Assessment of Youth and Gang Violence in Columbia and Richland County

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ASSESSMENT OF YOUTH AND GANG VIOLENCE IN COLUMBIA AND RICHLAND COUNTY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

City of Columbia Mayor Robert Coble, in his 2007 State of the City Speech, called for the creation of a comprehensive response initiative to address gang and youth violence in Columbia and Richland County. The first steps he outlined for this initiative were a complete assessment of these violence problems in the metro area and the formation of the Gang and Youth Violence Prevention Council that would serve as the steering committee for the comprehensive response plan. The Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of South Carolina and Benedict College were subsequently requested to conduct the assessment, and on May 15, 2007 the Columbia City Council approved the funding of this effort.

The overall goal of this assessment was to explore the nature, extent, and characteristics of gang and youth violence in the Columbia-Richland County metropolitan area. Additionally, we sought to identify past responses to youth violence by government, non-profit, and community organizations, along with the resources and abilities these groups may have for a future comprehensive response. In order to accomplish these goals, the assessment team gathered crime related data from various criminal justice agencies in the area, including information from the Columbia Police Department, the Richland County Sheriff's Department, the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardons, and the joint 911 operations center for Columbia and Richland County. In addition, more than 100 individuals were interviewed, including criminal justice leaders and line-level personnel, community leaders, faith-based leaders, managers of community-based organizations, and school officials. Lastly, focus groups were conducted with community members from ten different communities across Columbia and Richland County.

As outlined below, the findings from the assessment cover three areas of inquiry. The first line of inquiry examines patterns and trends in youth and gang violence derived from a statistical and geographic analysis of official data provided to us by area criminal justice agencies. The second line of inquiry reports on interviews conducted with various key stakeholders in the community: criminal justice officials, school personnel, community leaders, and residents of communities with relatively high concentrations of violence. The third area of inquiry reviews service, faith-based, and community resources available to combat youth violence, as well as suggestions from these groups for how to improve the overall response to the problem.

<u>Patterns of Youth and Gang Violence</u>

The analysis of criminal justice data revealed that youths, defined as individuals 12 to 24 years of age, account for approximately 50% of violent crime in Columbia and Richland County, which is disproportionately high relative to their representation in the census population for the area. This relationship holds across both jurisdictions and

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over a five year time frame. In addition, the findings showed that a considerably higher percentage of youth suspects than non-youth suspects use firearms in violent crimes. This pattern held across time, jurisdictions, crime type, and neighborhoods. The analysis also highlighted that youth violence is particularly high in certain neighborhoods in the Columbia and Richland County area, and these areas of high youth crime persist over time. High concentration areas include the neighborhoods and low-income housing complexes stretching north and east of Five Points and along Harden Street, the area of North Main Street from the downtown area to I-20, the Broad River Road area between I-20 and Piney Grove Road, and the area bordering the intersection of Decker Boulevard and Trenholm Road.

While the analysis of gang activity and violence has some limitations given the currently available data, it nonetheless provides some important insight into nature of this problem in the Columbia and Richland County area. First, the individuals identified as gang members by CPD and RCSD are disproportionately male, African American, and between the ages of 18 and 24. On the other hand, gang-involved suspects and victims in violent crimes were primarily between the ages of 16-19. Second, the use of firearms in gang-involved violent crimes is very high relative to their use in total violent crimes or even violent crime involving youth suspects. Third, it appears that many of the same gangs and gang members are active in both jurisdictions. Finally, the crimes identified as gang-involved in our analyses largely occurred in the same areas that registered high concentrations of overall youth violence.

Stakeholder Perspectives

Several themes emerged from extensive interviews with criminal justice personnel, community leaders, school officials, and community members. First, all groups shared the perspective that there has been an increase in gang activity in the area, specifically within the last few years. There were also common causes given for the increase. Most notably, the interviewees shared the perspective that the primary causes are the lack of parental supervision and involvement, as well as the lack of opportunities and programs for youths in the area. The proposed solution to this problem was more after school, faith-based, and recreational programs for juveniles so they have a place to go with adult supervision where they are not intimidated by and pressured to join gangs. Among the criminal justice personnel interviewed, all agreed there has been an increase in gang violence throughout the past several years, but they also noted there has been an increase in property and drug crimes as well. Criminal justice agencies have made attempts to combat this increase in gang and youth crime; however, this has proved difficult as individuals who are gang-involved tend to be more resistant to the programs and services offered by these agencies. In terms of the community leader perspective, they too have seen an increase in gang and youth violence and consider it to be a serious problem. Overall, they stated there is not enough being done to help these individuals, and all the community organizations need to collaborate and coordinate their efforts to help prevent youth from becoming involved in gangs to begin with.

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The interviews with school officials provide a somewhat conflicting perspective on the nature and extent of gang problems within the middle and high schools in the Columbia-Richland County area. School principals suggested gang violence is decreasing in the schools and gangs do not pose much of a problem for the schools. Interestingly, the school resource officers (SROs) in the schools present a somewhat different picture of gang activity. While they state gang activity has remained relatively stable, every high school SRO reported the existence or presence of gangs in their schools. The SROs stated overt gang activity is somewhat rare, but individuals wearing gang-related colors continue to be a problem, providing evidence for the presence of gangs in schools.

Finally, the community focus group interviewees provided a valuable perspective on the gang problem in the area, specifically how the activity personally impacts the communities in which they live. The focus group participants were drawn from communities that experienced higher rates of violence, and almost all groups presented the same fears, concerns, and solutions. The community residents stated they fear the activity of gangs in their communities and many take measures to protect themselves from becoming involved in gang conflicts. These groups agreed that much of the cause for the increase in gang and youth violence is the lack of parental supervision, as well as the lack of pro-social opportunities and programs for youth to become involved in. Many of the groups believed that better programming would be a step towards reducing gang activity, but the other common solution given was the increased presence of law enforcement in their communities. Many community members expressed dissatisfaction with the amount of police presence in their neighborhoods and the overall lack of a law enforcement response to the gang and youth violence problem in the Columbia-Richland County area.

Available Resources and Suggested Responses

Both the Richland County Sheriff's Department and Columbia Police Department have small units dedicated to gangs and gang crime. The most consistent suggestion from those interviewed was the need for coordination across criminal justice agencies, and particularly, by the CPD and RCSD. Similarly, a better mechanism needs to be created for insuring that judges who make crucial bond and probation/parole revocation decisions have accurate information about a defendant's gang involvement and potential threat to the community.

In addition to an improved and coordinated response by law enforcement and other criminal justice agencies, attention must be given to improving the prosecution and adjudication of violent and gang-involved youths. With this in mind, we suggest the development of a streamlined approach for identifying, prosecuting, and adjudicating violent youths who pose a continuing threat to others and who refuse to avail themselves of pro-social alternatives. This streamlined effort may take the form of a "youth and gang-violence court," which would operate similarly to drug and domestic violence courts that currently exist in the area and across the U.S. Particularly for youthful violent offenders, processes must be designed to break the all-too-common cycle of arrest, release on bond, and re-arrest prior to trial. Probation and Parole must also be part of the effort and must work with the solicitor's office and courts to revoke

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the probation or parole status of youthful or gang-involved offenders on probation or parole who pose a threat to the community.

A review of existing programs targeted at gang-involved and at-risk youths revealed a variety of programs that provide services to these groups. The review also identified some important gaps in the current services being provided. There are a number of programs in the area (recreation and after school based) that are primarily directed toward kindergarten through middle school age children. Some of the programs outlined have stretched their prevention efforts through the high school level. These programs primarily, or potentially, target juveniles at risk for gang involvement with academic support, counseling, mentoring, recreation, and employment assistance. However, there is only one, possibly two, programs above that are directed at juveniles actively involved in gangs. Moreover, the research team did not find any community or faith-based intervention programs directed at gang-involved individuals 18 and older. This older, gang-specific intervention gap is important, however, considering that 18-24 year olds were the largest age category of gang members identified by area law enforcement. Improving the coordination of services will be an important consideration for the Gang and Youth Violence Prevention Council. Each participating service program should have a clearly defined area of responsibility so as to avoid gaps in services and redundancy. A core element of this coordination is the process by which organizations, such as the schools or the Department of Juvenile Justice, refer individuals to services. The Council will want to put in place a streamlined referral system for schools, DJJ, PPP, law enforcement, and others that will guarantee the connection of at-risk youths to services and a lack of redundancy, as well as a monitoring system to make sure the services are being provided as desired.

A Comprehensive Response

Based on a detailed evaluation of existing models and programs designed to reduce youth and gang violence, a framework for a comprehensive response strategy in the Midlands is provided below. Figure 1 outlines the suggested structure for the initiative, which would involve enforcement, services, community, and school-based components working together in a coordinated effort to reduce violence. As fully discussed in the assessment report, this research-based, comprehensive model offers the best hope for reducing youth and gang violence in Columbia and Richland County.

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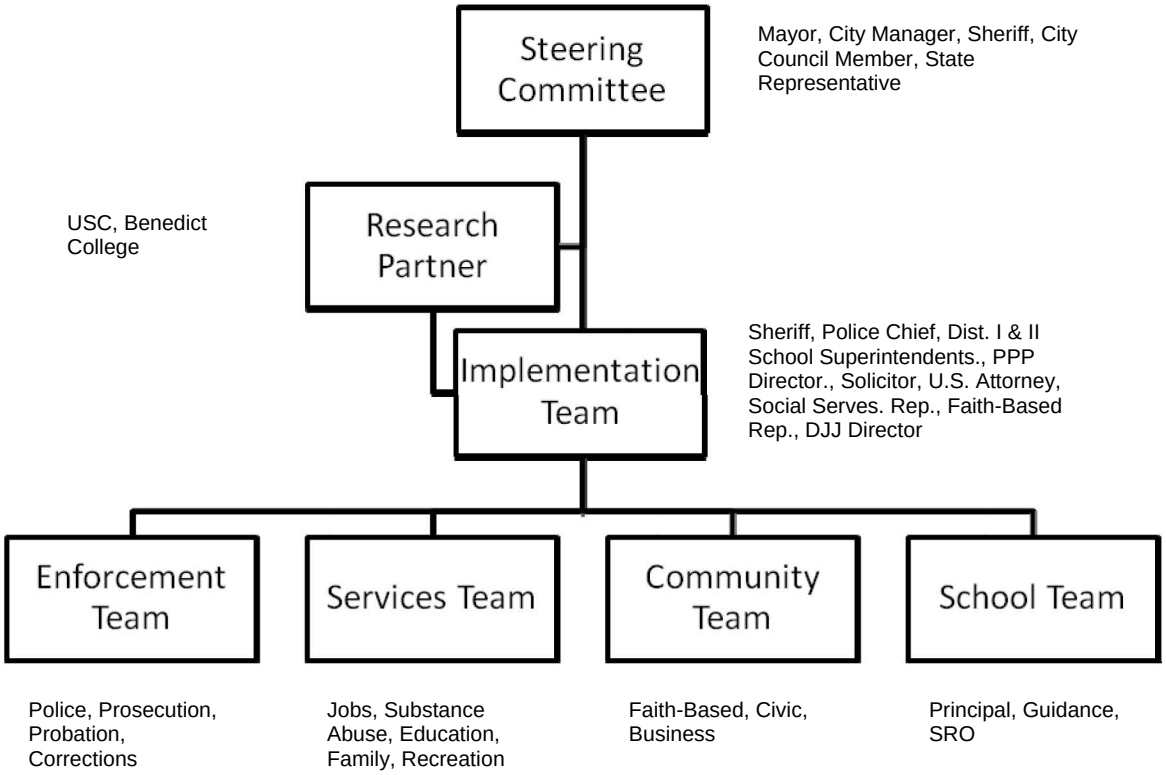
COLUMBIA/RICHLAND COUNTY YOUTH VIOLENCE INITIATIVE



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INTRODUCTION

City of Columbia Mayor Robert Coble, in his 2007 State of the City Speech, called for the creation of a comprehensive response initiative to address gang and youth violence in Columbia and Richland County. The first steps he outlined for this initiative were a complete assessment of these violence problems in the metro area and the formation of the Gang and Youth Violence Prevention Council that would serve as the steering committee for the comprehensive response plan. The Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of South Carolina and Benedict College were subsequently requested to conduct the assessment, and on May 15, 2007 the Columbia City Council approved the funding of this effort. This document represents the final assessment report pursuant to this research agreement.

The overall goal of this assessment was to explore the nature, extent, and characteristics of gang and youth violence in the Columbia-Richland County metropolitan area. Relatedly, we sought to identify past responses to youth violence by government, non-profit, and community organizations, along with the resources and abilities these groups may have for a future comprehensive response. In order to accomplish these goals, the assessment team gathered crime related data from various criminal justice agencies in the area, including information from the Columbia Police Department, the Richland County Sheriff's Department, the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardons, and the joint 911 operations center for Columbia and Richland County. In addition, more than 100 individuals were interviewed, including criminal justice leaders and line-level personnel, community leaders, faith-based leaders, managers of community-based organizations, and school officials. Lastly, focus groups were conducted with community members from ten different communities across Columbia and Richland County. A more thorough description of each of these data collection efforts and their related analyses is provided in the report below.

The findings from the assessment are presented below in three sections. The first section examines findings from the analysis of data provided by law enforcement agencies and the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardons. While there are a number of important crime and violence patterns within these data, the primary focus of this presentation is on youth and gang violence. The second section reviews perspectives on the existence and nature of youth and gang violence gained from the individual and focus group interviews. The perspectives are organized into four sections: criminal justice, community leaders, community members, and school personnel. The third section examines the past and present responses of criminal justice and community organizations to gang and youth violence. Attention is also given to the suggestions for improved responses provided by the officials and personnel from these organizations, along with consideration of local area resources that may be used in a future comprehensive response. The final section of the report draws on the above findings and the criminal justice research literature to provide a suggested framework for the Gang and Youth Violence Prevention Council to pursue in establishing a comprehensive response to gang and youth violence in the metropolitan area.

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PATTERNS OF YOUTH VIOLENCE, GANG ACTIVITY, AND GANG VIOLENCE

Over the past five years, the issue of gang activity in the Columbia and Richland County area has garnered increased attention from public officials, community members, and the media. Moreover, a 2005 survey of South Carolina Law Enforcement Agencies revealed that agencies in the Midlands region, particularly the Columbia Police Department (CPD) and the Richland County Sheriff's Department (RCSD), reported among the highest levels of gang activity in the state (Rojek et at., 2006). Given the consistent research linking gang activity with violence (e.g. Klein and Maxson, 1989; Thornberry and Burch, 1997), it is logical to consider what impact the presence of gang activity in the Midlands has on levels of violence in the area.

This assessment, however, starts with the much broader question of the extent to which youths account for violent crime in Columbia and Richland County. The focus purposely begins with an assessment of youth-related violent crime to avoid the assumption the majority of violence in the area is gang-related and because our mandate from the City was to explore both youth *and* gang violence. For the present study, "youth" refers to individuals between the ages of 12 and 24. This age category is similar to what has been used to identify patterns of youth violence in other notable studies (Kennedy et al., 2001) and represents the primary age range for gang-involved individuals.

The analysis presented below begins with a general examination of violent crime in Columbia and Richland County from January 1, 2002 to April 30, 2007.[1] Attention is then focused on patterns of youth involvement in firearms-related crimes and other violent crimes. Thus, the analysis examines the rate of youth involvement in violent crime as well as the geographical patterns of youth crime across Columbia and Richland County. It also examines whether suspects in violent crimes were on probation or parole at the time of the offense. Select areas of the city and county with a high density of violent crime are subsequently evaluated to determine if there are any unique patterns of youth or firearm violence in specific communities.

This general analysis of youth violence is then followed by an examination of gang activity and gang violence. The gang analysis examines the characteristics of individuals identified as gang members by the CPD and RCSD, as well as the characteristics of crimes involving these individuals. The crime analysis portion of this assessment includes the examination of geographical patterns of gang-related violence, drug arrests, and graffiti across the city and county. It is important to note, however, that there are limitations to this analysis of gang activity and violence. Only within the last two to three years have the CPD and RCSD made a concerted effort to identify gang-involved individuals and crimes within their jurisdictions. In addition, these agencies use different approaches for identifying and documenting gang-involved individuals and gang-related crime. As a result, the assessment team was only able to examine

[1] The assessment started on May 15, 2007. At that point, the most complete crime data available for 2007 included January through April.

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patterns of gang involvement in crime between January 1, 2006 and April 30, 2007. Furthermore, because of these data limitations, we cannot reliably estimate the percent of youth violence or violent crime in general that is gang-related. Nonetheless, the evaluation conducted provides insight into patterns of gang activity and violence across Columbia and Richland County.

The data for the analyses below primarily came from the CPD, RCSD, and the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED). The analysis made use of victim, suspect, arrestee, and incident characteristics, including the addresses of reported crimes. The crimes of interest were Uniform Crime Report Part I crimes (Homicide, Forcible Rape, Robbery, and Aggravated Assault), drug arrests, and weapons violation arrests. The data of interest from the Richland County Sheriff's Department for the specified time frame was available electronically. The Columbia Police Department, however, did not start recording complete incident reports electronically until late 2006. As a result, the assessment team relied on multiple data collection efforts to obtain the desired data for this analysis. The South Carolina Incident Based Reporting System (SCIBRS), operated by the SLED, contains basic information on victims, suspects, arrestees, and incidents for all law enforcement agencies in the state. Through a request by the Columbia Police Department, the assessment team received the majority of the needed data from SCIBRS. However, to obtain address and other pertinent information, the assessment team retrieved data by reviewing paper copies of crime reports. Supplemental data were also provided by the CPD crime analysis unit. In addition to this law enforcement data, the assessment team obtained data from the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardons to examine whether individuals involved in violent crimes were on active probation or parole at the time of the incident. Additional data on calls for service for shots fired in Columbia and Richland County were provide by the joint 911 dispatch center for the city and county.

While the assessment examined a wide range of crime patterns, the report itself only contains data on notable patterns related to violence, youth violence, firearms, and gang activity. A complete presentation of all analyses conducted is provided in the appendices to this report. Appendix A details all analyses on violent crimes, youth violence, suspect/arrestee patterns, areas with concentrated crime, and gang activity. Appendix B provides maps of all crime patterns examined during this assessment.

Violence, Youth Violence and Firearms

The findings below begin with an overview of crime in Columbia and Richland County and then focus on the specific issues of youth and firearms-related crime. These assessments were conducted at three levels of analysis: crime in Columbia and Richland County combined, crime in Columbia alone, and crime in unincorporated Richland County alone. The findings presented here highlight selected analyses and provide a general picture of crime patterns in the city and county.

Table 1 presents the overall figures on violent crime in Columbia and Richland County combined. The number of criminal events represents the number of incidents of violent

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crime regardless of the number of victims or suspects involved. The number of victims reflects the number of victims within these criminal events, which is higher in many cases. As a result, over the period of January 1, 2002 to April 30, 2007, there were a total 15,312 violent crimes in the city and county, with 19,294 victims across these events. Within these violent crimes are embedded 165 homicide incidents that resulted in 178 homicide victims.

Table 1. Crime Events and Victims for Columbia and Richland County Combined

	Number of Criminal Events (Jan. 1, 2002-Apr 30, 2007)	**Number of Victims** (Jan. 1, 2002-Apr 30, 2007)
Total	15312	19294
Homicide	165	178
Rape	860	894
Robbery	4149	5952
Aggravated Assault	10138	12270

Figure 1 presents the trend in these violent crime incidents over the time period of 2002 to 2006.[2] The rates of violent crime per 100,000 citizens were calculated for the city and county in order to compare trends between jurisdictions.[3] Overall, the rate of violent crime incidents has decline over the five year analysis period, with 1222.8 violent crimes incident per 100,000 residents reported in 2002 as compared to 961.1 per 100,000 reported in 2006. Richland County had a similar decline in the overall rate of violent crime incidents, and had a lower rate per 100,000 citizens than the city for all five years of the analysis. However, Richland County, and to a lesser extent the City of Columbia, did see an increase in the number of reported violent crime incidents between 2005 and 2006.

[2] Because crime data for 2007 included only four months of activity (January -April), the analysis in Figure 1 is restricted to the most recent five years with complete data – 2002 through 2006.

[3] The violent crime rate is calculated by dividing the number of crimes by the population of the jurisdiction, and then multiplying the result by 100,000. This calculation normalizes the level of crime within jurisdictions, which allows for comparison of crime trends across jurisdictions or within the same jurisdiction over time. The population figures used in the present analysis is the yearly population estimates provided by the United State Census Bureau.

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Figure 1. Violent Crime Rates for Columbia and Richland County Based on the Number of Violent Crime Incidents (2002-2006)

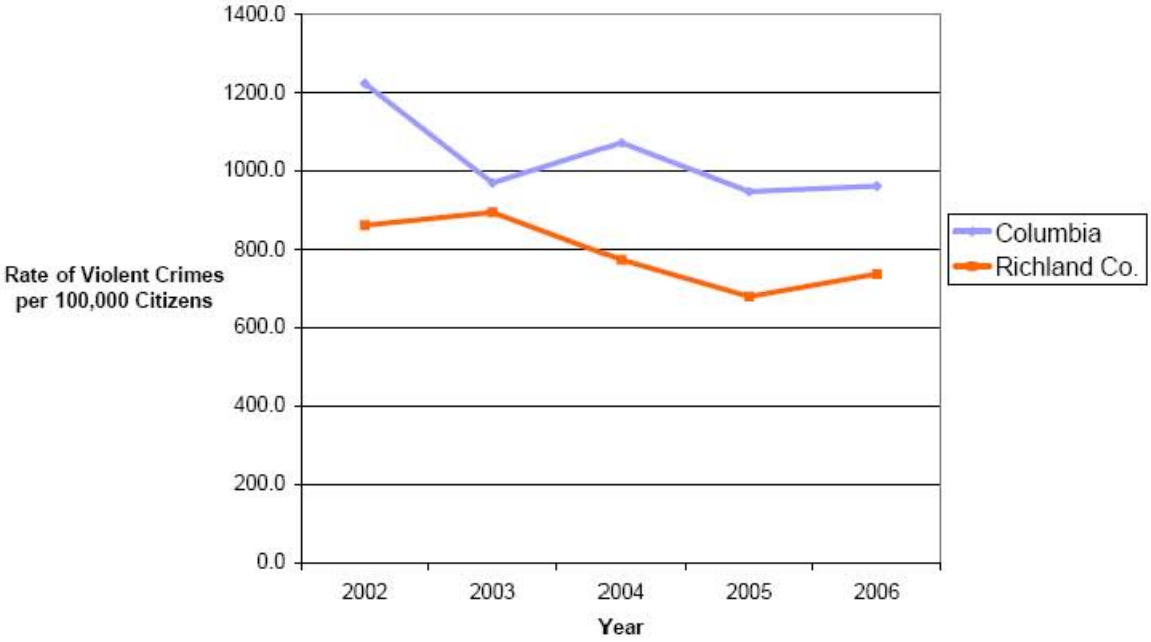

Figure 2 provides the findings on the characteristics of violent crime suspects for Columbia and Richland County combined. The suspect characteristics of age, gender and race are presented by their percent of total violent crime suspects. For example, 49.3% of all violent crimes suspects across both jurisdictions were youths, which as noted above, represent individuals between the ages of 12 and 24 years. In order to provide a comparison for these rates, Figure 2 also reports 2000 Census figures for each of the age, gender, and race categories shown. The Census data are represented in gray, and violent crime suspect characteristics are shown in crimson.

Figure 2 shows that individuals 12-24 years in age (Youth) represent 22% of the area population but accounted for almost half of all violent crime suspects (49.3%). While males and females are almost equally represented in the region according to the census, males accounted for 81.4% of violent crime suspects, while females represented only 18.6% of suspects. Figure 2 also reveals a disparity between the representation of Black citizens in the general population and the percent of violent crime suspects that are Black. Whereas Black citizens represent 45.2% of the population in the city and county combined, Black suspects represented 79.0% of all violent crime suspects. Conversely, White citizens represent 50.3% of the area population but only 11.0% of violent crime suspects. Remaining racial groups represent only a small portion of the area population and violent crime suspects.

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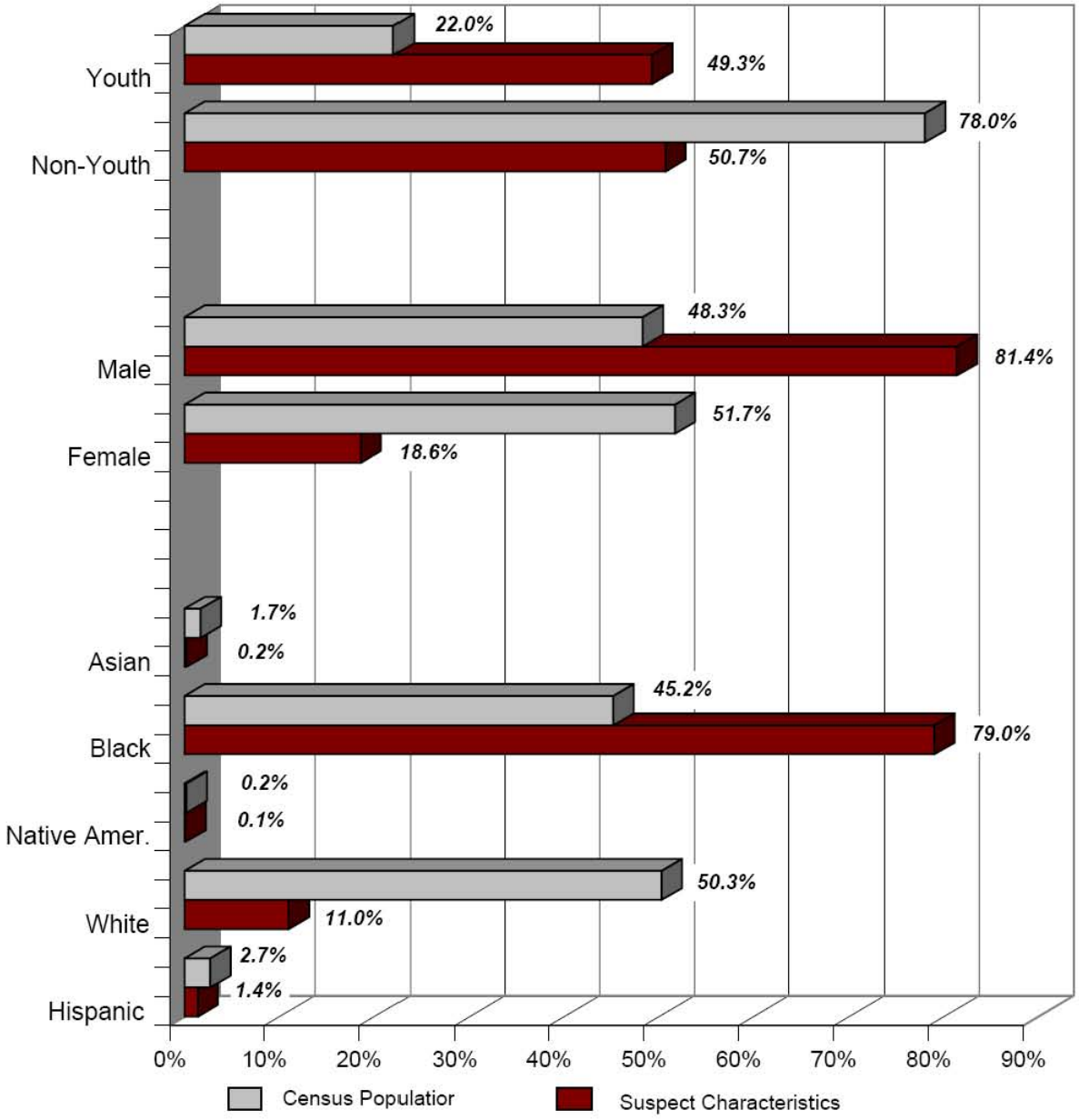
Figure 2. Census Population Characteristics and Suspect Characteristics for Violent Crime in Columbia and Richland County Combined (January 1, 2002-April 30, 2007)



Similar to the above analysis of violent crime suspects, Figure 3 displays the characteristics of all violent crime victims in Columbia and Richland County combined and Census data for comparison. Youth victims are also disproportionately represented among violent crime victims relative to their presence in the city and county population, representing 38.1% of violent crime victims and 22.0% of residents. Figure 3 reveals that unlike violent crime suspects, the representation of victim gender is similar to the distribution of female and male residents in the city and county. The racial characteristics of violent crime victims reveals a similar pattern of disparity to what was

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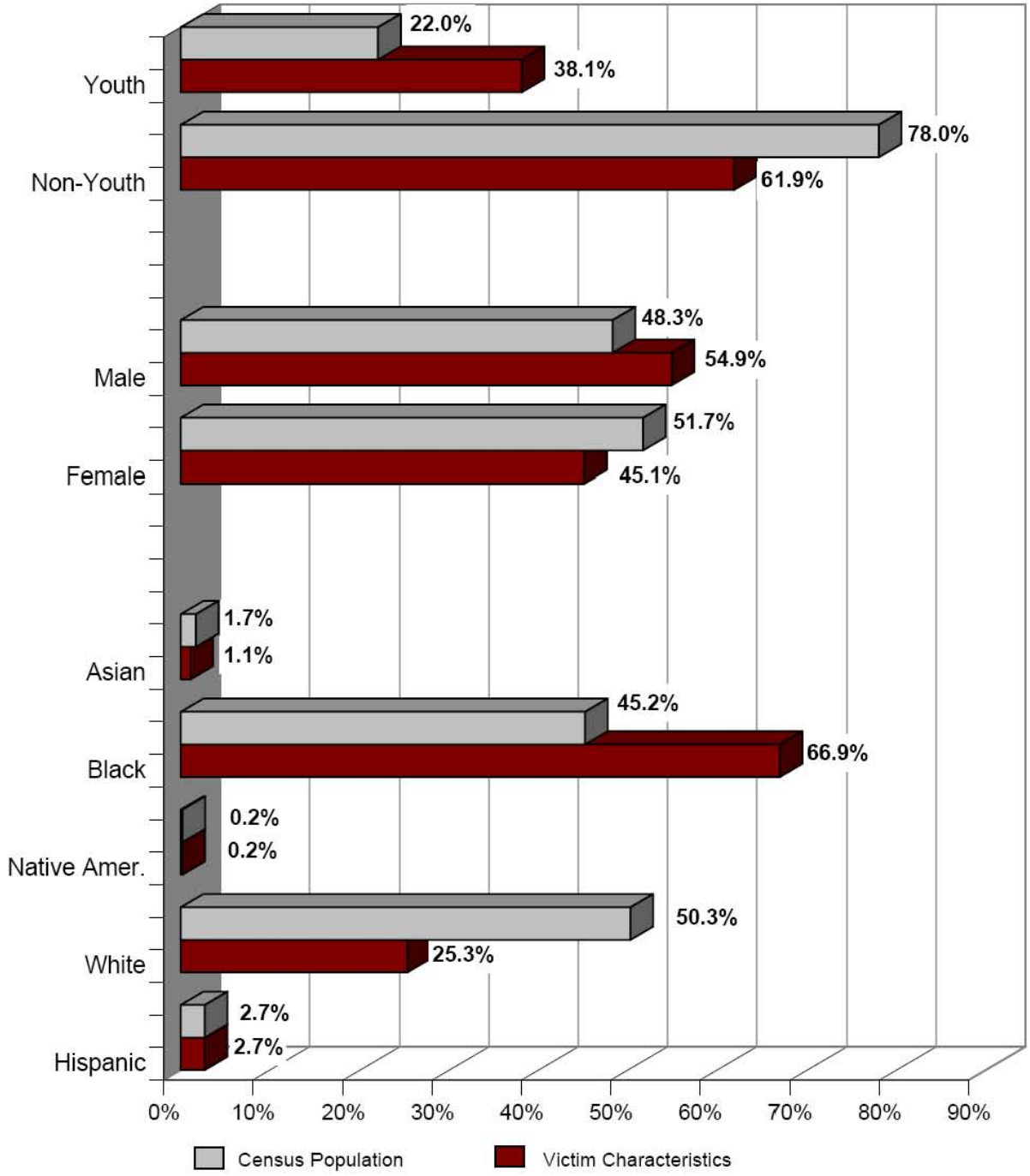
found among violent crime suspects, with black victims overrepresented relative to the population of black residents in the area and White victims underrepresented. Black citizens represent 45.2% of area residents, but 66.9% of violent crime victims. White citizens represent 50.3% of area residents and 25.3% of violent crime victims.

Figure 3. Census Population Characteristics and Victim Characterisitcs for Violent Crime in Columbia and Richland County Combined (January 1, 2002-April 30, 2007)



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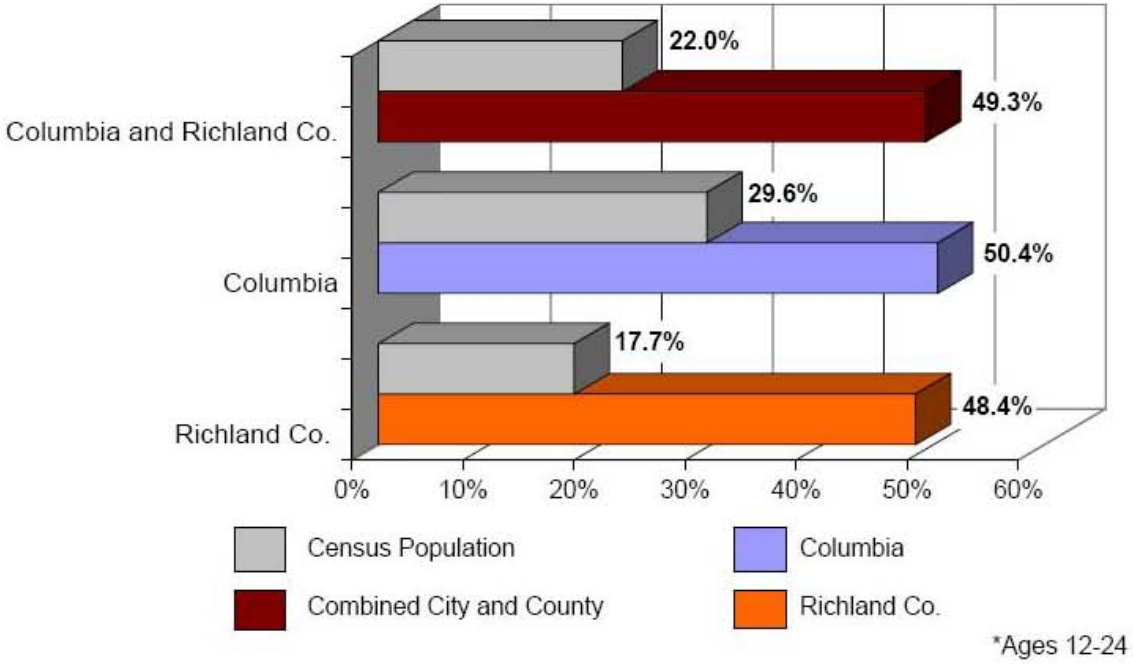
Youth Suspects and Firearm Use

Figure 4 further explores the pattern of youth suspect involvement in violent crime by examining Columbia and Richland County separately. The analysis for this and the remaining figures is based on the full assessment period, January 1, 2002 to April 30, 2007. Similar to the above analyses of suspect and victim characteristics, Census data is provided for the youth population in each jurisdiction to allow for comparison. The percentage of violent crimes with youth suspects is similar across each jurisdiction, but the disparity of this involvement relative to youth residents in the population is greater in the county. Where youth represent 50.4% of violent crime suspects and 29.6% of residents in the city, they represent 48.4% of suspects and 17.7% of residents in the county.

Figure 4. Percentage of Violent Crime Suspects Who are Youth* in Columbia and Richland County Compared to Census Population of Youth (January 1, 2002-April 30, 2007)



Figures 5 and 6 provide a similar comparison, but the youth suspects are separated into two categories: 12-17 year old suspects and 18-24 year old suspects. These findings reveal that across both jurisdictions there is an overrepresentation of youth in the 12-17 and 18-24 age groups relative to their representation in the residential population of each jurisdiction. An examination of both figures also illustrates the 18-24 year age group accounts for the majority of crimes that fall under the general youth classification. This older youth group accounts for 34.0% of all violent crime suspects in both jurisdictions combined, whereas the 12-17 group accounts for 15.3% of violent crime suspects across the city and county combined. A similar pattern of this older youth group dominance is found within Columbia and Richland County separately as well.

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Figure 5. Percentage of Violent Crime Suspects Who are Youth (12-17) in Columbia and Richland County Compared to Census Population of Youth (January 1, 2002-April 30, 2007)

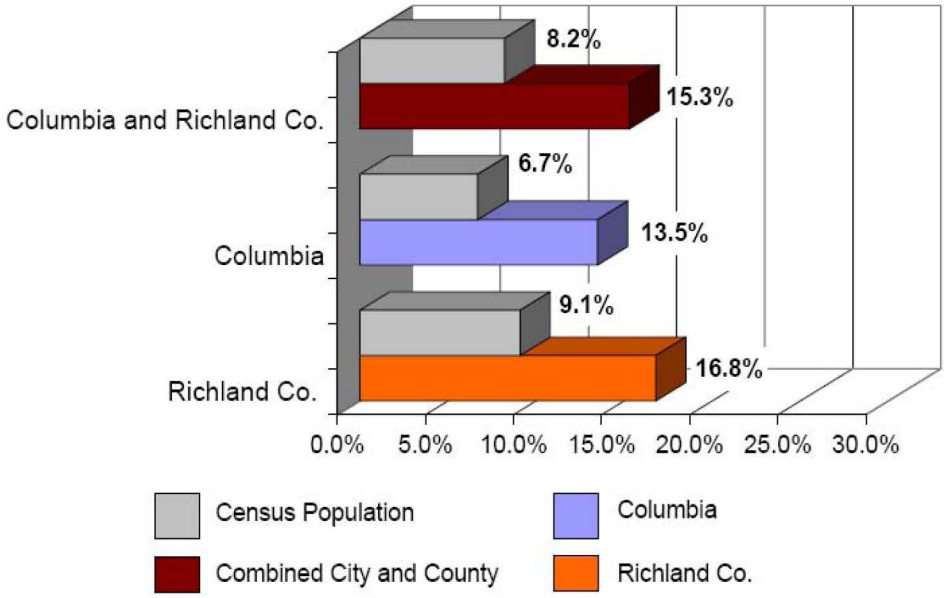

Figure 6. Percentage of Violent Crime Suspects Who are Youth (18-24) in Columbia and Richland County Compared to Census Population of Youth (January 1, 2002-April 30, 2007)

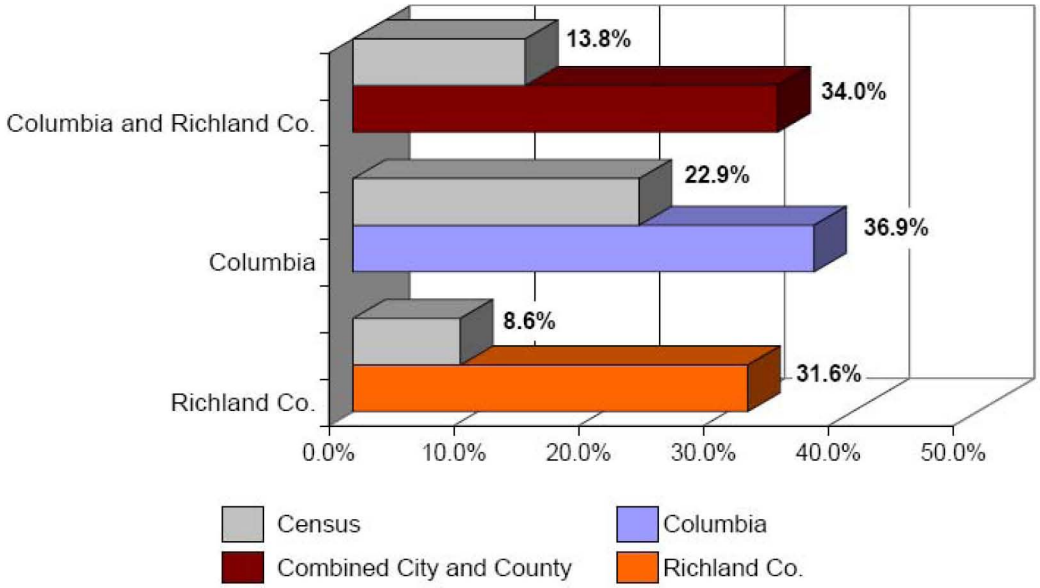

Figure 7 is a closer examination of the representation of youth (12-24 years) suspects in specific offenses. Youth suspects account for approximately 50% of all homicide and rape suspects, and 60% of all robbery suspects. The representation of youth suspects in aggravated assaults is slightly lower than for the other crimes at 44.8%. However, this

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crime category includes felony criminal domestic violence incidents, which are disproportionately committed by adult suspects (see Appendix A for analysis of suspect age by interpersonal and non-personal relationships in aggravated assaults).

Figure 7. Percentage of Violent Crime Suspects Who are Youth* in Columbia and Richland County Compared to Census Population of Youth (January 1, 2002-April 30, 2007)

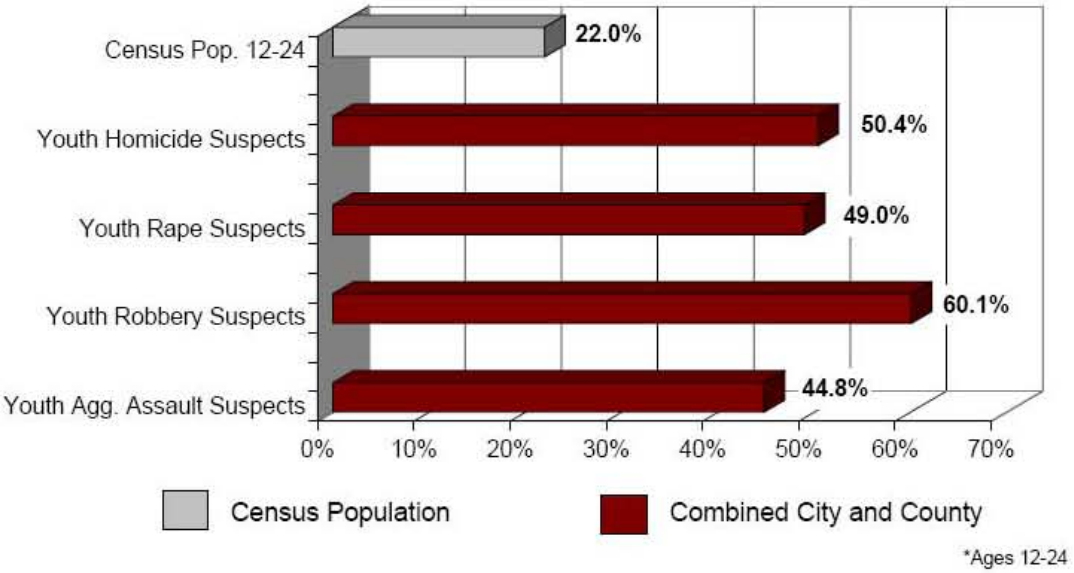

Figure 8 examines the rate of youth violent crime suspects across the period of analysis (January 1, 2002 to April 30, 2007). Overall, the youth involvement as suspects in violent crime has largely remained the same over this time period, hovering around 50% for both jurisdictions. Between 2006 and 2007, the percentage of youth suspects in violent crime dropped off somewhat in the county and increased slightly in city. Overall, however, the involvement of youth suspects in violent crime has remained high but relatively stable across both jurisdictions in recent years.

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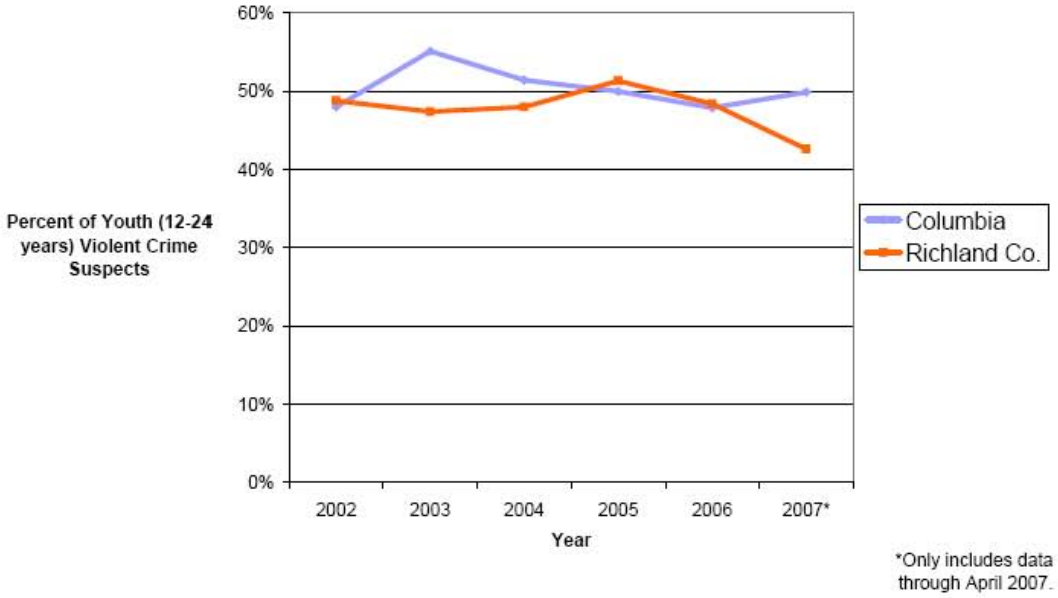
Figure 8. Percentage of Youth Suspects in Violent Crime in Columbia and Richland County (2002-2007)



The analysis of firearm involvement in violent crime was calculated at the incident level rather than at the individual level used for the preceding review of suspect and victim characteristics. Each incident was classified as involving a firearm if at least one suspect possessed a firearm. The percentage of incidents involving firearms was then calculated by dividing the number of incidents involving a firearm by the total number of incidents. The involvement of a firearm in an incident does not mean that a shooting occurred. The firearm could have been displayed to intimidate a victim, pointed at a victim and not fired, or actually fired. However, there are limitations to calculating the number of shootings that occurred over the analysis period. The identification of weapon used is a standardized question on the crime report form for both agencies where officers are required to note firearms or any other weapons used in a crime. There is no such standardized question on these reports for identifying weather an incident involved the discharge of a firearm, however. The research team was able to identify a number of cases where shootings occurred based on brief descriptions of the offense in the Richland County data, but there is no standardized requirement that officers mention the shooting in the description. This data limitation may result in the undercounting of shooting incidents. As a result, the analysis presented here only focuses on the more reliable calculation of firearm involvement in events.

Figure 9 illustrates the rate of firearm use for both agencies combined as well as for each separately. Firearms were used in 34.2% of all violent crimes in Columbia and Richland County combined, with 39.9% of Columbia incidents and 30.0% of Richland County incidents involving a firearm. Figure 10 further explores this percentage of firearm use by comparing rate involvement across violent crimes involving youth and non-youth suspects. There is a considerable difference in the rate of firearm use across these age groups, with firearms present in 41.0% of incidents involving youth suspects

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in both jurisdictions as opposed to 23.7% of incidents involving non-youth suspects. The disparity between youth and non-youth involvement in firearms-related crimes exists in both the city and the county. Furthermore, a review of the tables provided in Appendix A also reveals a similar difference between youth and non-youth suspect involvement in firearms offenses for each violent crime examined (Homicide, Rape, Robbery, and Aggravated Assault). In particular, 76.5% of all homicides with youth suspects involved firearms compared to 59.6% for non-youth suspects. Overall, youths were more likely than non-youths to use a firearm in the commission of a violent crime.

Figure 9. Percentage of Violent Crimes Involving Firearms (January 1, 2002-April 30, 2007)

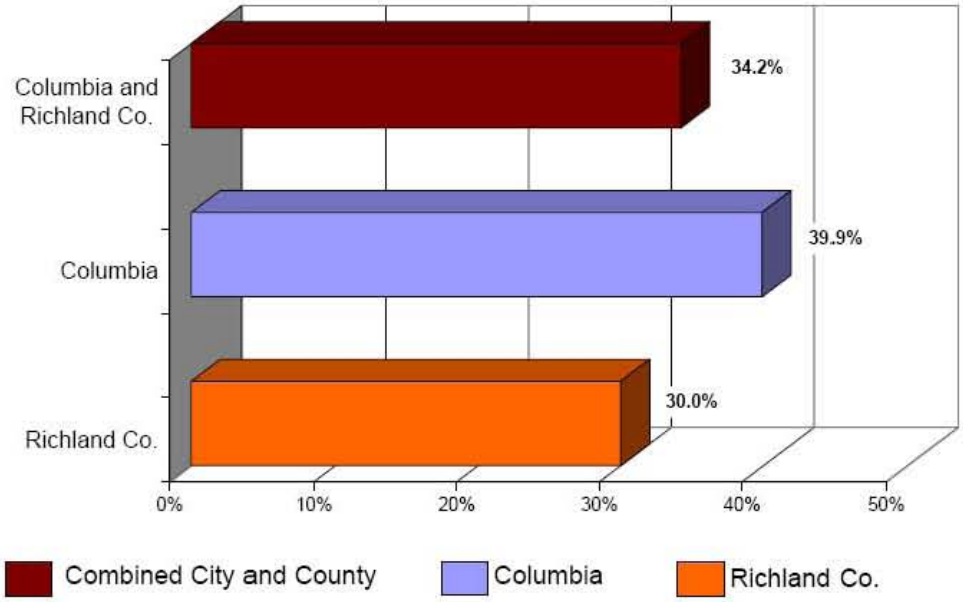
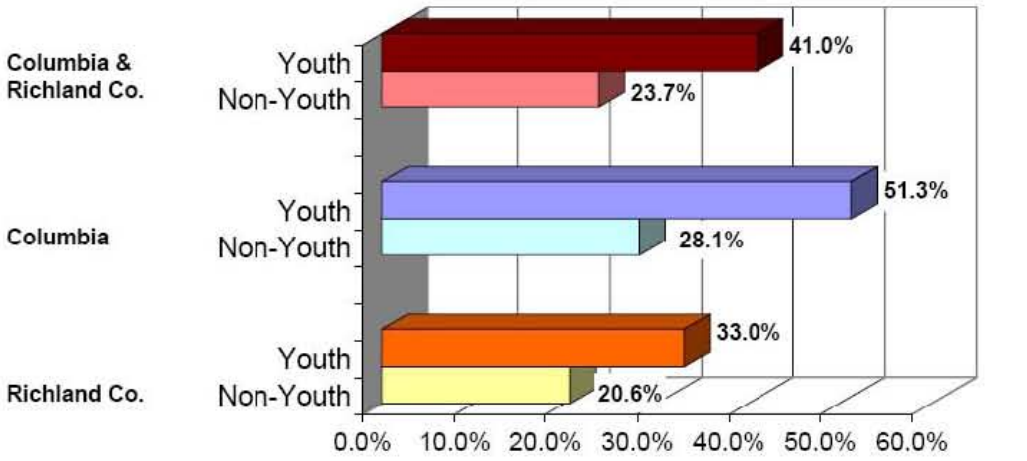


Figure 10. Percentage of Violent Crimes Using Firearms (Youth vs. Non-Youth Suspects) (January 1, 2002-April 30, 2007)



*Ages 12-24

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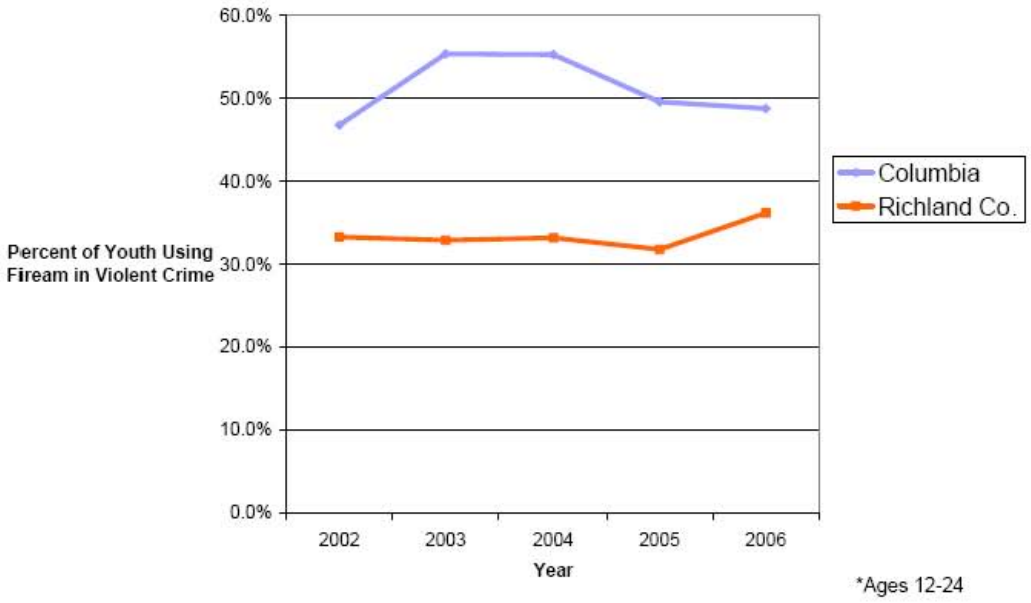
Figure 11 presents the trend from 2002 to 2006 in firearm use among youth suspects in violent crimes. Although there is some variation in both jurisdictions over this time period, there is no evidence of a significant increase in firearms use by youths that would indicate a new crime pattern. Rather, the trend in firearm use in violent crimes by youths has been stable over this period and particularly high and stable in the city. It is important to note, however, that this analysis does not capture whether there has been changes in how these firearms are used and specifically whether there has been a change in the number of shooting incidents. As noted previously, the data provided did not provide a consistent indicator for determining the frequency of shooting incidents over time.

Figure 11. Percentage of Firearm Use in Violent Crime by Youth* in Columbia and Richland County (2002-2006)



Probation and Parole Analysis

As noted above, the assessment team obtained data from the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardons (PPP) to evaluate if the individuals involved in the offenses examined were on probation or parole at the time of the incident. This analysis was conducted for suspects of all crimes captured in the data obtained from the CPD and RCSD (violent crimes, drug offenses, weapons offenses) and for victims of violent crimes. One limitation of the data provided by PPP is that it only covered adults on probation or parole. Juvenile probation is handled by the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), and the assessment team was unable to obtain data on active probationers from the DJJ. Nonetheless, PPP was able to provide data on all adults who were on active probation or parole between January 1, 2004 and April 30, 2007. These data were then matched to the above suspects and victims who were ages 17 and older.

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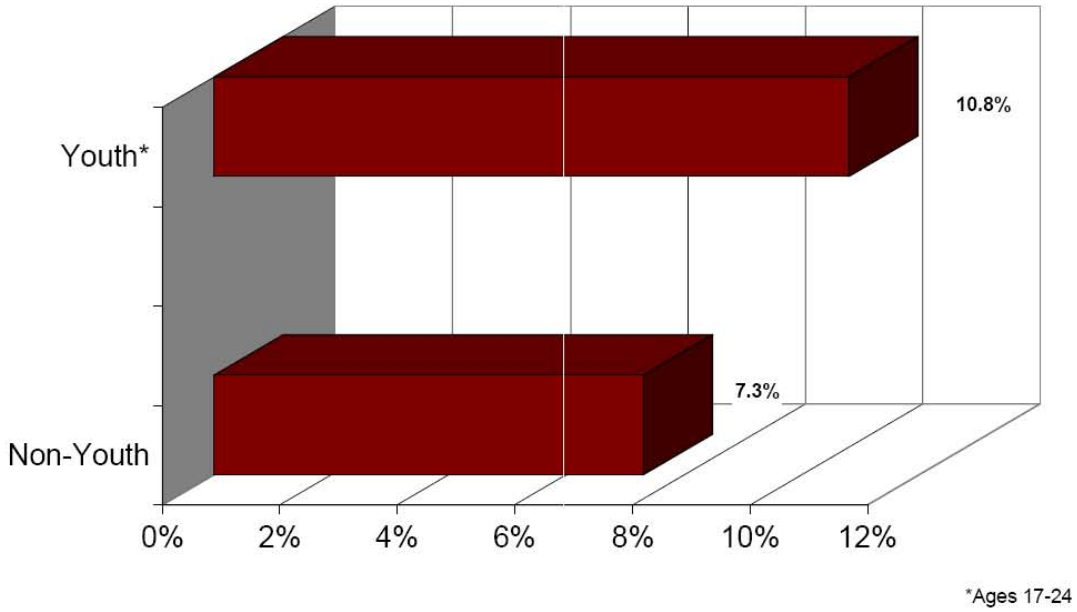
Overall, the percentage of all suspects and victims on probation or parole was low at 7.7%. Further analysis revealed only 3.1% of all violent crime victims were under PPP supervision at the time of the offense, and 8.7% of all violent crime suspects were under supervision. The analysis of violent crime suspects also examined the differences between youth and non-youth suspects as presented in Figure 12. While there was a difference between these two age groups, the difference was small with only 7.3% of non-youth suspects on probation or parole and 10.8% of youth suspects on probation or parole.

Figure 12. Percentage of Violent Crime Suspect on Probation or Parole at Time of Incident by Age Group (January 1, 2004-April 30, 2007)



Although these findings do not show a strong relationship between violent crime suspects and individuals under PPP supervision, they are still important for considering future responses to gang and youth violence in the area. Researchers who examined various crime patterns for the well-known Boston Ceasefire initiative found a substantial number of Boston gang and violent offenders were on probation. The use of probation and parole subsequently became a cornerstone of the initiative response plan. However, some cities that later attempted to model the Boston initiative assumed a similar link between offenders and probation/parole without evaluating whether the link actually existed. As a result, they planned for probation and parole agencies to have an important enforcement role in the response, only to find they were having a limited impact because relatively few at-risk individuals were actually under the supervision of these agencies.

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Areas of Concentrated Violence

The assessment of crime also included the use of crime mapping to examine potential geographic violent crime patterns across Columbia and Richland County. The analysis included the examination of violent crime patterns in general, youth violence patterns, and specific offense patterns. Additionally, potential pattern shifts that may have occurred in each of these crime groups over the analysis period were evaluated. Lastly, analysis was conducted on patterns of drug arrests, weapons violation arrests, and 911 calls reporting shootings. This crime mapping analysis produced more than 50 different maps, which are included in Appendix B. Each map has a description of the jurisdiction, crime(s) examined, and the time frame of analysis.

The patterns across all the maps are fairly consistent with regard to the location and concentration of violent crime in the city and county through all years of the analysis. As a result, only five of the maps are presented below to illustrate the general patterns found across all maps. All maps are based on a crime density analysis. Rather than plotting the location of every criminal event, this approach measures the concentration of crime across a geographic area. The various degrees of crime concentration are then displayed on the map in a way that is similar to a Doppler radar weather map, where the progression from green to red on the map reflects a higher concentration of rain. In the case of crime density analysis, the areas with no coloration reflect areas with few or no criminal incidents over the analysis period. The progression from green to yellow to red represents an increasing concentration of crime in a given area over the analysis period.

The first map presents the density of violent crime in Columbia and Richland County combined for the full analysis period, January 1, 2002 though April 30, 2007. This map illustrates that crime is most concentrated within the city, and parts of the county that are just outside the city. The second map zooms in on this area of concentration to provide additional detail. This map reveals three areas with a moderate to high concentration of crime. The largest area of concentration stretches from approximately the Five Points area along Harden St to the N. Main St area. The other two areas are along Broad River Rd between St. Andrews Rd and Interstate 20, and around Two Notch Rd and Decker Blvd. This second map also plots the location of all homicides in the city and county since 2002. A county-wide overview of this same map is provided in Appendix B, which when compared to this second map, reveals most of the homicides fall within areas with moderate to high concentrations of crime.

The third map provides the violent crime density for Columbia and Richland County combined for the recent period of January 1, 2006 to April 30, 2007. The same three areas of high moderate to high violent crime density from the first and second maps persist for this more recent time period. This map also reveals a few additional areas of moderate to high violent crime concentration, specifically in the areas around Decker Blvd and in the Lower Richland area along Garners Ferry Rd. The fourth map narrows the focus to the density of violent crimes involving youth suspects for the same time frame as the third map. Again, the same three areas with moderate to high

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concentrations of violent crime found in the three prior maps still persist. Thus, youth violent crime is concentrated in the same locations as overall violent crime. The fifth map examines the density of youth violent crime for the same period as the last two maps, but using only the Richland County data. This is done to eliminate the influence that high density areas in the city have on the identification of areas in the county. This map reveals similar locations to the previous maps around Broad River Rd, N. Main St, and Decker Blvd, but the concentration of violent crime areas becomes more prominent absent the city data. This map also highlights an area of high youth violent crime concentration along Bluff Rd. In sum, the consistent pattern in these maps, and those included in Appendix B, is the existence of three areas in the city and county of moderate to high levels of violent crime. Moreover, while there are other areas of concentration that emerge within this analysis, these three are the most persistent.

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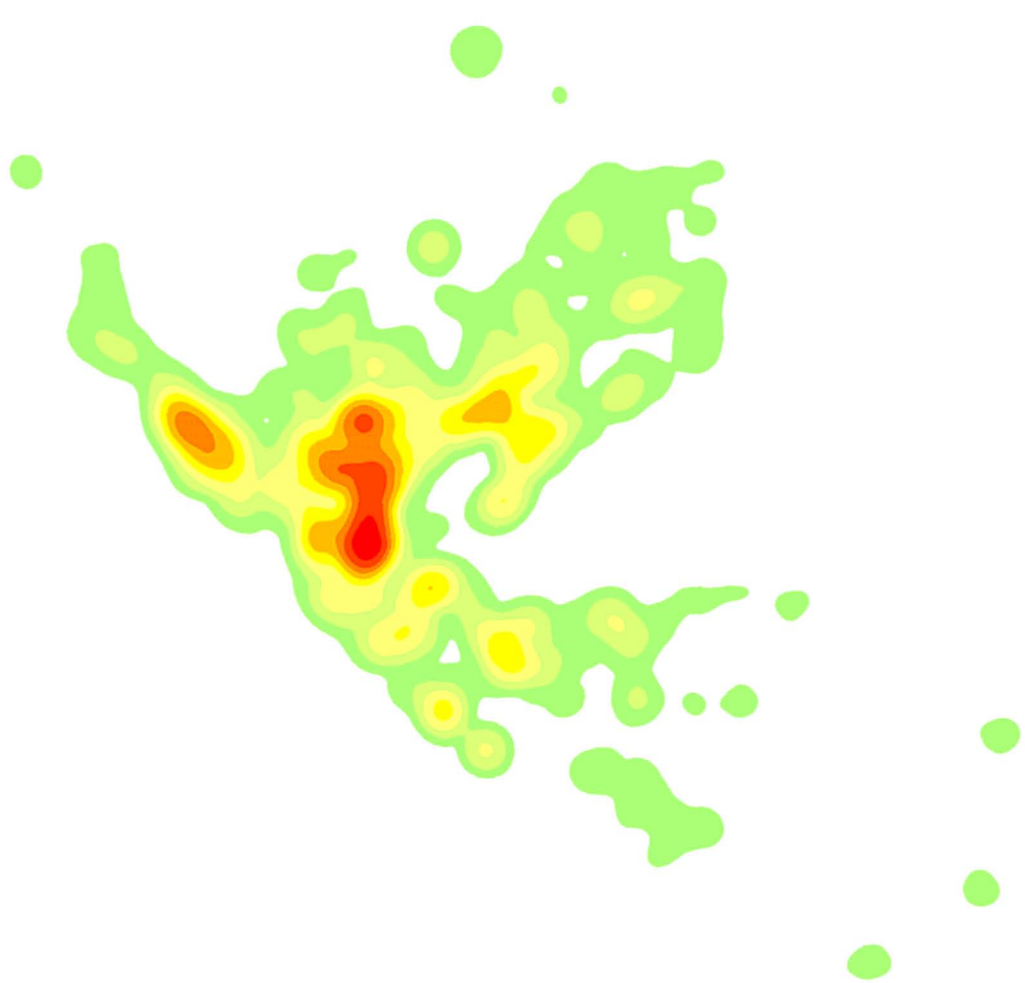
Columbia-Richland County Violent Crime* Density Map (January 1, 2002-April 30, 2007)



Legend

Columbia Boundaries

RCSD Boundaries

Violent Crime Density

Low

Moderate

High

Miles

0 1.5 3 6 9 12

*Violent crime includes homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault

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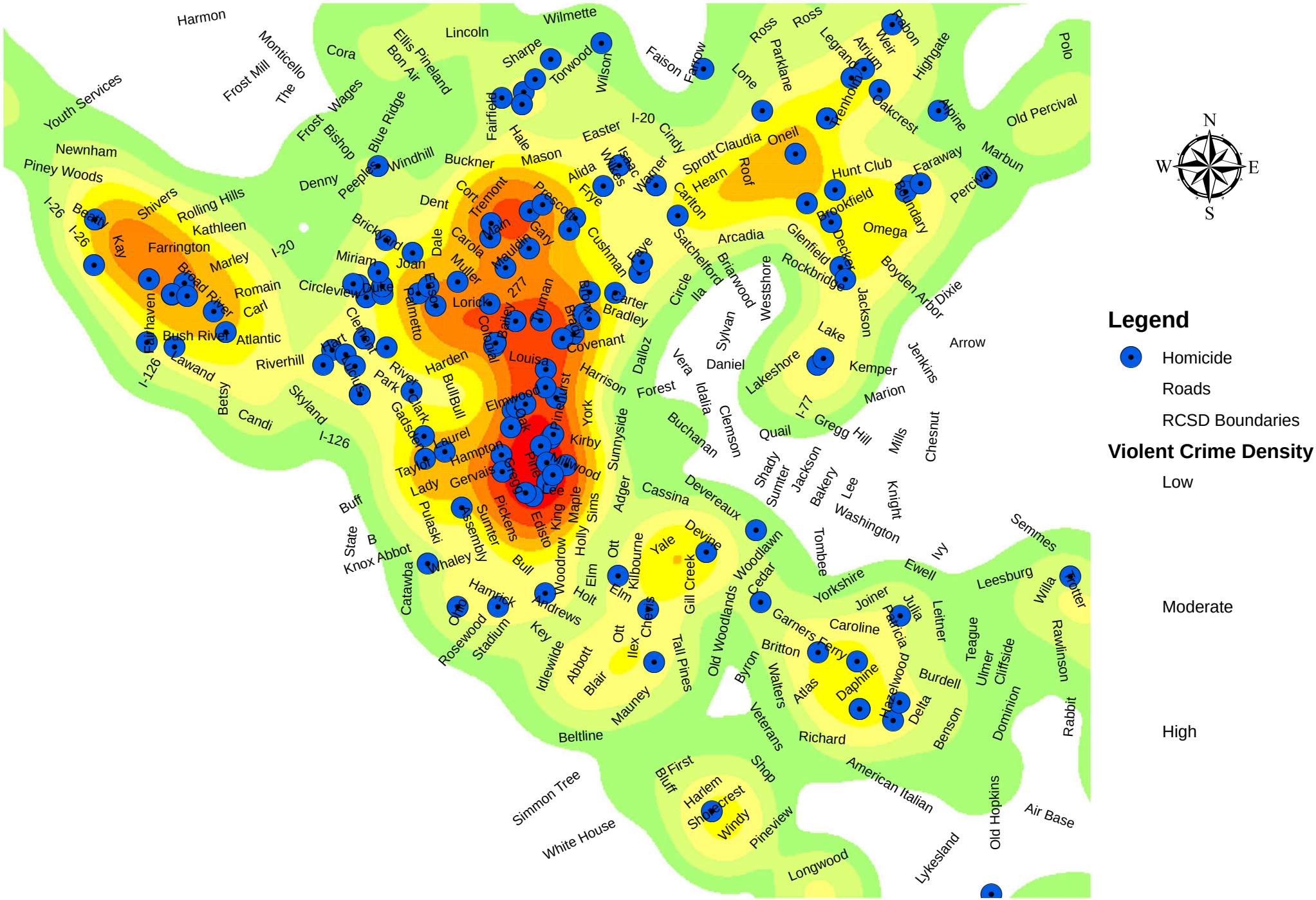
Columbia-Richland County Violent Crime* Density with Homicides (January 1, 2002-April 30, 2007)



Miles

0 0.4 0.8 1.6 2.4 3.2

*Violent crime includes homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault

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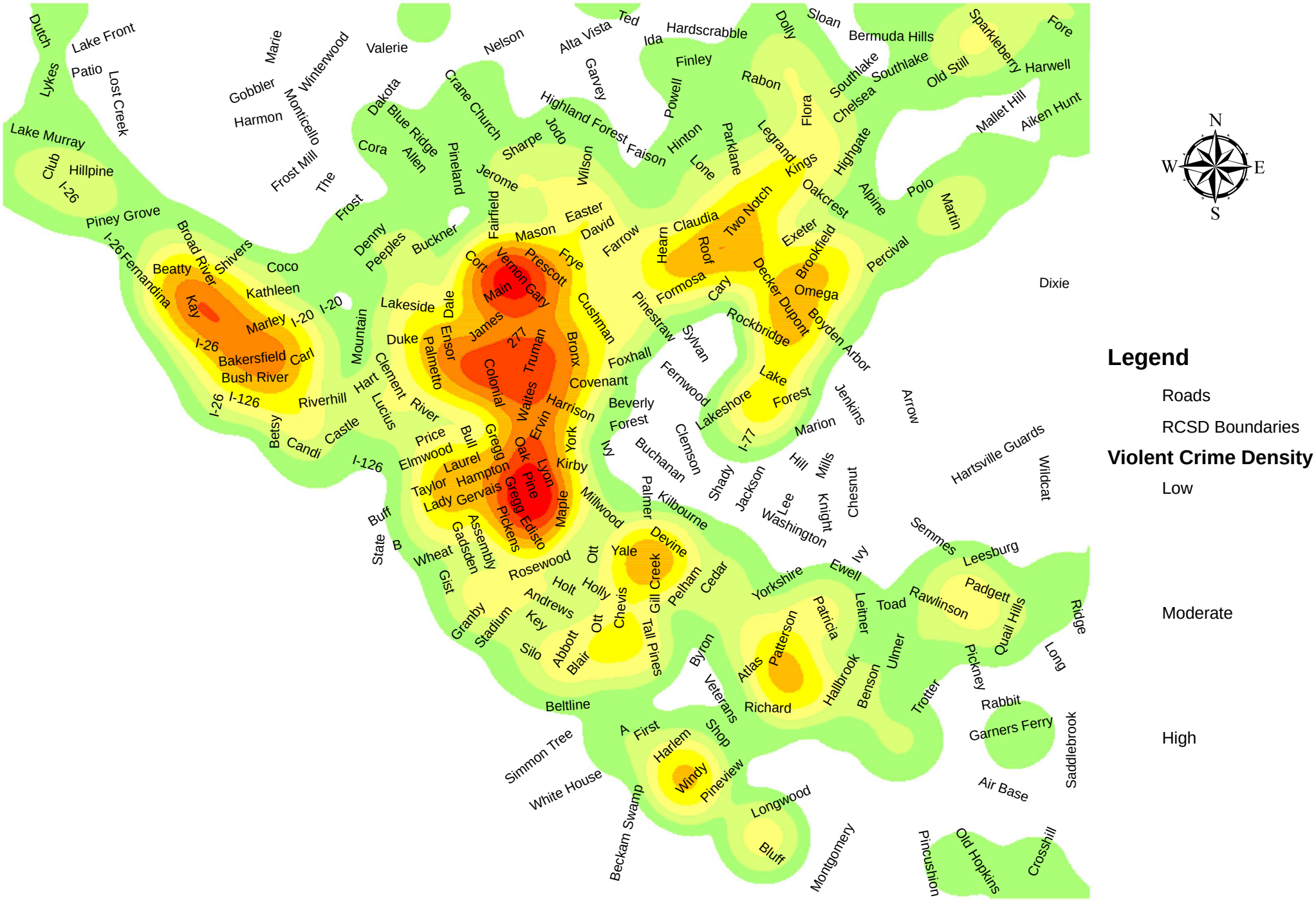
Columbia-Richland County Violent Crime* Density Map (January 1, 2006-April 30, 2007)



*Violent crime includes homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault

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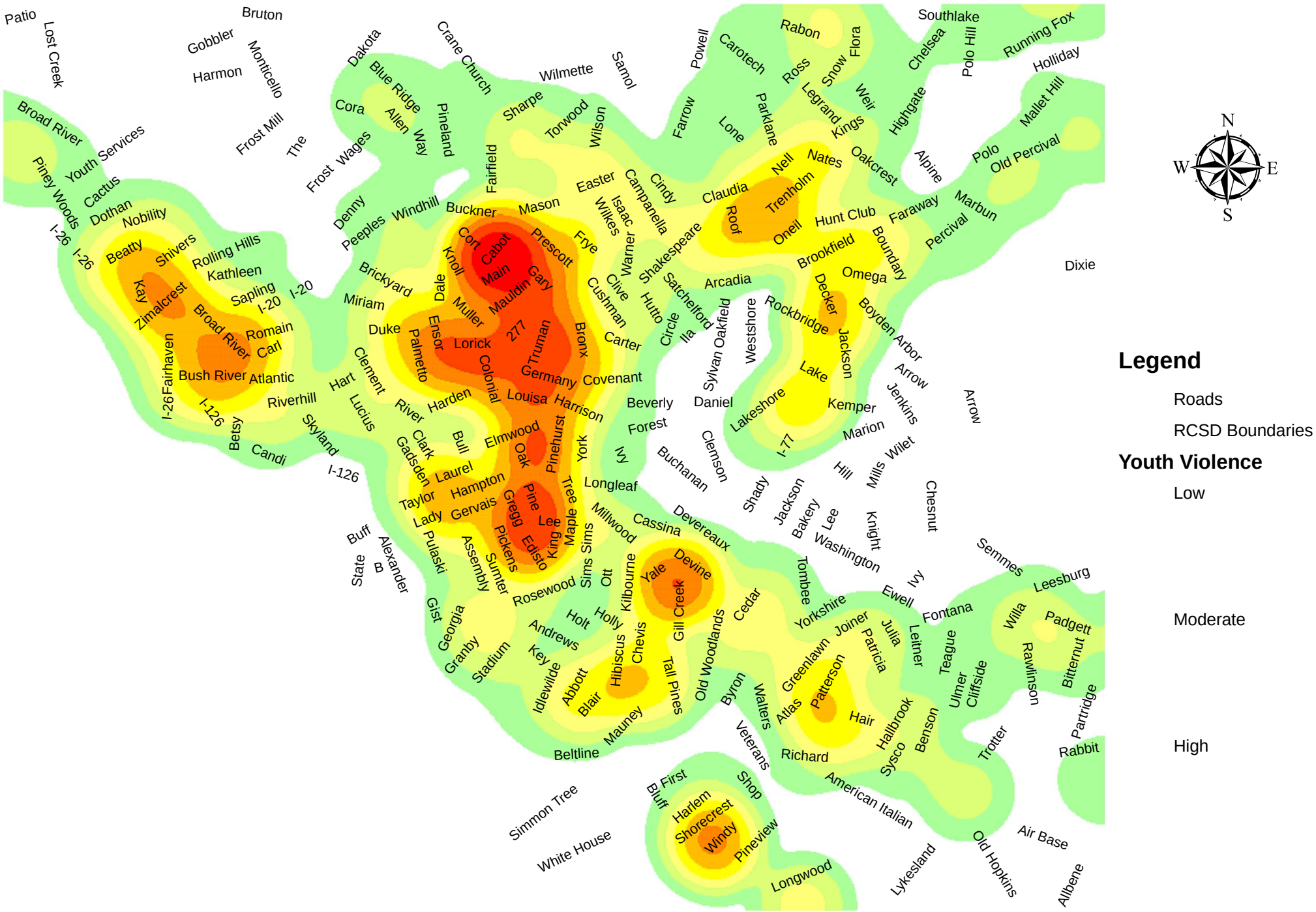
Columbia-Richland County Youth Violent Crime* Density Map (January 1, 2006-April 30, 2007)



*Violent crime includes homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault

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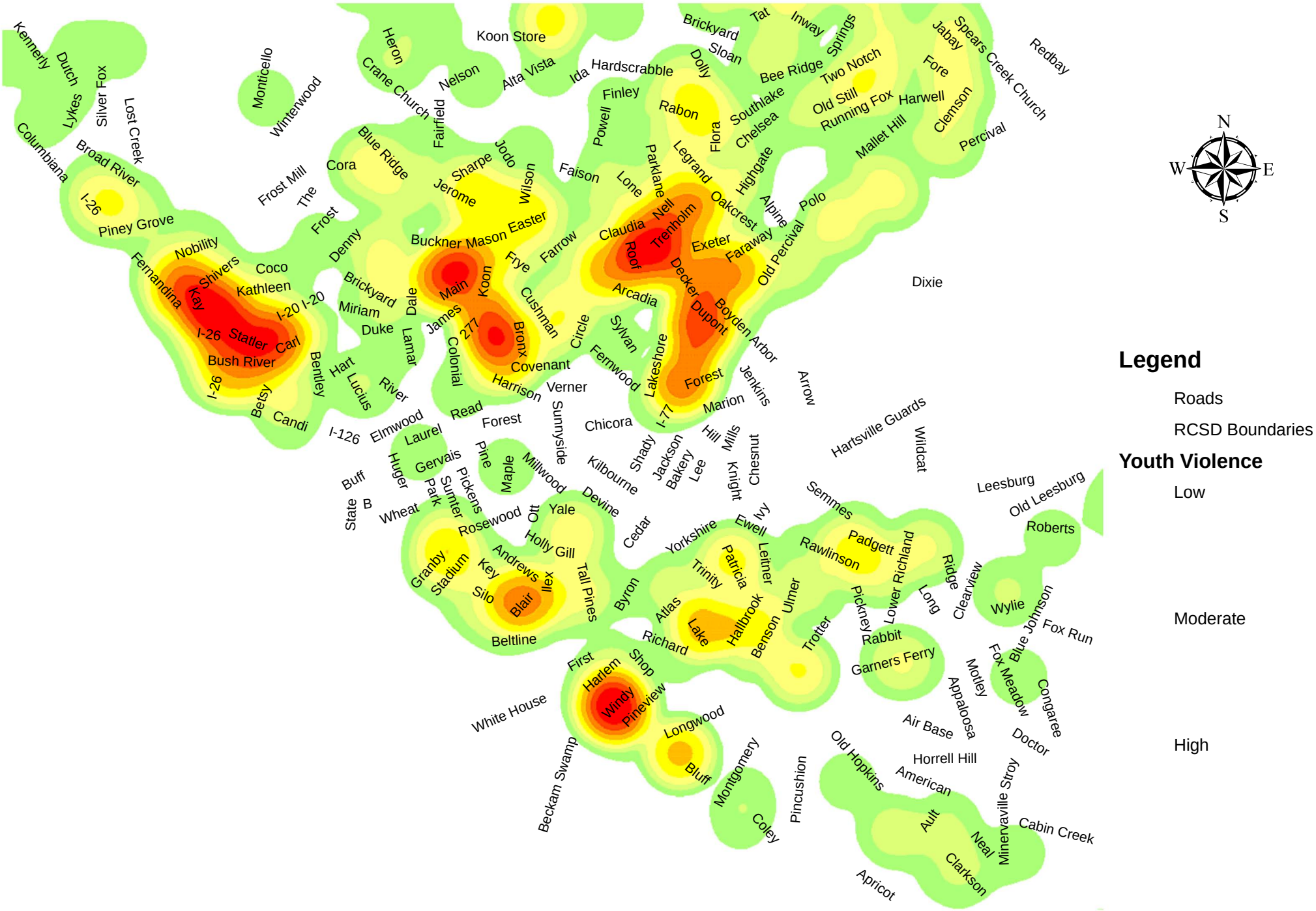
Richland County Youth Violent Crime* Density Map (January 1, 2006-April 30, 2007)



*Violent crime includes homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault

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Given the persistence of crime in the three areas examined above, additional analysis was conducted to evaluate crime patterns within these areas. Appendix A provides analysis on a variety of incident, suspect, and victim characteristics. However, the focus in this section is on the patterns of youth and firearm involvement given the prominence of these issues in the above analysis of crime. These areas of concentrated violent crime were further divided into seven geographical areas. Major streets or intersections are used to identify these areas, although the area of analysis is much broader than only these streets. The map at the end of this section diagrams these seven areas.

