



# Smart Policing in Los Angeles: Operation LASER

Newton Division, LAPD

Justice & Security Strategies, Inc. (JSS)

April 16, 2013

This project was supported by Grant No. 2009-DG-BX-K021 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Office for Victims of Crime. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

# Overview

- Background
- Crime Intelligence Detail (CID)
- Offender-Based Strategy
- Location-Based Strategy
- Implementation
- Evaluation by JSS
- Results

# Operation LASER

- Los Angeles' Strategic Extraction and Restoration Program (LASER)
  - LASER is funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, US Dept. of Justice through the Smart Policing Initiative (SPI)
  - The purpose of LASER is to reduce gun-and gang-related crime in Newton Division (one of 21 Divisions in the LAPD)
  - LASER is focused on:
    - Chronic offenders
    - Chronic locations

# The Crime Intelligence Detail (CID)

- Two police officers and a Crime Analyst
- CID gathers intelligence daily from
  - Patrol (Watch 2, Watch 5 and Watch 3)
  - Bicycle Unit
  - Parole Compliance Unit at Newton Division
- CID focuses on Robberies, Weapons Violations, and Aggravated Assaults related to gun and gang violence
- CID creates “Chronic Offender Bulletins”

# Implementation: CID Selection Process

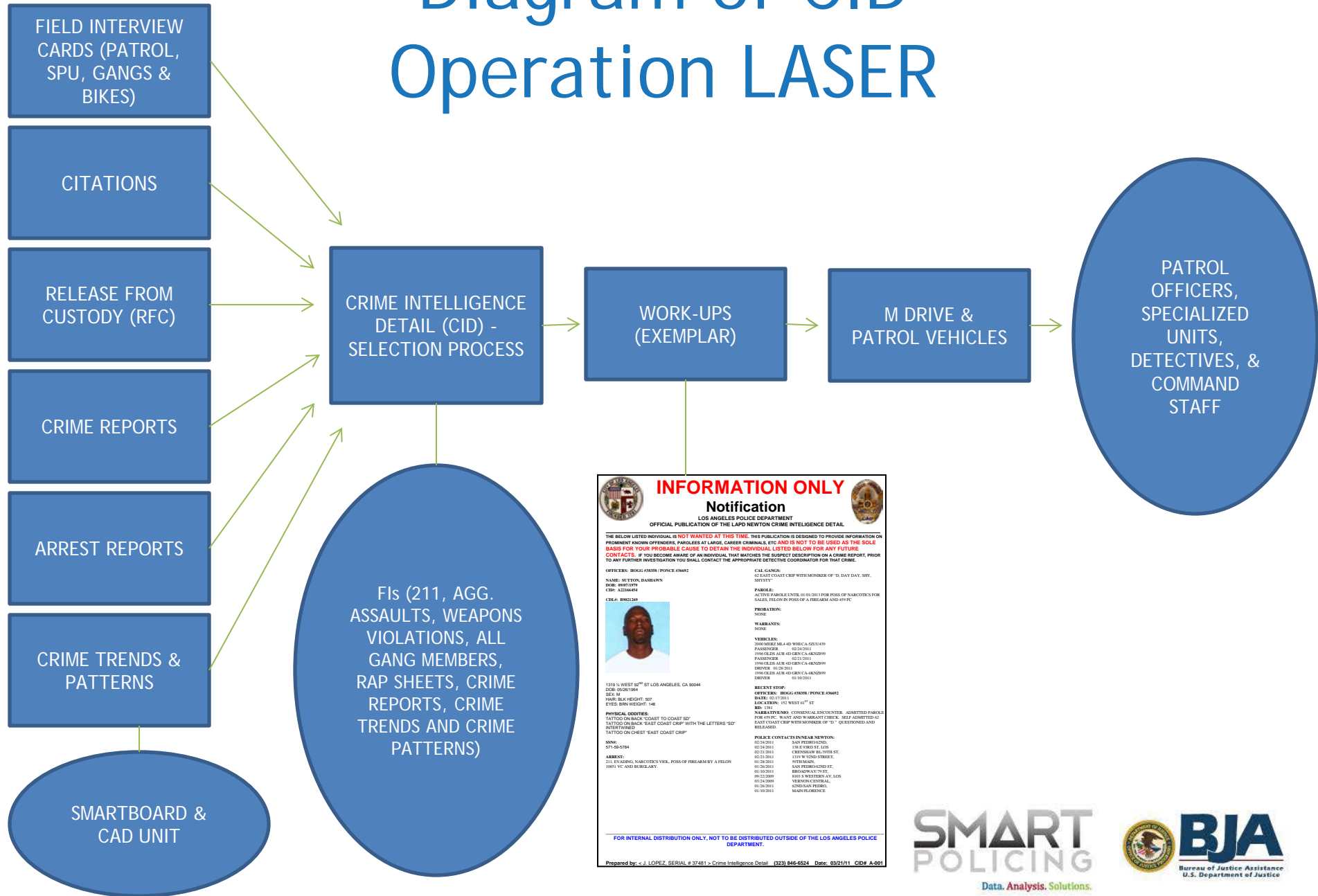
- CID reviews:
  - Field Identification Cards (FIs)
  - Traffic Citations
  - Release From Custody Forms (RFCs)
  - Crime and Arrest Reports
  - Criminal Histories
  - CID selects the appropriate individuals based on pre-determined criteria:
    - Robberies, Weapons Violations, and Aggravated Assaults related to gun and gang violence

