



The State of Prevention in America

Some may feel that because of the demonstrated success of crime prevention and the associated drop in crime rates that we can reduce our efforts. Just the opposite is true; crime continues to remain stubbornly persistent in certain areas of the country. If we are all to fully realize the benefits of living and working in safe and caring environments, prevention must maintain a central role in dealing with crime, violence, and drug abuse.

The Crime Prevention Coalition of America offers this report to share with you the state of prevention and hopes that it inspires you to take action in your community. The highlighted strategies and programs we present here are “snapshots” of prevention efforts taking place throughout the nation. Each highlight provides a brief description of an effective crime prevention program and contact information.

Fifty Programs in 50 States, and More

National

Gang Prevention Through Targeted Outreach—Boys & Girls Clubs of America

Gang Prevention Through Targeted Outreach is a comprehensive prevention approach using effective techniques and strategies that direct at-risk youth, ages six to 18, to positive alternatives available at Boys & Girls Clubs nationwide. Young people on the right track do not become involved in violent, costly behavior. They help others take responsibility for their actions, and serve as role models to younger boys and girls. The targeted outreach effort begins with mobilizing community leaders and club staff to discuss local gang issues, design a community-wide strategy, and clarify their roles. Through a referral network of courts, police, other juvenile justice agencies, schools, social service agencies, and community organizations, and direct outreach efforts, young people identified as at-risk are recruited and integrated into mainstream Boys & Girls Club program activities as a diversion from anti-social gang activity. Staff professionals assess the individual's interests and needs, establishing a bond of trust necessary to create a positive influence and a long-lasting mentor relationship. On a monthly basis, staff members document progress on

specific participant goals such as club involvement, school performance, involvement with the juvenile justice system, family involvement, referral status, and significant problems or achievements. The program has resulted in a dramatic reduction in the recidivism rates of youth participating in the program. Participants are also showing great improvement in school behavior, grades, and attendance. Developed by Boys & Girls Clubs of America in 1991, and funded by the Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, hundreds of clubs throughout the country participate in the program.

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Embedding Crime Prevention in State Policy and Practice

In September 2000, the National Crime Prevention Council, in partnership with six states, launched the Embedding Prevention in State Policy and Practice initiative. The core thrust of Embedding is to create self-supporting movements within selected states and their communities that promote and implement prevention as the policy of choice for reducing crime, violence, and drug abuse. This initiative represents the commitment of NCPCC and the six states—Arizona, California, Connecticut, Iowa, Kentucky, and Oregon—to building vital communities that do not produce crime. Though involving the difficult and complex task of changing bureaucracies and belief systems, the initiative already boasts extremely promising results. In Connecticut, Embedding has led to the passage of “An Act Concerning Crime Prevention and a State Prevention Council.” The legislation signed in July 2001, formalizes a focus on prevention in Connecticut by developing an inventory of ongoing prevention efforts in the state, creating a high-level state prevention council composed of state agency commissioners, encouraging cross-agency collaboration, and requiring agency heads to discuss their prevention efforts during their testimony before the state’s legislature. Arizona has focused on increasing accountability in prevention programs and improving state support of community prevention efforts. The state has developed community health indicators and undertaken a systemic appraisal of needs in the state in order to guide prevention in Arizona. Both Iowa and Oregon have pursued a blended fund-



ing approach to prevention that focuses on identifying community needs and using all available funding sources to address those needs. This blended funding approach replaces the more prevalent structure where communities are forced to couch their problems in the terms of a particular funding stream rather than tailoring responses to the unique charac-

teristics of the community. California has used high-profile public meetings to focus on the need to shift the state’s focus from agency centered responses by state government to a response focused on solving community problems. Finally, Kentucky has succeeded in securing support from the commonwealth’s Criminal Justice Council in incorporating prevention priorities into planning, policy development, and recommendations to the governor and the Kentucky General Assembly. As

Embedding continues, NCPCC will share the lessons learned with other states in an effort to encourage more states to commit to embedding crime prevention in their state policy and practice.