Figure 13 examines the number of violent crime incidents involving firearms. Four of the areas (N. Main, School House/Two Notch, Two Notch/Decker, and W. Beltline) have rates of firearm involvement that are more than five percentage points (or at least 20%) higher than the overall rate. Figure 14 explores firearm use in depth across these areas by examining the differences between firearm use among incidents involving youth suspects and non-youth suspects. A similar pattern exists across these areas as was found in the overall analysis provided above, with youth suspects having much higher rates of firearm use than non-youth suspects. In addition, there are locations within the city where the use of firearms by youth suspects in violent crime is more than 50% and in some cases, almost three times the rate of non-youths.

Figure 13. Percentage of Violent Crime Incidents Involving a Firearm (January 1, 2002-April 30, 2007)

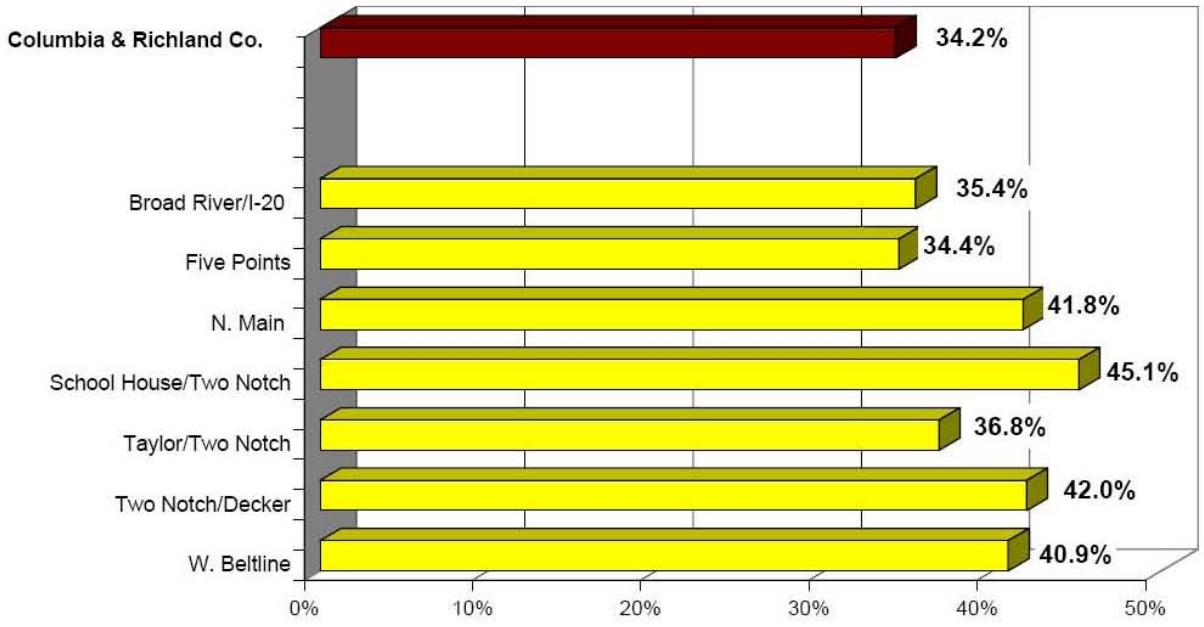

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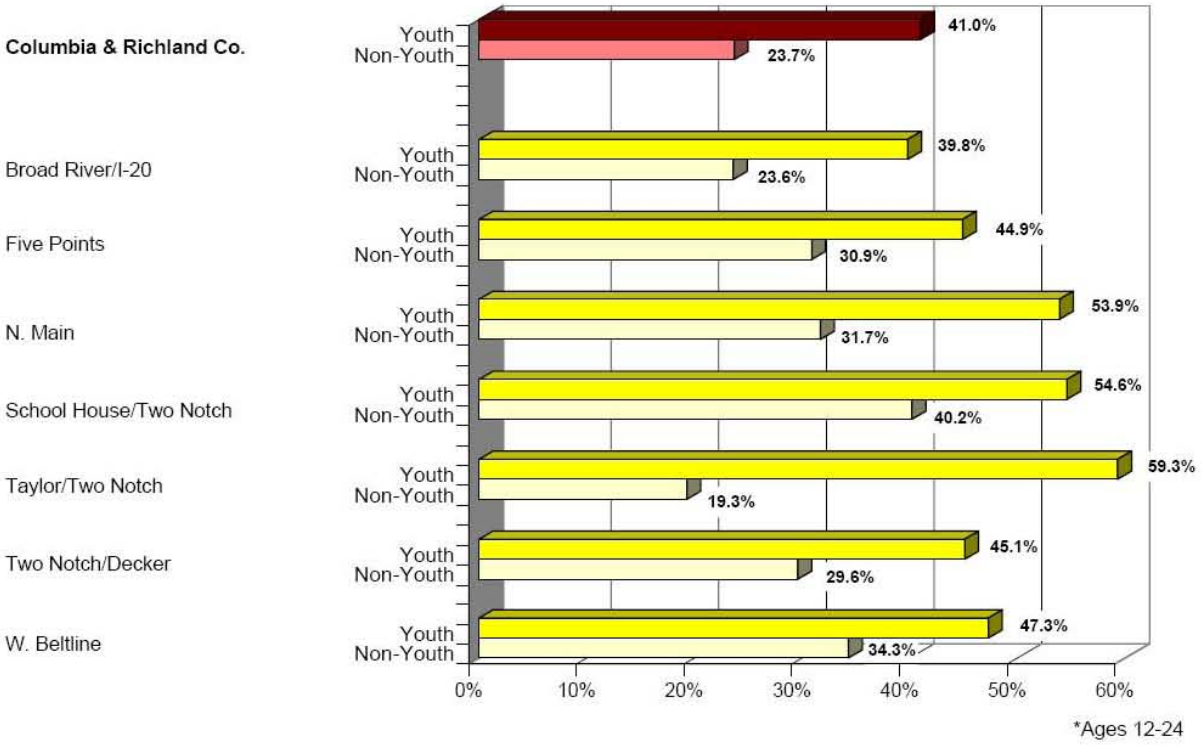
Figure 14. Percentage of Incidents Involving a Firearm Amongst Youth* and Non-Youth (January 1, 2002-April 30, 2007)



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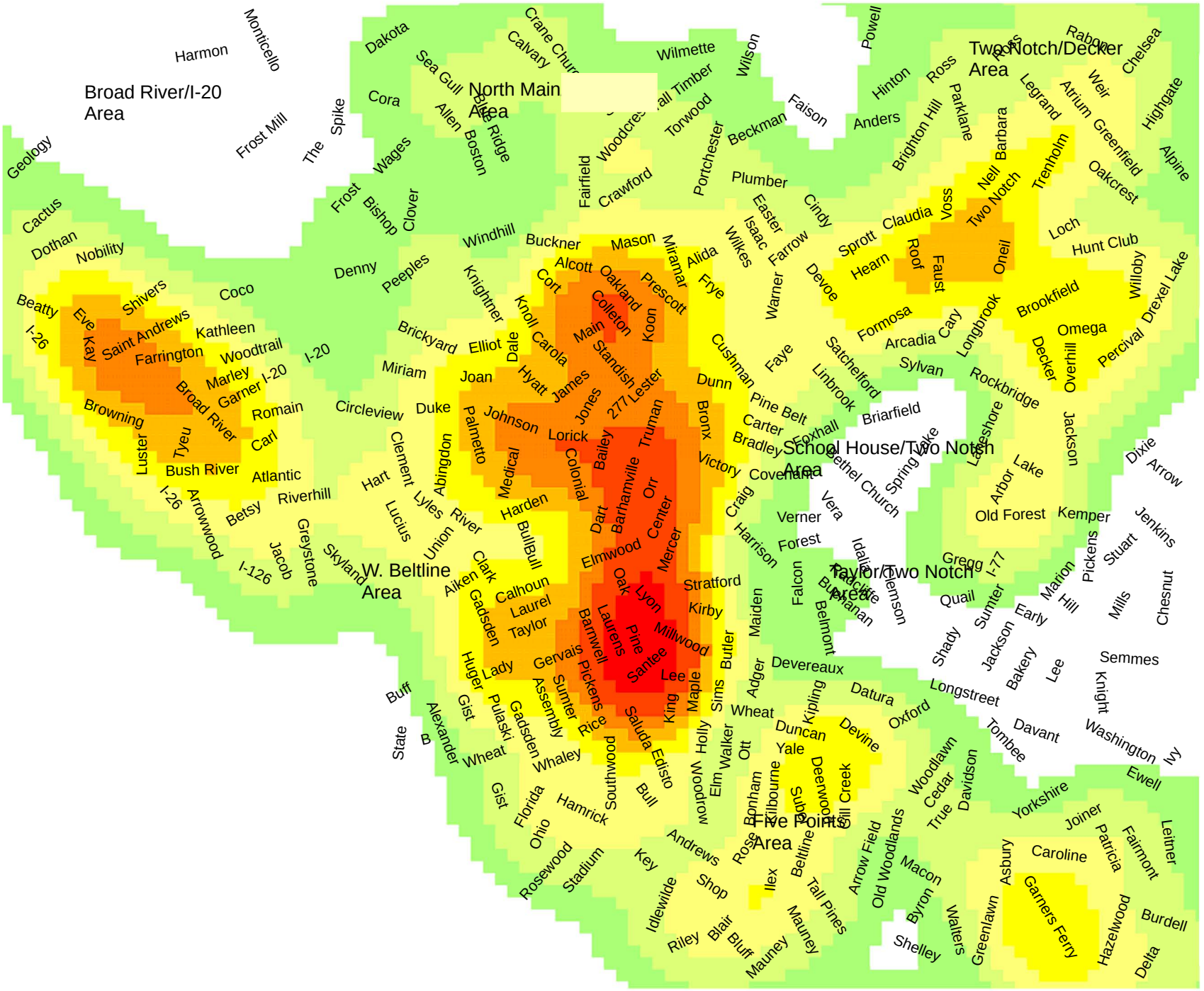
Columbia-Richland County Areas of Detailed Analysis (January 1, 2002-April 30, 2007)



Legend

Roads

RCSD Boundaries

Violent Crime

Low

Moderate

High

Miles

0 0.45 0.9 1.8 2.7 3.6

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Gang Activity and Gang Violence

The issue of gang activity and violence has gained increased attention from area criminal justice agencies and citizens over the past few years. Law enforcement officials have made a number of public statements regarding the presence of gangs in the Midlands, along with describing the various crimes committed by members of these groups. The Mayor's office has now held two well attended community summits on gangs to provide a forum for exchange and education. In addition, the print and television news outlets have increased their coverage of stories that document the presence of gangs in the area. What these and other sources of information highlight is a general viewpoint that gangs have become an increasing problem for Columbia and Richland County, particularly in relation to violent crime.

A primary goal of this assessment is to move beyond the anecdotal evidence and systematically document the nature and characteristics of gang activity in the city and county. We address this goal by examining criminal justice data on the characteristics of local gang members and the crimes with which they are associated. The intent is to identify patterns and trends in gang membership and gang activity in order to inform strategic policy-making efforts.

In order to examine such patterns, this section of the report diverts from the overall format. As noted above, the report is separated into three sections – crime analysis, community perspective, and responses. It is difficult to discuss the characteristics of gang members and gang crime, however, without giving some context on the gangs in the city and county. As a result, the perspectives of federal and local law enforcement officials on gang activity in the area are inserted here to provide background for the reader before presenting the findings from the data analysis. Again, this is not meant to be detailed analysis of each gang but instead a general overview on the emergence and characteristics of area gangs as seen from the law enforcement perspective.

Personnel whom we interviewed from federal and local law enforcement agencies, the solicitor's office, and PPP noted the emergence of gangs in the Columbia and Richland County area about 10 to 12 years ago. According to one law enforcement official, the gangs in the early and mid 1990s were neighborhood groups with no claimed link to nationally recognized gangs such as the Crips or Folk Nation. However, this changed in the late 1990s when they began to observe the presence of individuals from nationally recognized gangs in other large U.S. cities, particularly cities in the eastern United States. In most cases, these individuals came to Columbia and Richland County for reasons other than the expansion of gang activity, such as visiting family, but then decided to stay and continue their gang activities here. These gang-affiliated individuals who moved in from elsewhere began to recruit local youths and young adults under the names of their original gangs, such as Gangsta Killer Bloods (GKB) or Gangster Disciples. An example of this pattern is available for the public in *The State* newspaper story that examines the court documents related to a federal drug conspiracy case involving members of the GKB in Columbia.

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While conducting this assessment, some members of the research team had the opportunity to talk with a handful of individuals involved in gang activity in the area. A couple of these individuals stated the emergence of Folk Nation-affiliated gang activity occurred in the same fashion as the GKB. Individuals who were active members in Folk affiliated gangs, such as the Gangster Disciples, moved to the Columbia-Richland County area from places like New York and North Carolina. They then continued their gang activity here and started recruiting local youths as members.

As for information on the connection between gangs now in the Columbia-Richland County area with nationally recognized names (i.e. Gangster Disciples, Gangsta Killer Bloods, or Crips) and gangs with these names in other major cities, the evidence is unclear. Information from court documents on the Gangsta Killer Bloods case, law enforcement, and the gang-involved individuals we talked to suggest some of these individuals still maintain ties to gang-involved persons in the cities from which they came. At the same time, however, law enforcement and local gang members noted the gang violence in the Columbia-Richland County area is generally the result of locally-based disputes. This suggests these incidents result from issues gang members in the area have with one another as opposed to being directed by individuals outside the state.

Information from law enforcement personnel, interviewed gang members, and law enforcement data reveal a number of different gangs in the Columbia-Richland County area. The most well known gangs are those with nationally-recognized name affiliations – Folk, Crips, and Bloods. Within their origin cities (Los Angeles, Chicago, and New York), these nationally-recognized names represent affiliations under which there are a number of specific neighborhood or otherwise locally-based gangs. For example, in Los Angeles, the Crips represent a number of independently functioning neighborhood-based gangs, such as the 74 Hoover Crips or Dodge City Crips. When these gang members are asked which gang they are in, they will answer with the specific neighborhood gang as opposed to just saying they are Crips. This more specific gang self identification, however, often does not occur in the interaction between law enforcement and gang members in the Columbia-Richland County area. In most cases, the gang members simply identify themselves as Bloods, Crips, or Folks.

According to law enforcement personnel, however, some Crip and Blood gang members in the area have self-identified with more specific names beyond a general affiliation. Examples include the Eight-Trey Gangster Crips, 62 Brim, GKB, and Tree Top Piru. In addition, the gang members interviewed identified the Gangster Disciples, Black Gangster Disciplines, and Insane Gangster Disciplines as specific gangs in the area under the broader affiliation of Folk Nation. Interestingly, these are neighborhood and set affiliations from other parts of the country. Law enforcement personnel, though, noted that some groups have also incorporated local neighborhood and area names into their affiliation such as the Riverside Bloods.

Law enforcement personnel and interviewed gang members also asserted there are a number of smaller neighborhood gangs in the Columbia metropolitan area not affiliated

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with the nationally-recognized gangs discussed above. One of the gang members interviewed referred to these as “side gangs,” often composed of younger individuals who come together for protection from other gangs. Little is known about the number, size, and activity of these gangs.

An accurate count of the number of gang members in the Columbia-Richland County area is difficult to determine. The Richland County Sheriff’s Department, for example, established standards in January 2007 for identifying gang members that are consistent with federal guidelines. Given the short time period this procedure has been in place, members of the RCSD gang unit acknowledged there are a number of individuals they have not identified yet under these new criteria. Personnel from CPD also noted there are a number of gang-involved individuals they have not identified as of yet. Some of the law enforcement personnel interviewed felt there were more than 1,000 actual gang members in the Columbia-Richland County area, and one individual felt there were as many as 2,000. As for the size of specific gangs in the area, law enforcement personnel in general were reluctant to make such estimates given their acknowledgement that they do not know of all gang members in the area. Some of the gang members interviewed did provide estimates on their gangs’ sizes, with one noting his gang included around 150 members and the other saying his gang had more than 300 members. There were no other data available, however, to verify these claims.

The purpose of the analysis on area gang members and crimes presented below is to move beyond this description of area activity in order to document characteristics and patterns in gang membership and violent crime. The current state of law enforcement knowledge about area gang members, however, has limitations for this analysis. One set of analyses examines the characteristics of area gang members by age, gender, and race and is based on the gang classification criteria of area law enforcement agencies. However, as the personnel from these agencies acknowledged, there are a number of gang members (and perhaps a large number) who have not been identified. Therefore, the findings from our analyses may not accurately reflect the characteristics of the actual gang population in the Columbia-Richland County area.

In addition, the CPD and RCSD do not use the same standards and practices for documenting gang-related incidents. As a result, this assessment uses a “gang-related” definitional approach for identifying gang crimes, which is a common technique used by law enforcement (Klein, Gordon, and Maxson, 1987). In short, a violent crime is identified as gang-related if either the suspect or victim is an identified gang member. For our purposes, the identification of a crime as “gang-related” does not necessarily mean the crime was gang motivated. Currently, incident data from neither the CPD nor the RCSD fully captures offenses committed to further the criminal purposes of a gang (e.g. gang motivated) Despite these limitations, the individuals identified as gang members by law enforcement represent the best data available for conducting the desired analyses. Nevertheless, these data limitations should be kept in mind when examining the findings detailed below.

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Characteristics of Area Gang Members

At the time of this analysis, the Columbia Police Department has identified approximately 200 active gang members in its jurisdiction. The CPD gang officers also noted another 500 or more individuals who they have contacted and who are potential gang members, but they have not yet identified the criteria needed to classify these individuals as gang members. The Richland County Sheriff's Department, on the other hand, has identified more than 500 gang members who are active in its jurisdiction. The RCSD gang officers also noted the existence of a number of other individuals they believe are gang members, but like the CPD, they have not gathered enough evidence to classify them as such. It is also important to note there are a number of individuals who *both* agencies have identified as active gang members in the area.

Figure 15 provides summary data on different age, gender, and race categories of individuals identified as gang members by the CPD. Almost 60% of the gang members are between the ages of 18 and 24, with the second most common age group being 12 to 17 year olds at 25.1%. Individuals 25 and older compose 15% of all identified gang members. Males are overwhelmingly represented at 94.8% of all gang members, compared to a female representation of 5.2%. In addition, the identified gang members are predominantly Black at 96.4% of all gang members, compared to 3.1% who are White and 0.5% who are Hispanic.

Figure 16 provides a similar breakdown of gang members identified by the RCSD. Individuals between the ages of 18 and 24 represent 53.1% of all gang members, with 12 to 17 year olds representing 36.9% and 25 and older at 9.6%. Similar to individuals identified by the CPD, identified gang members are predominantly male at 93.6%, and predominantly Black at 98.3%.

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Figure 15. Characteristics of Individuals Identified as Gang Members by Columbia Police Department

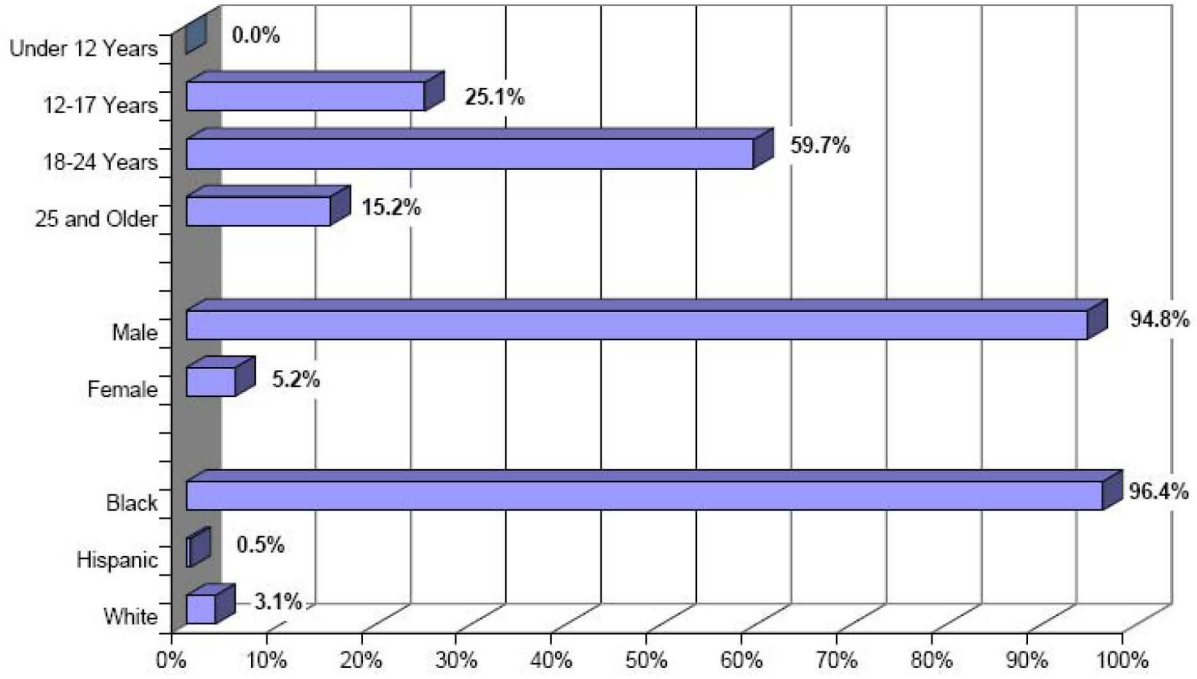
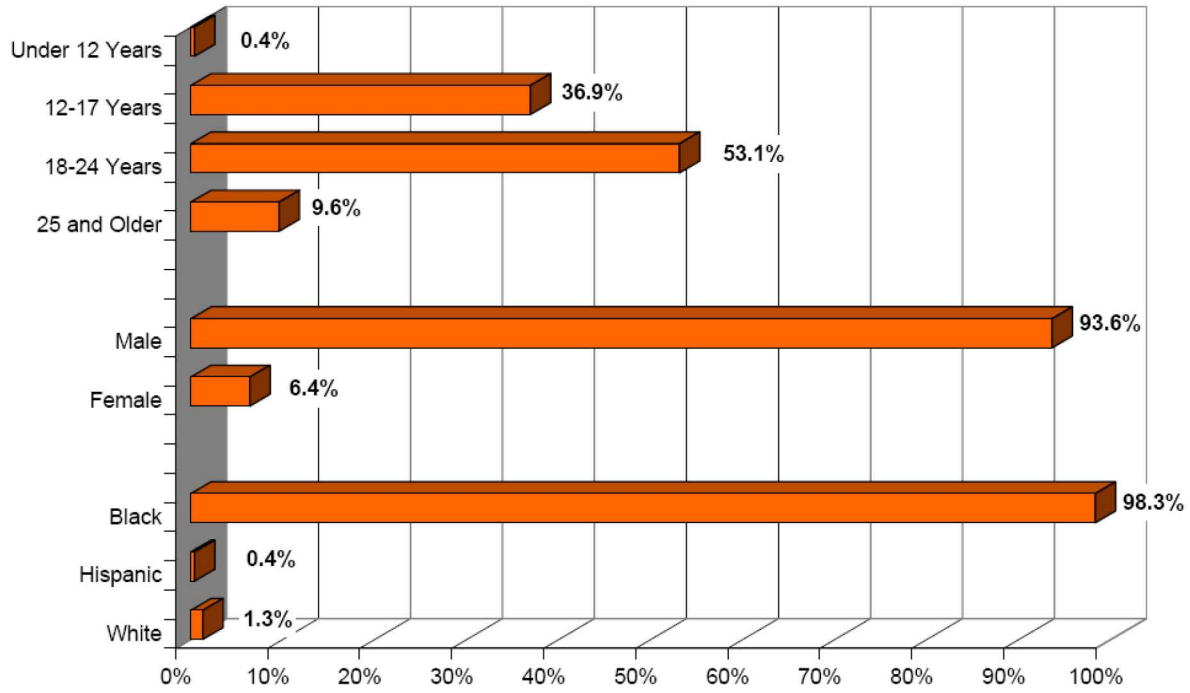


Figure 16. Characteristics of Individuals Identified as Gang Members by Richland County Sheriff's Department



Gang-involved Crimes

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As noted above, the analysis utilized the gang-related definitional approach to identify the involvement of gang members in criminal events. A violent crime was classified as gang-involved if either the suspect(s) or victim(s) was identified as a gang member by the CPD or RCSD. Also, the involvement of identified gang members in drug and weapons offenses was examined. This analysis only covered offenses committed between January 1, 2006 and April 30, 2007. The decision to focus on this time period was guided by policies of the CPD and RCSD. Specifically, the RCSD only began using its new criteria for identifying gang members in January 2007. While the research team felt comfortable matching these identified individuals to crimes committed in 2006, to stretch this matching back to crimes committed in 2005 or earlier increased the potential of classifying an incident as gang-involved when the individual in question may not have actually joined the gang at the time.

It is important to keep mind this analysis is only an estimate of gang-involved crime. Absent a consistent classification method between the CPD and RCSD for identifying gang crime, the gang definitional approach represented the best possible estimation procedure. We acknowledge the limitations of this approach. As noted above, crimes may go unidentified as gang-involved because the suspects or victims have yet to be identified as a gang member by law enforcement. In addition, it is possible that someone who was identified as a gang member by the RCSD was not a gang member when he/she committed a violent crime in 2006. There is also the potential that someone identified as a suspect in the crime may not have been arrested for it, calling into question whether they were actually involved as an offender in the incident. For example, investigation may have revealed the suspect was not the actual offender.

Because of these substantial limitations in the data, we did not attempt to identify the percentage of total crimes that were gang-involved. To do so undoubtedly would have been inaccurate and misleading. Instead, our analysis focused on the use of firearms in gang-involved incidents, ages of suspects and victims, and locations of gang-related incidents. Table 2 presents the count of incidents that were identified as gang-involved by type of offense. There were a total of 286 incidents where identified gang members were suspects and 49 incidents where they were victims. While 79 of the incidents with gang suspect involvement were violent crimes, the majority (171) involved drug offenses.

Figure 17 illustrates firearm use in gang-involved violent crime compared to firearm use in overall violent crime and in all youth violent crimes. As previously discussed, firearms were used in 34.2% of total violent crimes and 41.0% of all youth violent crimes. Figure 17, however, reveals that firearms were used in 69.6% of violent crimes where at least one suspect was an identified gang member. Similarly, firearms were used in 67.3% of violent crimes involving victims who were identified as gang members. Both of these findings illustrate the significant role that firearms play in gang violence.

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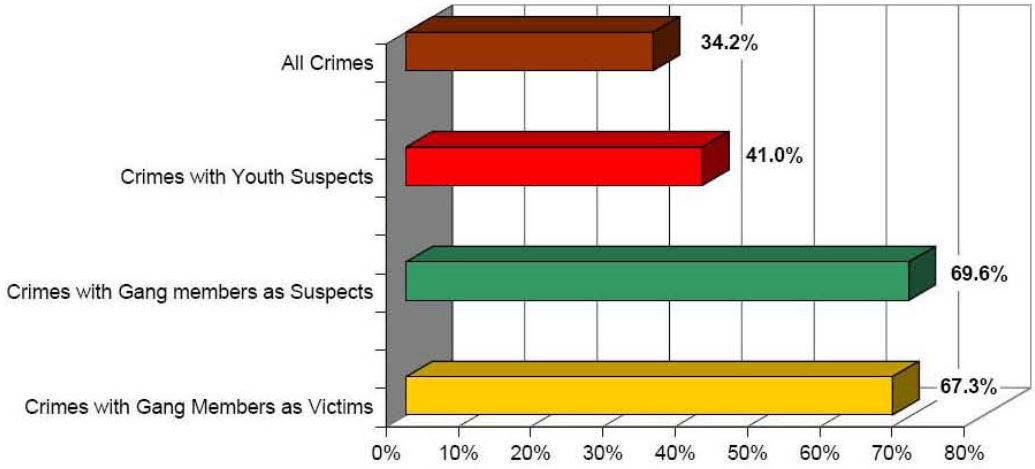
Table 2. Involvement of Identified Gang Members in Crimes as Suspects or Victims.

Crime Type	Incidents Involving One of More Identified Gang Members as Suspects	Incidents Involving One of More Identified Gang Members as Victims
Total	286	49
Homicide	5	1
Robbery	21	7
Agg. Assault	53	41
Drug Violation	171	
Weapon Violation	36	

Figure 17. Percentage of Violent Crime Incidents Involving the Use of a Firearm (January 1, 2006-April 30, 2007)



Figures 18 and 19 displays the percentages of suspects and victims in gang-involved violent crimes by age. More than 25% of the gang members who were identified as suspects were 18 years old. Additionally, 65% of gang members who were identified as suspects were between the ages of 16 and 19. In the case of gang members who were identified as victims in violent crimes, over 30% were 17 years old and almost 75% were between the ages of 16 and 19.

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Figure 18. Percentage of Violent Crime Suspects Identified as Gang Members By Age (January 1, 2006-April 30, 2007)

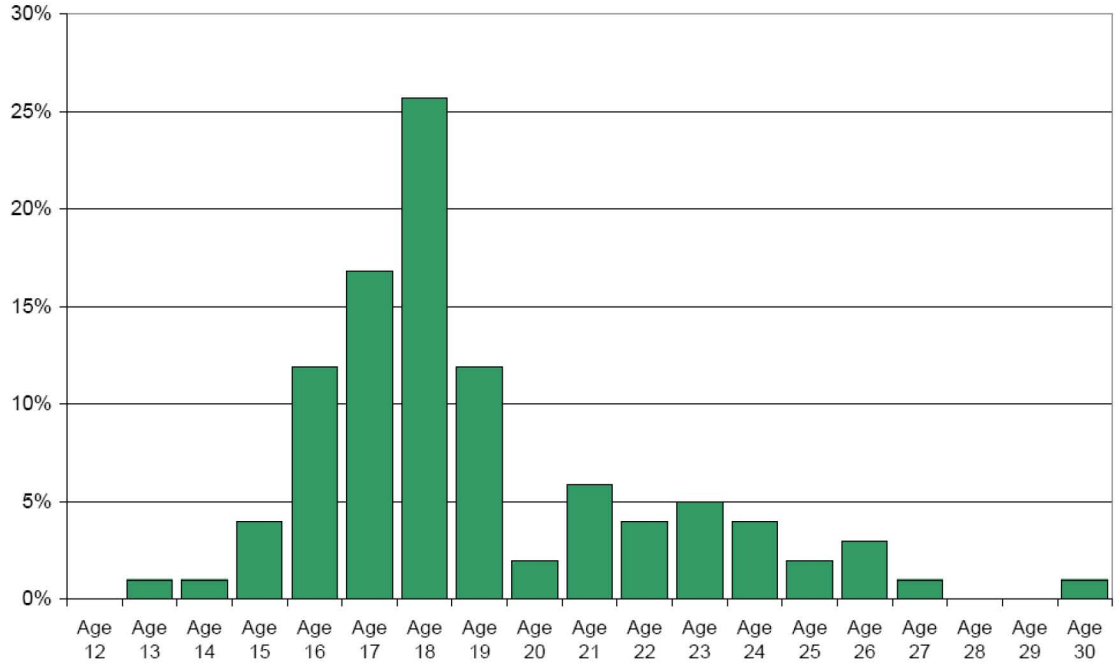
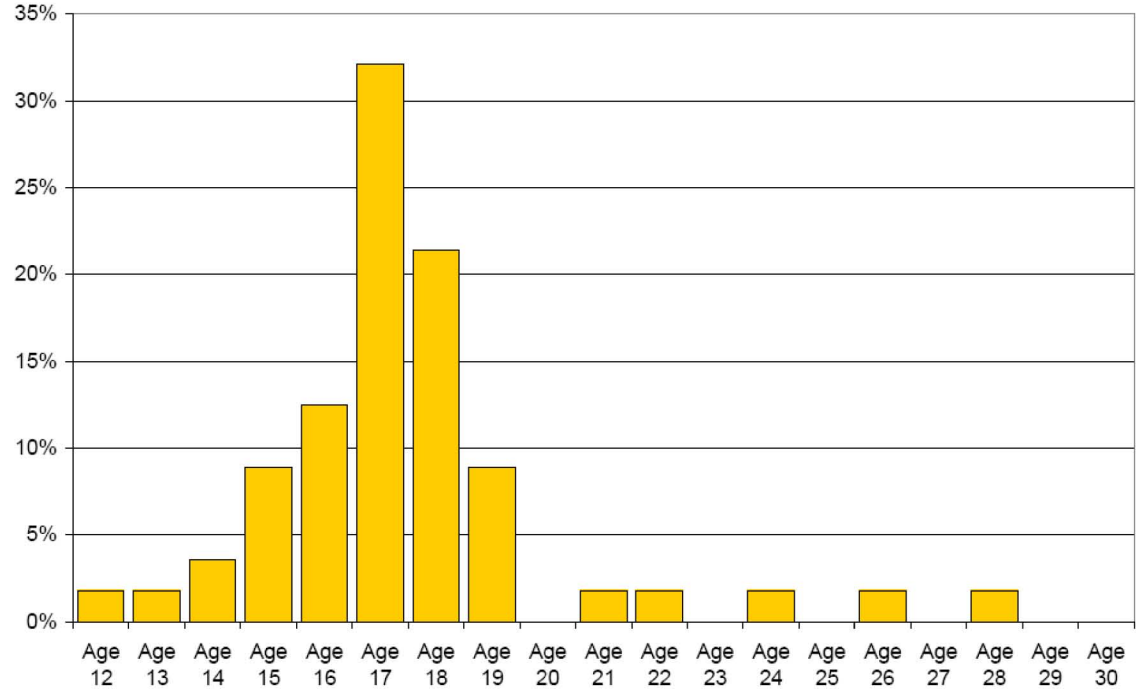


Figure 19. Percentage of Violent Crime Victims Identified as Gang Members By Age (January 1, 2006-April 30, 2007)



Analysis was also conducted on the pattern of gang activity across both jurisdictions. The intent of this effort is to exam whether identified gang members are engaged in

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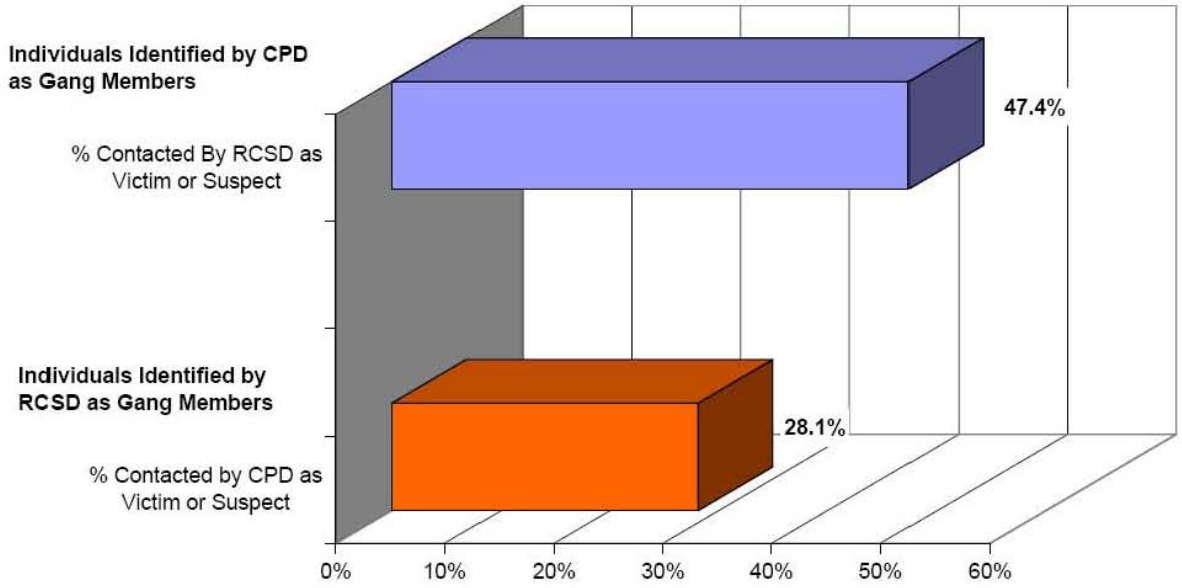
criminal activity in both jurisdictions. Members of both the CPD and RCSD note they have seen a pattern of cross-jurisdictional gang activity. As noted above, a review of the gang members identified by each agency also revealed a number of these individuals had been identified and contacted by both agencies. The analysis displayed in Figure 20 further supports this conclusion. The top bar in blue represents the percentage of individuals who were identified as gang members by the CPD but were suspects or victims in crimes investigated by the RCSD. Almost half of these CPD-identified individuals (47.4%) fit this situation. The analysis was also conducted for individuals identified as gang members by the RCSD but who were involved in a crime handled by CPD. Just over 28.1% of the RCSD-identified individuals fit this scenario. Overall, this analysis illustrates that gang activity is a joint problem for CPD and RCSD, with both agencies often dealing with the same individuals.

Figure 20. Percentage of Individuals Identified as Gang Members by RCSD and CPD Who Were Victims or Suspects in Incidents Reported to the Opposite Jurisdiction (January 1, 2006-April 30, 2007)



Although not shown here in a graph, the relationship between being on probation or parole and being identified as a gang member involved in a violent crime as a suspect was also explored. Just over 13% of these gang suspects were on active probation or parole at time they were a suspect in a violent crime, which is slightly higher than the 10.8% for all youth suspected of violent crimes. It is important to recognize, however, that the above analysis on gang suspect age revealed that most of these individuals were not adults or were just above the age of 17 at the time of offense. As a result, there is a chance some were on DJJ probation at the time of the offense, but the research team did not have the data to examine this relationship. Although, it is interesting to note the CPD gang officers stated 44 of the 193 individuals they had identified as gang members were currently on DJJ probation.

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The analysis of gang crime also involved the mapping of these incidents. The map below plots the cases discussed above involving individuals who were identified by the CPD or RCSD as gang members and who were identified as a suspect or victim in a violent crime. The map also displays locations of drug arrests involving individuals identified as gang members and documented incidents of gang graffiti. Cases of gang graffiti were only included if the vandalism crime reports specifically identified the graffiti symbols as gang related. All of these offenses and circumstances were mapped at once in order to evaluate patterns of concentration. Overall, the map reveals these gang-involved incidents largely were located in the same areas identified as having moderately high to high concentrations of youth violence. This raises the interesting question of whether a number of these other violent crimes involving youth suspects also involved individuals who are in gangs. Unfortunately, the data are not currently available to make this assessment.

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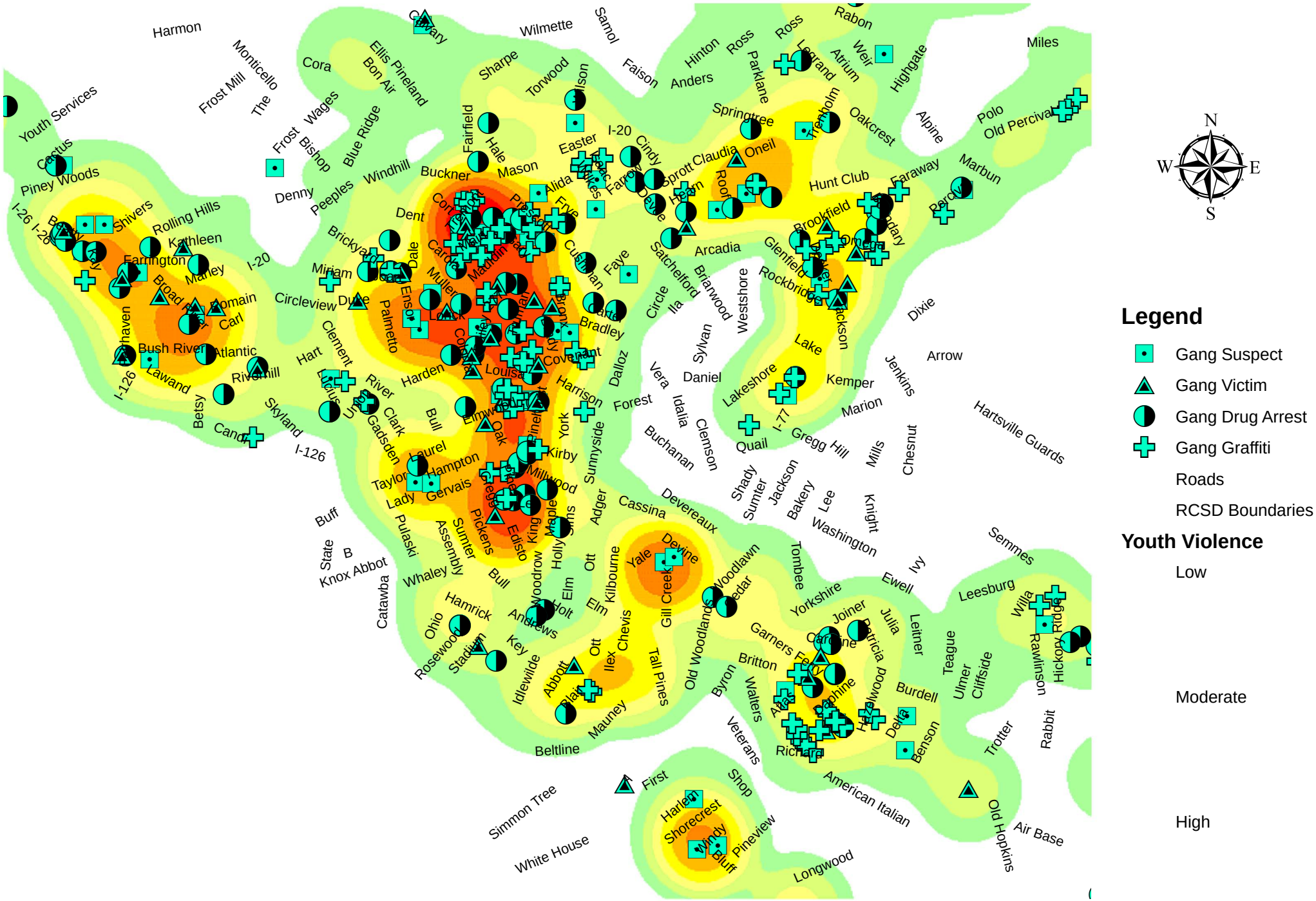
Columbia-Richland Gang Involved* Incidents with Youth Violence** Density (January 1, 2006-April 30, 2007)



Miles

0 0.5 1 2 3 4

*Includes violent offenses where victim or suspect is a known gang member to law enforcement

**Includes homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault where suspect between ages of 12 and 24

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Summary

The analysis of criminal justice data revealed that youths, defined as individuals 12 to 24 years of age, account for approximately 50% of violent crime in Columbia and Richland County, which is disproportionately high relative to their representation in the Census population for the area. This relationship holds across both jurisdictions and over a five year time frame. In addition, the findings showed a considerably higher percentage of youth suspects than non-youth suspects use firearms in violent crimes. This pattern held across time, jurisdictions, crime type, and neighborhoods. The analysis also highlighted that youth violence as particularly high in certain neighborhoods in the Columbia and Richland County area, and these areas of high youth crime persist over time.

While the analysis of gang activity and violence has some limitations given the currently available data, it nonetheless provides some important insight into the nature of this problem in the Columbia and Richland County area. First, the individuals identified as gang members by the CPD and RCSD are disproportionately male, black, and between the ages of 18 and 24. On the other hand, gang-involved suspects and victims in violent crimes were primarily between the ages of 16-19. Second, the use of firearms in gang-involved violent crimes is very high relative to their use in total violent crimes or even violent crime involving youth suspects. Third, it appears many of the same gangs and gang members are active in both jurisdictions. Finally, the crimes identified as gang-involved in our analyses largely occurred in the same areas that registered high concentrations of overall youth violence.

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PERSPECTIVES

While the analysis of criminal justice data provides important insight into the overall pattern and trends in youth and gang violence, it does not provide a complete picture of these issues. As noted above, the data are not perfect. Some victims, particularly those involved in gang activity, may not report their victimization and thus these incidents were not included in the foregoing analyses. Additionally, and as noted, the knowledge on gangs, gang members, and gang activity is still developing among local law enforcement agencies. As a result, we are confident we did not identify a substantial number of violent crimes that involved gang members. Finally, the analysis of crime data only highlights statistical patterns, which fail to capture the perceptions of the gang and youth violence problem held by community members and the more personal impact these problems have on communities. Thus, these and other data limitations suggest our knowledge of gang and youth violence is incomplete if we only rely on the analysis of criminal justice data.

In order to address these limitations found in the analysis of crime data, the research team incorporated community interviews into the assessment. The interviews targeted four groups in Columbia and Richland County: criminal justice professionals, community leaders, school officials, and community members. Members of each of these groups potentially deal with issue of gang and youth violence in different settings, and as a result, they offer the possibility of additional important insights in these problems. This section provides a review of the perspectives offered by each of these four groups. The introduction to each group states who was interviewed and is followed by a discussion of the key themes and points made by members of each group.

The Criminal Justice Perspective

A total of 26 individuals were interviewed from the following federal, state, and local criminal justice agencies for this assessment.

Richland County Sheriff's Department (RCSD)
Columbia Police Department (CPD)
Solicitor's Office – Fifth Judicial Circuit
U.S. Attorney – Columbia Office
South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services (PPP)
South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)
Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF)
Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center (ASGDC)

These individuals were first asked questions about trends they have observed in youth violence and gang activity in the Columbia-Richland County area. The consistent statement from the law enforcement personnel was that youth violence in the area has increased over time. Moreover, they felt gangs were a primary factor for this increase. Sheriff Lott stated he is seeing a level and type of violence in the area that did not exist

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20 years ago, and this pattern is directly related to gang activity. For example, he did not see drive-by shootings even four or five years ago, but now they have become a regular occurrence. Solicitor Giese stated he has also observed an increase in youth violence cases in his office's caseload. He feels gang activity plays a role in this increase but noted youth violence has increased among non-gang individuals as well.

A number of the criminal justice officials noted there was not always a consensus among area criminal justice agencies or community members that gangs were a problem. However, the interviews revealed there is now consensus that gangs are an important problem facing the Columbia-Richland County area. Law enforcement officials also note that while gangs were heavily responsible for area-wide violent crime, they also see considerable gang involvement in property crime, drug activity, and a number of other nuisance violations such as graffiti. Personnel from the solicitor's office also noted an increased presence of gang-involved individual in their violent crime caseloads, as well as in property and drug violations. Law enforcement personnel also provided extensive insight into the nature of gangs and activity in the area, which was discussed above. As a result, the remaining portion of this section focuses on the perspectives of other criminal justice personnel.

Staff from the Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center (ASGDC) stated they too have observed a considerable amount of gang activity in their facility. Most individuals are identified as gang-involved during the intake process as they enter the jail. Identification is often based on self-admission and/or tattoos, although staff noted there are a number of inmates who try to remain secretive about their gang involvement. One staff member estimated that 20 percent of the Center's inmate population is gang-involved, with the majority of these individuals between the ages of 17 and 24. It was also noted that ASGDC staff observe and remove a considerable amount of gang graffiti in their facility, and they deal with a number of gang fights and jump-ins within the facility.

Personnel interviewed from the DJJ and PPP have considerable experience dealing with gang involved individuals. DJJ personnel stated they first observed the presence of gang-involved persons in the community about 5 years ago and particularly observed an increase over the past 2 to 3 years. Some of these individuals are involved in the large gangs (Blood, Crip, and Folk affiliated), while some are members of the small neighborhood-based gangs who do not use the name of a nationally-recognized gang. One of the difficulties they noted when managing gang-involved individuals is that they are more resistant to services provided by their agency. Another difficulty they noted was that they are a community based agency trying to work with gang-involved individuals who often still live in gang entrenched neighborhoods, which provides a strong counter to their efforts in trying to help at-risk juveniles.

Interviews with personnel from PPP included individuals with statewide special assignment responsibility within the agency and an individual who specifically works out of the Richland County office. One of these agents noted he has seen the slow emergence of gang activity in the state and the local area over the past 10 years. The agent from the Richland County office stated she has seen an increase in gang-involved

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individuals among her caseload, particularly over the past year and a half. Some of this activity had become so blatant at one point that individuals were showing up for an appointment with their probation or parole officer dressed in gang attire. Similar to the comments from the DJJ, the PPP personnel noted youthful and gang-involved offenders were the most resistant to the services and programs offered through their agency.

The Community Leader Perspective

The community leaders interviewed for this assessment were largely composed of leaders of local faith based organizations, elected officials, and senior management of community service organizations. These individuals were selected because they are embedded in the community and have the opportunity to observe first hand any issues related to youth violence and gang activity. Moreover, these community leaders are in the position to hear about these issues from various community members. As a result, they provide valuable insight to this assessment. During the course of these interviews these community leaders were asked a number of different questions that centered on the following three themes:

- Perception of youth violence and gang activity in the Columbia-Richland area
- Causes related to any perceived problem or presence in youth violence and gang activity
- Views on appropriate responses to this problem or presence.

In total, forty-one community leaders from the following organizations were interviewed.

- A Better Way - Project Gang Out
- Bible Way Church
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Greater Columbia
- Boys and Girls Club of the Midlands
- Boys and Girls Club of the Midlands (St. Andrews Unit)
- Brookland Baptist Church
- City of Columbia Commission on Children and Youth
- City of Columbia Council Member
- Columbia Housing Authority
- Columbia Urban League
- Community Mediation Center
- Greater Columbia Community Relations Council
- KOBAN
- Leevy Funeral Home
- Loretta Coleman Ministries
- NAACP - South Carolina
- Project Unity
- Rehoboth United Church
- Reid Chapel AME Church
- Richland County Council Member

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- Richland School District One Board of Commissioners
- South Carolina State Senate
- The Alston Wilkes Society
- The Auntie Karen Foundation
- The Terry Dozier Group
- Triumphant Praises Church
- United Way of Midlands

The most consistent theme found across the community leaders was the belief that youth violence and gangs have become serious problems in the Columbia-Richland County area. Although there were a few individuals who debated the degree of these problems, they nonetheless acknowledged these are important issues that need to be addressed. The basis for forming these opinions varied across the leaders. In relation to youth violence, some of these community leaders noted they knew young people who had been the victims of violence and in some cases the victims of homicide. The remainder of the community leaders formed their opinion on increasing youth violence in the area based on news reports and information provided by law enforcement.

A number of these community leaders stated they primarily received their knowledge about gangs in the area from public presentations by law enforcement (Columbia Police Department and Richland County Sheriff's Department). Some of these individuals also noted they regularly see signs of gangs in their community, such as graffiti and groups of youth hanging around wearing the colors and style of clothing for the gangs in their area. A few of the leaders, particularly the faith-based and those who managed community services provided to youth, stated they have direct and regular contact with gang-involved youth. These individuals were the strongest advocates in saying there is a serious problem with gangs in the Columbia-Richland County area.

The community leaders who gained their knowledge about gangs through the media and law enforcement noted they began to notice the presence of gangs in the area within the past three years. A number of these leaders noted many people in the community had their "heads in the sand" about the presence of gangs in the area and that on reflection, the individuals who were talking about gangs in our community ten years ago were probably right. In particular, a number of the leaders stated Sheriff Lott had been a key figure in bringing attention to this issue over the past ten years. There were a few faith-based leaders, however, who stated they personally observed the presence of gangs as far back as the mid-1990s, evident in graffiti and membership in youth and gang-related violence.

The majority of these community leaders felt gangs were largely responsible for youth violence in the area. Moreover, some of faith-based leaders stated they had personally presided over the funerals for victims of gang-related homicides. These faith-based leaders also relayed stories about young people they knew who were the victims of other types of gang violence, as well as some stories of individuals who committed these crimes. In fact, it is these personal experiences that have motivated faith-based

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leaders to establish programs that are trying to prevent individuals from getting involved in gangs. Violence, however, was not the only activity the community leaders attached to gangs. Many noted gangs were responsibility for property crime in the area, as well as intimidation of non-gang youths and other community members.

While the community leaders mentioned various factors they feel are the causes of gang activity and violence, the two most common factors identified were related to parenting issues and opportunities. The lack of parental monitoring of teens and their friends was the most common reason these leaders felt gangs had spread in this community. In addition, many felt the level of parental involvement that makes a young person feel like they are part of a caring family was often absent. As such, they believe youths seek out gangs to fill this void. Most of the leaders who cited these parenting factors also noted there were other underlying dynamics involved, such as single-parent working families, parents with their own personal problems, and the lack of a nuclear family.

As for opportunities, the discussion centered on the lack of recreational activities, educational assistance, and employment sources available for youths. These opportunities were viewed as positive outlets for youths, and without them they were susceptible to gang involvement. The lack of supervised recreational activity was thought to push youth toward the excitement provided by gangs or place them in situations where no adult was present to stop the peer pressure applied by gangs. A few of the interviewed leaders strongly believed youth who struggled in school were targets for gang recruitment, since the gangs offered these individuals a place where they felt like they belonged. Lastly, a few of the community leaders noted that a lack of legitimate job opportunities contributed to some youths seeking out gang activity as a source for alternative income.

Before community leaders were asked how they felt youth and gang violence should be addressed, they were asked if they were satisfied with the current response by government, faith-based, and community organizations. The majority of the leaders either said no or yes with a qualification. The no or qualified response largely centered on the point that not enough was being done. Although a number of the leaders did acknowledge there had been many positive efforts undertaken by schools, law enforcement, and some community organizations, they argued it was not enough. Some leaders noted the community in general had avoided admitting the problem of youth and gang violence in Columbia and Richland County and that the region is now behind the curve in addressing it. As one leader commented, “I think, right now, we don’t know exactly what to do because for some time we had acted as if it’s nonexistent.” Other leaders felt some organizations needed to get more involved in addressing the problem. In particular, some of the leaders, including members of the faith-based community, felt the churches needed to take a more assertive public stand that youth and gang violence will not be tolerated.

The most significant factor related to this no or qualified response, however, was the assertion that there needed to be more coordination between the efforts of different

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area organizations: law enforcement, DJJ, community service providers, churches, community leaders, and so on. The fractured nature of the current response to youth and gang violence in the area has limited the impact of control efforts to date. Moreover, a couple of the community leaders noted this lack of coordination created a duplication of efforts as well as competition for claiming who had the right program. Two remedies were presented as ways to address this lack of coordination. First, according to some, there is a need to develop an action plan to guide the coordination and collaboration of community, faith-based, and government organizations. Second, there is a need to designate an individual or group to direct the coordination of these organizations, presumably in accordance with the above plan.

When asked about specific programs for addressing youth and gang violence beyond the issue of coordination, the majority of the community leaders identified prevention-based efforts. These are initiatives aimed at preventing young people, particularly kids identified as "at-risk," from getting involved in gangs in the first place. Consistent with the above discussion on the lack of opportunities for youths, the following types of programs were suggested:

- Recreational Activities
- After School Programs
- Academic Assistance/Tutoring Programs
- Mentoring Programs
- Employment Programs
- School Drop-Out Prevention

The underlying assumption of the leaders who mentioned these programs was that quality educational, recreational, mentoring, and employment programs would reduce the susceptibility of youth to join gangs.

The means for delivering these programs differed across the interviewed leaders, with the churches or non-profit community organization facilities as suggested locations for delivery. Some of these services, in fact, are currently provided by organizations affiliated with these community leaders and are identified in the following sections. It is important to note there were much broader suggestions mentioned for preventing youth violence and gang involvement, such as improving the general performance of area schools or the creation of one-stop community centers that could serve a variety of needs.

One interesting observation about these suggestions is that they are not oriented toward intervention, programs that address individuals already in gangs. A number of the community leaders stated they wanted to pull youth in the community away from gangs, but there was a lack of articulation on programs for these individuals. Moreover, the examination of programs discussed below reveals that only a few programs in the area are directed at current, gang-involved individuals. In addition, the focus appeared to be on school-aged teens and not individuals who are 18 and older. This is important

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in light of the law enforcement evidence discussed above identifying the majority of gang members as persons 18 years of age and older.

The few community leaders who did speak to the issue of younger and older gang-involved individuals, however, did highlight some important challenges in addressing these groups. They are often not in contact with locations where the above services are provided – churches, schools, and community centers. In addition, they may be heavily committed to the excitement, sense of power and status, kinship, and illegal income opportunities gangs provide. For those who want to leave the gang, they may fear the violence of fellow gang members when they try to leave. It is interesting to note that the few gang-involved/formerly involved individuals we talked to in the course of this assessment made statements consistent with the points made by the community leaders. They noted the lure of the excitement, power, and so forth that comes with being in a gang. In addition, they discussed fear and intimidation, sometimes including the use of violence, as the means for keeping lower ranking gang members in line, which included preventing them from leaving the group.

The School Perspective

In order to obtain the perspectives of school officials on the causes and correlates of youth violence in the Columbia-Richland County area, we interviewed principals and school resource officers from most of the middle and high schools in Richland School Districts I and II. School officials from a handful of Lexington-Richland District 5 schools were also interviewed. Included among those interviewed were principals from the following schools:

High Schools	Middle Schools
Columbia High School	Alcorn Middle School
Eau Claire High School	Kelly Mill Middle School
Spring Valley High School	Crayton Middle School
Lower Richland High School	Hand Middle School
Blythewood High School	Summit Parkway Middle School
Ridgeview High School	Dent Middle School
Dreher High School	Blythewood Middle School
Heyward Career Center	Hopkins Middle School
C.A. Johnson High School	Sanders Middle School
Keenan High School	E.L. Wright Middle School
	Southeast Middle School

The principals who agreed to be interviewed were asked a series of 13 questions. These questions queried the principals on the problems faced by their schools, the impact of community problems on students, the change (if any) in disciplinary cases in their schools over the last five years, how their schools identify and respond to troubled students, and the nature and extent of gang activity in their schools. The principals' answers to these questions were analyzed and common themes were identified. These themes are reported below.

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Principals

As a backdrop to more detailed questions about disciplinary issues, violence, and gangs, principals were asked to identify the most important problems faced by their schools and their students. By far the two most common answers were poverty and lack of parental involvement and/or supervision. Principals noted many parents worked two or three jobs and were rarely home to supervise their children. A related problem, as identified by many principals, was a lack of values and positive role models in the home. A number of principals commented on the absence of fathers in the community. Many of the principals noted the debilitating effect of poverty and lack of education on expectations and believed parents' (and sometimes teachers) expectations for their children were often too low.

We found substantial differences across schools in how troubled youths were identified and managed within the school environment. Some principals had formal systems in place within their schools to identify and respond to problem students. Several schools had a system for assigning all students to staff teams, which had the responsibility for getting to know their students and monitoring their behavior and academic progress. Other principals encouraged or required their teachers to supervise after-school or tutoring programs. Several principals mentioned a program in place at their schools called Positive Behavior Intervention designed to reduce disciplinary infractions among students. A host of other programs were also reported as being used to identify and intervene with youths who exhibit behavioral or academic problems.

The principals were then asked what problems exist in their communities that make it more likely youths will engage in gang or delinquent activities. A common response from principals was the lack of recreation or after-school activities for students. Most principals were critical of the lack of such community programs and believed they are crucial to keeping students occupied and under supervision, especially since many students are "latchkey" kids who lack parental oversight in the home. A number of principals also commented on the high levels of poverty and availability of drugs in some neighborhoods as being problems for their students.

A common theme among principals regarding gangs in schools was a vague acknowledgement that gangs are present in the communities but are not active in the schools themselves. Some of the principals reported that gang problems in the neighborhoods are brought into the schools by gang-involved youths. Interestingly, most principals stated disciplinary problems in their schools are declining and gang-related fights or problems are rarities that are quickly handled by school officials. When asked whether gangs were present in the school, one middle school principal's response was illustrative of a common perspective among the middle school officials with whom we spoke: "There is 'something' there. A fringe element of 'wannabes.'" Somewhat anomalously, this principal stated both that s/he was not aware of the extent of the problem ("It could be a fringe element. We don't know yet.") *and* that gangs are recruiting children in elementary school. A few principals openly admitted there were

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gang problems at their schools and expressed frustration at parents and community members who deny the problem exists or attempt to minimize it. Regardless of their position on gangs in the schools, almost all principals interviewed, both middle and high school principals alike, believed students and teachers felt safe at their schools.

School Resource Officers

Another important school perspective to consider is that of the area's school resource officers (SROs). Most of the school resource officers in Richland School Districts I and II and Lexington-Richland District 5 are deputies with the Richland County Sheriff's Department. They are assigned full-time to a school and work to maintain order, assist school staff with disciplinary or safety concerns, and act as role models and mentors to students. School resource officers assigned to the following schools were interviewed as part of the youth and gang violence assessment:

High Schools
A.C. Flora High School
Dreher High School
Eau Claire High School
Heyward Career and Technology Center
C.A. Johnson Preparatory Academy
Lower Richland High School
Richland Northeast High School
Spring Valley High School
Blythewood High School
Columbia High School
Keenan High School
Ridgeview High School

Middle Schools
Blythewood Middle School
Kelly Middle School
Southeast Middle School
Summit Parkway Middle
Dutch Fork Middle School
Gibbs Middle School
Hopkins Middle School
W.A. Perry Middle School
Hand Middle School
St. Andrews Middle School
W.G. Sanders Middle School
E.L. Wright Middle School

Alternative Schools
Olympia Alternative
Blythewood Academy

The SROs were interviewed about problems they encounter on their school campuses. Specifically, they were asked about the prevalence and perceived causes of illegal drugs, fights or disputes, and gangs or gang-related activity among students. The information they provided was valuable in understanding the nature and extent of gang and youth violence in Columbia and Richland County, and they offered a perspective that was different, and occasionally contradictory, to that of the school principals who were interviewed.

