



KEEPING KIDS
COOL &
CONFIDENT



AND OUT OF GANGS



2012-13 CRIME PREVENTION MONTH KIT

Dear Crime Prevention Practitioner,

Each October, Crime Prevention Month, crime prevention practitioners and citizens alike celebrate all the successes of the last year, hold Celebrate Safe Communities® events, and start making plans for exciting crime prevention programs and projects for the coming year.

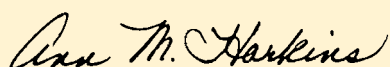
This year, Crime Prevention Month is dedicated to the theme of youth gang prevention. Gangs tear lives apart when people are injured by assaults, rapes, and other crimes. The drug trade flourishes when gangs are present. Young lives are robbed of their potential when gangs recruit children. When gangs are present, neighborhoods decay, property values decline, and badly needed tax revenue is reduced. More than 1.4 million Americans belong to gangs, and that number is exploding. Even worse, the average age of gang members is less than 18.

Every American deserves to be safe from gang violence, and every American family needs to know that it won't lose a child to gang membership. Every community should be safe, free of gangs, and all the crime and havoc they bring.

I believe that if we are to solve our gang problem, we must understand why it exists. This year's Crime Prevention Month Kit explores the nature of gangs and gang membership and provides practical tips on how to address gang issues. It provides examples of community programs that work and offers information on resources. It also includes a press release that you can use to generate community support for your gang prevention initiative and a proclamation that can be issued by a local leader when he or she publicly pledges support for your efforts.

We hope you will find this kit, the resources in it, and the resources on the enclosed CD useful in your crime prevention efforts. For more information on the National Crime Prevention Council's crime prevention programs, please visit www.ncpc.org or call 202-466-6272.

Sincerely,



Ann M. Harkins
President and CEO

FACTS AND FIGURES ON YOUTH GANGS:

These statistics may come in handy when you're seeking support for gang prevention efforts or making presentations.

The Big Picture

According to the *2011 Gang Threat Assessment* report prepared by the National Gang Intelligence Center of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, there are approximately 1.4 million street, out-law motorcycle, and prison gang members in the United States and its territories. The total population of the United States was 311,591,917 in 2011 (U.S. Bureau of the Census). That means that 0.499 percent of all Americans belong to gangs—roughly one American out of every 200.

The number of gang members has increased by 40 percent since 2009, when there were only one million gang members, according to the *2011 Gang Threat Assessment*. Gang membership has increased the most in the Northeast and Southeast, although the West, including Arizona and California, and the North Central Region, including Illinois, have the largest number of gang members. While this increase is due partly to changes in reporting, the number of gang members is skyrocketing.

Gangs are active in every city in the United States with more than 250,000 people. Eighty-five percent of cities with more than 100,000 people also have gang activity, according to the Faith and Service Technical Education Network (FASTEN) gang statistics.

Gangs are responsible for an average of 48 percent of violent crime in most jurisdictions and up to 90 percent in several others, such as Arizona, California, Colorado, Illinois, Massachusetts, Oklahoma, and Texas, according to the *2011 Gang Threat Assessment*.

The *National Youth Gang Survey*, cited in the December 2010 *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*, reported that youth gang problems increased 15 percent overall between 2002 and 2008.

Age of Gang Members

Approximately 360,000 teenage boys belong to gangs, as do 32,000 teenage girls, according to statistics compiled by the website helpingganguyouth.com.

The National Youth Violence Prevention Center says that one-fourth of gang members are ages 15-17. The average age of all gang members is 17-18.

According to the *National Longitudinal Survey of Youth*, 8 percent of youth between the ages of 12 and 17 have belonged to a gang or are a member of a gang. In some cities, that figure is far higher.

Youth who join gangs typically start associating with a gang at age 12 or 13, and join the gang at age 13 to 15, according to research cited in the December 2010 *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*.

Gangs at School

According to research cited in the December 2010 *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*, poor school performance on math tests predicts male gang membership. According to other researchers cited in the *Bulletin*, future gang members perform poorly in elementary school. One group of researchers found that nearly 80 percent of the gang-involved youth referred to juvenile court in Durham, NC, had been suspended, truant, expelled, or otherwise disconnected from school (D.L. Weisel and J.C. Howell, in the *Comprehensive Gang Assessment: A Report to the Durham Police Department and Durham County Sheriff's Office*).

A survey of nearly 6,000 eighth graders in 11 cities with known gang problems found that 9 percent of the eighth graders were currently gang members. Seventeen percent reported that they had belonged to a gang.

Feeling unsafe at school may predict gang involvement, as students who feel vulnerable at school may seek protection in gangs (*Gang Problems and Gang Programs in a National Sample of Schools*, Gottfredson Associates, 2011).

Gangs and Gender

In one 15-city sample, 8.8 percent of boys and 7.8 percent of girls said they were current gang members, according to research published by Ebensen et al. in *Street Gangs, Migration and Ethnicity*, 2008.

Forty percent of gangs allow female gang members, but less than 10 percent of gang members are girls, according to statistics culled from a variety of sources.





Forty percent of girls who joined gangs reported that they had a boyfriend in a gang, and 80 percent said they had a good friend in a male gang, according to *Mexican American Girls and Gang Violence: Beyond Risk*, a book published in 2007 by Palgrave Macmillan.

According to the website helpinggangyouth.com, which cited a variety of sources, the top three risk factors for girls who join gangs are school failure and learning disabilities, lack of positive activities in or out of school, and sexual abuse and victimization. Family dysfunction, low income, and early drug use and early sexual activity were also cited.

Ethnicity

According to the *National Youth Gang Survey*, 50 percent of all gang members are Hispanic/Latino, 32 percent are African American/black, and 11 percent are Caucasian/white. However, in a 15-city sample of gangs, researchers cited in the December 2010 *Juvenile Justice Bulletin*, found that among youth, racial characteristics were more evenly distributed: multiracial groups accounted for 12.9 percent of gangs, while whites accounted for 7.3 percent of gangs, Hispanics accounted for 8.13 percent of gang members, and blacks accounted for 9 percent.

Victims of Gang Members

Statistics on the number of people victimized by gangs and gang members are hard to come by because the figures are reported by the victims, and some victims don't know or report the identity of the perpetrator. However, the most recent *Crime Data Brief on Violence by Gang Members, 1993-2003*, published by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, reported that 12 percent of the victims of violent crime ages 12 to 19 identified their assailants as gang members. The offender was identified as a gang member in about 6 percent of violent crimes against persons ages 20-49 and about 4 percent of violent crimes against those age 50 and older. Hispanics were more likely than non-Hispanics to be the victims of gang crime. Gang crime has risen steadily since this study took place.

