



SECURING

THE

FUTURE

**FOR SAFER
YOUTH AND
COMMUNITIES**

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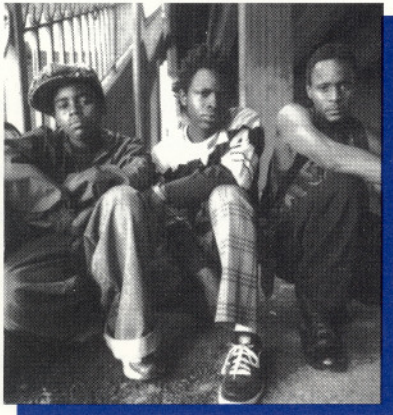
"TEENAGERS."

"YOUTH."

"TEENS."

Many adults do not think well of teenagers. In individual teenagers they see rebellion, mood swings, and tempers. In groups of young people, they see threats (even when none are made), malice (even when they're just talking outside the local convenience store), and gangs (even in kids just walking around the mall).

But the great majority of teens are sources of strength, not trouble, to their communities. They are, by and large, intensely interested in the adult world and eager to help. Even among those who get into trouble, the first brush with the juvenile justice system is usually the last.



So why does teen crime — violence, drugs, and other illegal acts — seem so widespread, even overwhelming? One reason is that media reporting on violence has increased. Though crime went down consistently between 1991 and 1995, news reporting of crime increased fourfold. Nightly news broadcasts bring violent crimes from across the nation into our living rooms. Stories about the heroes of daily life, whether teens or adults, show up far less often than stories about gun battles over gang turf. This distorts our view of how much youth crime there actually is.

Another fact that can help explain why youth crime may seem overwhelming is that many adults don't know about (or may not support) programs that help teens avoid crime. They do not know that many teenagers can be prevented from breaking the law and from becoming crime victims. They lack information on proven programs that can help young people in trouble turn their lives around.

FACT OR FICTION?

What do you know about young people and crime? Can you sort out myths and realities? Check yourself: What's fiction? What's fact?

- Juveniles are the major cause of violence in this country.

Fiction. The substantial majority of violent crimes in this country (murder, robbery, rape, and assault) are committed by people over the age of 18.

- More youth than adults commit murder.

Fiction. Of the 19,600 murders in this country in 1996, fewer than 2,800 were committed by juveniles (those under age 18).



- Teenagers don't want to help their communities.

Fiction. Six out of ten teenagers already volunteer. Almost nine out of ten teenagers would volunteer to take part in programs to help prevent crime and drug abuse if they knew how to get involved.

- Just keeping kids in at night would take care of most crime, certainly most violence.

Fiction. Contrary to what many people think, the highest time for violent juvenile crime is not at night but between 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., the after-school hours when millions of young people are left on their own.

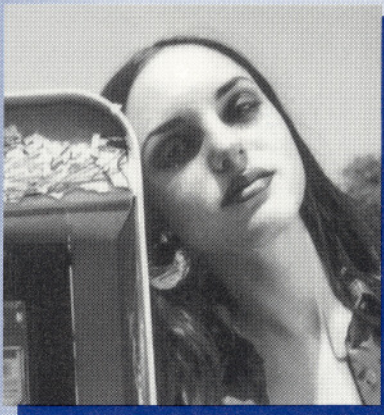
- There's nothing you can do once a kid has gotten in trouble.

Fiction. Dozens of programs have proved that they help young people make their first encounter with delinquency their last. This booklet will tell you about some of them.

FACT OR FICTION? CONT'.

- Prevention programs don't really work.

Fiction. Programs across the country have proved that they can help curb conditions that tend to lead young people toward crime, strengthen the aspects of their lives that tend to keep them from becoming involved with crime, and teach them self-protection and community crime prevention strategies. The fact is that no one program can do it all for any community.



- Locking up all teenage offenders is the smartest way to deal with juvenile crime.

Fiction. Some juvenile delinquents need to be locked up. However, many programs that prevent crime or

help first-time young offenders are far cheaper (\$100 to \$4,000 per youth) than a year's costs for keeping a youth in detention (\$20,000 to \$30,000). Prevention is the smartest option of all. With effective prevention, the victim and the community don't suffer physical, emotional, and financial harm.

LESS CRIME IS NO ACCIDENT— BECAUSE YOU CAN DO A LOT!

First, take advantage of some great news. We know far more now than we did even ten years ago about what works to keep kids crime free and how people and programs working together can strengthen and enrich each other's efforts. The challenge is to bring this knowledge from research to practice — and to help communities apply the information effectively and appropriately for youth who need it.

Second, join others — civic leaders, youth, youth workers, law enforcement officers, judges, social service agencies, etc. — who can share solutions to problems, provide in-depth support for both programs and problem solving, and work together.

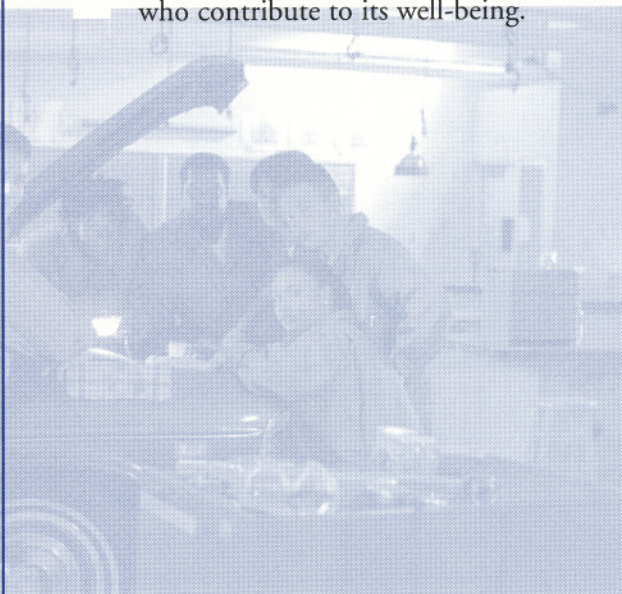
Third, be prepared to pitch in. Programs don't just spring up magically where they're needed. Caring communities and their residents make programs a reality by seeing a need, marshaling resources, and mobilizing support. This is sometimes difficult but always rewarding.