Every high school SRO interviewed reported the existence or presence of gangs in their schools. Most were very familiar with the gang-involved students and with the gangs and gang sets present in their schools. Most reported gang activity has either decreased or remained stable at their schools over the past few years. Only one SRO (Lower Richland High School) indicated that gang activity seemed to be increasing.

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Compared to the high school SROs, some middle school SROs reported little or no gang activity in their schools. Others, however, reported a strong gang presence and ongoing problems related to gangs. The presence of gangs in the middle schools seemed more reflective of the socioeconomic status of the neighborhoods from which the middle schools drew their children. The SROs who worked in middle schools that drew from poor neighborhoods were more likely than those that drew from middle-class neighborhoods to report overt gang activity in their schools.

Like the principals, most SROs stated overt gang activity (fights, disputes, etc.) is relatively rare on the school campuses themselves. The SROs reported they and the school administrators act quickly to arrest or expel gang-involved students who engage in gang-related activities on school grounds. According to the SROs, the wearing of gang-related colors or paraphernalia is a continuing problem in the schools, however. The SROs at the alternative schools (Olympia and Blythewood Academy) stated the schools' uniform policies were helpful in eliminating the wearing of gang colors.

Most SROs reported good working relationships with their school's administrators and believed the administrators were vigilant in looking for signs of gang activity. At the same time, almost all of the high school SROs reported instances of gang fights or "jump-ins" (gang initiation beatings) at their schools but stated such problems are not common and are dealt with quickly and severely when they do occur. One middle school SRO reported a lack of support from his school's administrators and believed the "administration" willfully neglected the gang problems in the school.

Interestingly, a common theme among the SROs was a reported increase in fights and disputes among female students. A number of SROs reported that male students rarely fought on school grounds and most of their problems at the schools involved female students. Several SROs stated the school experience was the best thing male students had going in their lives and most were reluctant to jeopardize their ability to stay in school. Female students were reported as being more emotional and willing to "snap" over insults.

Although most SROs stated they provided classes on gangs, conflict resolution, and the law to students, few reported their involvement in formal programs in their schools to reach at-risk youth. Some acknowledged the existence of such programs (e.g. Project GOAL at Eau Claire H.S. and the Blazer Summer Academy at Ridgeview H.S.) but indicated their interactions with students were typically informal and of a mentoring-type nature.

When asked about the impact of community and family problems on the school environment, the SROs echoed the observations of the school principals. From their perspectives, the lack of parental involvement and supervision and the lack of community-based recreation and after-school activities were direct contributors to problems in schools. Most reported a widespread lack of parental involvement in the lives of their children, either due to the parents' work schedules or lack of interest.

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Several of the SROs commented on the absence of fathers and male role models among their students. A number of SROs stated kids had nothing positive to do after school so they turned to drugs and crime.

The Community Perspective

In addition to obtaining the perspectives of various school and criminal justice officials, it is also important to consider the opinions of community members and ordinary citizens on youth and gang violence in the region. Moreover, it is especially important to consider the perspectives of those who live in neighborhoods characterized by higher than average rates of violent crime. For that purpose, we conducted a preliminary analysis of violent crime patterns in the Columbia-Richland County metropolitan area and identified ten communities that experience relatively high rates of violence. With the assistance of Abigail Rogers and a team of researchers from Benedict College, focus groups were conducted with residents in these 10 areas. The focus groups ranged from 5 to 19 participants and were held in each of the affected neighborhoods. Residents were asked about crime problems in their communities, their perceptions of gangs, and what they believe should be done to combat youth violence. Focus group interviews were conducted in the following 10 communities:

- Bluff/Shop Road area
- W. Beltline Boulevard/Colony Apartments area
- Decker Boulevard/Woodfield Park area
- Elmwood Avenue/Two Notch Road area
- Broad River Road/I-20 area
- Taylor Street/Two Notch Road area
- Fairfield Road/I-20 area
- Lorick Avenue area
- Clemson Road/Summit area
- Monticello Road/N. Main Street area

Bluff/Shop Road

The community residents in southeastern Richland County who took part in this focus group believe property crime, drugs, and youth-related loitering are the biggest public safety problems they face. Interestingly, and despite the open presence of Blood gang members in the area and documented gang-related violence, these residents did not report gangs as a problem in their community. Most agreed youths in the area lack parental supervision, particularly in the afterschool and evening hours, and most suggested the need for more afterschool programs and recreational activities. Several residents commented on the existence of parks in the area but stated they are not staffed and organized programs for youths do not take place in the parks. They noted youths in the area get in trouble or associate with the “wrong crowd” because they have nothing better to do and no parental guidance. They believe economic conditions force many parents to work two jobs (or long hours), which prevents them from supervising their children.

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W. Beltline Boulevard/Colony Apartments area

Participants in this focus group were overwhelmingly concerned and fearful about gun violence in their community. They all reported hearing gunshots on a nightly basis and several stated they (or their children or grandchildren) sleep on the floor at night as a result. They stated groups of disorderly youths congregate in the Colony Apartment complex parking lot and fights and gunshots are a nightly occurrence. Loud music, swearing, and disorderly behavior were specifically mentioned as contributing to stress and fear among residents. The participants also reported high levels of drug activity in the area and believed young, female residents of the apartments provide safe havens for drug dealers and gang members. They stated gangs are definitely present in the area (especially Blood gang members) and violence, robberies, and burglaries are common. The consensus of the group was that more police protection was needed and the Columbia Police Department seemed incapable or unwilling to address the problems in the community.

Decker Boulevard/Woodfield Park area

The community respondents in this area expressed concerns about rowdy, unsupervised youths in the area who intimidated residents by gathering in groups and refusing to yield to vehicles in the streets. They also complained about youths speeding in the area and about too many people living in single family homes. Although a few focus group participants believed gangs were present in the area, most did not believe gangs were a significant problem. Overall, the participants seemed concerned about social disorder and the fear created by groups of unsupervised youths. Likewise, most agreed the lack of parental involvement was to blame for the problem and suggested greater community and church involvement as possible solutions.

Elmwood Avenue/Two Notch Road area

The residents of this community who participated in the focus group were united in their concern about gangs. All reported the presence of gang members in the community and all reported being fearful of walking the streets in their neighborhoods. Several complained about the Columbia Police Department's (CPD) lack of response to youth crime and gangs in the area. These focus group participants stated they rarely see CPD patrol cars and never see officers out of their cars and interacting with youths in the neighborhoods. Participants reported gangs are always recruiting in the area and youths are sometimes intimidated or forced to join a gang. They stated they are afraid of gangs and the weapons they carry. When asked about factors that may contribute to youth or gang violence, most of the respondents pointed to a lack of parental supervision. Several commented on the fact that many parents work two or three jobs and are not around to supervise their children. One participant reported some parents are involved in gang activities with their children and are part of the problem rather than the solution. Most of the focus group participants believed creating after-school activities or programs would help get some juveniles off the street and under supervision.

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Broad River Road/I-20 area

Focus group participants in this area reported concerns over changes in land use, social disorder, drugs, and gangs. Several residents commented on how the Broad River Road corridor west of Interstate 20 has slowly changed from predominately single-family homes and neighborhoods to multi-family dwellings and commercial businesses. They commented on the proliferation of adult-oriented businesses and nightclubs in the area and the noise and disorder such establishments bring with them. Some expressed concerns over a perceived rise in burglaries, while others mentioned being fearful because of gangs and groups of youths who congregate outdoors and appear to be "looking for trouble." As for perceived gang activity, one participant reported the presence of Blood gang members (dressed in red) in the area who intimidate other youths. Another participant noted a growing problem with female gang members in the community. The focus group participants all agreed the lack of parental supervision and the breakdown of the traditional family were primarily responsible for the rise in gangs and youth-involved crime in the area.

Taylor Street/Two Notch Road area

Although this focus group's participants initially agreed drugs were the largest problem in their community, the primary topic of this discussion was a number of youths consistently loitering in the area, especially at night. These youths, who are believed to have committed crimes in this community such as vandalism, drug dealing, assault, robbery, and murder, were primarily thought to be gang members but to reside in areas outside this community. Gang members, again from other communities, were believed to be a serious problem for area residents, who voiced concern for their own as well as their children's safety, as gangs were thought to actively recruit in the area using intimidation. Lack of parental supervision and general parental responsibility were primarily blamed for the youth crime in the area and inadequate or non-existent community-based programs such as KOBAN, parenting classes, and after-school activities were thought to have left area youths with too much unrestricted time. The community members believed overall increased community involvement was needed to control the youth's unrestricted time and increased police presence, especially by the Richland County Sheriff's Department, could decrease the existing fear of violence and victimization in the area.

Fairfield Road/I-20 area

The residents of this area identified gang-related crime and youth violence as large problems in their community. The gang members have created an atmosphere of fear, especially at night as they sped down streets in vehicles, congregated in common and vacant areas, and traveled on foot in large groups throughout the area. The gang members were blamed for graffiti and other acts of vandalism, and a recent murder and frequent gunshots have caused residents to avoid common areas and to fear random acts of violence. The decline in recreational activities provided in the community combined with an inability of families and schools to properly socialize and monitor children was seen as the cause of this area's problems. Residents believed the problems escalated as the number of rental properties increased at a time when closing housing projects were displacing people into all areas of the city; the replacement of an

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elderly population with younger and more violent residents is believed to have occurred in the community and resulted in increased violence. More programs and activities, as well as more reactive politicians, police, and especially parents were suggested as proper and currently non-existence responses to this crime problem.

Lorick Avenue area

The respondents in this focus group were extremely concerned over the amount of crime and violence in their community. These community members reported a great deal of gunshots, and gang members were frequently seen loitering around apartment buildings harassing and disrespectful towards residents and their wishes. The residents were fearful of violence towards themselves and their children, especially that caused by non-residents. The lack of supervision and involvement by parents and community groups was blamed, as was the lack of police response. Residents reported seeing police patrol only once or twice per day, and none at night, while also reporting drug activity, assaults, home invasions, and fatal as well as non-fatal shootings. In general, the participants thought gang awareness needed to be increased for both youths and parents, and more proactive community involvement must offset the law enforcement response which they believed to be meager.

Clemson Road/Summit area

The members of the surrounding community who participated in this focus group were concerned with what was seen as a somewhat recent influx of crime into the area. This concern centered on what was viewed as resident and non-resident youths being allowed to roam across private and public areas, on foot and in vehicles, often during school hours and late at night. These youths disregarded traffic laws and were blamed for daytime burglaries as well as vandalism. Others expressed concern regarding gang intimidation and open air drug sales which residents believed they had witnessed, but the majority of complaints concerned property and nuisance crimes. Likewise, these residents did feel safe outside at night, but most did not view youth violence to be a problem in this area. Uninvolved or unconcerned parents and schools were seen as the source of the problem revolving around unsupervised youths. Participants also believed the courts could play a role by enforcing truancy laws and invoking more parental accountability for their children's actions. It was also suggested that more community mentors and role models were needed in general, and residents from some areas believed they needed more programs and opportunities, while more economically advantaged areas believed increased police presence could deter these youth crimes.

Monticello Road-N. Main area

The community respondents in this focus group felt most problems were concentrated in certain areas, although the gangs seemed to have a strong and long-reaching impact on this community as a whole. Areas of particularly concentrated poverty were most fearful of both gang and youth violence. Shootings, home invasions, and other acts of intimidation were common in these areas as well as certain areas of single family residences, and residents reported that cooperation with the police resulted in retaliation against by gang members and youths in violent fashion. Youths were seen congregating and loitering especially at night, and they were known to be involved in the

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graffiti, drug sales, and burglaries that were commonplace throughout. The community members thought they needed to take matters into their own hands with more church and overall community outreach programs and opportunities. This belief was based on the fact that the criminal justice system, particularly the Columbia Police Department and the truancy laws, were unable to restrain the large amount of problematic youths in the area. It was believed schools and families as a whole were unable to operate properly due to the high amount of crime and fear of violence.

Summary

The interviews conducted with criminal justice personnel, community leaders, school officials, and community members provided insight into the gang and youth violence problem in the Columbia-Richland County area that could not be captured from the analysis of law enforcement data alone. Several themes emerged as a result of the interviews with each of the groups presented in the analysis. First, all groups shared the perspective there has been an increase in gang activity in the area, specifically within the last few years. There were also common causes given for the increase. Most notably, the interviewees shared the perspective that the primary causes are the lack of parental supervision and involvement, as well as the lack of opportunities and programs for youths in the area. The proposed solution to this problem was more after school, faith-based, and recreational programs for juveniles so they have a place to go with adult supervision where they are not intimidated by and pressured to join gangs.

Among the criminal justice personnel interviewed, all agreed there has been an increase in gang violence throughout the past several years, but they also noted there has been an increase in property and drug crimes as well. Criminal justice agencies have made attempts to combat this increase in gang and youth crime; however, this has proved difficult as individuals who are gang-involved tend to be more resistant to the programs and services offered by these agencies. In terms of the community leader perspective, they too have seen an increase in gang and youth violence and consider it to be a serious problem. Overall, they stated there is not enough being done to help these individuals, and all the community organizations need to collaborate and coordinate their efforts to help prevent youth from becoming involved in gangs to begin with.

The interviews with school officials provide a somewhat conflicting perspective on the nature and extent of gang problems within the middle and high schools in the Columbia-Richland County area. School principals suggested gang violence is decreasing in the schools and gangs do not pose much of a problem for the schools. Interestingly, the SROs in the schools present a somewhat different picture of gang activity. While they state gang activity has remained relatively stable, every high school SRO reported the existence or presence of gangs in their schools. The SROs stated overt gang activity is somewhat rare, but individuals wearing gang-related colors continue to be a problem, providing evidence for the presence of gangs in schools.

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Finally, the community focus group interviewees provided a valuable perspective on the gang problem in the area, specifically how the activity personally impacts the communities in which they live. The focus group participants were drawn from communities that experienced higher rates of violence, and almost all groups presented the same fears, concerns, and solutions. The community residents stated they fear the activity of gangs in their communities and many take measures to protect themselves from becoming involved in gang conflicts. These groups agreed that much of the cause for the increase in gang and youth violence is the lack of parental supervision, as well as the lack of pro-social opportunities and programs for youth to become involved in. Many of the groups believed better programming would be a step towards reducing gang activity, but the other common solution given was the increased presence of law enforcement in their communities. Many community members expressed dissatisfaction with the amount of police presence in their neighborhoods and the overall lack of a law enforcement response to the gang and youth violence problem in the Columbia-Richland County area.

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PAST RESPONSES, SUGGESTIONS, AND FUTURE RESOURCES

The pattern that has emerged from the above analysis of criminal justice data and interviews of various community members is that youth and gang violence are problems in the Columbia-Richland County area. This third section of the assessment report examines what the response has been to this problem up to this point, and what are the issues that need to be considered in forming future responses. This presentation is divided into two subsections – Criminal Justice Response and Community, Faith-Based, and School Responses. The criminal justice portion covers the enforcement approach to these problems, and the community, faith-based, and school portion addresses prevention and intervention components. Each subsection provides a brief review of past and/or current initiatives and programs under these areas and then provides a concluding discussion on considerations and needs for future response efforts. Overall, this review focuses on responses to gang activity and violence as opposed to the more general issue of youth violence. This is largely a result of gangs emerging as a primary public concern as this assessment evolved, as well as the direction of the responses provided by the various agency personnel and service providers.

Criminal Justice Responses

Among other things, the interviews with criminal justice officials focused on how agencies have responded to the youth and gang violence problem, as well as suggestions they had for future efforts. While there are a number of details that fall under these response efforts, this examination is only meant to provide a general overview of the organizational practices and activities related to gang activity and violence responses. The efforts of these various criminal justice organizations are reviewed under three general areas – law enforcement agencies, prosecution, and adult and juvenile probation and parole.

Law Enforcement Agencies

The Richland County Sheriff's Department initially tried to address gang activity in the area ten years ago with public education. It was believed that educating parents and other community members would provide the ability to address the emerging signs of gang activity before it developed into a serious community problem. The sheriff noted this prevention effort, however, did not materialize to the degreed he hoped it would, which he attributed to the failure of many in the area to accept that gangs posed a problem. Approximately seven years ago, the RCSD created a formalized gang unit that primarily supported the mission of public education. More recently, the department has broadened the unit's mission to include intelligence and street enforcement. The unit is also responsible for a graffiti removal program.

The unit is currently composed of one sergeant, two investigators, and a corporal. Recently, the unit was supplemented with additional officers to support street enforcement activities in response to a number of shootings that occurred in the summer of 2007, but the unit has since returned to its four deputy strength. As for the

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current division of tasks in the unit, one of the investigators has the full time responsibility of being a liaison with the department's School Resource Officers (SRO). This is a grant funded position intended to improve the collection and dissemination of information on gangs with the SROs. The remaining investigator and corporal cover the community presentations, graffiti removal, intelligence collection and analysis, and street enforcement. Across the four tasks, community presentations receives the majority of unit time, followed by graffiti removal and intelligence efforts, and street enforcement on average receives the least amount of unit time.

Over the last few years the RCSD gang unit has informally engaged in an effort to indentify gang members and gang related crime in the community. In January 2007, the department established formalized criteria for identifying gang members and gang crimes consistent with federal criminal intelligence guidelines set forth in 28 CFR Part 23. The information on gang activity the unit currently collects under this policy partially comes from active information collection efforts, where unit members personally make contact with gang-involved individuals while engaging in street enforcement activity. The bulk of information on gang members and gang activity, however, comes to the unit through passive information collection, which is information passed on from patrol deputies or gained through a review of crime reports.

The Columbia Police Department also has a specialized gang unit that formed approximately three and half years ago. According to former Chief Crisp, he established the unit to address what he viewed as a high level of gang activity and gang violence at that time. The unit is composed of a sergeant, two investigators, and one patrol officer. The unit has the responsibility to collect and analyze information on gang members and gang crime within the city, investigate gang crimes, and provide gang education presentations to the public. The unit is also a partner in the Columbia Violent Gang Task Force run by the FBI, which focuses on gang and non-gang related violent and drug crime in the area. According to the unit sergeant, this task force relationship provides valuable resources for conducting long term investigations on gang activity and for pursuing prosecution of federal crimes for violent offenders.

As noted above, the unit is responsible for collecting and analyzing information on gang activity in the city. Similar to the county, they have formalized criteria for classifying this gang activity based on the Violent Gang and Terrorist Organizational File (VGTOF) guidelines established by the FBI. It is interesting to note, however, that members from both city and county gang units stated they do little information sharing beyond providing the occasional information on a specific case. Members of both units, however, expressed a desire to have some mechanism that would facilitate permanent information sharing. This is an important consideration given the above crime analysis revealed both agencies are often dealing with the same individuals involved in gang-related offenses.

At the federal law enforcement level, the FBI and ATF also have an important response component to youth and gang violence in the Columbia-Richland County area. As noted, the FBI manages the Columbia Violent Gang Task Force, which also includes

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members of the ATF. The task force conducts long-term investigations that will lead to successful prosecutions in federal court. The most notable example of this work is the multi-year investigation of the Gangsta Killer Bloods in the Columbia-Richland County area, which resulted in the indictment of multiple members of this gang in early 2007.

The ATF, on the other hand, does not have specific gang response component, but it does manage efforts that are very important for addressing youth and gang violence. Specifically, the ATF enforces federal firearms laws that provide much stronger sentences for individuals with prior violent and drug convictions than are found at the state level. In addition to this enforcement capacity, the ATF also manages firearms and ballistics tracing programs, such as the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN), that aid in connecting firearms across criminal incidents. The firearm tracing program is also useful for examining firearm use and trade patterns in communities.

Prosecution

As noted above, the Solicitor for Columbia and Richland County (5th Judicial District) stated he has seen growth in youth and gang violence in the area over the past 5 to 10 years. His office, however, does not currently have any prosecutors specifically assigned to this problem. All violent cases involving juveniles, both gang and non-gang, are handled by the office's juvenile team, except for those juveniles transferred to adult court. All adult violence, both gang and non-gang, are handled by the office's violent crime task force. The Solicitor stated their ability to consider elements of gang involvement in cases is largely dependent on information provided by law enforcement. He noted in the past this gang information was inconsistent, but it has improved of recent.

The U.S. Attorney for South Carolina stated he primarily has contact with gangs in the area through the prosecution of federal firearms and drug cases. According to the U.S. Attorney, the South Carolina office has been one of the most aggressive of the 94 U.S. Attorney's Offices in adopting firearm and drug cases from local agencies to assist in addressing their violence problems, including gang violence. Beyond these prosecution efforts, the U.S. Attorney's office also engages in a number of programs through the Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) initiative that have the potential to directly or indirectly impact gang and youth violence. They have sponsored community- based conferences in the Columbia-Richland County area that provided education on gang activity and problem-solving work groups. The office has engaged in a public information initiative through radio commercials and billboards intended to inform would-be offenders of the sentences they face under federal firearms prosecution, which is intended to be act as a deterrent. Recently, the office has also established a program with PPP for pursuing individuals under supervision who violate federal firearms laws.

Adult and Juvenile Probation and Parole

PPP manages all adult offenders on probation and parole, along with individuals on community supervision under the Youthful Offender Act and juveniles on parole. As

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noted above, department agents stated they see a number of individuals on their caseload that are involved in gangs, particularly in the Columbia-Richland County area. Approximately six years ago the department was involved in the South Carolina Attorney General's Gang Task Force, which was a networking and information sharing forum that eventually disbanded. More recently, the agency began to identify individuals on their caseload who are gang-involved utilizing the VGTOF criteria. Department agents also noted they provide a number of services and programs for individuals on their caseload in an effort to prevent future offending, but they currently do not have programs specifically directed toward gang-involved individuals.

An important consideration for the department in relation to gang response, however, is that they do not conduct pre-sentence investigations to aid judges in sentencing decisions, which is a common practice in other states.[4] Thus, gang information provided to a judge when considering sentencing primarily comes from the solicitor during plea negotiations or evidence presented during a trial. In addition, the department's interpretation of recent court decisions has limited their aggressive enforcement of probation conditions they impose, such as conditions related to an individual's gang involvement, unless they are imposed by the court. Although department agents can return to court and ask for additional conditions, this was viewed as a cumbersome process. Department agents noted that this was not detrimental to their ability to address gangs, but it was a limitation.

The DJJ Richland County office is primarily responsible for juveniles who are on some type of community supervision in the Columbia and Richland County area. The standard DJJ probation can place a number of conditions on a juvenile, such as compulsory education, restrictions on associations, curfews and so on. For gang-involved individuals, they also use the intervention services of Project Gang Out and the Youth Advocate Program's (YAP) gang services. The details of Project Gang Out are discussed below with other community based service providers. YAP is national non-profit organization with a local office in Columbia, which provides or facilitates community-based services for juveniles. According to DJJ personnel, the YAP gang services is an intense 8 to 12 week program that involves mentoring, counseling, family intervention, home visits, and education and employment assistance.

DJJ personnel noted that although they do have an enforcement role, they view themselves as more of a treatment organization. Their goal is to get individuals off probation and on the path to being productive citizens. Consistent with this orientation, DJJ has recently started an intensive supervision program for individuals who leave the state juvenile commitment facility. The intent of this program is to provide intensive contact and services to aid in a more productive transition back to the community and a subsequent reduction in reoffending.

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[4] The probations agents stated they tried to create a pre-sentence investigation program approximately 10 years age, but it is not utilized by judges in the state, and as a result, the program was eventually terminated.

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Richland DJJ personnel stated they have identified individuals on their caseload that are involved in gangs. This determination is sometimes based in information they receive from law enforcement, and in other cases the individual in question may self-admit to gang membership or show other signs of gang involvement to DJJ personnel. They noted they want to be careful when identifying individuals who may be gang-involved so as to avoid mislabeling. Moreover, they stated they would like to see some guidance on gang classification come from the DJJ administration. At the time of their interview, their identification of gang members was largely informal. Discussion with the DJJ Inspectors office, however, revealed that the agency is in the process of developing identification standards and protocols. In fact, by the end of this assessment we observed information sharing from DJJ to the Columbia Police Department regarding youth under supervision in gangs.

Discussion

In general, all personnel interviewed from the above agencies viewed gang and youth violence as an important problem facing the Columbia-Richland County area, particularly gang violence. Moreover, while they were interviewed about their response to this problem, they made a number of suggestions for how these responses could be improved. The most consistent suggestion was the need for coordination across criminal justice agencies. In the context of the CPD and RCSD, personnel from both agencies acknowledge they need to be working on a database for gang activity. There was a proposal being considered by both agencies recently regarding the utilization of a shared database, but there has been no action as of yet to finalize this agreement. SLED has been developing a statewide gang intelligence database. The CPD and RCSD need to consider whether this system alone will meet their needs or whether they will need an additional system to support their own goals. Regardless of what specific system they choose, the evidence provided above on the activity of gang-involved individuals across jurisdictional lines suggests that a common database is an important step that should be taken. This effort will also require common protocols and standards for identifying gang members and gang crimes, which currently does not exist. Not having a common database creates redundancy, and limits the knowledge and ability of both agencies.

This issue of intelligence coordination and sharing also has to be considered beyond these two agencies. Personnel from the solicitor's office, PPP and the Richland County DJJ office all stated they would like more information sharing on gangs to aid in their decision-making. The researchers also spoke with a magistrate's court judge who expressed the need for better information regarding offenders who come before him and their involvement in gangs or gang-related crime. He noted that he currently has little or no information regarding gang activity and any threats posed by gang-involved individuals when setting bonds. A better mechanism needs to be created for insuring judges who make crucial bond and probation/parole revocation decisions have accurate information about a defendant's gang involvement and potential threat to the community.

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The concept of gang intelligence also raises another important issue regarding the role of the area's law enforcement agencies. This discussion of the law enforcement considerations is not meant to diminish the role of other criminal justice agencies. However, the two primary law enforcement agencies in Richland County (CPD and RCSD) are in the best position to be the clearinghouses for information on gang members and gangs in the area. This is not to say community organizations, schools, and adult and juvenile probation officials do not have important knowledge to contribute – they clearly do. However, the local law enforcement agencies have the potential for the widest possible contact with gang members in the Columbia-Richland County area, whether they are in or out of school, juveniles or adults, under correctional supervision or not, or in the city or county. Developing and maintaining knowledge from repeated contacts with gang members not only aids in the coordination of criminal justice resources but also in the targeting of prevention and intervention efforts.

Given the importance of the law enforcement intelligence function, attention needs to be given to the current structure of unit activities. A primary mechanism for information collection on gang members and gang activity is through contacts with gang members in the community. While patrol officers occasionally make such contacts, they are burdened by a number of other tasks while on duty. As a result, they are not able to make as many contacts as would be desirable and do not necessarily develop comprehensive knowledge of area gang members, gang structures, hang-out locations, and activities. The gang units for both agencies engage in street enforcement efforts as one of their tasks. However, this is one of multiple tasks in these units, and discussions with their members revealed these other tasks result in less than optimal time available for enforcement and intelligence gathering. Where gang unit personnel from the CPD and RCSD may only spend one or two days a week "working the streets," many other cities and counties in the country have units solely dedicated to this task. The CPD and RCSD should consider having personnel dedicated full-time to street enforcement/information gathering, whether as a joint unit or individually. The suggestion for such a unit was also echoed by one of the federal law enforcement agents interviewed. At the same time, these agencies should still keep their investigative functions as an important secondary task (with full-time personnel assigned), with community education as a tertiary responsibility delegated to others within the agencies.

Beyond the law enforcement agencies, PPP and DJJ should consider dedicating an agent to work specifically with the CPD and RCSD on a comprehensive gang and youth violence response. This type of community corrections-police partnership exists across the country (see Parent and Snyder, 1999). Although the above analysis revealed that only 13% of gang identified individuals who were suspects in a violent crime were on adult probation and parole, it has to be acknowledged this represents a limited analysis. There are individuals who have been identified as gang members by law enforcement who were not among the suspects in the violent crimes examined above but who are nonetheless currently on probation or parole. For example, the CPD listed 44 individuals on DJJ probation who were identified as gang members, some of whom were involved in the crimes analyzed and some who were not. In sum, CPD, RCSD,

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PPP, and DJJ often have contact with the same gang-involved individuals, and as a result, improved coordination through the formalized assignment of personnel to this issue from the community corrections/supervision agencies is an important consideration in a future comprehensive response effort.

In addition to an improved and coordinated response by law enforcement, PPP, and DJJ, attention must be given to improving the prosecution and adjudication of violent and gang-involved youths. Many criminal justice personnel we interviewed expressed frustration at the backlog in the criminal courts and the inability of the criminal justice system to deal effectively with repeat violent offenders or to keep them off the streets. Even as recreation, education, substance abuse, and job-related services are increasingly made available to gang-involved and at-risk youths, some individuals will not be reached and will continue to pose a threat to the community. The solicitor's office, U.S. attorney's office, and courts will play crucial roles in a comprehensive plan to address youth and gang violence in the region.

With this in mind, we suggest the development of a streamlined approach for identifying, prosecuting, and adjudicating violent youths who pose a continuing threat to others and who refuse to avail themselves to pro-social alternatives. This streamlined effort may take the form of a "youth and gang-violence court," which would operate similarly to drug and domestic violence courts that currently exist in the area and across the U.S. Such an effort would function best using a vertical prosecution model that assigns a single assistant solicitor or U.S. attorney to follow an individual case from arrest through final disposition. Under this model, a prosecutor would be on hand at the first bond hearing to represent the state's interest in maintaining public safety and would follow the case through all phases of adjudication. Youth or gang-violence cases would be chosen for priority scheduling and handling under this model, based on the nature of the threat posed by the defendant. Where appropriate, and as part of the comprehensive model, federal prosecution would be utilized for gun, drug, or repeat violent offender cases that meet federal statutory requirements. Particularly for youthful violent offenders, processes must be designed to break the all-too-common cycle of arrest, release on bond, and re-arrest prior to trial. PPP must also be part of the effort and must work with the solicitor's office and courts to revoke the probation or parole status of youthful or gang-involved offenders on probation or parole who pose a threat to the community.

In sum, there was stated desire among all of the criminal justice agency officials and personnel interviewed to have improved coordination in their response to gangs, which is consistent with the goal of creating a comprehensive response initiative. The points discussed above are viewed as important components to such an initiative. However, there are a number of details beyond this discussion that will need to be taken up by the Gang and Youth Violence Prevention Council as it determines how to put these suggestions into place. In addition, there are important agencies that were not discussed above that should be involved in a comprehensive initiative – FBI, ATF, and the Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center. The suggested next step for the Gang and Youth Violence Prevention Council is to create a working group that involves all of the criminal

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justice agencies interviewed and which would have the responsibility of helping the council develop an initiative plan that develops the details of the above considerations and others they may develop. A framework for developing such a working group is outlined below, following the discussion of community, faith-based, and school responses.

Community, Faith-Based and School Responses

The identification of community and faith-based organizations that provide services to at-risk youth or those involved in gang violence was based on the community knowledge of research team members and referrals from community leaders. In fact, some of the community leaders above also managed programs, and as a result, the characteristics of their programs were discussed during the interview. In addition, while conducting other parts of the assessment, members of the research team interviewed personnel from the Department of Juvenile Justice and the school districts that were involved in prevention based programs that potentially address youth at risk for gang involvement. These programs are also discussed in this section. In total, 33 administrators and staff members from the following organizations and programs were interviewed for this component of the assessment.

- 21st Century Community Learning Center
- Agape Church
- Be Right Project
- Boys and Girls Club of the Midlands
- Carolina Children's Home
- City Year
- Columbia Parks and Recreation
- Community Mediation Center
- DJJ – Teen After School Program (TSAC)
- Family Service Center of South Carolina
- Fast Forward Technology Center
- Greater St. Luke Baptist Church
- Gunter's Chapel Baptist Church
- Harmony
- KOBAN
- Lexington/Richland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council (LRADAC)
- Loretta Coleman Ministries
- Project G.O.A.L.
- Project Gang Out
- Project Unity
- Richland County Recreation Commission
- Saturday Churching
- South Carolina After School Alliance
- Success 4 Life
- The Emergency Assistance Program

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- The Terry Dozier Group
- United Way of the Midlands
- Volunteers of America of the Carolinas
- YMCA
- Youth Leadership Council

Interviews with members of these organizations and programs had two primary goals. The research team wanted to first determine if the program managed by the organization actually served individuals who are potentially at-risk or involved in gang activity and youth violence. As it turned out, a number of the individuals interviewed informed the research team that they did not serve this population. They were either oriented toward adults or families, or they were part of an organization that facilitates and supports other organizations that actually manage programs as opposed to managing programs themselves. As a result, these organizations do not have programs discussed in detail below.

The second of goal of the interviews was to gain detailed information on programs that actually serve the population at-risk or involved in gang activity or violence. For the most part, these programs provide a mix of academic support, employment-related services, counseling, mentoring, and recreational activities. In addition, the delivery of these services varied in frequency, from occasional events sponsored by one of the above organizations to services provided on a daily basis. While programs or services provide on an occasional basis can have an important role in any response to youth and gang violence, we focus on programs that provide services, at minimum, once a week since they provide more routine support for youth trying to stay away from or get out of the negative lifestyle associated with gangs and youth violence.

While some of the programs described here are geared specifically toward youth at risk for gang involvement or involved in gangs, other programs simply accept all youth or youth at risk for negative lifestyles. This second group of programs was included because they provided services of interest, and the staff stated they could service youth at risk for gang involvement. Given this consideration, each program description identifies whether it was specifically created for youth at risk or involved in gang activity. Each program is also classified as prevention- or intervention-based. Prevention based indicates the program is oriented toward youth at risk for gang involvement and intervention programs are for youth already involved in gangs.

Fast Forward Technology Center
3223 Devine St
Columbia, SC 29205
(803) 343-2577
Contact Person: Dee Albritton

Program Type: Prevention
Target Age: Youth and adult

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Specifically target "at-risk" for gangs: No
Gang involved: No
Services: Technology education
Description: Fast Forward Technology Center is a community-based organization that provides education on computing technology. The center provides services to youth through summer camps and after-school programs, which staff note can include youth who are at risk for gang activity.

Boys and Girls Club – Project U-Turn

Ben Arnold Unit
1100 S. Holly St.
Columbia, SC 29205
(803) 231-3301
Contact Person: James Brown

St. Andrews Unit
901 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, SC 29210
(803) 231-3306

Program Type: Prevention, early intervention
Target Age: High school age
Specifically target "at-risk" for gangs: No
Gang involved: No
Services: Academic performance improvement, recreation.
Description: Project U-turn is an afterschool program directed at addressing the issue of truancy, reducing school drop-out, and improving academic performance. Although the program is not specifically developed for individuals at risk or involved in gangs, program staff stated a number of kids in this program do fit this category. In addition, this program at the St. Andrews location is jointly operated with the DJJ Teen After-School Program discussed below.

Success for Life

700 Hampton St
Columbia, SC 29202
(803) 737-5038
Contact Person: Richelyn C. Douglas

Program Type: Prevention
Target Age: 16-21
Specifically target "at-risk" for gangs: No
Gang involved: No
Services: Academic performance support & job training and placement
Description: Success for Life is a Youth Workforce Investment Act program managed by the Family Services Center of South Carolina. The program provides a variety of services including academic tutoring, financial assistance in school costs and supplies, GED assistance, job placement, and career counseling. The program is not geared to specifically address individuals at risk for gang involvement, although the program

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manager felt the services provided are valuable for providing opportunities to stay out of gangs.

KOBAN

Administrative Office
2111 Lady St.
Columbia SC, 29201
(803) 343-8755

Service Locations
Gonzales Gardens
1505 Garden Plaza

Latimer Manor
100 Lorick Circle

Allen Benedict Court
2211 Laurel St

W.A. Perry Middle School
2600 Barhamville Road

Contact Person: Remona Jenkins

Program Type: Prevention, early intervention
Target Age: 6-18
Specifically target individuals "at-risk" for gangs: Yes
Gang involved: No
Services: After school programs, recreation, tutoring, and mentorship
Description: KOBAN is composed of multiple community service centers operated by the Columbia Police Department and the Columbia Housing Authority. The centers provide a number of recreational, academic, and mentorship services for youth, along with additional programs for adults. While the program was not created for the specific purpose of addressing youth at risk for gangs, this is one of the groups the centers serve according to program staff. In addition, staff commented the program can handle individuals just entering or starting to associate with gangs, but they refer youth more heavily involved in gangs to other programs.

Harmony

1810 Allen Benedict Court Apt Q-10
Columbia, SC 29204
(803) 733-8687
Contact Person: Officer Michael Myers, Columbia Police Department

Program Type: Prevention, early intervention
Target Age: Youth, particularly 6th grade through High School
Specifically target individuals "at-risk" for gangs: Yes
Gang involved: Early involvement in gangs

Services: Academic performance, mentorship, and counseling

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Description: Harmony is based in the Saxon Homes area and is operated by members of the Columbia Police Department and community volunteers. The stated purpose of the program is to empower teens through academic achievement and the development of decision-making skills. The program is geared toward youth at risk for academic and delinquency problems, including the involvement in gangs. The key component of the program is the improvement of academic skill, which is supported by mentoring and counseling services. A primary target of the program, as it relates to gang activity, are 6th graders, as the program staff identify this age as a key point for heading off future involvement in gangs. Staff stated they work with less committed gang- involved individuals who want out, but refer more committed gang members who resist services to other programs.

Saturday Churching
3207 Piedmont Ave
Columbia, SC 29203
(803) 754-5300
Contact Person: Yolanda Bowers

Program Type: Prevention
Target Age: 5-18
Specifically target individuals "at-risk" for gangs: Yes
Gang involved: Yes

Services: Recreation, mentoring, and ministry
Description: Saturday Churching is a faith-based program operated by the Triumphant Praises Ministry. The program was described as working with young people and steering and guiding them into a positive direction that will cause them to become productive citizens. The program operates every Saturday for 11 months out of the year, exposing youth to ministry-based recreational activities and mentorship.

Project Gang Out
1445 Shop Rd
Columbia, SC, 29201
(803) 799-0990
Contact Person: AV Strong

Program Type: Prevention & Intervention
Target Age: 8-18
Specifically target individuals "at-risk" for gangs: Yes
Gang involved: Yes
Services: Mentoring and counseling
Description: Project Gang Out is a mentoring and counseling program that directly targets youth involved in gangs or those who are at risk for gang involvement. The stated goal of the program is to develop accountability and responsibility in the youth

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serviced so they will make positive choices that will keep them out of gangs. The core component of the program is a once a week meeting where these services are provided. Additional opportunities are provided through summer job programs, camps, and recreational events. The program also provides a support group meeting for the parents of youth involved in the program.

Be Right Project
2340 Atlas Rd
Columbia, SC 29209
(803) 726-0570
Contact Person: Darion Hutcherson

Program Type: Prevention
Ta**rget Age**: 6-18
Specifically target individuals "at-risk" for gangs: Yes
Gang involved: No
Services: After school programs, mentoring, counseling, tutoring and academic assistance, and employment assistance
Description: The Be Right Project is managed through the Midlands Community Development Corporation and affiliated with Bible Way Baptist Church. The goal of the program is to assist youth in avoiding negative lifestyles, such as gang activity, delinquency, substance abuse, and school dropout. Although the stated mission of the program only discusses the prevention of at-risk individuals from getting involved in gangs, discussion with staff suggest they also seek to provide intervention services to youth who at least have minor involvement in gangs.

Interviews with the above program managers also revealed that some of them (Gang Out, Be Right, KOBAN, Harmony, and Project U-Turn) have established relationships with area schools, where the schools refer students who are struggling academically or who have disciplinary problems to their programs. The Gang Out and Harmony programs also have established a working relationship with the DJJ, whereby individuals may be required to attend the program as part of their probation. Be Right noted they were also in the process of establishing this relationship with the DJJ.

As noted above, the research team also had contact with DJJ and school officials who manage community-based programs that also directly or indirectly address youth at risk or involved in gangs. In 2003, DJJ piloted a program called Teen After-School Centers (TASC) with the purpose of providing additional supervision for non-violent juveniles (12-17 years) who were on DJJ probation and at risk for incarceration. The program is after school based (end of school to 6PM) and is geared toward improving academic performance, recreation, job placement, and mentoring. The DJJ program manager also noted the program has broadened its initial target population of juveniles on DJJ probation and now accepts kids who are not on their caseload but have been identified as at-risk by schools. DJJ provides initial funding and training for this program, but the

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day-to-day operations of the program are managed by staff from various community centers across the state where the programs exist. Currently, there are 19 TASC locations across the state, with the following three in the Columbia-Richland County area.

Boys and Girls Club of the Midlands – St. Andrews Unit
St. Andrews Unit
901 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, SC 29210
(803) 240-7924
Contact Person: James Mercado

Midlands Community Develop Corporation
2430 Atlas Rd.
Columbia, SC 29209
(803) 647-0178
Contact Person: Violet Staley

St. Paul Child Development Center
835 Kennerly Rd.
Irmo, SC 29063
(803) 960-7980
Contact Person: Beverly Pollack

A school-based service program the research team came across was Project G.O.A.L. The program was started with grant funding from the South Carolina Department of Education with the intent of addressing poor academic performance and school drop-out in two area high schools – Eau Claire and Keenan. In general, the program seeks to provide support for improving the academic skills of students who are at risk of not completing high school. Although not specifically for youth in gangs or at risk for gang involvement, it nonetheless addresses a key risk factor for gang involvement - dropping out of school. Program contact person: Charmaine Primus (803) 735-7624.

While talking with officials from Richland School District I, the research team was also informed about a grant funded safe schools program that was directed toward transitioning juveniles from DJJ custody facilities back into school. It was noted that when individuals leave these facilities, they often have a number of adjustment problems (academic and discipline) in returning to a normal public school environment. This grant funded program was intended to provide multiple services in an effort to head off these problems. Each student was connected with a team involving a mental health professional, social worker, law enforcement officer, and school official who would establish a performance program with the student and meet regularly to monitor progress in this program. The school official interviewed felt the program was very effective. However, the grant funding for the program ended in 2005, and its existence

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as a formal initiative subsequently ended. The official noted there was still some informal contact between original personnel when an individual was scheduled to leave DJJ and enter the schools again, but services were not comprehensively being offered now.

Beyond the community-based services and programs discussed above, the assessment team also interviewed managers of faith-based programs more broadly geared toward area youth, which may include youth at risk for gang involvement. These programs were provided by Loretta Coleman Ministries, Agape Church, and The Terry Dozier Group. The services provided by these organizations are primarily oriented toward mentorship and recreation delivered on an event basis, as opposed to the weekly or daily programs discussed above. The assessment team also interviewed the leader of Project Unity, which has a street outreach program called “Meet me where I am at.” This program involves members of Project Unity going into problem neighborhoods between 1 AM and 4 AM to speak with youths and young adults in the street, which includes gang-involved individuals. The assessment team also interviewed program managers from the Lexington/Richland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council and the Community Mediation Center, which provide the services of substance abuse and anger management counseling respectively. While these additional organizations do not provide community services as consistently as the programs mentioned above, they nonetheless provide potentially useful services that should be considered in developing a comprehensive response plan.

The research team also spoke with officials from the Columbia Department of Parks and Recreations and the Richland County Recreation Commission. Both of these organizations provide a number of recreational opportunities throughout the Columbia and Richland County area. At some of their facilities, they also provide after school programs with tutoring and other academic assistance. The Boys and Girls Club of the Midlands also offers a number of after school programs. The city and county after school programs, however, are only available for Kindergarten through 8th grade, which only covers a small portion of the age group of interest in this report (12-24 year old). Similarly, except for the above mentioned Project U-turn and TASC, the after school programs provided by the Boys and Girls Clubs service area elementary and middle schools. The county recreation commission also noted they have established mentorship programs with the RCSD for “at-risk” youths, as well as a parenting program for single parents, but there was little participation and the programs were dropped.

Discussion

The underlying purpose of the above review was to identify currently operating prevention and intervention programs that direct or indirectly address youths involved in gangs or at risk for involvement. The map below displays some the programs discussed above, which highlights that a number of these programs exist in areas with high concentrations of youth violence. Thus, these programs can presumably provide a base for the prevention and intervention component of a comprehensive response initiative to youth and gang violence. It is important to note, however, that this assessment did not

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conduct an evaluation of any of the programs discussed above to determine their effectiveness. As in the case of the criminal justice agencies discussed above, it will be necessary for the managers of any service program that participates in a future comprehensive response initiative to have the willingness to adjust their programs if needed to improve effectiveness of delivery.

A review of the above programs does reveal some gaps in the current services provided as well. There are a number of programs in the area (recreation and after school based) that are primarily directed toward kindergarten through middle school level. Some of the programs outlined have stretched these prevention efforts through the high school level. These programs primarily, or potentially, target juveniles at risk for gang involvement with academic support, counseling, mentoring, recreation, and employment assistance. However, there is only one, possibly two, programs above that are directed at juveniles actively involved in gangs. Moreover, the research team did not find any community or faith-based intervention programs directed at gang-involved individuals 18 and older, although there is the Success for Life program that is academic and employment oriented, but not gang intervention focused. This older, gang-specific intervention gap is important, however, considering that 18-24 year olds were the largest age category of gang members identified by the CPD and RCSD. A comprehensive initiative should consider having services in multiple areas – prevention and intervention, teenage, and young adult.

Similar to the criminal justice agencies, coordination of services will also be an important consideration for the Gang and Youth Violence Prevention Council. Each participating service program should have a clearly defined area of responsibility so as to avoid gaps in services and redundancy. A core element of this coordination is the process by which organizations, such as the schools or the DJJ, refer individuals to services. As noted above, a few of these current programs reported referral relationships with area schools or DJJ. The council will want to put in place a streamlined referral system for schools, DJJ, PPP, law enforcement, and others that will guarantee the connection to services and a lack of redundancy, as well as a monitoring system to make sure the services are being provided as desired.

Another important consideration related to referrals is the issues of recruitment into service provision programs. The Council can do a very good job in identifying, developing and supporting key programs. However, if these are not being used by those who fall into the gang at-risk or gang involved category, then they are of limited utility. There are a number of programs in the area that are at least intended to serve the at-risk population between 12 and 18 years old. The Council will need to explore why gang at-risk or gang involved individuals are not using these programs. The referrals from school and probation agencies offer one way for making this connection to the population of interest. However, efforts are needed for those who are not in school or under any community correctional supervision. In other parts of the county, programs referred to as outreach workers or street workers often fulfill this role of making contact with at-risk or involved individuals. These workers will go into neighborhoods during the evening hours or to hangout locations and attempt to develop relationships with gang-

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involved individuals. In the process of developing this relationship, they try to place the gang members in contact with services that help them exit their currently lifestyle. There was only one community group that claimed to have a program for doing this. The council should consider whether to expand this program, or develop others in order to increase the coordination of services to the gang population neither in school or nor under community correctional supervision.

Beyond the incorporation of the above groups that actually provide services, the Council may want to consider the inclusion of organizations that facilitate and support community based service programs. The research team spoke with members of the United Way of the Midlands and the South Carolina Family Services Center, each of whom have considerable experience in coordinating and supporting community based programs. In addition, the South Carolina Department of Education and the area school districts offer important resources related to a portion of the age population or interest. The area schools, in particular, have a key role to play in a comprehensive response effort given their frequent contact with gang at-risk and involved individuals in their classrooms. As noted above, they are a key referral source for various response services.

In sum, the discussion provided here, as well as in the above section on criminal justice response, suggests points of consideration based on the assessment of current area resources. The ultimate decision on the altering, addition and coordination of response resources will rest with the various partners that compose the Gang and Youth Violence Prevention Council. These partners will have to come up with a detailed plan all can support in order to get the buy-in of all participating organizations to ensure implementation and sustainability of a comprehensive response to gang and youth violence. The final section of this report provides a suggested framework for creating this decision-making body.

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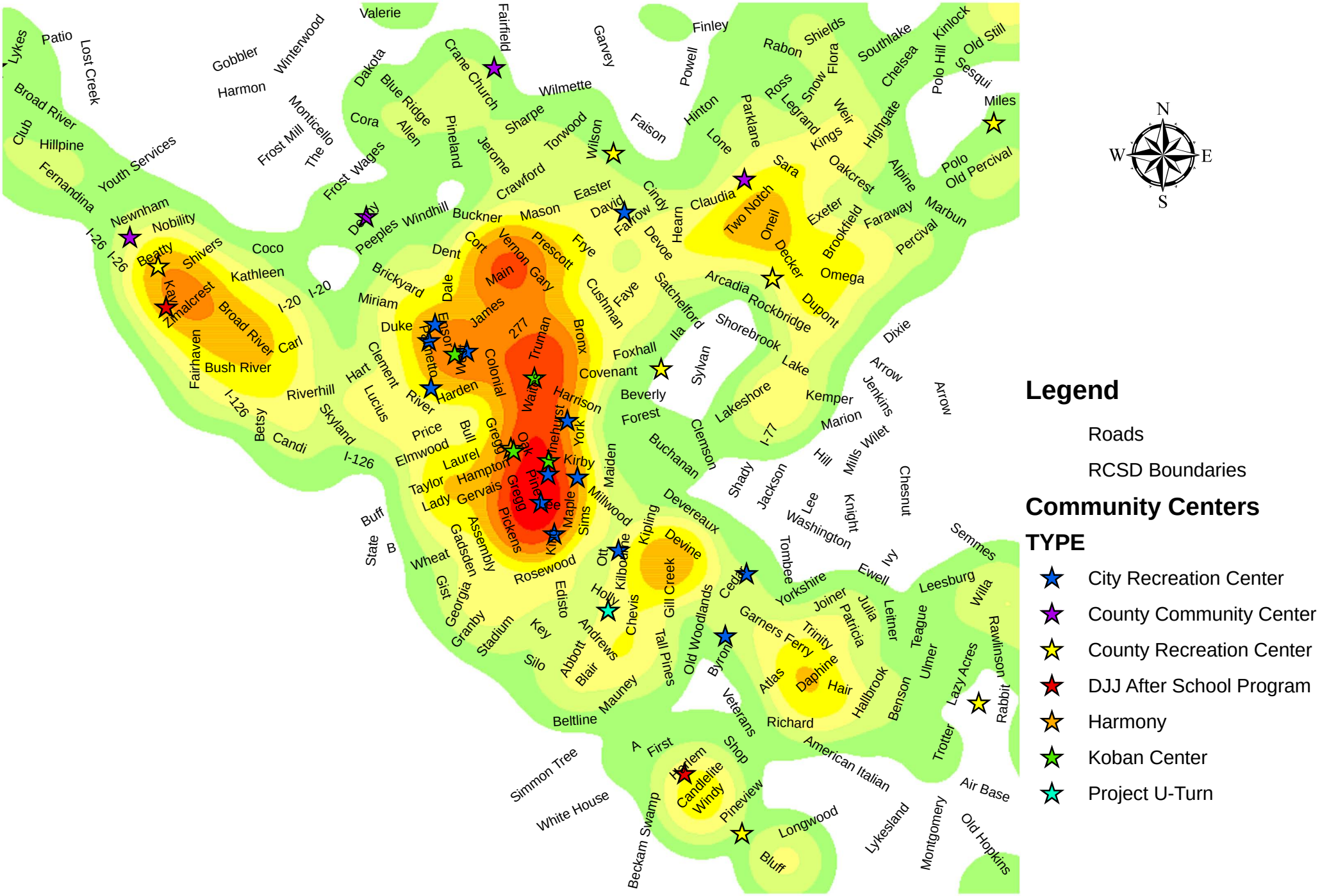
Columbia-Richland County Community Centers with Youth Violent Crime* (January 1, 2002-April 30, 2007)



*Violent crime includes homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault

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RECOMMENDED FRAMEWORK FOR A COLUMBIA/RICHLAND COUNTY YOUTH VIOLENCE INITIATIVE

Community efforts to deal with gangs and youth violence stretch as far back as the 1820s. Early gangs in the United States were comprised mostly of immigrant groups and were concentrated in large cities that served as the focal points for immigration. New York, Philadelphia, Boston, and Chicago were home to early immigrant gangs of teens and young adults from countries such as Ireland, Germany, and Italy. By the late 1920s, immigration from European countries had slowed and new sources of labor were arriving from Mexico, Puerto Rico, and Central America. Latino gangs began taking hold in the southwest and California where the gang tradition has remained particularly strong and persistent (Spergel, 1995).

By 1960, approximately 50 U.S. cities reported the existence of youth gangs, a figure that exploded to more than 3,800 cities in 1996 before declining to approximately 2,300 in 2002. Most gang migration in the United States has occurred since 1980. Cities with populations greater than 100,000 experienced a five-fold increase in gangs between 1986 and 1990, while mid-sized cities saw the steepest increase between 1990 and 1995. Gangs in small cities (under 25,000 people) steadily increased between 1990 and 1996 but jumped up sharply between 1996 and 1998 (Klein & Maxson, 2006).

South Carolina is probably best characterized as an emerging gang state. A 2005 survey by researchers from the University of South Carolina found that most of the state's law enforcement agencies began recognizing the presence of gangs after 2001. By 2005, more than half of the state's law enforcement agencies reported the presence of gangs in their jurisdictions. The estimated number of active gangs in the Midlands region numbers more than 20 and is perhaps as high as 50 (Rojek, Smith, Kaminski, & Scheer, 2006). Over the last several years, gang-related homicides and drive-by shootings have occurred in the City of Columbia and Richland County, and neighborhood residents report the widespread presence of gangs in some areas. This, in turn, has resulted in a growing recognition among community members and policy-makers that a planned, coordinated effort to control gang and youth violence is needed in Columbia and Richland County.

Community Responses to Gangs

As communities nationwide struggle to cope with the growing youth gang problem, two leading programmatic responses have emerged. The OJJDP Comprehensive Gang Model and the Boston Ceasefire Program both have received wide-spread publicity, and attempts have been made to replicate them in a variety of cities. The structure, approach, and limitations of the two models are outlined below.

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OJJDP Comprehensive Gang Model

In the late 1980s, the United States Justice Department's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) funded Dr. Irving Spergel from the University of Chicago to develop a set of gang control responses. Based on a national survey of 45 metropolitan areas and more than 250 individual respondents, Spergel and his team developed the Comprehensive Community-wide Gang Program Model, otherwise known as the OJJDP Comprehensive Gang or Spergel Model. The Spergel Model initially was piloted in the Little Village section of Chicago and later was expanded to five demonstration sites: Mesa and Tucson, Arizona, Riverside, California, Bloomington/Normal, Illinois, and San Antonio, Texas (Klein & Maxson, 2006).

The Spergel Model remains the only federally-endorsed comprehensive gang control program in the U.S.. It consists of five, interconnected strategic responses to youth gangs (OJJDP, 2002):

- Community Mobilization – Developing community capacity to address gangs through input from the criminal and juvenile justice systems (police, probation/parole, prosecutors, judges, corrections), schools, and community and faith-based organizations.
- Opportunities Provision – Providing economic and educational opportunities for gang members or those at high risk for gang involvement, including vocational training, job programs, and educational services.
- Social Intervention – Targets individual gang members through the use of street outreach workers who connect youths with tailored social services such as substance abuse treatment, job training, housing, education, family counseling, parenting classes, or mentoring programs.
- Suppression – Collecting and analyzing gang intelligence and using targeted enforcement strategies against key gangs and gang members. Closely supervising gang-involved probationers and parolees. Collaboration between law enforcement and other members of the intervention team.
- Organizational Change – Creating true cooperation, information sharing, and a shared sense of mission among agencies, groups, and individuals involved in the gang control effort.

As shown in the staffing model below, implementation of the Spergel Model is overseen by a steering committee that is comprised of policy or decision-makers responsible for addressing the community's gang problem. The steering committee should include both government (e.g. police, prosecution, schools) and community (e.g. social service providers, churches) leaders with the capacity to mobilize resources. The model also envisions hiring a full-time project coordinator who reports to the steering committee and who has responsibility for the day-to-day management of the program. Another key organizational component to the Spergel Model is the research partner. The research partner gathers and analyzes program data, monitors program implementation, and evaluates outcomes. The research partner also serves to guide the steering committee and program coordinator on implementing the model. Finally, the model requires an

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intervention team that consists of the street-level workers who have direct contact with the gang-involved youth. The intervention team is staffed by all relevant personnel but should include, at a minimum, representatives from police, probation/parole, street outreach, schools, and community and/or faith-based organizations.

Once the steering committee is in place, its first task is to draft a detailed program plan that defines gang membership and targeted populations for the particular community and sets forth the program's goals and objectives. In drafting the program plan, the steering committee draws on a problem assessment (typically conducted by the research partner) to understand the nature and scope of the gang problem in its area. Hiring of the project coordinator and staffing the intervention team follows, with the program plan serving as the roadmap for the project.

Evaluation of the OJJD Comprehensive Gang Model Approach

As noted above, the Spergel Model has been implemented in five sites that were to be the subjects of formal evaluations. Although full evaluations have not been completed in all five sites, results from Bloomington, Mesa, and Riverside have been mixed. From an implementation standpoint, the Spergel Model is highly complex and requires the full cooperation of multiple (and sometimes competing) agencies and service entities. Not surprisingly, wide variation in model implementation has been observed, and nowhere has the model achieved full implementation. In cities with large gang problems and hundreds of gang members (Mesa, Tucson, Riverside), the programs appear to have serviced only a hundred to two hundred youths each. Likewise, the program results themselves also are mixed. Although program youths were arrested less frequently than control group youths for violent crimes and drug charges, there were no differences in arrest patterns between gang and non-gang youths and no effect on gang membership. In terms of actual results, Klein and Maxson (2006, p. 128) state the following:

> In all three cases, the draft final reports suggest that there were no notable differences in program effects on core gang members versus gang associates and nongang members. This is truly surprising, since much of what we know about levels of gang involvement (see chapter 5) suggests that such differences should exist, and in a major way. Perhaps, then, the comprehensive program, the Spergel Model as implemented, is really more of a *delinquency* reduction model than a *gang* reduction model.

Despite its limited success in practice, the Spergel Model remains the only fully articulated, comprehensive gang control model available, and it has shown some success in reducing violence and drug arrests among program youths. Its service component, in particular, is better defined than in other programs and offers alternatives for both gang-involved youths and those at risk for joining a gang.

<u>Boston Ceasefire</u>

By the early 1990s, Boston, Massachusetts, like many of the nation's large cities, was reeling from a massive increase in its homicide rate that began with the appearance of

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crack cocaine on the streets of Boston ten years earlier. Between 1984 and 1994, homicide rates tripled for young Black males, doubled for White males, and juvenile handgun homicides increased by more than 400 percent. Working with researchers from Harvard University, and with grant support from the National Institute of Justice, the Boston Police Department (BPD) convened a working group of police, probation, prosecution, and service providers in early 1995 to begin exploring solutions to the significant increases in violent crime and homicide. Research on Boston gun crimes and homicides by the Harvard researchers revealed that 60 percent of the homicides were gang-related and that the city had a problem with 1,300 chronic youthful offenders, most of whom were minorities and most of whom were gang members. Drawing on lessons learned from a previously successful, neighborhood-based intervention led by the BPD's Youth Violence Strike Force (YVSF), the Working Group designed a new strategy to combat gang violence that it hoped would have an impact on homicides across the city and on youth homicides in particular (Kennedy, Braga, & Piehl, 2001).

The first component of the Working Group's new strategy was to focus its efforts on *violence* among gang members. BPD wanted the city's gangs to understand that the rules had changed and that violence would no longer be tolerated. With that goal in mind, the Working Group and YVSF decided to hold a series of semiformal meetings with selected gangs to drive home the message. Prior to the first meeting, however, the Working Group decided to field a crackdown operation against two gangs to demonstrate the BPD's resolve. Using a combination of street drug enforcement, heavy police presence, home contacts with probationers, and federal prosecution, the YVSF targeted the Intervale Posse and Vamp Hill Kings. As the streets quieted down, the Working Group brought gang members to the Dorchester Courthouse by using street workers' contacts with the gangs and the coercion of probation officers (some gang members were on probation). At the first meeting, the gang members were confronted by representatives from all of the Working Group agencies, including the U.S. Attorney's office that had initiated the federal prosecutions, and were told that pressure would continue until the violence stopped. Next, one of the service provider leaders backed up the message with an offer to provide job placement or education for any gang member who wanted to desist from gang life. Later in the summer, street workers moved into the Bowdoin Street neighborhood and set up a summer jobs program for gang and non-gang youths alike. Following the operation, gang violence all over Boston declined dramatically; however, the Working Group continued to meet regularly, and YVSF and the street workers continued to reach out to other gangs with a combination of meetings, enforcement, and social service assistance (Kennedy, Braga, & Piehl, 2001).

Following a marked decrease in gun violence and homicides, the Boston Ceasefire project was formally evaluated to determine if the observed reductions in crime were attributable to program itself. Between May 1996 (when the Working Group made its first direct communication to Boston's gangs) and April 1998, homicides in Boston declined 63 percent, shots fired calls declined 32 percent, and gun assaults decreased 25 percent (Braga, Kennedy, Piehl, & Waring, 2001). Although these measured decreases held up even while controlling for possible rival causes in Boston,

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researchers have pointed out that homicides decreased in the mid 1990s in many large cities, none of which implemented a Ceasefire-like program (Braga & Winship, 2005). Nevertheless, the evidence is compelling that at least in Boston, Operation Ceasefire had a measureable effect on youth gun violence and homicides.

Evaluation of the Boston Ceasefire Approach

Following the apparent success of Boston Ceasefire, cities across the country have attempted to replicate it. Baltimore, Minneapolis, and Los Angeles each attempted their versions of Ceasefire but with limited success. The Baltimore and Minneapolis initiatives unraveled quickly and were abandoned (Braga & Winship, 2005). Los Angeles attempted its own Ceasefire project in the Hollenbeck district, an area known for violent crime disproportionately committed by gang-involved youths. Following a much publicized gang shooting in the Boyle Heights neighborhood, the enforcement component of the strategy was quickly put into place but the project team did not reprioritize and reallocate resources after subsequent incidents of violence. In addition, social services lagged and were never made widely available in the Hollenbeck area. A subsequent evaluation of the LA Ceasefire project found that although violent crime decreased significantly in the targeted area both during and after suppression efforts, gang and gun crime did not decrease. Crime in surrounding neighborhoods decreased as well, though, demonstrating a diffusion of benefits associated with the project (Tita, Riley, Ridgeway, Grammich, Abrahamse, & Greenwood, 2003). Overall, the Los Angeles project showed mixed results but appeared to be not as effective as the original Boston project.

In 1998, the U.S. Department of Justice launched the Strategic Approach to Community Safety Initiative (SACSI) in an attempt to replicate the Boston Ceasefire approach in 10 cities.[5] Nine of the 10 cities targeted homicide and other violent crimes for reduction. As with the LA findings, results from an evaluation of the SACSI initiative were mixed. Several SACSI cities showed dramatic reductions in their targeted crimes. Indianapolis recorded a 53 percent decrease in gun assaults in its targeted neighborhood, Portland showed a 42 percent decrease in homicide citywide, and Memphis reported a 49 percent decrease in rapes (the targeted offense) across the city. Of the nine cities that targeted violent crime, six showed significantly larger decreases in homicide than comparison cities, while two comparison cities showed larger decreases than the SACSI cities. One SACSI city actually showed an increase in homicide relative to its comparison city (Roehl, Rosenbaum, Costello, Coldren, Schuck, Kundard, & Forde, 2006).

Importantly, SACSI cities that showed the largest decreases in targeted crimes also set up and maintained broad-based working groups that had strong support from faith-based and social service organizations. In contrast, half of the cities' working groups were comprised solely of law enforcement and criminal justice representatives. In cities

[5] The ten cities included Albuquerque, NM, Atlanta, GA, Detroit, MI, Indianapolis, IN, Memphis, TN, New Haven, CT, Portland, OR, Rochester, NY, St. Louis, MO, and Winston-Salem, NC.

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with broad-based working groups, the list of social services provided to offenders and those at-risk included job training and placement, substance abuse treatment, GED assistance and tutoring, after-school activities, and family-based services, among others (Roehl et. al., 2006).

Columbia/Richland County Hybrid Model

An assessment of the OJJDP Comprehensive Gang (Spergel) Model and the Boston Ceasefire program and its replications suggests the utility of a hybrid approach to addressing youth violence in Columbia. The OJJD/Spergel Model is notable for its comprehensiveness and articulation of the need for social services directed at gang-involved and at-risk youth. The model's gang suppression component seems less well-developed, and evaluations of the model in practice suggest that it may be overly complex and difficult to implement. The Boston Ceasefire approach, on the other hand, has shown direct, and sometimes dramatic, impacts on youth violence in a variety of cities. Its deterrence-based theoretical approach and "pulling levers" enforcement strategy, though, seems to work best when coupled with a Spergel-like mix of social and educational services. When a robust suppression and deterrence component is combined with a broad and accessible menu of social services, the available evidence suggests that substantial reductions in youth violence can occur.

Challenges

In moving forward with a hybrid approach, the Columbia/Richland County youth violence initiative faces many challenges. In Boston, a well-established network of social service providers existed, and their efforts were supplemented in important ways by the now famous Ten Point Coalition of African-American religious leaders that acted as an honest broker between police and gang members and which provided an important moral voice for change (Berrien & Winship, 2003; Berrien & Winship, 2002). Likewise, the effective SACSI projects had long histories of law enforcement and other criminal justice agencies working together and were built on a foundation of strong prior working relationships among key participants. Moreover, in the YVSF, the Boston Police Department had a well-established gang unit that maintained excellent intelligence on gangs and which had tracked gang-related incidents for a long period of time. The data maintained by the YVSF was crucial to the Harvard team in conducting the research that was used to develop the Ceasefire strategy and to target particular groups.

The City of Columbia's and Richland County's prior efforts to address youth and gang violence, and the existing capabilities of the two primary law enforcement agencies (Columbia Police Department and Richland County Sheriff's Department), are not as well-developed as they were in Boston, Los Angeles, Indianapolis or some of the other SACSI cities. Although the RCSD has a gang unit, it is only within the last year that it has begun tracking gang members systematically, and neither it nor the CPD have in place mechanisms to accurately gauge gang activity. In that sense, law enforcement intelligence capabilities will have to be built as the project unfolds. Likewise, the CPD

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and RCSD do not have a close working relationship at present, although progress on that front seems to have been made recently. Close cooperation and trust among these two agencies is critical to the project's success.

Also critical to the project's success is cooperation between law enforcement, the solicitor's office, and the courts. Unfortunately, backlogs in prosecution, the release of violent offenders on multiple bonds, and short prison sentences are endemic problems in the South Carolina criminal justice system. In conducting the Columbia/Richland County youth violence assessment, we have witnessed numerous cases of persons with lengthy criminal records (including multiple arrests for violent crimes) who have been arrested, released, and re-arrested repeatedly with very little actual time served. Our discussions with South Carolina municipal court judges and magistrates reveal a system that seems broken at times – police officers not appearing for bond hearings, the absence of prosecutorial representation at bond hearings and misdemeanor trials, and the failure to revoke bonds upon re-arrest. Similar problems exist with probation. We have found it common for an offender on probation in South Carolina to be released on bond after re-arrest or to have the first sentence of probation voided and a new sentence of probation imposed on a subsequent charge, all with no time served for either offense.

The success of a youth violence suppression effort depends upon the swiftness, certainty, and appropriate severity of punishment. At present, punishment is often none of these things in the Midlands region. In Boston and in other cities, federal prosecution became a key piece in the deterrence strategy and likely must play a central role in the Columbia/Richland County initiative. In Boston, a chronic, violent offender was sentenced to 20 years in federal prison when he was caught in possession of a single bullet (Kennedy, Braga, Piehl, 2001). In New Haven, Connecticut, every gun-related crime was reviewed by the U.S. Attorney's office, and all cases that met federal criteria were prosecuted in federal court (Roehl et. al., 2006). A representative from the U.S. Attorney's office in Columbia should be part of the Columbia/Richland County working group, and the cooperation and support of the U.S. Attorney's office is imperative.

Challenges are also present for implementing the service component of the proposed initiative. While there are a number of organizations in the Columbia-Richland area that directly or indirectly provide the services needed for an effective response to youth and gang violence, there is no history of these organizations working together in a comprehensive and coordinated anti-violence program. These organizations at the present work independently with only limited or ad hoc coordination with other government and non-profit organizations. The success of the proposed service component will depend on the willingness of local service providers to commit resources as called for in the initiative plan. It is also imperative that the initiative Steering Committee identifies funding resources that will be needed to support the educational and social services provided by these organizations.

Another challenge is the lack of a robust cadre of street workers in the midlands area who go out into the streets to make contact and develop relationships with gang-

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involved and other at-risk youth. While there are a few individuals, particularly in the faith-based community, who are engaging in occasional outreach efforts, a sizable number of individuals do not engage in this sort of work full-time. Given that the presence of gang activity in the Columbia-Richland area is a recent occurrence relative to other metropolitan areas in the country, this limitation is understandable. However, street workers are a key mechanism for connecting gang-involved and at-risk youth with the various educational and social services in the initiative plan.

As noted above in relation to the Boston Ceasefire initiative, the faith-based community has an importance role to play. Religious leaders in the area must agree to support the initiative and must to provide a moral voice for its various efforts. The churches are also important service providers and a possible source for the street workers needed for the success of this initiative. While there are a number of churches in the area that have attempted to address gang and youth violence through programs and providing services, a coordinated effort and voice have yet to emerged among them. In order to address this challenge, it will be important to include members of the faith community as stakeholders in the initiative, which will allow for their insight and buy-in.

Model Outline

Despite the challenges that lie ahead, we believe that it is possible to design and implement a youth violence prevention program in Columbia and Richland County that can achieve realistic goals for success. In this section, we propose an organizational structure for the Columbia/Richland County initiative and set forth the broad outlines of a strategy, keeping in mind that the first task of what we label as the “Steering Committee” will be to examine the results from the assessment and develop a detailed implementation plan. Rather than propose a detailed strategy and/or implementation plan ourselves, we are cognizant of the lessons learned from the LA Ceasefire project, which throughout its life was referred to as the “RAND study” and which never fully received buy-in from the agencies responsible for its implementation. In this case, the contours of the Columbia/Richland County project are best left to the judgment of the Steering Committee, with advice and assistance from the Implementation Team and Research Partner.