Gang Members as Victims

A gang member is 60 times more likely than a non-gang member to be the victim of a homicide, according to the National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center.

According to a study (*Gang Homicides—Five U.S. Cities, 2003-2008*) performed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), gang members who were victims of homicides were significantly younger than non-gang homicide victims in all five cities that were studied (Los Angeles, CA; Oklahoma City, OK; Long Beach, CA; Oakland, CA; and Newark, NJ). While up to 42 percent (depending on the city) of murder victims who were gang members were ages 15-19 years, only 9 to 14 percent of the non-gang members who were victims of homicides fell into this age group.

The CDC study found that gang-related homicides typically result from grudges between rival gangs, not disputes over drugs or drug trafficking.

Gangs and the Military

Gangs are infiltrating the military, with at least 53 different gangs being present at U.S. military installations. According to the *2011 Gang Threat Assessment*, "Gang recruitment of active duty military personnel constitutes a significant criminal threat to the U.S. military. Members of nearly every major street gang, as well as some prison gangs and OMGs [outlaw motorcycle gangs], have been reported on both domestic and international military installations.... Through transfers and deployments, military-affiliated gang members expand their culture and operations to new regions nationwide and worldwide, undermining security and law enforcement efforts to combat crime. Gang members with military training pose a unique threat to law enforcement personnel because of their distinctive weapons and combat training skills and their ability to transfer these skills to fellow gang members."

Motorcycle Gangs

Outlaw motorcycle gangs are organizations whose members use their motorcycle clubs as conduits for criminal enterprises. Outlaw motorcycle gangs have 44,000 members. There are 3,000 gangs altogether, according to the *2011 Gang Threat Assessment*.



SUCCESSFUL GANG PREVENTION PROGRAMS:

Programs That Help Keep Children Out of Gangs

There are many ways to keep children and teens out of gangs or to prevent gang activity. The programs described below all feature innovative approaches that crime prevention practitioners may want to incorporate into their own programs.

Los Angeles, California:

Homeboy Industries

Los Angeles has one of the largest gang populations in the country. One of its most successful gang prevention programs is Homeboy Industries.

Homeboy Industries operates one of the country's most successful anti-gang, community-based programs. With the motto "Nothing stops a bullet like a job," it helps approximately 12,000 at-risk youth, former gang members, and even active gang members—all of whom it refers to as "clients"—each year, with innovative programs aimed at getting youth off the street and into jobs. It also operates reentry programs for convicted or formerly incarcerated gang members.

The organization offers a wide range of services for its clients, including job training in food service and solar panel installation. Clients who successfully complete these programs receive a certificate that is highly regarded in the Los Angeles area. It also offers an educational curriculum aimed at preparation for the GED exam. In addition, it operates more than 30 classes a month in computer training, life skills, parenting, personal development, basic finances and budgeting, creative writing, music, and art.

Some of the clients who graduate from Homeboy's program get jobs in the organization's own restaurants—the Homeboy Bakery, the Homeboy Diner (located at the Los Angeles City Hall), and a new restaurant in the American Airlines terminal at Los Angeles International Airport. At these establishments, members and former members of rival gangs work side by side, earn a living, and learn how to coexist.

One of Homeboy's most innovative programs is its tattoo removal service. Tattoos can be barriers to employment and can also identify a former gang member for targeting by rival gangs. Homeboy provides more than 4,000 tattoo removal treatments (using lasers) a year.

Homeboy's services also include employment counseling, legal assistance (a lawyer on the staff is dedicated full-time to helping clients with legal issues), and mental health and substance abuse counseling—on site.

Chicago, Illinois:

Boys Town and SOS Villages

Chicago offers some of the most innovative gang prevention programs in the country.

Chicago's Boys Town, a branch of the national organization founded in 1917 to provide support and safety to at-risk children and families, has embarked on an ambitious program to tackle youth gang problems where they often start: at home. Operating in a heavily Latino area where the lives of many residents are deeply rooted in traditional values of home and family, the organization aims to help families and children who have somehow fallen through the cracks and are at risk for gang membership or activity. With the support of the city government and a \$2 million bond issue, the group is developing group homes in the "Back of the Yards" neighborhood that will offer group homes staffed with live-in social workers and an environment intended to nurture family relationships and values and provide "education, observation, and privacy."

Chicago, Illinois:

Blackstone Bicycle Works

Blackstone Bicycle Works, an offshoot of Chicago's nonprofit Experimental Station organization, serves a largely African American at-risk clientele in the Woodlawn neighborhood with an extensive neighborhood program that aims to keep children and youth off the streets and out of gangs. It trains these young clients to repair bikes that are then sold by Blackstone in a regular retail outlet—staffed by the clients themselves. Once a child has completed 25 hours of work in the shop, he or she is given a refurbished bicycle, helmet, and lock, becoming mobile and able to take a part-time or full-time job outside the area (where jobs may be more plentiful), develop self-esteem, and learn practical employment and business skills. This is an important consideration in a city with heavy gang activity where 50,000 children and teens applied for the 14,000 jobs available from city programs and where youth unemployment, a risk factor for gang activity, is high.





Binghamton, New York:

Broome County Gang Prevention

Broome County Gang Prevention, a nonprofit community program, targets youth ages 7 to 15 with an educational program aimed at reducing gang membership and gang activity. It believes that youth crime and gang activity can be deterred through awareness, education, and opportunities for youth and their families. Its street-based outreach service staff visit children and youth during their lunch hours and after school to resolve conflicts, offer positive role modeling and mentoring, and support law enforcement. It refers children and their families to community agencies where they can get help for economic, mental health, and substance abuse problems, and offers the services of a New York State-credentialed substance abuse counselor.

San Diego, California:

TKF – Stopping Youth Violence: Tariq Khamisa Foundation

TKF – Stopping Youth Violence was started by two grieving fathers after the son of one of them (Tariq Khamisa, 20) was shot and killed by a 14-year-old gang member (Tony Hicks)—on the order of an 18-year-old gang leader. The second grieving father is the father of the gang leader who ordered the killing. Hicks was sentenced to 25 years to life. But, recognizing the losses they both suffered and committing themselves to keeping other children from the same fate (one dead, one lost to the state prison system), the two fathers started the Tariq Khamisa Foundation to teach San Diego area children and youth that violence is never an option. The foundation's mission is "To transform violence prone, at-risk youth into nonviolent, achieving individuals and create safe and productive schools."

