

**COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL FUNDS DIVISION  
EDWARD BYRNE PROGRAM**

**ANNUAL REPORT  
FISCAL YEAR 2002-2003**

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**COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO  
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**ANNUAL REPORT 2002-2003**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

During fiscal year 2002-2003, 63 projects received sub grant awards within 10 different programs of our statewide strategy. These programs fall under 9 purpose areas or United States Congressional mandates of the Edward Byrne Memorial Program. \$15,154,049 in Byrne funds was awarded for fiscal years 1998 to 2002. These funds enabled the implementation of programs considered as high priority within the government's strategy to fight drugs and violent crime. The 10 program areas funded by Byrne were also consistent with the five priority areas of the Statewide Strategy to combat Drugs and Violent Crime, which is divided into the following five areas:

- Prevention/Education
- Law Enforcement
- Corrections and Treatment
- Adjudication
- Information Systems and Technological Improvements

The programs developed during this period were:

1. Communities and Neighborhood Assistance to Prevent and Control Crime
2. Improvement of the Investigation and Prosecution System
3. Improvement of the Operational Effectiveness of Law Enforcement
4. Improvement of the Correctional System
5. Drug and Alcohol Addiction Treatment for Adult and Juvenile Offenders.

6. Enhancement of the Operational Effectiveness of Forensic Laboratories
7. Criminal Justice Information System
8. Improvement of the Criminal and Juvenile Justice System
9. Alternatives to Detention, Jail and Imprisonment of Non-Violent Offenders
10. **Intervention of** Drug Traffic in Public Housing

**The** Byrne funded programs produced outstanding results:

- Over 2,000 persons were arrested for drugs, organized crime, white collar crimes, domestic violence and child abuse offenses
- Seizure of over \$3.0 millions in assets related to drug and firearm trafficking
- Over 3,000 minors received drug prevention education workshops
- Over 2,000 inmates received treatment and psycho-social services
- Over 3,000 kgs. of cocaine were seized by law enforcement agents
- Drug abuse prevention community services were offered to over 8,000 youths and their parents
- A conviction rate of 99% was achieved for domestic violence, child abuse and sexual assault offenses
- Three additional treatment programs for juvenile and adults were established in the municipalities of Bayamón, Juncos and Luquillo.
- Over 1,400 juveniles and adults received treatment programs.
- 80% of the current felony charges in the Computerized Criminal Record (CCR) System contain the final disposition
- Over 300 attorneys and investigative agents were trained.
- **A total of** 31 law enforcement officers of the Rapid Response Task Force (FURA) were trained and certified in Emergency and Instrument Flight Procedures.

- Specialized technological equipment was acquired and additional personnel for treatment, correctional services and criminal investigation was hired.

In addition to the above-mentioned accomplishments, **improvement was obtained in** cooperation and coordination efforts among state, local, and federal criminal justice agencies to deal with drug and firearms trafficking and organized crime.

Furthermore, training and technical assistance provided through Byrne formula funds have improved a wide range of criminal justice functions in the areas of law enforcement, prosecution, crime prevention, treatment, corrections, child abuse and information systems.

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **I. Overview of Program Linked to State Strategy**

Puerto Rico's Byrne Formula Grant Program operates as part of a coordinated state government-wide effort to make the most effective use of all available resources to address the Island's complex violent crime and drug problem.

The state's efforts to include projects funded by the Byrne Formula Grant are consistent with the Puerto Rico Statewide Strategy to Combat Drugs and Violent Crime. The statewide strategy is aimed at improving the Office of Criminal Justice System, reducing violent crime, improving the rehabilitation capability of our correctional institutions, impeding and erradicating drug trafficking, providing drug treatment to adult and juvenile offenders, increasing the use of information systems and implementation of new technologies in the criminal justice system.

### **2. Summary of Program Coordination Efforts - State/Federal**

The Byrne Formula Grant Program in Puerto Rico coordinates with the Governor's Public Security Council, the Drug Control Advisory Council, the Drug Control Policy Office and other branches of government, including

representatives from community groups and the Legislature. There is an active participation of local, state and federal government agencies in Task Forces organized to fight drugs and violent crimes.

