



# Gangs & Public Safety

# Key Themes

**I. Defining Gangs**

**II. Gang Prevalence**

**III. Programs & Statewide Implementation**

# Defining Gangs

# What is a “gang”?

- 35 states refer to a gang as an “organization, association, or group”
- 33 states require three or more individuals that commit crime together
- 26 states include a common name, identifying sign, or symbol as identifiers of gangs in their definitions.

# Gang Prevalence

# Myths Regarding Gang Prevalence

- Two key myths regarding prevalence of large national gangs:
  1. Gang migration across the US in the 1980s
  2. MS-13 is well-organized

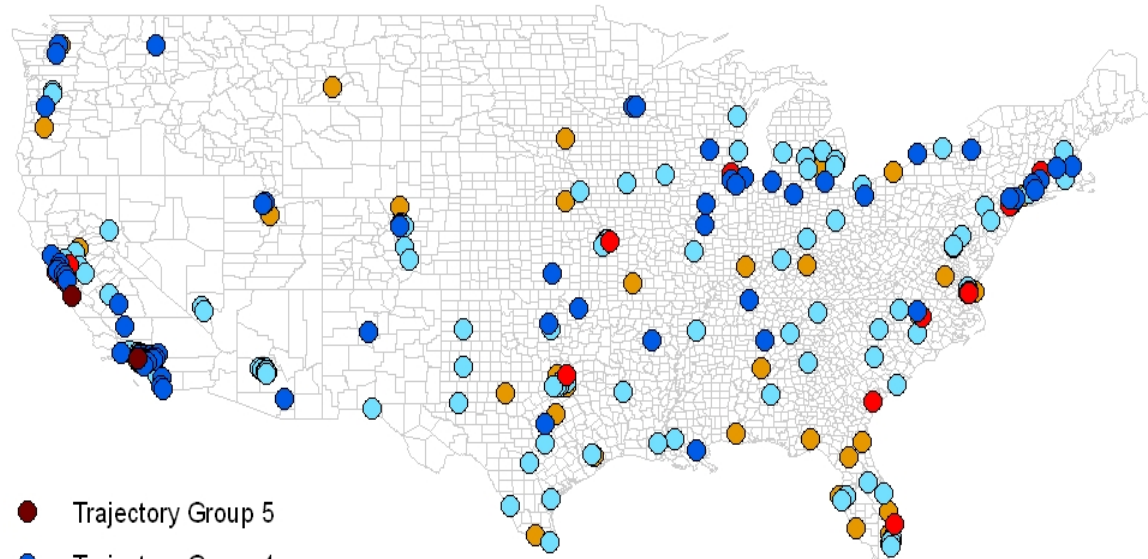
Source: Duane A. Leet, George Rush, & Anthony M. Smith, *Gangs, Graffiti, & Violence*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. Wadsworth, 2000.



7. Crips and Bloods street gang drug trafficking network

# Prevalence of Gang Violence in America

Spatial Distribution of Trajectory Analysis for Gang-Related Homicide in Large Cities (1996-2009)

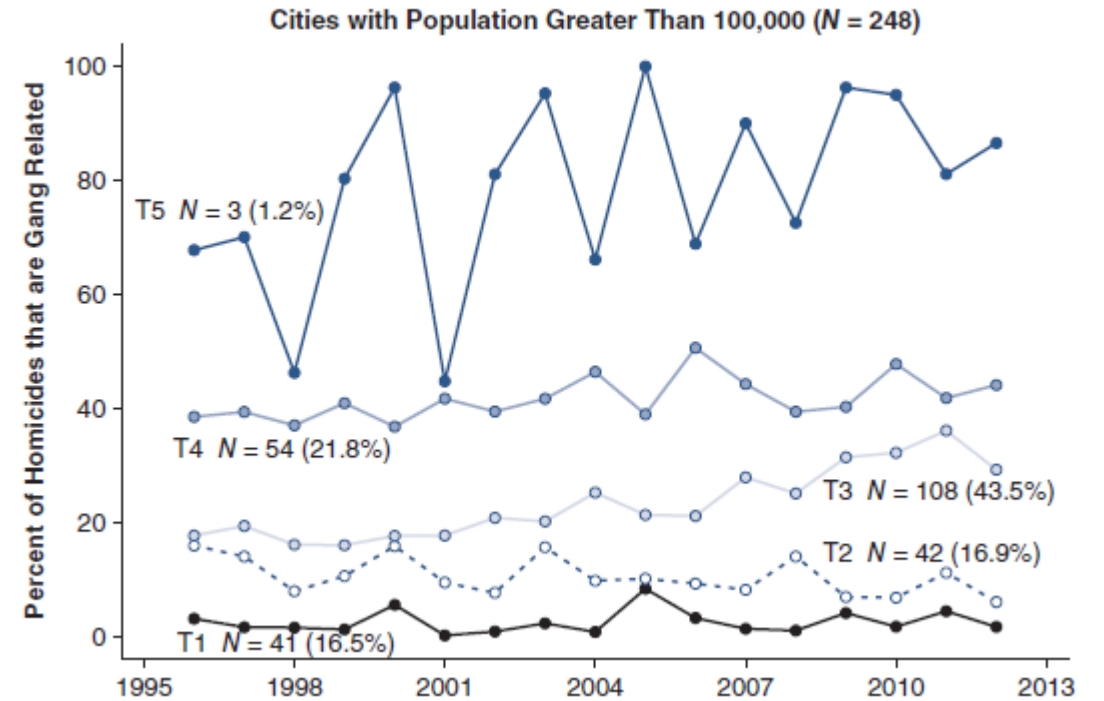


- Trajectory Group 5
- Trajectory Group 4
- Trajectory Group 3
- Trajectory Group 2
- Trajectory Group 1