Today, foundation staff and volunteers visit schools and operate community programs dedicated to the goals of promoting integrity, "compassionate confrontation" when a child is at risk, and forgiveness. The organization provides speakers and presentations for school assemblies and organizes discussions afterwards about the impact of school violence. The program also offers a classroom curriculum that focuses on reducing impulsive and aggressive behaviors and provides school safety assessments with the goal of achieving a measured school safety improvement of 5 percent each year. The program has had noteworthy results, including a 98 percent reduction in behavioral referrals at one middle school.

TKF also organizes up to 25 community programs each year, including community cleanup events, graffiti removal, and clothing drives for a shelter for runaways. In addition, it operates a youth mentoring program for up to 500 youth each year and provides skill development workshops that address behavior management, improving coping skills, and promoting healthy peer relationships.

Denver, Colorado:

Open Door Youth Gang Alternatives

Open Door Youth Gang Alternatives is a well-established Denver program that sponsors educational programs for elementary school-age children aimed at reducing the risk of gang membership and activity. Its After School Education, Bonding and Character (AEBC) program fosters positive behavior with activities that include an afterschool snack, homework assistance, mentoring, and recreational opportunities. The AEBC program also provides transportation home to ensure the safety of the children who participate. Other gang prevention programs provided by Open Door Youth Gang Alternatives involve a multidisciplinary program for professionals who work with at-risk youth and families, a program for parents that involves monthly parental and child support groups aimed at helping parents build the skills necessary to prevent participating in gang activities, and the Intensive Intervention and Redirection Program, which identifies at-risk children who have been involved in "negative behavior with drastic consequences." The program assigns a prevention specialist to work with these children and their families. Open Door also provides day camp and residential camping experiences for both children and teens up to the age of 18.

Los Angeles, California:

Soledad Enrichment Action and City Night Lights

Soledad Enrichment Action (SEA, Inc.) operates programs aimed at keeping adolescents and young adults between the ages of 14 and 25 out of gangs in four of the city's 12 Gang Reduction and Youth Development zones. The zones were established in 2007 in response to entrenched gang structures and high levels of gang violence. All four areas are affected by poverty, high unemployment, and extremely high school truancy and dropout rates, all risk factors for gang membership. The SEA Charter School for at-risk youth operates programs to reduce dropout rates and enhance



prospects for graduation. SEA also offers parenting education services, mental health therapy, drug and alcohol counseling, field trips, and afterschool tutoring that includes arts and craft activities. In 2011, the City of Los Angeles awarded a contract to SEA, Inc. to provide CHOICE!, a reentry program for juvenile offenders in the Florence-Graham Gang Reduction and Youth Development Zone.

SEA, Inc. also oversees programming and supervision in 12 of the 32 city parks in the city's highly successful Summer Night Lights program, which has sharply reduced gang crime during the summer school vacation months. The Summer Night Lights initiative, a city program, offers programming and food and has resulted in

- A 55 percent reduction in shots fired
- A 45 percent reduction in shooting victims
- A 57 percent reduction in gang-related homicides

Altogether, 710,000 people participated in the Summer Night Lights program in 2010 and 382,000 meals were served.

Resource: Best Practices for Combating Community Gangs

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, launched its Gang Reduction Program (GRP) in 2003. Reflected in the 2010 update of the publication *Best Practices To Address Community Gang Problems: OJJDP's Comprehensive Gang Model*, the GRP is designed to reduce gang crime in targeted neighborhoods by incorporating research-based interventions to address individual, family, and community factors that contribute to juvenile delinquency and gang activity. The publication provides communities considering whether to implement the comprehensive gang model with information that can be helpful in their efforts. The report includes best practices and the findings of the evaluations of several programs that have used the model.

A PDF of the publication is available at <http://www.ojjdp.gov/publications/pubabstract.asp?pubi=253257>

Houston, Texas:

A City Government Doubles Down on Gangs

Houston, TX, has a major gang problem. According to the National Gang Threat Assessment, 225 gangs are active in the metropolitan area. An analysis by the *Houston Chronicle* counted 11,000 gang-related crimes between 2007 and 2010, including 100 murders. Property losses amounted to \$29 million. Much of the city's gang problem is related to drug trafficking and the city's proximity to the border with Mexico, where drug cartels have proliferated. Transnational gangs are even recruiting members from some of the city's schools.

But Houston is hard at work combating its gang problem. The city government's anti-gang efforts are centralized at the highest level—in the mayor's office, where the Mayor's Anti-Gang Office focuses on

- Education and training for educators, health care providers, social services personnel, and the many others whose expertise and energy are needed to combat gang violence, prevent the spread of gangs, and work with children and youth at risk of joining gangs
- Street-level intervention aimed at children and youth who wish to leave gangs, including case management, counseling, mentoring, referrals to social services, and education on lawful use of the criminal justice system
- Gang Resistance Education And Training (G.R.E.A.T.), an anti-gang curriculum that the Houston Police Department (HPD) teaches to students at middle schools where gangs are active (the HPD, in conjunction with the Mayor's Anti-Gang Office, also offers intervention services to active gang members and those at risk)
- Weed and Seed, which “weeds out” criminal elements from a given neighborhood and “seeds” it with expanded programs and community revitalization efforts
- Juvenile Accountability Court Program, a program funded by the U.S. Department of Justice in conjunction with Houston's municipal courts, in which case managers assess the risk of juveniles in the city's court system and assign those who are eligible to case management counselors, intervention workshops, and community service projects



Houston's innovative and far-reaching gang prevention, intervention, and suppression efforts are led by Patricia Harrington, director of the Mayor's Anti-Gang Office, and the office's director of program services, Victor Gonzalez, who are widely recognized for bringing new energy to the city's efforts to fight gangs.

In addition, local and federal law enforcement organizations recently launched stophoustongangs.org, a website designed to inform the public about gang activity and suppress gang violence. The site offers a confidential portal for citizens to provide tips on gang activities, as well as a "Top 20" list—with photos—of the city's most wanted gang members.

Kansas City, Missouri:

P.O.S.S.E.

Oscar (Ossco) Bolton was once a gang member who was very good at his job: as a gang member in Kansas City, MO, he recruited scores of young people into his gang. Then, his 11-month-old nephew was killed in a gang-related drive-by shooting. Now, he is successful in another line of work: he works to combat the proliferation of gangs in Kansas City, MO, where he provides alternatives to the gang lifestyle in one of the city's most pre-eminent anti-gang programs.