The Drug Control Advisory Council in Puerto Rico and the Office of Drug Control Policy Office are the planning organisms that develop the long and short-term objectives for the multi-year strategy on drug control. The Advisory Council is presided by the Governor of Puerto Rico and its members are the Secretary of Justice, the Director of the Office of Drug Control Policy, the Superintendent of Police, the Administrator of Corrections, the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of the Family Department, the Secretary of Housing, the Administrator of the Mental Health and Anti-Addiction Services Administration, the Secretary of Natural Resources, the Secretary of Health, the Administrator of the Juvenile Affairs Administration, the Adjutant General of the Puerto Rican National Guard, the Ports Authority Administrator and the Special Communities Coordinator.



## II. EVALUATION PLAN AND ACTIVITIES

Program evaluation is a top priority of the Puerto Rico Department of Justice as the State Administrative Agency for the Byrne Memorial Funds. In order to comply with the legal requirements, the Department of Justice carries out on-site monitoring visits to assess the levels of performance of the different programs. **The Department requires that each sub-recipient of funds includes a Program Evaluation Plan where it states the Goals, objectives, activities and performance measures and also requires a Program Evaluation Design that states the evaluation strategy, instruments, time frame and people responsible for the evaluation.** The projects monitoring performed by the External Resources Division.

The scope of the Monitoring includes the following phases:

1. Normative

Determines if the activities of the project comply with the regulations, standards, laws, procedures and administrative requirements.

2. Structural/Organizational

Corroborates and determines the structure and organization of the project, the functions and responsibilities of the personnel, facilities, equipment and materials of the project.

3. Operational

Evaluates the activities carried out, the number of customers served, the services offered and provided, that goals and objectives **are** achieved in a timely manner and that funds are efficiently administered **and according to regulations.**

The purpose of program evaluation is to provide feedback regarding the performance and accomplishments of the **Program Plan, as well as compliance**

with regulations, as the basis to continue funding the program and its possible replication to other jurisdictions.

During this reporting period, the External Resources Division related to program evaluations accomplished the following activities:

- \* Quarterly evaluation visits to projects
- \* Continuous support and technical assistance to project directors
- \* Design of quarterly progress reports for newly funded projects
- \* Continuous training of monitoring staff
- \* Review and development of new operational procedures
- \* Meetings between monitoring staff and project director to discuss evaluation results
- \* Self-evaluation of the Federal Funds Division Byrne Program Procedures to identify areas that require improvement

The main goals of the evaluation system are:

- \* To compare program results and expected results to evaluate program performance
- \* To measure the efficiency in the management of the funds awarded
- \* To measure compliance with regulations
- \* To identify project performance, developmental conflicts and appropriate remedies
- \* Provide feedback on the management and administration of the program to enhance performance

#### **XIV. STRUCTURE, AND ORGANIZATION FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF FUNDS**

The Department of Justice is the agency designated by the Governor of Puerto Rico to manage the Byrne Formula Grant Program. The External Resources Division of the Department of Justice carries out the functions of administering the Statewide Block Grant programs, including the Byrne Memorial Grant. Other divisions within the Department are designated to perform accounting and financial functions related to the administration of Grant programs. The Budget Division carries out budgeting functions for internal projects and creates accounts in the Treasury Department. The Federal Funds Section of the Finance Division conducts the drawdowns accounting and disbursement of funds for all projects. The Internal Audit Office audits the accounts and procedures and provides follow-up to the audit findings. The Assistant Secretary of Human Resources manages the areas of personnel,

affirmative action, drug-free workplace, and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The personnel designated for the evaluation and monitoring of the Byrne Formula Grant Program are a **Proposals Evaluation Committee composed by 5 members, four of which are members of the staff of the Secretary of Justice division, a Division Director, a program supervisor, four full time technicians in charge of** program development and evaluation and **two** fiscal auditors that offer a percentage of **their** time to the Byrne Program.

