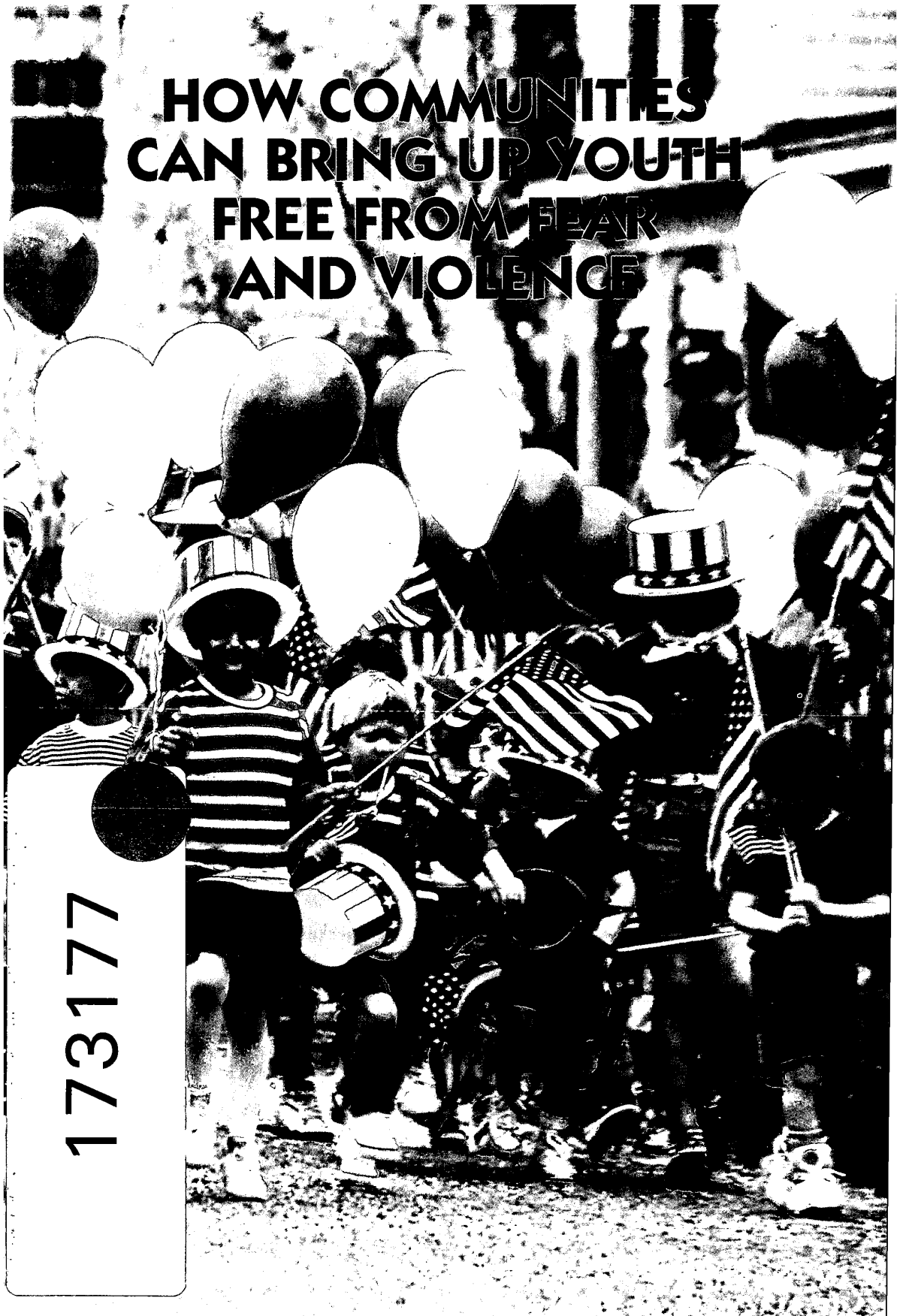


# HOW COMMUNITIES CAN BRING UP YOUTH FREE FROM FEAR AND VIOLENCE

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# *How Communities Can Bring Up Youth Free From Fear and Violence*

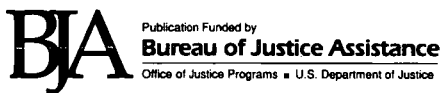
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**National Crime  
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This publication was made possible in part by a generous grant from the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation.