Bolton's program, Peers Organized to Support Student Excellence (P.O.S.S.E.), says it can transform any school environment afflicted by gangs by elevating the focus and attitudes of its students, and it has met with considerable success. Originally, P.O.S.S.E. served only students who were active in school gangs, training them to

be positive instead of negative leaders. Now, the effort is far more encompassing. P.O.S.S.E. training starts with academic leaders, athletic leaders, and other influential children and youth. The members of the school's P.O.S.S.E. then form a "positive gang" that builds self-esteem and offers its members a way out of the downward gang spiral.












P.O.S.S.E. now offers a number of programs. Its "Break-N-Build" course is designed to free students—some as young as the third grade—of their gang identity and offers instruction in such subjects as anger management, social skills, and life planning. The course consists of eight workbooks and may take a year to complete.

After they successfully complete the "Break-N-Build" course, students are eligible for the Baby P.O.S.S.E. program, in which younger students are mentored by students who are at least two years older in mentor-protégé partnerships that include life-planning activities and field trips.

Older students are eligible for the Wolf Pack, which pairs P.O.S.S.E. students with adult professionals to help prepare them for life outside their high schools. P.O.S.S.E. also offers a Fast Forward Program, a college preparatory and tutoring program.

P.O.S.S.E.'s newest program, Seed 2 Supper, is its most innovative and takes gang prevention one step further. It recognizes that troubled and at-risk children often have little knowledge of nutrition and as a result are at risk for such diseases as cancer, diabetes, and obesity in adulthood. In Seed 2 Supper, students grow vegetables and herbs in pots, then take them home, where they use them in recipes they learn in the program.

A Proclamation

-  WHEREAS gang membership is growing, with one out of every 200 Americans belonging to a gang
-  WHEREAS gangs contribute to high rates of crime, particularly homicides
-  WHEREAS gang violence destroys our neighborhoods
-  WHEREAS the drug trade flourishes when gangs are present
-  WHEREAS gangs may be fronts for organized crime
-  WHEREAS gang violence harms everyone, especially children, who are frequently caught in the crossfire between gangs
-  WHEREAS children at risk for joining gangs can be identified at young ages
-  WHEREAS the average age of gang members is 17-18
-  WHEREAS education and intervention at an early age can reduce gang involvement
-  WHEREAS proven strategies exist for combating gang membership and the spread of gangs
-  WHEREAS community programs and partnerships between all levels of government have been highly successful in reducing gang violence



Now, therefore, I [name of leader, title] do hereby proclaim October 2013 as Crime Prevention Month in [name of jurisdiction] and urge all citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, and businesses to invest in the power of prevention and work together to save lives and reduce the role and spread of gangs so that [name of jurisdiction] is a safer, stronger, more caring community where children can grow up safe and healthy; where schools are safe; where crime is reduced; where lives are reclaimed from gang membership; and where businesses and neighborhoods can thrive.

PRESS RELEASE

National Crime Prevention Council Emphasizes Gang Prevention as It Marks October as Crime Prevention Month

Contact: Name, phone number, and email address

Date: Month and year

(Anytown, USA): The National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC), home of McGruff the Crime Dog®, is marking this year's Crime Prevention Month, October, with a focus on preventing the gang violence that troubles towns and cities, suburbs, and rural jurisdictions of all sizes.

Gangs are present in every American city of more than 250,000 people and 85 percent of cities with 100,000 people or more, according to the Faith and Service Technical Education Network. More than 1.4 million Americans are members of gangs—a 40 percent increase since 2009, according to the *2011 Gang Threat Assessment* report prepared by the National Gang Intelligence Center of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Roughly one out of every 200 Americans belongs to a gang.

Gangs are responsible for an average of 48 percent of violent crime in most jurisdictions and up to 90 percent in several other jurisdictions, according to the *2011 Gang Threat Assessment*.

According to Ann Harkins, the National Crime Prevention Council's president and chief executive officer, "Gangs tear lives apart when people are injured by assaults, rapes, and other crimes. The drug trade flourishes when gangs are present. Young lives are robbed of their potential when gangs recruit children. When gangs are present, neighborhoods decay, property values decline, and badly needed tax revenue is reduced."

Harkins points to the recruitment of children into gangs as a particular problem. Approximately 360,000 teenage boys belong to gangs, as do 32,000 teenage girls. One-fourth of gang members are ages 15-17, and the average age of all gang members is 17-18, according to the National Youth Violence Prevention Center.

"Every American deserves to be safe from gang violence, and every American family needs to know that it won't lose a child to gang membership," Harkins says.

Harkins adds that there are ways to combat the spread of gangs, reduce gang violence, and reduce the likelihood that children will be recruited. These include better childhood education, family therapy, greater recreational opportunities, gun buyback programs, and the prevention of recidivism.

NCPC says that combating gangs doesn't have to be expensive. The Summer Night Lights program in Los Angeles, for example, has sharply reduced gang crime with youth-directed entertainment and recreation in city parks.

NCPC is highlighting programs that have successfully combated gangs in its 2012-13 Crime Prevention Month Kit. Several of the programs respond to the bleak employment picture for young people. The programs highlighted include Chicago's Blackstone Bicycle Works, which teaches bicycle repair skills to at-risk children and then provides them with a job at its retail outlet. Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles, another of the programs cited, also focuses on the problem of youth unemployment. With the motto "Nothing stops a bullet like a job," it helps approximately 12,000 at-risk youth with innovative training programs aimed at getting them off the street and into jobs, especially in the food service industry.

The 2012-13 Crime Prevention Month Kit, which is available online at www.ncpc.org, features sections on a number of gang prevention topics, including successful gang prevention programs and keeping children away from crime.

"We need to make every effort to keep our children from being caught up in gangs and gang violence," Harkins says. "Every child deserves the opportunity to grow up safely and not be afraid of being hurt by gang violence. Child need to know that joining a gang is not the answer, no matter how great their problems or serious their circumstances."

The National Crime Prevention Council was founded in 1982 to lead the nation's efforts in educating and mobilizing people to prevent crime. Surveys show that its icon, McGruff the Crime Dog®, is well recognized by people of all ages. Together, NCPC and McGruff have helped communities spread the prevention message through training, mass media, demonstration programs, conferences, publications, and numerous partnerships with government and community organizations.