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National McGruff House Network

In 1982, responding to a rash of child abductions and sexual assaults, the Utah Council for Crime Prevention developed a unique program to identify safe homes for children fearing danger. The first program was established in Bountiful, Utah. The idea was that two to three homes per neighborhood block would be designated as safe homes for children by the local law enforcement agency. These neighborhood safe homes were identified by a distinctive McGruff House® sign. This community-police partnership has grown from a few neighborhoods in Utah to over 20,000 McGruff House homes nationwide. The success of the McGruff House program led to the creation of the McGruff Truck® program. McGruff Truck is based upon the same premise that citizens could easily be trained and prepared to look out for and take care of children in danger. The McGruff

Truck program involves training drivers of public utility trucks to spot children in dangerous situations, contact appropriate law enforcement personnel, and render appropriate aid. The McGruff House/McGruff Truck programs have been able to serve thousands of children in danger.

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Center for Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws —Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation

During 2000, the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation founded the Center for Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws. The center was created to collect and analyze underage-drinking data; analyze proposed and pending underage-drinking legislation; conduct literature reviews on underage drinking; and identify and publicize promising underage drinking program strategies. The center is guided by three principles—substantive youth involvement, a commitment to environmental change, and a recognition of the importance of cultural issues. Services provided by the center include training law enforcement representatives on strategies to enforce underage drinking laws through community cooperation, training policy makers on effective alcohol access policies, training community members on strategies to change community norms regarding underage alcohol consumption, developing documents high-

lighting effective approaches, promoting evaluation of program efforts, and providing technical assistance to communities. The center has produced a number of valuable resources for communities seeking to reduce underage drinking and associated criminal activity.

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National Neighborhood Watch Program—National Sheriffs’ Association

In the 1960s, during a time of rising property crime rates, local law enforcement officials realized they could not solve all crime-related problems alone. They hoped that by working in partnership with local residents, crime rates in communities could be reduced. As a result, Neighborhood Watch programs began springing up across the country.

Neighborhood Watch efforts have taught citizens how to secure their own property, look out for and report suspicious neighborhood activity, and build pride and unity in neighborhoods. The National Sheriffs’ Association organized the national program in 1972 to encourage the spread of this successful

strategy. Since then, tens of thousands of local Neighborhood Watch programs have been established. The Neighborhood Watch model has inspired numerous related efforts including Business Watch, Church Watch, and Realtor Watch.

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Teens, Crime, and the Community—National Crime Prevention Council and Street Law, Inc.

Teens, Crime, and the Community (TCC) is a locally implemented effort to prevent teens from becoming victims or perpetrators of crime. It was founded in 1985 through a partnership between NCPC and Street Law, Inc. TCC combines education and action to help students learn how to prevent crime and to avoid becoming a victim of crime. The curriculum challenges students to solve problems, build life skills, convey crime prevention know-how, and strengthen their commitment to community. The action projects encourage students to employ their energy, idealism, commitment, and knowledge to the unique circumstances of their school, neighborhood, or community in an effort to identify and address a crime-related problem. The youth are “shirtsleeve” partners in designing and running these action projects. Projects include park cleanups, community beautification projects, peer mediation, drug-use prevention education, and crime prevention education. TCC is taught both in the school setting and in community centers such as Boys & Girls Clubs. Studies on the program have shown that teens involved in the program are more likely to under-

stand ways to prevent crime against themselves, their family, and their friends; increase their belief in ethical rules and the need for laws; demonstrate a greater sense of altruism and community bonding; reduce their own delinquency and their association with delinquent peers; and participate in classroom work and community project activities.

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Identity Theft Awareness Campaign—U.S. Postal Inspection Service

Our 21st century “information economy” has attracted a new breed of criminal activity that uses information—particularly personal information on unsuspecting citizens—to commit various crimes. One increasingly prevalent crime involves identity theft. Perpetrators of this crime steal personal information such as social security numbers, bank account numbers, and employment history for use in fraudulent activities. The U.S. Postal Inspection Service has implemented a nationwide identity theft awareness campaign to help postal customers recognize ways to protect themselves from this crime. The campaign includes U.S. Postal Inspection Service assistance with a made-for-cable movie about the issue, an educational video that has been

distributed to law enforcement agencies and financial institutions nationwide, and a brochure for citizens to use in protecting their personal information both before and after an identity theft crime has occurred. These resources have reached close to six million Americans with messages on preventing identity theft.