US\_County

U.S. Map of all Traj. Groups.jpg (1008 x 819)

Trajectory Model: Percentage of Gang-Related Homicides, Populations Greater Than 100,000



# Programs & Statewide Implementation

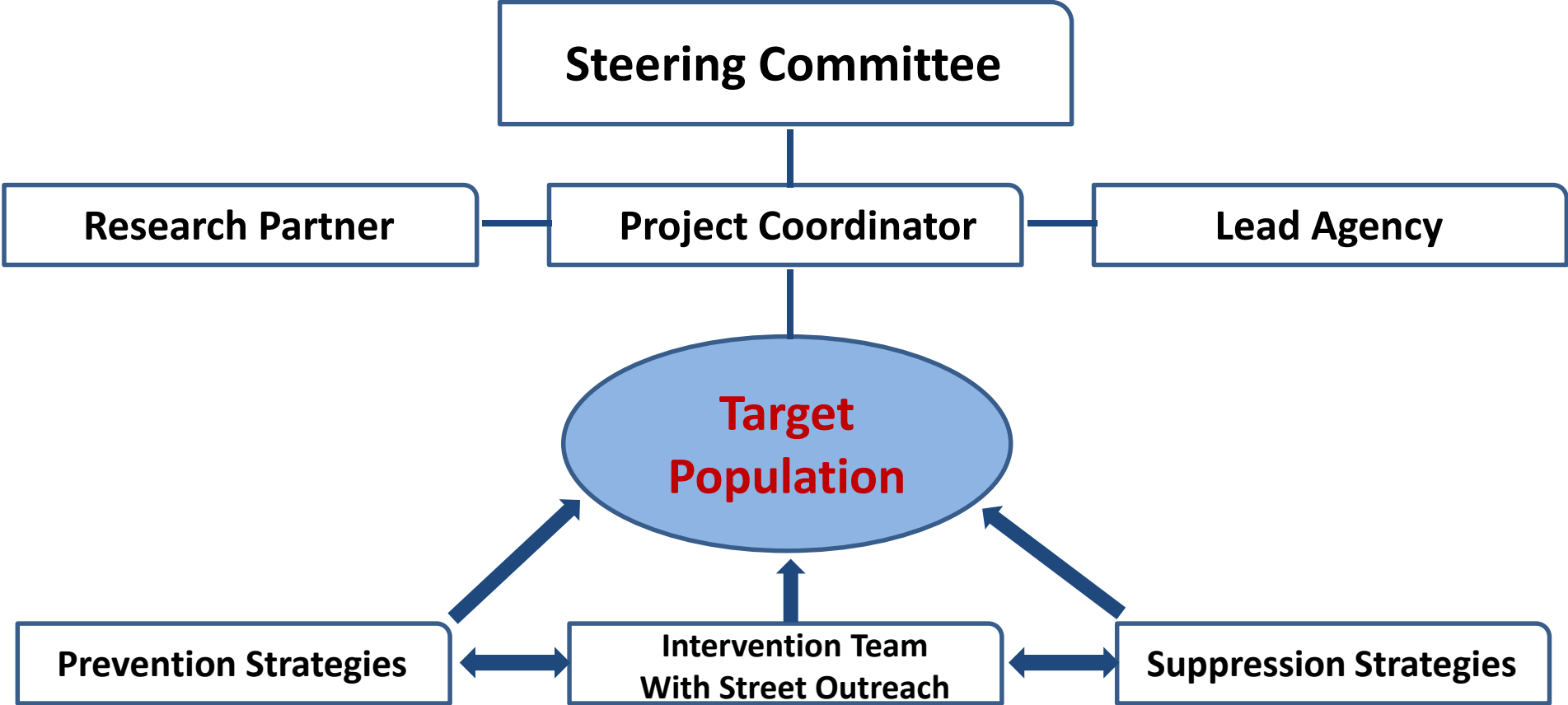


# Potential Statewide Approaches & Programs

- Approaches
  - Comprehensive Gang Program
  - Group Violence Intervention
  - Cure Violence
- Programs
  - Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.)

# A Comprehensive Gang Program Model

## Administrative Structure



# Comprehensive State-wide Program: Massachusetts

- Shannon Community Safety Initiative (CSI)
  - Administered by Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
- Applies the five core strategies of gang control provided in the Comprehensive Gang Model
  1. Social Intervention
  2. Suppression
  3. Opportunity Provision
  4. Organizational Change
  5. Community Mobilization