GIRLS IN GANGS:

*Why They Join—And How To Get Them Out**



Girls are joining gangs and taking part in criminal gang behavior in increasing numbers. In Washington, DC, alone, there are more than 270 girl gangs and crews. Girl gang members take part in gang violence alongside male gang members. They fight with dangerous weapons, including knives and guns; sell drugs; and commit violent crimes against rival gang members and citizens alike.

One thing that keeps more at-risk girls from becoming gang members or forming all-girl gangs is a high pregnancy rate. However, girls are beginning to feel powerful and no longer feel the need to stand in the shadows of their male counterparts.

Girls get involved in gangs for the same reason that boys and young men do. Often, they come from broken homes. Many have at least one parent in prison. Many have been physically or sexually abused. Many live in neighborhoods with poorly performing schools, limited recreational opportunities, few job opportunities, and high crime rates.

Girls may seek to join gangs to

- Have a family-structured environment
- Affirm their worth and identity
- Obtain a sense of power
- Get money and respect
- Join a friend or family member in gang activities
- Obtain protection

Other reasons girls in particular may become delinquent and be attracted to gangs include early puberty (which can lead to increased conflict with parents and relationships with older boys and men), sexual abuse or maltreatment, and romantic partners.

Like boys, girls have to go through an initiation before they are accepted into a gang. They may have to be “jumped in,” or fight several gang members at once. Some may be forced to kill someone. Others may be “sexed in,” which involves having group sex with male members of the gang. However, being sexed in is problematic because afterwards, though part of the gang, the girl may get little respect from males and other girls, especially in comparison with those who were jumped in or who killed someone.



Keeping Girls From Joining Gangs

Crime prevention practitioners can help keep girls from joining gangs by helping to inform parents and other adults of the ways they can spot the danger signs that a girl is becoming involved in a gang. They include

- Change in friends
- Repeatedly wearing clothes of particular colors
- Wearing symbols of gangs, including those that include Roman numerals and odd insignia, or putting them on notebooks and backpacks
- Lack of interest in usual school or extracurricular activities
- Carrying a weapon

Crime prevention practitioners need to encourage parents, guardians, and other adults to keep girls from joining a gang by

- Spending quality time with the child
- Getting the girl involved in school, extracurricular, and community activities, including playing sports, taking part in faith groups, or getting a part-time job
- Being involved in the child’s academic life
- Knowing the girl’s friends
- Knowing the girl’s love interest
- Encouraging the girl and commending good behavior

Exit Strategies

Girls who want to leave a gang face difficult obstacles. A girl

- Must be totally committed to leaving the gang
- Will need the help and support of a trusted adult or network—a parent or guardian, school officials, social workers, law enforcement officers, faith leaders, non-gang family members
- Must be willing to give up the perceived “security” of the gang and realize that, in reality, she will be safer once she is out of the gang
- May be in extreme danger because gang members are afraid she will give up secrets
- Be willing to move away not just from the gang neighborhood, but away from any place she may be recognized

**See entire document on the enclosed CD.*



GANGS IN SCHOOLS:

*Solving the Problem With Proven Best Practices**

In one recent survey, 23 percent of students reported the presence of a gang at school. Despite the best efforts of parents and school and community officials, theft, violence, and drugs, sometimes gang-related, are present.

Strategies To Prevent Gangs

Crime prevention practitioners can help prevent gangs in schools by working with school resource officers, teachers, parents, administrators, and students to create a positive school environment that is safe and nurturing and a counterweight to the attraction of gangs. Working in unison, they can

- Provide students, through activities and lesson plans, with the tools, guidance, and self-confidence to prevent crime, violence, and drug abuse
- Educate parents on the dangers of gangs and give parents tips and tools on how to determine whether their child is a gang member by
 - Arranging presentations at PTA meetings
 - Sending letters home
- Train teachers and administrators how to recognize and respond to gangs and violent behavior by
 - Conducting afterschool or in-service trainings
 - Bringing in experts from the field
 - Having law enforcement and community officials update teachers on gang activity in the nearby area
- Encourage law enforcement-student partnerships aimed at preventing gang membership (See box)
- Recommend additional security measures in the school, such as metal detectors and video cameras or adding more guards or school resource officers
- Ask local businesses to support gang prevention activities (by providing security equipment or refreshments at anti-gang meetings)
- Help school officials and parent groups raise money to enhance school activities
- Plan youth-led service activities that will build enthusiasm among students and positive reinforcement

Best Practices

Having a zero-tolerance policy for gang activity and requiring the use of school uniforms can be effective.

Zero-Tolerance Policy: Advise the school on how to declare such a policy. It will create a framework for positive solutions and activities and, at the same time, provide a foundation for disciplinary actions. To make sure the policy is effective, the school should seek the input of students and faculty in developing the policy and reach out to schools and communities that have had success with zero-tolerance policies. When implemented, the policy must be publicized, consistently followed, and reviewed regularly to ensure its usefulness and relevance.

Uniforms and Dress Codes: Many gangs represent themselves through colors, gestures, symbols, and dress. One strategy to reduce the visibility of gang members in the school and hinder their ability to recruit is to implement a strict dress code. Dress codes are not as effective as having students wear uniforms, but clothing and trends in appearance associated with gangs can be banned. Crime prevention practitioners can help facilitate the use of dress codes by helping schools get the input of students, faculty, parents and guardians, and other stakeholders in the decision and providing information on gang dress throughout the area.

A zero-tolerance or school uniform/dress code policy must be publicized, consistently followed, and reviewed regularly to ensure its usefulness and relevance.

Student-Law Enforcement Partnerships To Prevent Gangs

Crime prevention practitioners can help students and faculty work with law enforcement to develop a comprehensive anti-gang strategy that includes

- Anonymous crime reporting
- Bus safety
- Student patrols
- Mentoring and tutoring
- Drug, gangs, violence, and crime prevention education
- Conflict resolution
- Peer training

*See entire document on the enclosed CD.

PARTNERING WITH THE COMMUNITY:

How Crime Prevention Practitioners Can Work in the Community To Prevent Gangs

Gang violence hurts everyone. Families are torn apart when people are injured by assaults, rapes, and other crimes, and when the drug trade—and drug use—flourish. Young lives are robbed of their potential when children are recruited. When gangs are present, people become afraid to venture out. Neighborhoods decay, get a bad reputation, and soon no one wants to live or do business there. Property values decline, and tax revenue is reduced. As the neighborhood declines, more gangs stake out turf and gang violence grows. It's a vicious cycle.