This publication was made possible in part through Cooperative Funding Agreement No. 92-DD-CX-K022 from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. Opinions are those of NCPC or cited sources and do not necessarily reflect U.S. Department of Justice policy or positions. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Office for Victims of Crime.



The National Crime Prevention Council is a private, nonprofit tax-exempt [501(c)(3)] organization whose principal mission is to enable people to prevent crime and build safer, more caring communities. 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 national focus for crime prevention: it acts as secretariat for the Crime Prevention Coalition, more than 130 national, federal, and state organizations committed to preventing crime. It also operates demonstration programs and takes a major leadership role in youth crime prevention. NCPC manages the McGruff "Take A Bite Out Of Crime" public service advertising campaign, which is substantially funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.

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Printed in the United States of America  
July 1995

National Crime Prevention Council  
1700 K Street, NW, Second Floor  
Washington, DC 20006-3817  
202-466-6272

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### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This book was developed by a team at the National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC): Terry Modglin, who conceived and spearheaded it; Theresa Kelly, who managed the process; Jean O'Neil, who helped with its conception and provided major editorial and production assistance; and Sarah Hebrek, who helped research parts of it. Sarah Ingersoll, as a consultant to NCPC, undertook the difficult task of bringing together a draft and revising it. Jack Calhoun, NCPC's Executive Director, was extraordinarily supportive throughout.

The financial support provided by the Bureau of Justice Assistance and the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation was, of course, critical to producing this publication.



# Introduction

**Reducing violence and helping our children grow up free from its pernicious influence require a commitment from each of us to act both individually and together.**

Preventing violence requires that we each value our neighborhoods, step forward to provide leadership, and encourage others to act. In all kinds of communities, residents have proved this can be done.

Bringing up youth free from violence requires support from both the family and the community. In its earliest years, a child is completely dependent upon its family. To grow and to move toward independence, the child needs love, safety, health, warmth, food, consistent discipline, and creative challenges. Similarly, in order to become an independent, productive member of society, an adolescent needs support, from the community as well as the family. As teenagers try to find their way to adulthood, they need guidance and a safe environment to explore their prospective adult roles and their opportunities.

Each new generation, though tied to and enriched by our past, is central to our present and future. To make the most of their abilities and the greatest possible contributions to both our present and our future, young people must be brought up in environments in which violence is not a fact of everyday life.

This document describes the extent of the violence problem, names some key causes, presents some success-

ful strategies, and outlines how a number of communities have developed and carried out thoughtful, coordinated game plans. Part One frames the problem: facts, causes, and costs. It also explains the value and promise of prevention. Part Two illustrates four kinds of concrete strategies that can reduce youth violence in a community:

- developing ways to support families;
- ensuring safe childhoods;
- involving young people in educational, social, recreational, and employment activities; and
- encouraging youths to participate in healthy and supportive communities as involved leaders and citizens.

