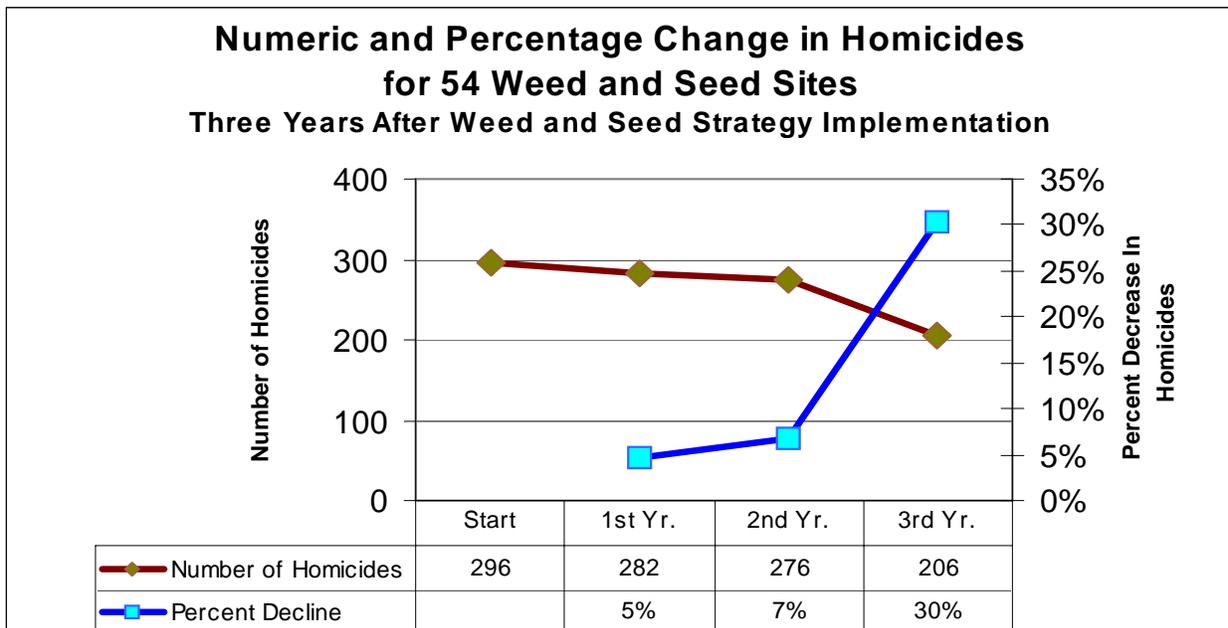


TO: Bob Samuels, Acting Director, Office of Weed and Seed  
 FROM: Jim Zepp and Jack O'Connell, JRSA  
 RE: Three-Year Homicide Trend Analysis  
 DATE: April 13, 2004

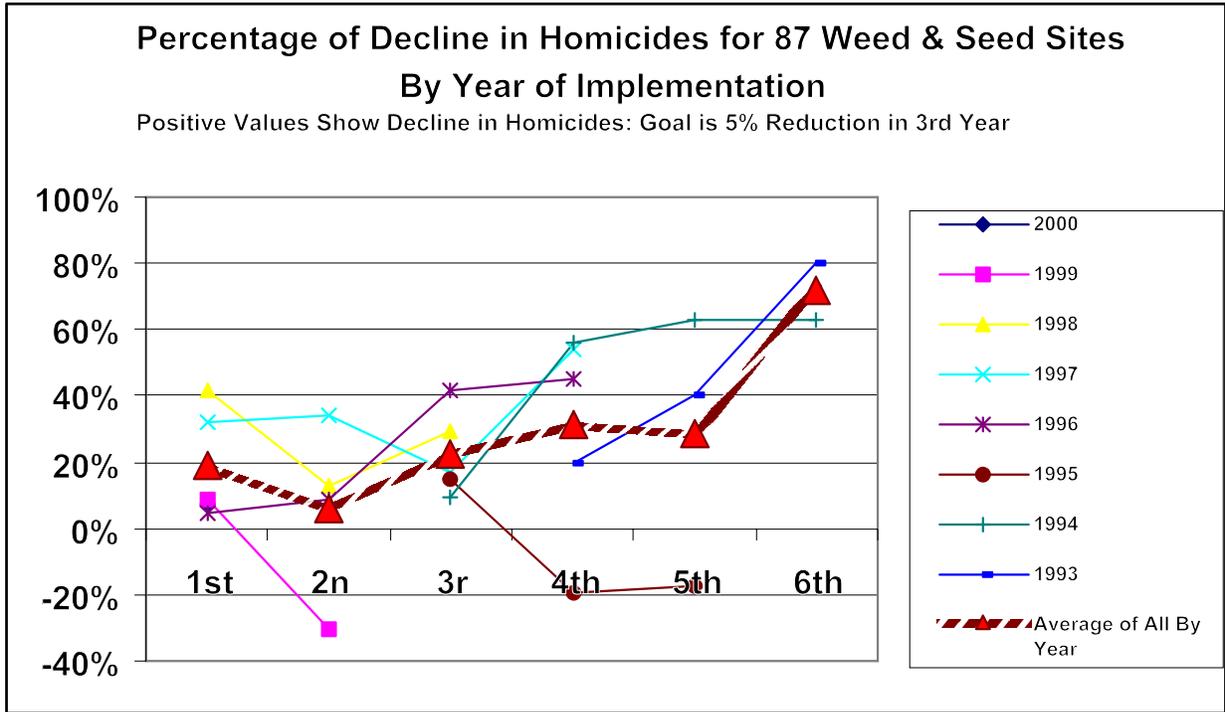
As per your request, we have reviewed the trends in homicides for local Weed and Seed sites for the three years following implementation of their strategy. The homicide data submitted in the sites' annual GPRA reports were used along with the information on the sites' first grant award dates as provided by the Office of Weed and Seed (OWS) staff.

Although we have homicide trend data for 220 local sites, our analysis is severely limited by the availability of first grant award dates, the time period for which homicide statistics have been collected through the GPRA system, and the number of local sites that have operated for more than four years but less than eight years. Specifically, there are 40 sites for which we have homicide data but do not have an original first grant award date. In several instances, the dates provided are most likely for the first awards made after recertification of existing sites since the available homicide statistics are for a period preceding these dates. The first year that the GPRA homicide statistics were requested was 1996. Consequently, those local sites established before this year will be missing information for some or all three years. The opposite situation is that sites funded after 1998 had not operated long enough for a three-year, post-implementation data set to have been reported and processed.

The following chart displays the number and percent change in homicides for the 54 local sites that we have complete data and an initial implementation date between 1996 and 1998. Collectively, there was a 30% reduction in homicides three years after the baseline year of implementation. This is well beyond the stated goal of a 5 percent reduction in homicides three years after implementation of the Weed and Seed strategy.



In order to estimate the effect of adding more sites to this analysis, the homicide trends were expanded to include sites that did not have a complete four year series available for any of the reasons previously cited. This increased the number of sites to 87. To control for the disparity in homicide data across time, the comparisons were done by yearly cohorts of sites. A similar decrease in homicides was generally observed across the groups of sites.



The heavy red line reflects the average change in homicides for the yearly cohorts. Although not entirely consistent, the general tendency is toward decreased homicides and this trend seems to continue past the third year into the fourth, fifth, and sixth years after initial implementation of the Weed and Seed strategy.

The indication is that these findings may hold as more sites are added to the analysis. With the assistance of the OWS staff and the ongoing GPRA data collection effort that will expand the available data set, the number of local sites should rapidly grow for further study in the next two years.