The cost of youth violence is staggering. Not all violent young people join gangs, but one expert, Mark Lipsey, a professor at Vanderbilt University, says that a youth who drops out of school at age 16, uses drugs, and commits illegal, violent acts can cost the community between \$5.2 million and \$7 million in direct costs—for law enforcement; crime prevention; health care; public safety, including safety programs in schools; etc. And this doesn't factor in the cost of his or her short-term or long-term incarceration, or lost productivity—of himself, his family, and his victims.

But there's hope. Gang prevention programs work, especially when they are rooted in the community and supported or reinforced by an overarching civic strategy that coordinates the work of all the agencies that need to be involved—law enforcement, social welfare, public health, public safety, and the schools. Crime prevention practitioners can play an invaluable role by organizing community groups or joining with them and supporting their efforts and linking their efforts to that of the overarching civic strategy. They can be particularly useful in facilitating introductions between agency officials and groups at the neighborhood level.

Los Angeles, California, is home to some of the most entrenched gang activity in the country. According to the Los Angeles Police Department, the city is home to nearly 400 gangs with more than 41,000 active gang members, and many of them are teenagers. However, the city has embarked on a citywide anti-gang strategy that includes cooperation with community residents in designated Gang Reduction and Youth Development zones. That program, among others (including a gun buyback program that engaged community leaders and residents and offered \$100 and \$200 gift cards—depending on the caliber—in return for weapons) resulted in a 27 percent drop in gang-related killings and an even larger 40 percent decline in nearby San Fernando Valley neighborhoods.

There are many ways that crime prevention practitioners can join with community members in gang prevention activities and programs. They can

Work with neighborhood groups to

- Promote peaceful conflict resolution
- Organize marches to take back the streets from gangs
- Organize neighborhood cleanup activities, including the removal of gang graffiti, to make the community appear well cared for and less hospitable to crime

Work with schools by

- Helping to identify gang awareness and education programs that emphasize good citizenship, conflict resolution, and leadership
- Helping to establish a zero-tolerance policy for gang activities and weapons at school
- Promoting the use of school uniforms to discourage gang attire and other markers
- Identifying ways to improve school safety, including the use of cameras
- Identifying truants and other children at risk for gang membership
- Speaking to assemblies about the dangers of gang membership
- Serving as a sponsor or coach of extracurricular activities and sports, especially during the critical 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. timeframe when parents or guardians may still be at work

Work with local businesses to

- Obtain employment for neighborhood youth
- Arrange for the donation of in-kind supplies and services for neighborhood gang prevention meetings, including refreshments

Work with municipal agencies and local officials to

- Establish zero-tolerance policies for gang violence
- Hire street outreach workers to divert gang-involved youth toward positive alternatives
- Make sure that services are available to the victims of gang violence and that they are well publicized
- Promote public service advertising that offers anti-violence tips or highlights local services. Make sure that this advertising is placed in local newsletters or programs in faith congregations, and that fliers are posted in public places, such as supermarkets and coffee shops
- Find funding for community gang prevention activities



Work with law enforcement to

- Find mentors or Big Brothers or Big Sisters for at-risk children (what better role model than a law enforcement officer?)
- Arrange for speakers for school assemblies and community meetings
- Sponsor local sports teams and other extracurricular activities
- Make sure that laws against the use of weapons, especially firearms, are strictly enforced
- Establish a hotline that can be used to report gang crime anonymously
- Ensure that gun licensing laws are strictly enforced
- Arrange for an event where there is amnesty for children and teens who turn in illegal or unregistered weapons

Work with local lawmakers to

- Establish zero-tolerance laws for gang violence
- Emphasize prevention as a means of combating gang and gun violence (*in the words of one official, "You can't arrest your way out of this problem."*)
- Establish programs in which people can learn about anger management, conflict mediation, and other nonviolent ways to handle problems
- Establish laws and policies that reduce the danger from weapons, especially firearms

Five Ways To Promote Community Gang Prevention Right Now

Crime prevention practitioners can do five things right now to help prevent the spread of gangs:

- Write and design fliers and other forms of advertising with gang education and awareness messages and post them in public places, local newsletters, or worship programs
- Arrange a community meeting to discuss the gang problem and possible solutions (See box at right)
- Enlist the help of those familiar with the costs of gang violence—judges, probation officers, doctors, emergency room personnel, victims and survivors—in pushing for prevention strategies at meetings and in the media; public testimonials are highly effective
- Speak at a school assembly about the dangers of the gang lifestyle
- Mentor a child who is at risk for gang membership or enroll in the Big Brothers or Big Sisters program and befriend a child

Six No-cost Ways To Help Community Residents Organize a Gang Prevention Meeting

Crime prevention practitioners can

- Find a meeting place (it may have to be in another neighborhood so participants can't be identified by gang members)
- Publicize the meeting with fliers, signs, and notices in newsletters (arrange for the donation of stationery and other supplies by local merchants)
- Arrange for donations of refreshments
- Serve as a moderator at the first meeting to facilitate the election of leaders and the formation of committees
- Provide attendees with examples of gang prevention programs that have worked in other communities, and speak about the benefits of a gang prevention program in their community and the results they can expect
- Arrange for program speakers from law enforcement departments and other municipal agencies

SUSTAINING COMMUNITY GANG PREVENTION EFFORTS:

What To Do, and Where To Find Resources

No area is immune from gangs, which can afflict the residents of the inner city, the suburbs, and rural counties alike. Gangs attract young people of all races, religions, and socioeconomic backgrounds, though risk factors include poverty, poor schools, and unsafe neighborhoods.

There are many ways that crime prevention practitioners can combat gangs and keep them from taking root in local jurisdictions. Successful programs often include

- Limiting the abundance of free and unstructured time for youth
- Providing alternative, positive activities for youth
- Spending quality time with youth
- Sponsoring targeted, culturally sensitive alternative programs for youth
- Leading bullying prevention programs
- Organizing positive youth development programs

Sustaining an Anti-Gang Strategy

Funding

There are many ways that crime prevention practitioners, school and civic officials, and community leaders can win support for gang prevention programs. But when it comes to funding, the experts advise making sure that the steering committee communicates the impact it will deliver and informs potential supporters of ways it can help make the vision a reality. Being optimistic and painting a picture of a successful outcome is important. It's also important to learn who the philanthropic leaders are in the community and find a way to speak with them—usually it helps to have someone who knows both the program organizers and the potential funder facilitate the introduction. Specific plans with measurable goals are essential, as is a funding goal based on a realistic budget. It helps to be able to show how funders—businesses in particular—can get positive exposure for doing a good deed.