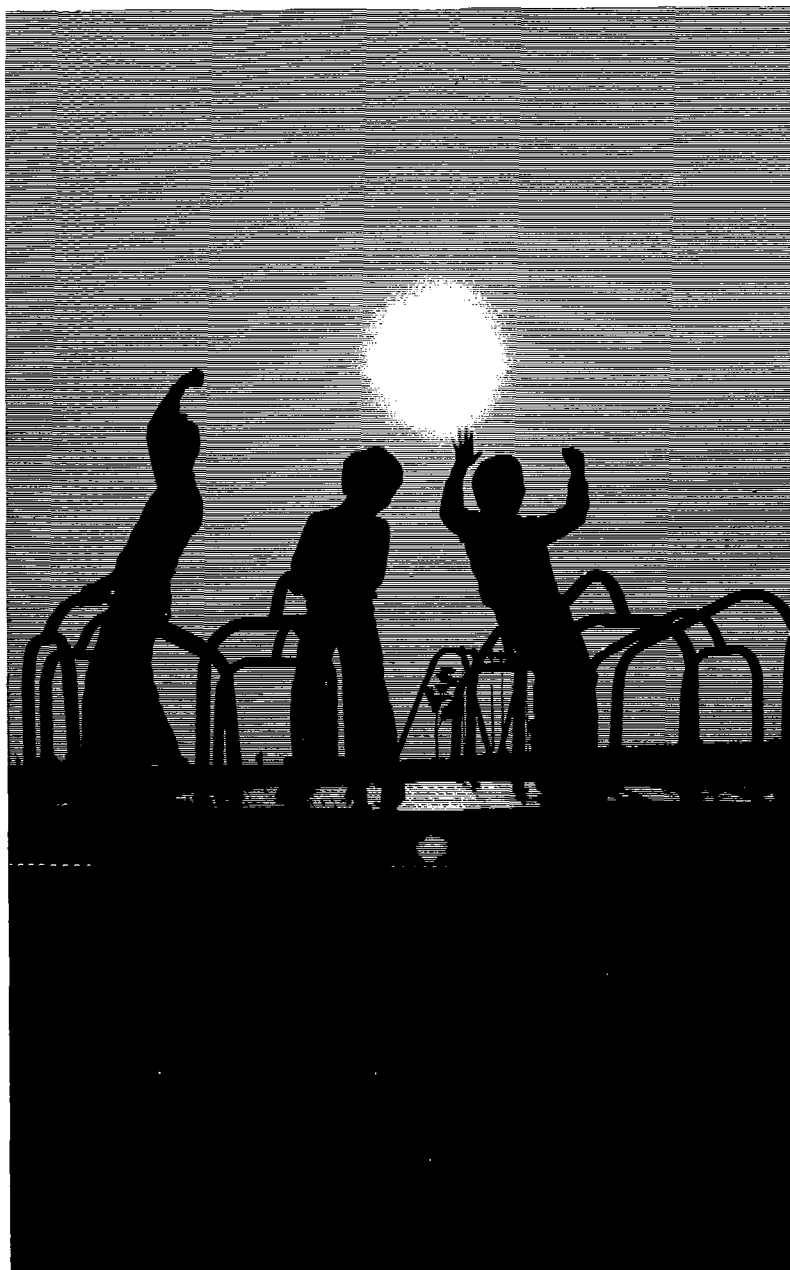
*Violence threatens to  
poison the wellspring  
of democracy.*