# Chronic Offender Bulletins

- Physical descriptors
- Physical oddities
- Gang affiliation
- Prior crimes committed
- Parole or Probation Status
- Vehicles
- Frequented areas
- Contact with law enforcement



# Diagram of CID Operation LASER



**INFORMATION ONLY Notification**  
 LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT  
 OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE LAPD NEWTON CRIME INTELLIGENCE DETAIL

THE BELOW LISTED INDIVIDUAL IS **NOT WANTED AT THIS TIME**. THIS PUBLICATION IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON PROMINENT KNOWN OFFENDERS, PAROLEES AT LARGE, CAREER CRIMINALS, ETC AND IS **NOT TO BE USED AS THE SOLE BASIS FOR YOUR PROBABLE CAUSE TO DETAIN THE INDIVIDUAL LISTED BELOW FOR ANY FUTURE CONTACTS**. IF YOU BECOME AWARE OF AN INDIVIDUAL THAT MATCHES THE SUSPECT DESCRIPTION ON A CRIME REPORT, PRIOR TO ANY FURTHER INVESTIGATION YOU SHALL CONTACT THE APPROPRIATE DETECTIVE COORDINATOR FOR THAT CRIME.

CRIME#: BRIG-00561 PRISON #0482

NAME: RUTSON, DANAWYN  
 DOB: 09/07/79  
 CRIP: 4234444  
 CCL#: BR021208

CAL #048: 42 EAST COAST CRIP WITH MEMBER OF "D, DAY, DAY, SHY, SILENT"

PAROLE: ACTIVE PAROLE INTX 01/01/2011 FOR POSS OF NARCOTICS FOR SALES, PELOU IN POSS OF A FIREARM AND 99 PC

PROBATION: NONE

WARRANTS: NONE

VEHICLES:  
 2006 BUICK REGAL 4D W/BI C.A. 62U419  
 FOLIO#: 88 02/20/11  
 1996 OLDSMOBILE AUR 4D GEN CA-68C2099  
 FOLIO#: 88 02/20/11  
 1996 OLDSMOBILE AUR 4D GEN CA-68C2099  
 DRIVE#: 86102011  
 1996 OLDSMOBILE AUR 4D GEN CA-68C2099  
 DRIVE#: 86102011

RECENT INFO:  
 OFFENSE: BRIG-00561 PRISON #0482  
 DATE: 02/17/2011  
 LOCATION: 42 WEST 44TH ST  
 RR: 101

PHYSICAL FEATURES: CONSENSUAL ENCOUNTER, ADMITTED PAROLE FOR 499 PC, WANT AND WARRANT CHECK, HELP ADMITTED TO EAST COAST CRIP WITH MEMBER OF "D" QUESTION AND INTERVIEWED

TATTOO ON CHEST "EAST COAST CRIP"

1210 W. WEST 52ND ST LOS ANGELES, CA 90044  
 DOB: 09/07/1979  
 SEX: M  
 HAIR: BLK HEIGHT: 5'07"  
 EYES: BRN HEIGHT: 168

PHYSICAL FEATURES:  
 TATTOO ON BACK "COAST TO COAST 52"  
 TATTOO ON BACK "EAST COAST CRIP" WITH THE LETTERS "52"  
 TATTOO ON CHEST "EAST COAST CRIP"

SEX: M  
 HT: 5'07"  
 HAIR: BRN  
 EYES: BRN  
 ADDRESS:  
 211 EVADING, NARCOTICS VEH. POSS OF FIREARM BY A FELON  
 8801 W. AND BIRMGHAM AVE

RECENT CONTACTS/INVESTIGATION:  
 02/24/2011 SAN PEBAYO, CA  
 02/25/2011 LOS ANGELES, CA  
 02/26/2011 CHENOWETH BL, 37701 ST  
 02/27/2011 1210 W 52ND STREET  
 01/26/2011 SYTILMAN, CA  
 01/26/2011 SAN PEBAYO, CA  
 01/26/2011 BERKMAN AVE, CA  
 01/22/2009 8801 S WESTERN AV, LOS  
 01/22/2009 YERKOV CENTRAL  
 01/26/2011 42ND ST, SAN PEBAYO, CA  
 01/26/2011 MANLY, CA

FOR INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION ONLY, NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE OF THE LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

Prepared by: a J LOPEZ, SERIAL # 37481 - Crime Intelligence Detail (323) 846-6524 Date: 03/21/11 CID# A.001



# Chronic Offenders

- 125 Chronic Offenders identified and rank-ordered from August 2011 to January 2012
  - 87 of the 124 (69.6%) have been arrested at least once from Aug 2011 to June 2012
  - 88 offenders scored 15 points or higher - 60 (68.1%) arrested
  - 37 offenders scored 0-15 points - 27 (72.9%) arrested
- New list created in May 2012 - 65 new offenders
  - 25 (38.5%) arrested
- Of 189 total offenders, 112 arrested at least once (59%)