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COLUMBIA/RICHLAND COUNTY YOUTH VIOLENCE INITIATIVE

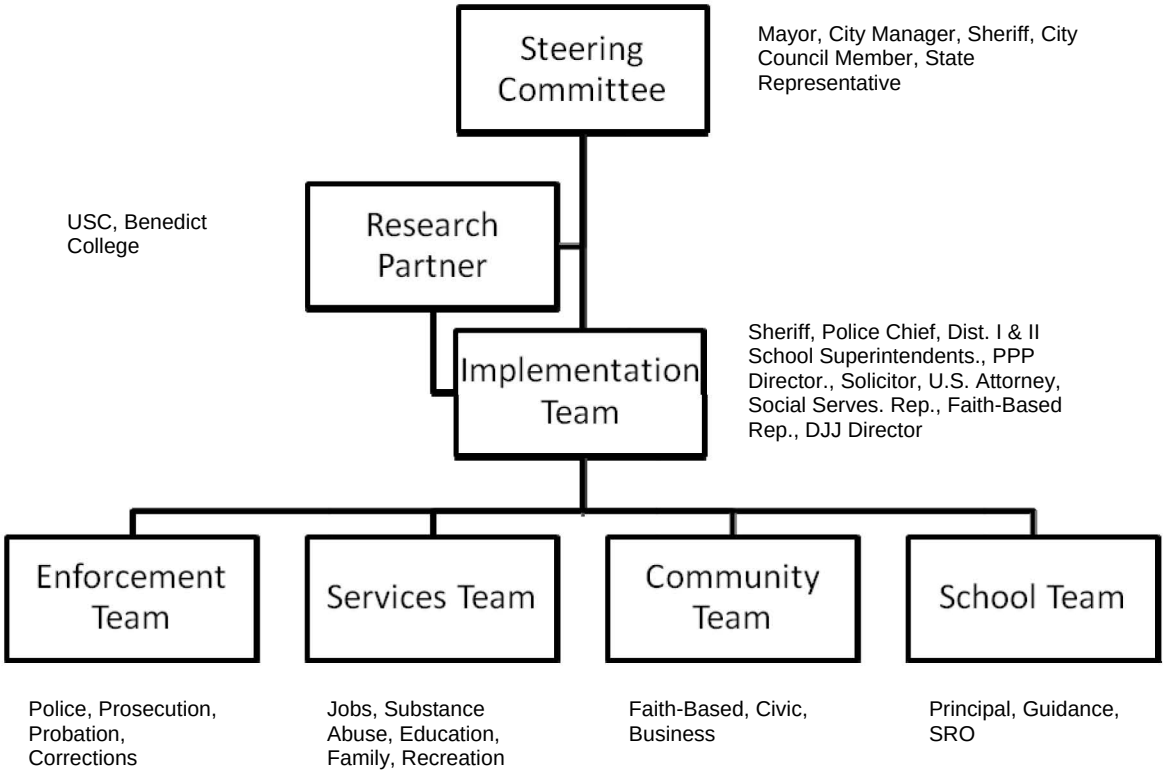

Figure 1 depicts a proposed organizational structure for the Columbia/Richland County Youth Violence Initiative. As can be seen in the figure, the initiative is to be overseen by a Steering Committee, the members of which previously have been established as Mayor Bob Coble, Sheriff Leon Lott, City Council Member Tameika Isaac Devine, and State Representative Leon Howard. As the chief executive of city government, we strongly recommend adding City Manager Charles Austin to the Steering Committee. The research partner on the project will be the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of South Carolina, with assistance from Benedict College. The project's implementation team should consist of the heads of key criminal justice, school, social service, and faith-based organizations. Finally, four project teams are suggested covering the domains of law enforcement, social services, community, and schools. Each of the project elements and their roles in the initiative are further discussed below.

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Steering Committee

The role of the Steering Committee is to draft the detailed project plan and then oversee the initiative. In drafting the plan, the Steering Committee should involve members of the Implementation Team, who must commit resources and offer ideas. Overall, the Steering Committee provides policy direction, identifies and mobilizes needed resources and support, and works to remove obstacles to the project's success. During the first year of the initiative, the Steering Committee should plan on meeting once per month. After Year 1, and if things are proceeding smoothly, the Steering Committee may consider reducing its meetings to once per quarter. At its meetings, the Steering Committee should be briefed on the initiative's progress by representatives from the Implementation Team and the Research Partner.

Research Partner

The Research Partner is a key entity to the success of the initiative. The role of the Research Partner will be fulfilled by faculty from the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of South Carolina, with assistance from faculty at Benedict College. The Research Partner will serve as a consultant to the Steering Committee and Implementation Team and will provide advice on best practices and the application of the hybrid model in Columbia. The Research Partner will gather data from key agencies and organizations and will use that data to monitor program implementation. The Research Partner also will evaluate the success of the initiative using a variety of outcome measures reported in the literature. When needed, and as part of the program plan, the Research Partner may assist one or more the project teams in analyzing data and developing or modifying strategies based on those analyses.

Implementation Team

The Implementation Team directly oversees the work of the project teams and provides strategic leadership to the initiative. The Implementation Team is responsible for mobilizing resources needed by the project teams and for holding project teams accountable for results. The Implementation Team is comprised of key agency and organization heads with the ability to direct the work of subordinates on the project teams and remove barriers to success. The Implementation Team should meet on a bi-weekly basis and should receive reports from each of the project teams at those meetings. Reprioritizing and reallocating resources as the project unfolds is a key responsibility of the Implementation Team. Although the precise make-up of the Implementation Team will be set by the Steering Committee in the program plan, we suggest the following agency heads as members:

- Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott
- Chief (or acting) of Police of the City of Columbia
- Superintendants from Richland School Districts I & II

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- Director of the Department of Probation, Pardon, and Parole
- Fifth Circuit Solicitor
- United States Attorney for the District of South Carolina
- Director of the Department of Juvenile Justice
- Social Services Organizations
- Faith-Based Community Representatives

Project Teams

Project teams are organized along four domains – Enforcement, Social Services, Community, and Schools. Project teams are comprised of supervisors and line-level personnel responsible for working directly with gang-involved and at-risk youth. Each project team should have a manager whose role will be to oversee the work of the project team and serve as liaison to the Implementation Team. Personnel from every organization and agency that is part of the program plan should be represented on the project teams, and additional (or different) teams may be needed. Within each team, members should meet as often as possible to share information and to keep abreast of problems and successes. At a minimum, personnel within each team should meet once a week. Across teams, project team managers also should meet on a weekly basis to share information and discuss emerging problems or the need to reprioritize. The success of project teams depends upon the cooperation of team members, who often will come from different organizations and who may not have had a history of working together. The project team managers and the Implementation Team will play key roles in facilitating and encouraging cooperation among and between teams.

Summary and Conclusion

The Columbia/Richland County Youth Violence Initiative is conceived as a hybrid model that incorporates strengths from both the OJJDP Comprehensive Gang Model and the Boston Ceasefire project. It should include both a robust suppression and retail deterrence component as well as neighborhood-based social and educational services for gang-involved and at-risk youth. To be successful, it will require an unprecedented effort and commitment from a variety of government, civic, school, and faith-based organizations. The structure for the initiative, as outlined above, draws upon lessons learned from other communities that have successfully reduced youth violence. Setting up a sound organizational structure, however, is only a small part of a successful strategy. On the enforcement side, fundamental changes must occur in the prosecution and monitoring of violent offenders. This will require the cooperation of law enforcement officials, prosecutors, judges, and probation officers. New approaches will be needed, some of which may never have been tried in South Carolina. All parties must be open to change and critical self-examination.

On the services side, organizations and entities that have no history of cooperation, and which may even have competed for resources in the past, must now work together toward a common goal. The task ahead for them is challenging and will require leadership from the initiative's Steering Committee and Implementation Team. The path

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to success can be seen in the efforts of other communities that have implemented similar plans. Success, however, is not assured, and some cities that showed significant reductions in youth violence have seen high rates of violence return as project inertia dissipated. Building sustainability into the Columbia/Richland County initiative should be the primary long-term goal of the project. Only sustainability will prevent gangs from continuing to make inroads among Columbia's youth population and from bringing death, injury, and fear to the region's most vulnerable communities.

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APPENDIX A:

Tabular Data

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Incident Level Analysis

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Columbia & Richland County- UCR Part I Crime Incidents – January 1, 2002 – April 30, 2007[1]
Total Incidents – 15,312

	Number of Incidents	*%*
Crime		
Homicide	165	
Rape	860	
Robbery	4,149	
Aggravated Assault	10,138	
Analysis Year		
2002	3,168	
2003	2,981	
2004	2,923	
2005	2,575	
2006	2,763	
2007 (January 1-April 30)	902	
Firearm Involved		
Yes	5,227	34.2
No	10,044	65.8
No weapon information	41	
Victim Age[2]		
Youth (Age 12-24 years)	5,145	33.9
Other	10,015	66.1
No age information	152	
Suspect Age[2]		
Youth (Age 12-24 years)	5,499	41.4
Other	7,794	58.6
No age information	2,019	
Victim-Offender Relation[3]		
Stranger	3,992	28.2
Acquaintance	3,618	23.6
Unknown relation	1,990	14.1
Interpersonal relation (Spouse, Boyfriend-Girlfriend, Friend, Child, etc…)	4,541	32.1
No relation information	1,171	

[1] Analysis represents the number of independent incidents for each Part I crime. Within each incident there is the potential for multiple offenses, as well as multiple suspects and victims. In cases with more than one type of offense, the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) hierarchy rule was used to determine incident offense classification.
[2] The classification of incident age group was based on all victim(s) and suspect(s) involved. All victims or suspects had to be between the ages of 12 and 24 for the incident to be classified as youth involved.
[3] Given the analysis is at the incident level, the victim-offender relationship is based on all individuals involved in the incident, where having an interpersonal relation has classification primacy followed by acquaintance. An incident was only classified as "stranger" if none of the victims had a personal or acquaintance relationship with any of the suspects.

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Columbia & Richland County - UCR Part I Crime Incidents by Offense Type[1]

Total Incidents – 15,312

	Homicide (N=165)		***Rape (N=860)***		***Robbery (N=4,149)***		***Aggravated Assault (N=10,138)***	
	Number of Incidents	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*
Firearm Involved								
Yes	110	66.7	25	2.9	2,594	62.5	7,599	24.7
No	55	33.3	835	97.1	1,555	37.5	2,498	75.3
Victim Age[2]								
Youth (Age 12-24 years)	35	21.2	485	56.5	1,254	30.8	3,371	33.5
Other	126	78.3	374	43.5	2,819	69.2	6,696	66.5
No age information	4		1		76		71	
Suspect Age[2]								
Youth (Age 12-24 years)	51	36.4	365	44.2	1,686	52.0	3,394	37.4
Other	86	63.6	461	55.8	1,559	48.0	5,685	62.6
No age information	25		34		904		1,056	
Victim-Offender Relation[3]								
Stranger	26	17.4	155	18.0	2,454	68.6	1,357	14.2
Acquaintance	41	27.5	350	40.7	343	9.6	2,884	30.2
Unknown relation	36	24.2	120	14.0	656	18.3	1,178	12.3
Interpersonal relation (Spouse, Boyfriend-Girlfriend, Friend, Child, etc…)	46	30.9	234	27.2	125	3.5	4,136	43.3
No relation information	16		1		571		583	

[1] Analysis represents the number of independent incidents for each Part I crime. Within each incident there is the potential for multiple offenses, as well as multiple suspects and victims. In cases with more than one type of offense, the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) hierarchy rule was used to determine incident offense classification.

[2] The classification of incident age group was based on all victim(s) and suspect(s) involved. All victims or suspects had to be between the ages of 12 and 24 for the incident to be classified as youth involved.

[3] Given the analysis is at the incident level, the victim-offender relationship is based on all individuals involved in the incident, where having an interpersonal relation has classification primacy followed by acquaintance. An incident was only classified as “stranger” if none of the victims had a personal or acquaintance relationship with any of the suspects.

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Columbia & Richland County - UCR Part I Crime Incidents by Offense Year[1]

Total Incidents – 15,312

	2002		***2003***		***2004***		***2005***		***2006***		***2007 (January 1-April 30)***	
	Number of Incidents	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*
Crime												
Homicide	30	0.9	24	0.8	34	1.2	33	1.3	32	1.2	12	1.3
Rape	195	6.2	169	5.7	176	6.0	146	5.7	144	5.2	30	3.3
Robbery	925	29.2	881	29.6	768	26.3	658	25.6	691	25.0	226	25.1
Aggravated Assault	2,018	63.7	1,907	64.0	1,945	66.5	1,738	67.5	1,896	68.6	634	70.3
Firearm Involved												
Yes	1,028	32.4	1,055	35.4	1,021	34.9	879	34.1	948	34.3	296	34.4
No	2,140	67.6	1,906	64.6	1,902	65.1	1,696	65.9	1,815	65.7	565	65.6
Victim Age[2]												
Youth (Age 12-24 years)	1,060	33.9	1,007	34.1	986	34.1	878	34.3	930	33.8	284	32.4
Other	2,069	66.1	1,946	65.9	1,903	65.9	1,681	65.7	1,824	66.2	592	67.6
No age information	39		28		34		16		9		26	
Suspect Age[2]												
Youth (Age 12-24 years)	1,150	41.7	1,120	42.2	1,070	41.6	946	42.5	953	40.3	260	36.5
Other	1,609	58.3	1,534	57.8	1,505	58.4	1,281	57.5	1,413	59.7	452	63.5
No Age information	409		327		348		348		397		190	
Victim-Offender Relation[3]												
Stranger	801	27.1	839	30.2	825	30.1	706	29.7	759	30.2	62	7.8
Acquaintance	758	25.7	731	26.3	790	28.9	621	26.2	610	24.3	108	13.7
Unknown Relation	431	14.6	287	10.3	256	9.4	315	13.3	348	13.9	353	44.6
Interpersonal Relation (Spouse, Boyfriend-Girlfriend, Friend, Child, etc…)	963	32.6	918	33.1	866	31.6	732	30.8	794	31.6	268	33.9
No Relation Information	215		206		186		201		252		111	

[1] Analysis represents the number of independent incidents for each Part I crime. Within each incident there is the potential for multiple offenses, as well as multiple suspects and victims. In cases with more than one type of offense, the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) hierarchy rule was used to determine incident offense classification.

[2] The classification of incident age group was based on all victim(s) and suspect(s) involved. All victims or suspects had to be between the ages of 12 and 24 for the incident to be classified as youth involved.

[3] Given the analysis is at the incident level, the victim-offender relationship is based on all individuals involved in the incident, where having an interpersonal has classification primacy followed by acquaintance. An incident was only classified as “stranger” if none of the victims had a personal or acquaintance relationship with any of the suspects.

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Columbia & Richland County - Homicide Incidents by Offense Year[1]

Total Incidents – 165

	2002		***2003***		***2004***		***2005***		***2006***		***2007 (January 1-April 30)***	
	Number of Incidents	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*
Firearm Involved												
Yes	19	63.3	15	62.5	27	79.4	20	60.6	20	62.5	9	75.0
No	11	36.7	9	37.5	7	20.6	13	39.4	12	37.5	3	25.0
Victim Age[2]												
Youth (Age 12-24 years)	8	26.7	4	17.4	8	25.0	5	15.2	7	21.9	3	27.3
Other	22	73.3	19	82.6	24	75.0	28	84.8	25	78.1	8	72.7
No age information	0		1		2		0		0		1	
Suspect Age[2]												
Youth (Age 12-24 years)	10	38.5	9	40.9	6	23.1	7	26.9	14	48.3	5	45.5
Other	16	61.5	13	59.1	20	76.9	19	73.1	15	51.7	6	54.5
No Age information	4		2		8		7		3		1	
Victim-Offender Relation[3]												
Stranger	6	22.2	6	27.3	6	20.0	5	17.2	2	6.9	1	8.3
Acquaintance	11	40.7	4	18.2	6	20.0	13	44.8	6	20.7	1	8.3
Unknown Relation	3	11.1	3	13.6	6	20.0	6	20.7	12	41.4	6	50.0
Interpersonal relation (Spouse, Boyfriend-Girlfriend, Friend, Child, etc…)	7	25.9	9	40.9	12	40.0	5	17.2	9	31.0	4	33.3
No Relation Information	3		2		4		4		3		0	

[1] Analysis represents the number of independent homicide incidents. Within each incident there is the potential for multiple offenses, as well as multiple suspects and victims. In cases with more than one type of offense, the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) hierarchy rule was used to determine incident offense classification.

[2] The classification of incident age group was based on all victim(s) and suspect(s) involved. All victims or suspects had to be between the ages of 12 and 24 for the incident to be classified as youth involved.

[3] Given the analysis is at the incident level, the victim-offender relationship is based on all individuals involved in the incident, where having an interpersonal relation has classification primacy followed by acquaintance. An incident was only classified as “stranger” if none of the victims had a personal or acquaintance relationship with any of the suspects.

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Columbia & Richland County - Rape Incidents by Offense Year[1]

Total Incidents – 860

	2002		***2003***		***2004***		***2005***		***2006***		***2007 (January 1-April 30)***	
	Number of Incidents	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*
Firearm Involved												
Yes	8	4.1	6	3.6	2	1.1	5	3.4	3	2.1	1	3.3
No	187	95.9	163	96.4	174	98.9	141	96.6	141	97.9	29	96.7
Victim Age[2]												
Youth (Age 12-24 years)	124	63.9	95	56.2	92	52.3	78	53.4	79	54.9	17	56.7
Other	70	36.1	74	43.8	84	47.7	68	46.6	65	45.1	13	43.3
No age information	1		0		0		0		0		0	
Suspect Age[2]												
Youth (Age 12-24 years)	81	43.5	68	42.5	79	45.9	68	48.6	56	40.0	13	46.4
Other	105	56.5	92	57.5	93	54.1	72	51.4	84	60.0	15	53.6
No Age information	9		9		4		6		4		2	
Victim-Offender Relation[3]												
Stranger	41	21.1	21	12.4	36	20.5	21	14.4	33	22.9	3	10.0
Acquaintance	79	40.7	77	45.6	73	41.5	63	43.2	52	36.1	6	20.0
Unknown Relation	28	14.4	18	10.7	19	10.8	26	17.8	15	10.4	14	46.7
Has Some Relation (Spouse, Boyfriend-Girlfriend, Friend, Child, etc…)	46	23.7	53	31.4	48	27.3	36	24.7	44	30.6	7	23.3
No Relation Information	1		0		0		0		0		0	

[1] Analysis represents the number of independent rape incidents. Within each incident there is the potential for multiple offenses, as well as multiple suspects and victims. In cases with more than one type of offense, the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) hierarchy rule was used to determine incident offense classification.

[2] The classification of incident age group was based on all victim(s) and suspect(s) involved. All victims or suspects had to be between the ages of 12 and 24 for the incident to be classified as youth involved.

[3] Given the analysis is at the incident level, the victim-offender relationship is based on all individuals involved in the incident, where having some relation has classification primacy followed by acquaintance. An incident was only classified as “stranger” if none of the victims had a personal or acquaintance relationship with any of the suspects.

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Columbia & Richland County - Robbery Incidents by Offense Year[1]

Total Incidents – 4,149

	2002		***2003***		***2004***		***2005***		***2006***		***2007 (January 1-April 30)***	
	Number of Incidents	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*
Firearm Involved												
Yes	576	62.3	577	65.5	493	64.2	395	60.0	417	60.3	136	60.2
No	349	37.7	304	34.5	275	35.8	263	40.0	274	39.7	90	39.8
Victim Age[2]												
Youth (Age 12-24 years)	294	32.5	247	28.6	234	31.0	198	30.4	217	31.5	64	30.6
Other	612	67.5	617	71.4	520	69.0	454	69.6	471	68.5	145	69.4
No age information	19		17		14		6		3		17	
Suspect Age[2]												
Youth (Age 12-24 years)	388	53.7	362	51.2	338	55.5	272	52.4	269	49.6	57	39.0
Other	334	46.3	345	48.8	271	44.5	247	47.6	273	50.4	89	61.0
No Age information	203		174		159		139		149		80	
Victim-Offender Relation[3]												
Stranger	514	63.4	560	74.5	496	74.1	424	74.6	430	72.3	30	16.4
Acquaintance	81	10.0	82	10.9	74	11.1	46	8.1	53	8.9	7	3.8
Unknown Relation	180	22.2	88	11.7	70	10.5	81	14.3	93	15.6	144	78.7
Has Some Relation (Spouse, Boyfriend-Girlfriend, Friend, Child, etc…)	36	4.4	22	2.9	29	4.3	17	3.0	19	3.2	2	1.1
No Relation Information	114		129		99		90		96		43	

[1] Analysis represents the number of independent robbery incidents. Within each incident there is the potential for multiple offenses, as well as multiple suspects and victims. In cases with more than one type of offense, the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) hierarchy rule was used to determine incident offense classification.

[2] The classification of incident age group was based on all victim(s) and suspect(s) involved. All victims or suspects had to be between the ages of 12 and 24 for the incident to be classified as youth involved.

[3] Given the analysis is at the incident level, the victim-offender relationship is based on all individuals involved in the incident, where having some relation has classification primacy followed by acquaintance. An incident was only classified as “stranger” if none of the victims had a personal or acquaintance relationship with any of the suspects.

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Columbia & Richland County – Aggravated Assault Incidents by Offense Year[1]

Total Incidents – 10,138

	2002		***2003***		***2004***		***2005***		***2006***		***2007 (January 1-April 30)***	
	Number of Incidents	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*
Firearm Involved												
Yes	425	21.1	457	24.0	499	25.7	459	26.4	508	26.8	150	25.3
No	1,593	78.9	1,450	76.0	1,446	74.3	1,279	73.6	1,388	73.2	443	74.7
Victim Age[2]												
Youth (Age 12-24 years)	634	31.7	661	34.8	652	33.8	597	34.5	627	33.2	200	31.9
Other	1,365	68.3	1,236	65.2	1,275	66.2	1,131	65.5	1,263	66.8	426	68.1
No age information	19		10		18		10		6		8	
Suspect Age[2]												
Youth (Age 12-24 years)	671	36.8	681	38.6	647	36.6	599	38.8	614	37.1	185	35.1
Other	1,154	63.2	1,084	61.4	1,121	63.4	943	61.2	1,041	62.9	342	64.9
No Age information	193		142		177		196		241		107	
Victim-Offender Relation[3]												
Stranger	240	12.5	252	13.8	287	15.4	256	15.7	294	16.9	28	4.9
Acquaintance	587	30.6	568	31.0	637	34.2	499	30.6	499	28.6	94	16.6
Unknown Relation	220	11.5	178	9.7	161	8.6	202	12.4	228	13.1	189	33.4
Has Some Relation (Spouse, Boyfriend-Girlfriend, Friend, Child, etc…)	874	45.5	834	45.5	777	41.7	674	41.3	722	41.4	255	45.1
No Relation Information	97		75		83		107		153		68	

[1] Analysis represents the number of independent aggravated assault incidents. Within each incident there is the potential for multiple offenses, as well as multiple suspects and victims. In cases with more than one type of offense, the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) hierarchy rule was used to determine incident offense classification.

[2] The classification of incident age group was based on all victim(s) and suspect(s) involved. All victims or suspects had to be between the ages of 12 and 24 for the incident to be classified as youth involved.

[3] Given the analysis is at the incident level, the victim-offender relationship is based on all individuals involved in the incident, where having some relation has classification primacy followed by acquaintance. An incident was only classified as “stranger” if none of the victims had a personal or acquaintance relationship with any of the suspects.

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Columbia & Richland County - Use of Firearms in Homicides by Victim-Offender Relationship[1,2]

January 1, 2002 – April 30, 2007

	Number of Incidents	*%*
Stranger		
Firearm	24	92.3
No Firearm	2	7.7
Acquaintance		
Firearm	28	68.3
No Firearm	13	31.7
Unknown relation		
Firearm	27	75.0
No Firearm	9	25.0
Interpersonal relation (Spouse, Boyfriend-Girlfriend, Friend, Child, etc…)		
Firearm	19	41.3
No Firearm	27	58.7

[1] Analysis conducted at the incident level for cases that had firearm and relationship information.

[2] Given the analysis is at the incident level, the victim-offender relationship is based on all individuals involved in the incident, where having an interpersonal relation has classification primacy followed by acquaintance. An incident was only classified as "stranger" if none of the victims had a personal or acquaintance relationship with any of the suspects.

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Columbia & Richland County - Use of Firearms in Aggravated Assaults by Victim-Offender Relationship[1,2]

January 1, 2002 – April 30, 2007

	All Incidents		***2002***		***2003***		***2004***		***2005***		***2006***		***2007 (January 1-April 30)***	
	Number of Incidents	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*
Stranger														
Firearm	528	38.9	91	37.9	93	36.9	114	39.7	98	38.3	125	42.5	7	25.0
No Firearm	829	61.1	149	62.1	159	63.1	173	60.3	158	61.7	169	57.5	21	75.0
Acquaintance														
Firearm	738	25.6	125	21.3	158	27.8	184	28.9	130	26.1	122	24.4	19	20.2
No Firearm	2,146	74.4	462	78.7	410	72.2	453	71.1	369	73.9	377	75.6	75	79.8
Unknown relation														
Firearm	409	34.7	80	36.4	56	31.5	58	36.0	77	38.1	84	36.8	54	28.6
No Firearm	769	65.3	140	63.6	122	68.5	103	64.0	125	61.9	144	63.2	135	71.4
Interpersonal relation (Spouse, Boyfriend-Girlfriend, Friend, Child, etc…)														
Firearm	539	13.2	91	10.4	119	14.3	106	13.6	97	14.4	95	13.2	31	14.5
No Firearm	3,556	86.8	783	89.6	715	85.7	671	86.4	577	85.6	627	86.8	183	85.5

[1] Analysis conducted at the incident level for cases that had firearm and relationship information.

[2] Given the analysis is at the incident level, the victim-offender relationship is based on all individuals involved in the incident, where having an interpersonal relation has classification primacy followed by acquaintance. An incident was only classified as "stranger" if none of the victims had a personal or acquaintance relationship with any of the suspects.

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Columbia & Richland County - Victim/Suspect Age and Firearm Use by Crime Type[1]
January 1, 2002-April 30, 2007

	Homicide		***Rape***		***Robbery***		***Aggravated Assault***	
	Number of Incidents	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*
Victim Age[2]								
Youth (Age 12-24 years)								
Firearm								
Yes	31	88.6	14	2.9	789	62.9	962	28.6
No	4	11.4	471	97.1	465	37.1	2,399	71.4
Other								
Firearm								
Yes	77	61.1	11	2.9	1,763	62.5	1,516	22.7
No	49	38.9	363	97.1	1,056	37.5	5,149	77.3
Suspect Age[2]								
Youth (Age 12-24 years)								
Firearm								
Yes	39	76.5	14	3.8	1,226	72.7	974	28.7
No	12	23.5	351	96.2	460	27.3	2,414	71.3
Other								
Firearm								
Yes	53	59.6	9	2.0	774	49.6	1,010	17.9
No	36	40.4	452	98.0	785	50.4	4,644	82.1

[1] Analysis conducted at the incident level for cases that had firearm and age information.
[2] The classification of incident age group was based on all victim(s) and suspect(s) involved. All victims or suspects had to be between the ages of 12 and 24 for the incident to be classified as youth involved.

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Columbia & Richland County - Victim/Suspect Age and Firearm Use by Year of Incident[1]

	All Incidents		***2002***		***2003***		***2004***		***2005***		***2006***		***2007 (January 1-April 30)***	
	Number of Incidents	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*
Victim Age[2]														
Youth (Age 12-24 years)														
Firearm														
Yes	1,796	35.0	372	35.1	351	34.9	347	35.2	291	33.1	330	35.5	105	38.3
No	3,339	65.0	688	64.9	656	65.1	639	64.8	587	66.9	600	64.5	169	61.7
Other														
Firearm														
Yes	3,367	33.7	642	31.0	688	35.4	659	34.6	582	34.6	615	33.7	181	32.2
No	6,617	66.3	1,427	69.0	1,258	64.6	1,244	65.4	1,099	65.4	1,209	66.3	380	67.7
Suspect Age[2]														
Youth (Age 12-24 years)														
Firearm														
Yes	2,253	41.0	453	39.4	477	42.6	465	43.5	374	39.5	395	41.4	89	35.5
No	3,237	59.0	697	60.6	643	57.4	605	56.5	572	60.5	558	58.6	162	64.5
Other														
Firearm														
Yes	1,846	23.7	361	22.4	392	25.6	364	24.2	314	24.5	314	22.2	101	24.0
No	5,917	75.9	1,248	77.6	1,142	74.4	1,141	75.8	967	75.5	1,099	77.8	320	76.0

[1] Analysis conducted at the incident level for cases that had firearm and age information.
[2] The classification of incident age group was based on all victim(s) and suspect(s) involved. All victims or suspects had to be between the ages of 12 and 24 for the incident to be classified as youth involved.

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Columbia & Richland County - Aggravated Assault Incident Characteristics by Victim-Offender Relation or Non-Relation[1]

	All Incidents		*2002*		*2003*		*2004*		*2005*		*2006*		*2007 (January 1-April 30)*	
	Number of Incidents	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*
Non-Personalized Relation (Stranger, Acquaintance, and Unknown Relation) [2]														
Victim Age[3]														
Youth (Age 12-24 years)	2,014	37.4	369	35.5	389	39.2	405	37.7	368	38.6	367	36.1	116	38.0
Other	3,367	62.6	669	64.5	604	60.8	669	62.3	585	61.4	651	63.9	189	62.0
No age information	38		9		5		11		4		3		6	
Suspect Age[3]														
Youth (Age 12-24 years)	2,234	44.9	423	44.2	446	47.8	437	43.9	400	45.7	406	43.3	122	44.5
Other	2,738	55.1	534	55.8	487	52.2	558	56.1	475	54.3	532	56.7	152	55.5
No age information	447		90		65		90		82		83		37	
Firearm														
Yes	1,675	30.9	296	28.3	307	30.8	356	32.8	305	31.9	331	32.4	80	25.7
No	3,744	69.1	751	71.7	691	69.2	729	67.2	652	68.1	690	67.6	231	74.3
Interpersonal relation (Spouse, Boyfriend-Girlfriend, Friend, Child, etc…)[2]														
Victim Age[3]														
Youth (Age 12-24 years)	1,132	27.5	226	26.1	243	29.3	213	27.6	193	28.8	197	27.4	60	23.5
Other	2,981	72.5	640	73.9	587	70.7	560	72.4	476	71.2	523	72.6	195	76.5
No age information	23		8		4		4		5		2			
Suspect Age[3]														
Youth (Age 12-24 years)	1,160	28.3	246	28.5	235	28.3	209	27.1	199	29.8	208	29.0	63	25.0
Other	2,943	71.7	618	71.5	596	71.7	563	72.9	468	70.2	509	71.0	189	75.0
No age information	33		10		3		5		7		5		3	
Firearm														
Yes	539	13.2	91	10.4	119	14.3	106	13.6	67	14.4	95	13.2	31	14.5
No	3,556	86.8	783	89.6	715	85.7	671	86.4	577	85.6	627	86.8	183	85.5

[1] Analysis conducted at the incident level for cases that had firearm, age and relationship information.
[2] Given the analysis is at the incident level, the victim-offender relationship is based on all individuals involved in the incident, where having an interpersonal relation has classification primacy followed by acquaintance. An incident was only classified as "stranger" if none of the victims had a personal or acquaintance relationship with any of the suspects.
[3] The classification of incident age group was based on all victim(s) and suspect(s) involved. All victims or suspects had to be between the ages of 12 and 24 for the incident to be classified as youth involved.

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Columbia & Richland County – Aggravated Assaults with Non-Personalized Relations by Age, Firearm and Year of Incident[1,2]

	All Incidents		*2002*		*2003*		*2004*		*2005*		*2006*		*2007 (January 1-April 30)*	
	Number of Incidents	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*
Victim Age														
Youth (Age 12-24 years)[3]														
Firearm														
Yes	671	33.3	119	32.2	138	35.5	136	33.6	117	31.8	124	33.8	37	31.9
No	1,343	66.7	250	67.8	251	64.5	269	66.4	251	68.2	243	66.2	79	68.1
Other[3]														
Firearm														
Yes	990	29.4	174	26.0	166	27.5	218	32.6	186	31.8	206	31.6	40	21.2
No	2,377	70.6	495	74.0	438	72.5	451	67.4	399	68.2	445	68.4	149	78.8
Suspect Age														
Youth (Age 12-24 years)[3]														
Firearm														
Yes	774	34.6	141	33.3	151	33.9	152	34.8	143	35.8	154	37.9	33	27.0
No	1,460	65.4	282	66.7	295	66.1	285	65.2	257	64.3	252	62.1	89	73.0
Other[3]														
Firearm														
Yes	674	24.6	117	21.9	124	25.5	153	27.4	118	24.8	131	24.6	31	20.4
No	2,064	75.4	417	78.1	363	74.5	405	72.6	387	75.2	401	75.4	121	79.6

[1] Analysis conducted at the incident level for cases that had firearm, age and relationship information.
[2] Given the analysis is at the incident level, the victim-offender relationship is based on all individuals involved in the incident, where having an interpersonal relation has classification primacy followed by acquaintance. An incident was only classified as "stranger" if none of the victims had a personal or acquaintance relationship with any of the suspects. Non-personalized relation captures cases that involved strangers, acquaintances, and unknown relations.
[3] The classification of incident age group was based on all victim(s) and suspect(s) involved. All victims or suspects had to be between the ages of 12 and 24 for the incident to be classified as youth involved.

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Columbia - UCR Part I Crime Incidents – January 1, 2002 – April 30, 2007[1]
Total Incidents – 6,517

	Number of Incidents	*%*
Crime		
Homicide	65	
Rape	325	
Robbery	2,299	
Aggravated Assault	3,828	
Analysis Year		
2002	1,441	
2003	1,158	
2004	1,314	
2005	1,133	
2006	1,153	
2007 (January 1-April 30)	318	
Firearm Involved		
Yes	2,586	39.9
No	3,891	60.1
No weapon information	40	
Victim Age[2]		
Youth (Age 12-24 years)	2,098	32.7
Other	4,316	67.3
No age information	103	
Suspect Age[2]		
Youth (Age 12-24 years)	2,412	41.9
Other	3,339	58.1
No age information	766	
Victim-Offender Relation[3]		
Stranger	2,782	42.8
Acquaintance	1,344	20.7
Unknown relation	762	11.7
Interpersonal relation (Spouse, Boyfriend-Girlfriend, Friend, Child, etc…)	1,612	24.8
No relation information	17	

[1] Analysis represents the number of independent incidents for each Part I crime. Within each incident there is the potential for multiple offenses, as well as multiple suspects and victims. In cases with more than one type of offense, the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) hierarchy rule was used to determine incident offense classification.
[2] The classification of incident age group was based on all victim(s) and suspect(s) involved. All victims or suspects had to be between the ages of 12 and 24 for the incident to be classified as youth involved.
[3] Given the analysis is at the incident level, the victim-offender relationship is based on all individuals involved in the incident, where having an interpersonal relation has classification primacy followed by acquaintance. An incident was only classified as "stranger" if none of the victims had a personal or acquaintance relationship with any of the suspects.

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Columbia - UCR Part I Crime Incidents by Offense Type[1]

Total Incidents – 6,517

	Homicide (N=65)		***Rape (N=325)***		***Robbery (N=2,299)***		***Aggravated Assault (N=3,828)***	
	Number of Incidents	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*
Firearm Involved								
Yes	41	63.1	17	5.2	1,393	60.6	1,135	30.0
No	25	36.9	308	94.8	906	39.4	2,652	70.0
Victim Age[2]								
Youth (Age 12-24 years)	11	17.7	163	50.3	713	31.8	1,211	32.0
Other	51	82.3	161	49.7	1,529	68.2	2,575	68.0
No age information	3		1		57		42	
Suspect Age[2]								
Youth (Age 12-24 years)	18	34.0	111	36.2	1,004	50.7	1,279	37.5
Other	35	66.0	196	63.8	977	49.3	2,131	62.5
No age information	12		18		318		418	
Victim-Offender Relation[3]								
Stranger	11	18.3	99	30.5	1,791	78.2	881	23.0
Acquaintance	21	35.0	133	40.9	163	7.1	1,027	26.9
Unknown relation	14	23.3	20	6.2	274	12.0	454	11.9
Interpersonal relation (Spouse, Boyfriend-Girlfriend, Friend, Child, etc…)	14	23.3	73	22.5	63	2.7	1,462	38.2
No relation information	5		0		8		4	

[1] Analysis represents the number of independent incidents for each Part I crime. Within each incident there is the potential for multiple offenses, as well as multiple suspects and victims. In cases with more than one type of offense, the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) hierarchy rule was used to determine incident offense classification.

[2] The classification of incident age group was based on all victim(s) and suspect(s) involved. All victims or suspects had to be between the ages of 12 and 24 for the incident to be classified as youth involved.

[3] Given the analysis is at the incident level, the victim-offender relationship is based on all individuals involved in the incident, where having an interpersonal relation has classification primacy followed by acquaintance. An incident was only classified as “stranger” if none of the victims had a personal or acquaintance relationship with any of the suspects.

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Columbia - UCR Part I Crime Incidents by Offense Year[1]

Total Incidents – 6,517

	2002		***2003***		***2004***		***2005***		***2006***		***2007 (January 1-April 30)***	
	Number of Incidents	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*
Crime												
Homicide	10	0.7	15	1.3	16	1.2	14	1.2	5	0.4	5	1.6
Rape	82	5.7	56	4.8	72	5.5	50	4.4	56	4.9	9	2.8
Robbery	512	35.5	458	39.6	462	58.1	380	33.5	377	32.7	110	34.6
Aggravated Assault	837	58.1	629	54.3	764	35.2	689	60.8	715	62.0	194	61.0
Firearm Involved												
Yes	529	36.7	506	43.7	560	42.6	448	39.5	430	37.3	113	40.8
No	912	63.3	652	56.3	754	57.4	685	60.5	723	62.7	164	59.2
Victim Age[2]												
Youth (Age 12-24 years)	462	32.5	385	33.7	422	32.8	344	30.7	380	33.1	105	35.2
Other	959	67.5	756	66.3	864	67.2	777	69.3	767	66.9	193	64.8
No age information	20		17		28		12		6		20	
Suspect Age[2]												
Youth (Age 12-24 years)	517	40.7	482	46.3	497	42.8	409	41.1	400	39.3	107	40.1
Other	754	59.3	559	53.7	663	57.2	586	58.9	617	60.7	160	59.9
No Age information	170		117		154		138		136		51	
Victim-Offender Relation[3]												
Stranger	576	40.0	530	46.1	605	46.3	531	46.9	540	46.9	0	0.0
Acquaintance	311	21.6	234	20.3	305	23.3	234	20.7	260	22.6	0	0.0
Unknown Relation	169	11.7	96	8.3	64	4.9	79	7.0	80	6.9	274	86.2
Interpersonal Relation (Spouse, Boyfriend-Girlfriend, Friend, Child, etc…)	384	26.7	290	25.2	333	25.5	289	25.5	272	23.6	44	13.8
No Relation Information	1		8		7		0		1		0	

[1] Analysis represents the number of independent incidents for each Part I crime. Within each incident there is the potential for multiple offenses, as well as multiple suspects and victims. In cases with more than one type of offense, the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) hierarchy rule was used to determine incident offense classification.

[2] The classification of incident age group was based on all victim(s) and suspect(s) involved. All victims or suspects had to be between the ages of 12 and 24 for the incident to be classified as youth involved.

[3] Given the analysis is at the incident level, the victim-offender relationship is based on all individuals involved in the incident, where having an interpersonal has classification primacy followed by acquaintance. An incident was only classified as “stranger” if none of the victims had a personal or acquaintance relationship with any of the suspects.

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Columbia - Homicide Incidents by Offense Year[1]

Total Incidents – 65

	2002		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007 (January 1-April 30)	
	Number of Incidents	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*
Firearm Involved												
Yes	4	40.0	9	60.0	12	75.0	9	64.3	3	60.0	4	80.0
No	6	60.0	6	40.0	4	25.0	5	35.7	2	40.0	1	20.0
Victim Age[2]												
Youth (Age 12-24 years)	2	20.0	2	14.3	2	14.3	2	14.3	2	40.0	1	20.0
Other	8	80.0	12	85.7	12	85.7	12	85.7	3	60.0	4	80.0
No age information	0		1		2		0		0		0	
Suspect Age[2]												
Youth (Age 12-24 years)	3	37.5	5	38.5	4	33.3	2	18.2	2	40.0	2	50.0
Other	5	62.5	8	61.5	8	66.7	9	81.8	3	60.0	2	50.0
No Age information	2		2		4		3		0		1	
Victim-Offender Relation[3]												
Stranger	1	11.1	4	30.8	3	21.4	3	21.4	0	0.0	0	0.0
Acquaintance	3	33.3	3	23.1	3	21.4	7	50.0	5	100.0	5	100.0
Unknown Relation	3	33.3	1	7.7	2	14.3	3	21.4	0	0.0	0	0.0
Interpersonal relation (Spouse, Boyfriend-Girlfriend, Friend, Child, etc…)	2	22.2	5	38.5	6	42.9	1	7.1	0	0.0	0	0.0
No Relation Information	1		2		2		0		0		0	

[1] Analysis represents the number of independent homicide incidents. Within each incident there is the potential for multiple offenses, as well as multiple suspects and victims. In cases with more than one type of offense, the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) hierarchy rule was used to determine incident offense classification.

[2] The classification of incident age group was based on all victim(s) and suspect(s) involved. All victims or suspects had to be between the ages of 12 and 24 for the incident to be classified as youth involved.

[3] Given the analysis is at the incident level, the victim-offender relationship is based on all individuals involved in the incident, where having an interpersonal relation has classification primacy followed by acquaintance. An incident was only classified as “stranger” if none of the victims had a personal or acquaintance relationship with any of the suspects.

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Columbia - Rape Incidents by Offense Year[1]

Total Incidents – 325

	2002		***2003***		***2004***		***2005***		***2006***		***2007 (January 1-April 30)***	
	Number of Incidents	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*
Firearm Involved												
Yes	6	7.3	3	5.4	1	1.4	4	8.0	2	3.6	1	11.1
No	76	92.7	53	94.6	71	98.6	46	96.0	54	96.4	8	88.9
Victim Age[2]												
Youth (Age 12-24 years)	50	61.7	29	51.8	28	38.9	24	48.0	27	48.2	5	55.6
Other	31	37.8	27	48.2	44	61.1	26	52.0	29	51.8	4	44.4
No age information	1		0		0		0		0		0	
Suspect Age[2]												
Youth (Age 12-24 years)	31	40.3	17	33.3	25	35.2	19	41.3	18	34.0	1	11.1
Other	46	59.7	34	66.7	46	64.8	27	58.7	35	66.0	8	88.9
No Age information	5		5		1		4		3			
Victim-Offender Relation[3]												
Stranger	28	34.1	14	25.0	24	33.3	14	28.0	19	33.9	0	0.0
Acquaintance	30	36.6	23	41.1	30	41.7	26	52.0	24	42.9	0	0.0
Unknown Relation	7	8.5	4	7.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	9	100.0
Has Some Relation (Spouse, Boyfriend-Girlfriend, Friend, Child, etc…)	17	20.7	15	26.8	18	25.0	10	20.0	13	23.2	0	0.0
No Relation Information	0		0		0		0		0	0	0	0.0

[1] Analysis represents the number of independent rape incidents. Within each incident there is the potential for multiple offenses, as well as multiple suspects and victims. In cases with more than one type of offense, the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) hierarchy rule was used to determine incident offense classification.

[2] The classification of incident age group was based on all victim(s) and suspect(s) involved. All victims or suspects had to be between the ages of 12 and 24 for the incident to be classified as youth involved.

[3] Given the analysis is at the incident level, the victim-offender relationship is based on all individuals involved in the incident, where having some relation has classification primacy followed by acquaintance. An incident was only classified as “stranger” if none of the victims had a personal or acquaintance relationship with any of the suspects.

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Columbia - Robbery Incidents by Offense Year[1]

Total Incidents – 2,299

	2002		***2003***		***2004***		***2005***		***2006***		***2007 (January 1-April 30)***	
	Number of Incidents	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*
Firearm Involved												
Yes	318	62.1	296	64.6	289	62.6	220	57.9	210	55.7	60	54.5
No	194	37.9	162	35.4	173	37.4	160	42.1	167	44.3	50	45.5
Victim Age[2]												
Youth (Age 12-24 years)	170	33.9	133	29.8	147	32.6	109	29.1	127	33.9	27	28.7
Other	331	66.1	313	70.2	304	67.4	266	70.9	248	66.1	67	71.3
No age information	11		12		11		5		2		16	
Suspect Age[2]												
Youth (Age 12-24 years)	215	50.2	218	53.4	216	54.1	162	48.9	153	46.9	40	44.9
Other	213	49.8	190	46.6	183	45.9	169	51.1	173	53.1	49	55.1
No Age information	84		50		63		49		51		21	
Victim-Offender Relation[3]												
Stranger	367	71.7	368	81.2	391	85.2	340	89.5	325	86.2	0	0.0
Acquaintance	45	8.8	38	8.4	33	7.2	19	5.0	28	7.4	0	0.0
Unknown Relation	83	16.2	36	7.9	17	3.7	12	3.2	16	4.2	110	100.0
Has Some Relation (Spouse, Boyfriend-Girlfriend, Friend, Child, etc…)	17	3.3	11	2.4	18	3.9	9	2.4	8	2.1	0	0.0
No Relation Information	0		5		3		0		0		0	

[1] Analysis represents the number of independent robbery incidents. Within each incident there is the potential for multiple offenses, as well as multiple suspects and victims. In cases with more than one type of offense, the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) hierarchy rule was used to determine incident offense classification.

[2] The classification of incident age group was based on all victim(s) and suspect(s) involved. All victims or suspects had to be between the ages of 12 and 24 for the incident to be classified as youth involved.

[3] Given the analysis is at the incident level, the victim-offender relationship is based on all individuals involved in the incident, where having some relation has classification primacy followed by acquaintance. An incident was only classified as “stranger” if none of the victims had a personal or acquaintance relationship with any of the suspects.

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Columbia – Aggravated Assault Incidents by Offense Year[1]

Total Incidents – 3,828

	2002		***2003***		***2004***		***2005***		***2006***		***2007 (January 1-April 30)***	
	Number of Incidents	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*
Firearm Involved												
Yes	201	24.0	198	31.5	258	33.8	215	31.2	215	30.1	48	31.4
No	636	76.0	431	68.5	506	66.2	474	68.8	500	69.9	105	68.6
Victim Age[2]												
Youth (Age 12-24 years)	240	29.0	221	35.4	245	32.7	209	30.6	224	31.5	72	37.9
Other	589	71.0	404	64.6	504	67.3	473	69.4	487	68.5	118	62.1
No age information	8		4		15		7		4		4	
Suspect Age[2]												
Youth (Age 12-24 years)	268	35.4	242	42.5	252	37.2	226	37.2	227	35.9	64	38.8
Other	490	64.6	327	57.5	426	62.8	381	62.8	406	64.1	101	61.2
No Age information	79		60		86		82		82		29	
Victim-Offender Relation[3]												
Stranger	180	21.5	144	22.9	187	24.5	174	25.3	196	27.5	0	0.0
Acquaintance	233	27.8	170	27.1	239	31.4	182	26.4	203	28.4	0	0.0
Unknown Relation	76	9.1	55	8.8	45	5.9	64	9.3	64	9.0	150	77.3
Has Some Relation (Spouse, Boyfriend-Girlfriend, Friend, Child, etc…)	348	41.6	259	41.2	291	38.2	269	39.0	251	35.2	44	22.7
No Relation Information	0		1		2		0		1		0	

[1] Analysis represents the number of independent aggravated assault incidents. Within each incident there is the potential for multiple offenses, as well as multiple suspects and victims. In cases with more than one type of offense, the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) hierarchy rule was used to determine incident offense classification.

[2] The classification of incident age group was based on all victim(s) and suspect(s) involved. All victims or suspects had to be between the ages of 12 and 24 for the incident to be classified as youth involved.

[3] Given the analysis is at the incident level, the victim-offender relationship is based on all individuals involved in the incident, where having some relation has classification primacy followed by acquaintance. An incident was only classified as “stranger” if none of the victims had a personal or acquaintance relationship with any of the suspects.

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Columbia - Use of Firearms in Homicides by Victim-Offender Relationship[1,2]

January 1, 2002 – April 30, 2007

	Number of Incidents	*%*
Stranger		
Firearm	10	90.9
No Firearm	1	9.1
Acquaintance		
Firearm	15	71.4
No Firearm	6	28.6
Unknown relation		
Firearm	9	64.3
No Firearm	5	35.7
Interpersonal relation (Spouse, Boyfriend-Girlfriend, Friend, Child, etc…)		
Firearm	4	28.6
No Firearm	10	71.4

[1] Analysis conducted at the incident level for cases that had firearm and relationship information.

[2] Given the analysis is at the incident level, the victim-offender relationship is based on all individuals involved in the incident, where having an interpersonal relation has classification primacy followed by acquaintance. An incident was only classified as "stranger" if none of the victims had a personal or acquaintance relationship with any of the suspects.

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Columbia - Use of Firearms in Aggravated Assaults by Victim-Offender Relationship[1,2]

January 1, 2002 – April 30, 2007

	All Incidents		***2002***		***2003***		***2004***		***2005***		***2006***		***2007 (January 1-April 30)***	
	Number of Incidents	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*
Stranger														
Firearm	378	42.9	72	40.0	64	44.4	82	43.9	74	42.5	86	43.9	0	0.0
No Firearm	503	57.1	108	60.0	80	55.6	105	56.1	100	57.5	110	56.1	0	0.0
Acquaintance														
Firearm	307	29.9	53	22.7	56	32.9	92	38.5	55	30.2	51	25.1	0	0.0
No Firearm	720	70.1	180	77.3	114	67.1	147	61.5	127	69.8	152	74.9	0	0.0
Unknown relation														
Firearm	221	48.7	35	46.1	31	56.4	31	68.9	37	57.8	42	65.6	45	30.0
No Firearm	233	51.3	41	53.9	24	43.6	14	31.1	27	42.2	22	34.4	105	70.0
Interpersonal relation (Spouse, Boyfriend-Girlfriend, Friend, Child, etc…)														
Firearm	227	16.0	41	11.8	46	17.8	52	17.9	49	18.2	36	14.3	3	100.0
No Firearm	1,194	84.0	307	88.2	213	82.2	239	82.1	220	81.8	215	85.7	0	0.0

[1] Analysis conducted at the incident level for cases that had firearm and relationship information.

[2] Given the analysis is at the incident level, the victim-offender relationship is based on all individuals involved in the incident, where having an interpersonal relation has classification primacy followed by acquaintance. An incident was only classified as "stranger" if none of the victims had a personal or acquaintance relationship with any of the suspects.

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Columbia - Victim/Suspect Age and Firearm Use by Crime Type[1]
January 1, 2002-April 30, 2007

	Homicide		***Rape***		***Robbery***		***Aggravated Assault***	
	Number of Incidents	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*
Victim Age[2]								
Youth (Age 12-24 years)								
Firearm								
Yes	11	100.0	10	6.1	460	64.5	454	37.8
No	0	0.0	153	93.9	253	35.5	747	62.2
Other								
Firearm								
Yes	28	54.9	7	4.3	905	59.2	666	26.2
No	23	45.1	154	95.7	624	40.8	1,878	73.8
Suspect Age[2]								
Youth (Age 12-24 years)								
Firearm								
Yes	16	88.9	11	9.9	721	71.8	485	38.2
No	2	11.1	100	90.1	283	28.2	785	61.8
Other								
Firearm								
Yes	18	51.4	4	2.0	474	48.5	433	20.6
No	17	48.6	192	98.0	503	51.5	1,667	79.4

[1] Analysis conducted at the incident level for cases that had firearm and age information.
[2] The classification of incident age group was based on all victim(s) and suspect(s) involved. All victims or suspects had to be between the ages of 12 and 24 for the incident to be classified as youth involved.

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Columbia - Victim/Suspect Age and Firearm Use by Year of Incident[1]

	All Incidents		***2002***		***2003***		***2004***		***2005***		***2006***		***2007 (January 1-April 30)***	
	Number of Incidents	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*
Victim Age[2]														
Youth (Age 12-24 years)														
Firearm														
Yes	935	44.8	209	45.2	174	45.2	205	48.6	136	39.5	165	43.4	46	48.4
No	1,153	55.2	253	54.8	211	54.8	217	51.4	208	60.5	215	56.6	49	51.6
Other														
Firearm														
Yes	1,606	37.5	317	33.1	320	42.3	342	39.6	306	39.4	263	34.3	58	35.8
No	2,679	62.5	642	66.9	436	57.7	522	60.4	471	60.6	504	65.7	104	64.2
Suspect Age[2]														
Youth (Age 12-24 years)														
Firearm														
Yes	1,233	51.3	242	46.8	267	55.4	275	55.3	203	49.6	195	48.8	51	52.0
No	1,170	48.7	275	53.2	215	44.6	222	44.7	206	50.4	205	51.3	47	48.0
Other														
Firearm														
Yes	929	28.1	201	26.7	172	30.8	196	29.6	171	29.2	154	25.0	35	27.1
No	2,379	71.9	553	73.3	387	69.2	467	70.4	415	70.8	463	75.0	94	72.9

[1] Analysis conducted at the incident level for cases that had firearm and age information.
[2] The classification of incident age group was based on all victim(s) and suspect(s) involved. All victims or suspects had to be between the ages of 12 and 24 for the incident to be classified as youth involved.

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Columbia - Aggravated Assault Incident Characteristics by Victim-Offender Relation or Non-Relation[1]

	All Incidents		*2002*		*2003*		*2004*		*2005*		*2006*		*2007 (January 1-April 30)*	
	Number of Incidents	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*
Non-Personalized Relation (Stranger, Acquaintance, and Unknown Relation) [2]														
Victim Age[3]														
Youth (Age 12-24 years)	814	34.8	155	32.0	138	37.6	168	36.4	138	33.2	154	33.4	61	41.8
Other	1,523	65.2	330	68.0	229	62.4	294	63.6	278	66.8	307	66.6	85	58.2
No age information	25		4		2		9		4		2		4	
Suspect Age[3]														
Youth (Age 12-24 years)	842	42.9	167	40.3	150	48.4	168	43.1	152	44.3	151	39.4	54	44.3
Other	1,120	57.1	247	59.7	160	51.6	222	56.9	191	55.7	232	60.6	68	55.7
No age information	400		75		59		81		77		80		28	
Firearm														
Yes	906	38.4	160	32.7	151	40.9	205	43.5	166	39.5	179	38.7	45	30.0
No	1,456	61.6	329	67.3	218	59.1	266	56.5	254	60.5	284	61.3	105	70.0
Interpersonal relation (Spouse, Boyfriend-Girlfriend, Friend, Child, etc…)[2]														
Victim Age[3]														
Youth (Age 12-24 years)	397	27.4	85	24.7	83	32.2	77	26.8	71	26.7	70	28.0	11	25.0
Other	1,052	72.6	259	75.3	175	67.8	210	73.2	195	73.3	180	72.0	33	75.0
No age information	13		4		1		4		3		1		0	
Suspect Age[3]														
Youth (Age 12-24 years)	436	30.2	101	29.4	92	35.7	83	28.9	74	28.0	76	30.4	10	23.3
Other	1,010	69.8	243	70.6	166	64.3	204	71.1	190	72.0	174	69.6	33	76.7
No age information	16		4		1		4		5		1		1	
Firearm														
Yes	227	16.0	41	11.8	46	17.8	52	17.9	49	18.2	36	14.3	3	100.0
No	1,194	84.0	307	88.2	213	82.2	239	82.1	220	81.8	215	85.7	0	0.0

[1] Analysis conducted at the incident level for cases that had firearm, age and relationship information.

[2] Given the analysis is at the incident level, the victim-offender relationship is based on all individuals involved in the incident, where having an interpersonal relation has classification primacy followed by acquaintance. An incident was only classified as "stranger" if none of the victims had a personal or acquaintance relationship with any of the suspects.

[3] The classification of incident age group was based on all victim(s) and suspect(s) involved. All victims or suspects had to be between the ages of 12 and 24 for the incident to be classified as youth involved.

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Columbia – Aggravated Assaults with Non-Personalized Relations by Age, Firearm and Year of Incident[1,2]

	All Incidents		*2002*		*2003*		*2004*		*2005*		*2006*		*2007 (January 1-April 30)*	
	Number of Incidents	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*
Victim Age														
Youth (Age 12-24 years)[3]														
Firearm														
Yes	356	43.7	65	41.9	64	46.4	80	47.6	55	39.9	63	40.9	29	47.5
No	485	56.3	90	58.1	74	53.6	88	52.4	83	60.1	91	59.1	32	52.5
Other[3]														
Firearm														
Yes	541	35.5	95	28.8	85	37.1	123	41.8	109	39.2	115	37.5	14	16.5
No	982	64.5	235	71.2	144	62.9	171	58.2	169	60.8	192	62.5	71	83.5
Suspect Age														
Youth (Age 12-24 years)[3]														
Firearm														
Yes	382	45.4	69	41.3	70	46.7	82	48.8	70	46.1	71	47.0	20	37.0
No	460	54.6	98	58.7	80	53.3	86	51.2	82	53.9	80	53.0	34	63.0
Other[3]														
Firearm														
Yes	311	27.8	58	23.5	50	31.3	76	34.2	54	28.3	62	26.7	11	16.2
No	809	72.2	189	76.5	110	68.8	146	65.8	137	71.7	170	73.3	57	83.8

[1] Analysis conducted at the incident level for cases that had firearm, age and relationship information.
[2] Given the analysis is at the incident level, the victim-offender relationship is based on all individuals involved in the incident, where having an interpersonal relation has classification primacy followed by acquaintance. An incident was only classified as "stranger" if none of the victims had a personal or acquaintance relationship with any of the suspects. Non-personalized relation captures cases that involved strangers, acquaintances, and unknown relations.
[3] The classification of incident age group was based on all victim(s) and suspect(s) involved. All victims or suspects had to be between the ages of 12 and 24 for the incident to be classified as youth involved.

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Richland - UCR Part I Crime Incidents – January 1, 2002 – April 30, 2007[1]
Total Incidents – 8,795

	Number of Incidents	*%*
Crime		
Homicide	100	
Rape	535	
Robbery	1,850	
Aggravated Assault	6,310	
Analysis Year		
2002	1,727	
2003	1,823	
2004	1,609	
2005	1,442	
2006	1,610	
2007 (January 1-April 30)	584	
Firearm Involved		
Yes	2,641	30.0
No	6,154	70.0
Victim Age[2]		
Youth (Age 12-24 years)	3,047	34.8
Other	5,699	65.2
No age information	49	
Suspect Age[2]		
Youth (Age 12-24 years)	3,087	40.9
Other	4,455	59.1
No age information	1,253	
Victim-Offender Relation[3]		
Stranger	1,210	15.8
Acquaintance	2,274	29.8
Unknown relation	1,228	16.1
Interpersonal relation (Spouse, Boyfriend-Girlfriend, Friend, Child, etc…)	2,929	38.3
No relation information	1,154	

[1] Analysis represents the number of independent incidents for each Part I crime. Within each incident there is the potential for multiple offenses, as well as multiple suspects and victims. In cases with more than one type of offense, the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) hierarchy rule was used to determine incident offense classification.
[2] The classification of incident age group was based on all victim(s) and suspect(s) involved. All victims or suspects had to be between the ages of 12 and 24 for the incident to be classified as youth involved.
[3] Given the analysis is at the incident level, the victim-offender relationship is based on all individuals involved in the incident, where having an interpersonal relation has classification primacy followed by acquaintance. An incident was only classified as “stranger” if none of the victims had a personal or acquaintance relationship with any of the suspects.

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Richland County - UCR Part I Crime Incidents by Offense Type[1]

Total Incidents – 8,795

	Homicide (N=100)		***Rape (N=535)***		***Robbery (N=1,850)***		***Aggravated Assault (N=6,310)***	
	Number of Incidents	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*
Firearm Involved								
Yes	69	69.0	8	1.5	1,201	64.9	1,363	21.6
No	31	31.0	527	98.5	649	35.1	4,947	78.4
Victim Age[2]								
Youth (Age 12-24 years)	24	24.2	322	60.2	541	29.5	2,160	34.4
Other	75	75.8	213	39.8	1,290	70.5	4,121	65.6
No age information	1		0		19		29	
Suspect Age[2]								
Youth (Age 12-24 years)	33	37.9	254	48.9	682	54.0	2,118	37.3
Other	54	62.1	265	51.1	582	46.0	3,554	62.7
No age information	13		16		586		638	
Victim-Offender Relation[3]								
Stranger	15	16.9	56	10.5	663	51.5	476	8.3
Acquaintance	20	22.5	217	40.6	180	14.0	1,857	32.4
Unknown relation	22	24.7	100	18.7	382	29.7	724	12.6
Interpersonal relation (Spouse, Boyfriend-Girlfriend, Friend, Child, etc…)	32	36.0	161	30.1	62	4.8	2,674	46.7
No relation information	11		1		563		579	

[1] Analysis represents the number of independent incidents for each Part I crime. Within each incident there is the potential for multiple offenses, as well as multiple suspects and victims. In cases with more than one type of offense, the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) hierarchy rule was used to determine incident offense classification.

[2] The classification of incident age group was based on all victim(s) and suspect(s) involved. All victims or suspects had to be between the ages of 12 and 24 for the incident to be classified as youth involved.

[3] Given the analysis is at the incident level, the victim-offender relationship is based on all individuals involved in the incident, where having an interpersonal relation has classification primacy followed by acquaintance. An incident was only classified as “stranger” if none of the victims had a personal or acquaintance relationship with any of the suspects.

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Richland County - UCR Part I Crime Incidents by Offense Year[1]

Total Incidents – 8,795

	2002		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007 (January 1-April 30)	
	Number of Incidents	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*
Crime												
Homicide	20	1.2	9	0.5	18	1.1	19	1.3	27	1.7	7	1.2
Rape	113	6.5	113	6.2	104	6.5	96	6.7	88	5.5	21	3.6
Robbery	413	23.9	423	23.2	306	19.0	278	19.3	314	19.5	116	19.9
Aggravated Assault	1,181	68.4	1,278	70.1	1,181	73.4	1,049	72.7	1,181	73.4	440	75.3
Firearm Involved												
Yes	499	28.9	549	30.1	461	28.7	431	29.9	518	32.2	183	31.3
No	1,228	71.1	1,274	69.9	1,148	71.3	1,011	70.1	1,092	67.8	401	68.7
Victim Age[2]												
Youth (Age 12-24 years)	598	35.0	622	34.3	564	35.2	534	37.1	550	34.2	179	31.0
Other	1,110	65.0	1,190	65.7	1,039	64.8	904	62.9	1,057	65.8	399	69.0
No age information	19		11		6		4		3		6	
Suspect Age[2]												
Youth (Age 12-24 years)	633	42.5	638	39.6	573	40.5	537	43.6	553	41.0	153	34.4
Other	855	57.5	975	60.4	842	59.5	695	56.4	796	59.0	292	65.6
No Age information	239		210		194		210		261		139	
Victim-Offender Relation[3]												
Stranger	225	14.9	309	19.0	220	15.4	175	14.1	219	16.1	62	13.1
Acquaintance	447	29.5	497	30.6	485	33.9	387	31.2	350	25.8	108	22.8
Unknown Relation	262	17.3	191	11.8	192	13.4	236	19.0	268	19.7	79	16.7
Interpersonal Relation (Spouse, Boyfriend-Girlfriend, Friend, Child, etc…)	579	38.3	628	38.6	533	37.3	443	35.7	522	38.4	224	47.4
No Relation Information	214		198		179		201		251		111	

[1] Analysis represents the number of independent incidents for each Part I crime. Within each incident there is the potential for multiple offenses, as well as multiple suspects and victims. In cases with more than one type of offense, the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) hierarchy rule was used to determine incident offense classification.

[2] The classification of incident age group was based on all victim(s) and suspect(s) involved. All victims or suspects had to be between the ages of 12 and 24 for the incident to be classified as youth involved.

[3] Given the analysis is at the incident level, the victim-offender relationship is based on all individuals involved in the incident, where having an interpersonal has classification primacy followed by acquaintance. An incident was only classified as “stranger” if none of the victims had a personal or acquaintance relationship with any of the suspects.

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Richland County - Homicide Incidents by Offense Year[1]

Total Incidents – 100

	2002		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007 (January 1-April 30)	
	Number of Incidents	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*
Firearm Involved												
Yes	15	75.0	6	66.7	15	83.3	11	57.9	17	63.0	5	71.4
No	5	25.0	3	33.3	3	16.7	8	42.1	10	37.0	2	28.6
Victim Age[2]												
Youth (Age 12-24 years)	6	30.0	2	22.2	6	33.3	3	15.8	5	18.5	2	33.3
Other	14	70.0	7	77.8	12	66.7	16	84.2	22	81.5	4	66.7
No age information	0		0		0		0		0		1	
Suspect Age[2]												
Youth (Age 12-24 years)	7	38.9	4	44.4	2	14.3	5	33.3	12	50.0	3	42.9
Other	11	61.1	5	55.6	12	85.7	10	66.7	12	50.0	4	57.1
No Age information	2		0		4		4		3		0	
Victim-Offender Relation[3]												
Stranger	5	27.8	2	22.2	3	18.8	2	13.3	2	8.3	1	14.3
Acquaintance	8	44.4	1	11.1	3	18.8	6	40.0	1	4.2	1	14.3
Unknown Relation	0	0.0	2	22.2	4	25.0	3	20.0	12	50.0	1	14.3
Interpersonal relation (Spouse, Boyfriend-Girlfriend, Friend, Child, etc…)	5	27.8	4	44.4	6	37.5	4	26.7	9	37.5	4	57.1
No Relation Information	2		0		2		4		3		0	

[1] Analysis represents the number of independent homicide incidents. Within each incident there is the potential for multiple offenses, as well as multiple suspects and victims. In cases with more than one type of offense, the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) hierarchy rule was used to determine incident offense classification.

[2] The classification of incident age group was based on all victim(s) and suspect(s) involved. All victims or suspects had to be between the ages of 12 and 24 for the incident to be classified as youth involved.

[3] Given the analysis is at the incident level, the victim-offender relationship is based on all individuals involved in the incident, where having an interpersonal relation has classification primacy followed by acquaintance. An incident was only classified as “stranger” if none of the victims had a personal or acquaintance relationship with any of the suspects.

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Richland County - Rape Incidents by Offense Year[1]

Total Incidents – 535

	2002		***2003***		***2004***		***2005***		***2006***		***2007 (January 1-April 30)***	
	Number of Incidents	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*
Firearm Involved												
Yes	2	1.8	3	2.7	1	1.0	1	1.0	1	1.1	0	0.0
No	111	98.2	110	97.3	103	99.0	95	99.0	87	98.9	21	100.0
Victim Age[2]												
Youth (Age 12-24 years)	74	65.5	66	58.4	64	61.5	54	56.3	52	59.1	12	57.1
Other	39	34.5	47	41.6	40	38.5	42	43.8	36	40.9	9	42.9
Suspect Age[2]												
Youth (Age 12-24 years)	50	45.9	51	46.8	54	53.5	49	52.1	38	43.7	12	63.2
Other	59	54.1	58	53.2	47	46.5	45	47.9	49	56.3	7	36.8
No Age information	4		4		3		2		1		2	
Victim-Offender Relation[3]												
Stranger	13	11.6	7	6.2	12	11.5	7	7.3	14	15.9	3	14.3
Acquaintance	49	43.8	54	47.8	43	41.3	37	38.5	28	31.8	6	28.6
Unknown Relation	21	18.8	14	12.4	19	18.3	26	27.1	15	17.0	5	23.8
Has Some Relation (Spouse, Boyfriend-Girlfriend, Friend, Child, etc…)	29	25.9	38	33.6	30	28.8	26	27.1	31	35.2	7	33.3
No Relation Information	1		0		0		0		0		0	

[1] Analysis represents the number of independent rape incidents. Within each incident there is the potential for multiple offenses, as well as multiple suspects and victims. In cases with more than one type of offense, the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) hierarchy rule was used to determine incident offense classification.

[2] The classification of incident age group was based on all victim(s) and suspect(s) involved. All victims or suspects had to be between the ages of 12 and 24 for the incident to be classified as youth involved.

[3] Given the analysis is at the incident level, the victim-offender relationship is based on all individuals involved in the incident, where having some relation has classification primacy followed by acquaintance. An incident was only classified as “stranger” if none of the victims had a personal or acquaintance relationship with any of the suspects.

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Richland County - Robbery Incidents by Offense Year[1]

Total Incidents – 1,850

	2002		***2003***		***2004***		***2005***		***2006***		***2007 (January 1-April 30)***	
	Number of Incidents	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*
Firearm Involved												
Yes	258	62.5	281	66.4	204	66.7	175	62.9	207	65.9	76	65.5
No	155	37.5	142	33.6	102	33.3	103	37.1	107	34.1	40	34.5
Victim Age[2]												
Youth (Age 12-24 years)	124	30.6	114	27.3	87	28.7	89	32.1	90	28.8	37	32.2
Other	281	69.4	304	72.7	216	71.3	188	67.9	223	71.2	78	67.8
No age information	8		5		3		1		1		1	
Suspect Age[2]												
Youth (Age 12-24 years)	173	58.8	144	48.2	122	58.1	110	58.5	116	53.7	17	29.8
Other	121	41.2	155	51.8	88	41.9	78	41.5	100	46.3	40	70.2
No Age information	119		124		96		90		98		59	
Victim-Offender Relation[3]												
Stranger	147	49.2	192	64.2	105	50.0	84	44.7	105	48.2	30	41.1
Acquaintance	36	12.0	44	14.7	41	19.5	27	14.4	25	11.5	7	9.6
Unknown Relation	97	32.4	52	17.4	53	25.2	69	36.7	77	35.3	34	46.6
Has Some Relation (Spouse, Boyfriend-Girlfriend, Friend, Child, etc…)	19	6.4	11	3.7	11	5.2	8	4.3	11	5.0	2	2.7
No Relation Information	114		124		96		90		96		43	

[1] Analysis represents the number of independent robbery incidents. Within each incident there is the potential for multiple offenses, as well as multiple suspects and victims. In cases with more than one type of offense, the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) hierarchy rule was used to determine incident offense classification.

[2] The classification of incident age group was based on all victim(s) and suspect(s) involved. All victims or suspects had to be between the ages of 12 and 24 for the incident to be classified as youth involved.

[3] Given the analysis is at the incident level, the victim-offender relationship is based on all individuals involved in the incident, where having some relation has classification primacy followed by acquaintance. An incident was only classified as “stranger” if none of the victims had a personal or acquaintance relationship with any of the suspects.