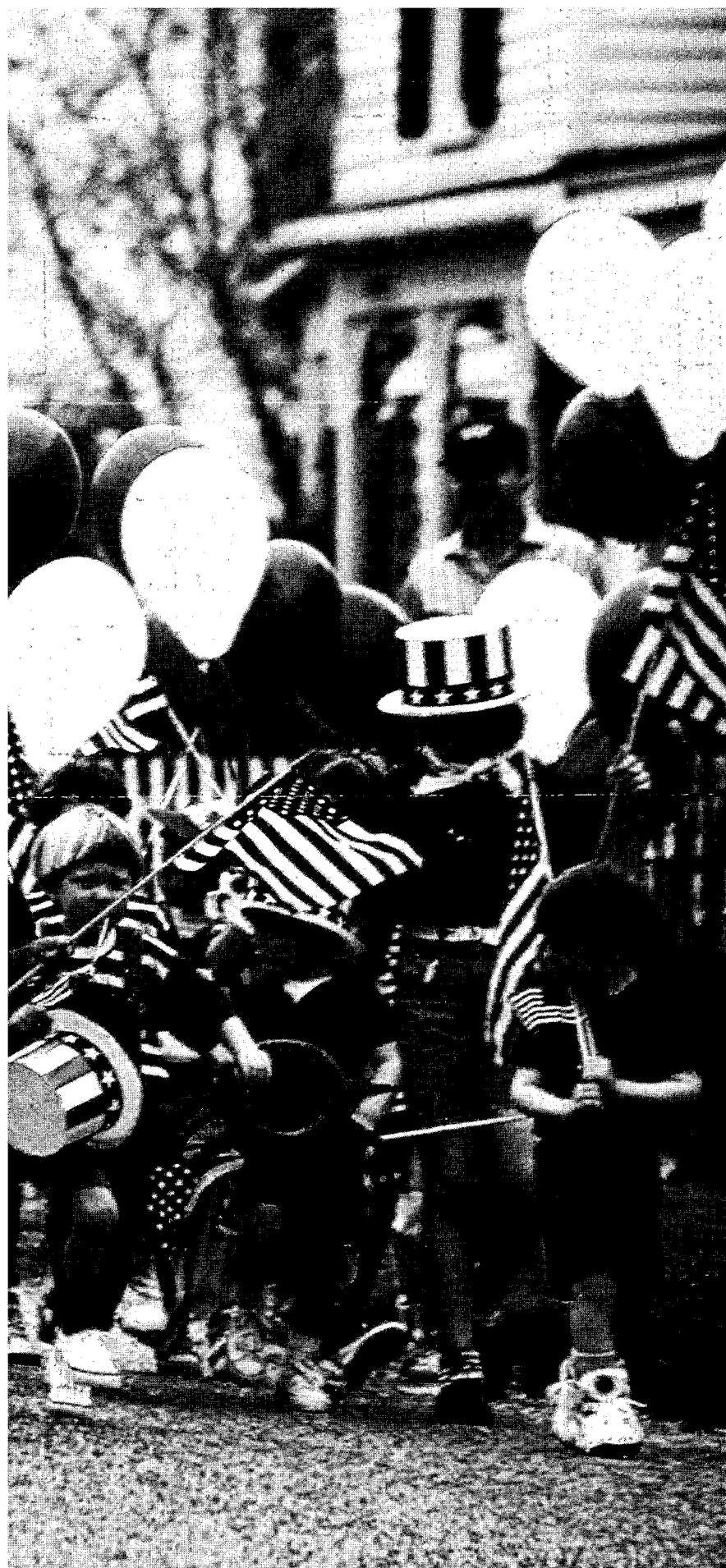
*A community  
where people live in fear  
will be inclined to  
surrender freedom for  
safety.*

Part Three describes five cities that have developed comprehensive approaches to implementing these strategies and, in the process, have reduced youth violence. Part Four lists resources that can provide more detailed information.

Freeing youth from the chains of violence is critical not only to their well-being but to the core of our democratic principles. Violence threatens to poison the wellspring of democracy. A community where people live in fear will be inclined to surrender freedom for safety. Community residents fearful of violence will not take part in civic life. Youth who know only violence will not be able to build or keep a community free of it.

Freedom from fear has long been recognized as a basic need of healthy communities, a critical component of an effective democracy. Violence threatens freedom and ultimately democracy itself. Bringing up our young people free from violence is at the core of preserving and protecting democracy both now and in the future.





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# *The Reach and Scope of Violence*

**Framing the problem of violence is best done with an understanding of some key facts—the costs of violence to the community, its victims and perpetrators, its locations and nature, and its causes.**

**T**he enormous costs of violence go far beyond dollars and cents; the causes of violence go beyond a single event or circumstance. The partnerships and community-grounded actions required to reduce violence are critical to success. By describing these key facets of the issue, this section lays the framework for community leaders to benefit from the programs and strategies outlined in the rest of the document.

## *Financial Burdens*

Our financially strapped communities are paying the price of violence. The cash outlays generated by violence are a severe drain on stressed municipal budgets. Research by the National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions shows that the average cost of treating a child wounded by gunfire is more than \$14,000, enough to pay for a year of college. Some experts estimate the country spends as much as \$14 billion annually to rehabilitate gunshot victims. Many of those injured by violence, including the innocent, cannot personally pay for medical care; the community finds itself bearing these costs.