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MADD: Youth in Action

In 1996, MADD announced its intention to implement a new effort to combat the number one drug of choice for America’s youth—alcohol. MADD’s effort, Youth in Action (YIA), is designed to engage youth and adults in changing community norms around underage consumption of alcohol. YIA engages students, parents, schools, churches, and media to present young people with a clear and consistent “no-use” message. Additionally, YIA works with young people to effect state- and community-level policy change to have an impact on underage drinking and impaired driving. The program works by teaming young people with adult members of MADD to work on community and statewide underage drinking reduction initiatives. The teams focus on

strategies such as changing laws, strengthening enforcement, and advocating their cause through the media. YIA has expanded from six communities to 42 communities across the nation.

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Alabama

Maximizing Crime Prevention Efforts

In order to maximize law enforcement, community policing, and crime prevention training in Alabama, key agencies decided to partner. The partnership is composed of the three U.S. attorney's offices through the law enforcement coordinating committees, the Alabama Operations Center for the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA), the Gulf Coast HIDTA, and the Alabama Crime Prevention Clearinghouse at Auburn University Montgomery. The partnership maximizes the efforts of each agency by eliminating duplication and scheduling conflicts and expanding their reach. The agencies develop specialized training according to specific needs, and each agency promotes the trainings of the others in the partnership. A Web site assists agencies

in scheduling programs and helps attendees find available training. The partnership has allowed agencies to pool resources and offer more cost-effective and pertinent training on a statewide basis.

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Alaska

Reintegrating Youth Offenders

The Boys & Girls Clubs of South-central Alaska and McLaughlin Youth Center Detention Unit in Anchorage have partnered to help eligible juvenile offenders reintegrate into their communities. Youth are selected for program participation based upon their demonstrated desire to work with their families, counselors, and probation officers. Initially, five youth were selected for the program and rapidly expanded to full capacity (20 youth). The detention center provides counselors while Boys & Girls Clubs provide a location, an array of youth development programs, and expertise working with high-risk youth. Participants in the program benefit from individual and group programs that can be tailored to meet their specific needs. Boys & Girls Clubs programs help to give these young people a sense of belonging and self-esteem. Club programs, including sports, arts and crafts, SMART Moves (a program that empowers

youth with the skills necessary to resist drug and alcohol use and premature sexual activity), along with 15 hours a week of club and community service activities, builds a sense of competence and usefulness in youth. The program currently runs eight hours a day, five days a week and will soon expand to seven days a week with a focus on community service specifically for victims of crimes. By establishing a connection with their community the youth are less likely to get in trouble again in the future.

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Arizona

The Graffiti Hotline

In 1995, fearing that the persistent graffiti problem in Phoenix, Arizona, was costing millions of dollars in damage to private property, destroying community pride, and inviting vandals and other criminals into their community, the Northwest Block Watch Coalition (NWBWC) founded the graffiti hotline. The graffiti hotline started by providing rewards for citizens who anonymously identified graffiti vandals. Since its inception, the hotline has generated more than 28,000 calls, paid out over \$95,650 in rewards, and led to over 757 graffiti arrests. In addition to the hotline, a stealth team was created to paint over any reported graffiti, cleaning up over 435,000 square feet of graffiti vandalism since 1995. Before cleaning up any graffiti, the stealth team takes a photograph

of the graffiti that is added to a police database in order to track and apprehend persistent offenders. Finally, the hotline and the NWBWC have taken their efforts to the schools of Phoenix where they involve students in cleaning up graffiti and learning how to prevent it.

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Arkansas

Partnership To Reduce Gang Violence and Criminal Activity

Boys & Girls Clubs throughout the state and local law enforcement officials are working with the governor and the Department of Human Services to directly address gang violence and criminal activity. Court-referred youth are admitted into various Boys & Girls Club programs where they are provided critical reintegration services to help them become productive members of the community. The partnership also spearheads truancy abatement efforts in collaboration with local law enforcement officials. Where appropriate, Boys & Girls Clubs provide services within juvenile detention centers. Preliminary results show this partnership is helping to create a more effective juvenile court and probation system, a reduced rate of recidivism, and a reduction in

youth crime rates. This statewide public/private partnership provides new solutions to the old problem of recidivism. The partnership capitalizes on the expertise and commitment of youth development practitioners found in the Boys & Girls Clubs throughout the state.