In addition to the personnel mentioned above, there are two administrative secretaries and two clerks **that provide a percentage of their time to the Byrne Program.** To enhance the level of performance of the External Resources Division, and Audit Section and Planning Section will be added to this Division. **The audit section will be in charge of revising the compliance with OMB circular # A-133, and will provide technical assistance and support for fiscal monitoring.**

The Planning section will evaluate new and continuation proposals and make the recommendations for funding, verify the evaluation plans and design of each project, will work in the development of the Drug and Violent Crime Statewide Strategy, in the development of policies and procedures and in assessments required

In order to fund the structure of our state administrative agency, the Puerto Rico Department of Justice has allocated 10 percent of the funds for administration, as allowed by law. The Department has also provided the required matching funds.

These funds have been used for administrative costs, including salaries, equipment, training, and other costs allowed under the Byrne Program.

In order to comply with better program designs, evaluations, follow-ups for implementation, technical assistance, and effective management of projects, the External Resources Division is working in the following areas:

- \* Hiring necessary personnel
  
- \* Reviewing and developing new operational procedures and evaluation guides
  
- \* Enhancing personnel skills and knowledge
  
- \* Identifying and acquiring useful information systems and other necessary equipment

#### **IV. SUMMARY OF FORMULA GRANT PROGRAMS**

##### **1. Community and Neighborhood Assistance to Prevent and Control**

###### **Crime**

###### **Goals and Objectives of the Program**

This program forged a more effective cooperation between state, local and federal law enforcement agencies, improving communities and the quality of life in the neighborhoods. Prevention Programs in urban and rural areas were developed. Community organizations were encouraged and enabled to become more responsible for safety in their own neighborhoods. Educational Programs for school dropouts and community policing projects were developed to strengthen their abilities and attitudes. Preventive and recreational programs were established between state and local governments in order to reduce drug use among youths in communities with high crime rates. More law enforcement officers were assigned to provide more security and protection to residents. In

addition, projects were developed to train personnel on Massive Anti-Drug Use Education Programs for reinforcing positive values for resilient youth. This program main objective is to continue working with youth and families in their communities, using different strategies to promote life skills and to prevent drug and alcohol use and the use of violence.

**Projects/Sites and Funding:**

Twenty two projects were funded under this program during this period: \$4,438,560.00 in Byrne Formula funds were awarded to nine (9) municipalities, six (6) state agencies and seven (7) non-profit organizations.

**Accomplishments:**

The projects developed under this program provided prevention and educational services to over 8,000 youths and their parents.

- ❖ Over 800 high risk families received educational, preventive and violence management workshops.
- ❖ 142 youths from 5 to 19 years of age residing in public housing projects in the San Juan area benefited from a preventive program through education in musical instruments and which final objective is to participate in a Youth Symphonic Orchestra. 90% of these youths (127) exhibited positive changes in their behavior and their reading and language comprehension skills.
- ❖ A total of 128 women, victims of domestic violence, received counseling and psychological services.

- ❖ A specialized violence and prevention program was offered to 113 youths and their parent with special emphasis in domestic violence and child abuse.
- ❖ A total of 240 prevention and educational conferences were offered in 162 public and private schools. A total of 6,211 youths were impacted.

The following services were provided in the program during this period:

<b>Type of Service</b>	<b>hours per service</b>
Individual orientation	1,020
Group workshops	445
Recreational workshops	1,457
Family group workshops	391
Psychological services	238
Educational tutorships	2,621

Referral to other agencies 170

Community follow-up 238

## **2. Improvement to the Investigation and Prosecution Systems**

### **Program Goals and Objectives**

This program is geared towards strengthening the operational capacity and effectiveness of the criminal investigation and processing system with emphasis on those offenders involved in white collar crimes, organized crime, government corruption and fraud of governmental institutions.

Close coordination between state and local law enforcement agencies was achieved in identifying individuals and new investigative mechanisms were acquired to assist in obtaining the evidence leading to the arrest, processing and conviction of criminals. The strengthening of this system through the recruitment of additional personnel and the acquisition of new technology allowed clarifying and completing 75% of the investigations in progress and the conviction of 85%

of the cases submitted to the Court. The Extradition Division the Public Integrity Division and the Comptroller Affairs Office of the Puerto Rico Justice Department were enhanced with additional personnel and equipment.

### **Project/Sites and Funding**

Eight projects were funded during this reporting period, and \$1,510,758.00 in Byrne funds were awarded to the Department of Justice, the Special Bureau of Investigations and the Forensic Sciences Institute.