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Richland County – Aggravated Assault Incidents by Offense Year[1]

Total Incidents – 6,310

	2002		***2003***		***2004***		***2005***		***2006***		***2007 (January 1-April 30)***	
	Number of Incidents	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*
Firearm Involved												
Yes	224	19.0	259	20.3	241	20.4	244	23.3	293	24.8	102	23.2
No	957	81.0	1,019	79.7	940	79.6	805	76.7	888	75.2	338	76.8
Victim Age[2]												
Youth (Age 12-24 years)	394	33.7	440	34.6	407	34.6	388	37.1	403	34.2	128	29.4
Other	776	66.3	832	65.4	771	65.4	658	62.9	776	65.8	308	70.6
No age information	11		6		3		3		2		4	
Suspect Age[2]												
Youth (Age 12-24 years)	403	37.8	439	36.7	395	36.2	373	39.9	387	37.9	121	33.4
Other	664	62.2	757	63.3	695	63.8	562	60.1	635	62.1	241	66.6
No Age information	114		82		91		114		159		78	
Victim-Offender Relation[3]												
Stranger	60	5.5	108	9.0	100	9.1	82	8.7	98	9.5	28	7.5
Acquaintance	354	32.7	398	33.1	398	36.2	317	33.7	296	28.8	94	25.3
Unknown Relation	144	13.3	123	10.2	116	10.5	138	14.6	164	15.9	39	10.5
Has Some Relation (Spouse, Boyfriend-Girlfriend, Friend, Child, etc…)	526	48.5	575	47.8	486	44.2	405	43.0	471	45.8	211	56.7
No Relation Information	97		74		81		107		152		68	

[1] Analysis represents the number of independent aggravated assault incidents. Within each incident there is the potential for multiple offenses, as well as multiple suspects and victims. In cases with more than one type of offense, the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) hierarchy rule was used to determine incident offense classification.

[2] The classification of incident age group was based on all victim(s) and suspect(s) involved. All victims or suspects had to be between the ages of 12 and 24 for the incident to be classified as youth involved.

[3] Given the analysis is at the incident level, the victim-offender relationship is based on all individuals involved in the incident, where having some relation has classification primacy followed by acquaintance. An incident was only classified as “stranger” if none of the victims had a personal or acquaintance relationship with any of the suspects.

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Richland County - Use of Firearms in Homicides by Victim-Offender Relationship[1,2]
January 1, 2002 – April 30, 2007

	Number of Incidents	*%*
Stranger		
Firearm	14	93.3
No Firearm	1	6.7
Acquaintance		
Firearm	13	65.0
No Firearm	7	35.0
Unknown relation		
Firearm	18	81.8
No Firearm	4	18.2
Interpersonal relation (Spouse, Boyfriend-Girlfriend, Friend, Child, etc…)		
Firearm	15	46.9
No Firearm	17	53.1

[1] Analysis conducted at the incident level for cases that had firearm and relationship information.
[2] Given the analysis is at the incident level, the victim-offender relationship is based on all individuals involved in the incident, where having an interpersonal relation has classification primacy followed by acquaintance. An incident was only classified as "stranger" if none of the victims had a personal or acquaintance relationship with any of the suspects.

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Richland County - Use of Firearms in Aggravated Assaults by Victim-Offender Relationship[1,2]

January 1, 2002 – April 30, 2007

	All Incidents		***2002***		***2003***		***2004***		***2005***		***2006***		***2007 (January 1-April 30)***	
	Number of Incidents	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*
Stranger														
Firearm	150	31.5	19	31.7	29	26.9	32	32.0	24	29.3	39	39.8	7	25.0
No Firearm	326	68.5	41	68.3	79	73.1	68	68.0	58	70.7	59	60.2	21	75.0
Acquaintance														
Firearm	431	23.2	72	20.3	102	25.6	92	23.1	75	23.7	71	24.0	19	20.2
No Firearm	1,426	76.8	282	79.7	296	74.4	306	76.9	242	76.3	225	76.0	75	79.8
Unknown relation														
Firearm	188	26.0	45	31.3	25	20.3	27	23.3	40	29.0	42	25.6	9	23.1
No Firearm	536	74.0	99	68.8	98	79.7	89	76.7	98	71.0	122	74.4	30	76.9
Interpersonal relation (Spouse, Boyfriend-Girlfriend, Friend, Child, etc…)														
Firearm	312	11.7	50	9.5	73	12.7	54	11.1	48	11.9	59	12.5	28	13.3
No Firearm	2,362	88.3	476	90.5	502	87.3	432	88.9	357	88.1	412	87.5	183	86.7

[1] Analysis conducted at the incident level for cases that had firearm and relationship information.

[2] Given the analysis is at the incident level, the victim-offender relationship is based on all individuals involved in the incident, where having an interpersonal relation has classification primacy followed by acquaintance. An incident was only classified as "stranger" if none of the victims had a personal or acquaintance relationship with any of the suspects.

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Richland County - Victim/Suspect Age and Firearm Use by Crime Type[1]
January 1, 2002-April 30, 2007

	Homicide		***Rape***		***Robbery***		***Aggravated Assault***	
	Number of Incidents	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*
Victim Age[2]								
Youth (Age 12-24 years)								
Firearm								
Yes	20	83.3	4	1.2	329	60.8	508	23.5
No	4	16.7	318	98.8	212	39.2	1,652	76.5
Other								
Firearm								
Yes	49	65.3	4	1.9	858	66.5	850	20.6
No	26	34.7	209	98.1	432	33.5	3,271	79.4
Suspect Age[2]								
Youth (Age 12-24 years)								
Firearm								
Yes	23	69.7	3	1.2	505	74.0	489	23.1
No	10	30.0	251	98.8	177	26.0	1,629	76.9
Other								
Firearm								
Yes	35	64.8	5	1.9	300	51.5	577	16.2
No	19	35.2	260	98.1	282	48.5	2,977	83.8

[1] Analysis conducted at the incident level for cases that had firearm and age information.
[2] The classification of incident age group was based on all victim(s) and suspect(s) involved. All victims or suspects had to be between the ages of 12 and 24 for the incident to be classified as youth involved.

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Richland County - Victim/Suspect Age and Firearm Use by Year of Incident[1]

	All Incidents		***2002***		***2003***		***2004***		***2005***		***2006***		***2007 (January 1-April 30)***	
	Number of Incidents	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*
Victim Age[2]														
Youth (Age 12-24 years)														
Firearm														
Yes	861	28.3	163	27.3	177	28.5	142	25.2	155	29.0	165	30.0	59	33.0
No	2,186	71.7	435	72.7	445	71.5	422	74.8	379	71.0	385	70.0	120	67.0
Other														
Firearm														
Yes	1,761	30.9	325	29.3	368	30.9	317	30.5	276	30.5	352	33.3	123	30.8
No	3,938	69.1	785	70.7	822	69.1	722	69.5	628	69.5	705	66.7	276	69.2
Suspect Age[2]														
Youth (Age 12-24 years)														
Firearm														
Yes	1,020	33.0	211	33.3	210	32.9	190	33.2	171	31.8	200	36.2	38	24.8
No	2,067	67.0	422	66.7	428	67.1	383	66.8	366	68.2	353	63.8	115	75.2
Other														
Firearm														
Yes	917	20.6	160	18.7	220	22.6	168	20.0	143	20.6	160	20.1	66	22.6
No	3,538	79.4	695	81.3	755	77.4	674	80.0	552	79.4	636	79.9	226	77.4

[1] Analysis conducted at the incident level for cases that had firearm and age information.
[2] The classification of incident age group was based on all victim(s) and suspect(s) involved. All victims or suspects had to be between the ages of 12 and 24 for the incident to be classified as youth involved.

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Richland County - Aggravated Assault Incident Characteristics by Victim-Offender Relation or Non-Relation[1]

	All Incidents		*2002*		*2003*		*2004*		*2005*		*2006*		*2007 (January 1-April 30)*	
	Number of Incidents	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*
Non-Personalized Relation (Stranger, Acquaintance, and Unknown Relation) [2]														
Victim Age[3]														
Youth (Age 12-24 years)	1,200	39.4	214	28.7	251	40.1	237	28.7	230	42.8	213	38.2	55	34.6
Other	1,844	60.6	339	61.3	375	59.9	375	61.3	307	57.2	344	61.8	104	65.4
No age information	13		5		3		2		0		1		2	
Suspect Age[3]														
Youth (Age 12-24 years)	1,392	46.2	256	47.1	296	47.5	269	44.5	248	46.6	255	45.9	68	44.7
Other	1,618	53.8	287	52.9	327	52.5	336	55.5	284	53.4	300	54.1	84	55.3
No age information	47		15		6		9		5		3		9	
Firearm														
Yes	769	25.2	136	24.4	156	24.8	151	24.6	139	25.9	152	27.2	35	21.7
No	2,288	74.8	422	75.6	473	75.2	463	75.4	398	74.1	406	72.8	126	78.3
Interpersonal relation (Spouse, Boyfriend-Girlfriend, Friend, Child, etc…)[2]														
Victim Age[3]														
Youth (Age 12-24 years)	735	27.6	141	27.0	160	28.0	136	28.0	122	30.3	127	27.0	49	23.2
Other	1,929	72.4	381	73.0	412	72.0	350	72.0	281	69.7	343	73.0	162	76.8
No age information	10		4		3		1		2		1		0	
Suspect Age[3]														
Youth (Age 12-24 years)	724	27.2	145	27.9	143	25.0	126	26.0	125	31.0	132	28.3	53	25.4
Other	1,933	72.8	375	72.1	430	75.0	359	74.0	278	69.0	335	71.7	156	74.6
No age information	17		6		2		1		2		4		2	
Firearm														
Yes	312	11.7	50	9.5	73	12.7	54	11.1	48	11.9	59	12.5	28	13.3
No	2,362	88.3	476	90.5	502	87.3	432	88.9	357	88.1	412	87.5	183	86.7

[1] Analysis conducted at the incident level for cases that had firearm and relationship information.
[2] Given the analysis is at the incident level, the victim-offender relationship is based on all individuals involved in the incident, where having some relation has classification primacy followed by acquaintance. An incident was only classified as "stranger" if none of the victims had a personal or acquaintance relationship with any of the suspects.
[3] The classification of incident age group was based on all victim(s) and suspect(s) involved. All victims or suspects had to be between the ages of 12 and 24 for the incident to be classified as youth involved.

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Richland County – Aggravated Assaults with Non-Personalized Relations by Age, Firearm and Year of Incident[1,2]

	All Incidents		***2002***		***2003***		***2004***		***2005***		***2006***		***2007 (January 1-April 30)***	
	Number of Incidents	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*
Victim Age														
Youth (Age 12-24 years) [3]														
Firearm	315	26.3	54	25.2	74	29.5	56	23.6	62	27.0	61	28.6	8	14.5
Yes	885	73.8	160	74.8	177	70.5	181	76.4	168	73.0	152	71.4	47	85.5
No														
Other[3]														
Firearm	449	24.3	79	23.3	81	21.6	95	25.3	77	25.1	91	26.5	26	25.0
Yes	1,395	75.7	260	76.7	294	78.4	280	74.7	230	74.9	253	73.5	78	75.0
No														
Suspect Age														
Youth (Age 12-24 years) [3]														
Firearm	392	28.2	72	28.1	81	27.4	70	26.0	73	29.4	83	32.5	13	19.1
Yes	1,000	71.8	184	71.9	215	72.6	199	74.0	175	70.6	172	67.5	55	80.9
No														
Other[3]														
Firearm	363	22.4	59	20.6	74	22.6	77	22.9	64	22.5	69	23.0	20	23.8
Yes	1,255	77.6	228	79.4	253	77.4	259	77.1	220	77.5	231	77.0	64	76.8
No	315	26.3	54	25.2	74	29.5	56	23.6	62	27.0	61	28.6	8	14.5

[1] Analysis conducted at the incident level for cases that had firearm, age and relationship information.
[2] Given the analysis is at the incident level, the victim-offender relationship is based on all individuals involved in the incident, where having an interpersonal relation has classification primacy followed by acquaintance. An incident was only classified as "stranger" if none of the victims had a personal or acquaintance relationship with any of the suspects. Non-personalized relation captures cases that involved strangers, acquaintances, and unknown relations.
[3] The classification of incident age group was based on all victim(s) and suspect(s) involved. All victims or suspects had to be between the ages of 12 and 24 for the incident to be classified as youth involved.

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Individual Level Analysis

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Columbia & Richland County - Part I Crime Suspects Characteristics by Offense Type[1]

Total Suspects –20,095

	All Crimes		***Homicide***		***Rape***		***Robbery***		***Aggravated Assault***	
	Number of Incidents	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*
Gender										
Female	3455	18.6	34	14.6	18	1.8	317	5.9	3086	25.7
Male	15120	81.4	199	85.4	957	98.2	5046	94.1	8918	74.3
Missing/Unknown	1520		21		6		645		848	
Age of Suspect										
Youth - 12-24 years	8630	49.3	116	50.4	455	49.0	2877	60.1	5182	44.8
(12-17 years)	*2678*	*15.3*	*28*	*12.2*	*171*	*18.4*	*652*	*13.6*	*1827*	*15.8*
(18-24 years)	*5952*	*34.0*	*88*	*38.3*	*284*	*30.6*	*2225*	*46.4*	*3355*	*29*
Non Youth	8875	50.7	114	49.6	473	51.0	1914	39.9	6374	55.2
Missing	2950		24		53		1217		1296	
Race										
Asian	48	0.2	0	0.0	10	1.0	7	0.1	31	.2
Black	15881	79.0	211	83.1	743	75.7	4951	82.4	9976	77.6
Native American	13	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	0.0	10	.1
Unknown	1644	8.1	22	8.6	31	3.1	694	11.6	897	6.9
White	2220	11.0	18	7.1	170	17.3	320	5.3	1712	13.3
Hispanic	289	1.4	3	1.2	27	2.8	33	0.5	226	1.8

[1] There is more suspects than violent crime incidents given there may be more than one suspect per incident.

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Columbia & Richland County - Part I Crime Suspects by Offense Year[1]

Total Suspects – 20,095

	2002		***2003***		***2004***		***2005***		***2006***		***2007 (January 1-April 30)***	
	Number of Incidents	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*
Gender												
Female	639	17.2	673	18.3	663	18.0	586	18.4	669	20.1	225	22.4
Male	3066	82.8	3005	81.7	3019	82.0	2592	81.6	2658	79.9	780	77.6
Missing/Unknown	297		249		247		272		322		133	
Age of Suspect												
Youth - 12-24 years	1687	48.4	1775	50.6	1720	49.6	1524	50.7	1513	48.2	411	45.5
(12-17 years)	*454*	*13.0*	*568*	*16.2*	*573*	*16.5*	*518*	*17.2*	*451*	*14.4*	*114*	*12.6*
(18-24 years)	*1233*	*35.4*	*1207*	*34.4*	*1147*	*33.1*	*1006*	*33.4*	*1062*	*33.8*	*297*	*32.9*
Non Youth	1795	51.6	1730	49.4	1745	50.4	1484	49.3	1628	51.8	493	54.5
Missing	520		422		464		442		508		234	
Race												
Asian	10	0.2	9	.2	4	0.1	9	0.3	13	0.4	3	0.3
Black	3200	80.0	3147	80.1	3184	81	2678	77.6	2822	77.3	850	74.7
Native American	4	0.1	3	.1	3	0.1	1	0.0	1	0.0	1	0.1
Unknown	318	8.0	266	6.7	269	6.9	297	8.6	351	9.6	143	12.6
White	439	11	448	11.4	404	10.3	405	11.7	399	10.9	125	11.0
Hispanic	31	0.8	54	1.4	65	1.7	60	1.7	63	1.7	16	1.4
Crime												
Homicide	47		38		45		56		48		20	
Rape	221		192		209		169		152		38	
Robbery	1270		1278		1138		967		1042		313	
Aggravated Assault	2464		2419		2537		2258		2407		767	

[1] There is more suspects than violent crime incidents given there may be more than one suspect per incident.

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Columbia & Richland County - Part I Crime Victims by Offense Year[1]

Total Victims – 19,294

	2002		***2003***		***2004***		***2005***		***2006***		***2007 (January 1-April 30)***	
	Number of Incidents	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*
Gender												
Female	1709	46.0	1660	43.8	1589	43.6	1394	44.3	1561	45.9	507	43.6
Male	2007	54.0	1981	52.3	2059	56.4	1754	55.7	1843	54.1	585	53.6
Missing/Unknown	131		148		94		88		112		72	
Age of Suspect												
Youth - 12-24 years	1382	37.6	1392	38.6	1384	38.3	1192	38.1	1295	38.1	402	37.4
(12-17 years)	*362*	*9.9*	*450*	*12.5*	*448*	*12.4*	*423*	*13.5*	*381*	*11.2*	*123*	*11.5*
(18-24 years)	*1020*	*27.8*	*942*	*26.1*	*936*	*25.9*	*769*	*24.6*	*914*	*26.9*	*279*	*26.0*
Non Youth	2292	62.4	2216	61.4	2233	61.7	1939	61.9	2101	61.9	672	62.6
Missing	173		181		125		105		120		90	
Race												
Asian	40	1.0	37	1.0	37	1.0	41	1.3	44	1.3	16	1.4
Black	2624	68.2	2509	66.2	2501	66.8	2175	67.2	2351	66.9	757	65.0
Native American	8	0.2	5	0.1	7	0.2	10	0.3	18	.5	0	0.0
Unknown	152	4.0	162	4.2	104	2.8	94	2.9	123	3.5	78	6.7
White	947	24.6	1003	26.5	971	25.9	813	25.1	861	24.5	278	23.9
Hispanic	76	2.0	73	1.9	122	3.3	103	3.2	119	3.4	35	3.0
Crime												
Homicide	31		24		36		35		38		14	
Rape	197		175		182		153		149		38	
Robbery	1299		1282		1148		912		985		326	
Aggravated Assault	2320		2308		2376		2136		2344		786	

[1] There is more victims than violent crime incidents given there may be more than one victim per incident.

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Columbia & Richland County - Part I Crime Victim Characteristics by Offense Type[1]

Total Victims –19,294

	All Crimes		***Homicide***		***Rape***		***Robbery***		***Aggravated Assault***	
	Number of Incidents	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*
Gender										
Female	8420	45.1	39	21.9	885	99.0	1818	34.0	5678	46.4
Male	10229	54.9	139	78.1	9	1.0	3523	66.0	6558	53.6
Missing/Unknown	645		0		0		611		34	
Age of Suspect										
Youth - 12-24 years	7047	38.1	41	23.2	511	57.2	1899	35.8	4596	37.9
(12-17 years)	*2187*	*11.8*	*6*	*3.4*	*301*	*33.7*	*290*	*5.5*	*1590*	*13.1*
(18-24 years)	*4860*	*26.3*	*35*	*19.8*	*210*	*23.5*	*1609*	*30.3*	*3006*	*24.8*
Non Youth	11453	61.9	136	76.4	382	42.8	3523	64.2	7527	62.1
Missing	794		1		1		645		147	
Race										
Asian	215	1.1	3	1.7	6	0.7	154	2.6	52	0.4
Black	12917	66.9	143	80.3	585	65.4	2879	48.4	9310	75.9
Native American	48	0.2	0	0.0	2	0.2	33	0.6	13	0.1
Unknown	713	3.7	0	0.0	4	0.4	635	10.6	74	0.6
White	4873	25.3	29	16.3	281	31.4	1985	33.4	2578	21
Hispanic	528	2.7	3	1.7	16	1.8	266	4.5	243	2.0

[1] There is more victims than violent crime incidents given there may be more than one victim per incident.

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Columbia - Part I Crime Suspects Characteristics by Offense Type[1]

Total Suspects – 9,255

	All Crimes		***Homicide***		***Rape***		***Robbery***		***Aggravated Assault***	
	Number of Incidents	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*
Gender										
Female	1415	15.9	8	11.1	3	0.8	184	5.0	1220	25.4
Male	7506	84.1	64	88.9	374	99.2	3482	95.0	3586	74.6
Missing/Unknown	334		9				87		238	
Age of Suspect										
Youth - 12-24 years	4010	50.4	28	40.0	144	41.5	1874	59.9	1964	44.5
(12-17 years)	*1075*	*13.5*	*5*	*7.1*	*43*	*12.4*	*436*	*13.9*	*591*	*13.4*
(18-24 years)	*2935*	*36.9*	*23*	*32.9*	*101*	*29.1*	*1438*	*46.0*	*1373*	*31.1*
Non Youth	3944	49.6	42	60.0	203	58.5	1252	40.1	2447	55.5
Missing	1305		11		30		627		633	
Race										
Asian	20	0.2	0	0.0	5	1.3	5	0.1	10	0.2
Black	7991	86.3	68	84	294	78.0	3409	90.8	4220	83.7
Native American	4	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0	3	0.1
Unknown	420	4.5	10	12.4	7	1.9	127	3.4	276	5.5
White	738	8.0	3	3.7	60	15.9	194	5.2	481	9.5
Hispanic	82	0.9	0	0.0	11	2.9	17	0.5	54	1.1

[1] There is more suspects than violent crime incidents given there may be more than one suspect per incident.

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Columbia - Part I Crime Suspects by Offense Year[1]
Total Suspects – 9,255

	2002		***2003***		***2004***		***2005***		***2006***		***2007 (January 1-April 30)***	
	Number of Incidents	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*
Gender												
Female	278	14.9	231	14.2	297	16.2	260	16.8	275	16.9	74	17.7
Male	1582	85.1	1399	85.8	1535	83.8	1292	83.2	1353	83.1	345	82.3
Missing/Unknown	74		54		67		64		57		18	
Age of Suspect												
Youth - 12-24 years	795	48.0	812	55.1	842	51.4	694	50.0	690	47.9	177	49.9
(12-17 years)	*180*	*10.9*	*214*	*14.5*	*226*	*13.8*	*204*	*14.7*	*208*	*14.4*	*43*	*12.1*
(18-24 years)	*615*	*37.1*	*598*	*40.5*	*616*	*37.6*	*490*	*35.3*	*482*	*33.4*	*134*	*37.7*
Non Youth	861	52.0	663	44.9	795	48.6	695	50.0	752	52.1	178	50.1
Missing	278		209		232		227		243	82		
Race												
Asian	5	0.3	4	0.2	2	0.1	3	0.2	5	0.3	1	0.2
Black	1689	87.3	1466	87.1	1648	86.8	1384	85.6	1445	85.8	359	82.3
Native American	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.1	1	0.2	0	0.0	1	0.2
Unknown	89	4.7	67	4.0	82	4.3	86	5.3	72	4.3	24	5.5
White	139	7.2	133	7.9	142	7.5	129	8.0	149	8.8	46	10.5
Hispanic	12	0.6	14	0.8	23	1.2	13	0.8	14	0.8	6	1.4
Crime												
Homicide	13		17		18		22		6		5	
Rape	95		64		82		67		60		9	
Robbery	784		764		780		611		639		175	
Aggravated Assault	1042		839		1019		916		980		248	

[1] There is more suspects than violent crime incidents given there may be more than one suspect per incident.

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Columbia - Part I Crime Victim Characteristics by Offense Type[1]

Total Victims –8,070

	All Crimes		***Homicide***		***Rape***		***Robbery***		***Aggravated Assault***	
	Number of Incidents	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*
Gender										
Female	3427	42.6	16	22.5	332	99.4	974	33.4	2105	44.6
Male	4613	57.4	55	77.5	2	0.6	1938	66.6	2618	55.4
Missing/Unknown	30						26		4	
Age of Suspect										
Youth - 12-24 years	2931	37.0	13	18.3	170	51.1	1043	36.3	1705	36.7
(12-17 years)	*687*	*8.7*	*2*	*2.8*	*77*	*23.1*	*124*	*4.3*	*484*	*10.4*
(18-24 years)	*2244*	*28.3*	*11*	*15.5*	*93*	*27.9*	*919*	*32.0*	*1221*	*26.3*
Non Youth	4998	63.0	58	81.7	163	48.9	1831	63.7	2946	63.3
Missing	141		0		1		64		76	
Race										
Asian	94	1.2	2	2.8	4	1.2	68	2.3	20	0.4
Black	5796	71.5	61	85.9	214	64.1	1630	55.5	3864	81.7
Native American	22	0.3	0	0.0	1	0.3	15	0.5	6	0.1
Unknown	50	0.6	0	0.0	1	0.3	37	1.2	12	0.3
White	1973	24.4	8	11.3	109	32.6	1096	37.3	760	16.1
Hispanic	162	2.0	0	0.0	5	1.5	92	3.1	65	1.4

[1] There is more victims than violent crime incidents given there may be more than one victim per incident.

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Columbia - Part I Crime Victims by Offense Year[1]

Total Victims – 8,070

	2002		***2003***		***2004***		***2005***		***2006***		***2007 (January 1-April 30)***	
	Number of Incidents	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*
Gender												
Female	749	44.9	598	40.7	723	42.8	604	42.7	580	41.3	173	43.9
Male	921	55.1	871	59.3	965	57.2	809	57.3	826	58.7	221	56.1
Missing/Unknown	1		2								27	
Age of Suspect												
Youth - 12-24 years	595	36.2	567	39	617	37	486	34.8	512	36.8	154	40.8
(12-17 years)	*115*	*7.0*	*134*	*9.2*	*159*	*9.5*	*116*	*8.3*	*122*	*8.8*	*41*	*10.9*
(18-24 years)	*480*	*29.2*	*433*	*29.8*	*458*	*27.5*	*370*	*26.2*	*390*	*28.0*	*113*	*30.0*
Non Youth	1048	63.8	885	61	1050	63.0	912	65.2	880	63.2	223	59.2
Missing	25		19		21		15		14		44	
Race												
Asian	18	1.1	18	1.2	25	1.5	16	1.1	14	1.0	3	0.7
Black	1247	74.6	1051	71.4	1164	69	1011	71.5	1019	72.5	277	65.8
Native American	4	0.2	3	0.2	4	0.2	8	0.6	3	0.2	0	0.0
Unknown	11	0.7	4	0.3	4	0.2	2	0.1	1	0.1	28	6.7
White	370	22.1	373	25.4	455	27.0	346	24.5	327	23	102	24.2
Hispanic	21	1.3	22	1.5	36	2.1	30	2.1	42	3.0	11	2.6
Crime												
Homicide	10		15		18		15		7		6	
Rape	83		57		77		52		56		9	
Robbery	622		589		636		475		468		148	
Aggravated Assault	956		810		957		871		875		258	

[1] There is more victims than violent crime incidents given there may be more than one victim per incident.

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Richland County - Part I Crime Suspects Characteristics by Offense Type[1]

Total Suspects –10,840

	All Crimes		***Homicide***		***Rape***		***Robbery***		***Aggravated Assault***	
	Number of Incidents	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*
Gender										
Female	2040	21.1	26	16.1	15	2.5	133	7.8	1866	25.9
Male	7614	78.9	135	83.9	583	97.5	1564	92.2	5332	74.1
Missing/Unknown	1186		12		6		558		610	
Age of Suspect										
Youth - 12-24 years	4620	48.4	88	55.0	311	53.5	1003	60.2	3218	45.0
(12-17 years)	*1603*	*16.8*	*23*	*14.4*	*128*	*22.0*	*216*	*13.0*	*1235*	*17.3*
(18-24 years)	*3017*	*31.6*	*65*	*40.6*	*183*	*31.5*	*787*	*47.3*	*1982*	*27.7*
Non Youth	4931	51.6	72	45.0	270	46.5	1662	39.8	3927	55.0
Missing	1289		13		23		590		663	
Race										
Asian	28	0.3	0	0.0	5	0.8	2	0.1	21	0.3
Black	7890	72.8	143	82.7	449	74.3	1542	68.4	5756	73.7
Native American	9	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.1	7	0.1
Unknown	1224	11.3	12	6.9	24	1.0	567	25.2	621	8.0
White	1482	13.7	15	8.7	110	18.2	126	5.6	1231	15.8
Hispanic	207	1.9	3	1.7	16	2.6	16	0.7	172	2.2

[1] There is more suspects than violent crime incidents given there may be more than one suspect per incident.

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Richland County - Part I Crime Suspects by Offense Year[1]

Total Suspects – 10,840

	2002		***2003***		***2004***		***2005***		***2006***		***2007 (January 1-April 30)***	
	Number of Incidents	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*
Gender												
Female	361	19.6	442	21.6	366	19.8	326	20.0	394	23.2	151	25.8
Male	1484	80.4	1606	78.4	1484	80.2	1300	80.0	1305	76.8	435	74.2
Missing/Unknown	223		195		180		208		265		115	
Age of Suspect												
Youth - 12-24 years	892	48.8	963	47.4	878	48.0	830	51.3	823	48.4	234	42.6
(12-17 years)	*274*	*15.0*	*354*	*17.4*	*347*	*19.0*	*314*	*19.4*	*243*	*14.3*	*71*	*12.9*
(18-24 years)	*618*	*33.8*	*609*	*30.0*	*531*	*29.0*	*516*	*31.9*	*580*	*34.1*	*163*	*29.7*
Non Youth	934	51.2	1067	52.6	950	52.0	789	48.7	876	51.6	315	57.4
Missing	242		213		202		215		265		152	
Race												
Asian	5	0.2	5	0.2	2	0.1	6	0.4	8	0.5	2	0.3
Black	1511	73.1	1681	74.9	1536	75.7	1294	70.6	1377	70.1	491	70
Native American	4	0.2	3	0.1	1	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.1	0	0.0
Unknown	229	11.0	199	8.9	187	9.2	211	11.5	279	14.2	119	17.0
White	300	14.5	315	14.0	262	12.9	276	15.0	250	12.7	79	11.3
Hispanic	19	0.9	40	1.8	42	2.1	47	2.6	49	2.5	10	1.4
Crime												
Homicide	34		21		27		34		42		15	
Rape	126		128		127		102		92		29	
Robbery	486		514		358		356		403		138	
Aggravated Assault	1422		1580		1518		1342		1427		519	

[1] There is more suspects than violent crime incidents given there may be more than one suspect per incident.

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Richland County - Part I Crime Victims Characteristics by Offense Type[1]

Total Victims –11,224

	All Crimes		***Homicide***		***Rape***		***Robbery***		***Aggravated Assault***	
	Number of Incidents	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*
Gender										
Female	4993	47.1	23	21.5	553	98.8	844	34.7	3573	47.4
Male	5616	52.9	84	78.5	7	1.3	1585	65.3	3940	52.2
Missing/Unknown	615						585		30	
Age of Suspect										
Youth - 12-24 years	4116	38.9	28	26.4	341	60.9	856	35.2	2891	38.3
(12-17 years)	*1500*	*14.2*	*4*	*3.8*	*224*	*40.0*	*166*	*6.8*	*1106*	*14.8*
(18-24 years)	*2616*	*24.7*	*24*	*22.6*	*117*	*20.9*	*690*	*28.4*	*1785*	*23.9*
Non Youth	6455	61.1	78	73.6	219	39.1	1577	64.8	4581	61.3
Missing	643		1		0		581		71	
Race										
Asian	121	1.1	1	0.9	2	0.4	86	2.9	32	0.4
Black	7148	63.7	82	76.6	371	66.3	1249	41.4	5446	72.2
Native American	26	0.2	0	0.0	1	0.2	18	0.6	7	0.1
Unknown	663	5.9	0	0.0	3	0.5	598	19.8	62	0.8
White	2900	25.8	21	19.6	172	30.7	889	29.5	1818	24.1
Hispanic	366	3.3	3	2.8	11	2.0	174	5.8	178	2.4

[1] There is more victims than violent crime incidents given there may be more than one victim per incident.

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Richland County - Part I Crime Victims by Offense Year[1]

Total Victims – 11,224

	2002		***2003***		***2004***		***2005***		***2006***		***2007 (January 1-April 30)***	
	Number of Incidents	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*
Gender												
Female	960	46.9	1062	48.9	866	44.2	790	45.5	981	49.1	334	47.9
Male	1086	53.1	1110	51.1	1094	55.8	945	54.5	1017	50.9	364	52.1
Missing/Unknown	130		146		94		88		112		45	
Age of Suspect												
Youth - 12-24 years	787	38.7	825	38.3	767	39.3	706	40.7	783	39.1	248	35.6
(12-17 years)	*247*	*12.2*	*316*	*14.7*	*289*	*14.8*	*307*	*17.7*	*259*	*12.9*	*82*	*11.8*
(18-24 years)	*540*	*26.6*	*509*	*23.6*	*478*	*24.5*	*399*	*23.0*	*524*	*26.1*	*166*	*23.8*
Non Youth	1244	61.3	1331	61.7	1183	60.7	1027	59.3	1221	60.9	449	64.4
Missing	145		162		104		90		106		46	
Race												
Asian	22	1.0	19	0.8	12	0.6	25	1.4	30	1.4	13	1.7
Black	1377	63.3	1458	62.9	1337	65.1	1164	63.9	1332	63.1	480	64.6
Native American	4	0.2	2	0.1	3	0.1	2	0.1	15	0.7	0	0.0
Unknown	141	6.5	158	6.9	100	4.8	92	5.1	122	5.8	50	6.7
White	577	26.5	630	27.2	516	25.1	467	25.6	534	25.3	176	23.7
Hispanic	55	2.5	51	2.2	86	4.2	73	4.0	77	3.6	24	3.2
Crime												
Homicide	21		9		18		20		31		8	
Rape	114		118		105		101		93		29	
Robbery	677		693		512		437		517		178	
Aggravated Assault	1364		1498		1419		1265		1469		528	

[1] There is more victims than violent crime incidents given there may be more than one victim per incident.

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Area Analysis

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Broad River/I-20 Area - Comparison of Youth and Non-Youth Incident Characteristics of Suspects[1,2]

	Youth		*Non-Youth*	
	Number of Incidents	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*
Firearm Involved				
Yes	142	39.8	106	23.6
No	215	60.2	343	76.4
Number of Suspects				
One suspect	295	83.6	360	81.1
More than one suspect	58	16.4	84	18.9
Missing/Unknown	4		5	
Gender				
Female	55	15.6	75	16.9
Male	282	80.1	330	74.5
Male & Female	15	4.3	38	8.6
Missing/Unknown	5		6	
Race				
Asian	0	0.0	0	0.0
Black	311	87.1	355	79.1
Native American	0	0.0	1	0.2
Unknown	8	2.2	6	1.3
White	30	8.4	70	15.6
Hispanic	2	0.6	2	0.4
More than one race	6	1.7	15	3.3
Victim-Offender Relation[3]				
Stranger	89	24.9	92	20.8
Acquaintance	103	28.9	118	26.3
Unknown relation	73	20.4	63	14.0
Interpersonal relation (Spouse, Boyfriend-Girlfriend, Friend, Child, etc…)	89	24.9	169	37.6
No Relation Information	3	0.8	7	1.6

[1] Analysis represents the number of independent incidents for each Part I crime. Within each incident there is the potential for multiple offenses, as well as multiple suspects and victims.

[2] The classification of incident age group was based on all victim(s) and suspect(s) involved. All victims or suspects had to be between the ages of 12 and 24 for the incident to be classified as youth involved.

[3] Given the analysis is at the incident level, the victim-offender relationship is based on all individuals involved in the incident, where having an interpersonal relation has classification primacy followed by acquaintance. An incident was only classified as "stranger" if none of the victims had a personal or acquaintance relationship with any of the suspects.

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Five Points Area - Comparison of Youth and Non-Youth Incident Characteristics of Suspects[1,2]

	Youth		*Non-Youth*	
	Number of Incidents	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*
Firearm Involved				
Yes	96	44.9	67	30.9
No	118	55.1	150	69.1
Number of Suspects				
One suspect	105	53.3	142	72.4
More than one suspect	92	46.7	54	27.6
Missing/Unknown	17		21	
Gender				
Female	10	5.1	19	9.7
Male	180	91.8	167	85.6
Male & Female	6	3.1	9	4.6
Missing/Unknown	18		22	
Race				
Asian	2	0.9	1	.5
Black	131	61.2	160	73.7
Native American	0	0.0	0	0.0
Unknown	20	9.3	24	11.0
White	55	25.7	24	11.1
Hispanic	1	0.5	0	0.0
More than one race	5	2.3	8	3.7
Victim-Offender Relation[3]				
Stranger	144	67.3	133	61.3
Acquaintance	26	12.1	28	12.9
Unknown relation	18	8.4	20	9.2
Interpersonal relation (Spouse, Boyfriend-Girlfriend, Friend, Child, etc…)	9	4.2	15	6.9
No Relation Information	17	7.9	21	9.7

[1] Analysis represents the number of independent incidents for each Part I crime. Within each incident there is the potential for multiple offenses, as well as multiple suspects and victims.

[2] The classification of incident age group was based on all victim(s) and suspect(s) involved. All victims or suspects had to be between the ages of 12 and 24 for the incident to be classified as youth involved.

[3] Given the analysis is at the incident level, the victim-offender relationship is based on all individuals involved in the incident, where having an interpersonal relation has classification primacy followed by acquaintance. An incident was only classified as “stranger” if none of the victims had a personal or acquaintance relationship with any of the suspects.

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North Main Area - Comparison of Youth and Non-Youth Incident Characteristics of Suspects[1,2]

	Youth		*Non-Youth*	
	Number of Incidents	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*
Firearm Involved				
Yes	201	53.9	140	31.7
No	172	46.1	301	68.3
Number of Suspects				
One suspect	211	63.4	303	77.7
More than one suspect	122	36.6	87	22.3
Missing/Unknown	40		51	
Gender				
Female	36	10.9	78	20.0
Male	284	86.1	283	72.6
Male & Female	10	3.0	29	7.4
Missing/Unknown	43		51	
Race				
Asian	0	0.0	0	0.0
Black	328	87.9	371	84.1
Native American	0	0.0	0	0.0
Unknown	43	11.5	51	11.6
White	0	0.0	13	2.9
Hispanic	0	0.0	1	0.2
More than one race	2	0.5	5	1.1
Victim-Offender Relation[3]				
Stranger	152	40.8	112	25.4
Acquaintance	65	17.4	121	27.4
Unknown relation	60	16.1	45	10.2
Interpersonal relation (Spouse, Boyfriend-Girlfriend, Friend, Child, etc…)	55	14.7	113	25.6
No Relation Information	41	11.0	50	11.3

[1] Analysis represents the number of independent incidents for each Part I crime. Within each incident there is the potential for multiple offenses, as well as multiple suspects and victims.

[2] The classification of incident age group was based on all victim(s) and suspect(s) involved. All victims or suspects had to be between the ages of 12 and 24 for the incident to be classified as youth involved.

[3] Given the analysis is at the incident level, the victim-offender relationship is based on all individuals involved in the incident, where having an interpersonal relation has classification primacy followed by acquaintance. An incident was only classified as "stranger" if none of the victims had a personal or acquaintance relationship with any of the suspects.

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School House/Two Notch Area - Comparison of Youth and Non-Youth Incident Characteristics of Suspects[1,2]

	Youth		*Non-Youth*	
	Number of Incidents	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*
Firearm Involved				
Yes	89	54.6	68	40.2
No	74	45.4	101	59.8
Number of Suspects				
One suspect	91	65.5	113	75.3
More than one suspect	48	34.5	37	24.7
Missing/Unknown	24		19	
Gender				
Female	15	10.8	23	15.3
Male	121	87.1	113	75.3
Male & Female	3	2.2	14	9.3
Missing/Unknown	24		19	
Race				
Asian	0	0.0	0	0.0
Black	138	84.7	147	87.0
Native American	0	0.0	0	0.0
Unknown	24	14.7	19	11.2
White	1	.6	2	1.2
Hispanic	0	0.0	0	0.0
More than one race	0	0.0	1	0.6
Victim-Offender Relation[3]				
Stranger	73	44.8	58	34.3
Acquaintance	37	22.7	58	34.3
Unknown relation	13	8.0	11	6.5
Interpersonal relation (Spouse, Boyfriend-Girlfriend, Friend, Child, etc…)	15	9.2	23	13.6
No Relation Information	25	15.3	19	11.2

[1] Analysis represents the number of independent incidents for each Part I crime. Within each incident there is the potential for multiple offenses, as well as multiple suspects and victims.

[2] The classification of incident age group was based on all victim(s) and suspect(s) involved. All victims or suspects had to be between the ages of 12 and 24 for the incident to be classified as youth involved.

[3] Given the analysis is at the incident level, the victim-offender relationship is based on all individuals involved in the incident, where having an interpersonal relation has classification primacy followed by acquaintance. An incident was only classified as "stranger" if none of the victims had a personal or acquaintance relationship with any of the suspects.

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Taylor/Two Notch Area - Comparison of Youth and Non-Youth Incident Characteristics of Suspects[1,2]

	Youth		*Non-Youth*	
	Number of Incidents	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*
Firearm Involved				
Yes	127	59.3	55	19.3
No	87	40.7	230	80.7
Number of Suspects				
One suspect	116	58.0	202	81.1
More than one suspect	84	42.0	47	18.9
Missing/Unknown	14		36	
Gender				
Female	17	8.5	54	21.7
Male	176	88.0	185	74.3
Male & Female	7	3.5	10	4.0
Missing/Unknown	14		36	
Race				
Asian	0	0.0	1	0.4
Black	198	92.5	241	84.6
Native American	0	0.0	0	0.0
Unknown	14	6.5	36	12.6
White	0	0.0	5	1.8
Hispanic	0	0.0	0	0.0
More than one race	2	0.9	2	0.7
Victim-Offender Relation[3]				
Stranger	124	57.9	97	34.0
Acquaintance	35	16.4	78	27.4
Unknown relation	13	6.1	19	6.7
Interpersonal relation (Spouse, Boyfriend-Girlfriend, Friend, Child, etc…)	28	13.1	55	19.3
No Relation Information	14	6.5	36	12.6

[1] Analysis represents the number of independent incidents for each Part I crime. Within each incident there is the potential for multiple offenses, as well as multiple suspects and victims.

[2] The classification of incident age group was based on all victim(s) and suspect(s) involved. All victims or suspects had to be between the ages of 12 and 24 for the incident to be classified as youth involved.

[3] Given the analysis is at the incident level, the victim-offender relationship is based on all individuals involved in the incident, where having an interpersonal relation has classification primacy followed by acquaintance. An incident was only classified as "stranger" if none of the victims had a personal or acquaintance relationship with any of the suspects.

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Two Notch/Decker Boulevard Area - Comparison of Youth and Non-Youth Incident Characteristics of Suspects[1,2]

	Youth		*Non-Youth*	
	Number of Incidents	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*
Firearm Involved				
Yes	133	45.1	115	29.6
No	162	54.9	273	70.4
Number of Suspects				
One suspect	241	81.7	305	78.6
More than one suspect	54	18.3	83	21.4
Missing/Unknown	0		0	
Gender				
Female	47	16.0	79	20.4
Male	239	81.3	286	73.7
Male & Female	8	2.7	23	5.9
Missing/Unknown	1		0	
Race				
Asian	0	0.0	1	0.3
Black	267	90.5	329	84.8
Native American	0	0.0	0	0.0
Unknown	3	1.0	0	0.0
White	11	3.7	41	10.6
Hispanic	10	3.4	7	1.8
More than one race	4	1.4	10	2.6
Victim-Offender Relation[3]				
Stranger	108	36.6	91	23.6
Acquaintance	82	27.8	101	26.0
Unknown relation	55	18.6	50	12.9
Interpersonal relation (Spouse, Boyfriend-Girlfriend, Friend, Child, etc…)	49	16.6	144	37.1
No Relation Information	1	0.3	2	0.5

[1] Analysis represents the number of independent incidents for each Part I crime. Within each incident there is the potential for multiple offenses, as well as multiple suspects and victims.

[2] The classification of incident age group was based on all victim(s) and suspect(s) involved. All victims or suspects had to be between the ages of 12 and 24 for the incident to be classified as youth involved.

[3] Given the analysis is at the incident level, the victim-offender relationship is based on all individuals involved in the incident, where having an interpersonal relation has classification primacy followed by acquaintance. An incident was only classified as "stranger" if none of the victims had a personal or acquaintance relationship with any of the suspects.

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W. Beltline - Comparison of Youth and Non-Youth Incident Characteristics of Suspects[1,2]

	Youth		*Non-Youth*	
	Number of Incidents	*%*	*Number of Incidents*	*%*
Firearm Involved				
Yes	112	47.3	81	34.3
No	125	52.7	155	65.7
Number of Suspects				
One suspect	153	68.6	163	75.1
More than one suspect	70	31.4	54	24.9
Missing/Unknown	14		19	
Gender				
Female	27	12.3	40	18.4
Male	176	80.0	155	71.4
Male & Female	17	7.7	22	10.1
Missing/Unknown	17		19	
Race				
Asian	0	0.0	0	0.0
Black	215	90.7	215	91.1
Native American	0	0.0	0	0.0
Unknown	19	8.1	19	8.1
White	1	0.4	2	0.8
Hispanic	0	0.0	0	0.0
More than one race	2	0.9	0	0.0
Victim-Offender Relation[3]				
Stranger	74	31.2	73	30.9
Acquaintance	69	29.1	61	25.8
Unknown relation	28	11.8	18	7.6
Interpersonal relation (Spouse, Boyfriend-Girlfriend, Friend, Child, etc…)	52	21.9	64	27.1
No Relation Information	14	5.9	20	8.5

[1] Analysis represents the number of independent incidents for each Part I crime. Within each incident there is the potential for multiple offenses, as well as multiple suspects and victims.

[2] The classification of incident age group was based on all victim(s) and suspect(s) involved. All victims or suspects had to be between the ages of 12 and 24 for the incident to be classified as youth involved.

[3] Given the analysis is at the incident level, the victim-offender relationship is based on all individuals involved in the incident, where having an interpersonal relation has classification primacy followed by acquaintance. An incident was only classified as “stranger” if none of the victims had a personal or acquaintance relationship with any of the suspects.

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APPENDIX B:

Maps

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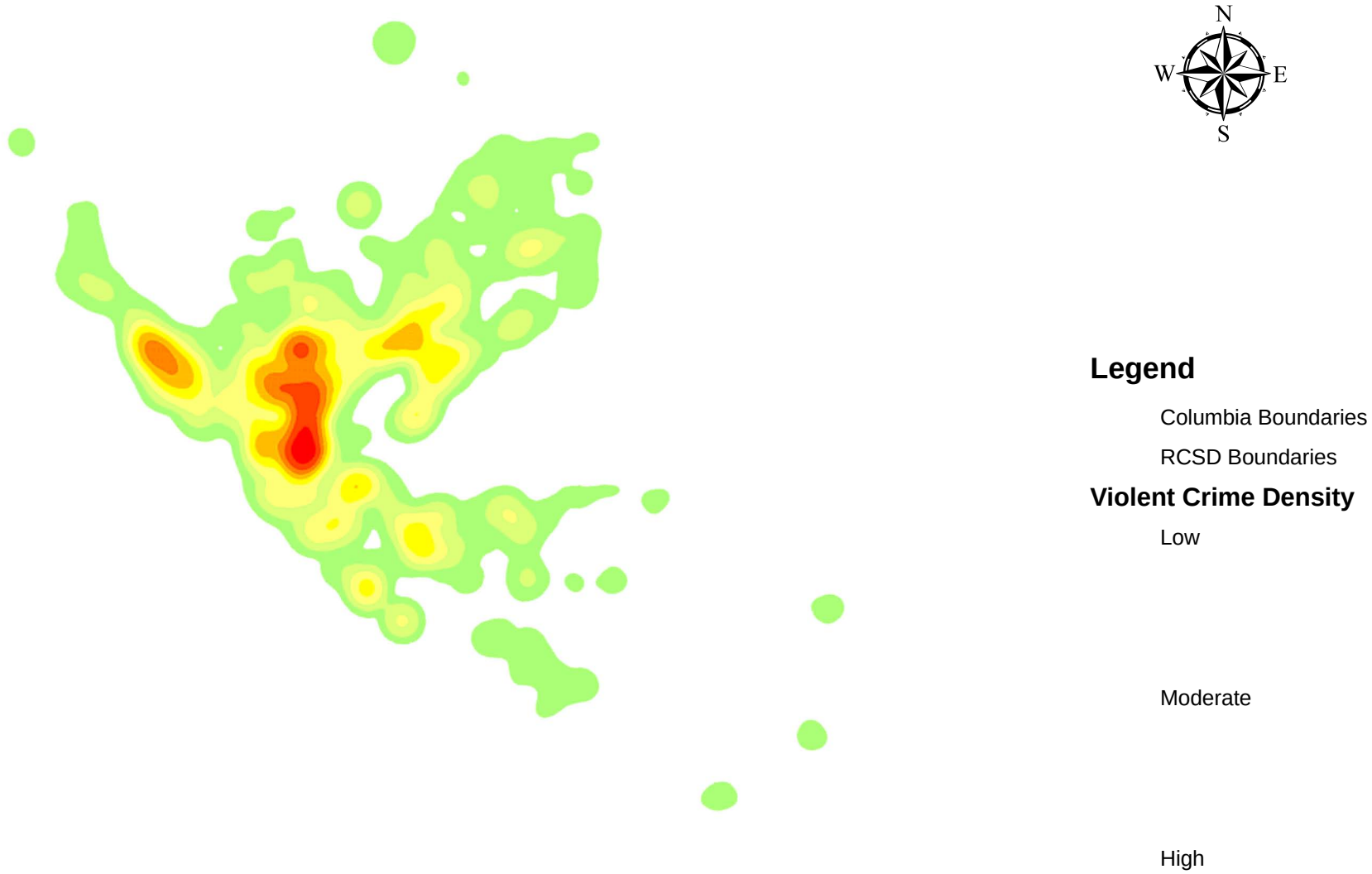
Columbia-Richland County Violent Crime* Density Map (January 1, 2002-April 30, 2007)



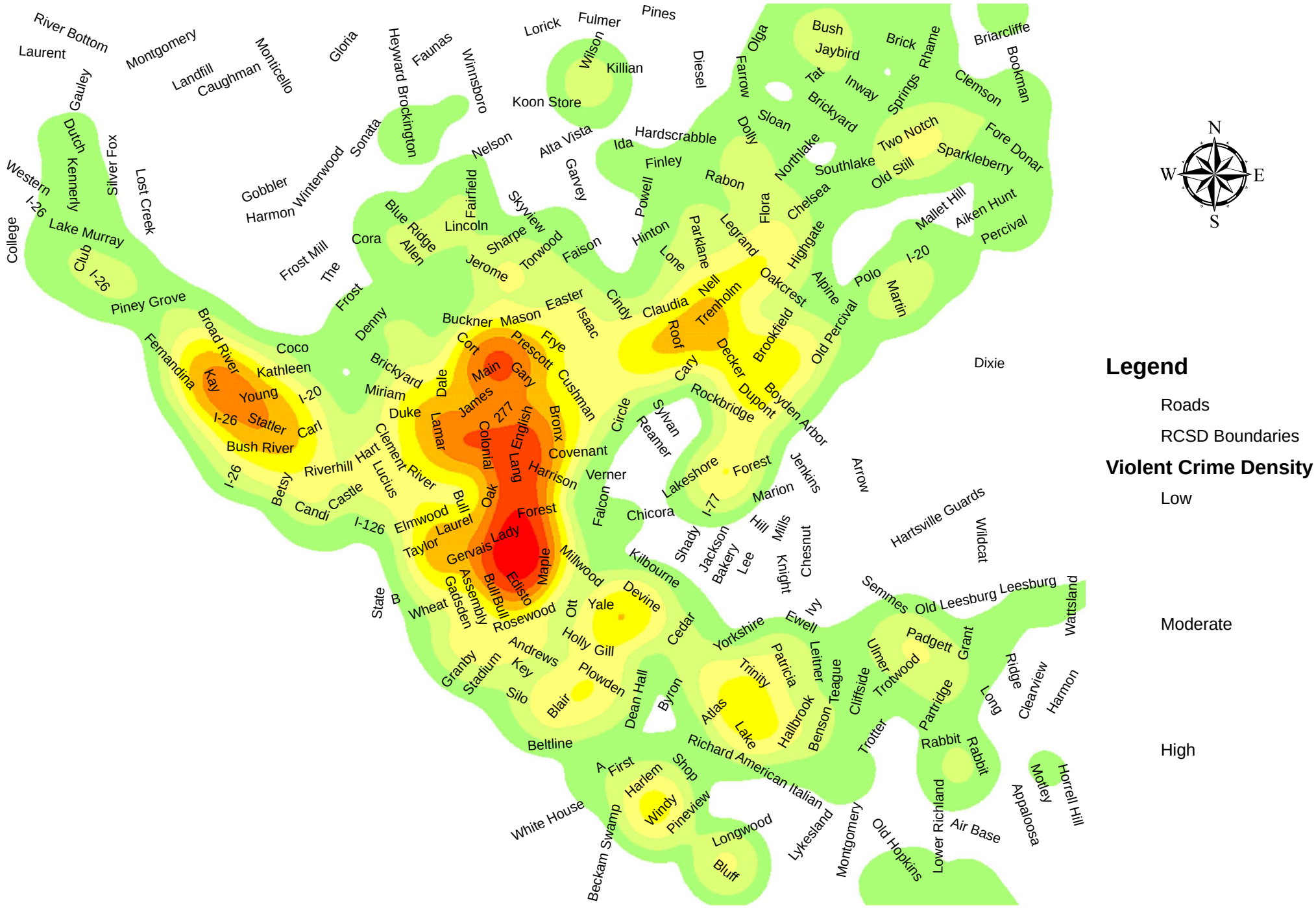
Miles

0 1.5 3 6 9 12

*Violent crime includes homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault

Digitized by South Carolina State Library

Columbia-Richland County Violent Crime* Density Map (January 1, 2002-April 30, 2007)



*Violent crime includes homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault

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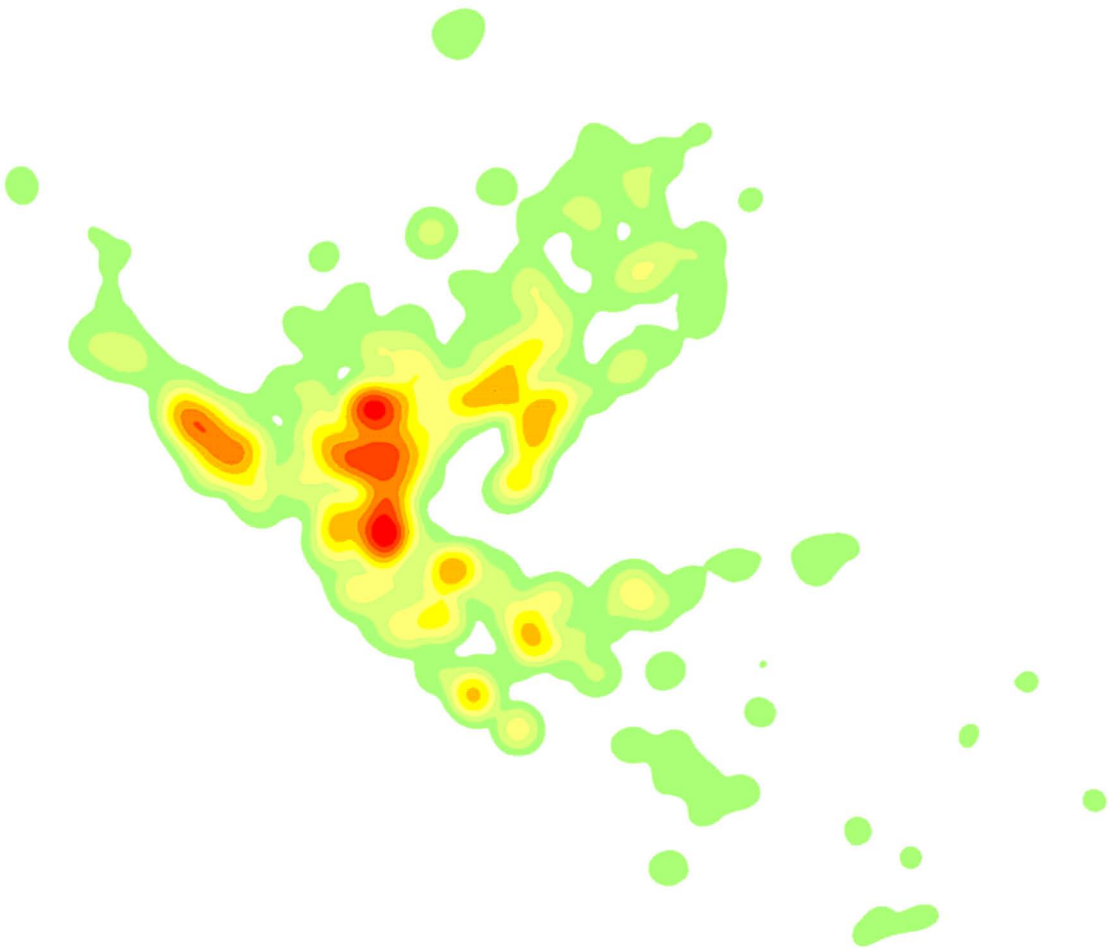
Columbia-Richland County Violent Crime* Density Map (January 1, 2006-April 30, 2007)



Legend

Columbia Boundaries

RCSD Boundaries

Violent Crime Density

Low

Moderate

High

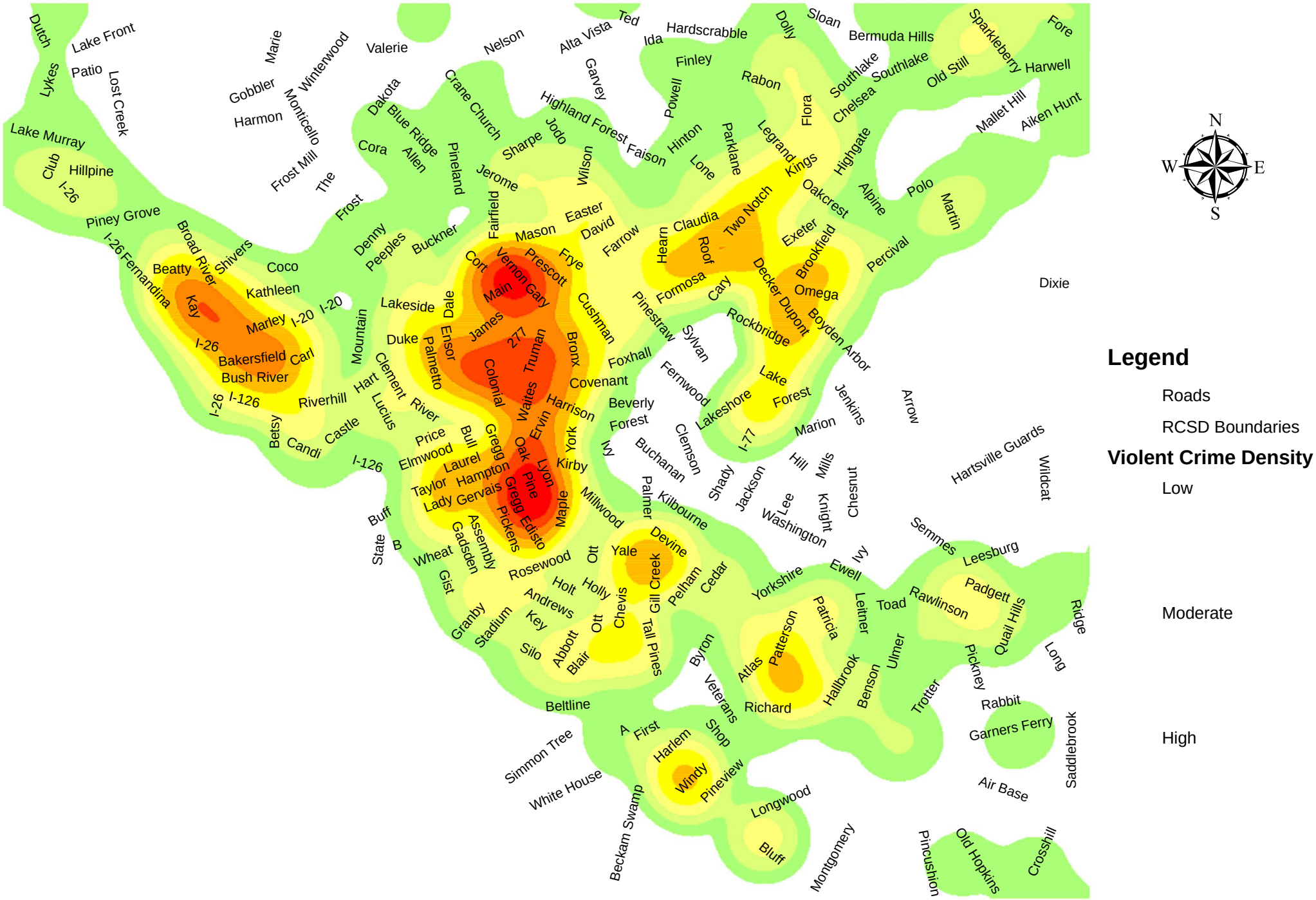
Miles

0 1.5 3 6 9 12

*Violent crime includes homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault

Digitized by South Carolina State Library

Columbia-Richland County Violent Crime* Density Map (January 1, 2006-April 30, 2007)



*Violent crime includes homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault

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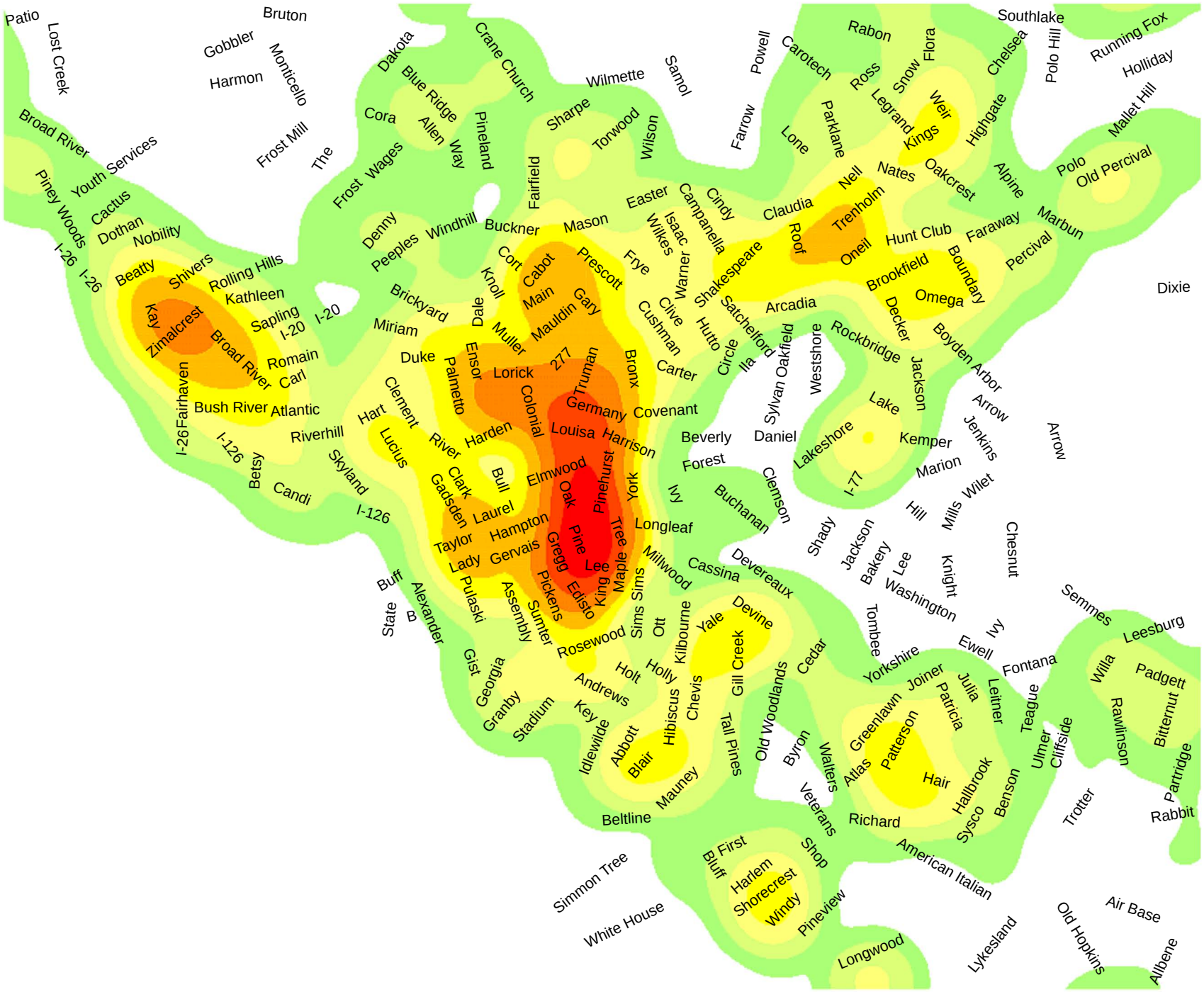
Columbia-Richland County Violent Crime* Density Map (2002)



Legend

Roads

RCSD Boundaries

Violent Crime Density

Low

Moderate

High

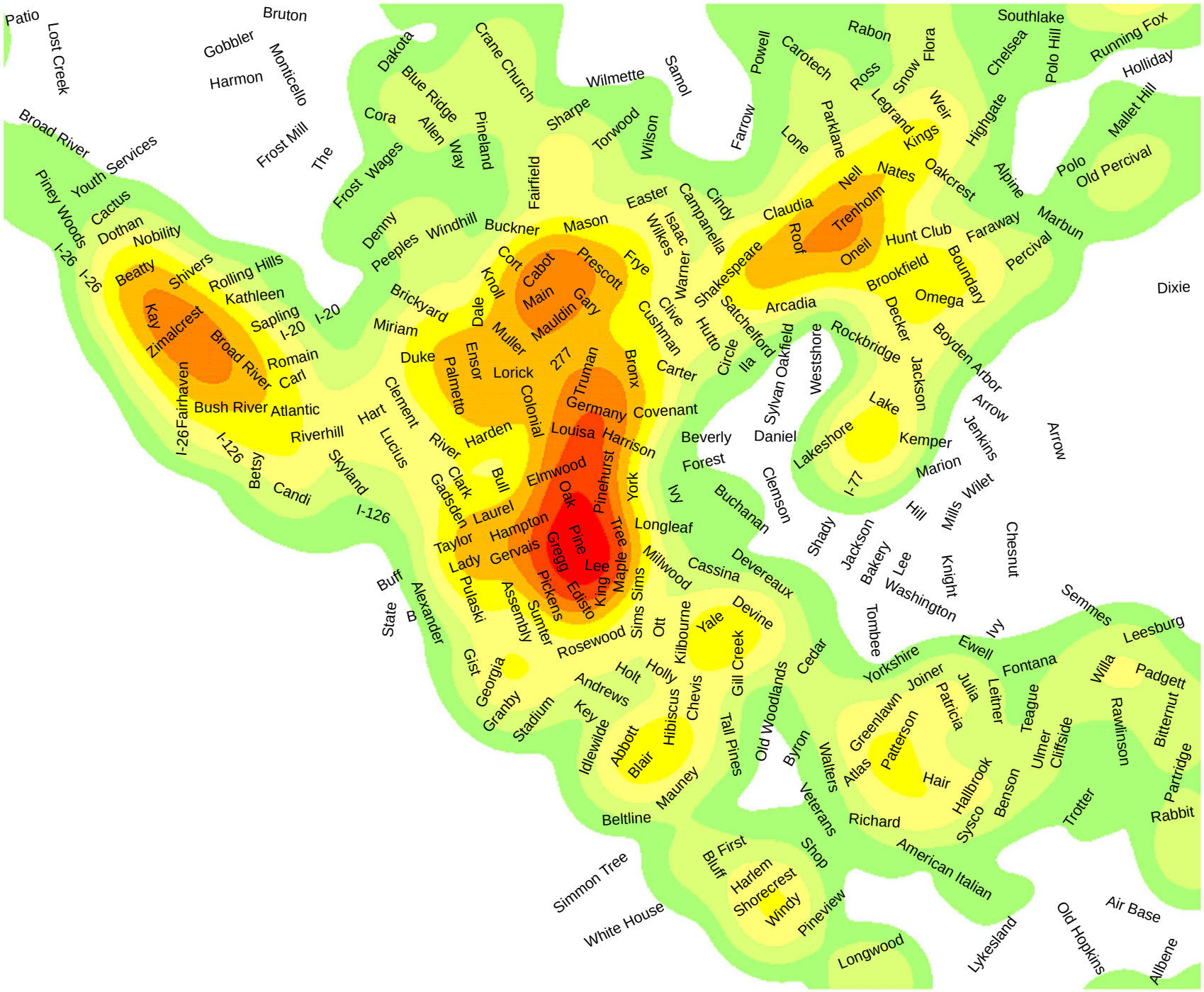
Miles

0 0.5 1 2 3 4

*Violent crime includes homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault

Digitized by South Carolina State Library

Columbia-Richland County Violent Crime* Density Map (2003)