Six investments in the community can make a world of difference.

- ***Invest time with young people*** — Adults who spend time with young people can support them in becoming valued members of the community; convey skills, attitudes, beliefs, and knowledge; and celebrate youths' successes. By example, they show teens how to become responsible adults who enrich communities. Studies have repeatedly confirmed how significant these relationships can be in preventing youth crime.
- ***Invest money and other resources*** — Putting money and other tangible resources on the line in programs that work — individual and corporate donations, in-kind gifts and services, employees' time and expertise, and earmarked tax revenues, to name just a few — can pay off in major ways.

- ***Invest time and energy to build support for proven programs.*** Learn what tested initiatives really work to keep kids out of trouble and help those in trouble turn their lives around. Encourage these programs to operate more efficiently by becoming part of a network, and back local officials who bring such programs to the community.
- ***Invest in positive opportunities for youth.*** Young people can thrive in a variety of situations — after-school, weekend, and summer programs where teens help younger children, learn new skills, and get to put their talents to use; job opportunities that train for the future as well as pay in the present; community projects that enable youth to demonstrate skills valued by adults and to win recognition for their abilities; chances to learn and demonstrate leadership and life skills in a supportive atmosphere. Employers can provide time off for adults and older teens who coach sports or teach skill classes; civic groups can raise contributions to pay participation fees for youth who cannot afford them; local government, schools, and other organizations can provide free or low-cost facilities.
- ***Invest in supporting shared, clear community values.*** Give youth clear, consistent messages about what behaviors the community will and will not tolerate. Subjects can range from obeying traffic laws to rejecting illegal drug use, from honoring elders to respecting private property, from resolving conflict peacefully to resisting peer pressure to join gangs, from commitment to community action to strengthening personal talents and skills.
- ***Invest in building strong families backed by caring communities.*** Help to create and support families who are able, through their own skills and the support of friends and neighbors, to bring up their children as self-disciplined,

active, caring members of the community who contribute to its well-being.



BUT THEY'RE NOT MY KIDS!

"My kids obey the law." "All my children are grown." "Why should I worry about other people's kids? I have enough to do raising mine." "I don't have kids and don't plan to."

Some people feel it's solely the parents' problem when teenagers misbehave or when a youth becomes a crime victim. The truth is, everyone in the community pays. The medical bills, time lost from work, costs of repair and replacement, and expense of police, courts, and detention facilities take away from money that could improve community life. The civic spirit of the community, as well as its budget, bears the costs of youth involvement in crime. People young and old withdraw from civic life — shopping, cultural events, sports activities, community meetings — out of fear and concern.

Anyone's child can be hit by crime, regardless of social, economic, geographic, or ethnic group. Teenagers are ten times more likely than their parents and grandparents to become victims of violence.

No group is immune. These young victims suffer the same kinds of emotional, financial, and physical injuries that adults do, and they carry the scars of those injuries even longer.

"Some kids just won't behave, no matter what."
Perhaps, but only about half of one percent of kids ages ten to 17 are arrested in any given year for a serious, violent offense. Some need to be locked up to protect the community. But a number of these children are crime victims themselves, and early, smart community action might have stopped them from committing crimes.

For example, victims of child abuse and neglect are significantly more likely to commit crimes than children who were not abused or neglected, so preventing child abuse and neglect can reduce other kinds of violence. Children who carry knives, guns, or other kinds of weapons most often say they do so because of a threat or anticipated threat, so programs that teach effective anti-bullying tactics, anger management, and non-violent conflict resolution can help reduce youth violence and especially weapons-related crime. Children who live with drug- or alcohol-abusing parents are more likely to abuse not just one but several substances. Thus, drug treatment for addicted parents can reduce drug abuse by their children.

Whether you have children or not, whether your children are grown or not, helping to bring up crime-free youth is important to you and to anyone else who wants to live in a thriving community.

"Before I got involved in this neighborhood as a community policing officer, I assumed everyone who lived here was a bad guy. I've learned that there are a lot of good kids here facing a lot of problems, and a lot of caring parents trying to help them. Helping to connect them with services and to solve problems has turned me from a burnt-out cop into one who loves his work."

Community policing officer, MI



RISK FACTORS FOR HEALTH AND BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS

A=Substance Abuse
B=Delinquency
C=Teenage Pregnancy
D=School Dropout
E=Violence

Risk Factors	A	B	C	D	E
COMMUNITY					
Availability of drugs	●				
Availability of Firearms		●			●
Community Laws and Norms Favorable Toward Drug Use, Firearms, and Crime	●	●			●
Media Portrayals of Violence					●
Transitions and Mobility	●	●		●	
Low Neighborhood Attachment and Community Organization	●	●			●
Extreme Economic Deprivation	●	●	●	●	●
FAMILY					
Family History of the Problem Behavior	●	●	●	●	
Family Management Problems	●	●	●	●	●
Family Conflict	●	●	●	●	●
Favorable Parental Attitudes and Involvement in the Problem Behavior	●	●			●
SCHOOL					
Early and Persistent Antisocial Behavior	●	●	●	●	●
Academic Failure Beginning in Elementary School	●	●	●	●	●
Lack of Commitment to School	●	●	●	●	
INDIVIDUAL/PEER					
Rebelliousness	●	●		●	
Friends Who Engage in Problem Behavior	●	●	●	●	●
Favorable Attitudes Toward the Problem Behavior	●	●	●	●	
Early Initiation of the Problem Behavior	●	●	●	●	●
Constitutional Factors	●	●			●

Data Source: Hawkins, J.D. and R.F. Catalano. 1995. *Risk-Focused Prevention: Using the Social Development Strategy*. Seattle: Developmental Research and Programs, Inc.

Source: Howell, J. Ed. 1995. *Guide for Implementing the Comprehensive Strategy for Serious, Violent, and Chronic Juvenile Offenders*. Washington, DC: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice.

FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION

The need is simple: to create and support safe neighborhoods in which children can enjoy childhood, learn about positive adult roles in a supportive atmosphere, and become productive adults. More than seven decades of research and experience have helped us understand what is necessary to satisfy this need. We know that:

- Everyone in the community can do something to help the community's children grow up to be happy, productive adults.
- Young people need room to try on new roles, support from caring adults, a sense of stability in their lives, a belief that they are considered important by their communities, and help in getting back on track when they have done wrong. The community that gives its youth these gifts is rewarded many times over.
- Communities that work comprehensively to reduce risks for their children and youth and to enhance positive opportunities are more likely to succeed in reducing crime by and against youth.
- Community agencies and organizations work better to prevent violence and other crime when they work as a team and focus on solving problems, not guarding turf.

Researchers have examined community conditions and youth behaviors and identified both "risk" and "protective" factors that communities can address. Risk factors increase the likelihood that a young person will become delinquent. The table on page 5 indicates how studies have linked risk factors to problem behaviors by teens. By addressing risk factors, research indicates, communities can reduce problem behaviors.

RISK FACTORS

Just as there are risk factors that increase the likelihood that a young person could become involved with crime, there are protective factors that tend to strengthen children, even those from difficult situations, against becoming delinquent. These factors include personal attitudes and beliefs that help individual youths make

"These people just care about you. They work with you. They keep after you. You find out your life has changed, and it feels good. I know I did wrong; I know I want to do right, and now I know how to do right."

Inmate, facility for young serious offenders

good decisions, exercise sound judgement, and build and sustain self-esteem. Positive adult relationships are also protective — warm, friendly relationships



with family members, teachers, coaches, and other adults who encourage and recognize youths' abilities. Other protective factors include healthy beliefs and

clear standards within the community on such subjects as criminal behavior, use of alcohol and other drugs, gang membership, and guns and violence.

Another way to look at what protects children and youth is to examine the experiences that “successful” or resilient children — even those in tough surroundings — tend to share. One research group identified 40 conditions and experiences common to all resilient children, including

- Three or more positive, non-parent adult relationships;
- A caring neighborhood;
- Community values youth and youth perceive that they are valued;
- A sense of safety at home, at school, and in the neighborhood;
- Positive, responsible adult role models;

- Three or more hours per week in organized activities;
- One or more hours per week in activities of a religious institution; and
- Neighbors who take responsibility for monitoring young people’s behavior.

Efforts that establish or strengthen these aspects of resiliency will help the community reduce crime by and against youth.

WHO SHOULD BE AT THE TABLE?

Here are some of the community members who have a major interest in reducing crime by and against youth. They may already be working on effective initiatives that need your support, or they may welcome your help in starting one.

Police chiefs and managers
Sheriffs and deputies
Public health professionals
Youth service workers
Youth group leaders
Mental health professionals
Drug abuse prevention specialists
Child support enforcement staff
Social clubs
Local prosecutor
Local federal agency officials

Gang prevention experts
Faith community leaders
Public housing officials
Recreation and parks agencies
Probation and parole departments
Juvenile court judges
Drug treatment counselors
Local chief executives
Professional interest groups
U.S. Attorney’s staff
Fraternal groups

Council members
School administrators
Parent groups
School teachers
Young people
Business associations
Civic associations
Local legislators
Planning staffs
Juvenile justice staff
Individual volunteers

Every adult can do something to help make it possible for young people to live lives free of crime or even to be pulled back from involvement with crime. Time, resources, and support (for proven programs, positive opportunities, community values, and strong families) — can strengthen young people’s ability to resist and avoid crime. Help works best if it takes place in the framework of concerted community action that works on solving problems rather than casting blame. Each kind of help offers multiple opportunities for people to stand up, speak out, and take action to secure the future for youth and communities alike.

ONE ADULT CAN...

- Find out what the community currently offers in terms of
 - Programs that help teens and younger children with personal growth;
 - Recreation opportunities that offer choices for all kinds of young interests at a variety of times and in a range of settings;
 - After-school, community-based initiatives that provide a range of programs;
 - Practical training in life skills and job skills;
 - Help to parents in improving their skills and strengthening their families;
 - Support to youth and their families for solving problems and meeting physical and emotional needs; and
 - Programs that help young people already in trouble or at risk of trouble with the law.
- Share this information with neighbors, co-workers, relatives, friends, faith community.
- Work to support programs that fill gaps in needed programs and services.
- Dispel myths about young people, including the one that all teens who have ever committed crimes are lost.
- Insist on programs that show clear evidence that they are effective.
- Enlist others in the community — civic groups, fraternal groups, professional societies, social clubs, and the like — to join in the effort.
- Mentor a young person formally or informally, providing consistent contact, a caring presence, and a sound example.
- Offer resources — a part-time job, training through your company's facilities, meeting places, supplies, any talents you can use on behalf of or transmit to young people, printing services, and other means of help — as well as money.
- Actively accept your responsibility to serve as a role model to young people. Preach and teach by example; live by the rules you want youth in your community to follow.
- Work on skills involved in working with teens.
- Remember your own teen years and how you felt. Today's teens share many of those feelings.
- Listen attentively without judging; comment thoughtfully; try to ask questions that will help the young person learn instead of just giving answers.
- Keep in touch — just a phone call or a note reminds them that they have adult friends who care and can help.
- Be clear about what you believe and feel. Show that you can disagree without being disagreeable.
- Don't try to be a teen yourself.
- Relax and have fun.

DRAW FROM WHAT WORKS

Scores of programs in communities across the nation have produced proven results in helping young people stay crime free.

- Programs that combine early childhood education with help to parents in enhancing their skills not only reduce later delinquency but also build positive assets for young people.
- Focused mentoring programs that carefully match youth and adult and provide support over the life of the relationship clearly help young people do better in school, stay off drugs, avoid other trouble, and develop positive skills and a sense of being valued by adults other than their parents, according to an independent evaluation.
- Programs that solve problems that cause truancy — not just catch and punish truants — have showed that young people will learn and stay in school if they have enough adult support, reducing this delinquency-linked behavior.
- Graduation incentives for students were demonstrated to be a more cost-effective investment in preventing crime than a “Three Strikes” law that increases the prison population.
- Intensive supervision and treatment that combine help for each youth with attention to family, neighborhood, school, and peer environment problems helps troubled young people deal more effectively with their situations without resorting to violence.
- Such programs as Boys & Girls Clubs, scouting, and similar efforts — focused on providing positive alternatives while teaching life skills and community values — have documented that their members are less likely to be delinquent or drug-involved as youth and more likely to be successful as adults.
- Job Corps and national service programs provide older youth with tested, effective training and experiences.

