

ASSESSMENT OF YOUTH GANG DATA COLLECTION IN PENNSYLVANIA: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF CURRENT DATA SYSTEMS [627]

Michelle L. Gwinn, Safe Schools Coordinator ^a
Barbara A. Sims, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Criminal Justice, Coordinator, Criminal Justice Programs ^b

^a Center for Safe Schools, Camp Hill, PA

^b Penn State University, Middletown, PA

Session Plan

Workshop Summary

The purpose of this presentation is to provide conference attendees with an overview of data collection efforts by the Pennsylvania Center for Schools and Communities in collaboration with researchers from Penn State Harrisburg’s Criminal Justice Program. The project utilized funds from a Hamilton Fish Institute grant, the purpose of which was to query four different populations about (1) their perceptions of gang-related activities within local schools; and (2) any data collection and/or monitoring tool that they might use in order to systematically manage this type of information. The four populations included in the study were local police departments, school districts, juvenile probation departments, and directors of secure juvenile holding facilities. This workshop will provide attendees with more general information about how to go about this type of data collection effort and more specific information about the overall findings from the data collection effort. It will also discuss the implications of the study for the Center for Safe Schools, the larger community, and for the existing literature on the subject of gangs in schools.

Workshop Goals

Attendees will be presented with information about how a collaborative effort among key stakeholders can better illuminate how school-based gang activities are perceived across local communities within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Further, key findings from the data collection effort will reveal (albeit from a somewhat objective vantage point) the extent and nature of gang-related problems in local schools and steps taken (or not taken, as the case may be) to address these problems.

Workshop Objectives

1. To present an overview of the project
2. To summarize the methodology related to the data collection process
3. To discuss the major findings from the data collection process
4. To discuss implications of the findings
5. To provide attendees with an opportunity to ask questions of the presenters

Workshop Activities

1. Presentation of the overall study, complete with statement of purpose, methodology, major findings, and study’s findings

2. Q&A and discussion among presenters and attendees

Assessment

Attendees will be given an opportunity to evaluate the presentation as to how clear the presenters were in the sharing of information, whether the presenters demonstrated adequate knowledge of the overall subject matter, how the presentation was organized, how useful they think the information will be for them and their agency or organization, whether the handouts provided were helpful, and whether their questions were appropriately and sufficiently addressed.

The Center for Safe Schools

Evaluation Form

Presenters: Michelle Gwinn and Barbara Sims

Please rate the overall presentation along the following dimensions. Circle the number that BEST represents your agreement or disagreement with each statement.

	Strongly Agree		Somewhat Agree		Strongly Agree
I was satisfied with the presentation.	1	2	3	4	5
I found the presentation useful to my work.	1	2	3	4	5
The presenter had adequate knowledge of the topics covered.	1	2	3	4	5
The presentation was clear and understandable.	1	2	3	4	5
The presentation was well organized.	1	2	3	4	5
My questions were adequately answered.	1	2	3	4	5
The handouts were helpful.	1	2	3	4	5

Comments:

This page is blank.