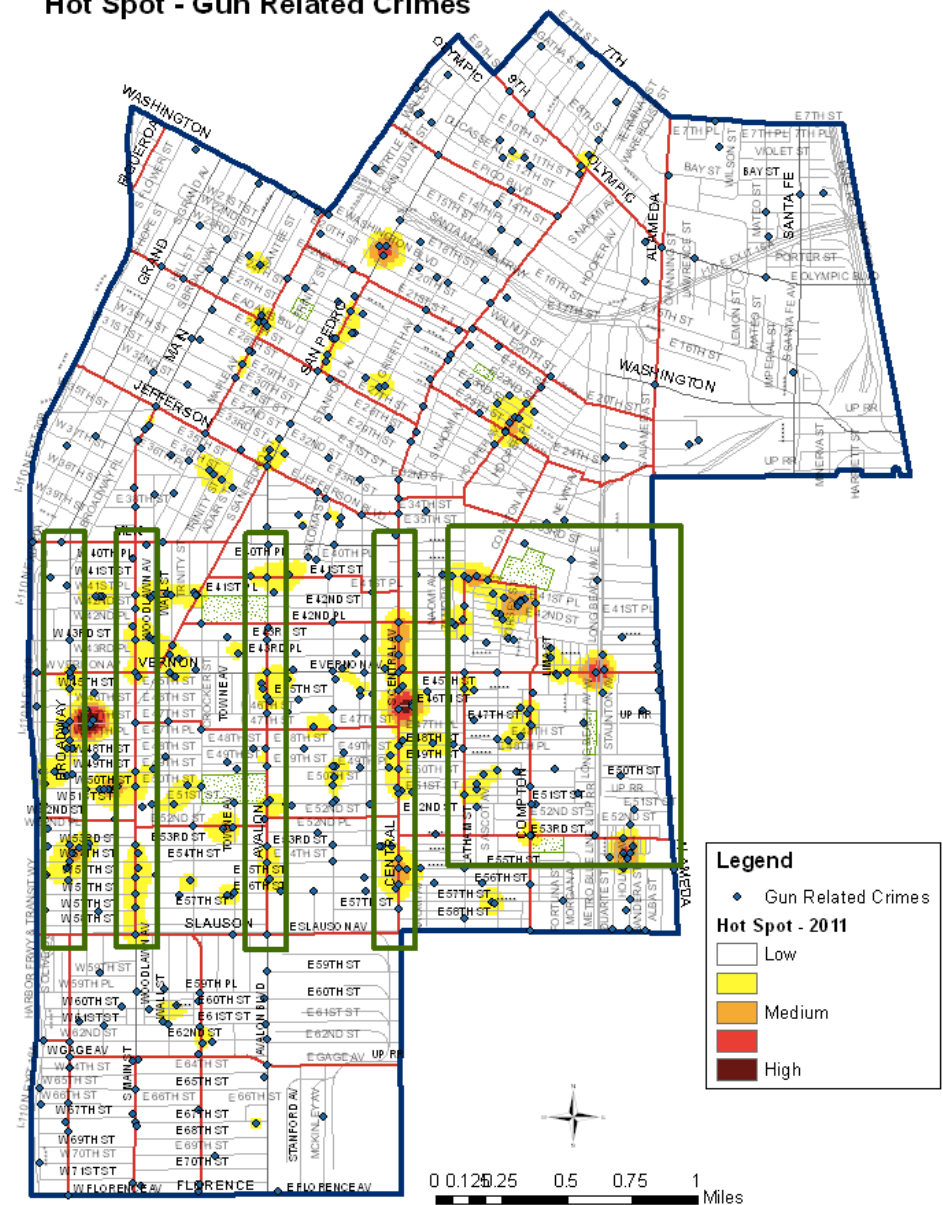
# LASER: Location-based Efforts

- Where are the chronic locations?

# Newton Division

- Gun-related crimes, 2006-2011
- Five hotspot corridors (in green)