- The Teens, Crime, and the Community program has demonstrated that young people can and will learn strategies to keep themselves, families, friends, and the community safer.
- Such strategies as restitution (in which offenders pay back victims for the damages they have caused) and graduated sanctions (in which penalties match the offense), as well as innovative uses of probation (including mandated participation in treatment and intensive supervision), have demonstrated that they can reduce juveniles’ likelihood of re-offending.
- Juvenile justice systems that have as their objectives to respond swiftly, to hold young offenders accountable, to apply appropriate sanctions from among a range of options, to help the youth become responsible community residents, and to ensure the safety of the communities they serve have shown that they can substantially reduce juvenile crime.



COMMUNITIES RICH WITH EFFECTIVE EXAMPLES

You've agreed — you want to invest in youth for a safer future. There's almost certainly something positive going on in your community today that you can support or join. Programs in communities around the country are already doing things that work. Some are local chapters or sites for national programs; others are home-grown initiatives. Here's just a taste of what's out there:

- Avance, a family support program in San Antonio, Texas, works with parents and children from the time the children are born. From birth to age three, children and parents are involved in an Avance-run day care program that provides intensive parenting training as well as early childhood education. At ages four and five, children are enrolled in Head Start; their parents continue to work with Avance throughout the child's school years. A neighborhood support network helps reinforce good parenting skills. Avance also helps to link the children and their families with all the other community resources that can assist them. Job

skills training and job placement help for parents is coupled with leadership training. Evaluations show that Avance reduces delinquency, enhances parent skills, and builds community.



- Requiring students to wear uniforms to school has been demonstrated to reduce in-school violence by as much as 22 to 39 percent. Experience in Los Angeles and Long Beach, California, suggests that uniforms address more than just the issue of fights over popular clothing. They establish a community value within the school that education is the business at hand, that students are there for a common

purpose, and that the school expects students to focus on that purpose.

- Positive opportunities for youth may appear abundant to adults, yet youth may not know what to do, how to do it, or where the opportunities are. Boys & Girls Clubs took the innovative step of locating clubs right in public housing developments that have high concentrations of youth. A multi-site evaluation showed that juvenile crime dropped by an average of 13 percent in public housing communities where clubs had located. Club directors and housing authority staff report that vandalism has been reduced and that youth-adult relationships have improved.
- Children in five Cleveland schools know it as the Young Ladies & Gentlemen Club, but to the adults, the Early Dropout and Violence Prevention Project is a way to focus services for children in first through fifth grades who show early warning signs of pre-dropout and pre-delinquent behavior. The program is operated by Partnership for a Safer Cleveland. Program coordinators at each school bring children into the club through referrals from teachers, school administrators, attendance officers, and parents. Peer support, positive adult counseling, and positive reinforcement combine to improve student attitudes, life skills, and behaviors. An ongoing evaluation of this nine-year-old program has identified significant improvements in social competence and positive peer relationships, based on independent reports from teachers, group leaders, and students themselves. There was also statistically significant improvement in classroom behaviors as measured by reports on grade cards. Cost? About \$1,500 per year per student, far less expensive than the estimated \$20,000 to \$30,000 it costs to house a delinquent youth.
- Yakima, Washington, had seen a steady increase in youth violence between 1989 and 1993. Gang confrontations were exacerbated by the community's ethnic diversity — large popula-

tions of Hispanic, African American, and Caucasian youth. A drive-by shooting in a middle class neighborhood led to the creation of the Yakima Gang Prevention/Intervention Coalition. The group has developed an array of programs — after-school “Kid’s Place” programs at elementary schools and community centers, “Night Action” programs for youth ages 13 to 19, and “Family Night” observances at each site on Fridays from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. A program coordinator plans recreational, tutorial, and enrichment activities for each site; an intervention/volunteer coordinator plans conflict resolution and anger management training, coordinates interventions and services, and recruits adults and youth as program volunteers. At the five operational sites, youth violence dropped by 80 percent in just three years.

- Under-used school buildings or neighborhood centers? It all depends on how you look at it. New York City decided to get neighborhoods involved in finding ways to meet neighborhood needs by using a neighborhood institution — the school — as a base of services after regular school hours. The idea was to provide more than an after-school place for kids; instead the goal was to create a neighborhood center that could be the focus for integrated services at the local level to meet local needs. An evaluation termed the Beacon Community Centers particularly promising strategies because they embrace control by local residents, a comprehensive program for all ages (not just youth), an emphasis on personal responsibility, and a secure environment in which problems can be peaceably resolved.
- What do these youth have in common: A 13-year-old girl teaching her peers how to prevent date rape; a high school junior launching an anti-child-abuse public education effort; a 14-

year-old boy becoming the linchpin of a school anti-vandalism drive? Each of these young people was spurred to solve a crime problem by Teens, Crime, and the Community (TCC), an education and action curriculum in hundreds of schools as well as in community and juvenile justice settings. TCC teaches youth how to protect themselves, families, friends, and neighbors against crime and challenges them to put their know-how into service to the community. Evaluations throughout the country have documented that teens learn how to reduce their risks of becoming crime victims and that the program strengthens protective factors and attitudes that can reduce the chances of delinquency.

“The program has saved my best friend’s life. He grew up in a bad home and was really trapped in a downward spiral. After the assembly we put on, he called me and I worked with him. He no longer participates in drugs, crime, and violence. He’s learned to respect himself.”

15-year-old Teens, Crime, and the Community student

- In Richmond, California, Child Haven teaches young mothers with premature babies and mothers who have been victims of abuse as children how to bathe, diaper, cuddle, feed, and nurture their babies, as well as nonviolent ways to discipline potentially difficult youngsters as the babies grow up. The program on which it is based, developed in New South Wales, Australia, underwent a three-year evaluation that documented a reduction in incidents of child abuse by the mothers in the program.
- In Tarrant County (Fort Worth), Texas, high-risk delinquents who might otherwise be placed in expensive detention are placed on high-intensity supervised probation. Trained, locally recruited youth advocates provide between 15 and 30 hours of supervision per week and help the youth and their families connect with community services to resolve problems. In more than five years of operation, the program has kept better than 8 out of 10 clients in the community and in compliance with the terms of their sentences.
- The Second Step curriculum, developed in Seattle, Washington, has a ten-year history of

successfully teaching elementary-age children in communities around the country ways to handle anger and disputes without violence. The program provides carefully structured training for children from early childhood through grade 5, addressing issues from anger management to bullying prevention, from gang involvement to peer pressure. Evaluations document that children learn and retain these skills and show reduced violence and anti-social behaviors. And that's just one of several anger and conflict management curricula that have been demonstrated to work.