### **Accomplishments**

- \* The Computer Crimes Unit in the Forensic Sciences Institute was strengthened enhanced with new and specialized equipment.
- \* Training was provided to over 300 investigative agents and attorneys.
- \* A total of 454 Investigations were concluded

- \* There were 582 cases with probable cause for arrest
  
- \* A total of 58 persons were accused
  
- \* The conviction rate reached: 99%
  
- \* Over \$100,000,00 in valuables recovered
  
- \* 125 surveillance operations were conducted on groups involved in  
  
organized crime
  
- \* 129 persons were extradited
  
- \* 9 criminal organizations were identified to be engaged in drug  
  
trafficking
  
- \* Over 12 undercover operations were carried out to obtain evidence  
  
in cases related to organized crime schemes
  
- \* 441 investigations were conducted of commercial entities  
  
suspicious of selling alcohol and cigars to minors. A total of  
  
\$203,175.00 in fines was imposed.

### **3. Improvement of the Operational Effectiveness of Law**

#### **Enforcement**

##### **Program Goals and Objectives**

The main goal of this program is to reduce the flow of illegal drugs and narcotics into and through Puerto Rico by improving the operational effectiveness of law enforcement agencies. Tactical and operational training and other coordination initiatives will be provided. Furthermore, multi-jurisdictional enforcement efforts will be encouraged. The main goals will be to reduce and disrupt the more than 150 yearly attempts to introduce drugs by air and sea to the island, intercepting the illegal trafficking of drugs and firearms and confiscating money produced by such activities, gathering the necessary evidence for the criminal prosecution of the individuals and organizations

responsible for the trafficking of drugs and firearms, and performing preventive surveillance by air and sea to detect and capture the persons involved in smuggling drugs and firearms.

### **Projects/Sites and Funding**

Six (6) projects were funded under this program during this period. A total of \$1,381,023.00 in Byrne funds was awarded to the Puerto Rico Police Department, the Mental Health and Anti Addiction Services Administration and to Municipalities of Rincón and Florida.

### **Accomplishments**

- \* 31 law enforcement officers of the Rapid Action Task Force (FURA) were trained and certified in Emergency and Instrument Flight Procedures.
- \* 1,222 missions were carried out by air and sea.
- \* The Air Unit of FURA performed a total of 978 preventive patrols.

\* 74 joint operations with federal and state agencies were conducted.

As a result of this:

- ❖ Over 1,000 persons were arrested
- ❖ 1,369 kilograms of cocaine seized
- ❖ The Drugs and Narcotics Control Division of the Mental Health and Anti-Addiction Services Administration was strengthened through the hiring of additional inspectors and the purchase of specialized equipment. This resulted in the

inspection of:

- ❖ 95 pharmacies
- ❖ 428 hospitals
- ❖ 8 drug manufacturers
- ❖ 34 drugstores

In addition to this, the Drugs and Narcotics Control Division was able to investigate 305 false prescriptions, 13 cases of theft or disappearance of controlled substances and the arrest of 15 persons for the sale of controlled substances without a prescription.

- ❖ During this period, 10 law enforcement officers were hired by the Municipal Guard of the Municipality of Rincón, an Immigration Control Support Unit. This unit worked in conjunction with the U.S. Coast Guard and the Immigration and Naturalization Services in the control of illegal immigrants who continually attempt to enter Puerto Rico through the west coast of the Municipality of Rincón.

- ❖ A total of 60 illegal immigrants were arrested.

- ❖ The Two (2) Alcohol Control Unit established within the Municipal Police of the Municipalities of Rincón and Florida,

were able to carry out 48 roadblocks, that resulted in 2,221

vehicles that were found in violation of traffic laws.

- ❖ Orientations to more than 1,600 drivers on traffic law, to educate them on the consequences of driving under the influence of alcohol, were conducted by the two Alcohol Control Unit of the Rincón and Florida Municipalities.

## **5. Improvements to the Correctional System**

### **Program Goals and Objectives**

The main goals achieved by the program were:

- Reduction of the use and abuse of controlled substances in penal institutions.
- The expand on and more complete and effective use of existing programs to rehabilitate criminal offenders and facilitate their

eventual reintegration into society.