Newton Area - 2011  
Gun Related Crimes  
Hot Spot - Gun Related Crimes



# Interventions: Locations

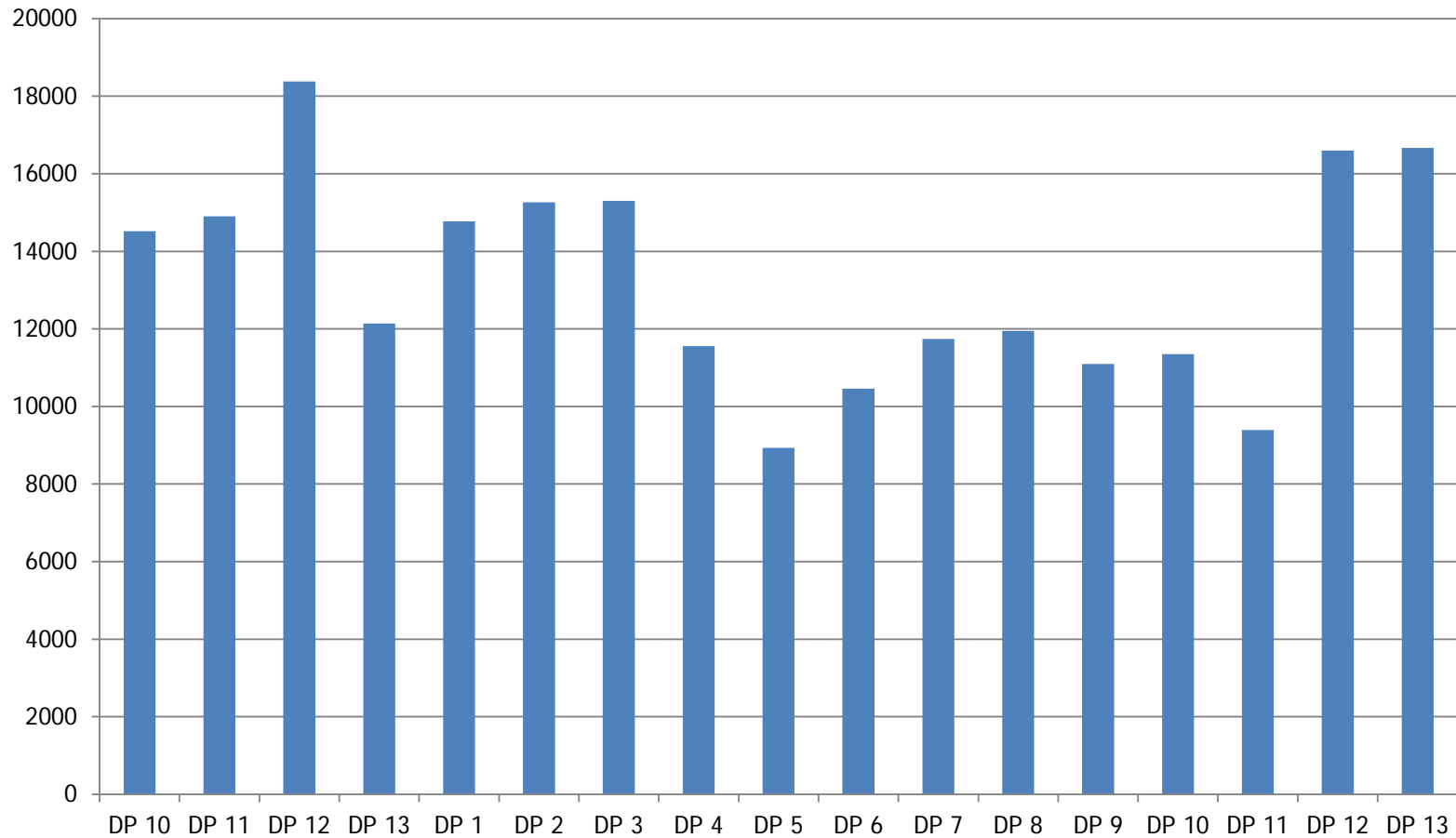
- Weekly Missions in Hotspot Corridors
- Use Existing Resources:
  - Patrol Units (watches 2, 3 and 5)
  - Bikes
  - Foot Patrol
  - Parole Compliance Unit
  - HIDE

# Measures

- Dosage = Extra minutes/month in hot spot corridors
- Crime Count by Deployment Period (DP) and by month
  - Gun-Related Crime (Part 1 and 2 incidents with a gun) since 2006
  - All Part 1 Crimes - Violent and Property since 2006

# Measures: Dosage

## TOTAL MINUTES IN NEWTON CORRIDORS



# Dosage In Newton Division Corridors

- On average, patrol, bikes, foot, and PCU spent 13,326 extra minutes per DP in the hot spot corridors
- Range: low of 8,935 (DP 5 in 2012) to high of 18,380 (DP 12 in 2011)
- 13,326 extra minutes equates to 222 extra hours per DP or 55.5 extra hours per week
- 7.9 hours extra time per day in the five corridors

# Interrupted Time-Series Design

- One of the most powerful quasi-experimental designs
- Compare pre-existing trend before the intervention to the trend during and after the intervention
  - Change in level
  - Change in trend

# Time Series Analysis for Newton Division

- Examined...
  - Gun-Related Crime
    - Crime incidents (Part I and II) with a firearm
    - Includes: Homicides, Robberies, Aggravated Assaults, Drive-by shootings, Misdemeanors with weapons (drugs, vandalism, etc.)
  - All Part 1 Crimes
- Data from January 1, 2006 to June 30, 2012 (78 month period) and 1/1/06 to 12/31/2012 (88 months)
- Intervention began September 2011
  - Arrests of chronic offenders started in August 2011, but increased patrol of corridors began September 2011
  - 10 post-intervention time periods