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California Safe From the Start

One in every four Californian children is directly exposed to violence, as a victim or witness. These young children experience an increased risk of developmental problems, which may lead to school failure and violent behavior. California Safe From the Start is a comprehensive program designed to bring together leaders from law enforcement, education, health services, and other organizations to develop strategies for coordinating assistance to children victimized or exposed to violence. Law enforcement officers are typical first responders to violent incidents and are best able to identify problem situations and help coordinate community resources to help children exposed to violence. The program was launched with a statewide symposium hosted by the California attorney general. The program will also host nine regional forums to share the latest research and assist communities as they develop their problem-solving teams. The attorney general's office will continue to provide assistance to communities and will gather, report, and share the successes of the communities involved.

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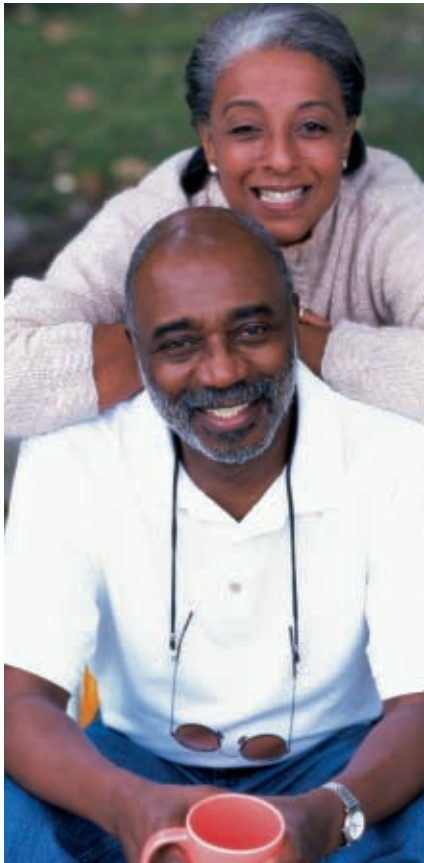
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Colorado

Denver Senior Companion Program—Seniors!, Inc.

For the past fifteen years, Denver senior companion program, Seniors!, Inc., has provided senior companions to Jewish Family Services and Allied Housing and Home Care Management to address the needs of thousands of Russian Jewish immigrants who fled political and religious persecution. These immigrants face the potentially overwhelming task of adjusting to a new culture, environment, and language. The volunteer companions work to identify and meet the needs of vulnerable elderly immigrants in the community; accompany clients to cultural and recreational events; and assist with errands, letter writing, and shopping. They also serve as advocates and provide transportation. In addition, the companions present workshops on crime, crime prevention, and public safety. In providing these services, they also build intergenerational relationships, understanding, and companionship between the elderly and youth, reducing the fear that paralyzes and isolates many older people. The companions have been extraordinarily successful in helping thousands of these immigrant residents to become self-sufficient, independent, and productive citizens. Finally, the program has helped the residents become better able to prevent crime and cope with the consequences of crime. The volunteer companions make substantial contributions to safety and to helping increase elders' ability to prevent crime. Community problems are brought to the attention of civic authorities more quickly so that authorities can take appropriate action in a more timely manner. And finally, police and members of the community have a greater understanding of each others concerns and needs, and are able to benefit from a positive working relationship.



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Connecticut

East Hartford High School Student Assistance Center

In 1992, besieged with increasing youth violence, drugs, weapons, crime, gangs, and excessive suspensions and expulsions, East Hartford High School created the Student Assistance Center (SAC). SAC was designed to serve as a center for prevention, early detection, intervention, and treatment for youth violence. SAC provides a wide range of services to meet the needs of a diverse and ever-changing student population. The four cornerstones of SAC are prevention, early detection, intervention, and treatment. Specific components of each cornerstone have contributed to a significant decrease in disruptive behavior and violence among adolescents. Violence prevention groups teach youth the impact of violence in society and ways youth can prevent violent behavior among their peers. Monthly early-detection seminars teach faculty how to identify potential early warning signs of violent behavior among youth. When problems occur, a staff of trained mediators provides intervention between children who are at odds. Certified drug and alcohol counselors provide individual and group counseling to children who are drug involved or who come from families in which substance abuse is prevalent. In 2000-2001, the center logged over 10,000 student visits. SAC programs have contributed to a 50 percent reduction in suspensions, 60 percent reduction in fighting, and no student expulsions in over seven years. The dropout rate has fallen to under 2.5 percent, and a greater number of students are planning to attend college.