- Reduction in the recidivism rate by 25%.

Enhancement of the security level and safety of the institutional environment.

We are aware of the need to provide re-education and training to inmates and parolees convicted of different crimes. These programs are in accordance with the minimum requirements of re-education and training for offenders pursuant to law.

The state policy is to control the unauthorized use of illegal drugs by offenders within institutional facilities, public or privatized, as well as within community programs. The program is intended as an effective method to create

a safe and drug-free correctional environment, control the disruptive behavior of prison gangs, identify those who use controlled substances, diagnose their treatment needs for referral to programs especially designed and designated to meet those needs and to establish a gradual scale of sanctions to respond to any and all violations to this policy.

### **Projects/Sites and Funding**

There were five (5) projects in this program during the reporting period. All disbursements were made to the Administration of Corrections. These projects received federal funds in the amount of \$2,112,717.00.

### **Accomplishments**

- \* The projects funded under this program were able to provide services to over 6,000 inmates, in penal institutions and community programs.

\* 2,437 inmates were referred to treatment programs. Of this total, 145 (5%) completed the treatment programs and 885 (36%) remained under treatment at the end of the reporting period.

\* A total of 4,153 drug tests were performed; 2,599 (62%) were negative and 1,554 (37%) yielded positive results.

\* Services offered during this period:

<b>Type of Services</b>	<b>Amount and/or hours per service</b>
Initial interview	2,715
Individual therapies	2,055
Group therapies	150 hours
Family therapies	25 hours
Recreational therapies	200 hours
Educational Services	1,200 hours
Psychological evaluations	1,012

Referrals to other agencies	1,169
Conferences provided	115

## **5. Drug And Alcohol Addiction Treatment for Adults and Juvenile Offenders**

### **Program Goals and Objectives:**

Under this program, integrated drug, alcohol and treatment services will be provided to reduce the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. New projects to provide treatment to first offenders, juveniles and adults, as an alternative to incarceration, were established during this period. Existing programs were enhanced and expanded, Walk-in drug addiction treatment centers and new bed spaces for residential drug treatment were added to services offered.

A systematic and integrated program to provide services to drug-dependent individuals in juvenile and adult institutions in the public and private sector will be established. Under this program 856 of all of the youths and adults who enter the program services are expected to complete them.

### **Projects/Sites and Funding:**

Eight projects were funded under this program during this period. \$1,447,314.00 in Byrne funds were disbursed to the Mental Health and Anti-Addiction Services and five non-profit organizations: Hogar Crea, Inc., Teen Challenge, Southwestkey Program, Hogar San José and Hogar Fuente de Vida.

### **Accomplishments:**

- \* 1,402 juvenile and adults received treatment services. Of this total 762 (54%) were juveniles and 640 (46%) were adults

- \* 34 young female offenders with mental health problems received treatment services through a Step Down Unit. All of them were still active in the program at the end of the period.

This program provided the following services :

a. Drugs Testing Conducted	822
* positive	23 (3%)
* negative	799 (97%)
b. Psychological interventions	609
c. Medical Services	921
d. Individual therapy	1,432
e. Group therapy	448
f. Recreational activities	847
g. Family interventions	410
- Psychological Evaluations	310
h. Social Work Interviews and Interventions	800
i. Psychiatric Services	379
j. Medical Services	300

## **6. Enhancement of the Operational Effectiveness of Forensic Laboratories**

### **Program Goals and Objectives**

The main goal of this program is to improve the capability of state forensic laboratories to conduct a better investigation and analysis of evidence related to violent crimes. This was accomplished by providing highly specialized equipment and training to personnel, enhancing three regional firearms identification program laboratories, creating a data bank of evidence analyzed and developing

a close relationship between state and federal agencies to exchange information about case analysis.

### **Projects/Sites and Funding**

Only (one) project was funded under this program during the report period. \$57,729.00 in Byrne funds was disbursed to the Forensic Sciences Institute.