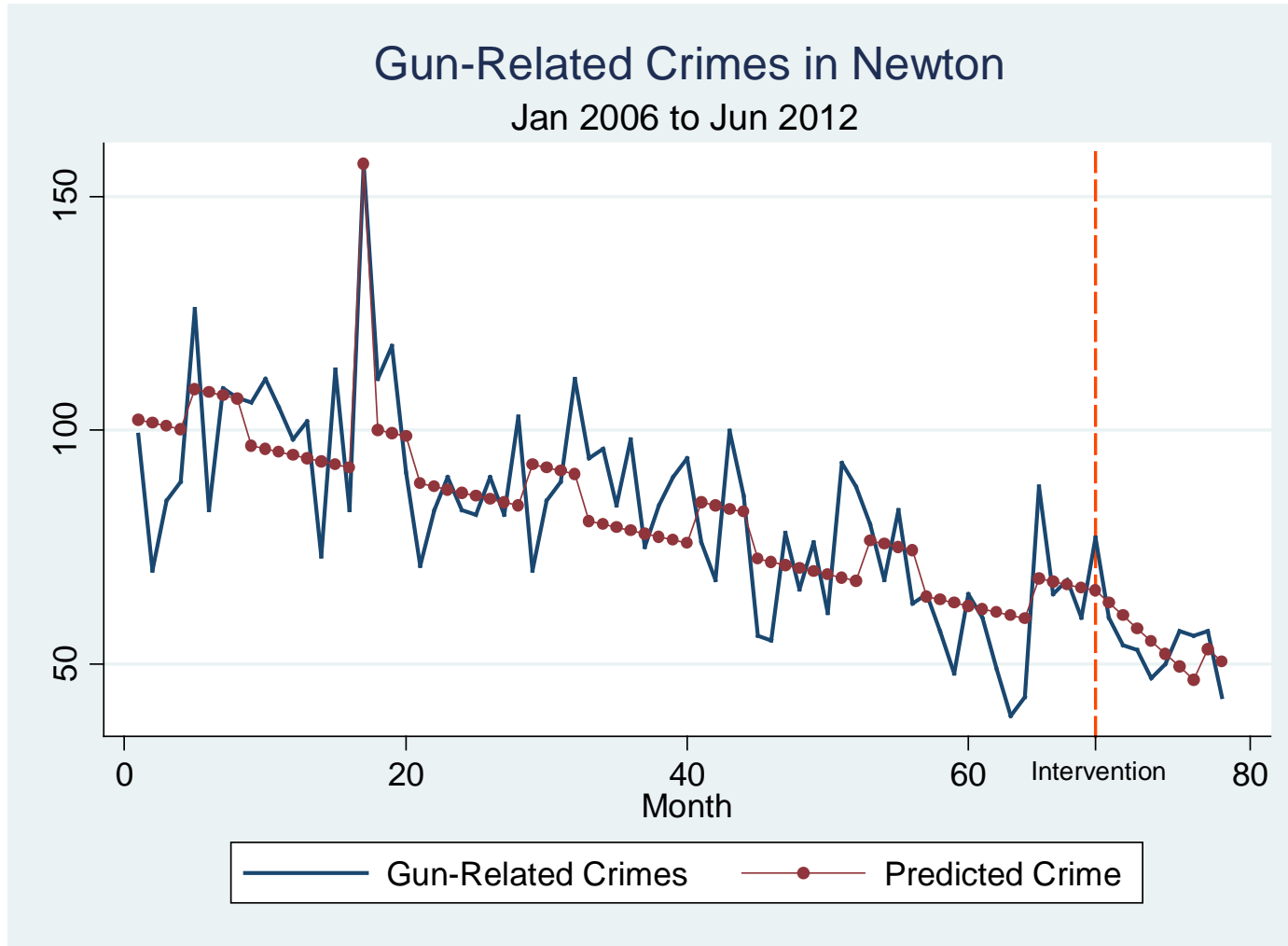
# Time Series: Results

- From January 2006 to June 2012
- Results indicate that Operation LASER is having **significant and tangible reductions** in:
  - Gun-related crime (Part 1 and 2)
  - Homicides
  - Robberies
  - Violent Crime (Part 1)

# Time Series: Bottom Line

- Results suggest that gun-related crime is falling nearly four times faster in Newton Division after LASER was implemented in Sept 2011
- Differences are statistically significant at the 0.10 level

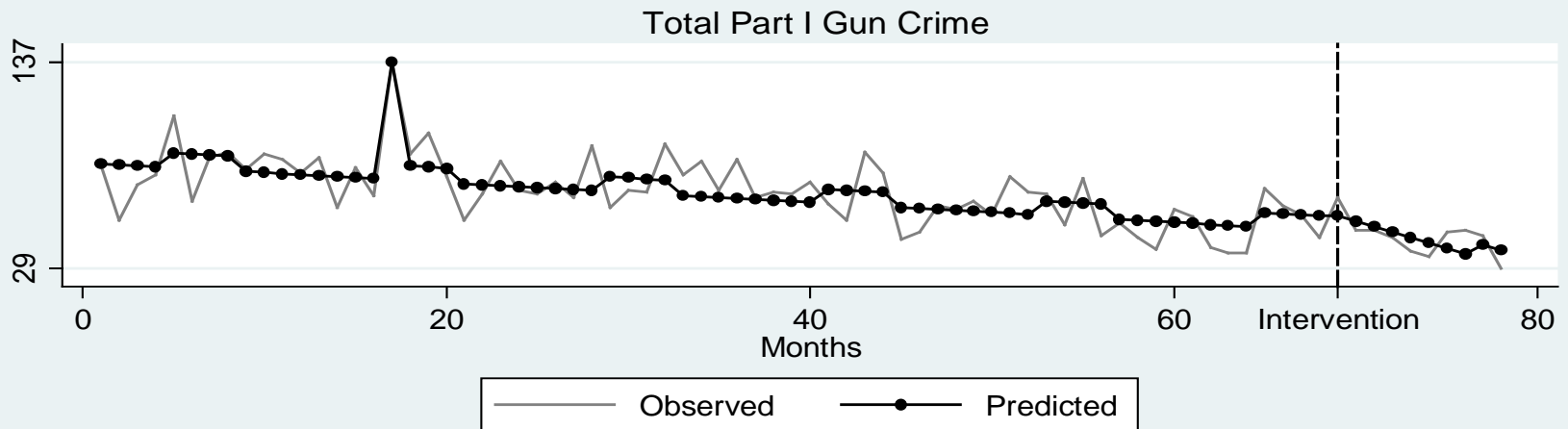
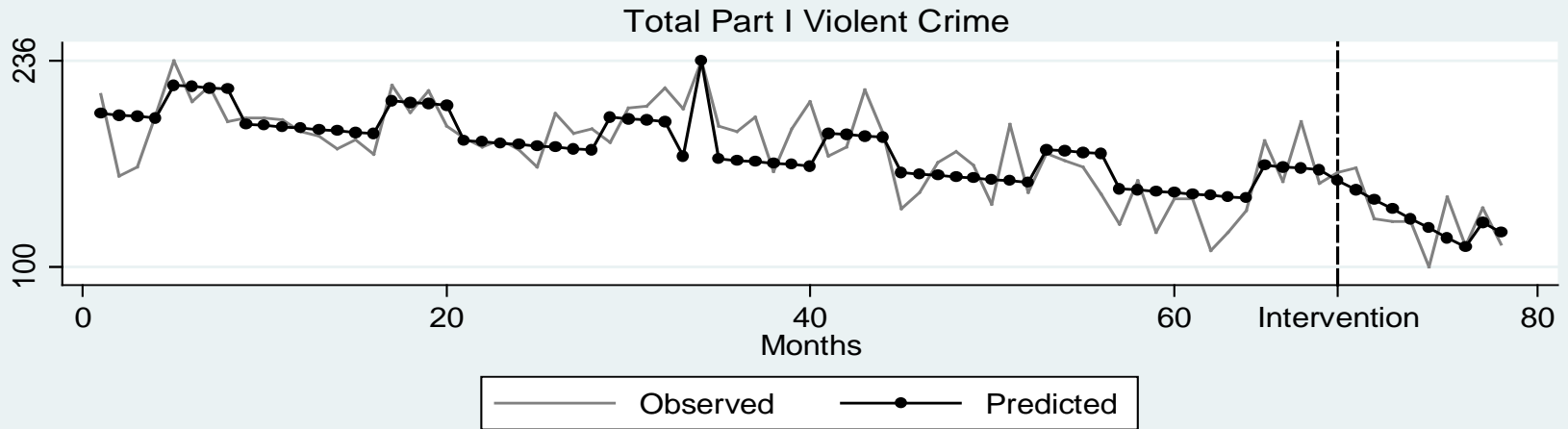
# Time Series: Bottom Line