Legend

Roads

RCSD Boundaries

Violent Crime Density

Low

Moderate

High

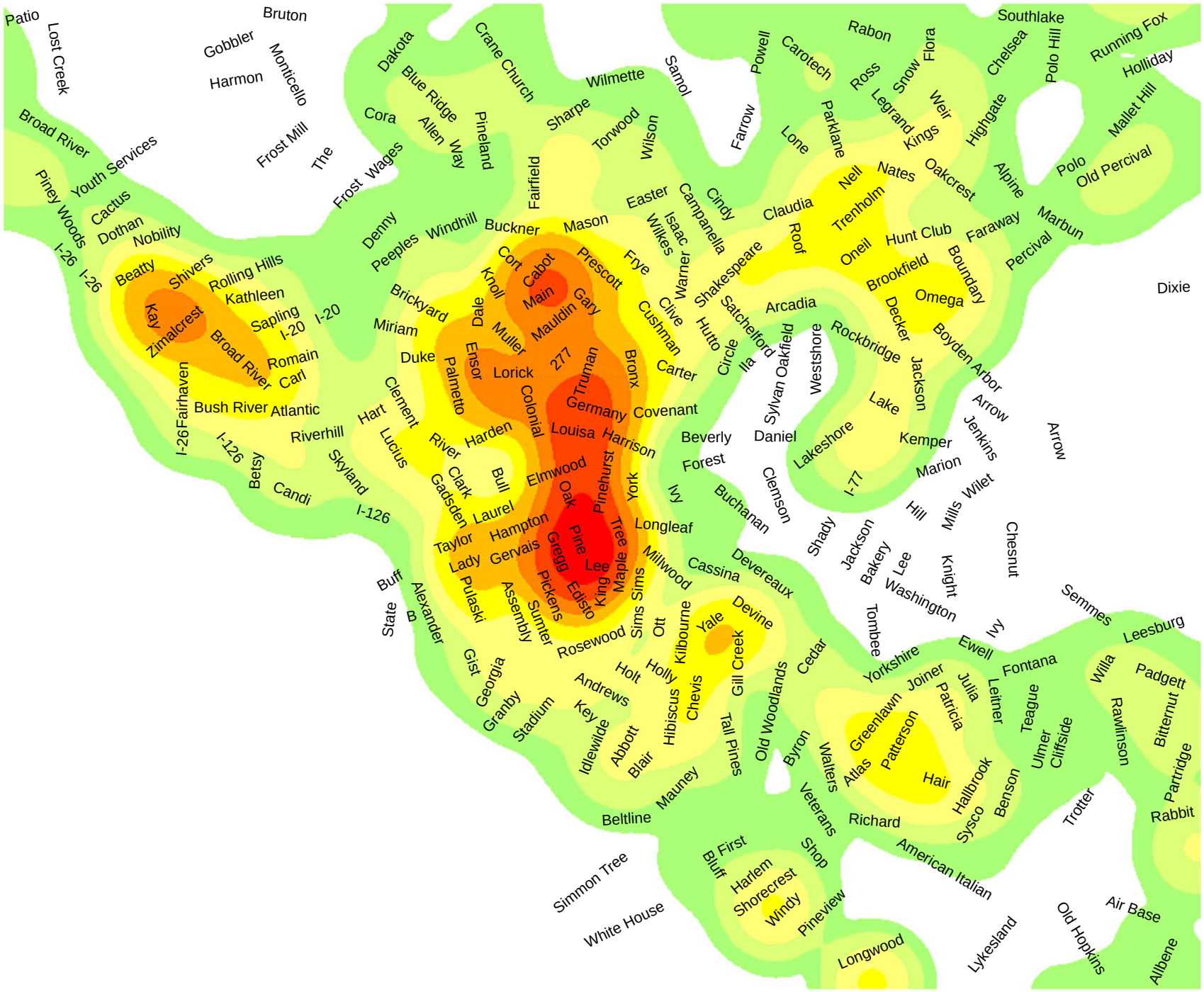
Miles

0 0.5 1 2 3 4

*Violent crime includes homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault

Digitized by South Carolina State Library

Columbia-Richland County Violent Crime* Density Map (2004)



Legend

Roads

RCSD Boundaries

Violent Crime Density

Low

Moderate

High

Miles

0 0.5 1 2 3 4

*Violent crime includes homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault

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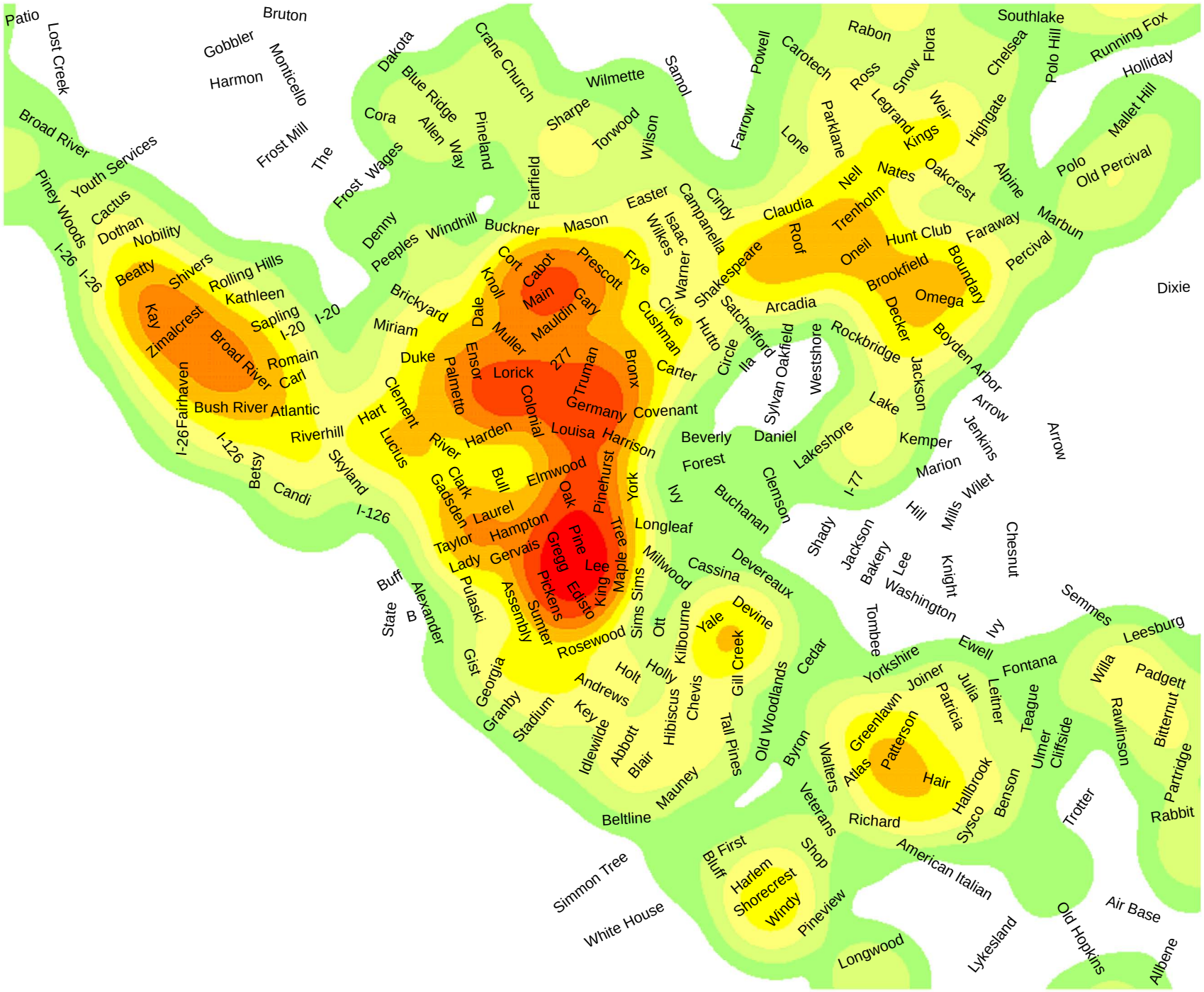
Columbia-Richland County Violent Crime* Density Map (2005)



Legend

Roads

RCSD Boundaries

Violent Crime Density

Low

Moderate

High

Miles

0 0.5 1 2 3 4

*Violent crime includes homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault

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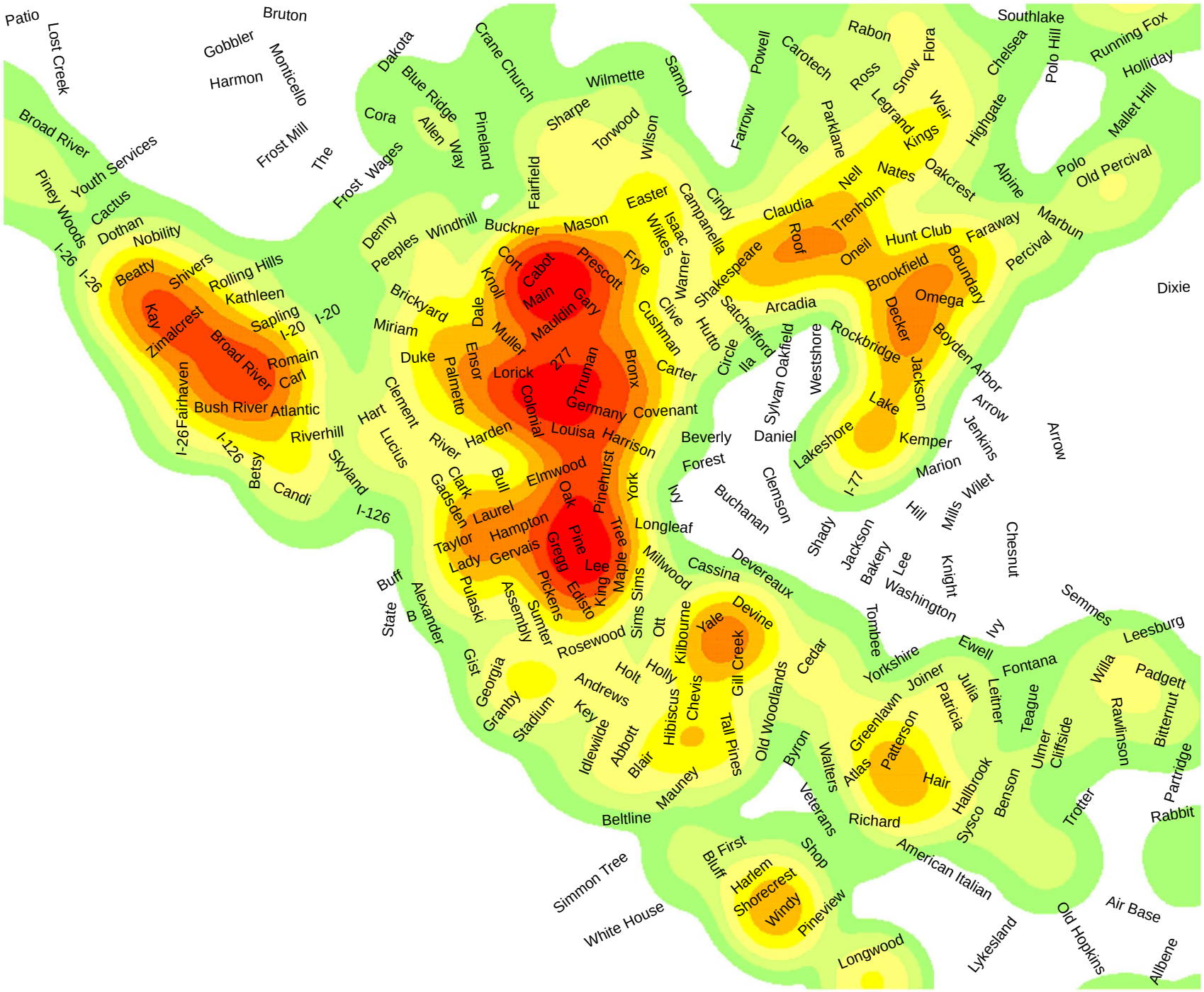
Columbia-Richland County Violent Crime* Density Map (2006)



Legend

Roads

RCSD Boundaries

Violent Crime Density

Low

Moderate

High

Miles

0 0.5 1 2 3 4

*Violent crime includes homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault

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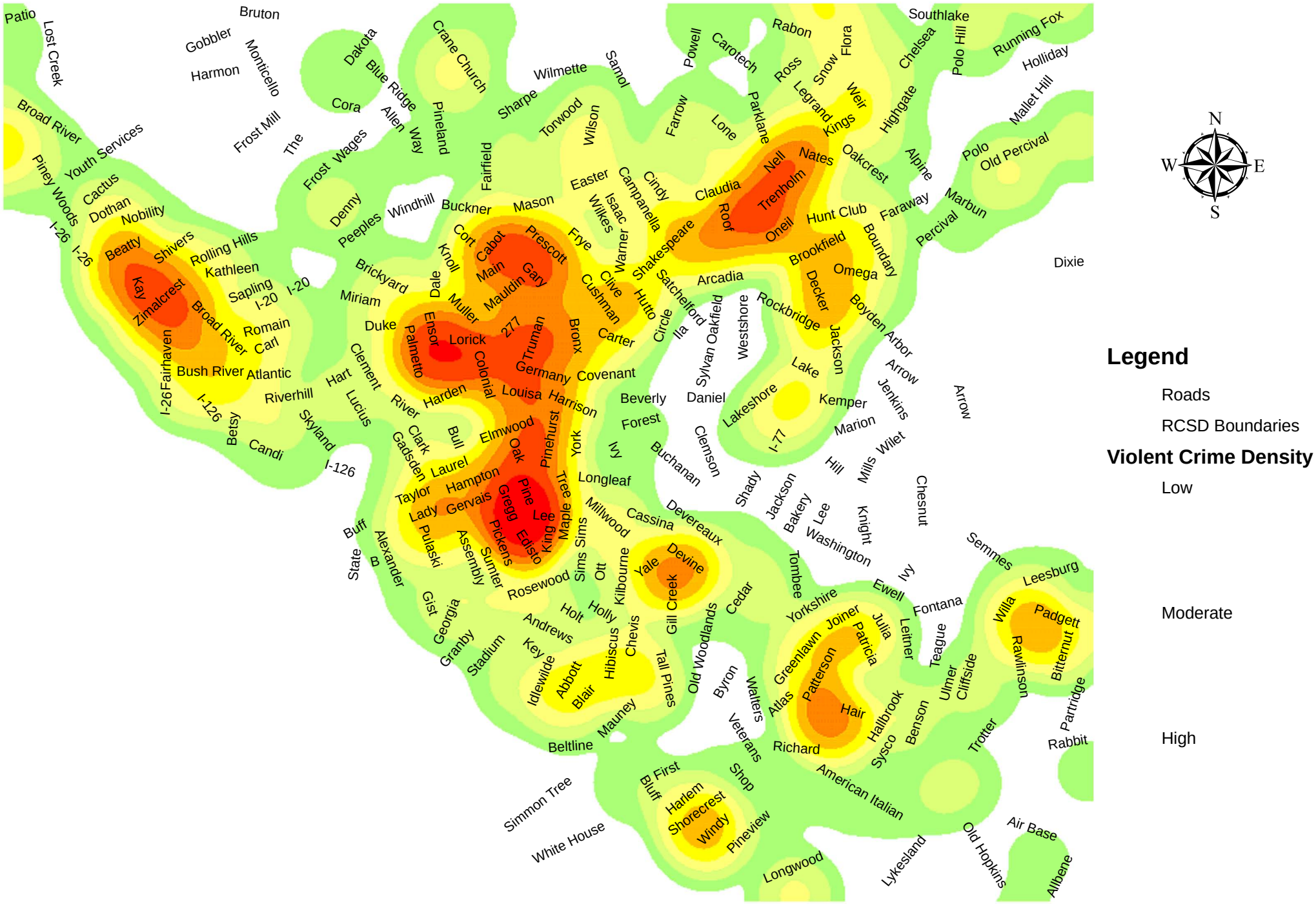
Columbia-Richland County Violent Crime* Density Map (2007)



*Violent crime includes homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault

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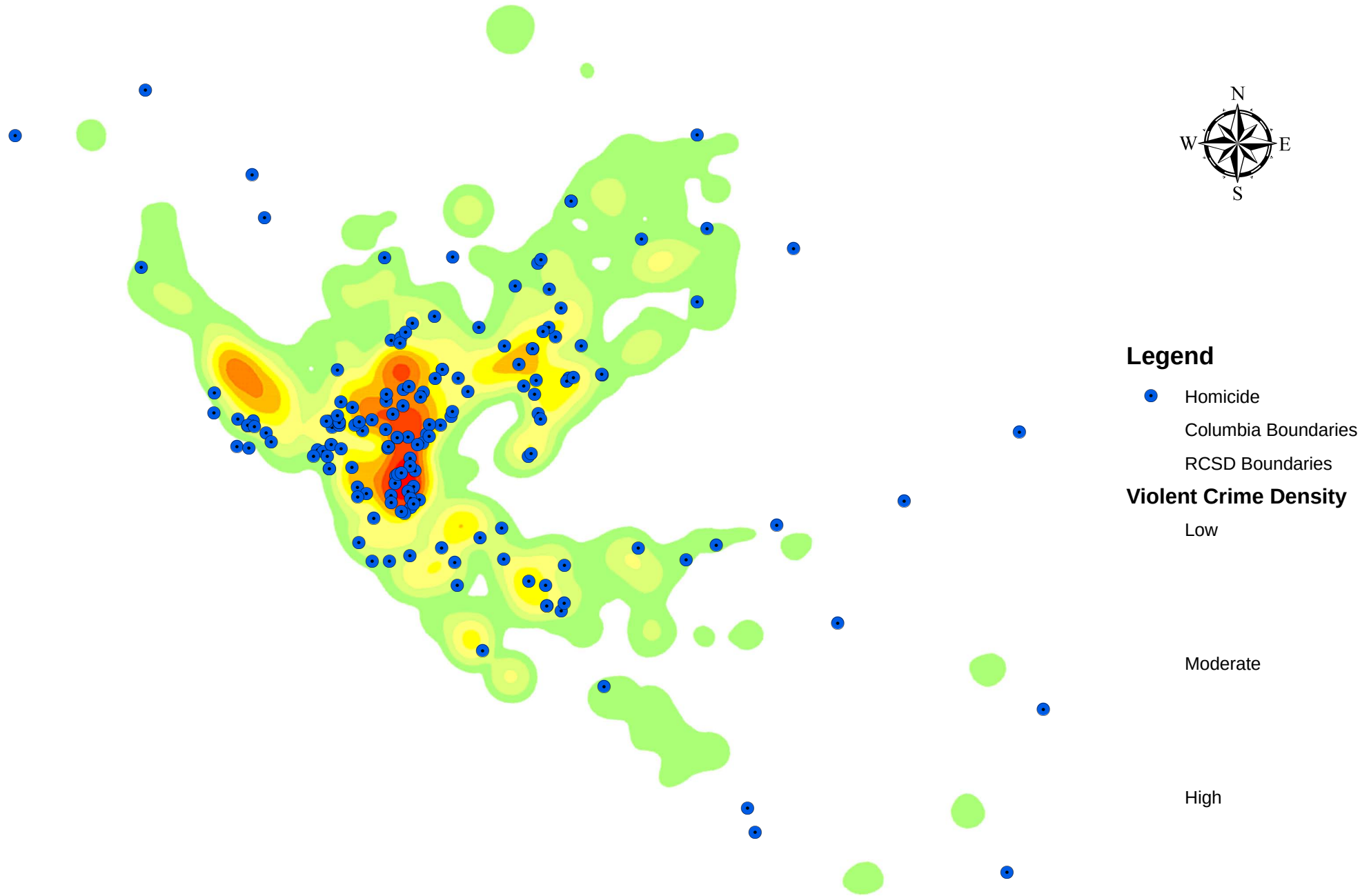
Columbia-Richland County Violent Crime* Density with Homicides (January 1, 2002-April 30, 2007)



Miles

0 1.25 2.5 5 7.5 10

*Violent crime includes homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault

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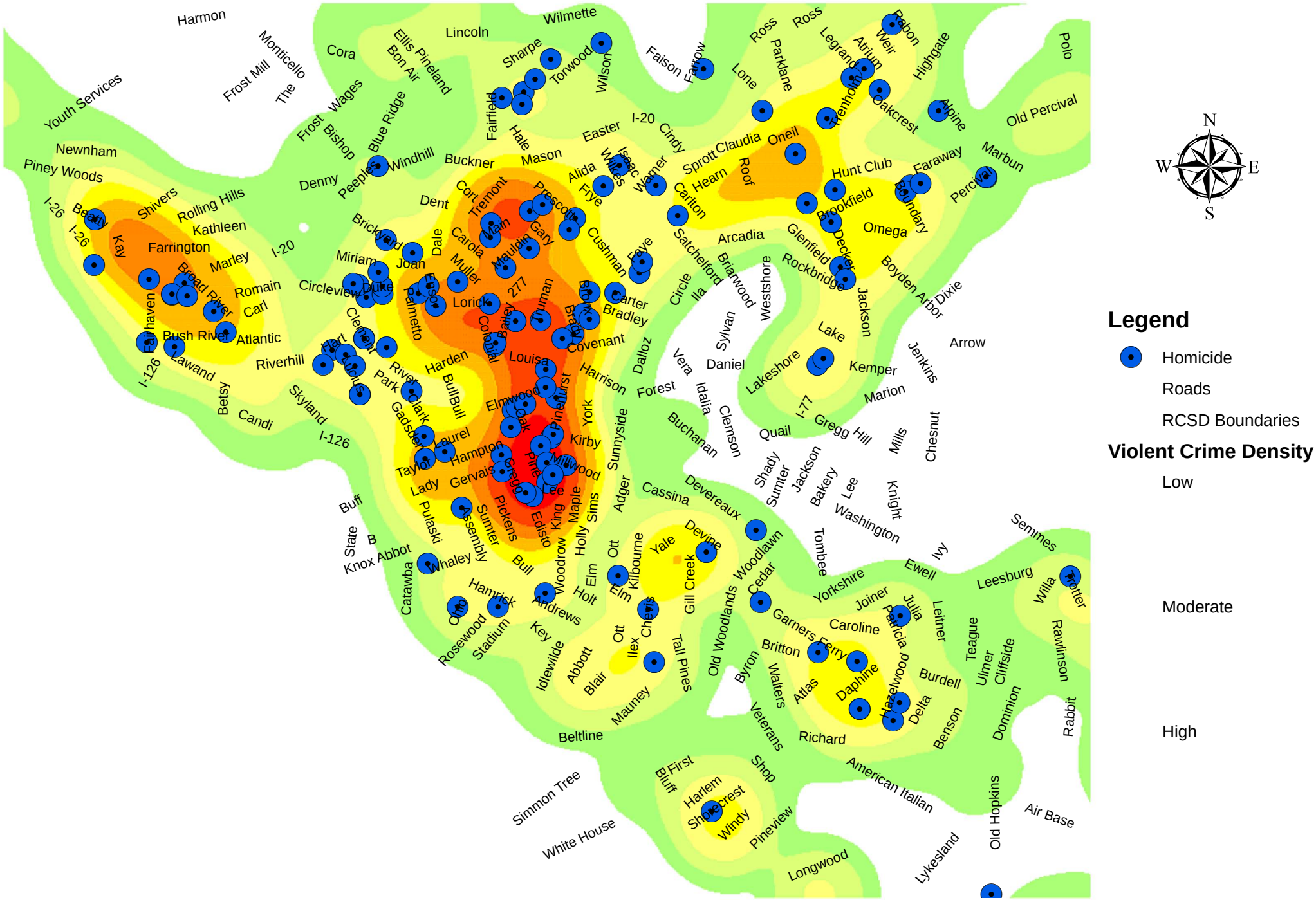
Columbia-Richland County Violent Crime* Density with Homicides (January 1, 2002-April 30, 2007)



*Violent crime includes homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault

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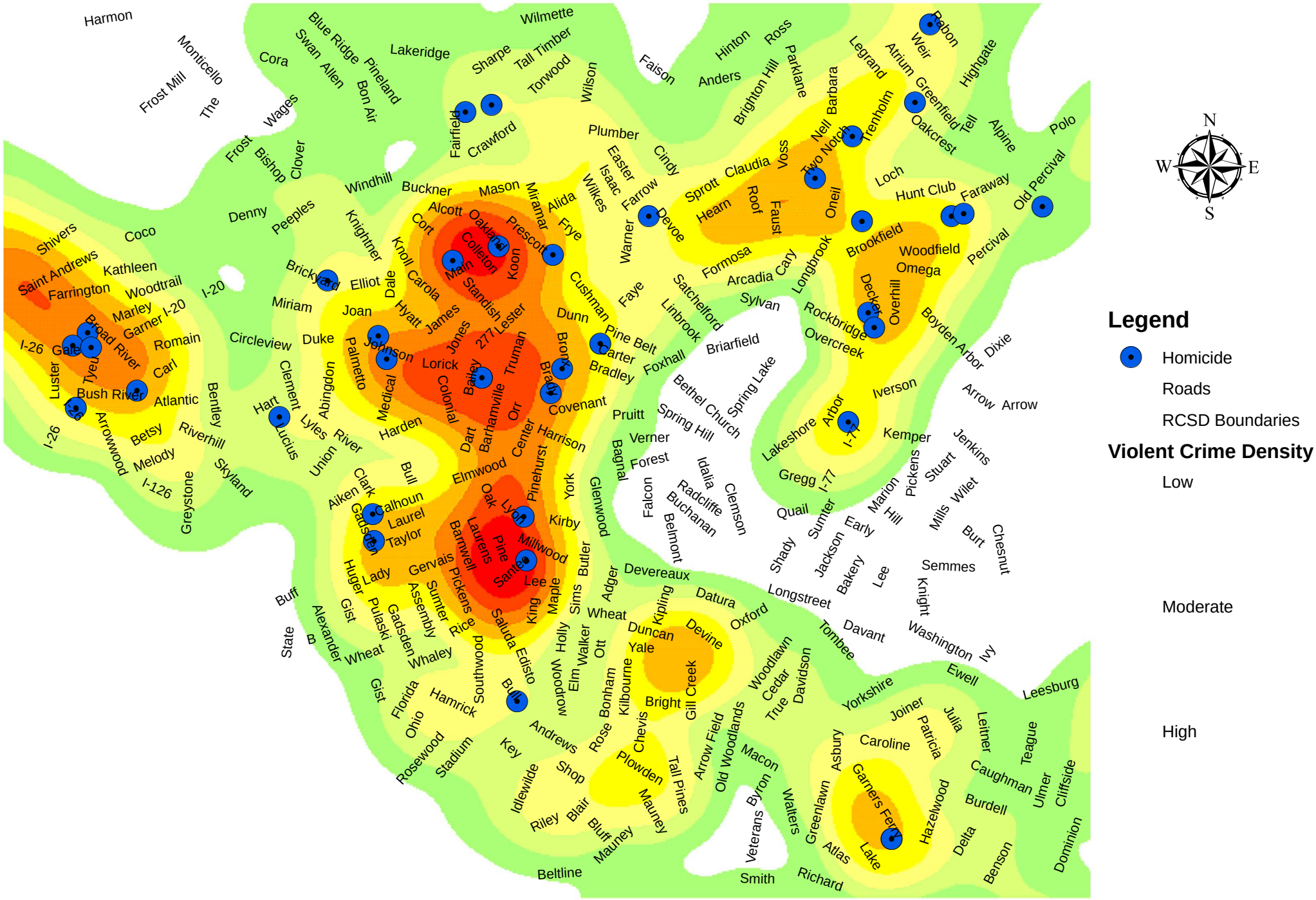
Columbia-Richland County Violent Crime* Density with Homicides (January 1, 2006-April 30, 2007)

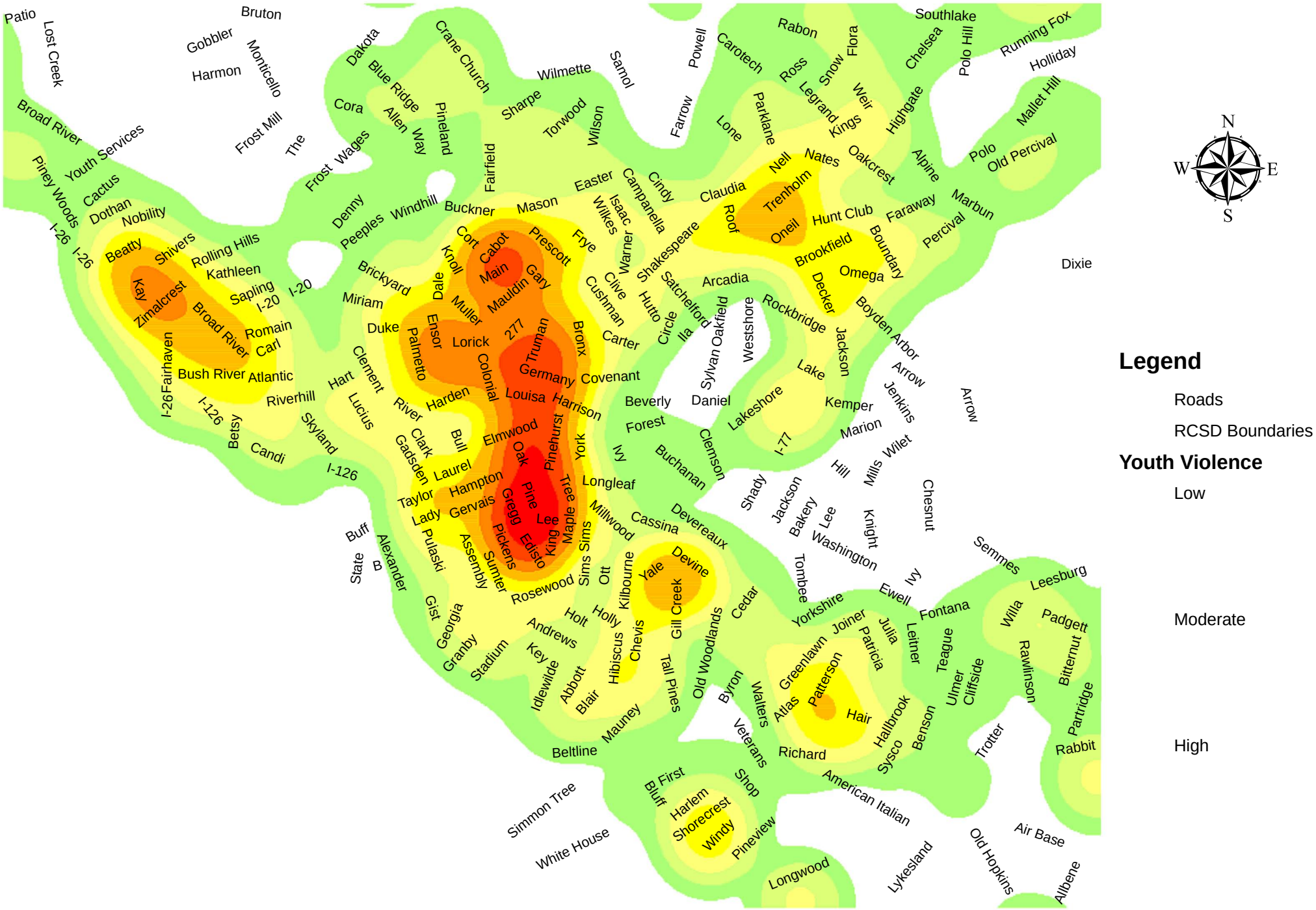
*Violent crime includes homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault

Digitized by South Carolina State Library

Columbia-Richland County Violent Crime* Density with Homicides (January 1, 2006-April 30, 2007)


Legend
Homicide
Roads
RCSD Boundaries
Violent Crime Density
Low
Moderate
High
N
S
E
W
Harmon
Monticello
Frost Mill
The
Cora
Blue Ridge
Swan Allen
Pineland
Bon Air
Lakeridge
Wilmette
Sharpe
Tall Timber
Torwood
Wilson
Faison
Hinton
Ross
Anders
Brighton Hill
Parklane
Legrand
Barbara
Atrium
Weir
Rabon
Highgate
Greenfield
Oakcrest
Tell
Alpine
Polo
Trenholm
Nell
Two Notch
Voss
Claudia
Sprott
Hearn
Roof
Faust
Oneil
Loch
Hunt Club
Faraway
Old Percival
Brookfield
Woodfield
Omega
Percival
Longbrook
Cary
Arcadia
Formosa
Sylvan
Rockbridge
Overcreek
Decker
Overhill
Boyden Arbor
Dixie
Arrow
Iverson
Kemper
Jenkins
Stuart
Pickens
Wilet
Mills
Burt
Chesnut
Semmes
Knight
Washington
Ivy
Ewell
Leesburg
Yorkshire
Joiner
Julia
Leitner
Teague
Caughman
Ulmer
Cliffside
Dominion
Benson
Delta
Burdell
Hazelwood
Garners Ferry
Caroline
Patricia
Asbury
Greenlawn
Walters
Veterans
Byron
Macon
Old Woodlands
Arrow Field
Tall Pines
Mauney
Plowden
Chevis
Rose
Bonham
Kilbourne
Gill Creek
Bright
Woodlawn
Cedar
True
Davidson
Tombee
Davant
Devine
Duncan
Yale
Kipling
Oxford
Datura
Longstreet
Devereaux
Wheat
Adger
Sims
Butler
Holly
Walker
Ott
Elm
Woodrow
Maple
King
Saluda
Edisto
Southwood
Rice
Pickens
Sumter
Assembly
Gadsden
Pulaski
Gist
Alexander
Wheat
Whaley
Buff
State
Huger
Lady
Gervais
Barnwell
Laurens
Pine
Santee
Lee
Millwood
Lyon
Oak
Kirby
Glenwood
Pinehurst
Elmwood
Bull
Clark
Aiken
Calhoun
Laurel
Taylor
Gadsden
Greystone
I-126
Skyland
Melody
Arrowwood
Riverhill
Betsy
Bentley
Atlantic
Bush River
Luster
Tyler
Gate
Broad River
Carl
Romain
Garner
Marley
Woodtrail
Farrington
Saint Andrews
Kathleen
Shivers
Coco
I-26
I-20
Denny
Peeples
Bishop
Clover
Frost
Wages
Fairfield
Crawford
Windhill
Buckner
Mason
Miramar
Alida
Wilkes
Isaac
Easter
Cindy
Plumber
Farrow
Devoe
Warner
Faye
Cushman
Dunn
Pine Belt
Carter
Bradley
Foxhall
Linbrook
Satchelford
Briarfield
Bethel Church
Spring Lake
Spring Hill
Pruitt
Verner
Forest
Bagnal
Idalia
Radcliffe
Clemson
Buchanan
Falcon
Belmont
Quail
Sumter
Shady
Jackson
Bakery
Lee
Early
Marion
Hill
Gregg
Lakeshore
Arbor
Knightner
Knoll
Carola
Dale
Hyatt
James
Jones
Lester
Truman
Brady
Covenant
Harrison
Center
Orr
Barhamville
Bailey
Colonial
Medical
Harden
Dart
Lorick
Johnson
Joan
Miriam
Elliot
Brickyard
Circleview
Duke
Palmetto
Abingdon
Clement
Lyles
Union
River
Hart
Lucius
Alcott
Oakland
Cort
Colleton
Main
Standish
Koon
Prescott
Frye

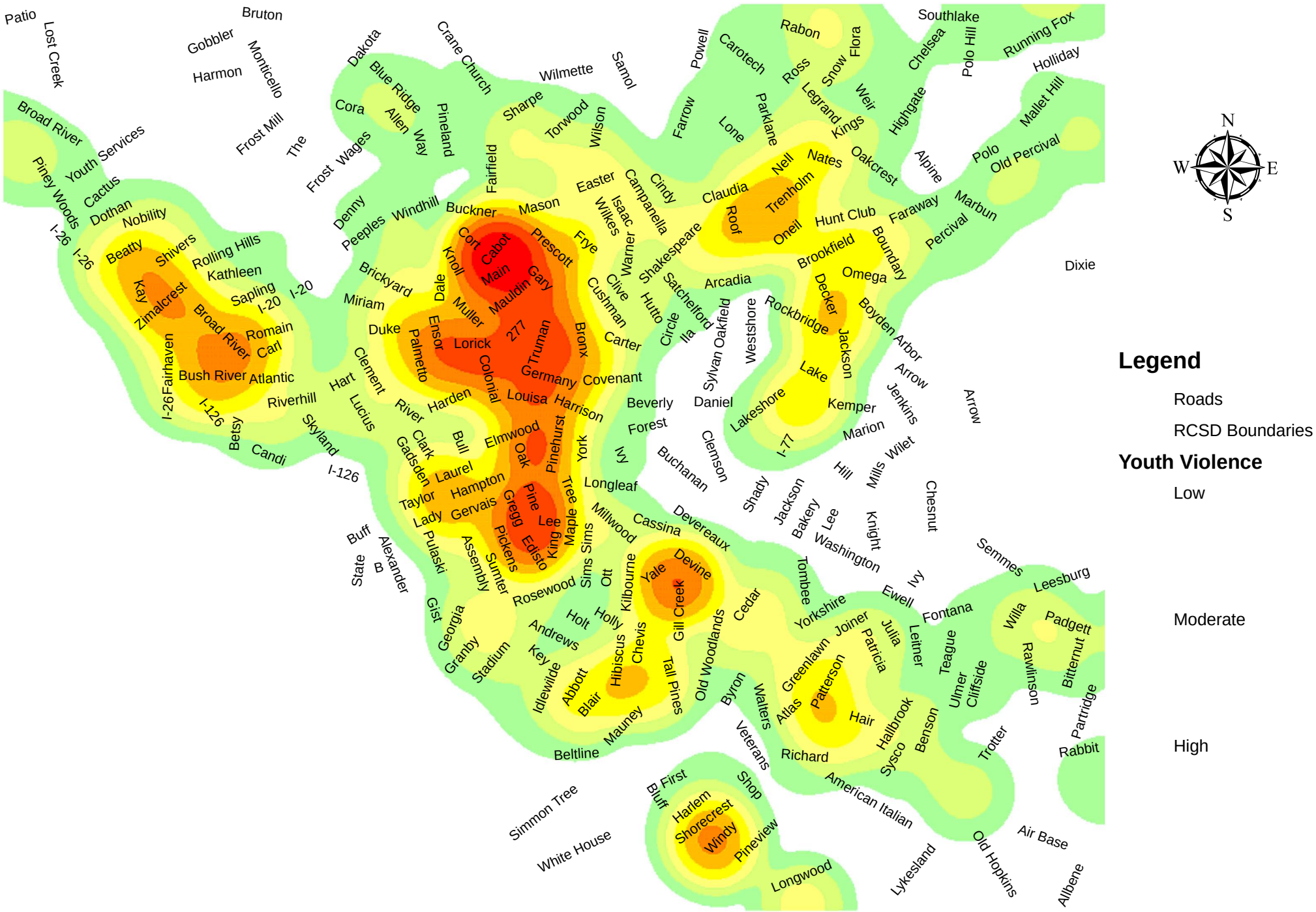
Columbia-Richland County Youth Violent Crime* Density Map (January 1, 2002-April 30, 2007)



*Violent crime includes homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault

Digitized by South Carolina State Library

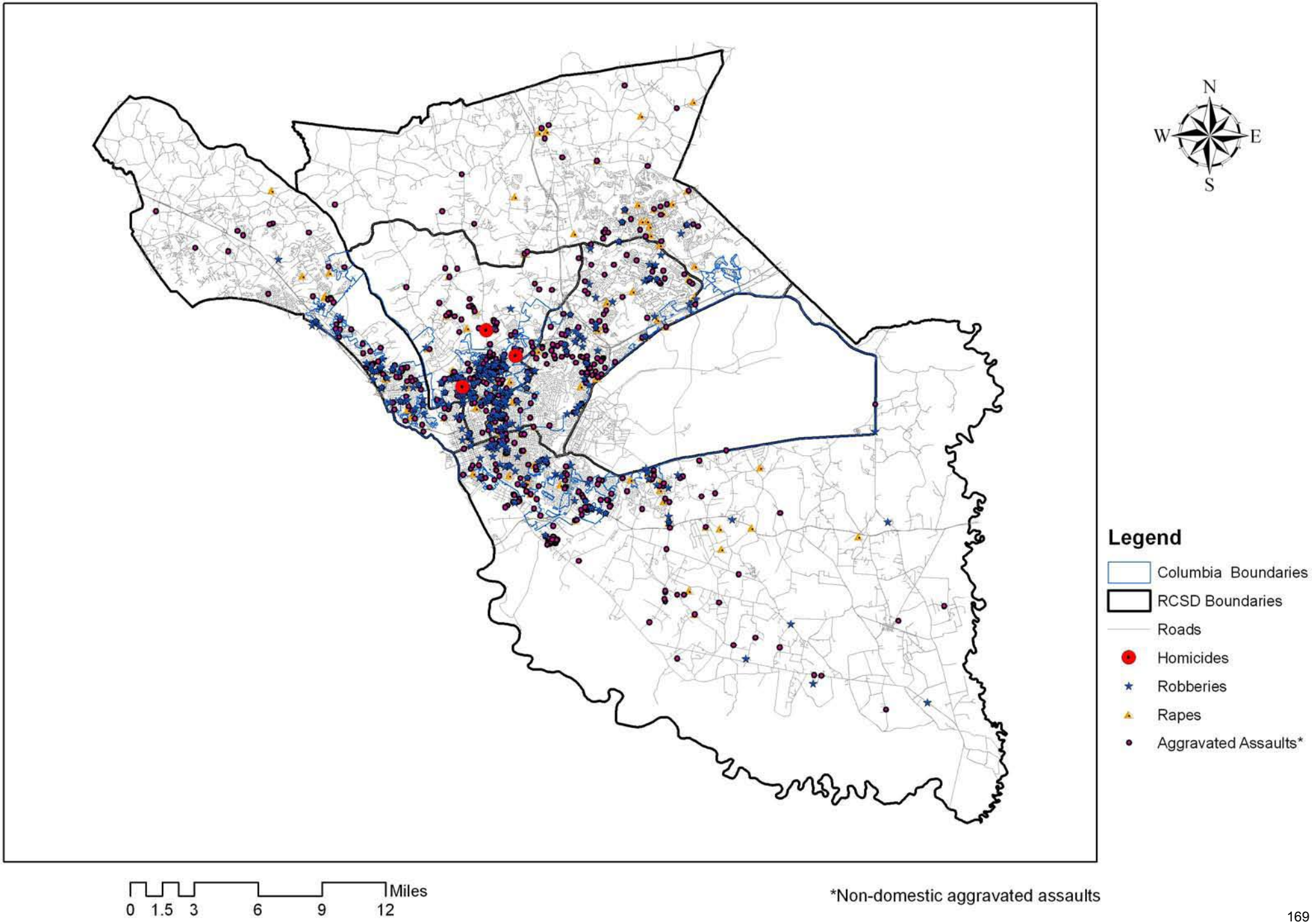
Columbia-Richland County Youth Violent Crime* Density Map (January 1, 2006-April 30, 2007)



*Violent crime includes homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault

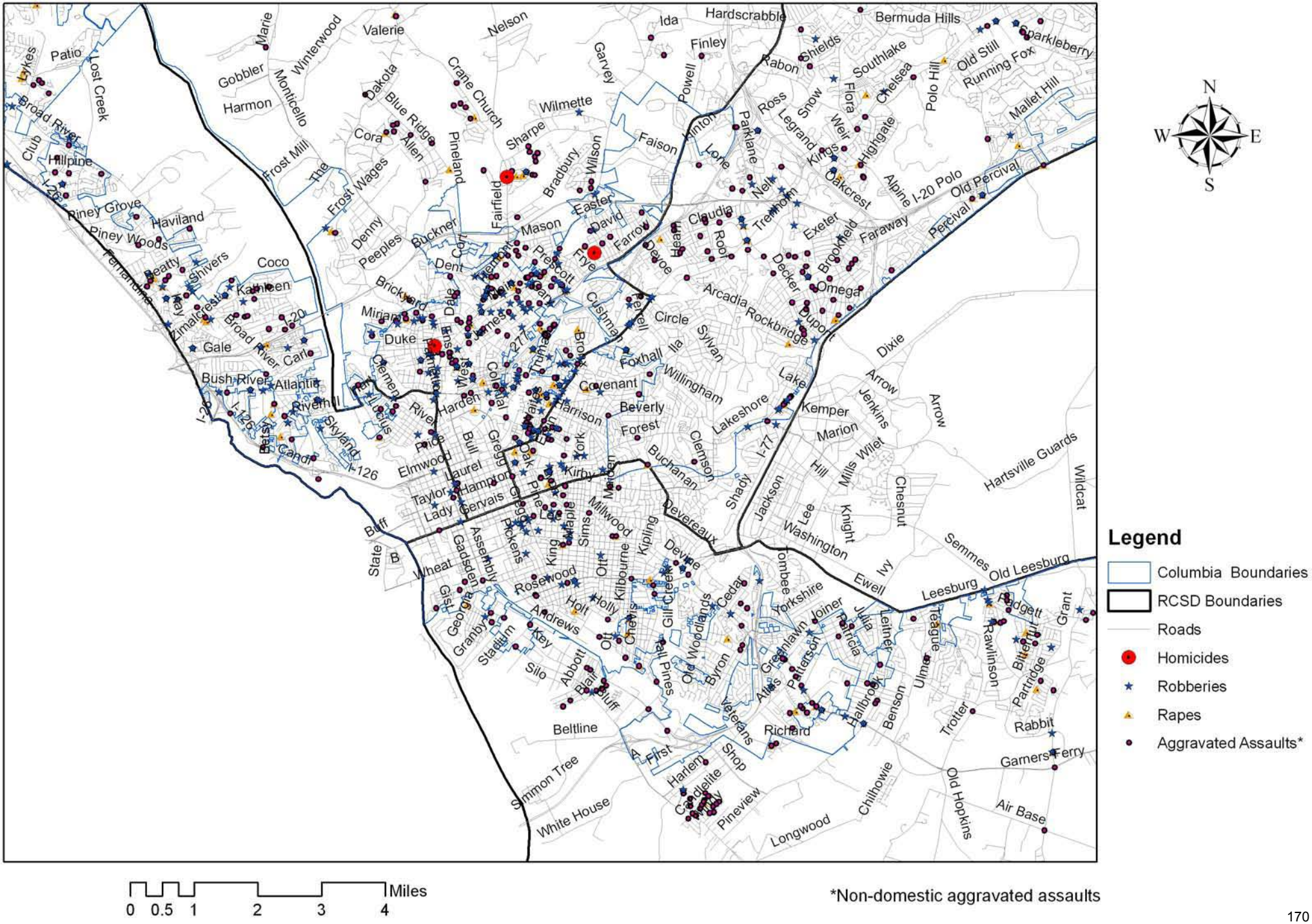
Digitized by South Carolina State Library

Columbia-Richland County Violent Crime Incidents Involving Suspects 12-17 Years Old (January 1, 2002-April 30, 2007)



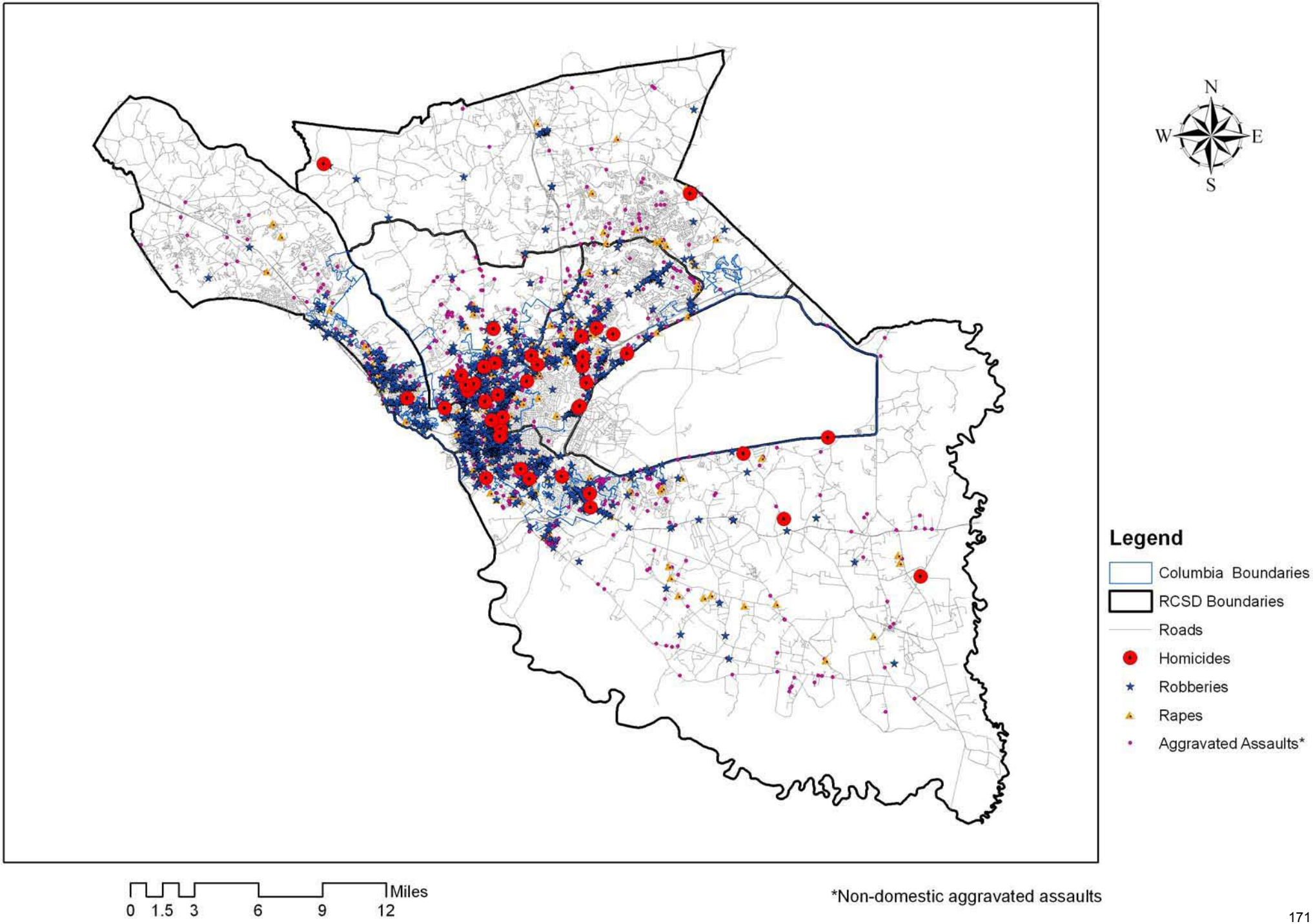
Digitized by South Carolina State Library

Columbia-Richland County Violent Crime Incidents Involving Suspects 12-17 Years Old (January 1, 2002-April 30, 2007)



Digitized by South Carolina State Library

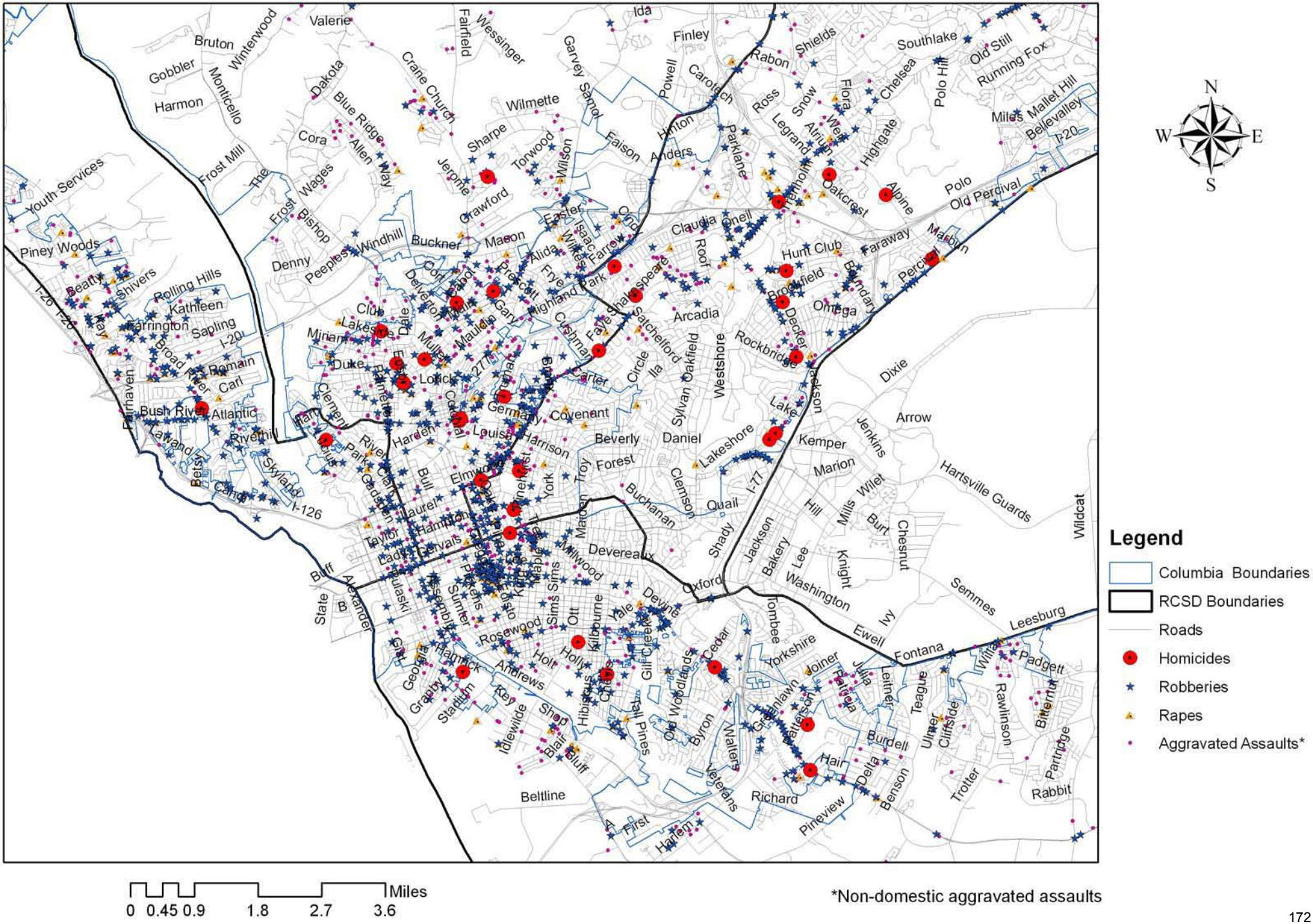
Columbia-Richland County Violent Crime Incidents Involving Suspects 18-24 Years Old (January 1, 2002-April 30, 2007)



*Non-domestic aggravated assaults

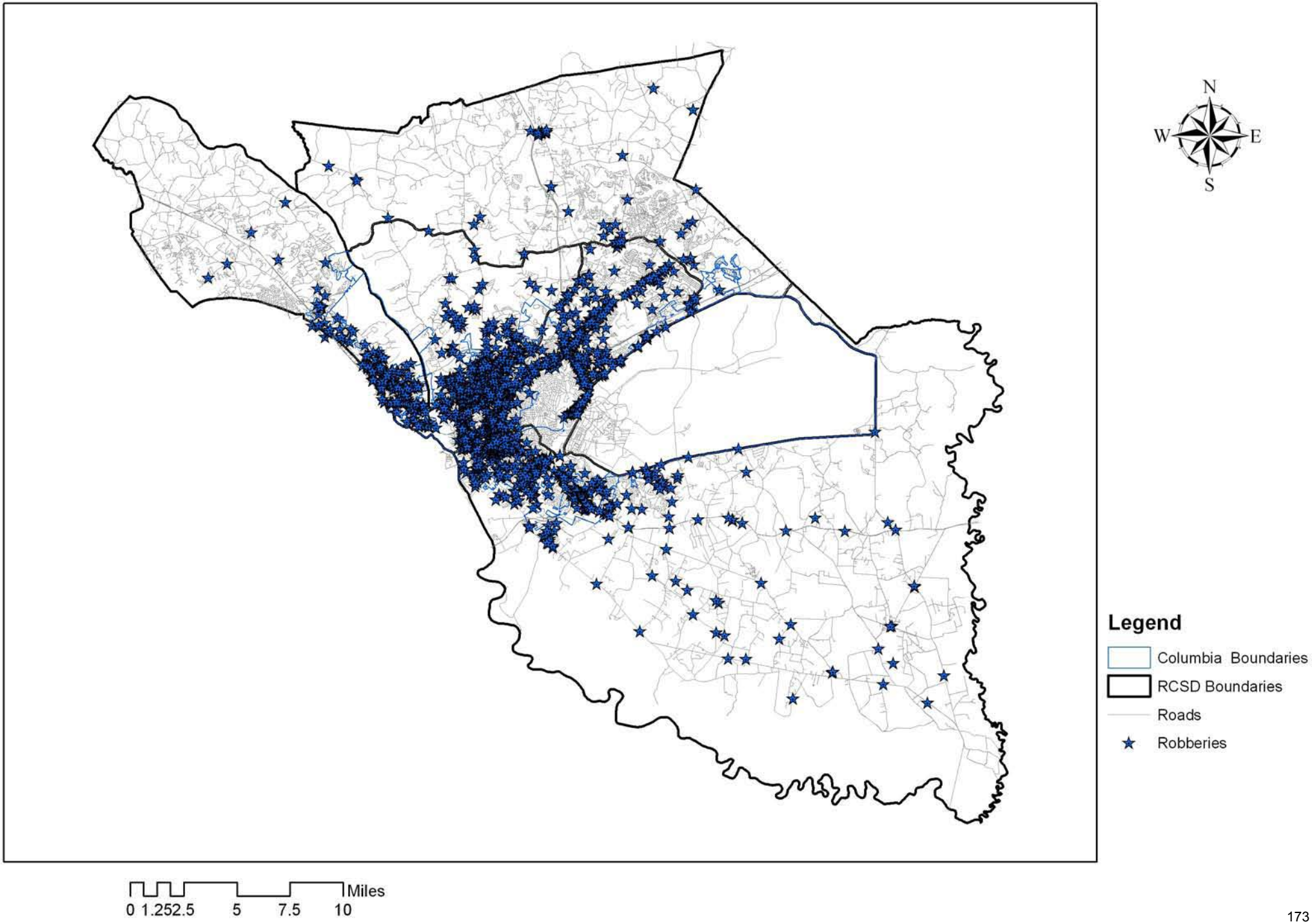
Digitized by South Carolina State Library

Columbia-Richland County Violent Crime Incidents Involving Suspects 18-24 Years Old (January 1, 2002-April 30, 2007)



Digitized by South Carolina State Library

Columbia-Richland County Robberies with Firearms (January 1, 2002-April 30, 2007)



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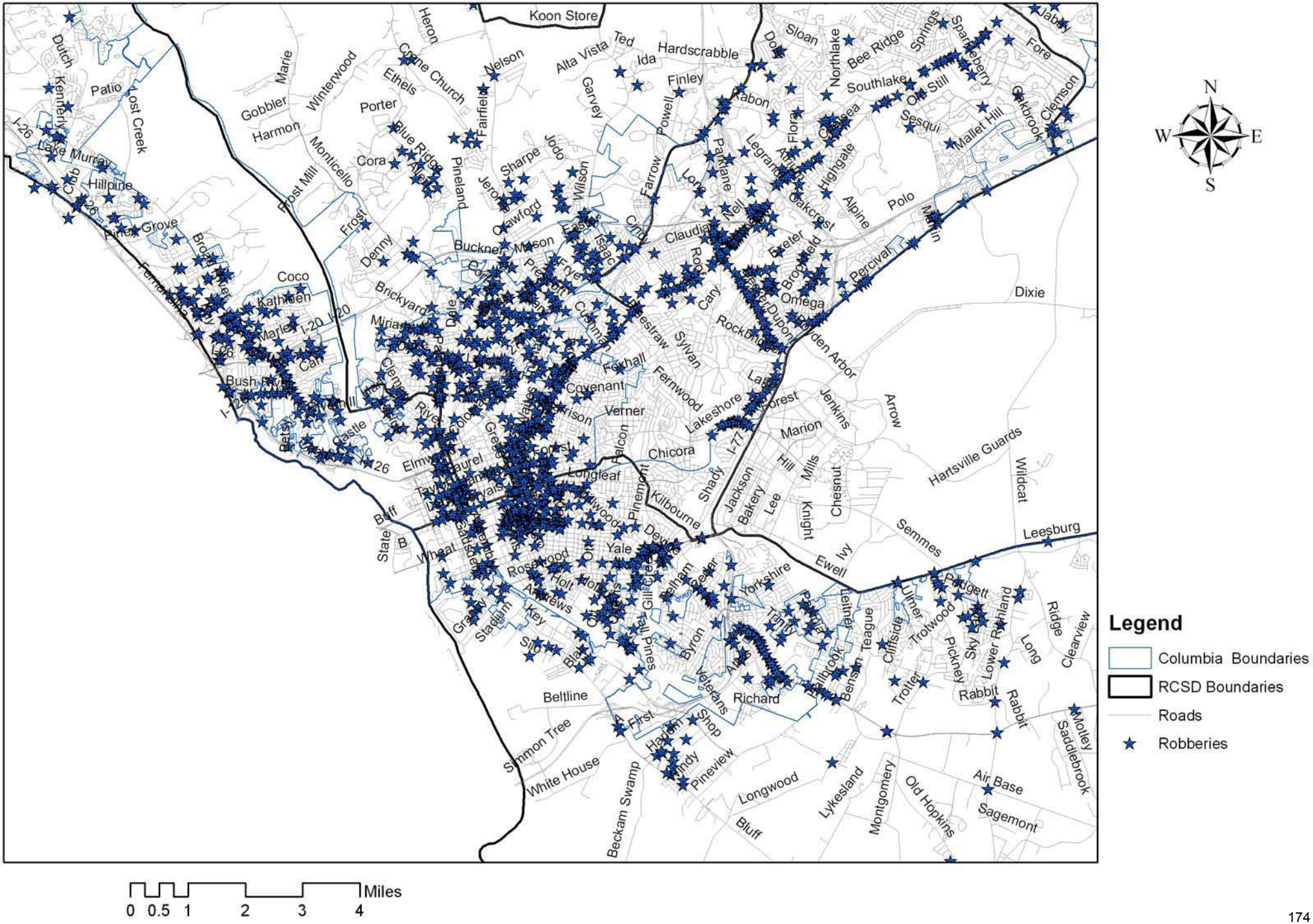
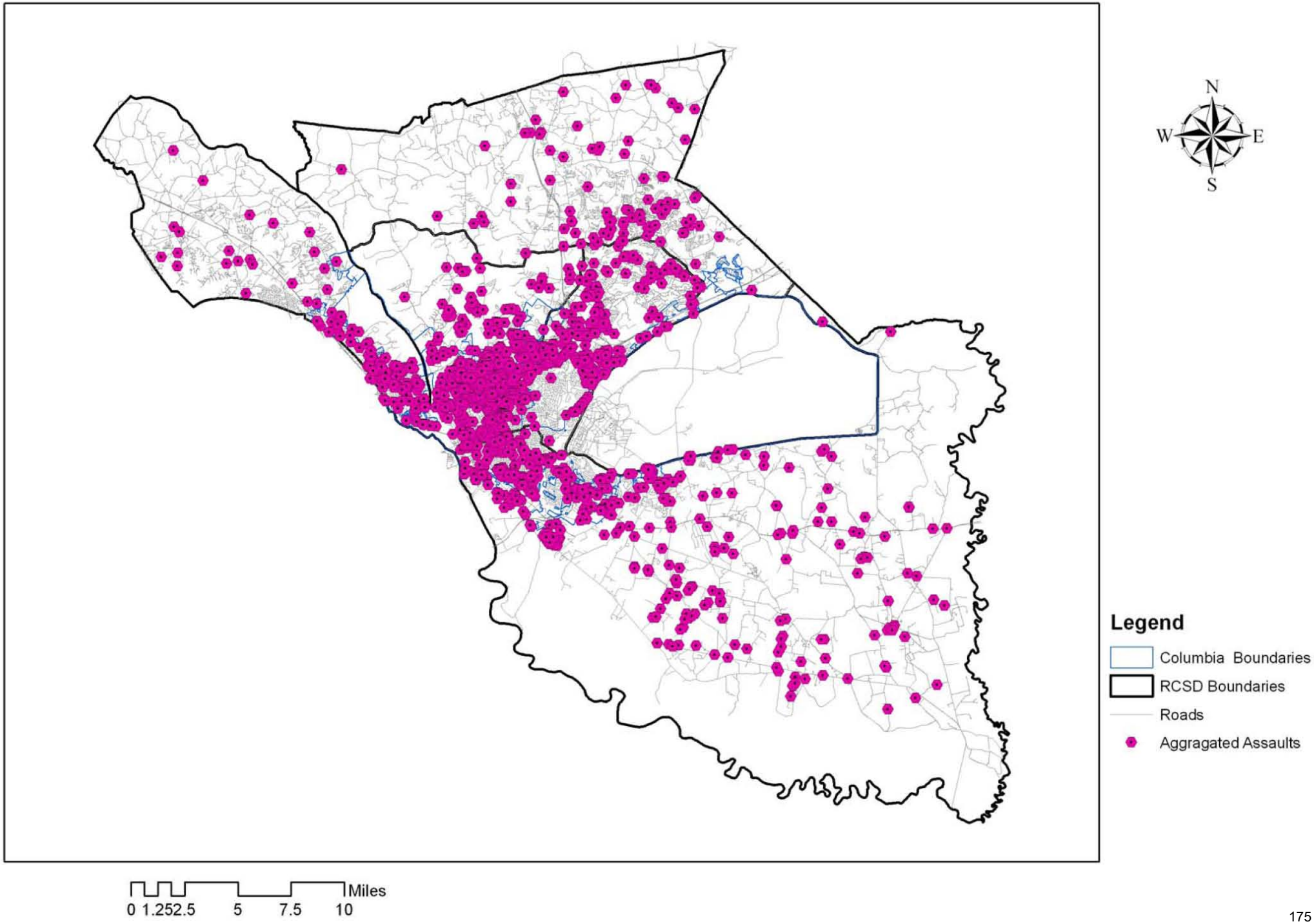
Columbia-Richland County Robberies with Firearms (January 1, 2002-April 30, 2007)



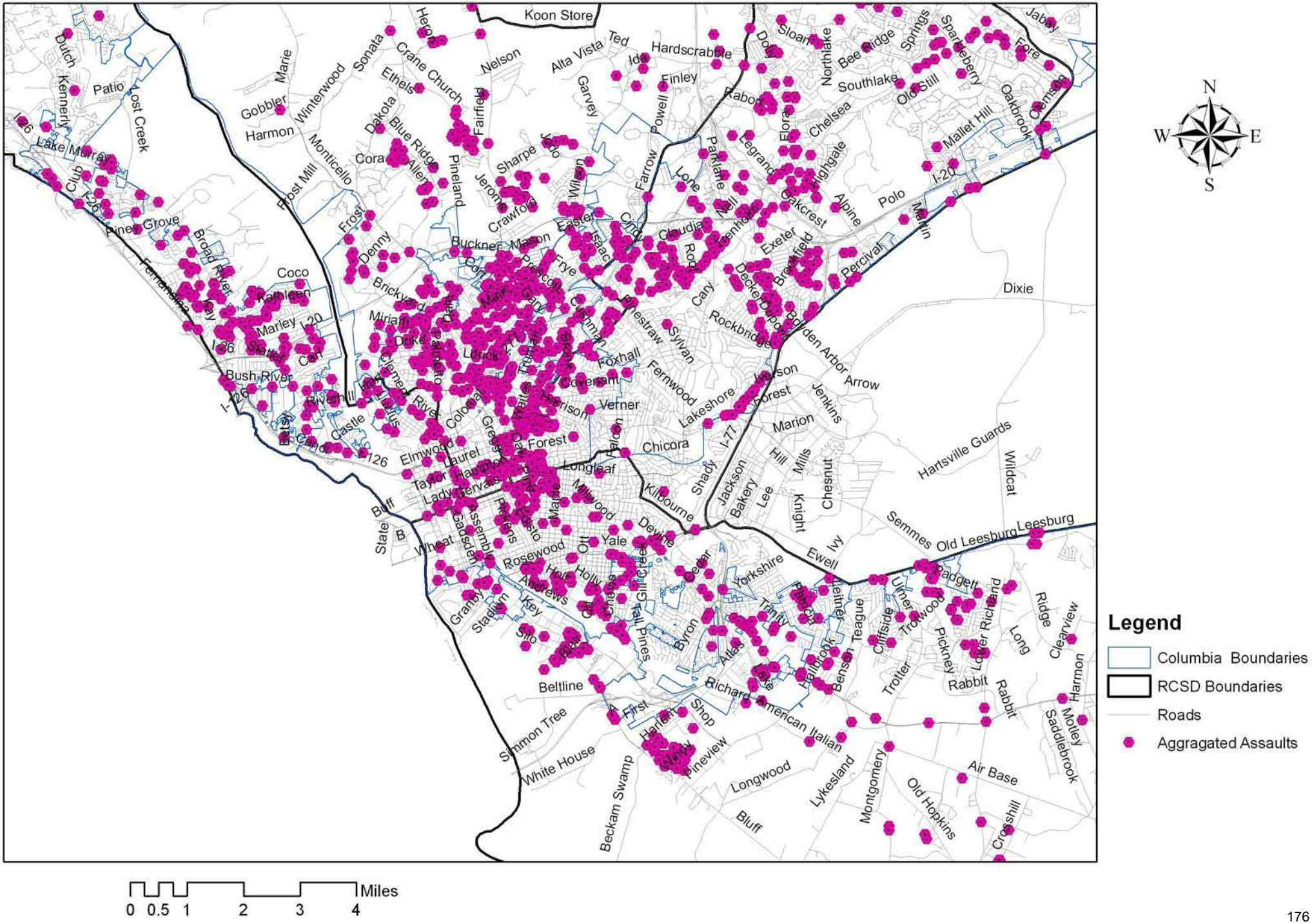
Digitized by South Carolina State Library

Columbia-Richland County Aggravated Assaults with Firearms (January 1, 2002-April 30, 2007)

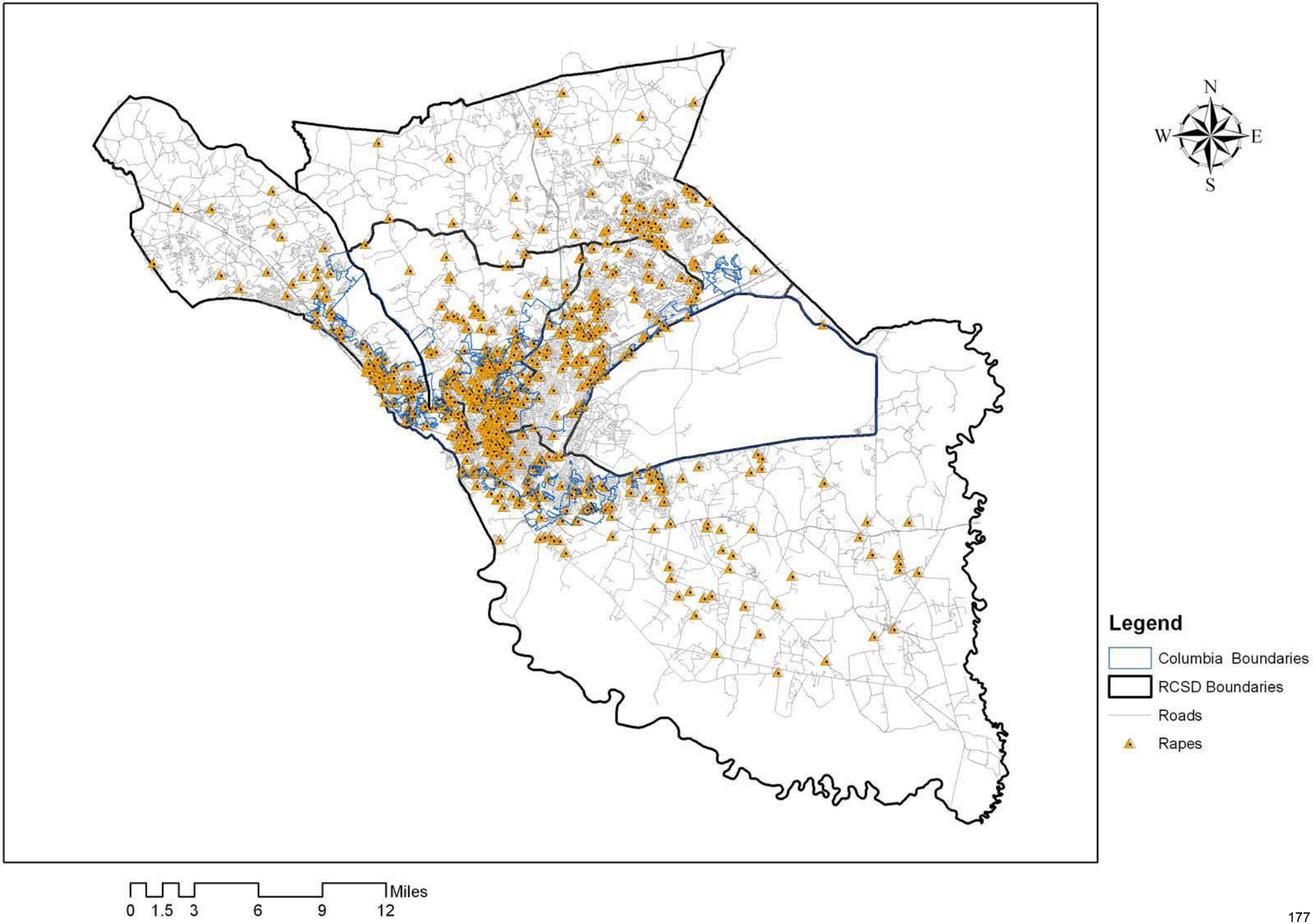


Digitized by South Carolina State Library

Columbia-Richland County Aggravated Assaults with Firearms (January 1, 2002-April 30, 2007)