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Delaware

First State Mentor Corps

Just one caring adult can make a difference in a child's life. That is the philosophy behind mentoring programs growing rapidly in popularity across the nation. First State Mentor Corps engages teams of AmeriCorps members and volunteers with the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program to expand or develop mentoring programs in 20 schools throughout the state. The corps helps combat juvenile delinquency by matching the many at-risk youth who can benefit from mentors with those individuals who wish to mentor a youth. Corps members from the University of Delaware serve in seven schools in New Castle county, and several members serve as teaching assistants in a course called "Mentoring For Change: Building Strong Communities Through Relationships." The program provides mentors to children and trains others to become mentors. To date, corps has generated more than 1,000 volunteers who have mentored more than 1,000 students. By the end of each academic year, about 350 new people are mobilized and trained to become

mentors. Seventy percent of the students working with a mentor show improvement in social and behavioral skills, based on program pre- and post-tests. AmeriCorps members provide appropriate training for mentors, monitor relationships, assist in resolving problems, and recruit both mentors and children. The mentor/child relationship helps to provide stable community links for youth who lack them, provides personal attention and informal counseling to youth who need it, and identifies and assists youth expressing early signs of delinquency.

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Florida

Tallahassee Parents Against Drugs

During the summer of 2000, the Tallahassee Weed and Seed site and the Tallahassee Police Department created Tallahassee Parents Against Drugs (TPAD). TPAD serves to get parents and adults who work with children actively involved in the fight against drug use by children. The program includes a two-hour training session for adults on the signs, symptoms, and types of drug use found in the community. TPAD is a hands-on program in which adults see what drugs look like, learn how drug use affects users, and recognize symptoms of drug use. TPAD teaches participants about marijuana, inhalants, club drugs, and other street drugs (e.g. cocaine, heroin, etc.). More than 1,000 people have already been trained in the TPAD program. The Tallahassee Weed and Seed site and the Tallahassee Police

Department have brought many community groups and organizations together in their effort to fight drug use. Interested adults from churches, schools, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and several government offices have signed up for TPAD training.

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Georgia

Atlanta Police Athletic League Computer Lab and Homework Program

In 1994, the Atlanta Police Department cited the reduction of youth-related crime as one of its major priorities. Through its athletic league, the Atlanta Police Department has developed several youth-oriented initiatives that have reduced youth-related crime. The Atlanta Police Athletic League (PAL) provides educational, recreational, and athletic programs to the youth of Atlanta, with an emphasis on disadvantaged and at-risk youth. The Atlanta Police Department has garnered community-volunteer and corporate-sponsor support for its initiatives. In 1999, the PAL computer lab was started after the Coca-Cola Company donated more than 30 computers to the cause. That year, the PAL homework assistance program served approximately 40 children per day, ensuring that they understood and completed their school assignments. Through this PAL program, young people also practice basic computer skills and study English, math, and

science. Additionally, the department has created a Junior Citizen's Academy for children ages 11 to 13. These one-day courses, taught at the Atlanta Police Academy, educate Atlanta's youth about health and wellness, peer pressure, drug awareness, dangerous weapons, bicycle safety, and self-esteem. As a result of initiatives like these, arrests of juveniles in Atlanta decreased for the fifth consecutive year. In particular, juvenile arrests for violent crime have decreased by 63 percent.

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Hawaii

Hawaii Community Action Seminars

Facing rising crime rates in the 1980s, the state of Hawaii instituted a team approach to reducing crime that would involve all sectors of the community. Community action seminars were instituted to provide support to Hawaii's communities as they fought to prevent crime, violence, and substance abuse. Each community action seminar involves a broad cross-section of the community, including parents, youth, representatives of neighborhood and community organizations, civic groups, clergy, businesses, nonprofit agencies, law enforcement, victims' services, court programs, corrections, prosecutors, and leaders in government positions. Participants in the seminars must be committed to working together to reduce crime. Through participation in a seminar, communities experience an action planning process, gain access to the knowl-

edge of others involved in crime prevention efforts, and receive training on how to mobilize community crime prevention efforts. The Hawaii State attorney general's office reports that communities participating in the seminars witness increased participation in anti-crime efforts and an increased sense of safety among the communities' citizens.