# Time Series: Bottom Line

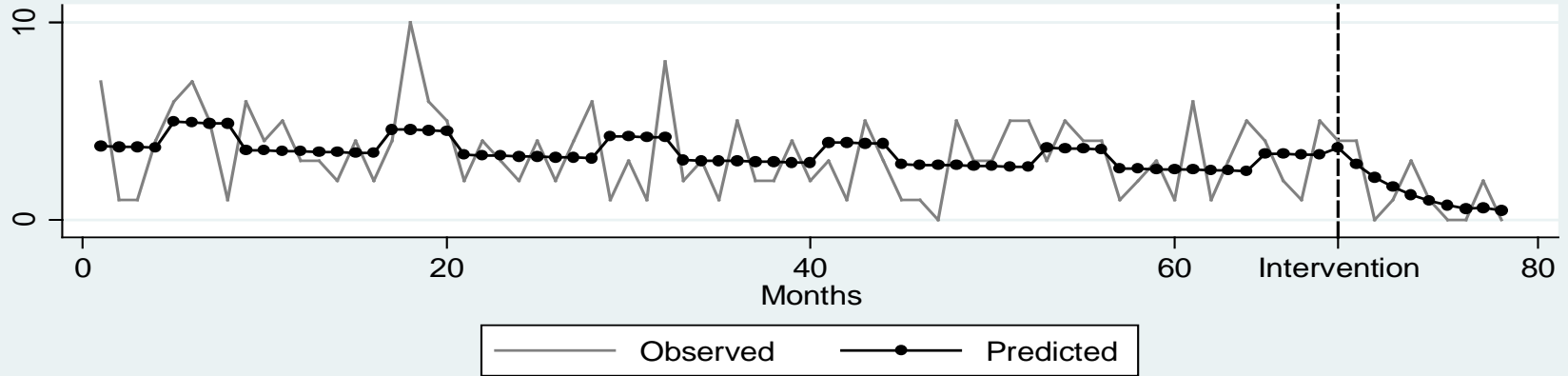
- Interventions in Newton Division resulted in a decrease of Part I Violent Crimes by an additional 5.393 crimes per month
- Homicides decreased by an additional 22.6 percent per month in Newton Division after Operation LASER began
- Robbery decreased by an additional 0.218 robberies per month in Newton Division after Operation LASER was implemented

