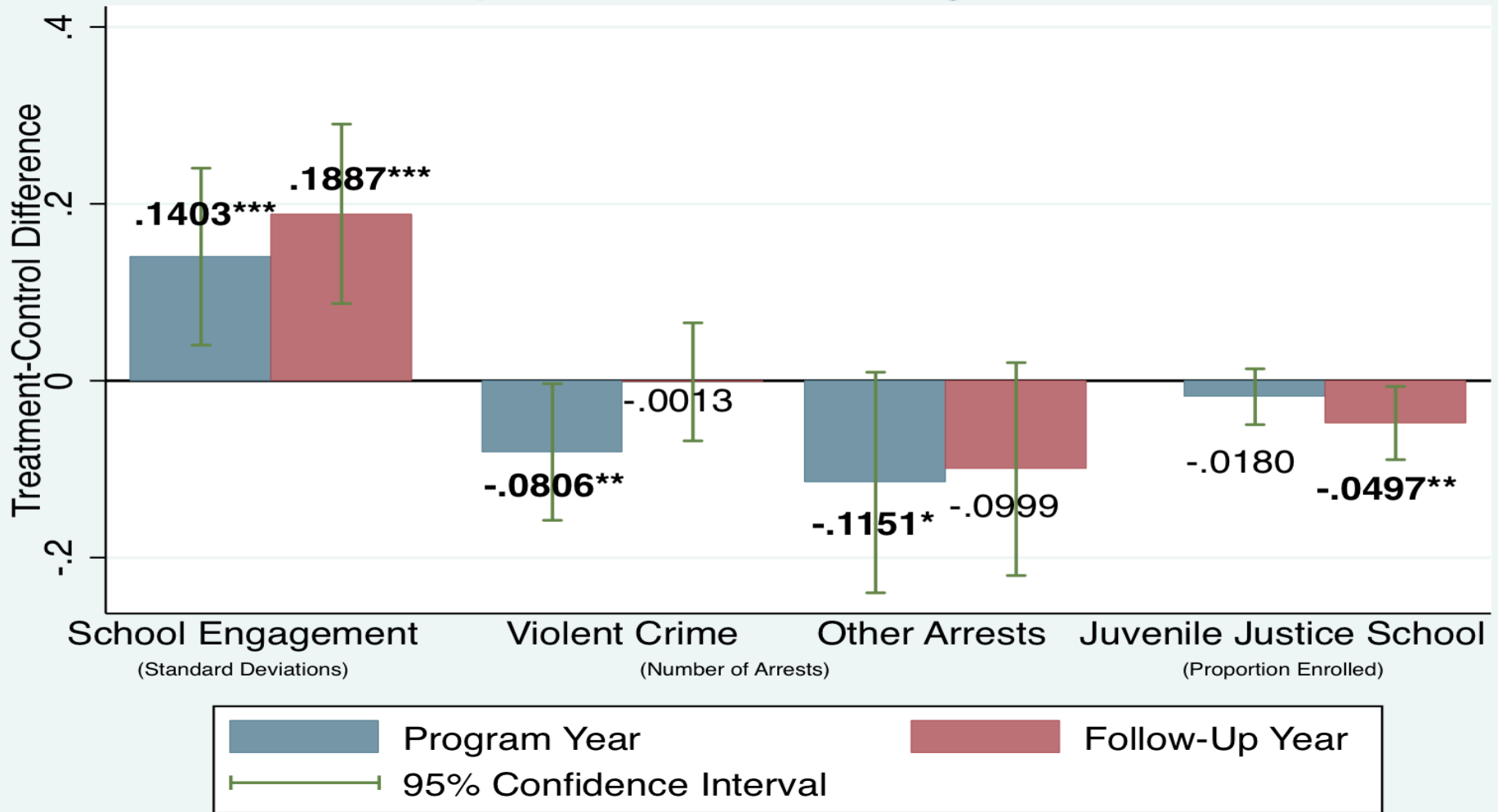


Becoming a Man (B.A.M.) – Sports Edition

- Youth gun violence is very **impulsive**
 - Chicago PD: Nearly two-thirds of all homicides stem from altercation
 - Low impulse control, limited conflict resolution skills, myopic decision making
 - Children vary in chances to learn these skills (ex: harsh, inconsistent parenting)
 - Growing body of research showing that these sorts of “non-academic” social-cognitive skills predictive of range of life outcomes (schooling, crime, earnings)
- “Becoming a Man” is the application of CBT, mentoring, and positive youth development targeted at urban adolescent males
 - Implemented in 2009-10 academic year, with 2,740 male 7th–10th graders in 16 CPS schools randomly assigned to treatment or control conditions
- During the intervention, with an average of only 13 “contact hours” per participant, initial findings show the program:
 - Increases school engagement by around 7-8%--a critical outcome for long-term crime prevention.
 - Reduces violent-crime arrests of participants by around 40% during program year



Effects of Participation in Social-Cognitive Skill Intervention



Results like this get noticed (Hyde Park Academy February 15)



“Of all tasks of government the most basic is to protect its citizens against violence”

John Foster Dulles
Sec State 1953-59



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