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Idaho

TEAM Camp

TEAM Camp is a week-long camp for 18 youth—nine boys and nine girls. Youth selection is based on recommendations from participating agencies—the Valley Boys & Girls Clubs staff, school resource officers, and Nez Perce County Court Services—with an emphasis on youth who are on the verge of an at-risk lifestyle. The participants experience a week in the shoes of the people who they will most likely encounter if the youth continue with their current life choices. They are shown how life will be if they do not begin to make more positive life choices. The underlying theme of TEAM Camp, of course, is team building and teamwork. Created in 1996, TEAM Camp is supported by the Valley Boys & Girls Clubs. TEAM Camp participants engage in hands-on activities including CPR certification, a low ropes course,

and Olympics with the following agencies: Idaho National Guard, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Idaho Department of Lands, Lewiston Police Department, Lewiston Fire Department, and Nez Perce County Court Services. The TEAM Camp concludes with an awards ceremony to celebrate the work of the participating youth.

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Illinois

Community Mobilization

The Gang Crime Prevention Center (GCPC) of the Illinois attorney general's office created the community mobilization program to reduce crime and strengthen neighborhoods. In partnership with one another, Illinois residents and GCPC community liaisons identify and address issues within troubled communities. In each community mobilization neighborhood, a GCPC liaison coordinates the project by assisting residents in setting the agenda and beginning the work of mobilization. The liaison helps residents prioritize the changes they want to make in the residents' own neighborhoods. Together, the liaison and the residents organize a decision-making body that is representative of and accountable to the entire neighborhood. This group then works to resolve issues to the satisfaction of a majority of the

residents. The GCPC notes that the program has resulted in greater neighborhood cohesion, an increased perception of neighborhood safety, improved relationships between local police and residents, and the development of community-based after-school programs, GED classes, and computer skills training.

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Indiana

Choices and Consequences

The National Television Violence Study released by the University of California in 1997 found that television violence portrayed without negative consequences like pain, grief, terror, remorse, or penalty can have lasting negative social effects on children. During the past year, the Indiana Crime Prevention Coalition, the Marion County Sheriff's Department, Time Warner Cable, and Court TV formed a partnership in response to this study. The partnership created the Choices and Consequences program for use in Indianapolis and Marion County School Districts. The multi-year program teaches kids that choices made in an instant can have consequences that last a lifetime. The youth are shown the consequences that are associated with certain activities with attention to how many television programs

ignore or misrepresent the real-life consequences of certain acts. With the guidance of a sheriff's deputy or classroom teacher, students learn about the physical, emotional, and legal consequences of five provocative real-life scenarios and court cases involving teens. By experiencing this program, the children become better able to realistically interpret and judge the fantasy displayed on television.

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Iowa

Dinner at Our House

Having identified community building as a keystone of any serious restorative justice effort, proponents in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, looked around for a simple way to get residents to care about one another. They created Dinner at Our House to bring together people who might not otherwise meet. Organized and administered by the Sixth Judicial District Department of Correctional Services in Cedar Rapids, the program is modeled after a similar program started in the 1980s in Montgomery, Alabama. Dinner at Our House is elegantly simple in its approach. Community members can attend a free monthly dinner where they are not required to bring money or food; they are simply asked to come ready to talk with someone new. Disarmed by the common act of eating, diners find themselves talking about issues of vital importance to the health and safety of their community. While there is no formal agenda, dinner organizers provide a monthly topic of conversation. Recent dinner topics have ranged from “If you had a million dollars, how would you use it to improve our community?” to “What is one thing you can do to create community in your neighborhood?” Organizers have witnessed not only the spontaneous mobilization of offshoot efforts to address specific needs but also a lot of good will.

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Kansas

Kansas Bullying Prevention Program

Having identified bullying behavior as a precursor to future violence, the Kansas bullying prevention program was created to stop this violence before it starts. Research has shown that school-aged children report incidents of bullying much more often than adult caregivers report it. Even more dangerous is the fact that bullying behavior is often ignored even when it is recognized. To combat these problems the office of Kansas Attorney General Carla Stovell provided a grant to the Leawood, Kansas, Police Department to create a statewide effort to reduce bullying. The program trains teachers, counselors, school administrators, bus drivers, and parents on how to recognize bullying early and how to appropriately intervene to end the bullying. The program motivates adults to step forward and help young victims of bullying. In addition, the program has created a Web site that provides access for those who have received the

training to important research and program materials to combat bullying behavior. In addition, the Kansas bullying prevention program shares valuable bullying information with the general public through its Web site. Schools that have implemented the program have experienced a 40 to 50 percent drop in bullying after only two years.