N
W
E
S
Legend
Columbia Boundaries
RCSD Boundaries
Roads
Aggragated Assaults
0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Miles
Koon Store
Hardscrabble
Finley
Alta Vista
Ted
Ida
Nelson
Crane Church
Ethels
Sonata
Hergo
Marie
Gobbler
Harmon
Winterwood
Monticello
Frost Mill
Dakota
Blue Ridge
Cora
Allen
Pineland
Fairfield
Sharpe
Jerome
Crawford
Wilson
Garvey
Powell
Farrow
Lone
Parklane
Nell
Legrand
Elora
Chelsea
Highgate
Oakcrest
Alpine
Polo
Northlake
Southlake
Bee Ridge
Springs
Sparkleberry
Old Still
Oakbrook
Clemson
Jabay
Fore
Mallet Hill
I-20
Martin
Dixie
Percival
Exeter
Brookfield
Claudia
Rod
Cary
Rockbridge
Bolden Arbor
Arrow
Jenkins
Hartsville Guards
Wildcat
Semmes
Old Leesburg
Leesburg
Ewell
Ivy
Radgett
Richland
Ridge
Clearview
Long
Harmon
Motley
Saddlebrook
Rabbit
Lower Richland
Pickney
Trotter
Cliffside
Troxwood
Teague
Benson
Hallbrook
Trinity
Yorkshire
Cedar
Byron
Atlas
Richard
American
Italian
Air Base
Old Hopkins
Crosshill
Montgomery
Lykesland
Longwood
Bluff
Beckam Swamp
Pineview
Shop
Harlem
First
Beltline
Simmon Tree
White House
Dewine
Yale
Rosewood
Holly
Andrews
Key
Stadium
Granby
Wheat
Gadsden
Assembly
Provens
Fusio
Marble
Millwood
Kilbourne
Shady
Jackson
Bakery
Lee
Knight
Chesnut
Mills
Hill
Marion
Jackson
Forest
Lakeshore
I-77
Chicora
Verner
Fernwood
Foxhall
Covenant
Sylvan
Estraw
Harrison
Aldon
Longleaf
Forest
Colonial
Elmwood
Laurel
Taylor
Hampton
Lady
Gervais
Greene
Castle
Riverhill
Bush River
Marley
Coco
Kathleen
Broad River
Piney Grove
Lake Murray
Kennerly
Patio
Lost Creek
Dutch
Club
I-26
I-126
I-20
Fernandina
Brickyard
Miriam
Duke
Clemson
River
Ladrick
Frye
Prescott
Mason
Buckner
Denny
Frost
Easter
Isaac
Crim
Wilson
Jodo
Sharpe
Pineland
Jerome
Crawford
Fairfield
Nelson
Alta Vista

Columbia-Richland County Rapes (January 1, 2002-April 30, 2007)



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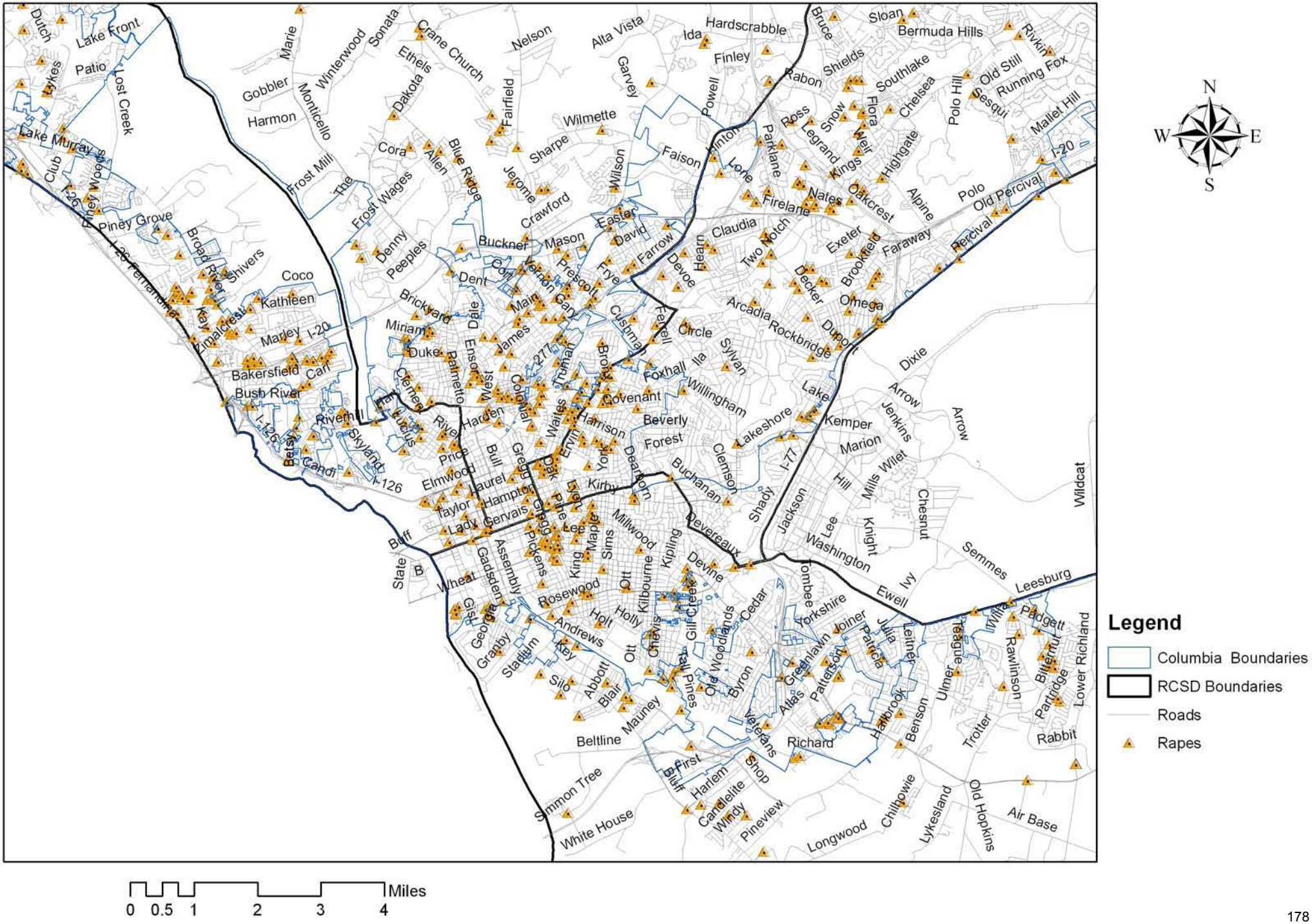
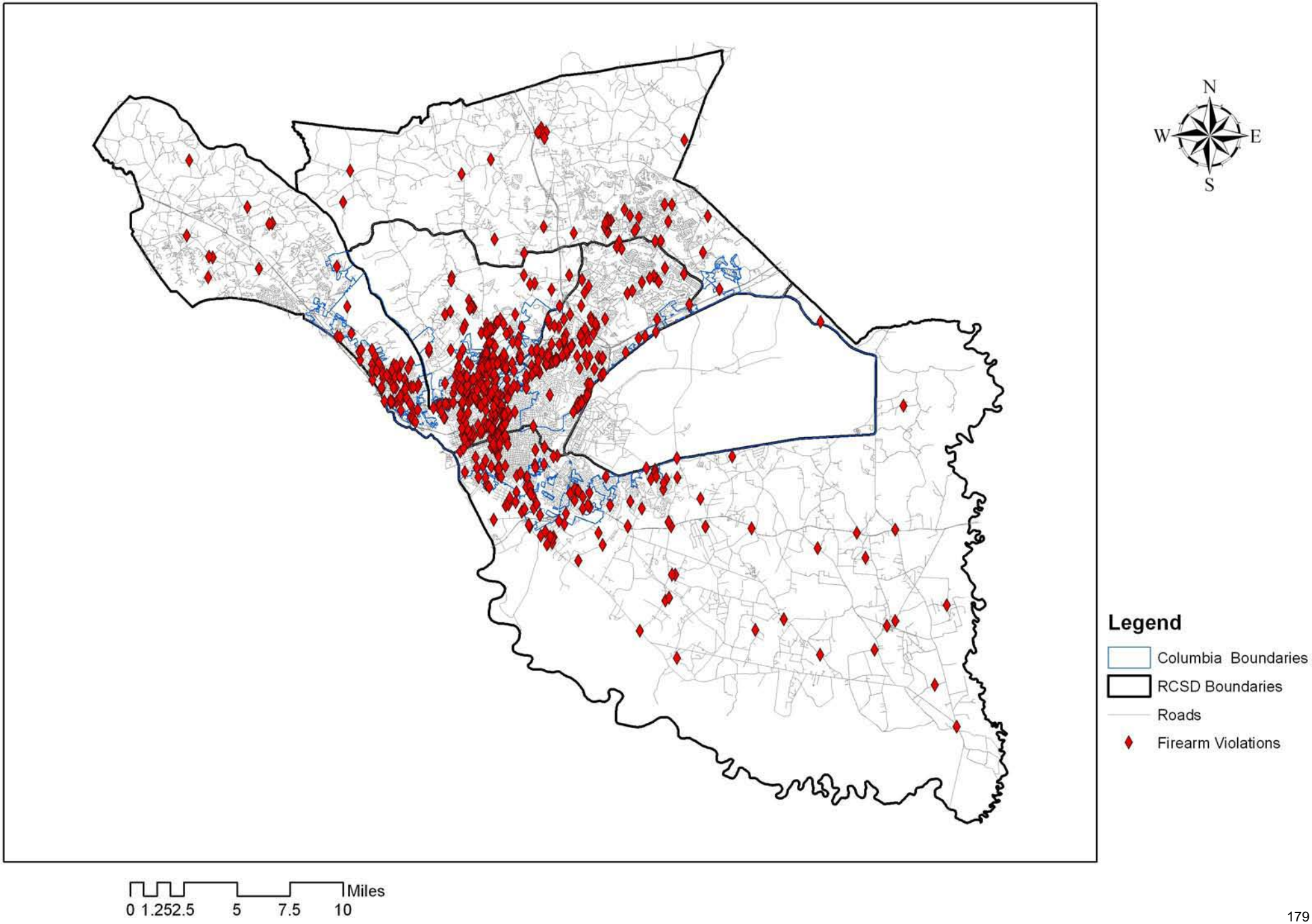
Columbia-Richland County Rapes (January 1, 2002-April 30, 2007)



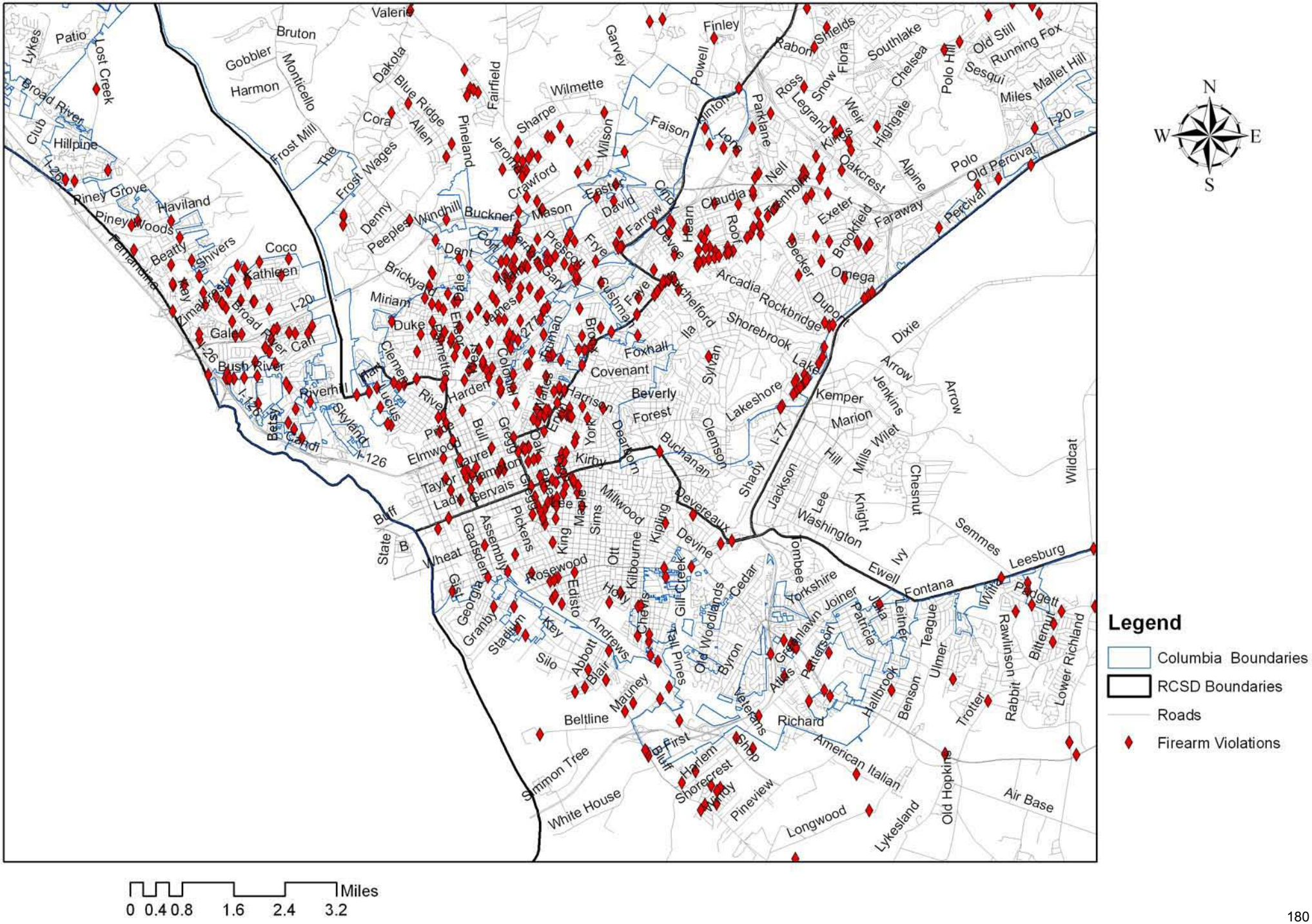
Digitized by South Carolina State Library

Columbia-Richland County Firearm Violations (January 1, 2002-April 30, 2007)



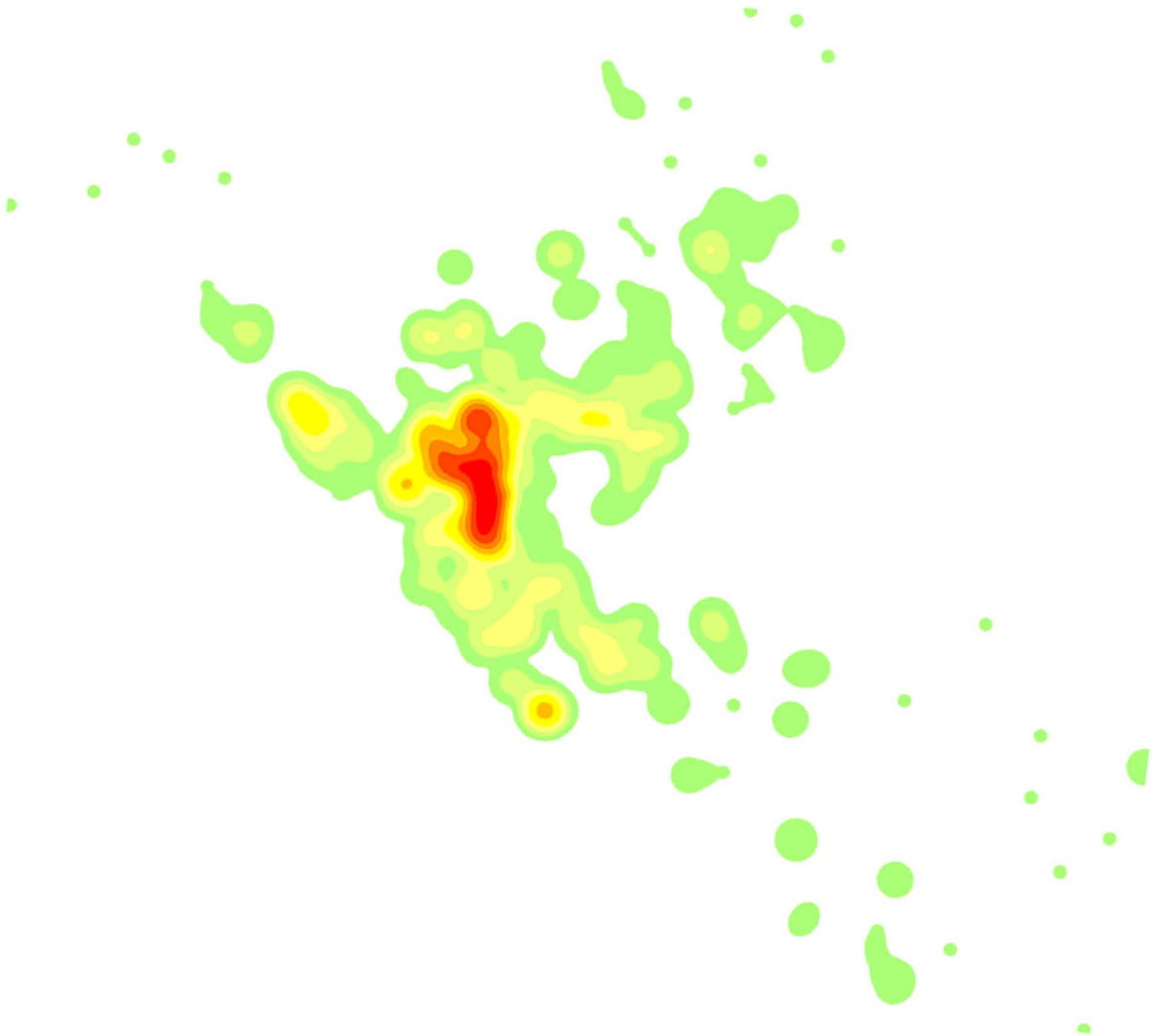
Digitized by South Carolina State Library

Columbia-Richland County Firearm Violations (January 1, 2002-April 30, 2007)



Digitized by South Carolina State Library

Columbia-Richland County Youth Non-Domestic Aggravated Assault with Firearms
(January 1, 2002-April 30, 2007)



Legend

Columbia Boundaries

RCSD Boundaries

Youth Firearm Assaults

Low

Moderate

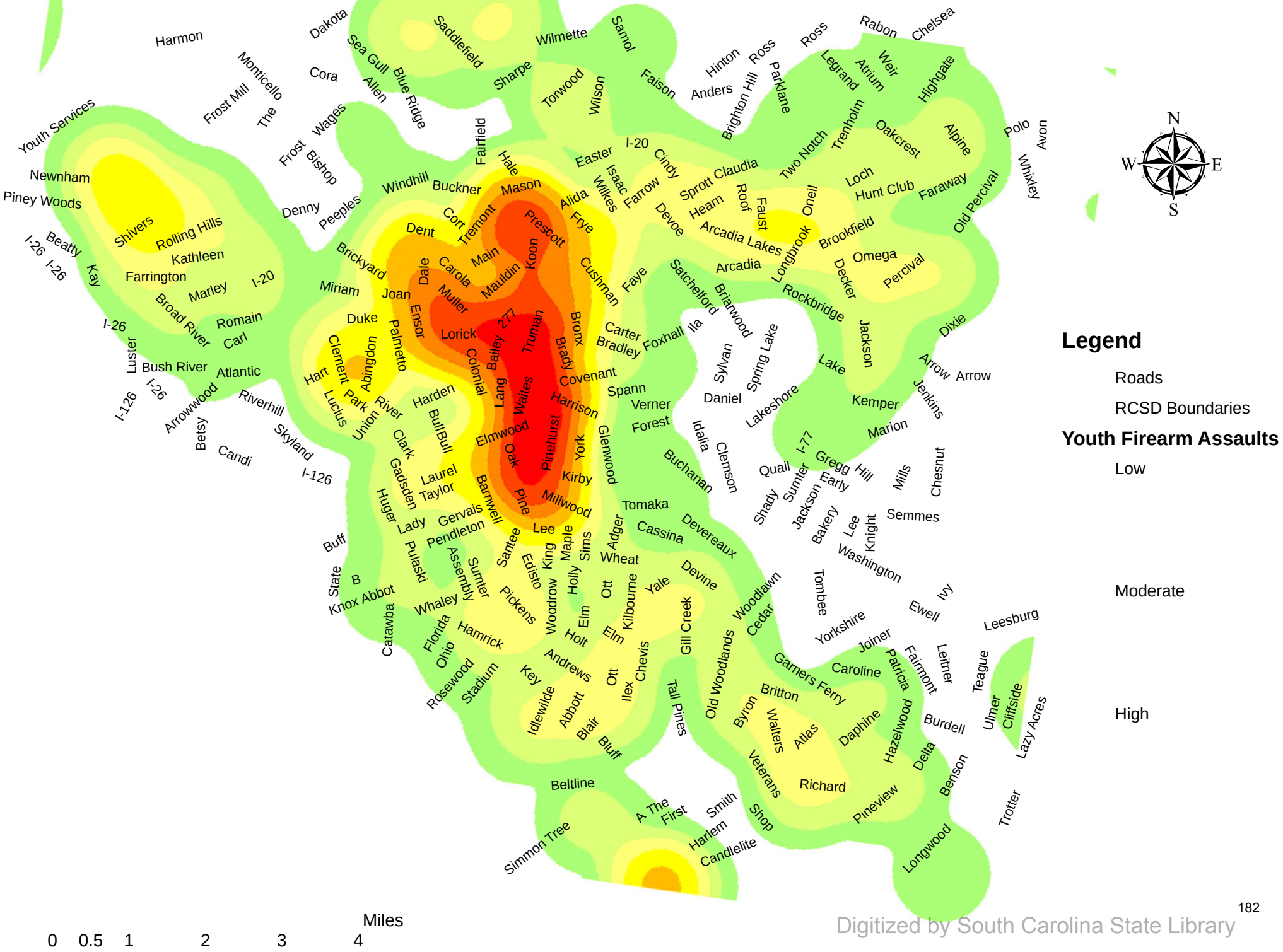
High

Miles

0 1.5 3 6 9 12

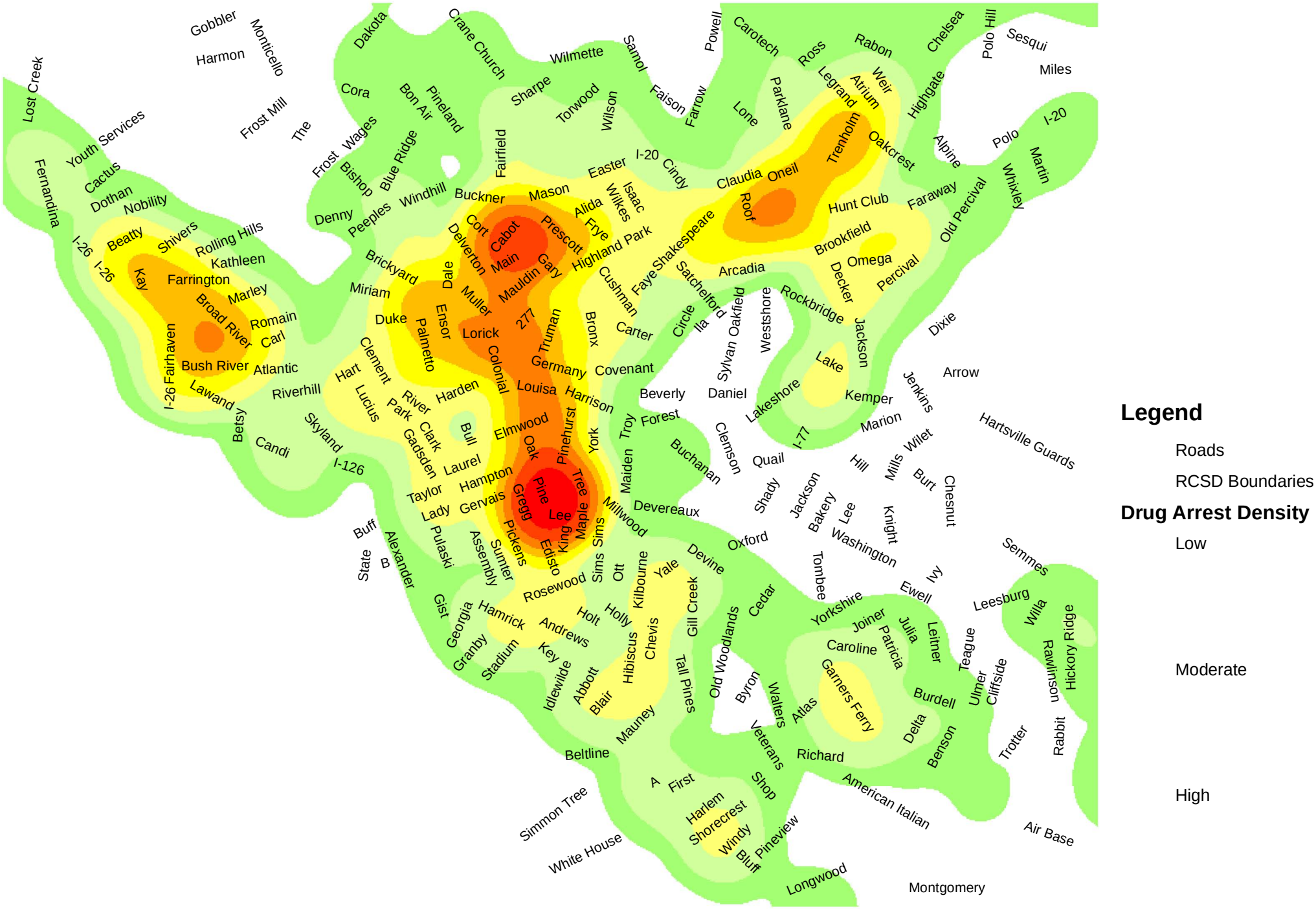
Digitized by South Carolina State Library

Columbia-Richland County Youth Non-Domestic Aggravated Assault with Firearms
(January 1, 2002-April 30, 2007)



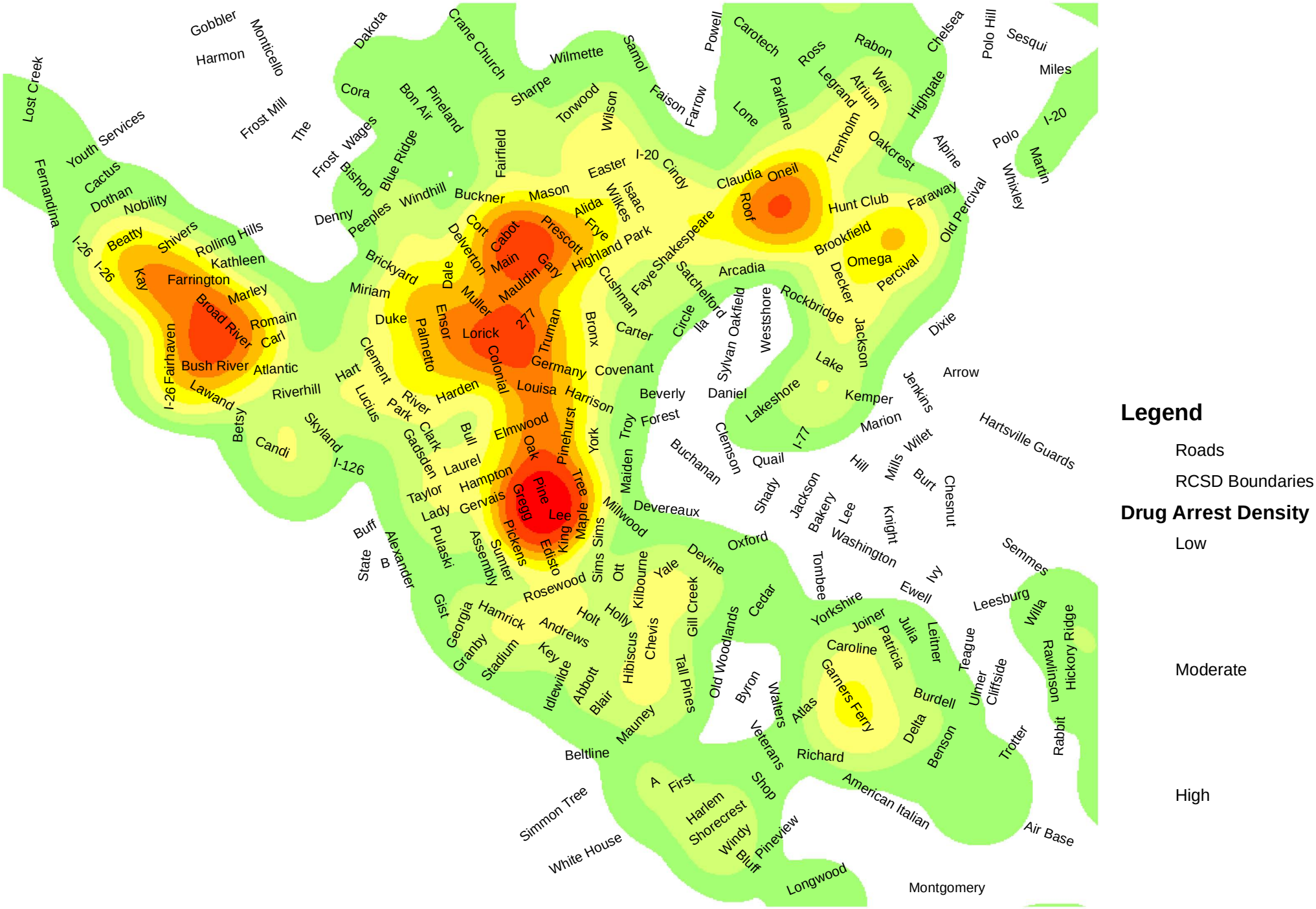
Digitized by South Carolina State Library

Columbia-Richland County Drug Arrest Density (January 1, 2002-April 30,2007)



Digitized by South Carolina State Library

Columbia-Richland County Drug Arrest Density (January 1, 2006-April 30,2007)



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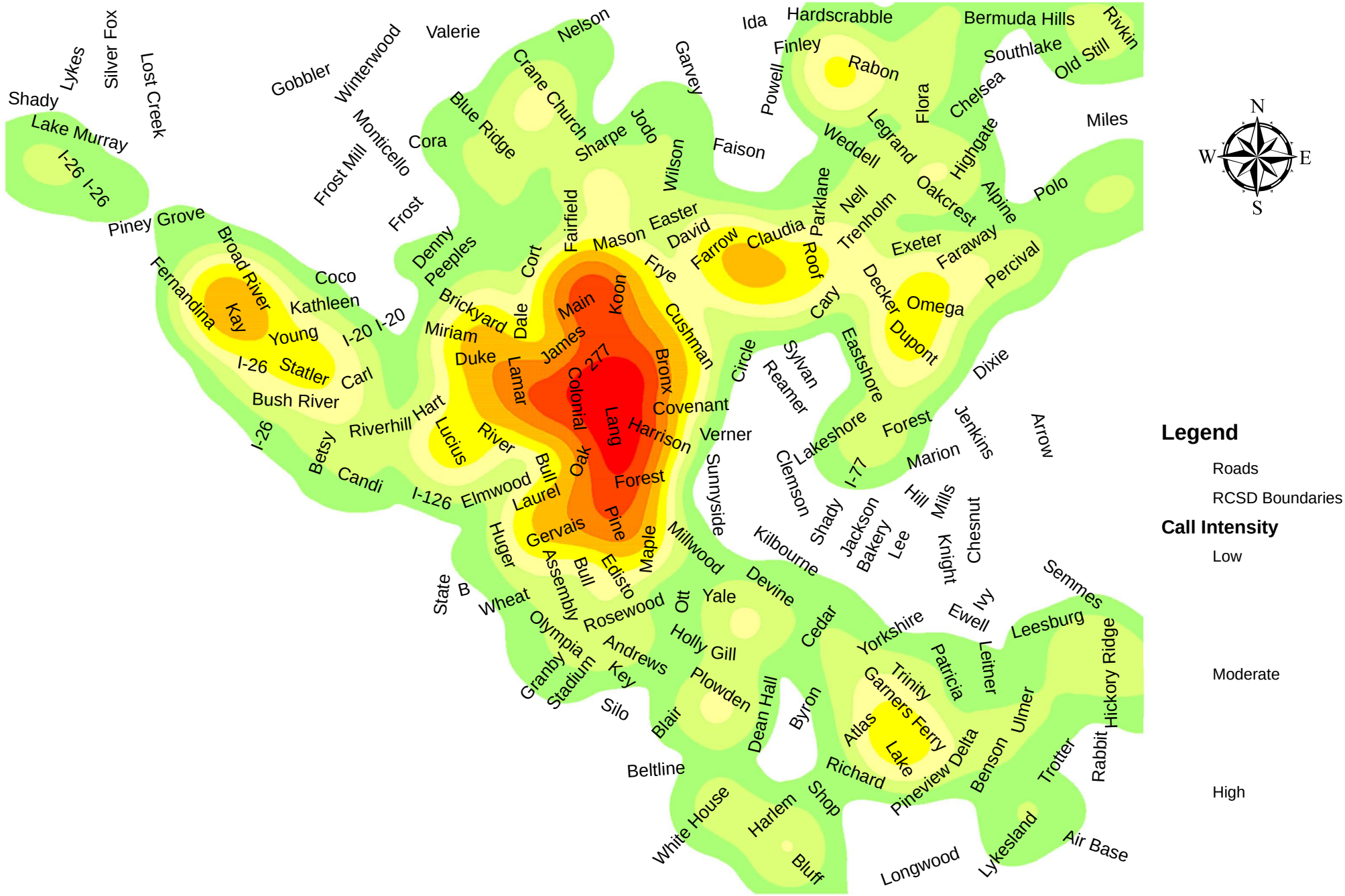
Columbia-Richland County Calls for Service* (January 1, 2005-April 30, 2007)



Legend

Roads

RCSD Boundaries

Call Intensity

Low

Moderate

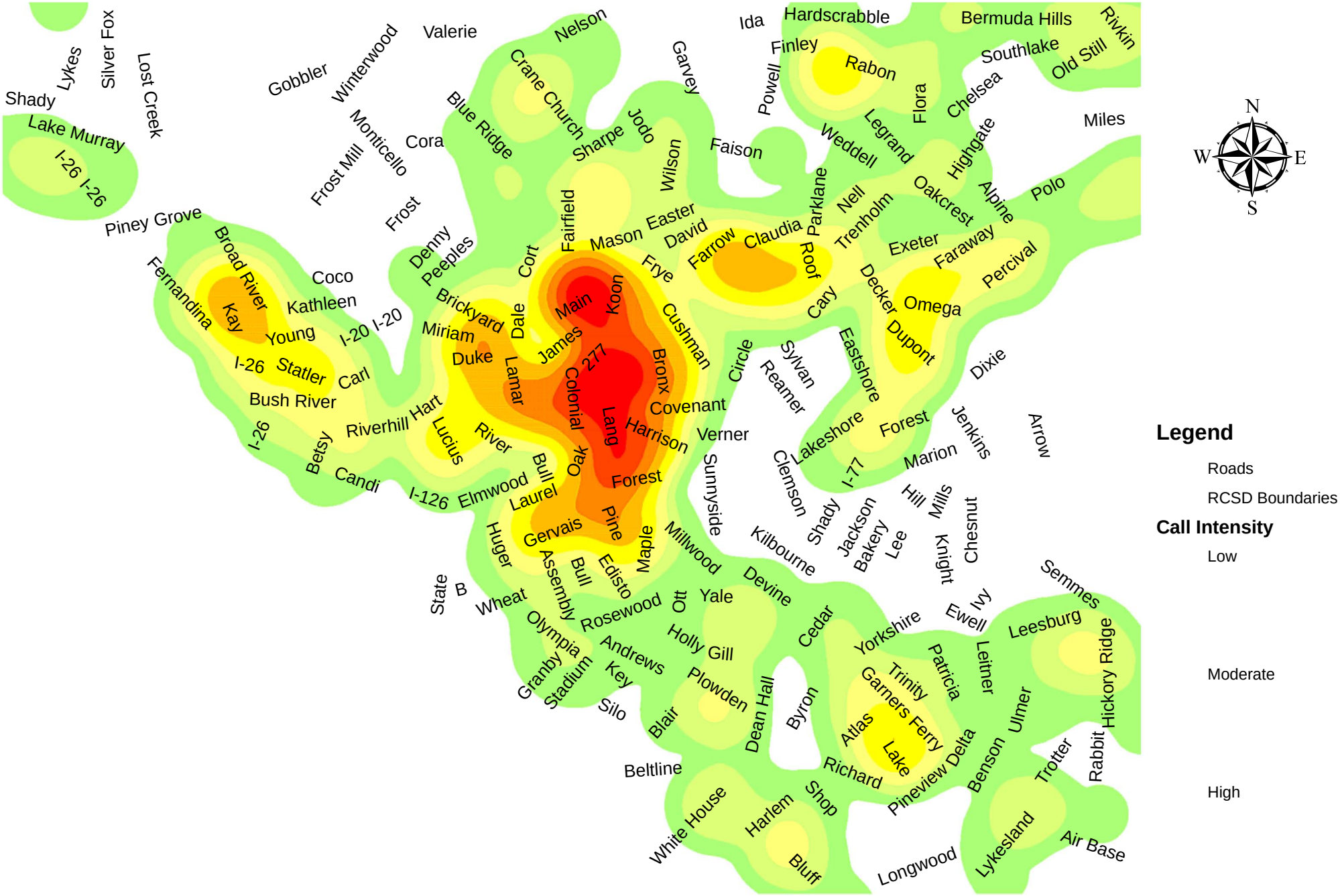
High

0 1.5 2.25 3 Miles

*Includes shots fired and shots heard calls for service

Digitized by South Carolina State Library

Columbia-Richland County Calls for Service* (January 1, 2006-April 30, 2007)



*Includes shots fired and shots heard calls for service

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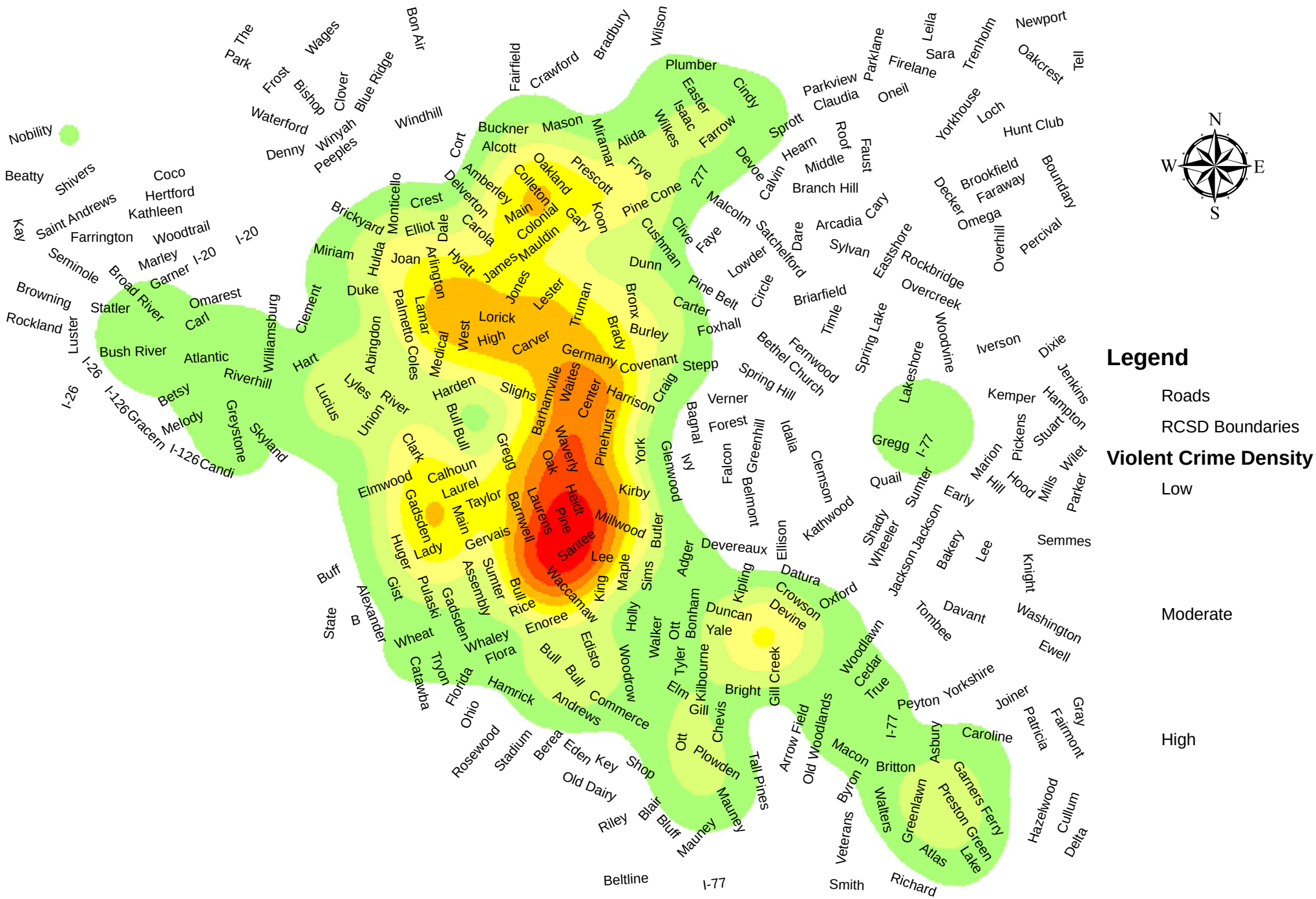
Columbia Violent Crime* Density Map (January 1, 2002-April 30, 2007)



*Violent crime includes homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault

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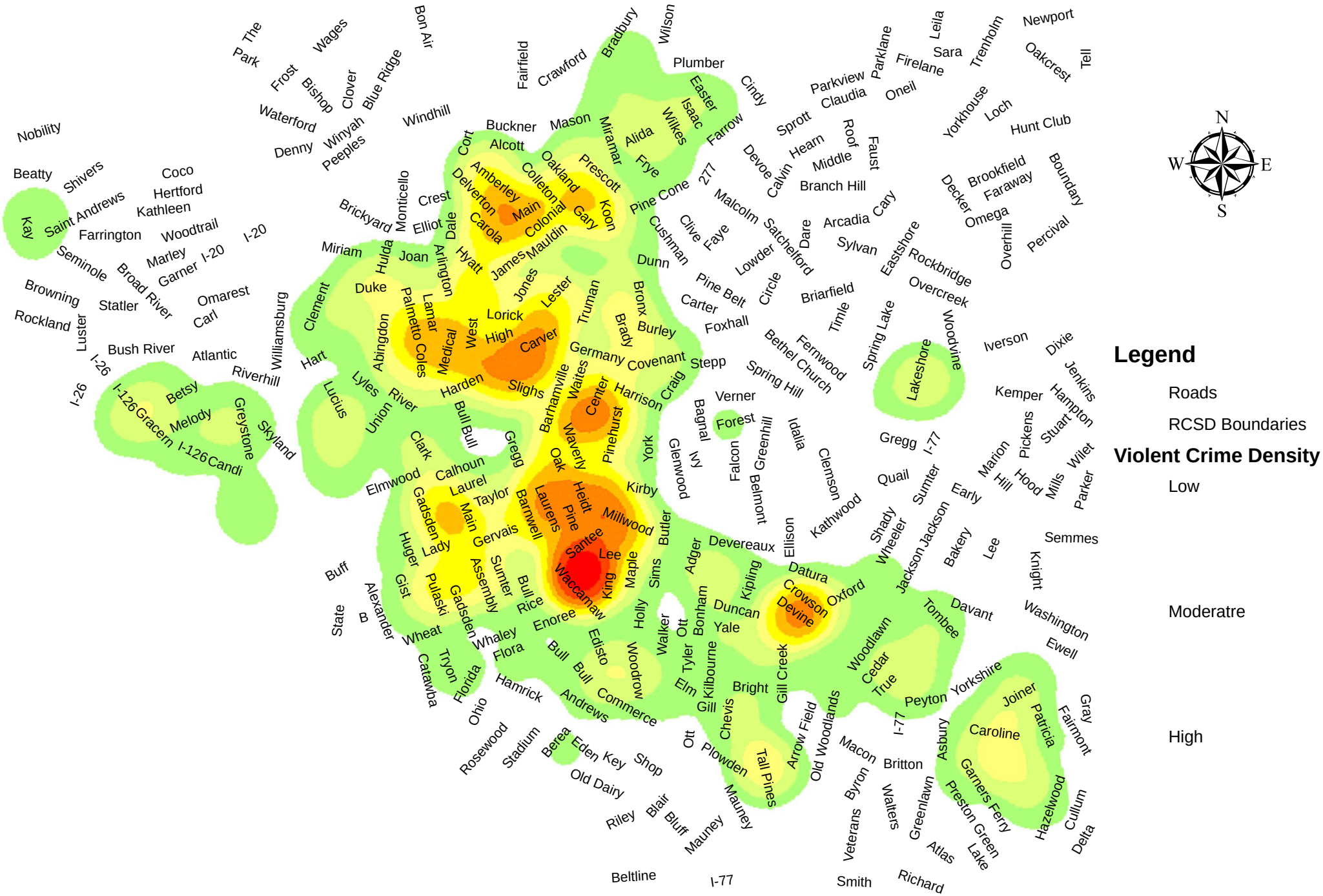
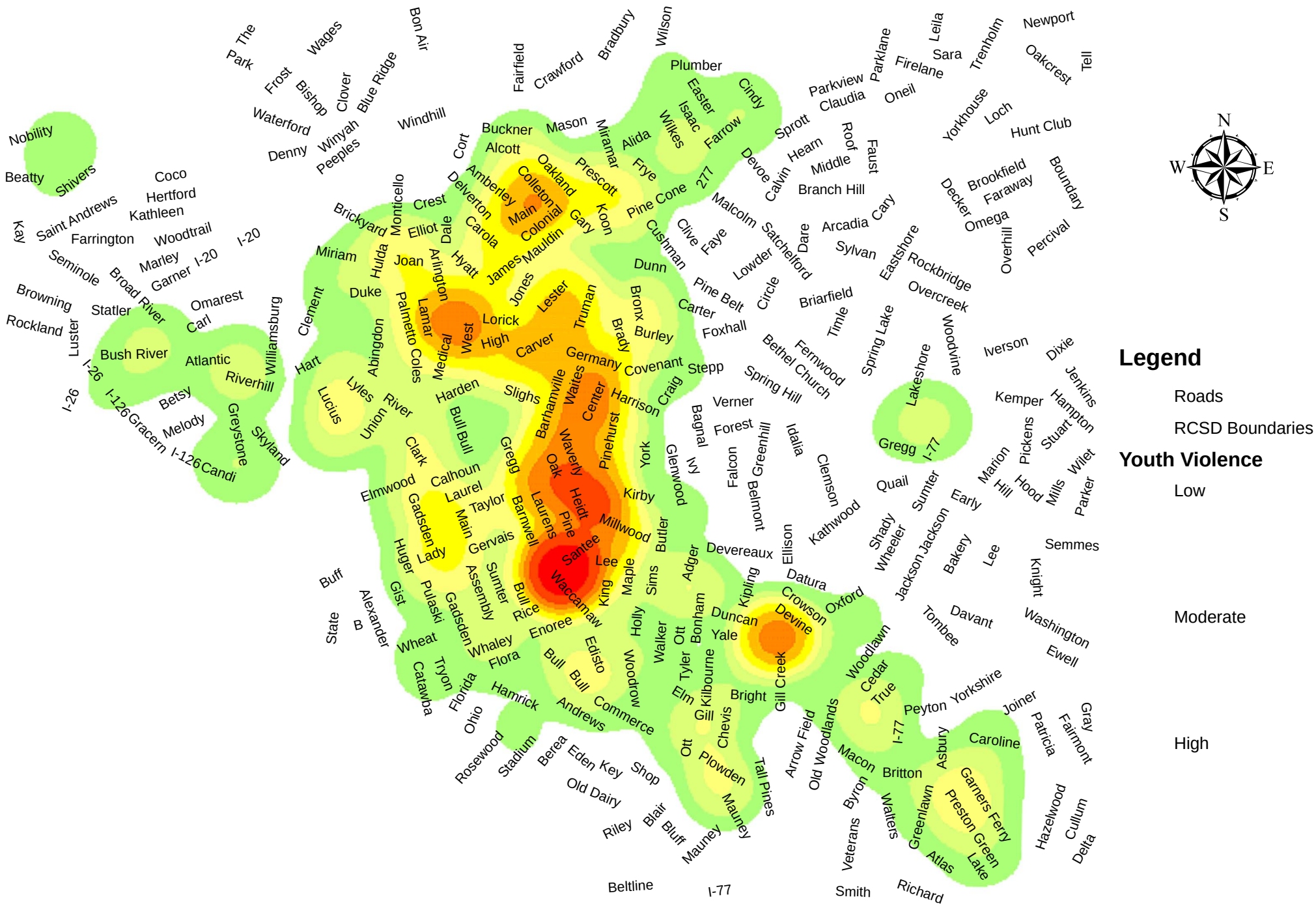
Columbia Violent Crime* Density Map (January 1, 2006-April 30, 2007)



*Violent crime includes homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault

Digitized by South Carolina State Library

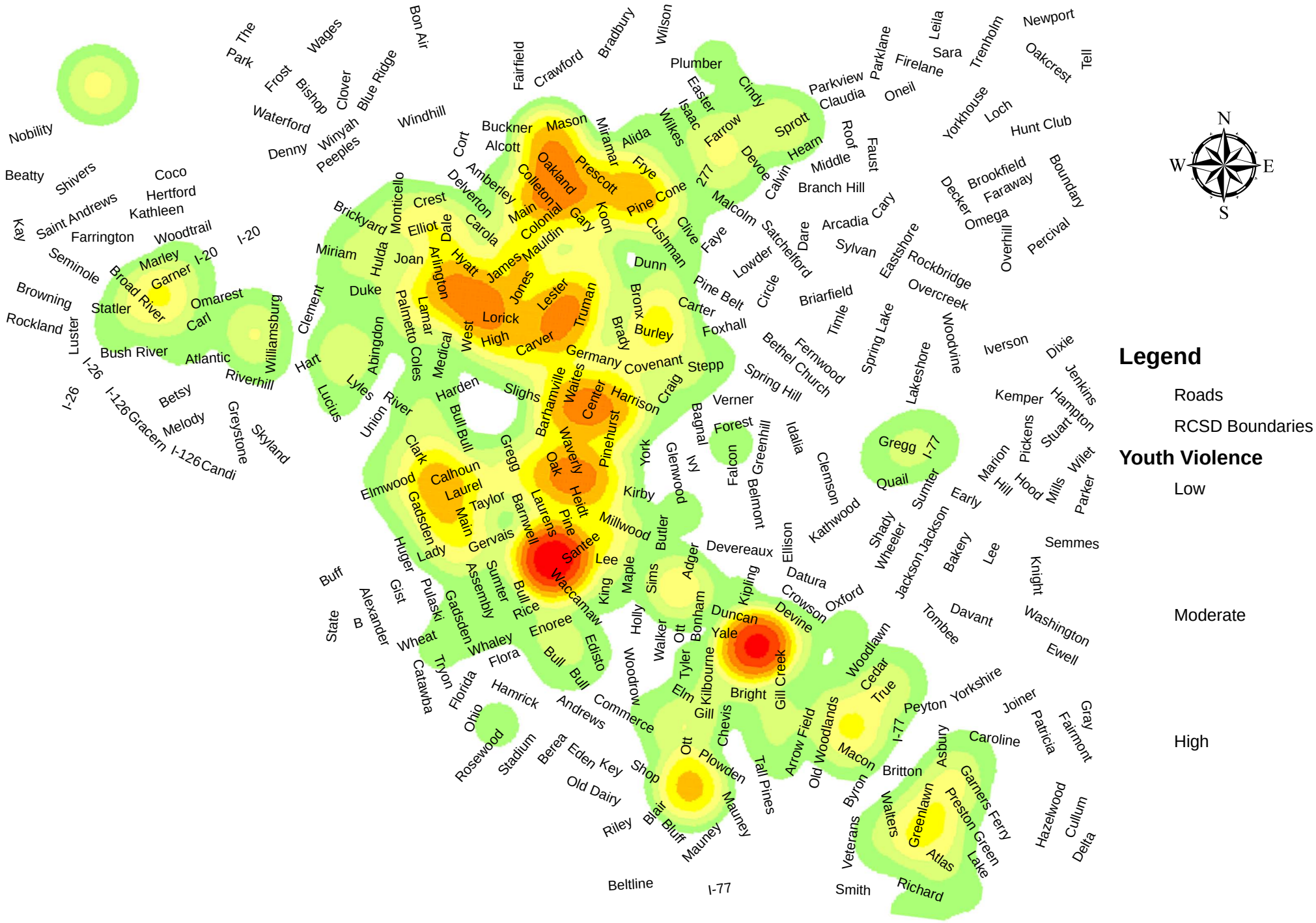
Columbia Youth Violent Crime* Density Map (January 1, 2002-April 30, 2007)



*Violent crime includes homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault

Digitized by South Carolina State Library

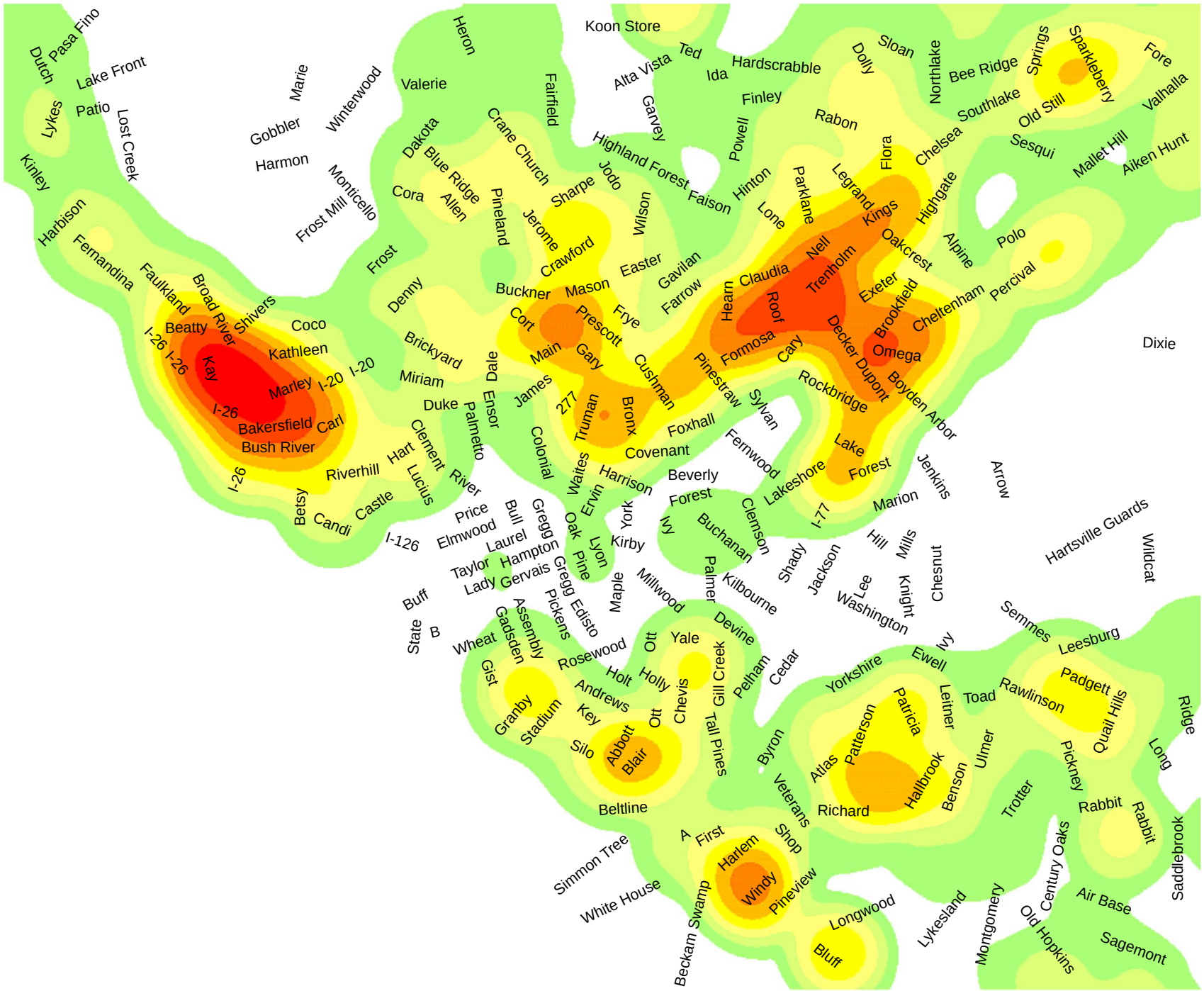
Columbia Youth Violent Crime* Density Map (January 1, 2006-April 30, 2007)



*Violent crime includes homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault

Digitized by South Carolina State Library

Richland County Violent Crime* Density Map (January 1, 2002-April 30, 2007)



Legend

Roads

RCSD Boundaries

Violent Crime Density

Low

Moderate

High

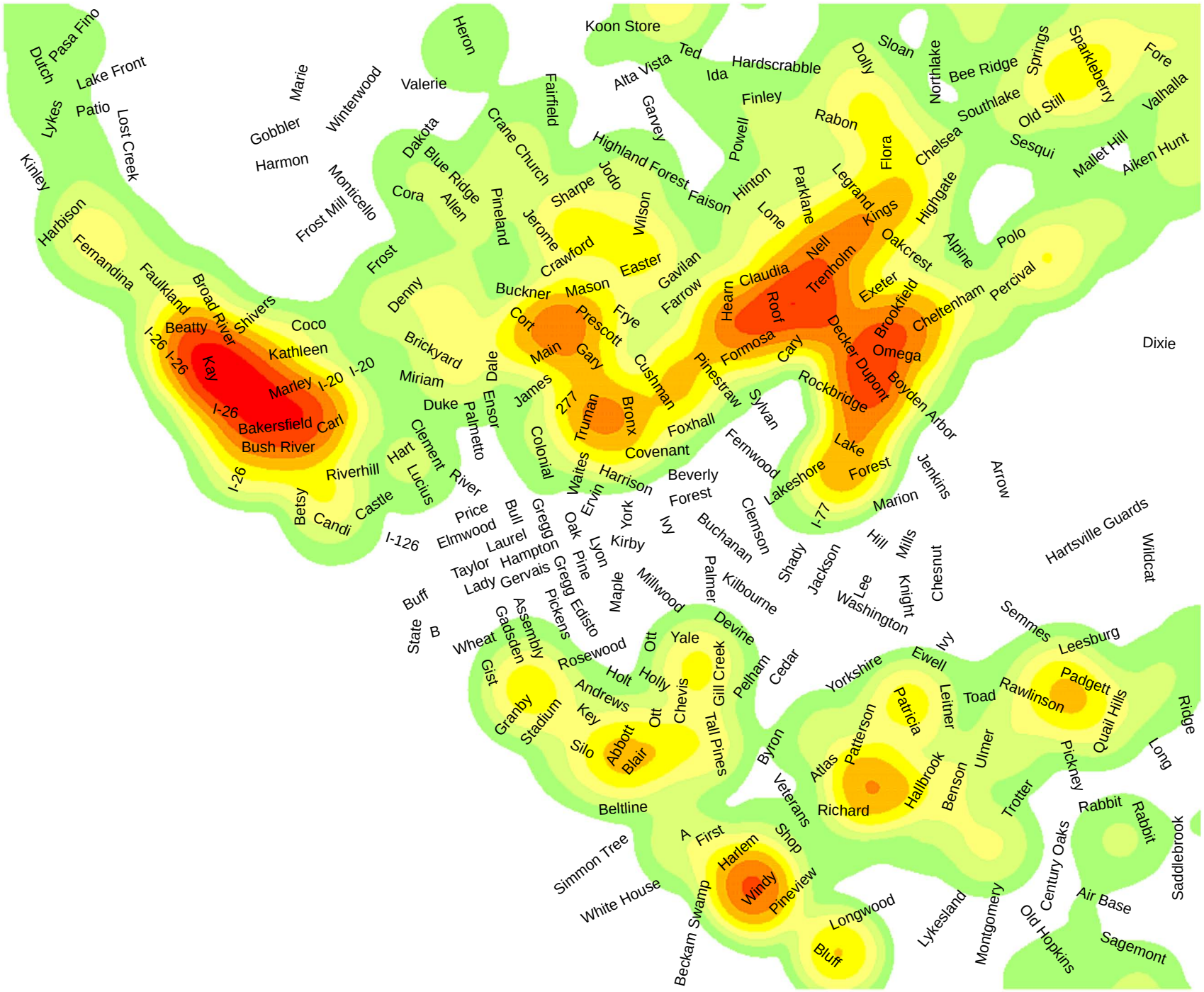
Miles

0 0.5 1 2 3 4

*Violent crime includes homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault

Digitized by South Carolina State Library

Richland County Violent Crime* Density Map (January 1, 2006-April 30, 2007)



N
W E
S

Legend

Roads

RCSD Boundaries

Violent Crime Density

Low

Moderate

High

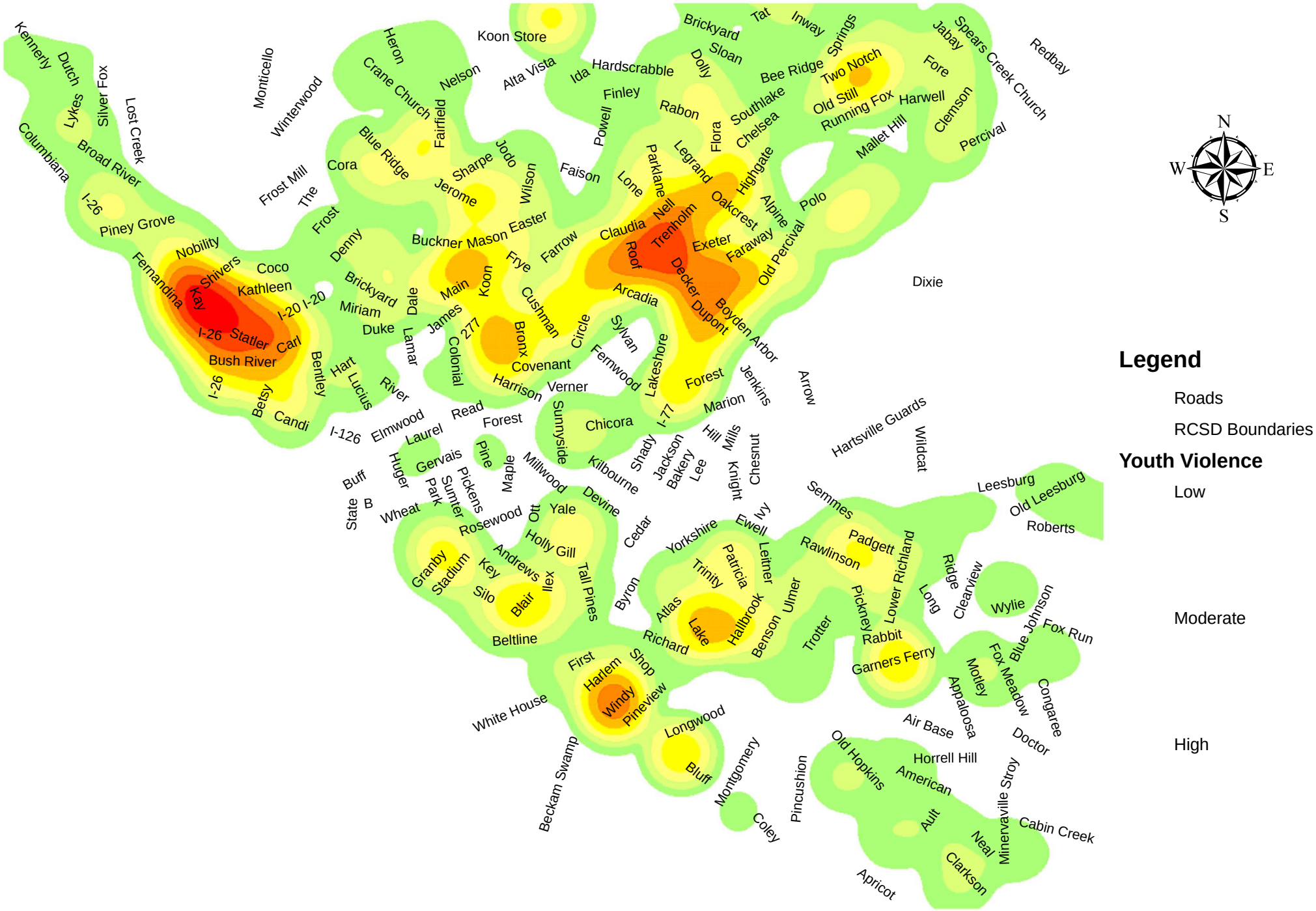
Miles

0 0.5 1 2 3 4

*Violent crime includes homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault

Digitized by South Carolina State Library

Richland County Youth Violent Crime* Density Map (January 1, 2002-April 30, 2007)



*Violent crime includes homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault

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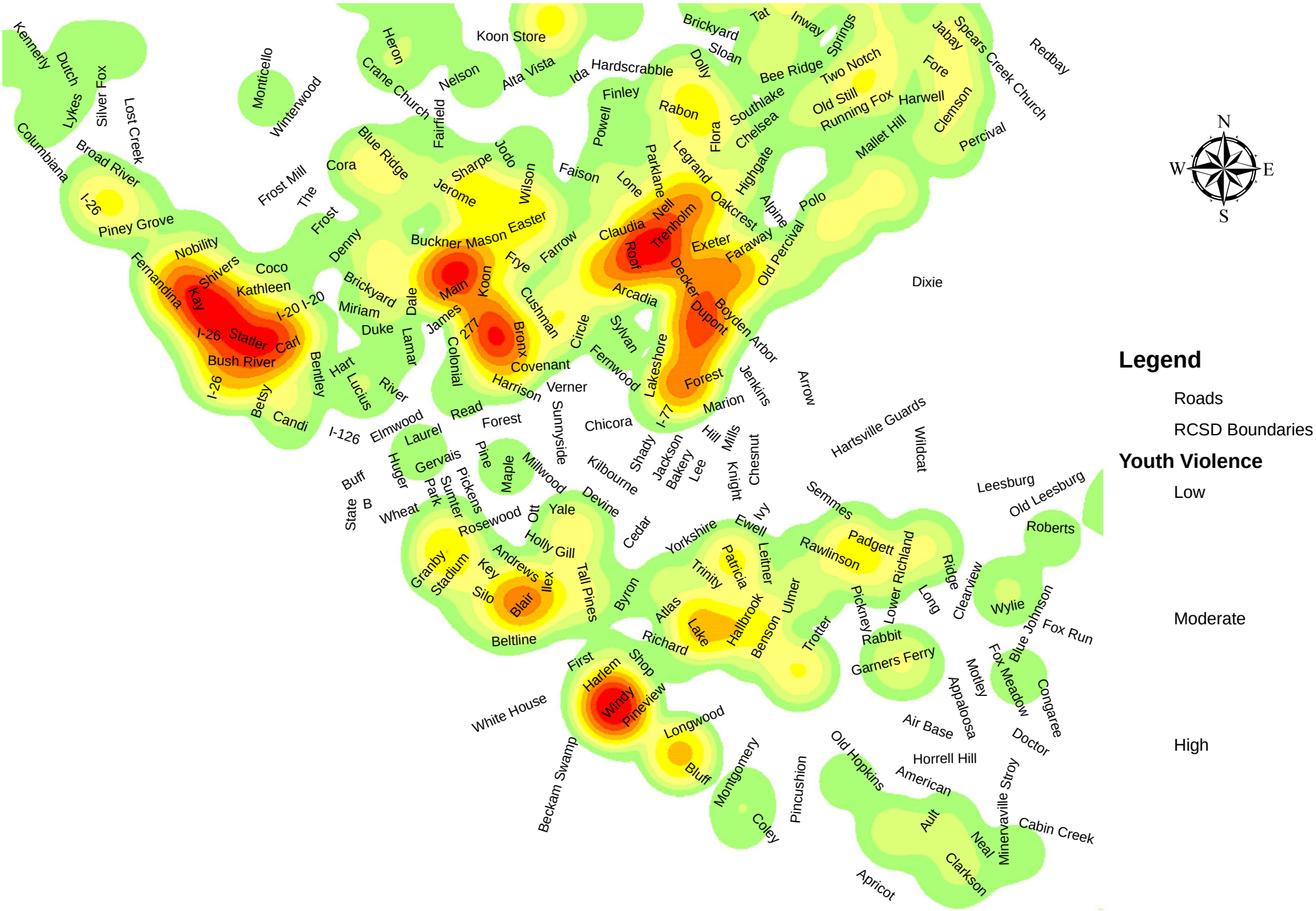
Richland County Youth Violent Crime* Density Map (January 1, 2006-April 30, 2007)



