

# Police-Community Interaction: Observations from Field Research

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# Police Community Interaction

Offer observations from two long-term research projects

- Police-Community Interaction Project (PCIP)
- Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN)

# Police-Community Interaction Project (PCIP)

- Goal – Build measures of police-community interaction
- Multiple sources data (theoretical review, case studies, observations, interviews, surveys)

Duffee, Renauer, Scott, Chermak and McGarrell

“Our research suggests that sustainable, safe communities are characterized by *community members who can work together effectively, and have the abilities to develop and sustain strong relationships, solve problems, and collaborate effectively to identify goals and get work done.*” (Duffee et al. 2006:23-24)

# Five Key Community Building Processes

- Steps to improve neighborhood space
- Steps to identify with neighborhoods
- Steps to encourage resident efforts
- Steps for resident participation
- Steps for coordinating organizations

# Five Key Community Building Processes

## Three Central Points

- 1) These processes relate to community problem solving capacity
- 2) These processes are observed in police-community interaction
- 3) Interactions can be measured

# Project Safe Neighborhoods and Police-Community Interaction

- National program intended to reduce gun, gang and drug-related violence
  - Task forces created in all 94 U.S. Attorney's Offices
  - Encouraged to form community partnerships
- = Opportunity to view police-community interaction (issues, roles, recommendations)

# Police-Community Interaction: Issues/Challenges

- Common focus
  - Long-term/macro vs. short-term/proximate
- Past grievances
- Language
- Trust



# Police-Community Interaction: Issues/Challenges

- Fear
- Timing/sequencing

# Valuable Roles Community Can Play in Violence Prevention/Reduction

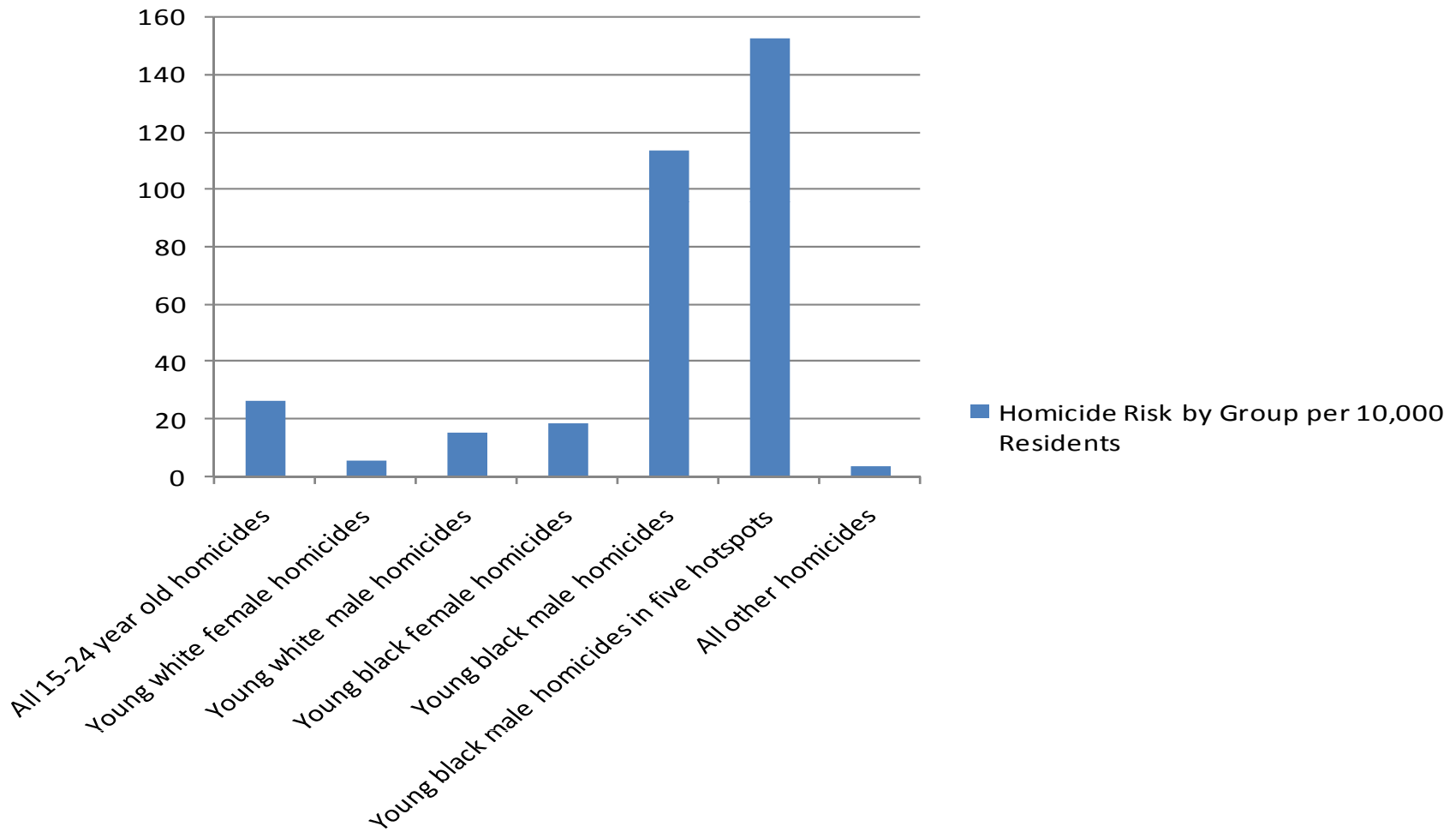
- Moral voice
- Visible partners
- Mentoring
- Linkage to resources
- Willingness to call, serve as witness, tips (identify hot drug houses, ongoing disputes)
- Address blight, disorder, problem properties
- Community activism (pressure on city services, judges)