# Time Series: Violent Crime & Gun Crime

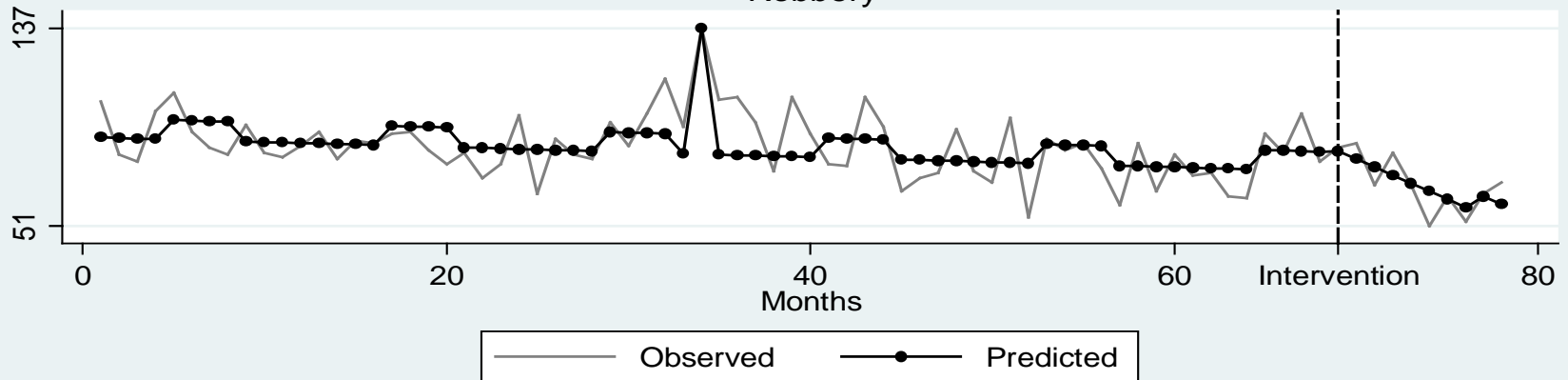


# Time Series: Homicide & Robbery

Homicide



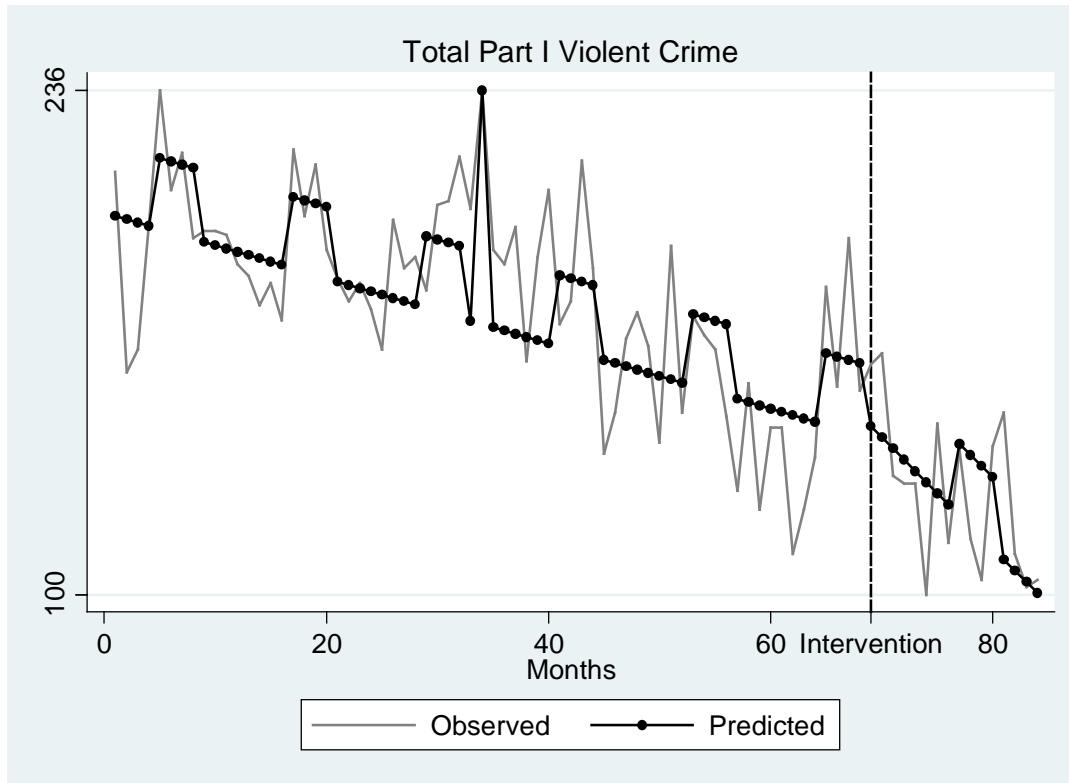
Robbery



# Updated Results

- Analyzed data from January 2006 to December 31, 2012
- Intervention period = 16 months
- Time Series analysis shows different results