*Violent crime includes homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault

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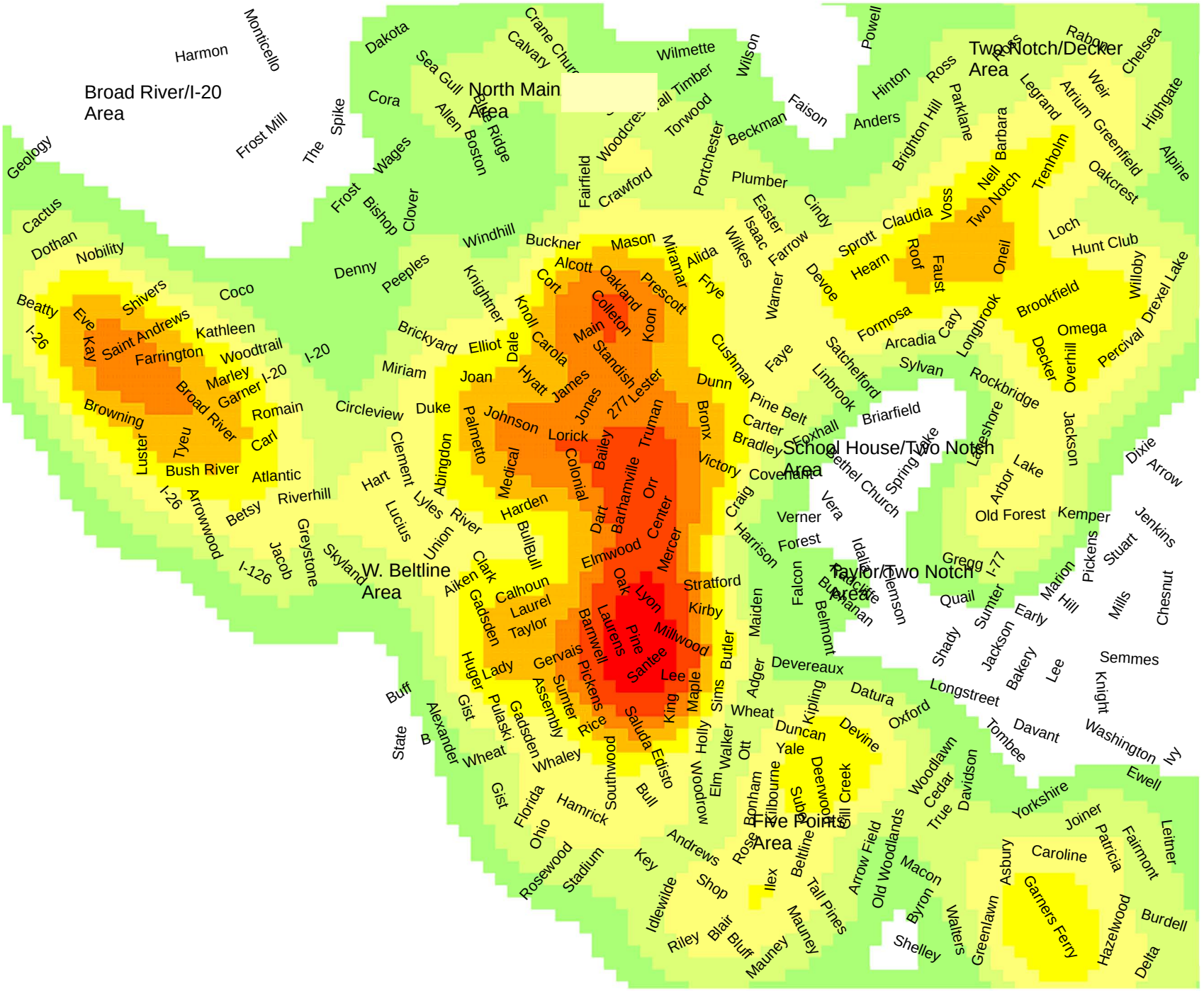
Columbia-Richland County Areas of Detailed Analysis (January 1, 2002-April 30, 2007)



Legend

Roads

RCSD Boundaries

Violent Crime

Low

Moderate

High

Miles

0 0.45 0.9 1.8 2.7 3.6

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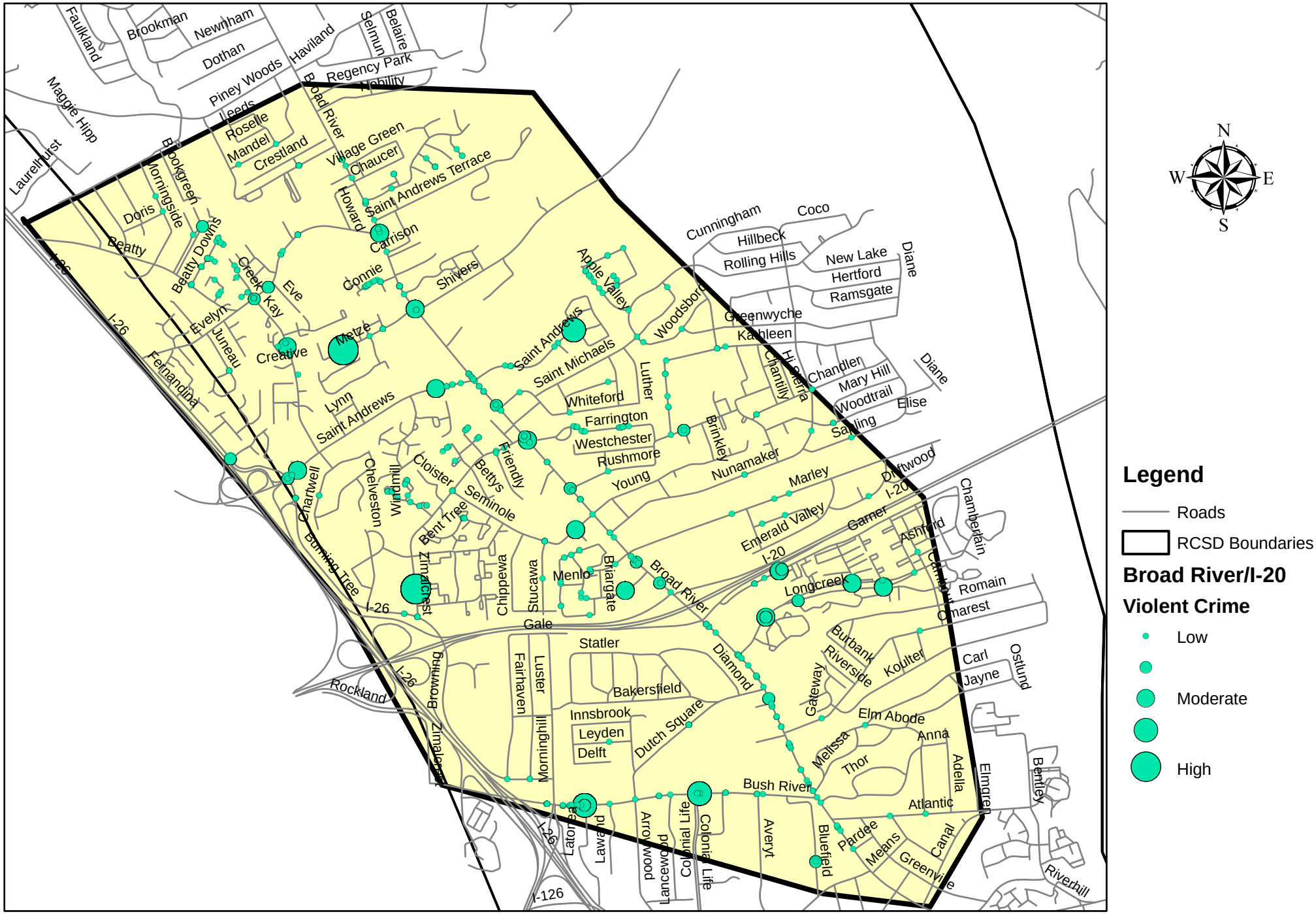
Broad River/I-20 Area Concentration of Violent Crimes* by Address (January 1, 2002-April 30, 2007)



*Includes homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault

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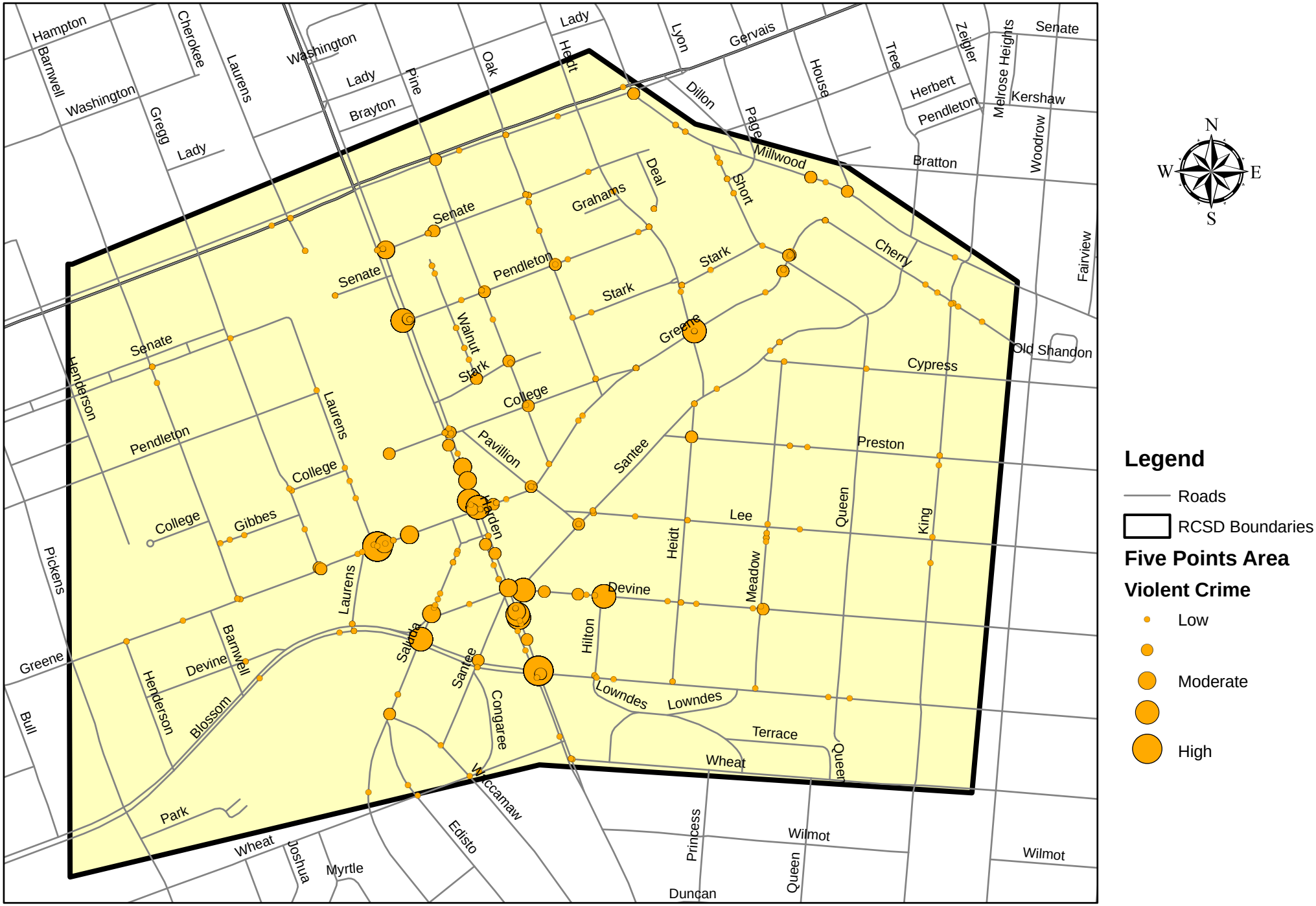
Five Points Area Concentration of Violent Crimes* by Address (January 1, 2002-April 30, 2007)



*Includes homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault

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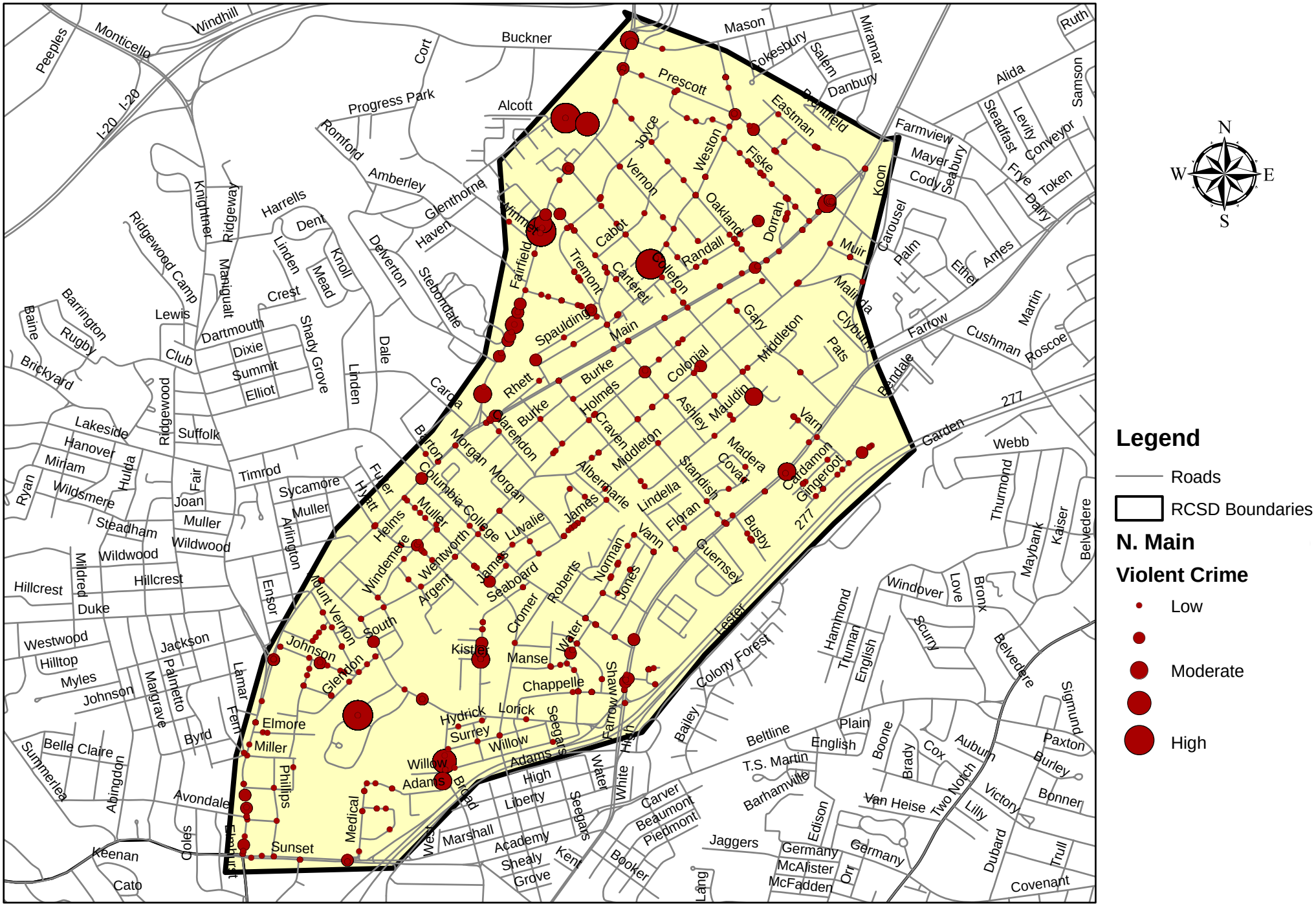
N. Main Area Concentration of Violent Crimes* by Address (January 1, 2002-April 30, 2007)



*Includes homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault

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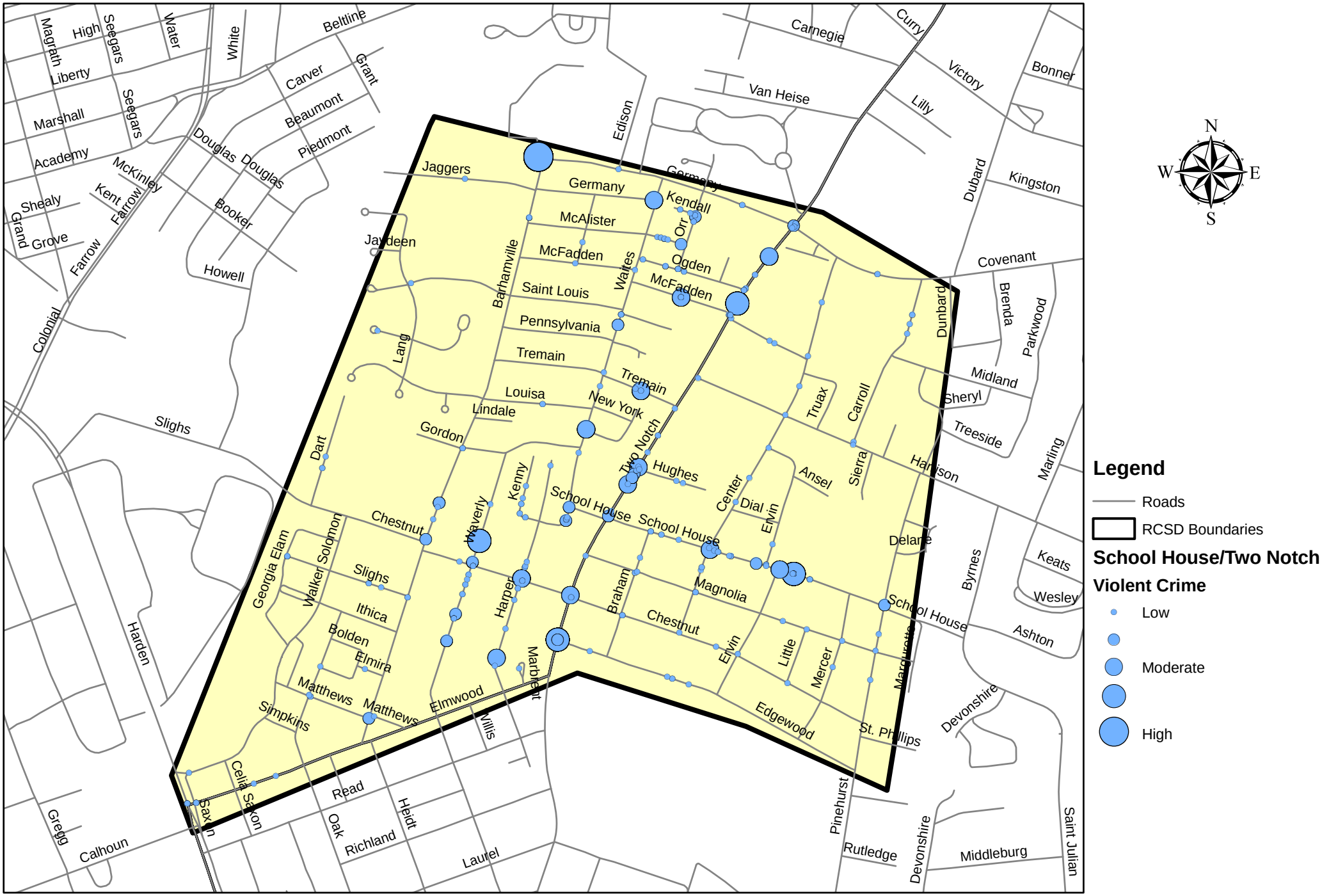
School House/Two Notch Area Concentration of Violent Crimes* by Address (January 1, 2002-April 30, 2007)



*Includes homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault

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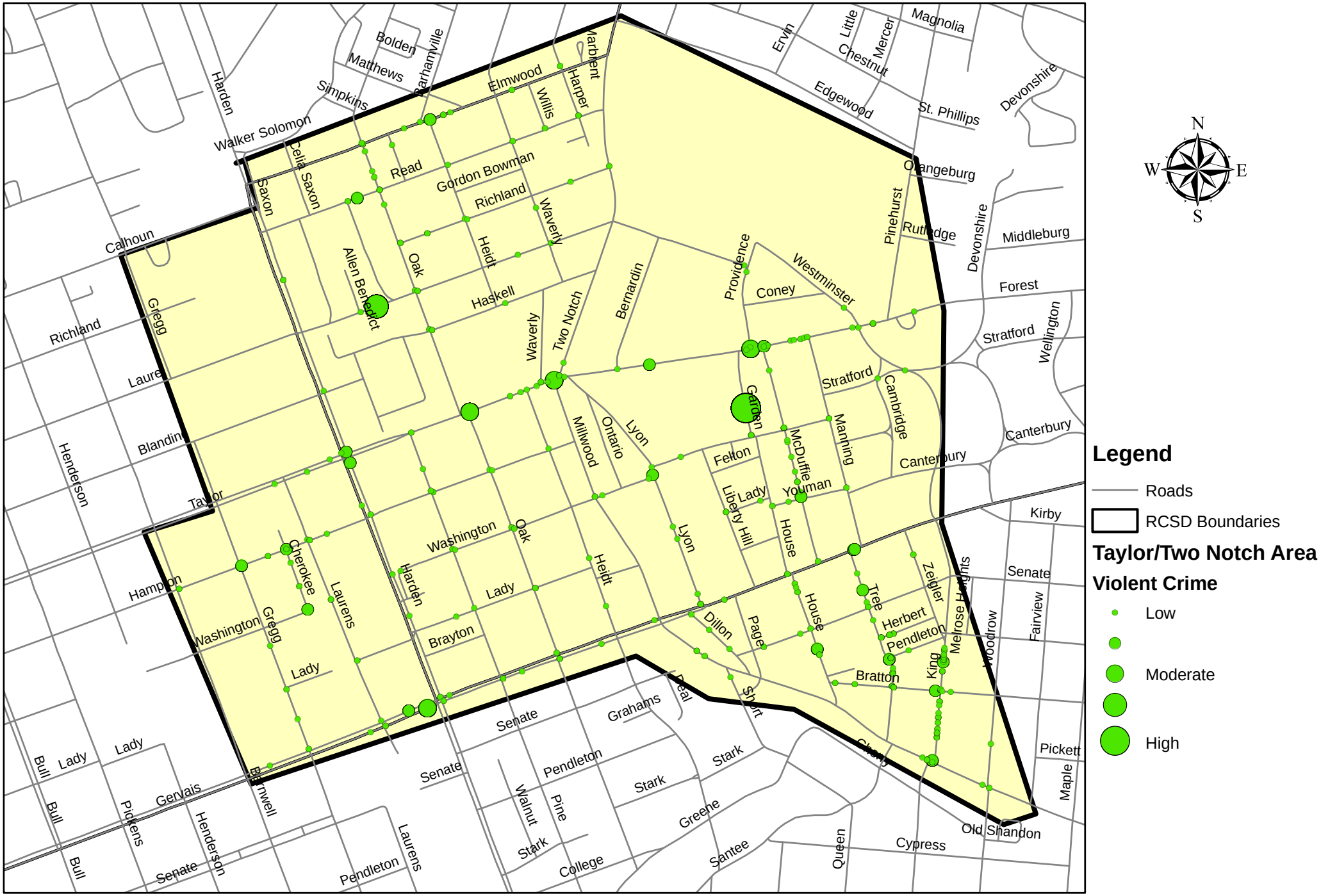
Taylor/Two Notch Area Concentration of Violent Crimes* by Address (January 1, 2002-April 30, 2007)



*Includes homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault

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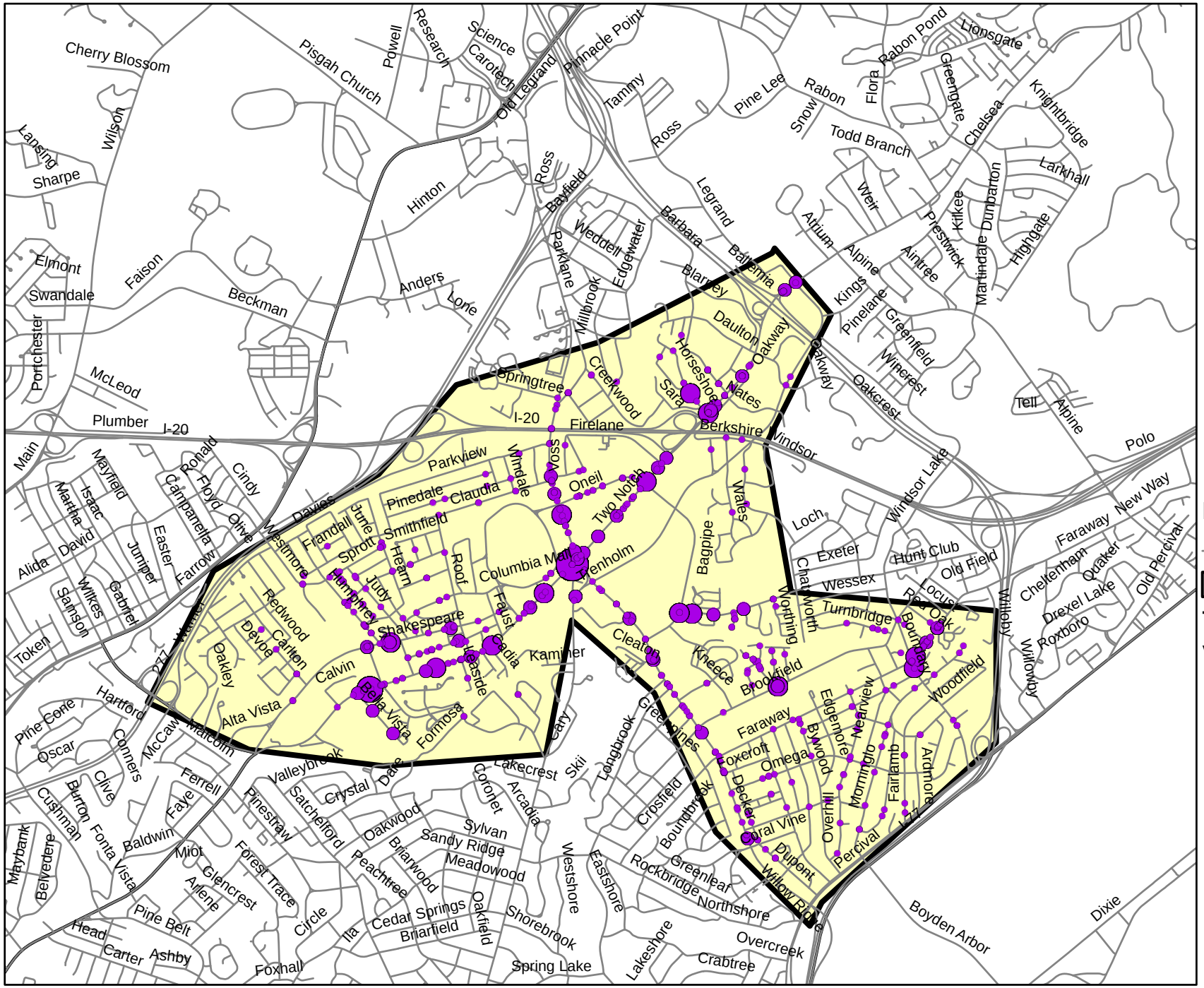
Two Notch/Decker Area Concentration of Violent Crimes* by Address (January 1, 2002-April 30, 2007)



Legend

- Roads
- RCSD Boundaries

Two Notch/Decker Area Violent Crime

- Low
- Moderate
- High

0 0.4 0.6 0.8 Miles

*Includes homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault

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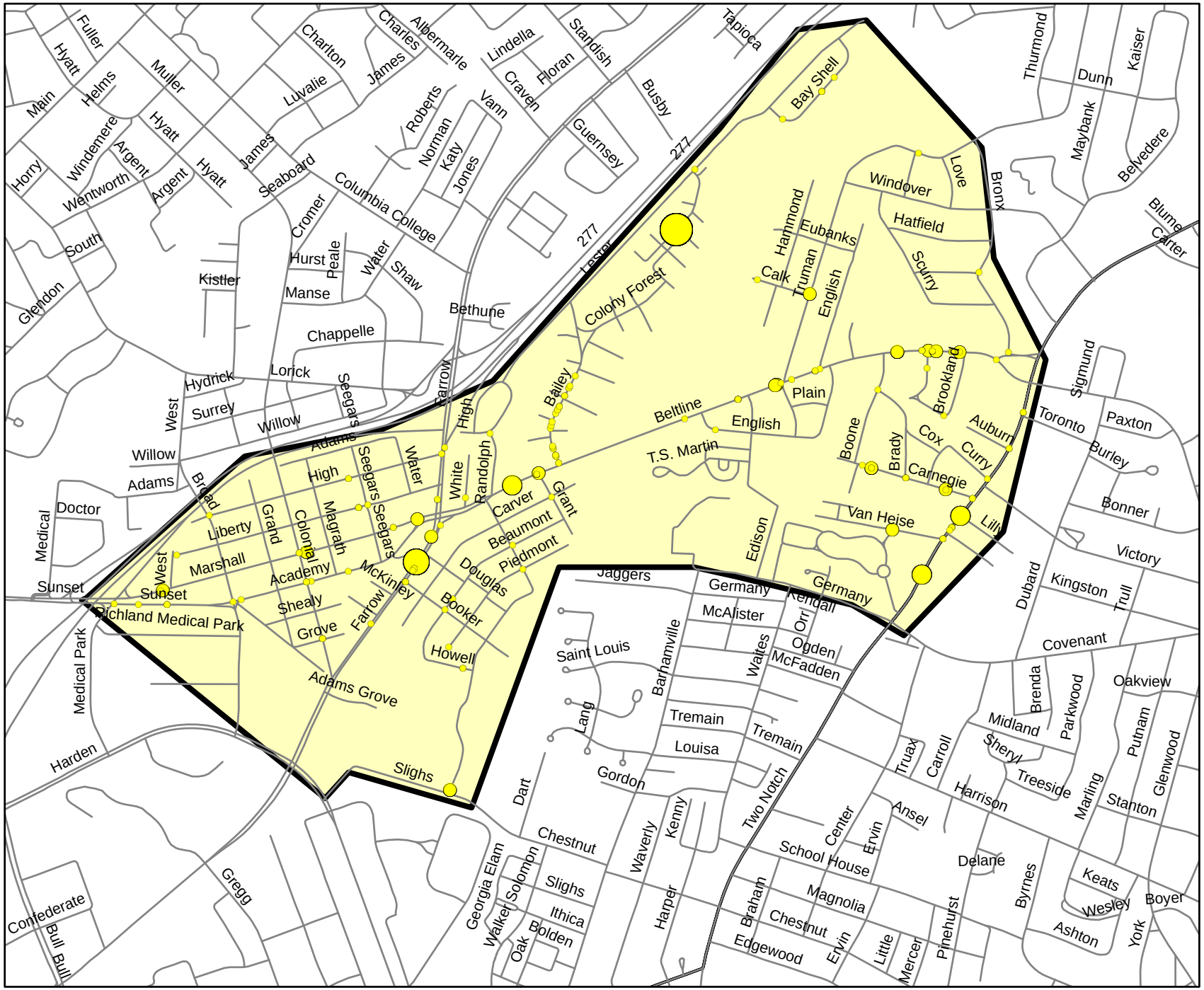
W. Beltline Area Concentration of Violent Crimes* by Address (January 1, 2002-April 30, 2007)



*Includes homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault

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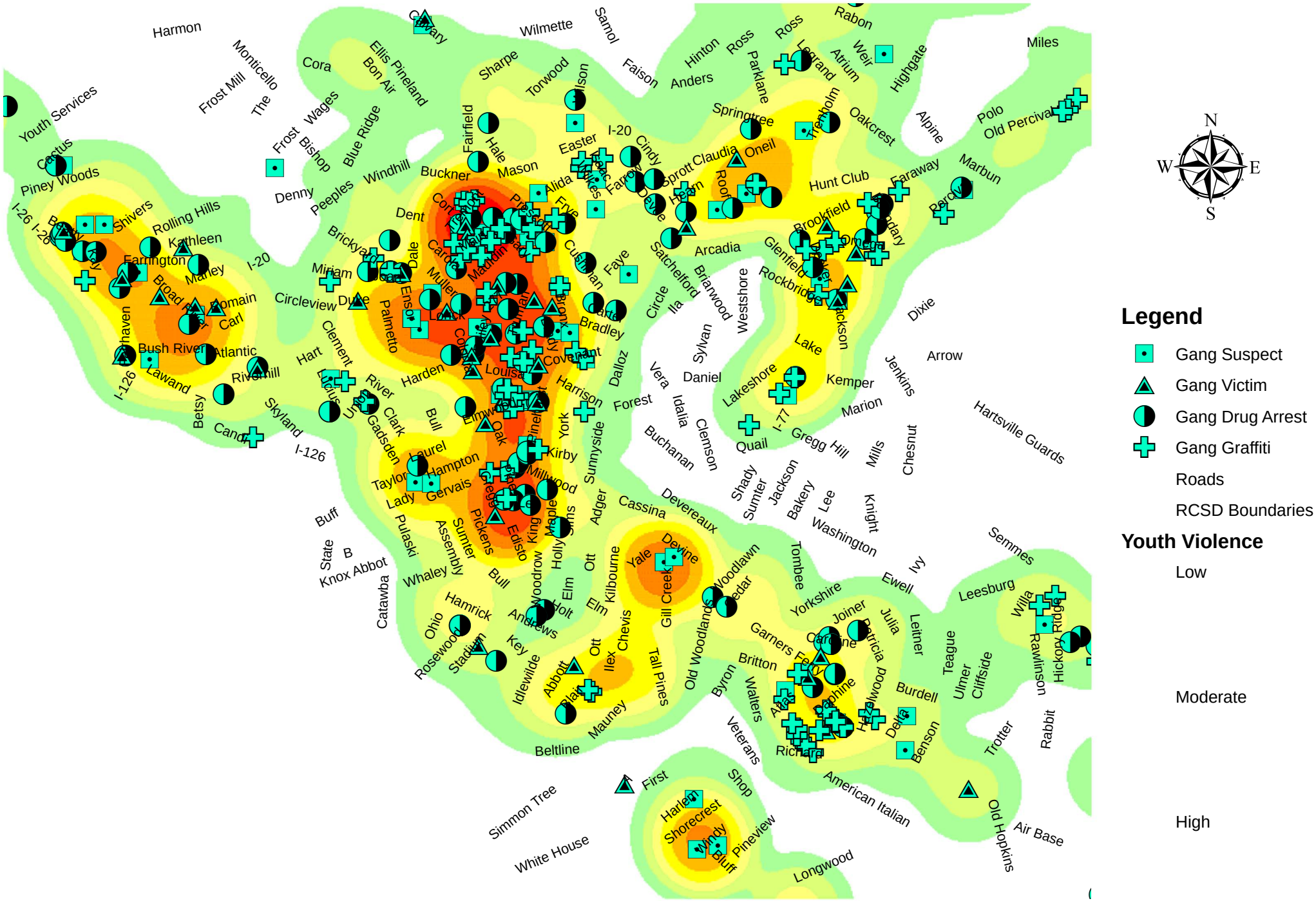
Columbia-Richland Gang Involved* Incidents with Youth Violence** Density (January 1, 2006-April 30, 2007)



*Includes violent offenses where victim or suspect is a known gang member to law enforcement

**Includes homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault where suspect between ages of 12 and 24

Miles

0 0.5 1 2 3 4

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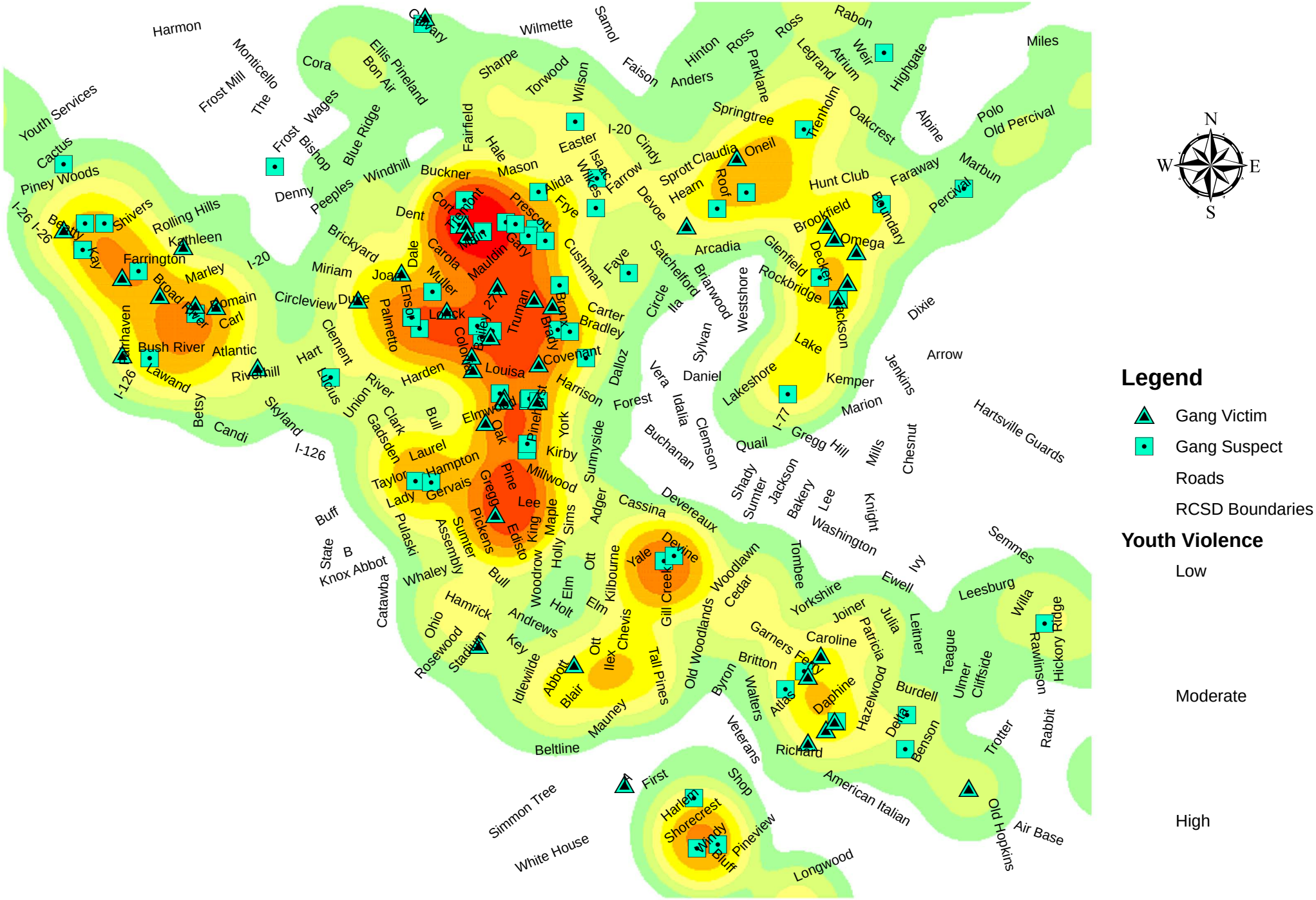
Columbia-Richland Gang Involved* Incidents with Youth Violence** Density (January 1, 2006-April 30, 2007)

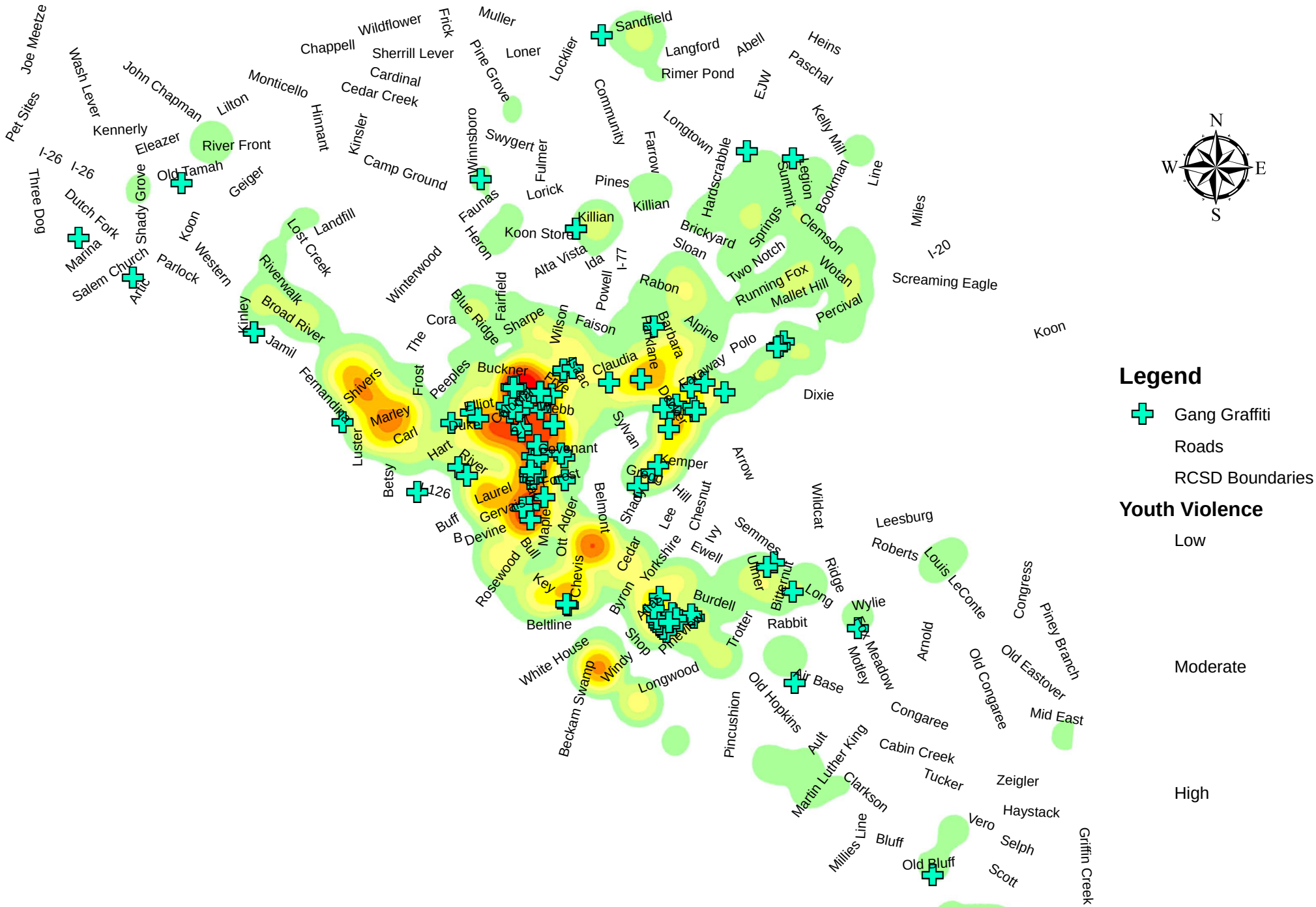


*Includes violent offenses where victim or suspect is a known gang member to law enforcement

**Includes homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault where suspect between ages of 12 and 24

Digitized by South Carolina State Library

Columbia-Richland Gang Graffiti Incidents with Youth Violence* Density (January 1, 2006-April 30, 2007)



*Includes homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault where suspect between the ages of 12 and 24

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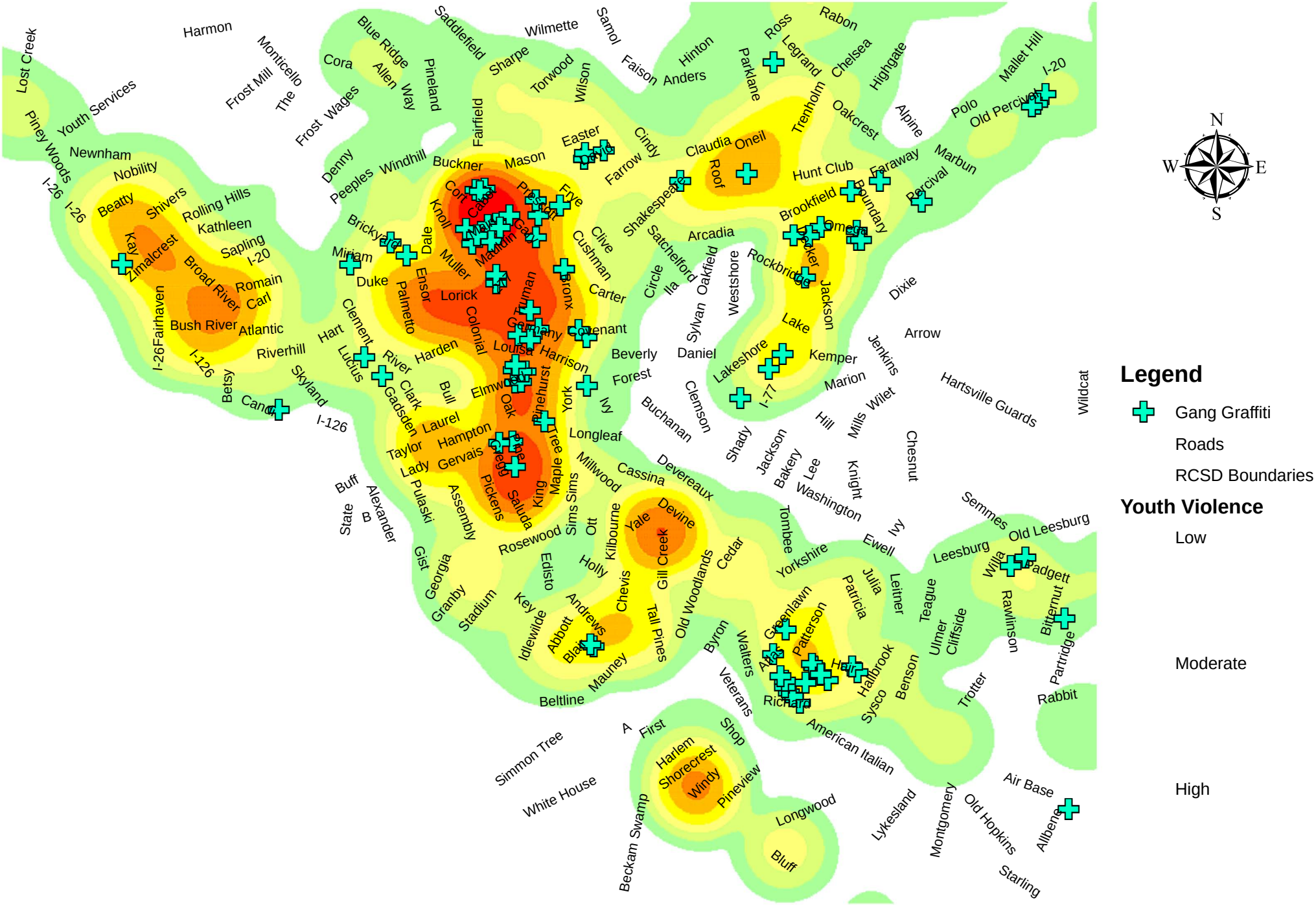
Columbia-Richland Gang Graffiti Incidents with Youth Violence* Density (January 1, 2006-April 30, 2007)



0 0.450.9 1.8 2.7 3.6 Miles

*Includes homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault where suspect between the ages of 12 and 24

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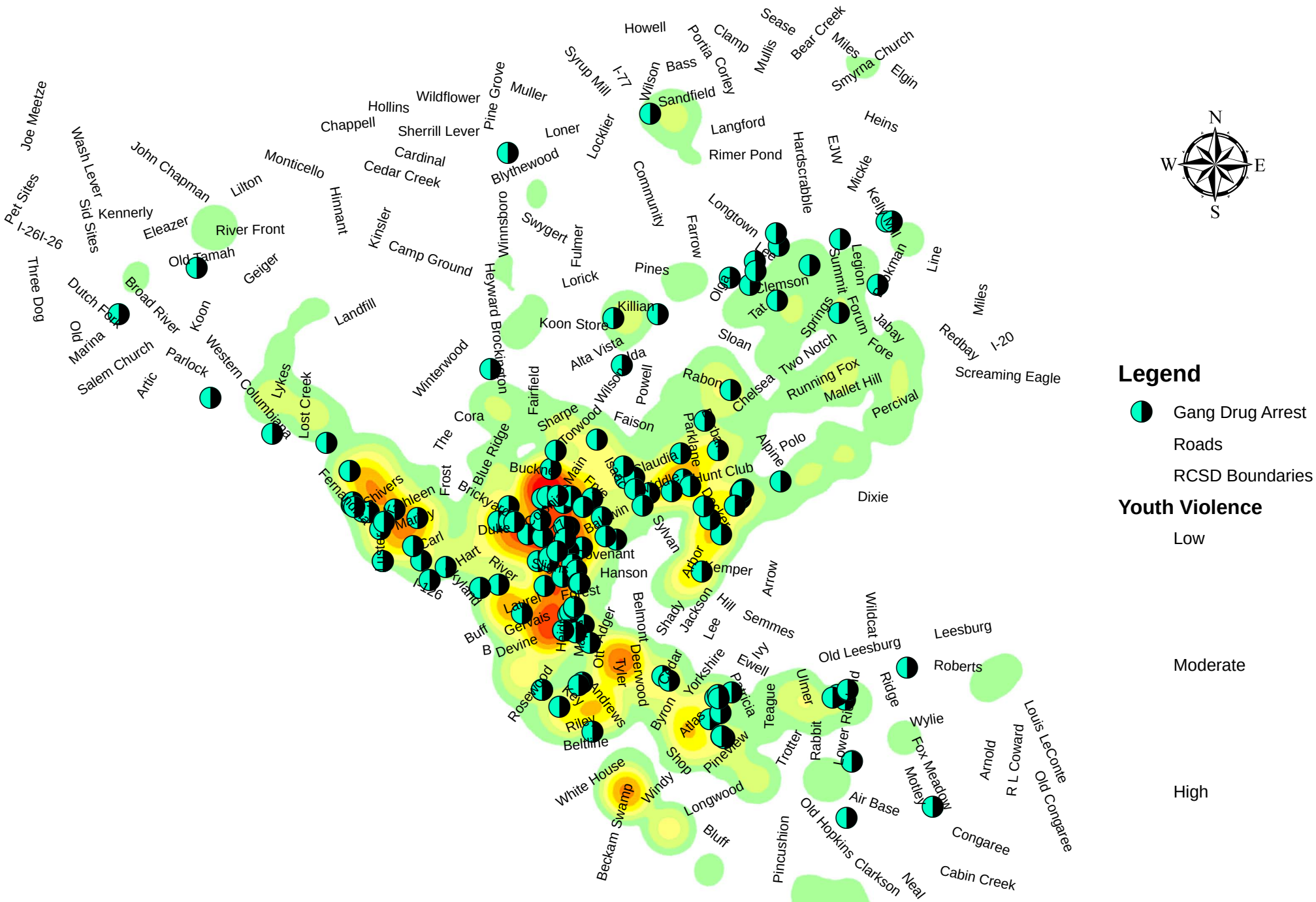
Columbia-Richland Gang Drug Arrests with Youth Violence* Density (January 1, 2006-April 30, 2007)



*Includes homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault where suspect between the ages of 12 and 24

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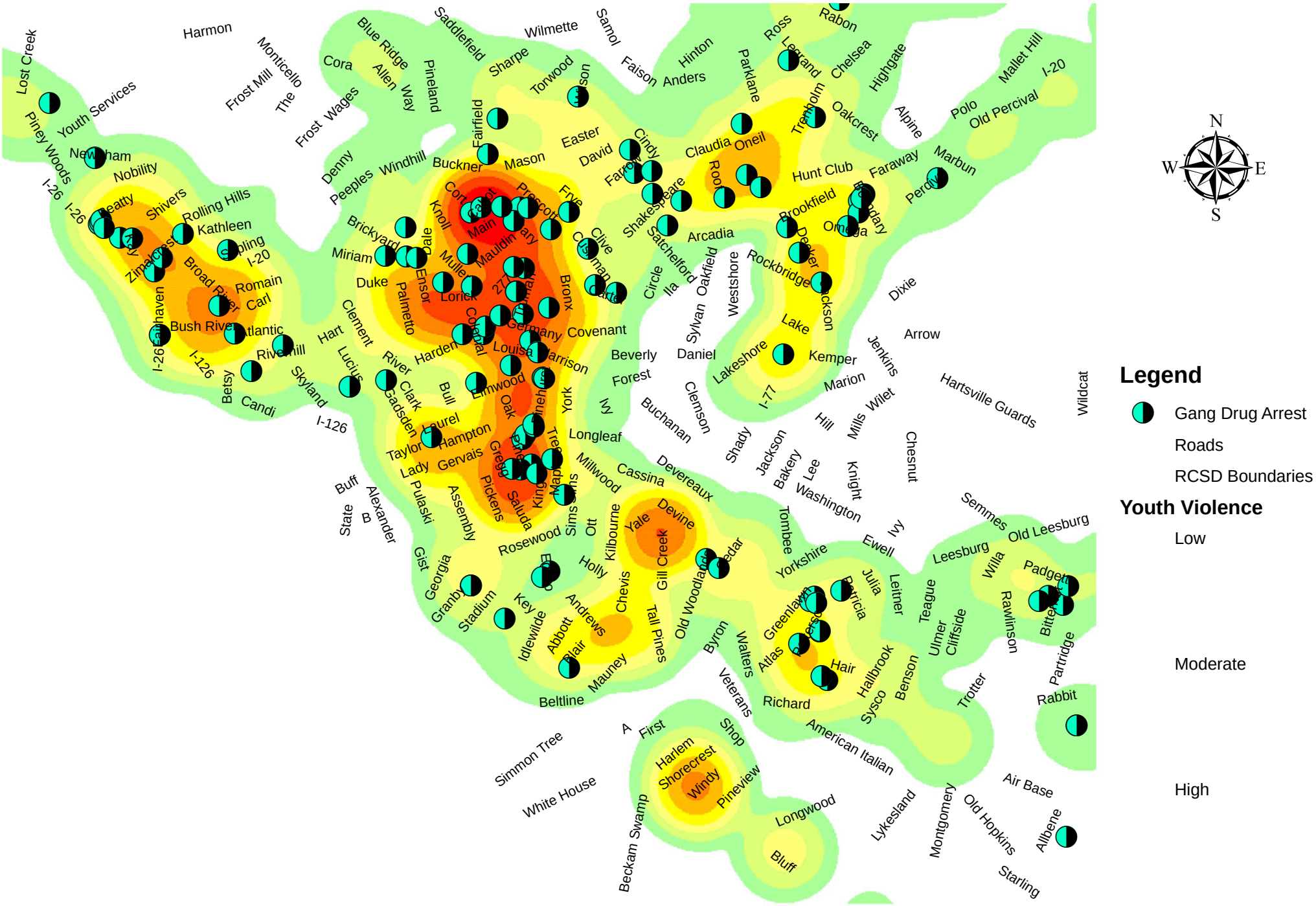
Columbia-Richland Gang Drug Arrests with Youth Violence* Density (January 1, 2006-April 30, 2007)



*Includes homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault where suspect between the ages of 12 and 24

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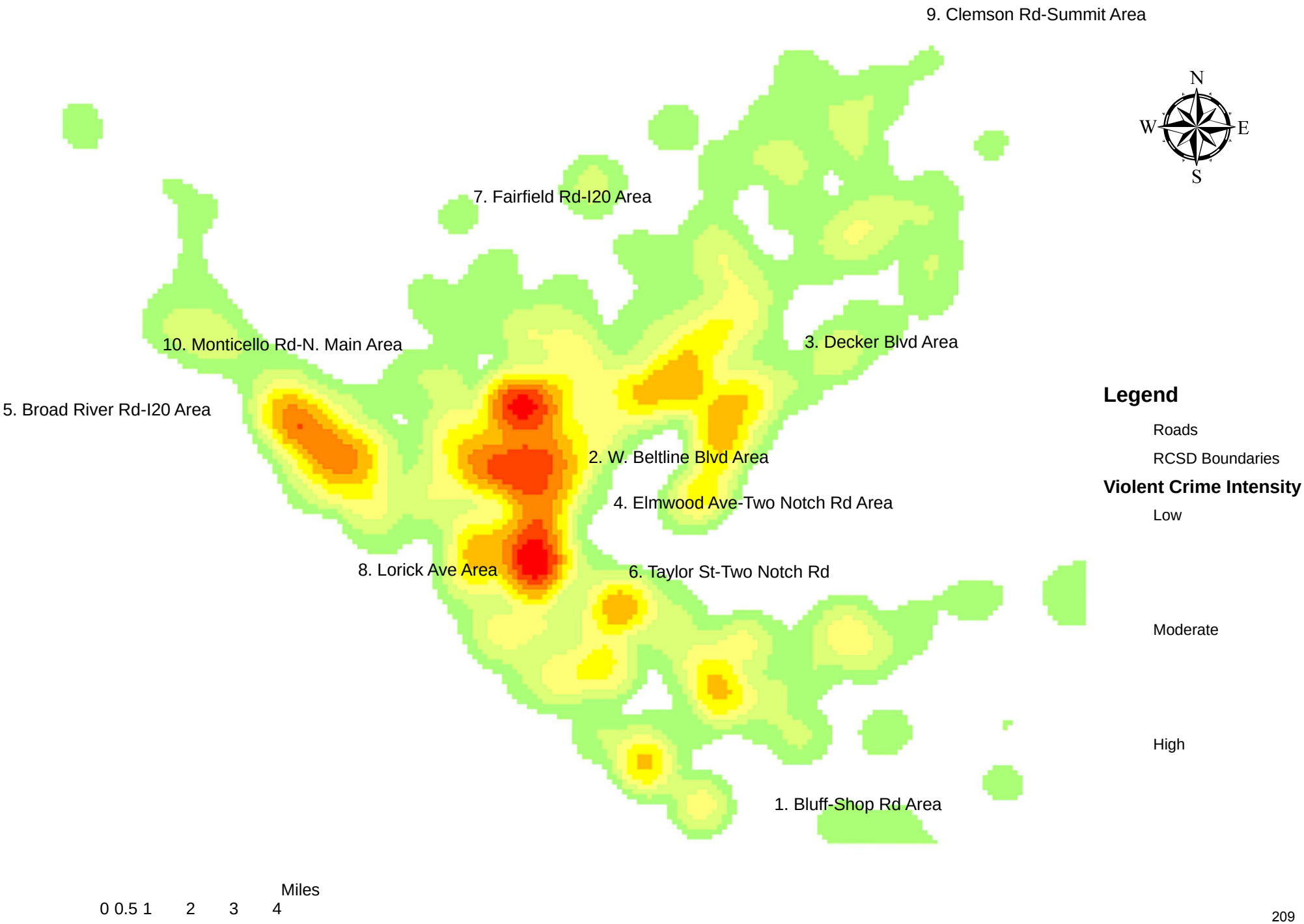
Columbia-Richland County Focus Group Areas with Violent Crime Density Map (January 1, 2006-April 30, 2007)



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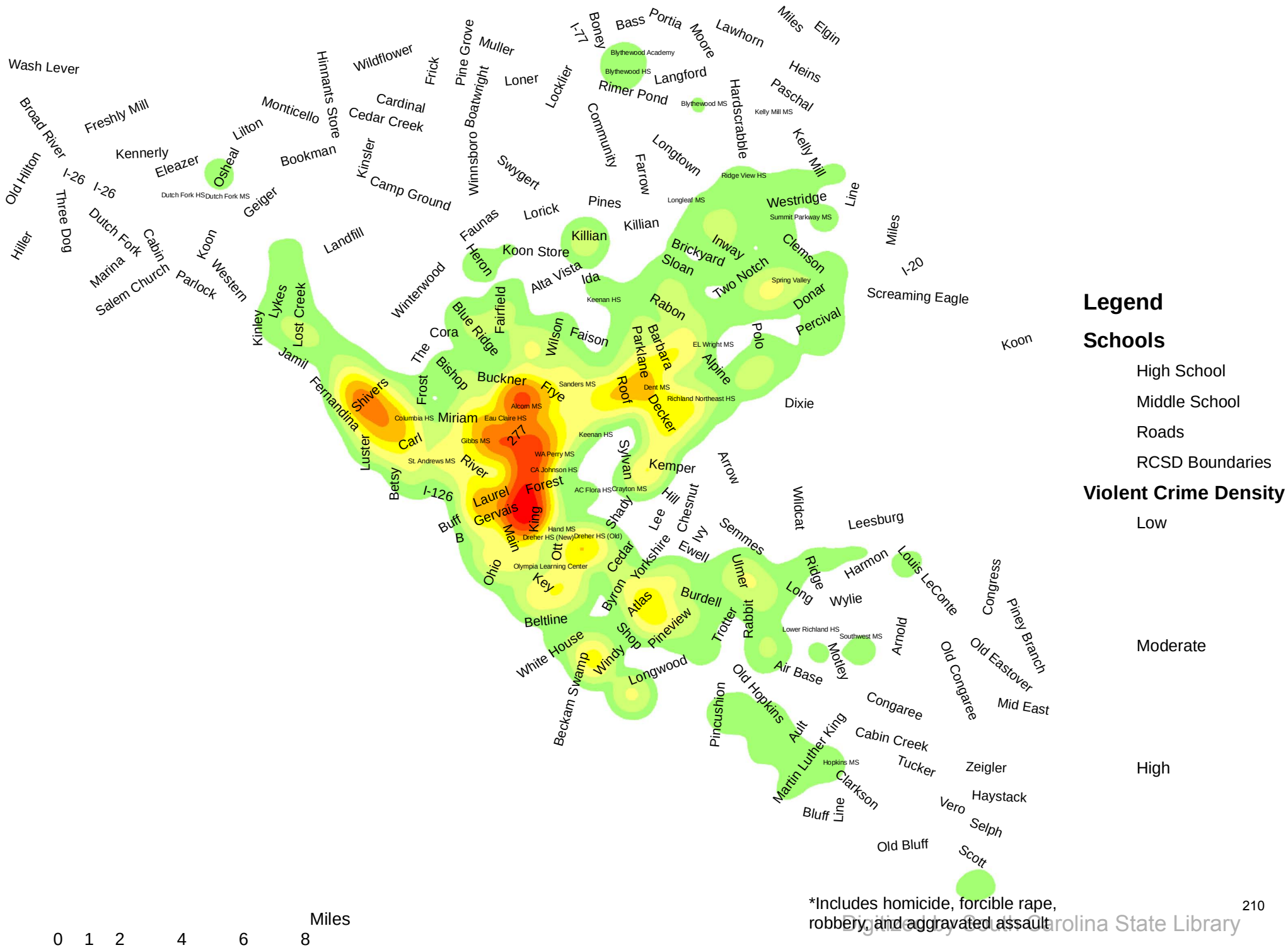
Richland County Middle and High Schools with Violent Crime* Density (January 1, 2002-April 30,2007)



*Includes homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault

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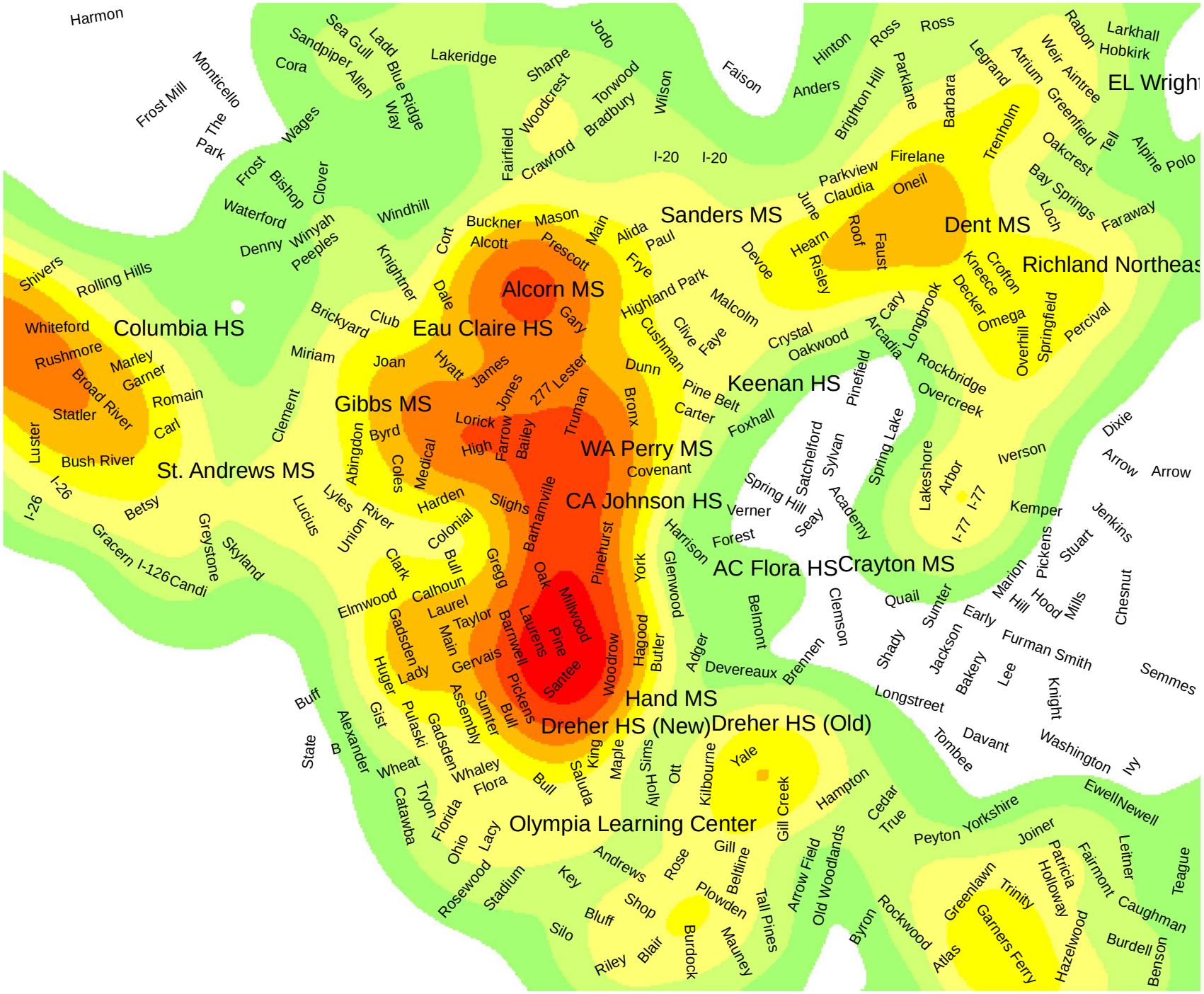
Richland County Middle and High Schools with Violent Crime* Density (January 1, 2002-April 30,2007)



Legend

Schools

- High School
- Middle School
- Roads
- RCSD Boundaries

Violent Crime Density

- Low
- Moderate
- High

Miles

0 .75 1.5 2.25 3

*Includes homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault

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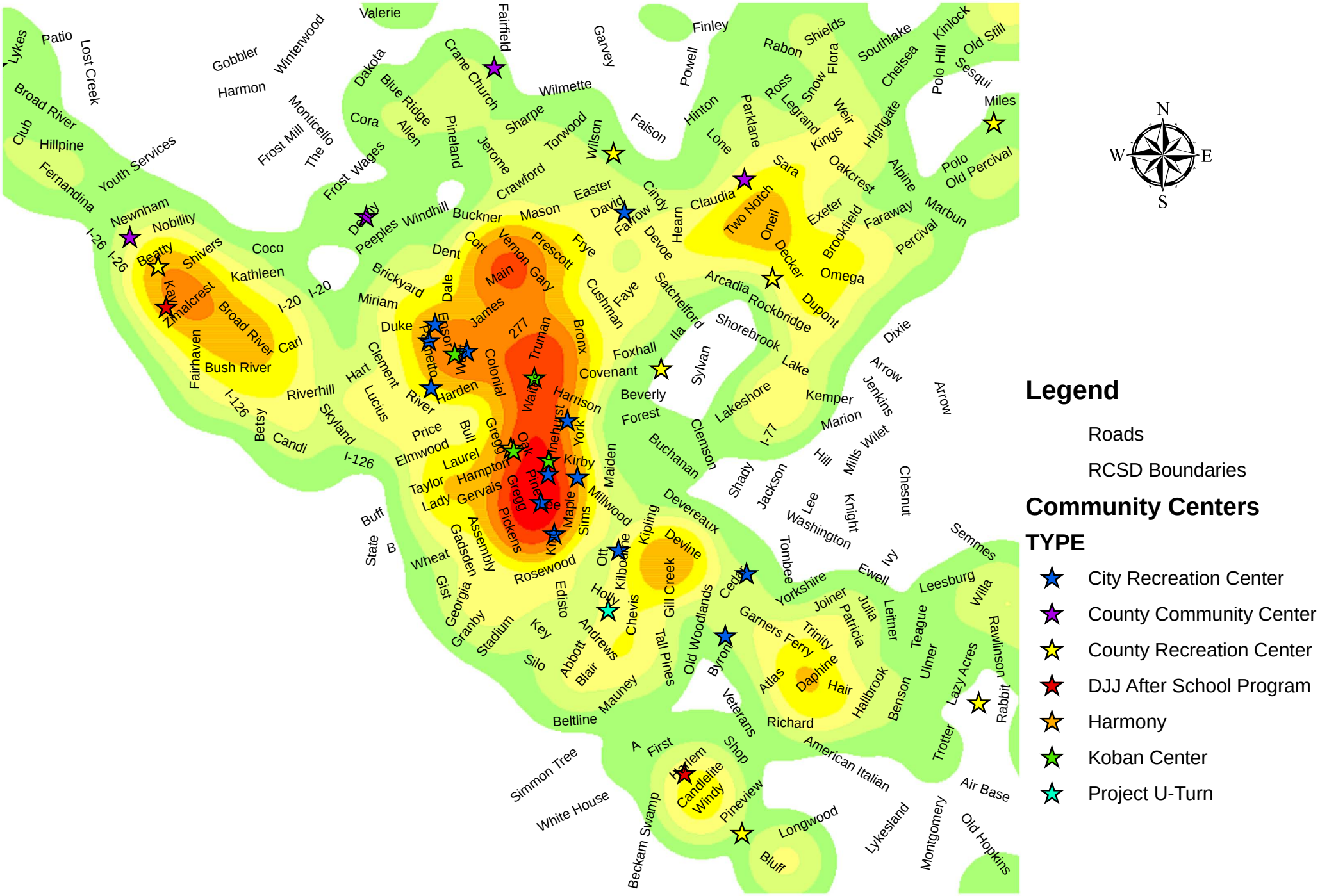
Columbia-Richland County Community Centers with Youth Violent Crime* (January 1, 2002-April 30, 2007)



*Violent crime includes homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault

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