Background of San Francisco

- Population: 852,469 persons
- Population Density: 17,179 persons per square mile
- Cost of living: 4th most expensive in USA
- Rate of Poverty: 13.5%
- Political Set Up: strong mayor
  - Mayor
  - Board of Supervisors
  - Elected Officers
San Francisco has a crime index of 3/100, making it more dangerous than 97% of cities in the United States.

There were more than 56,000 crimes committed in San Francisco last year.

20% increase in crimes from 2012 to 2013.

The national median per square mile of crime in the United States is 38 whereas for San Francisco it is 1201.

According to the national median it is twice as likely you will be the victim of a crime when living in San Francisco compared to living elsewhere.

1 out of every 17 people will be the victim of a property or violent crime this year.
Issues Faced in San Francisco: Homelessness

Homelessness is one of the major issues the city is trying to resolve

- Between 5000 and 8000 homeless in the city
- 25% of these homeless are families with children
- Many refuse to live in shelters because of poor conditions

City spends $200 million on homeless programs

Areas with a large concentration of homelessness are catalysts for drug use and violence
Drugs in San Francisco

- One of the biggest illegal drug markets at an estimated value of four-hundred million
- Most drug-related offenses occur on the East side of the city in a neighborhood named Tenderloin, with Bayview being second.
  - Also has the highest crime-rate in general
- Tenderloin is known by police as an “all-night, open drug market” with drugs flowing in and out of the city.
Drugs in San Francisco

- 13% of all residents in the bay area report to regularly use drugs recreationally.
- Most popular recreational drugs (according to the DEA’s National Forensic Laboratory Information system- 2013)
  - Methamphetamine ($70.00 per gram)- 37.8% of drug reports
  - Marijuana ($20.00 per gram)
  - Cocaine ($60.00 per gram)- 15% of drug reports
- Although marijuana and cocaine charges have declined in recent years, methamphetamine charges have increased.
Solutions and Programs

• Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System

• California has no Per Se standard, but has strict, zero tolerance laws for driving under the influence

• High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program

• Push addicts towards treatment instead of arresting them
  • Drug arrests have dropped 75% in five years
Recommendations

1. **Community policing**
   - More policemen on foot in high intensity drug trafficking areas
   - Reduce the “broken window effect”
     - Monitoring urban environments to prevent smaller crimes. The goal is to create order and lawfulness and prevent more serious crimes from happening.
     - This method targets poor and homeless which creates conflict/violence
   - Harsher penalties for dealers/traffickers

2. **Addressing poverty**
   - More resources provided to people in poverty
   - Affordable/fee drug treatment plans available to residents in need that can’t afford them

3. **Improving homelessness rates**
   - The Tenderloin is known for it’s high homeless population, it also has the highest drug use/crime rate. This shows a correlation between a high concentration of homeless residents and drug use so confronting this problem will reduce drug use.
Recommendations cont.

4. Addressing Addiction

- Provide more treatment programs
- Educate the public on the dangers of drug use and addiction
  - Focus especially on middle/high school student education
- Promote treatment rather than arrest
Conclusion

● San Francisco is densely populated and has extremely expensive living costs
● High homelessness, crime, and drug rates
● A large amount of money is spent to try to resolve these problems
● One of the biggest illegal drug markets

Drug problem programs

○ Strict: Controlled Substance Utilization and Evaluation System, driving laws, focus on high intensity areas
○ Lenient: push addicts toward treatment