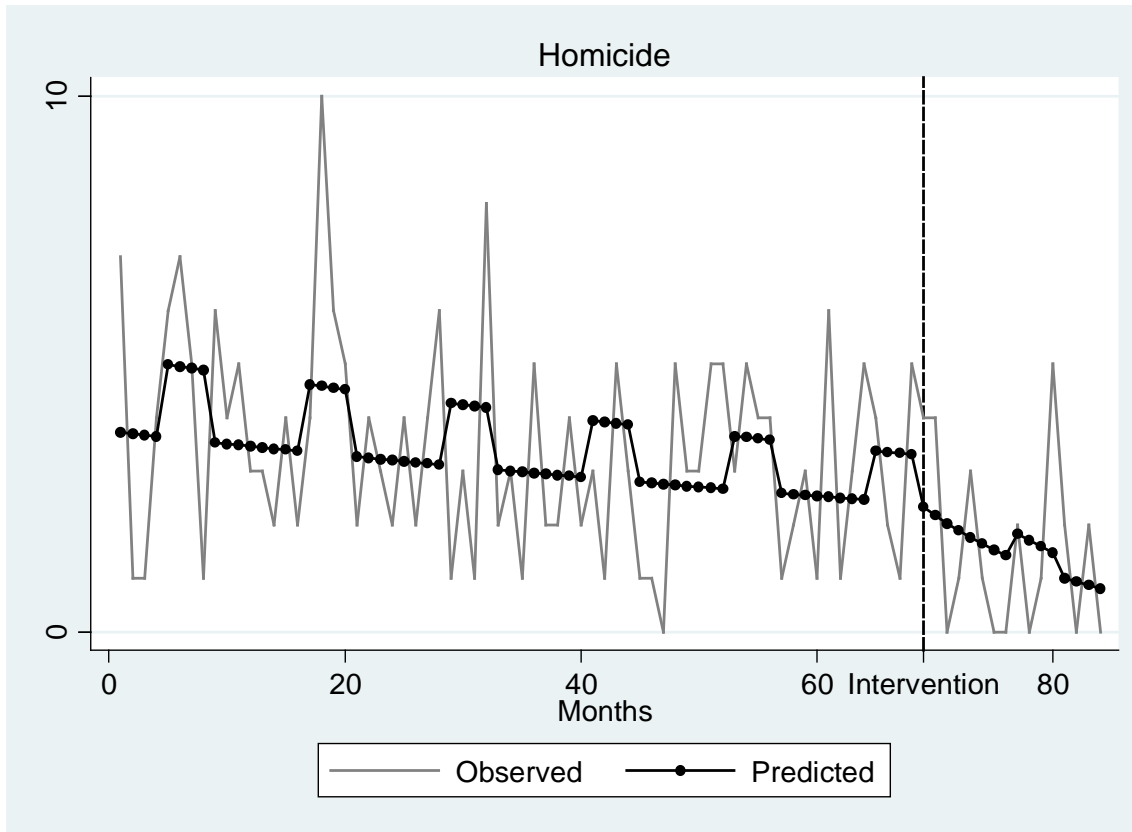
# Part I Violent Crime



- There is a significant decrease in Part I Violent Crime after LASER began
- Reduction of approximately 2 violent crimes per month over the past 16 months

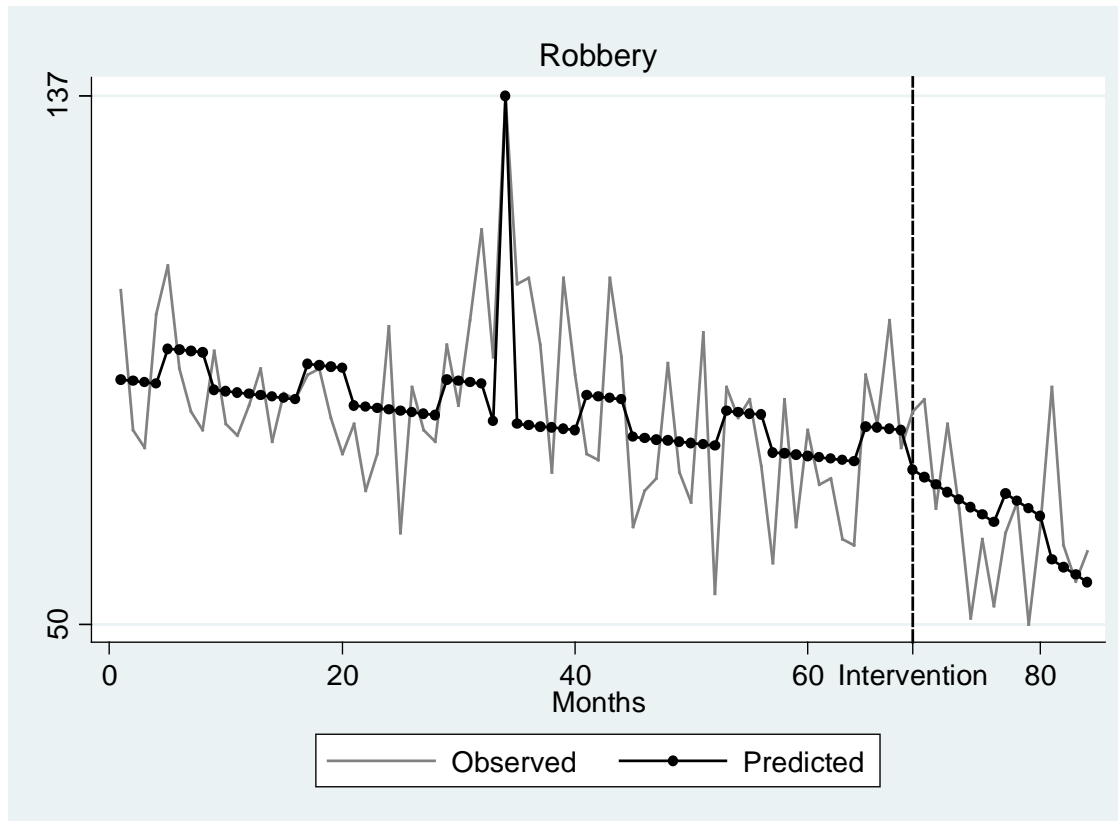


# Homicide



- There is a declining trend after LASER began
- Decrease is not statistically significant ( $p < .125$ )
- Previously significant for 10 months

# Robbery



- There is a declining trend after LASER began
- Decrease is not statistically significant
- Previously significant for 10 months

# What Happened to Homicide and Robbery?

- Examining the data, it appears that Homicide reached a post-intervention high point in August, 2012 and Robbery in September, 2012.
  - Highest numbers since the start of the intervention
- These data points are substantially influencing the post-intervention trend

# Future Directions: Analysis

- Continue to analyze data (quarterly) and evaluate LASER activities
- Additional time periods will provide more statistical power to detect an effect
  - We are analyzing data for all RDs using a ‘panel analysis’
  - The results may change due to model improvements

# Future Directions: LASER

- LAPD has agreed to expand LASER to four new divisions:
  - Hollenbeck (violent crime)
  - Southwest (violent crime)
  - Foothill (property crime)
  - Wilshire (property crime)
  - Continue in Newton (violent and property crime)

# Future Directions: Other Divisions

- Create Crime Intelligence Details
- Create chronic offender bulletins
- Use location-based strategies
- Measure dosage - minutes in the RDs and hotspot corridors
- Use Palantir
- JSS- continues with real-time evaluation

# Questions?