### **Accomplishments**

- \* The Firearms Identification Program of the Forensic Science Institute submitted 3,000 cases with 6,609 pieces of evidence for analysis
- \* The three regional laboratories for ballistic identification were able to analyze the following:

	Cases	Evidence
Arecibo Laboratory	428	852
Aguadilla Laboratory	1,250	3,220
Ponce Laboratory	569	1,136
Total	2,247	5,208

## **7. Criminal Justice Record improvement**

### **Program Goals and Objectives:**

The Criminal Justice Information System in Puerto Rico is the central processing system for a faster identification of individuals and property, greater accessibility to Criminal History Records, and for tracking offenders through the Criminal Justice System. The efficiency and effectiveness of law enforcement officers to identify criminals that have arrest warrants or are in possession of

stolen property depends on reliable information systems. State and Municipal Police Patrols are not equipped with computers for immediate access to stolen car files or criminal record information. Law Enforcement Officers are exposed to being killed in action when they stop stolen cars or vehicles driven by criminals who are stopped for a simple traffic violation. The majority of the Municipal Police Units does not have direct access to these systems and have to process any request for information through the Puerto Rico State Police, which equates to a longer response time.

Puerto Rico State Police was using the old 20-digit fingerprint classification system, which is very unreliable. In this old system positive identification (ID) depends on the individual or offender providing the right name, date of birth, and a driver's license or social security number. If the individual does not have a positive ID and his name is John Doe, the 6,000 files in the general fingerprint classification would have to be checked one by one, comparing the offender's photograph one by one. This procedure is not normally done because of personnel and time constraints, and fugitives from justice are released due to the system's failure to identify the offender's criminal history. With the implementation of the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) the fingerprint classification and file is automatic. Once the fingerprint is filed, if the person commits a second crime, the fingerprint entrance will call in seconds the existing file, photos alias, and the criminal history of the person.

Criminal Justice Record Improvement (CJRI), in addition to the Positive Identification of Offenders provided by AFIS is the second most important objective to be accomplished in our Program. The charges against the offender are cleared by the court's final disposition. In the past it took two (2) years to manually clear charges when the document had sufficient information to identify the offender. With the automatic computerized Criminal Records Information

System the Courts enter the final disposition as soon as it occurs. The backlogs of final dispositions that cannot be identified are manually processed in accordance with the CJRI plan, as approved by the BJA.

Other information Systems for treatment tracking, investigation of missing and exploited children and for parole hearings and forensic laboratories are being developed within this program. The Criminal Justice Information System gathers information from different sources to be shared by the Law Enforcement Agencies and the Courts in Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and other States and Territories of the USA.

### **Projects/Sites and Funding**

Three (3) projects were funded during this period. \$1,500,220.00 in Edward Byrne funds were disbursed to state agencies.

### **Accomplishments:**

The projects developed under this program achieved the following results during fiscal year 2002-2003:

#### **A. 5% Set Aside Criminal History Record Improvement-CHRI**

- \* (80%) 240,259 of the current felony charges in the CCR System contain the final disposition.
- \* 615,901 of the criminal charges in the CCR System, for the past five years, include the disposition data.
- \* A total of 214,720 criminal history records have been automated.
- \* All existing data entry personnel were retrained in the new systems.
- \* All felonies contained in the CCR System database are flagged.
- \* The project continued working on the development and implementation of quality control procedures and audit techniques.

- \* Work on the replacement of the message switching system and improvement of the access security control continued.
- \* Security control access system is in the process of installation.

The programming and installation of integration modules for agencies that will have access to the system was completed. They are the Puerto Rico Police, the Administration of the Courts, the Administration of Corrections, and the Department of Justice.

**B. Electronic Filing System**

- \* During this period all the mobile filing system was installed in the Forensic Sciences Institute.
- \* Four technicians were trained in the process of digitizing and archiving the forensic documents.
- \* A total of 74,885 files were digitalized.
  - At the end of the period a total of 51,066 files were still pending to be digitalized.

**C. Link Management Information System**

- During this period all the software and equipment (Starlims System) that will handle the information generated by the Criminal, Forensic Pathology and Crime Scene Investigation laboratories was acquired and installed. This system has improved the performance levels of the forensic laboratories.

- A total of 22 forensic technicians were trained in the use of the Starlims System.
- The effectiveness of the starlims system was published in the Scientific Computing & Instrumentations Magazine in May 2003.

