We examine operations research approaches to time trends in juvenile violence (compared with adult violence), homicide with guns (compared with non-gun homicides), and arrests of juveniles for drug offenses. These suggest a process by which the illegality of the drug markets stimulated use of guns by the kids they recruited to sell drugs. Subsequent diffusion of these guns to other kids resulted in an escalating arms race, and the effect of greater gun availability was a major contributor to the growth in rates of violence.
including crime measurement, criminal careers, sentencing, deterrence and incapacitation, prison populations, flow through the system, demographic trends, juvenile violence, and drug-enforcement policy.

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“Kids who kill kids linked to advent of crack”

by Tanya Bricking

When 13-year-old Michael McCoy died saving a baby from a drive-by shooting last year, his assailant was 17.

When Phillip Haley, 14, was gunned down the next month, his alleged murderer was 15.

The boys fit into a deadly mix of teens and guns and murder. They’re also statistics in an issue criminologist Alfred Blumstein will address today in Cincinnati.

The nationally noted researcher will give his explanation as to why homicides committed by youths have tripled since 1984: The crack market has put guns into the hands of teens recruited to sell crack, he says, and other teens are carrying guns to protect themselves against the crack sellers.

The number of young murderers has tripled in the last decade, growing to more than 26,000 in 1994, according to Justice Department statistics.

“We have to do things to get guns out of the hands of kids,” said Mr. Blumstein, a professor of operations research at the Heinz School of Public Policy and Management at Carnegie Mellon University.

Mr. Blumstein, who has studied juvenile crime, will speak at 7:30 p.m. at the University of Cincinnati’s Lindner Hall.

Demographics are expected to make the teen murder problem worse. Teens ages 14 to 17 are expected to increase by 14 percent by 2005, according to the National Center for Juvenile Justice.

In Cincinnati, numbers are low so far this year in terms of teen arrests in homicides, said Lt. Greg Snider, homicide commander. Only one teen under 18 has been charged this year in a death, accused of suffocating a 7-week-old baby earlier this month.

Last year in Cincinnati, 23 teen assailants and two pre-teens were charged with homicides.

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“Fifth Arnoff Lecture Focuses on Youth Violence”

Portfolio, University of Cincinnati, College of Business Administration, Volume 11, p. 17, Fall, 1996.

Relationships between violent crimes committed by youths and illegal drug proliferation was the focus of the Fifth E. Leonard Arnoff Memorial Lecture on the Practice of Management Science. The talk was given on Thursday, May 23 at 7:30 P.M. by Alfred Blumstein, J. Erik Jonsson Professor of Urban Systems and Operations Research at the H. John Heinz III School of Public Policy and Management of Carnegie Mellon University and President, INFORMS. His talk was entitled "Youth Violence, Illicit-Drug Markets, and Gun Availability". Michael Magazine, who holds the Ohio Eminent Scholar Chair for Quantitative Analysis & Operations Management, introduced the speaker and noted the remarkable achievement of Dr. Blumstein having reached the pinnacle of two separate career areas: operations research and criminology. Approximately 150 attendees enjoyed a rigorous question and answer session and the opportunity to meet Professor Blumstein in the reception following. Earlier in the day, Phil Heimlich, Cincinnati City Councilman, met with Dr. Blumstein. Mr. Heimlich is widely known for his anti-crime stances.

The Arnoff Lecture is held annually in the spring in honor of E. Leonard Arnoff, former dean of the CBA and partner in Ernst and Whinney (now Ernst and Young) and co-author of the first book in operations research with West Churchman and Russell L. Ackoff. Previous Arnoff lecturers were Robert E. D. (Gene) Woolsey, Professor of the Colorado School of Mines, Thomas M. Cook, President of American Airlines Decision Technologies, Saul I. Gass, Professor at the University of Maryland, and Russell L. Ackoff, Chairman of the Board of the Institute for Interactive Management. For information about videotapes of past Arnoff Lectures and regarding future Arnoff Lectures, please contact the Department of Quantitative Analysis & Operations Management at (513)556-7140.