- In Elmira, New York, pregnant women who were at risk of having premature or low birth weight children were visited in the last few months of their pregnancies and for two years after the baby's birth by trained nurses who help with child-rearing questions, parenting skills, and assistance in linking families with local resources to address their needs. Child abuse was lower in families participating in this program; more mothers stopped smoking; there was less welfare dependency; and the children at 12 and 24 months were better-developed mentally and physically. Similar results have been found with Healthy Start programs that use specially trained and supported volunteers to provide similar services. A recently completed study shows that after 15 years, the young people whose parents got support in Elmira were only half as likely to be arrested as a comparable peer group.
- Big Brothers Big Sisters: The nation's oldest mentoring program matches caring adult volunteers with disadvantaged children primarily 10 to 14 years of age and usually from single-family homes, in one-to-one relationships. Mentors meet with their partner youth approximately three times a month for about four hours per visit. Compared with a similar group of young people, the youth in this program are significantly less likely to start using alcohol and other drugs and less likely to hit someone. They have better school attendance, attitudes, and performance and better family and peer relationships.

- Quantum Opportunities aims to help high-risk youth from poor families and neighborhoods to graduate from high school and attend college. It works with small groups of teens for four years, combining skills training, personal development and cultural enrichment, and service to the community in 750 hours of structured activity beyond the school day. Financial incentives help increase participation, completion of the program, and long-range planning by the youth. Evaluation showed that young people taking part in it were less likely to be arrested as juveniles, more likely to have graduated from high school, more likely to have gone on to college or other post-high school training, and less likely to have become teen parents, compared with a similar group that did not get these services.
- Multisystemic Therapy (MST): The name may suggest complexity but the concept is simple: by helping youth resolve problems at home, at school, and in the community at the same time — and on site rather than in a distant office — young people who have been in trouble have a much better chance of turning their lives around. This program, which originated in Columbia, South Carolina, has demonstrated positive results in helping some of the most difficult juvenile offenders in our nation reduce behavior problems, recidivism, and drug abuse. It is more effective and less expensive than incarceration for the youth it targets. Help to parents includes ways to strengthen family structure, resources for effective parenting, and ways to help youth cope with problems outside the home. Results include reduced recidivism (even more four-and-one-half years later), improved behavior, and lower costs than alternative forms of treatment.
- *Life Skills Training*: Sixth and seventh grade students learn decision-making, problem-solving, coping, self-control, and self-improvement skills combined with communication and general social interaction skills and drug-related information including resisting influences to use drugs in this 15-session school-based program. Booster sessions in the second and third years reinforce the program's messages. Studies

have proved the effectiveness of Life Skills Training in reducing alcohol, cigarette, and marijuana use among young teens. Impressively, reduction in tobacco and heavy alcohol use have been sustained through the end of high school years.

- *The Choice Program*: This program, located at the University of Maryland Baltimore County, provides intensive supervision of youthful offenders by using people near their own age. Caseworker teams of recent college graduates provide 24-hour-a-day, 365-day-a-year face-to-face supervision of and advocacy for young offenders. Teams may contact youth two to five times a day, seeking to spot and solve problems before they erupt into crisis. Caseworkers also keep in close touch with each youth's family, school, and referring worker. Parents get support in dealing with their children. Campus-based tutorials help build skills. The Choice Jobs Program offers employment training and work experience. Evaluations have documented reduced recidivism, reduced severity of offenses, and improved personal skills.

No single program by itself is *the* answer. Because youth violence has many causes, there are many programs and approaches that can help the community address it productively. There are programs that work and can form the base for comprehensive, coordinated local action. The challenge is to act thoughtfully today so that youth and adults don't have to deal with violence, drugs, and other crimes tomorrow. If every adult is willing to invest time, resources, and support in building a network of programs that work, every community will gain. The price is small; the rewards are great. Best of all, there is a role that everyone can play.



PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

Communities have found that by working in coalitions and collaboratives, they can make individual programs work better and help a substantial number of children and their families. Some communities have banded together to undertake comprehensive, coordinated efforts.

- Houston, Texas, spent a year focusing planning on the needs of children and youth. One major ground-breaking result — a permanent, cooperative Commission on Youth serving both the City of Houston and Harris County.
- Freeport, Illinois, through comprehensive planning developed a complete agenda of children's and youth-focused programs for the next five years.
- The Montgomery County, Maryland, Coalition on Children and Youth meets monthly; it consists of representatives of more than three dozen government agencies and local non-profit organizations concerned about issues that touch on child health, education, delinquency prevention, and other issues.
- Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, which includes Pittsburgh, created a Youth Crime Prevention Council (initiated by the U.S. Attorney) to improve the coordination and delivery of services to prevent youth violence.

Not only are services better delivered, but youth violence has dropped since the council's inception in 1994.

- The City of Boston has enlisted the police, probation officers, health professionals, clergy, neighborhood residents, prosecutors, federal officials, psychiatric person-

nel, court staffs, and school officials in an interwoven network of programs to reduce gun violence, curb gang activity, teach youth how to resolve conflicts peacefully, and provide focused help for youth who are showing early signs of trouble. Programs included concentrated attention on reducing firearms trafficking and gang violence and cooperative patrolling by police and probation officers. The extraordinary results include a 60 percent decrease in homicide victims among those 24 and under, and

just one juvenile victim of a gun homicide in more than two years. This partnership's focus on community justice brings victims into the picture and helps youthful offenders provide restitution to victims and the community for their misdeeds.

If you are interested in engaging in a comprehensive effort in your community, look at the resource listings for organizations that can help.

INVOLVE YOUNG PEOPLE!