Added to the direct costs of injuries from violence are economic losses. Estimates of such economic damage total more than \$425 billion each year:

- ▣ \$170 billion from lost productivity;
- ▣ \$90 billion spent on the criminal justice system;
- ▣ \$65 billion that businesses and consumers spend on private security; and
- ▣ the direct and indirect costs borne by victims of property crimes.

## *The Many Other Costs*

Many costs of violence cannot be measured in dollars. The lives lost, the traumas, the permanent disabilities of victims—these are all losses not just to the individual but to the community. The pain of victimization and the grief of families and friends brings a high cost in anguish, anger, and loss. Beyond individual and family costs, the community fabric itself is ripped by violence.

*Beyond individual and family costs, the community fabric itself is ripped by violence.*

The random nature of violence, heightened by the firepower of weapons, has sharply increased fear in many neighborhoods. Fear is a particularly vicious force. Residents, including youth, withdraw from civic life, sharply limit their activities, and isolate themselves from each other. Young people are denied the opportunity to begin building healthy adult-level connections to the community.

### **Children, Youth, and Families Suffer**

Juvenile violence, including homicide, increased exponentially in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Between 1987 and 1991, the national number of Violent Crime Index arrests of juveniles increased by 50 percent. The rate of teen homicides in the U.S. more than doubled between 1984 and 1991. Beyond the dollar outlays for criminal justice, medical care, and related costs lies an even more traumatic cost—the pain experienced by children and the grief of family members that linger for many years. Beyond the individual victim's pain, family members and friends are touched, even scarred, by violence.

### **Residents Suffer**

Fear of violence stops many residents from using public spaces, attending evening community or parent-teacher meetings, and

participating in civic activities. Social investment in many local institutions, such as schools, churches, recreation facilities, libraries, and small businesses, declines. Many who can afford it move. The civic tax base erodes. Effective communication among racial and ethnic groups may decrease and community tensions may increase as each group sees itself as a victim of others.

### **Schools Suffer**

Decreased tax base eventually means a school system with fewer resources. Disruptions caused by violence enter the classroom. Teachers find it difficult to control students, and even the most dedicated lose hope. Vandalism increases; more money is spent on repairs and less on education. Parental involvement drops off. Less learning takes place, and eventually there is a deterioration in the quality of the nation's work force.

### **Police Suffer**

When violence stalks the community, law enforcement officers must constantly respond to emergencies; they find themselves with less time for prevention and problem-solving. They may experience a loss of authority and become demoralized. They may themselves become targets of the violence.

### **Housing and Social Services Suffer**

A declining tax base reduces property values and increases such property-related costs as insurance premiums. Housing is abandoned and eventually vandalized or used for illegal activities. Limited public housing resources must be devoted to security repairs, diverting funds from needed improvements. Social service systems become overloaded. Overworked staff members experience burnout. Intervention in violence-related emergencies leaves few resources and little time for investment in prevention. The juvenile justice system, overwhelmed by large numbers of delinquency cases, becomes less responsive.

### **Businesses Suffer**

Businesses become barred fortresses, leave the area, or refuse to locate in neighborhoods besieged by crime. This makes shopping more difficult and often more expensive in these neighborhoods, which in turn may inflame residents' resentment. For those businesses that stay, profits are consumed by security measures in-

stead of being available for expansion or new products. Job opportunities for young people and adults diminish. The economic health of the community deteriorates. *Business Week* magazine estimates that the annual damage to large urban economies from high crime rates is about \$50 billion.

### **Religious Organizations Suffer**

Members of religious congregations move away from the neighborhood when faced with despair and hopelessness on their doorstep. The congregations themselves may relocate. Incomes of congregants who remain decline; services and programs may be reduced. The church is less able to minister to its members and its neighborhood.

## ***Prevention Is Essential and Cost Effective***

Beyond curtailing current crimes and incivilities, preventing violence—and averting its many costs—is vital. The cost of incarcerating one juvenile is \$25,000–\$30,000 per year, equivalent to annual tuition at the highest-priced college in the United States. Prevention not only frees up those resources for other civic needs but also spares victims, their loved ones, and the community from the many other costs of violence.