Information on potential local funders can be found at these websites:

- The Foundation Center, Finding Funders
<http://foundationcenter.org/findfunders>
- Council on Foundations, Community Foundation Locator
www.communityfoundationlocator.com

Sustainability Action Plans

Regardless of the size, scope, or location of the gang prevention program, a sustainability action plan is essential. It should include the following elements:

- Vision, mission, and case for support
- Goals and objectives
- Ways to address funding gaps, including the use of “in-kind” contributions
- A targeted marketing strategy
- Strategic relationships with potential stakeholders
- Followup
- Documentation of agreements
- Continuous nurturing of sponsors and funders

Resources

Crime prevention practitioners, civic officials, and community leaders can avail themselves of numerous free resources as they work to sustain their gang prevention efforts.

- *The Building Your Case for Support GIZMO* (Giving Information for Zooming Mission Objectives)
http://s3.amazonaws.com/resource_center_video/cci/case-for-support/published/building-your-case-alternate.pdf
- *Establishing Partnerships*
www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/ccf/about_ccf/gbk_ep/ep_gbk_toc.html
- *Sharing Your National Service Story: A Guide to Working With the Media*
www.nationalservice.gov/pdf/Media_Guide.pdf
- *A Guide to Working With the Media*
www.ncpc.org

Organizations

G.R.E.A.T. (Gang Resistance Education And Training)
www.great-online.org

National Gang Center (U.S. Department of Justice)
www.nationalgangcenter.gov/



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT:

Keeping Children Out of Gangs

Many children and teens enjoy their friends, schools, and extracurricular activities and look forward to their college years, careers, and, frequently, giving back to their communities. For them, despite all the trials and tribulations of youth, life is good.

But others aren't as lucky. Some come from broken homes; have suffered physical, sexual, or mental abuse; and live in poor neighborhoods with bad schools, high crime, and few opportunities for social relationships or recreation and limited opportunities for employment. These children may become delinquent or join a gang.

Gang membership is a particularly worrisome trend. More youth—boys and girls alike—are joining gangs, and gang membership and gang violence are on the rise again.

Children join gangs for many reasons. But one of the chief reasons is alienation from key socializing institutions, especially families and schools. The lack of good socializing influences can result in rebelliousness and antisocial behavior, including vandalism, the use of alcohol and drugs, precocious sexual behavior, and violent crime. Delinquent behavior can predispose children to membership in gangs. Moreover, many children who join gangs are seeking a place where they are accepted socially. Children also join gangs because of peer pressure, for protection, for fun, for respect, for money, and because a friend, romantic interest, or family member is in a gang or has been in one. Some join gangs to get money, sometimes from the sale of drugs or violent crimes, like robbery.

Crime prevention practitioners can counter these influences by helping to reduce risks and providing or increasing their support for positive youth development. Youth development is the ongoing process that allows young people to meet their basic personal and social needs and to build the skills and capacities they will need in later life. Just as there are risk factors that get children into trouble, there are factors ("assets") that can keep them on the straight and narrow.

The Search Institute, a Minneapolis-based think tank on youth issues, has identified specific assets that will help youth become healthy, law-abiding adults. There are both external assets (positive factors that young people receive from the people and institutions in their lives) and internal assets (qualities in the child that guide choices and create a sense of centeredness, purpose, and focus).

External assets include

- Support—Young people need to experience support, care, and love from their families, neighbors, other adults, and institutions.
- Empowerment—Young people need to be valued by their communities and have opportunities to contribute to others; for this to occur, they must be safe and feel secure.

- Boundaries and expectations—Young people need to know what is expected of them and whether activities and behaviors are "within bounds" or "out of bounds."
- Constructive use of time—Young people need constructive, enriching opportunities through such things as creative activities, involvement with a faith group, and quality time at home.

Internal assets include

- Commitment to learning—Young people need to develop a lifelong commitment to education and learning.
- Positive values—Youth need to develop strong values that guide their choices.
- Social competencies—Young people need skills and competencies that equip them to make positive choices, to build relationships, and to succeed in life.
- Positive identity—Young people need a strong sense of their own purpose, worth, and promise.

There are many ways crime prevention practitioners and others can help prevent risky or criminal behavior in children. They include

- Providing or participating in mentoring programs
- Improving schools, making them safe places where children can learn from good teachers and emulate positive role models
- Supporting community development by providing Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design information and training
- Providing—or pointing children to—recreational opportunities or membership in such groups as Boys and Girl Clubs, the YMCA or YWCA, and Scouts

Helping a Child Get Out of a Gang

Joining a gang is a conscious decision. So is getting out of one. Crime prevention practitioners, including school officials and law enforcement officers, can help teens who want to get out of a gang by

- **Providing a listening ear—A child who wants to get out of a gang may want to discuss his or her options and need encouragement.**
- **Providing information—A child who wants to get out of a gang may need to know about available emergency services, such as a teen or crisis hotline.**
- **Providing support—A child who wants to get out of a gang may need a place to stay, adults to live with, or help getting to a safer location.**

RESOURCES

Online Resources

All Children Excel (ACE)

www.co.ramsey.mn.us/NR/rdonlyres/82A097AE-978C-4F63-9C68-30B6829A7A2F/1750/ACE_Interim_Report.pdf

American Youth Policy Forum

www.aypf.org/programareas/comprehensive-community-solutions-for-youth-success

Boys and Girls Clubs of America

www.bgca.org

Center for Problem-Oriented Policing

www.popcenter.org

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

www.aypf.org/DivisionofViolencePrevention
www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention

Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence

www.colorado.edu/cspv

Circle of Courage

Reclaiming Youth International

www.reclaiming.com/content/about-circle-of-courage

Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA)

www.cadca.org/about-us

Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), U.S. Department of Justice

www.cops.usdoj.gov

Comprehensive Gang Initiative

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

www.ojjdp.gov/programs/antigang

CrimeSolutions.gov

www.crimesolutions.gov/programs.aspx

FASTEN – The Faith and Service Technical Education Network

www.urbanministry.org/fasten-homepage

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids

www.fightcrime.org/splash

Find Youth Info

<http://findyouthinfo.gov/index.shtml>

Gangs Or Us

<http://gangsorus.com>

Gang Prevention Grants

www.ehow.com/about_5574495_gang-prevention-grants.html

Gangs in Schools

www.ericdigests.org/pre-9216/gangs.htm

G.R.E.A.T. (Gang Resistance Education And Training)

www.great-online.org

Helping Gang Youth

www.helpingganguyouth.com

International Association of Chiefs of Police

www.theiacp.org

mcgruff.org

(National Crime Prevention Council website for children)

www.mcgruff.org

National Alliance of Gang Investigators' Associations

www.nagia.org

National Centers of Excellence on Youth Violence

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/pdf/ACE_AAG-a.pdf

National Association of Students Against Violence Everywhere

www.nationalsave.org/main/locations.php

National Center for Victims of Crime

www.ncvc.org

National Crime Prevention Council

www.ncpc.org

National Gang Center

Bureau of Justice Assistance

U.S. Department of Justice

www.nationalgangcenter.gov

National Gang Intelligence Center

www.fbi.gov/about-us/investigate/vc_majorthefts/gangs/ngic

National Sheriffs' Association

www.sheriffs.org

National Urban League

<http://nul.org/>

National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center

www.nsvrc.org/organizations/87

Office of Justice Programs

U.S. Department of Justice

www.ojp.usdoj.gov

Bureau of Justice Assistance

www.bja.gov

National Institute of Justice

www.nij.gov

Office for Victims of Crime

www.ovc.gov

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

www.ojjdp.gov

Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking Office (SMART)

www.smart.gov

OJJDP Comprehensive Gang Model

Bureau of Justice Assistance

U.S. Department of Justice

www.nationalgangcenter.gov/Comprehensive-Gang-Model/About

Project Safe Neighborhoods

Bureau of Justice Assistance

U.S. Department of Justice

www.bja.gov/programdetails.aspx?program_id=74

STRYVE: Striving To Reduce Youth Violence Everywhere

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/STRYVE/index.html

Summer Night Lights Gang Reduction Program

<http://mayor.lacity.org/issues/gangreduction/summernightlights/index.htm>

The Streets Don't Love You Back

<http://thestreetsdontloveyouback.ning.com/page/gang-resources>

YMCA

www.ymca.net

YWCA

www.ywca.org

Youth Service America

www.ysa.org

Articles and Publications

2011 National Gang Threat Assessment

www.fbi.gov/stats-services/publications/2011-national-gang-threat-assessment

Best Practices of Youth Violence Prevention: A Sourcebook for Community Action

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/introduction-a.pdf

Community Policing Consortium Unites City Against Crime

www.nickelcity.net/news/00_01/com_policing_consortium.htm

Cost of Crime

www.ncvc.org/ncvc/main.aspx?dbName=DocumentViewer&DocumentID=38710

Criminal Victimization in the United States

<http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbse&sid=58>

Frequently Asked Questions About Gangs

National Gang Center
www.nationalgangcenter.gov/About/FAQ

Gang Statistics

www.helpinggangyouth.com/statistics.html

Gangs: The New Family

<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1564&context=extensionhist>

Healthcare Costs of Crime

www.ncvc.org/ncvc/AGP.Net/Components/documentViewer/Download.aspx?DocumentID=41159

Highlights of the 2010 National Youth Gang Survey

www.ojjdp.gov/pubs/237542.pdf

Native American Youth in Gangs: Acculturation and Identity

www.helpinggangyouth.com/paper_on_indian_gangs-mendenhall.pdf

OJJDP Strategic Planning Tool

Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice
www.nationalgangcenter.gov/About/Strategic-Planning-Tool

Preventing Crime . . . and Cutting its Costs: Tenth United Nations Conference on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

www.un.org/events/10thcongress/2088c.htm

Pay Now or Pay Much More Later: Law Enforcement Leaders Support High-Quality Early Education to Cut Crime and Save Money in California

www.fightcrime.org/ECEpressrelease0312

School-Associated Violent Deaths Study

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/youthviolence/schoolviolence/SAVD.html

Street Gang Dynamics

www.gangwar.com/dynamics.htm

The Cost of Crime: It Just Doesn't Pay!

www2.davidson.edu/news/news_archives/archives99/9910_anderson.html

The High Budgetary Costs of Incarceration

www.cepr.net/documents/publications/incarceration-2010-06.pdf

The Link between Early Childhood Education and Crime and Violence Reduction

www.eoionline.org/early_learning/fact_sheets/ELCLinkCrimeReduction-Jul02.pdf

Testimony of Ann Harkins, Chief Executive Officer, National Crime Prevention Council, before the Subcommittee of Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, Committee on Appropriations, U.S. House of Representatives

www.ncpc.org/about/news/testimony-of-ann-harkins-president-and-ceo-ncpc

Understanding Community Policing: A Framework for Action

www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles/commpp.pdf

What's the Value of an Extra Officer in Your Community? RAND Online Tool Provides the Answer

<http://cops.usdoj.gov/html/dispatch/06-2011/valueOfAnExtraOfficer.asp>

What Is to Blame for Youth Violence?

National Research Center
www.center4research.org/2010/05/what-is-to-blame-for-youth-violence/

Washington Study: Crime Prevention Programs Effective; Cost Savings Enormous

<http://blog.senatedemocrats.wa.gov/hargrove/wa-study-crime-prevention-programs-effective-cost-savings-enormous/>





The National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) is a private, nonprofit tax-exempt [501(c)(3)] organization whose primary mission is to be the nation's leader in helping people keep themselves, their families, and their communities safe from crime. NCPC's strategic plan is centered on four goals: protect children and youth; partner with government and law enforcement to prevent crime; promote crime prevention and personal safety basics; and respond to emerging crime trends. NCPC publishes books, kits of camera-ready program materials, posters, and informational and policy reports on a variety of crime prevention and community-building subjects. NCPC offers training, technical assistance, and a national focus for crime prevention: it acts as secretariat for the Crime Prevention Coalition of America, more than 400 national, federal, state, and local organizations representing thousands of constituents who are committed to preventing crime. NCPC also sponsors the National Crime Prevention Association, an individual membership association to promote resources and career development to crime prevention practitioners. It hosts two websites: www.ncpc.org for adults and www.mcgruff.org for children. It operates demonstration programs in schools, neighborhoods, and entire jurisdictions and takes a major leadership role in youth crime prevention and youth service. NCPC manages the McGruff® "Take A Bite Out Of Crime®" public service advertising campaign. NCPC is funded through a variety of government agencies, corporate and private foundations, and donations from private individuals.



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National Crime Prevention Council
2001 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 901
Arlington, VA 22202
202-466-6272
www.ncpc.org



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Arlington, VA 22202
202-466-6272
www.ncpc.org
www.mcgruff.org