Don't forget that teenagers are great crime prevention resources. They can help organize neighborhoods, mentor and teach younger people, conduct clean-ups and security checks, help reclaim parks, and work with older residents. They have energy, enthusiasm, the desire to volunteer, and a real concern about their community's well-being.

Experience in communities around the nation has proved that youth can not only take active roles in these projects; they can actually design and lead them. One national survey found that almost nine out of ten youth would get involved in programs that reduce violence and other crimes, if only they knew how.

Include youth in your comprehensive planning sessions; ask them to serve on committees; invite groups of teens to adopt anticrime projects from your community's "to-do" list. Their energy, creativity, idealism, and commitment help to energize the adults around them. And equally important, managing and conducting these projects helps teens learn about time lines, build a sense of responsibility, discover management talents, and become more invested in their community.



RESOURCES

Here are two convenient ways for you to get even more information on how you can secure the future for youth and the community:

- A handy check-off card that you can mail to get a catalog of free publications from the Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse that provide greater detail about many programs that work and techniques for making them work.
- A matrix of organizations that are involved in working with youth and with communities, noting the kinds of help they offer. The matrix only indicates some of the many kinds of help each group provides. Many other national and local groups also work in these areas.

			Policies/legislation	Programs/curricula	Funding resources information	Statistics, research	Technical assistance	State/local affiliates
American Academy of Pediatrics 141 NW Point Boulevard, Elk Grove, Village, IL 60007	847-228-5005 Website: aap.org	847-228-5097 (fax)	●	●		●	●	●
American Bar Association Standing Committee on Dispute Resolution 740 15th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005	202-662-1000 Website: abanet.org	202-662-1032 (fax)	●	●		●	●	●
American Correctional Association 4380 Forbes Boulevard, Lanham, Maryland 20706-4322	301-918-1800 Website: corrections.com/ACA	301-918-1900 (fax)	●	●		●	●	●
American Council on Alcoholism 2522 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, MD 21218	419-889-0100 Website: aca/usa.org	410-889-0297 (fax)	●	●		●	●	●
American Probation and Parole Association PO Box 11910, Lexington, KY 40578	606-244-8203 Website: csg.org/appa/appa.html	606-244-8001 (fax)	●	●	●	●	●	●
American Prosecutors Research Institute 99 Canal Center Plaza, #510, Alexandria, VA 22314-1588	703-549-4253 Website: ndaa-apri.org	703-836-3195 (fax)		●		●		
Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. 660 First Avenue, New York, NY 10016	212-683-1515	212-481-7196 (fax)	●	●	●			●
Balanced and Restorative Justice Project Florida Atlantic University, 220 Southeast Second Avenue Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301	954-762-5663 Website: fau.edu/divdept/cupa/centers.htm#barj	954-762-5673 (fax)	●	●		●	●	
Barrios Unidos 313 Front Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060	408-457-8208 Website: mercado.com/juventud/barrios/barrios.htm	408-457-0389 (fax)	●	●	●		●	●
Bethesda Family Services Foundation, Inc. Central Oak Heights, Box 210, West Milton, PA 17886	717-568-2373 Website: bsfs.org/bethesda	717-568-1134 (fax)		●			●	●
Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America 230 North 13th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107	215-567-7000 Website: bbbsa.org	215-567-0394 (fax)		●	●	●	●	●
Boys & Girls Clubs of America 1230 West Peachtree Street, NW, Atlanta, GA 30309	404-815-5700 Website: bgca.org	404-815-5789 (fax)		●	●	●	●	●
Boy Scouts of America 1325 Walnut Hill Lane, Irving, TX 75015-2079	972-580-2000 Website: bsa.scouting.org	972-580-2502 (fax)		●			●	●
Bureau of Justice Assistance Clearinghouse 2277 Research Boulevard, Rockville, MD 20850	800-688-4252 Website: ncjrs.org			●	●	●		
Camp Fire Boys and Girls 4601 Madison Avenue, Kansas City, MO 64112	816-756-1950 Website: campfire.org	816-756-0257 (fax)		●			●	●

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Center for Civic Education 5146 Douglas Fir Road, Calabasas, CA 91302-1467	818-591-9321 Website: civiced.org	818-591-9330 (fax)	●	●			●	
Center for the Community Interest 1146 19th Street, NW, #250, Washington, DC 20036-3703	202-785-7844 Website: communityinterest.org	202-785-4370 (fax)	●	●		●	●	
Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence Institute of Behavioral Science, University of Colorado Campus Box 442, Building #10, Bolder, CO 80309-0442	303-492-8465 Website: colorado.edu/CSPV	303-443-3297 (fax)		●		●	●	
Center for Youth as Resources 1700 K Street, NW, Eighth Floor, Washington, DC 20006	202-466-6272 Website: yar.org	202-785-6098 (fax)	●	●	●		●	●
Center for Youth Development and Policy Research Academy for Educational Development 1875 Connecticut Avenue, NW, 9th Floor, Washington, DC 20009-1202	202-884-8265 Website: aed.org	202-884-8404 (fax)	●	●		●	●	
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention U.S. Department of Health and Human Services 1600 Clifton Road, NE, Atlanta, GA 30333	404-639-3311 Website: cdc.gov	404-639-1623 (fax)	●	●	●	●	●	
Child Development—Community Policing Program Child Study Center, Yale University 47 College Street, Suite 212, New Haven, CT 06510	203-785-7047	203-785-4608 (fax)		●		●	●	
Children's Defense Fund 25 E Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001	202-628-8787 Website: childrensdefense.org	202-662-3510 (fax)	●	●	●	●	●	
Child Welfare League of America 440 First Street, NW, Suite 310 Washington, DC 20001-2085	202-638-2952 Website: cwla.org	202-638-4004 (fax)	●	●	●	●	●	●
Children's Express 1440 New York Avenue, NW, #510, Washington, DC 20005	202-737-7377	202-737-0193 (fax)		●			●	●
Coalition for Juvenile Justice 1211 Connecticut Avenue, NW, #414 Washington, DC 20036-2701	202-467-0864 Website: nassembly.org/html/mem_cjj.html	202-887-0738 (fax)	●	●	●	●	●	●
Committee for Children 2203 Airport Way South, Suite 500 Seattle, WA 98134-2027	1-800-634-4449 or 206-343-1223 Website: cfchildren.org	206-343-1445 (fax)		●			●	
Communities in Schools 1199 North Fairfax Street, Suite 300 Alexandria, VA 22314-1436	703-519-8999 Website: cisnet.org	703-519-7213 (fax)	●	●			●	●
Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America 901 North Pitt Street, Alexandria, VA 22314	800-54-CADCA or 703-706-0560 Website: cadca.org	703-706-0565 (fax)	●	●	●		●	●

