

Sub-Committee re: Objective #5

The Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana (CISC) has identified a Strategic Goal to “Improve safety and outcomes of youth who come into contact with the juvenile justice system”. The objective charged to this sub-committee is to “Identify and encourage adoption of effective and promising practices for preventing serious and violent delinquent behavior.” To meet this, the sub-committee determined that a definition of “serious and violent delinquent behavior” is needed. We reviewed and considered definitions used by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency and Prevention (OJJDP), the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and other entities and have developed the following definition:

Serious and violent delinquent behavior is any act alleged to have been committed or committed by a person under the age of 18 that involves violence against another person while using a weapon and/or resulting in moderate or serious bodily injury.

Acts that meet this definition are codified in statute as:

- Murder (I. C. 35-42-1-1)
- Voluntary Manslaughter (I. C. 35-42-1-3)
- Involuntary Manslaughter (I. C. 35-42-1-4)
- Reckless Homicide (I. C. 35-42-1-5)
- Feticide (I. C. 35-42-1-6)
- Battery – level F5 or higher (I. C. 35-42-2-1)
- Domestic Battery – level F5 or higher (I. C. 35-42-2-1.3)
- Aggravated Battery (I. C. 35-42-2-1.5)
- Criminal Recklessness – F6 or F5 (I. C. 35-42-2-2)
- Strangulation (I. C. 35-42-2-9)
- Kidnapping – F4 or higher (I. C. 35-42-2-2)
- Criminal Confinement – F4 or higher (I. C. 35-42-3-3)
- Rape (I. C. 35-42-4-1)
- Robbery (I. C. 35-42-5-1)
- Arson (I. C. 35-43-1-1)
- Pointing a Firearm (I. C. 35-47-4-5)

Additionally, any Attempt of the acts listed above and acts that are felonies and are enhanced due to being armed with or use of a deadly weapon and/or resulted in moderate or serious bodily injury meet this definition.

Although they do not meet the definition of serious and violent delinquent behavior, the sub-committee agreed to include in a separate category the acts codified as Carrying a Handgun without a License (I. C. 35-47-2-1) and Dangerous Possession of a Firearm (I. C. 35-47-10-5).

Using this definition and collecting data on acts that have been filed in a petition to adjudge delinquency or found true by adjudication/conviction, we will analyze available data to identify patterns, trends and commonalities in serious and violent delinquent behavior. This analysis will guide exploration of effective and promising prevention strategies that can be adopted and implemented throughout Indiana.