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Kentucky

Senior Crime College

The Kentucky attorney general's office designed the Senior Crime College in order to reduce the disproportionately high rate of fraud crimes against the elderly. The program has been a success due to the united front presented to seniors by police departments, sheriffs' offices, and the state police. The Senior Crime College teaches seniors how to recognize potential physical or financial crimes before they occur. The College's Aware, Avoid, Alert curriculum makes seniors aware of what cons and crooks are trying to do and teaches them how to avoid becoming a victim and whom to alert if they think they have been victimized. Specifically, law enforcement officials and experts from the attorney general's office present two- to three-hour programs that teach attendees about telemarketing fraud,

mail-in contest and sweepstakes scams, home improvement and repair scams, identity theft, elder abuse, and home and personal protection. Over 100 presentations to over 20,000 seniors have been conducted and future presentations are scheduled. Since the program began, the Kentucky Consumer Protection Division has received an increase in the number of calls from seniors.

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Louisiana

Community Renewal Block-by-Block

The Louisiana Community Policing Institute (LCPI) is collaborating with Shreveport-Bossier Community Renewal (SBCR) to revitalize and foster relationships within communities to improve public safety and the quality of life in Louisiana. This endeavor unites the philosophies of community policing and community renewal. Community policing promotes an organizational change to develop viable partnerships so law enforcement officials and community residents can solve problems together. Community renewal's mission is to restore the foundations of safe and caring communities by rebuilding neighborhoods and fostering caring relationships. To date, staff members from LCPI and SBCR have had productive discussions with individuals and groups in Lake Charles, Baton Rouge, Bogalusa, Gretna, Monroe, West Monroe, and St. Bernard Parish. Together, they are determining how each community might benefit from renewal strategies that have proved successful in Shreveport and Bossier. The community seminar will be conducted in interested cities. These seminars provide participants with an understanding of the need for community renewal along with a systematic plan on building the necessary neighbor-

hood relationships to make it work. The plan has three parts: the first asks participants to pledge to perform three civic acts in their communities; currently, there are 10,000 citizens pledged. Secondly, participants are asked to consider acting as agents for change by becoming volunteer Haven House leaders on their block. The Haven Houses provide safe places for members of a community and the leaders come together monthly for sharing, encouragement, and resource sharing. The third prong is buying houses in some of the most crime besieged impoverished neighborhoods and setting up "Intensive Care Units." A stable family moves into the house and provides services and acts as an anchor in the community.

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Maine

Kids In Control

Recognizing that safety is an important issue for their younger members, two of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Portland have implemented the nationally developed Kids in Control Safety Awareness Program. In partnership with Brink's Home Security, Inc., Boys & Girls Clubs of America developed Kids in Control to help children ages eight to 10 acquire effective personal safety skills. Kids in Control teaches kids how to stay safe in their neighborhoods, at home, with their peers, and in other situations. The Boys & Girls Club of Auburn/Lewiston and the South Portland Boys & Girls Club have conducted Kids in Control for the past two years with over 50 children participating. Session topics have included safety on the streets, walking home safely, interacting with strangers, anger management, and knowledge of police protection.

Visits to the police station and presentations by police officers have been key components of the program. Club directors and program staff believe Kids in Control has been an important addition to its programming for younger members and has the potential to make both club members and parents feel more comfortable about their knowledge of safety and crime prevention issues.

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Maryland

Maryland's HotSpot Communities Initiative

Maryland's HotSpot Communities initiative, introduced by Governor Parris N. Glendening and Lt. Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend in 1997, has united communities and spurred a decrease in crime rates. HotSpot communities are selected through a process in which both local and state officials participate. Selected communities receive targeted state grants to support crime prevention efforts. State and local officials report that HotSpot communities boast a 20 percent reduction in both violent and property crime, more than double the state average. The governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention reports that the initiative is effective because it combines the essential elements of crime prevention: intensive enforcement, community polic-

ing and mobilization, intensive supervision of adult and juvenile offenders on probation or parole, rapid responses to public nuisances, and prevention activities for youth.

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