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Community Boards Program 1540 Market Street, Suite 490, San Francisco, CA 94102	415-552-1250	415-626-0595 (fax)		•			•	
Community Policing Consortium 1726 M Street, NW, #801, Washington, DC 20036	202-833-3305 Website: communitypolicing.org	202-833-9295 (fax)	•	•	•	•	•	
Congress of National Black Churches, Inc. 1225 I Street, NW, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20005	202-371-1091 Website: cnbc.org	202-371-0908 (fax)	•	•			•	
Constitutional Rights Foundation 601 South Kingsley Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90005	213-487-5590 Website: crf-usa.org	213-386-0459 (fax)		•	•		•	•
Developmental Research and Programs, Inc. 130 Nickerson, Suite 107, Seattle, WA 98109	206-286-1805	206-286-1462 (fax)		•		•	•	
D.A.R.E. America PO Box 51290, Los Angeles, CA 90051-0900	800-223-DARE Website: dare-america.com	310-215-0180 (fax)	•	•	•		•	•
Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse PO Box 6000, Rockville, MD 20849	800-666-3332 Website: whitehousedrugpolicy.gov	301-519-5212 (fax)		•	•	•		
Educational Development Center, Inc. 55 Chapel Street, Newton, MA 02160	617-969-7100 Website: edc.org	617-969-3401 (fax)		•		•	•	
Educators for Social Responsibility 23 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138	800-370-2515 or 617-492-1764 Website: benjerry.com/esr	617-864-5164 (fax)	•	•		•	•	•
Family Resource Coalition 20 North Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60606	312-338-0900 Website: frca.org	312-338-1522 (fax)		•	•	•	•	
Fight Crime — Invest in Kids 1334 G Street, NW, Suite B, Washington, DC 20005-3107	202-638-0690 Website: fightcrime.org	202-638-0673 (fax)	•		•	•		
Girl Scouts of the USA 420 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10018-2702	212-852-8000 Website: girlscouts.org	212-852-6515 (fax)		•			•	•
Gang Resistance Education and Training U.S. Department of the Treasury 800 K Street, NW, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20001	202-565-4560 Website: atf.treas.gov/great.htm	202-565-4588 (fax)		•			•	•
Girls Incorporated 120 Wall Street, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10005	212-509-2000 Website: girlsinc.org	212-509-8708 (fax)		•		•	•	•
International Association of Chiefs of Police 515 North Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-2357	703-836-6767 Website: theiacp.org	703-836-4543 (fax)		•	•	•	•	•
Join Together 441 Stuart Street, 7th Floor, Boston, MA 02116	617-437-1500 Website: jointogether.org	617-437-9394 (fax)	•	•	•	•	•	
Justice Statistics Clearinghouse PO Box 6000, Rockville, MD 20849-6000	800-732-3277 Website: ncjrs.org	410-792-4358 (fax)		•	•	•		

			Policies/legislation	Programs/curricula	Funding resources information	Statistics, research	Technical assistance	State/local affiliates
Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse PO Box 6000, Rockville, MD 20849-6000	800-638-8736 Website: ncjrs.org	301-519-5212 (fax)		●	●	●		
Juvenile Law Center 801 Arch Street, Suite 610, Philadelphia, PA 19107	215-625-0551 Website: usakids.org/sites/jlc.html	215-625-9589 (fax)	●	●		●		
Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) 511 East John Carpenter Freeway, Suite 700 Irving, TX 75062	214-744-6233 800-GET-MADD Website: madd.org	972-869-2206 (fax)	●	●	●	●	●	●
National Adolescent Health Resource Center 1313 Fifth Street, Southeast, Suite 205 Minneapolis, MN 55414	612-627-4488 Website: cyfc.umn.edu/Youth/adoleshealth.html	612-627-4487 (fax)		●	●	●		
National Association of Drug Court Professionals 901 North Pitt Street, Suite 370, Alexandria, VA 22314	703-706-0576 Website: drugcourts.com	703-706-0577 (fax)	●	●	●		●	●
National Association of Elementary School Principals 1615 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-3438	703-684-3345 Website: naesp.org	703-548-6021 (fax)	●	●	●	●		●
National Association of Police Athletic Leagues 618 North US Highway #1, Suite 201 North Palm Beach, FL 33408	561-844-1823	561-863-6120 (fax)		●			●	●
National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors 808 17th Street, NW, Suite 410, Washington, DC 20006	202-293-0090 Website: nasadad.org	202-293-1250 (fax)	●	●	●		●	●
National Center for Conflict Resolution Education Illinois Institute for Dispute Resolution 110 West Main Street, Urbana, IL 61801	217-384-4118	217-384-8280 (fax)		●	●	●	●	
National Center for Juvenile Justice 710 5th Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15219-3000	412-227-6950 Website: ncjj.org	412-227-6955 (fax)		●	●	●		
National Center for Missing and Exploited Children 2101 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 550 Arlington, VA 22201-3052	703-235-3900 or 800-843-5678 Website: missingkids.com	703-235-4067 (fax)	●	●	●	●	●	
National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise 1424 16th Street, NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20036	202-518-6500	202-588-0314 (fax)	●	●	●		●	
National Civic League 1445 Market, Suite 300, Denver, CO 80202	303-571-4343 Website: ncl.org/ncl	303-571-4404 (fax)	●	●	●	●	●	●
National Clearinghouse on Families and Youth PO Box 13505, Silver Spring, MD 20911-3505	301-608-8098 Website: acy.dhhs.gov/programs/fysb/programs/ncfy.htm	301-608-8721 (fax)		●	●	●		
National Clearinghouse on Alcohol and Drug Information PO Box 2345, Rockville, MD 20852	301-468-2600 Website: health.org			●	●	●		
National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information PO Box 1182, Washington, DC 20013-1182	800-FYI-3366 Website: calib.com/nccanch/	703-385-7565 (fax)		●	●	●		

