



Innovations in Criminal Justice Summit
September 28-30, 2011
Chicago, IL

Nashville Drug Market Intervention (DMI)

Program Start Date: 2008

Website: <http://www.nnscommunities.org/DMI-LessonsLearned2-1-2010.pdf>
<http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/files/RIC/Publications/e08097226-HighPoint.pdf>

Evaluation/Research:
<http://www.nnscommunities.org/NashvilleEvaluation.pdf>

Related Evaluation Research:
http://www.ci.rockford.il.us/uploadedFiles/government/Police/DMI%20Study_Rockford%282%29.pdf
<http://drugmarketinitiative.msu.edu/HighPointMSUEvaluationPSN12.pdf>

Information: The DMI strategy, first implemented in High Point, North Carolina, is a strategic, focused, data-driven, problem-solving program aimed at permanently closing down open drug markets. Implementation of the DMI strategy calls for an assessment of the local drug market through crime mapping and incident reviews to delineate the nature of the drug market and identify the sellers involved in it. As a relatively small group of chronic offenders are usually responsible for a drug market and much of its associated crime and violence, a “lever pulling” strategy based on notions of focused deterrence is used.

Police conduct a traditional drug enforcement operation involving undercover buys, building cases against the key players, with warrants executed upon those key individuals believed to be “major players” and involved in violent crime. At the close of undercover operations, major players and violent offenders are prosecuted traditionally with heavy sentences sought. Lower-level offenders and their significant “influential,” are invited to a community “call in” meeting. At the meeting, law enforcement and prosecution officials explain that cases have been built against these individuals and that they will defer prosecuting them as long as they cease dealing and stop the violence. AT the meeting these individuals are also offered a broad array social services and related social support resources with opportunities for one-to-one connections. Failure to comply results in swift arrest and prosecution of the existing cases with heavy sentences sought.

Implementation of the approach has resulted in the rapid elimination of such markets, reductions in associated violence, and in a return of control of the neighborhoods to the community members.

Other locations with DMI programs: High Point, NC; Rockford, IL; Providence, RI; Chicago, IL; Indianapolis, IN; Milwaukee, WI; Memphis, TN; Seattle, WA.