## **8. Improvement to the Criminal and Juvenile Justice System**

### **Program Goals and Objectives**

The purpose of this program is to enhance, through joint and integrated coordination, the ability of the Criminal and Juvenile Justice System to reduce the high incidence of domestic violence and other related crimes, such as the abuse of children and the elderly and sexual offenses. The following are the main objectives of this program:

- \* To strengthen the specialized units in domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse of the Department of Justice.
- \* To provide shelter and psychological services to young abused females.
- \* To increase the percent of conviction rate in cases of domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse.
- \* To hire additional personnel for the specialized units of domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse.

### **Projects/sites and Funding**

Seven (7) projects were funded during this period. A total of \$2,373,728.00 in Byrne funds were disbursed, to the Puerto Rico Department of Justice, the Municipality of Canóvanas and one non-profit organization.

### **Accomplishments**

- 9,948 complaints were investigated and processed
  - \* domestic violence 9,149 (92%)
  - \* sexual assault 513 (5%)
  - \* child abuse 286 (3%)
- \* 10,516 charges for domestic violence offenses, sexual crimes and child abuse were submitted to the court. A total of 6,462 persons were accused.
- \* 3,321 persons were convicted for domestic violence, sexual crimes and child abuse.
- \* A 73% conviction rate was achieved during this period.
- \* A total of 332 women, victims of domestic violence received support services in the Municipality of Canóvanas.
  - \* 135 abused minors between the ages of 5 and 18 received shelter, medical and support services.
- A total of 144 cases of missing and exploited children were submitted to the Missing Children Center. Of this total, 45 cases

were investigated and concluded and total of 39 (86%) children were identified.

## **9. Alternatives to Detention, Jail and Imprisonment of Non-Violent Offenders**

### **Program Goals and Objectives**

This program goal is to provide a diversion program with effective follow-up and identification of juvenile and adult drug abusers convicted throughout the island. Under this program coordination was established between the Puerto Rico Department of Justice, the Administration of Corrections, the Administration of the Courts and other public and private entities to provide better alternatives to detention for non-violent offenders.

As an objective the Department of Justice established to enhance and expand the diversion programs for youths, with emphasis on a more effective follow-up component.

### **Projects/Sites and Funding**

One project was supported under this program during the reporting period for which \$32,000.00 in Byrne funds was disbursed to the Department of Justice.

### **Accomplishment**

- An continuous and vigorous drug-testing program was conducted on minors in diversion programs.
- 955 youths in the Diversion Program were referred for drug testing this period.
- A total of 955-drug testing were conducted. Of this total 901 (94%) tested negative and 54 (6%) tested positive.

- The youths who tested positive were referred to the Mental Health and Anti-Addiction Services Administration for Treatment.

## **10. Addressing Drug Traffic in Public Housing**

### **Goals and Objectives of the Program**

The main goal of this program is to fight drug traffic and related crimes in public housing projects throughout the Island. This is accomplished by providing specialized equipment, and training law enforcement officers to conduct investigations in public housing projects; intercepting the illegal trafficking of drugs and firearms, confiscating money and vehicles produced by such activities and gathering the necessary evidence for the criminal prosecution of the organizations responsible for trafficking drugs and firearms in public housing projects.

### **Projects/Sites and Funding**

Two (2) projects were funded during the reporting period. A total of \$300,000.00 in Byrne funds were disbursed to the Puerto Rico Police Department.

### **Accomplishments**

During this period, the two projects funded under this program carried out the necessary measures to acquire the equipment and recruit personnel in order to conduct the investigations and fight drug trafficking in public housing projects in the Mayaguez and San Juan areas. As a result:

- 7 investigations of drug trafficking were conducted
- 140 person were arrested
- 459 interventions were carried out in 18 public housing projects
- \$1,545,000 in bails were imposed
- Drug seized amounted to:
  - \* 3 kilograms of cocaine
  - \* 285 bags of marihuana
  - \* 454 decks of cocaine
  - \*1,577 decks of heroine
- \* Over \$100,000 in cash were confiscated and 85 vehicles and weapons forfeiture