# Recommendations

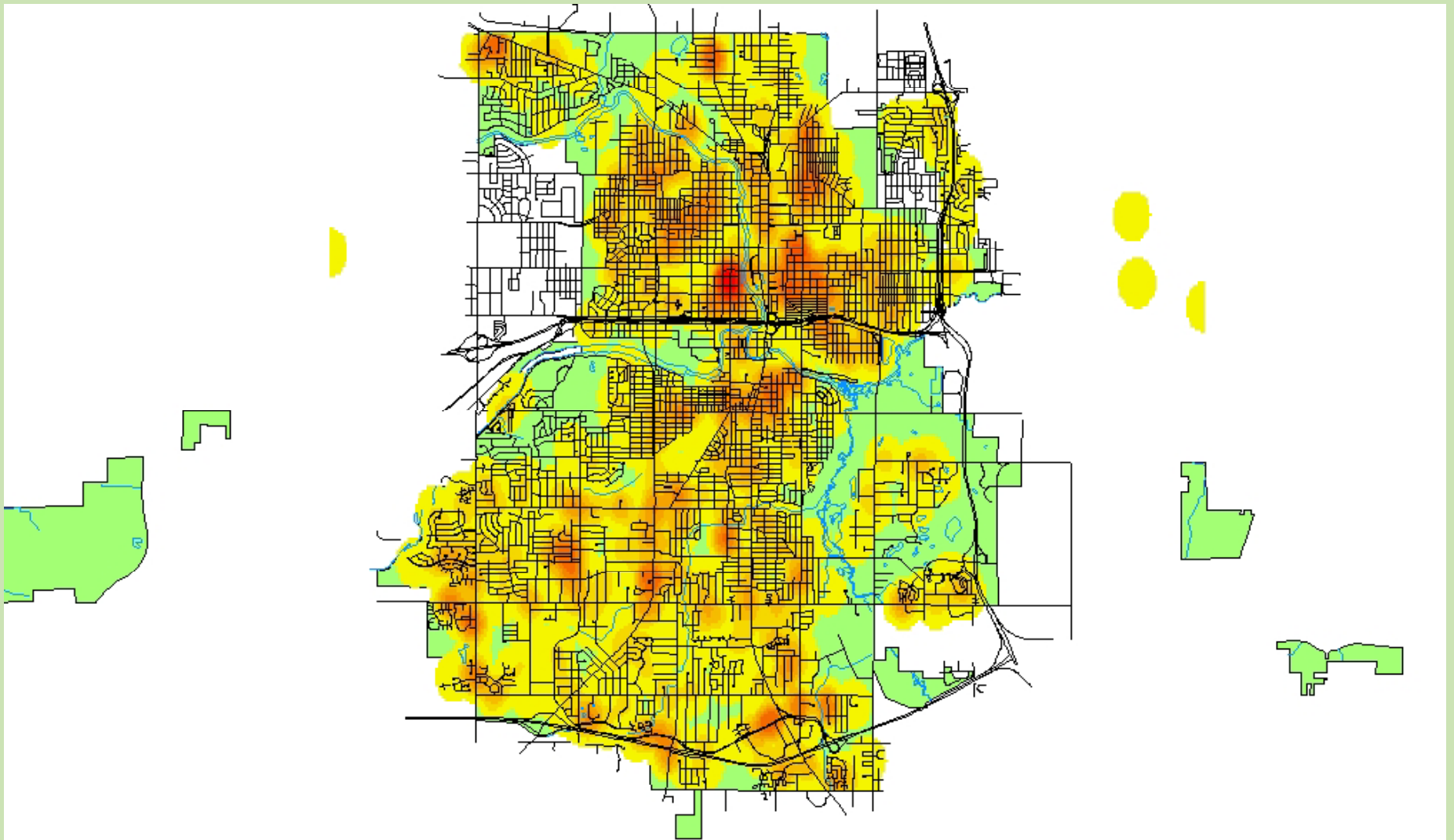
- Use of data

# Indianapolis Homicide Risk

## Homicide Risk by Group per 10,000 Residents



# Violent Crimes Hotspot Map



# Recommendations

- Use of data
- Common understanding
- Translators
- Identify true community leaders

# Conclusion

- Police-community interaction important (information, resources, legitimacy)
- There are lessons to be learned that can inform:
  - police training
  - safety co-production activities