			Policies/legislation	Programs/curricula	Funding resources information	Statistics, research	Technical assistance	State/local affiliates
National Coalition of Hispanic Health and Human Services Organizations 1501 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036	202-387-5000 Website: cossmho.org	202-387-4353 (fax)	●	●	●	●	●	
National Committee to Prevent Child Abuse 332 South Michigan Avenue, Suite 1600 Chicago, IL 60604-4357	312-663-3520 Website: childabuse.org	312-939-8962 (fax)	●	●	●	●	●	●
National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges PO Box 8970, Reno, NV 89557	702-784-6012 Website: ncfcj.unr.edu/index.html	702-784-6628 (fax)	●	●		●	●	
National Council on Crime and Delinquency 685 Market Street, Suite 620, San Francisco, CA 94105	415-896-6223 Website: nccd.com	415-896-5109 (fax)	●			●	●	
National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association 100 West Harrison Street, North Tower, Suite 500 Seattle, WA 98119-4123	206-270-0072 or 800-628/3233 Website: nationalcasa.org	206-270-0078 (fax)		●			●	
National Crime Prevention Council 1700 K Street, NW, Second Floor, Washington, DC 20006-3718	202-466-6272 Website: ncpc.org or weprevent.org	202-296-1356 (fax)	●	●	●	●	●	
National Criminal Justice Reference Service PO Box 6000, Rockville, MD 20849-6000	800-851-3420 or 301-519-5500 Website: ncjrs.org			●	●	●		
National Family Partnership 9320 SW Barbur Boulevard, Suite 340, Portland, OR	800-282-7035 or 503-768-9659 Website: cybercity.piedmont.net/NFP/main/main.html	503-244-5506 (fax)	●	●	●		●	●
National Funding Collaborative on Violence Prevention 815 15th Street, Suite 801, Washington, DC 20005	202-393-7731 Website: kidcampaigns.org/cac/sites/NFCVP/about.html	202-393-4148 (fax)		●			●	
National Institute for Dispute Resolution 1726 M Street, NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20036	202-466-4764 Website: nidr.org	202-466-4769 (fax)	●	●	●	●	●	
National Maternal and Child Health Clearinghouse 2070 Chain Bridge Road, Suite 450 Vienna, VA 22182-2536	703-356-1964 Website: circsol.com/mch	703-821-2098 (fax)		●	●	●		
National Network of Children's Advocacy Centers 1319 F Street, NW, #1001, Washington, DC 20004-1106	202-639-0597 Website: nncac.org	202-639-0511 (fax)		●	●	●		
National Parents Resource Institute for Drug Education 3610 DeKalb Technology Parkway, Suite 105 Atlanta, GA 30340	800-853-7867 Website: prideusa.org	770-458-5830 (fax)	●	●	●	●	●	●
National Organization for Victim Assistance 1757 Park Road, NW, Washington, DC 20010	202-232-6682 or 800-TRY-NOVA Website: access.digex.net/~nova	202-4622-2255 (fax)	●	●	●		●	●
National Network for Youth 1319 F Street, NW, Suite 401, Washington, DC 20004	202-783-7949 Website: NN4Youth@aol.com	202-783-7959 (fax)	●	●	●		●	●
National PTA 330 North Wabash Avenue, Suite 2100 Chicago, IL 60611-3690	312-670-6782 Website: pta.org	312-670-6783 (fax)	●	●	●		●	●

			Policies/legislation	Programs/curricula	Funding resources information	Statistics, research	Technical assistance	State/local affiliates
National School Safety Center 4165 Thousand Oaks Boulevard, Suite 290 Westlake Village, CA 91362	805-373-9977 Website: nssc1.org	805-373-9277 (fax)	●	●	●	●	●	
National Victim Center 2111 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22201	703-276-2880 Website: nvc.org	703-276-2889 (fax)	●	●	●	●	●	
National Victims Resource Center Box 6000, Rockville, MD 20849-6000	800-627-6872 Website: ncjrs.org		●	●	●	●		
National Youth Gang Center c/o Institute for Intergovernmental Research PO Box 12729, Tallahassee, FL 33217	850-385-0600 Website: intranet.iir.com/nygc/	850-386-5356 (fax)	●	●	●	●	●	
National Youth Leadership Council 1910 West County Road B, Roseville, MN 55113	612-631-3672 Website: mightymedia.com/edunet/nylc/	612-631-2955 (fax)	●	●	●		●	
Pacific Center for Violence Prevention Building One, San Francisco General Hospital San Francisco, CA 94110	415-821-8209 Website: pcvp.org		●	●	●	●	●	
Parents Anonymous (The National Organization) 675 West Foothill Boulevard, Suite 220 Claremont, CA 91711-3475	909-621-6184 Website: parentsanonymous-natl.org	909-625-6304 (fax)		●			●	●
Quest International PO Box 4850, Newark, OH 43058-4850	614-522-9184 or 6400	614-522-3214 (fax)		●			●	●
Street Law, Inc. 918 16th Street, NW, Suite 602, Washington, DC 20006-2902	202-293-0088 Website: streetlaw.org	202-293-0089 (fax)		●			●	●
Strengthening America's Families Project Department of Health Education HPER N-215, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT 84112	801-581-7718 Website: medlib.med.utah.edu/healthed/ojjdp.htm	801-581-5872 (fax)		●			●	
Teens, Crime, and the Community 1700 K Street, NW, Second Floor, Washington, DC 20006	202-466-6272 x161 Website: nationaltcc.org	202-296-1356 (fax)		●	●		●	●
UNITY (United National Indian Tribal Youth) PO Box 25042, Oklahoma City, OK 73125	405-424-3010 Website: unityinc.org	405-424-3018 (fax)	●	●			●	●
YouthBuild USA 58 Day Street, Somerville, MA 02144	617-623-9900 Website: youthbuild.org	617-623-4331 (fax)		●	●		●	●
Youth Crime Watch of America 9300 South Dadeland boulevard, Suite 100, Miami, FL 33156	305-670-2409 Website: ycwa.org	305-670-3805 (fax)		●			●	●
Youth Service America 1101 15th Street, NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20005	202-296-2992 Website: servenet.org	202-296-4030 (fax)	●	●	●		●	