*Violence prevention is a bargain that can break the cycle of fear.*

Violence prevention is a bargain that can break the cycle of fear and help build violence-free communities. By giving priority to the safety, health, guidance, and well-being of youth, and by recognizing that the current serious levels of youth violence have not always existed, we can move to reduce and prevent it.

## ***The Shape of the Problem***

Violence is a problem in just about every American community. In 1993 alone, adults and youths in the United States experienced 11 million violent victimizations, including 24,500 homicides, 485,000 rapes, 1.3 million robberies, and 9.1 million assaults.

### **Cities and Suburbs, Streets and Homes**

Large cities, which combine high population density, high population mobility, and physical characteristics that may encourage



criminal activity, experience higher per capita rates of violent crime than suburban or rural areas. Violence, however, is not limited to urban environments: street violence, domestic violence, hate crimes, sexual violence, and violence among peers threaten children and teens in every community, including small towns and rural areas. While about 30 percent of all violent crimes occur on the street or in a public area, nearly 25 percent occur either in the home or at school.

### **Perpetrators Include More Youth**

The level of crime in general, and of violent crime in particular, has decreased since its peak year of 1981. Although adults commit a majority of violent crimes, arrests of juveniles increased 50 percent between 1987 and 1991—twice the increase for adults. Arrests of juveniles for murder increased by 85 percent, compared with a 21 percent increase for adults. Contrary to common belief, youth gang shootings account for only a small percentage (3.6 percent) of all homicides.

### **Most Violence Is Intraracial**

Most violence is intraracial. In seven out of ten violent crimes against whites, the offender was also white; in seven out of eight violent crimes against blacks, the offender was reported to also be black.

### **Teens Are Disproportionately Victims**

Teens are more likely to be victims of property crimes and violent crimes (including rape, robbery, and assault) than any other age group. In fact, violent victimization rates for teens are twice as high as those for adults. On average, young people ages 12 to 19 are victims of 1.9 million violent crimes annually, although fewer than half of these crimes are reported to police. The violent victimization rate for those ages 12 to 15 was the highest ever in 1992; in 1991 it was the highest ever for those ages 16 to 19.

Violent crimes against teenagers, like those in the general population, are more likely to involve victims and offenders of the same sex, race, and age bracket.

### **Rates Differ Among Racial and Ethnic Groups**

Blacks are more likely than whites to be victims of violent crime. In 1991, for blacks of all ages, homicide was the fourth leading

cause of death. For black males and females, ages 15 to 24, homicide was the leading cause of death. In 1992, the violent crime rate for black victims reached the highest level ever recorded.

Hispanics have somewhat higher violent crime victimization rates than non-Hispanics. Native American homicide rates are akin to those for Hispanics. Little can be said with certainty about Asian and Pacific Island Americans' victimization because these groups are not separately identified in statistics on victimization.

### **Males Are More Likely Victims**

With the exception of rape and personal larceny involving contact, males have higher rates of victimization than females. Teenage black males have the highest victimization rate (113 per 1,000 in 1992); elderly white females have the lowest rate (3 per 1,000). Teenagers in general have very high rates: 94 per 1,000 for teenaged black females, 90 per 1,000 for teenaged white males, 55 per 1,000 for teenaged white females.

## ***Why More Youth Violence Now?***

The reasons we are seeing more youth violence today are as deep and far-reaching as reasons for other kinds of crime. A generation of kids has grown up with violent entertainment via TV, movies, music, video games, and more. Positive recreational activities for youth have been reduced by local budget cutbacks. With the decline of the manufacturing sector in the U.S., a lack of entry-level positions for high school graduates has gone hand in hand with high rates of unemployment among youth, especially non-whites. Young people may receive less parental supervision in one-parent homes or from homes where two parents work one or more jobs. Easier access to weapons and a growth in gun manufacturing and sales facilitates violence. An expanded illegal drug trade holds out hope of enormous income, and stiffer sentences for adult dealers have led some of them to recruit children to distribute and sell drugs.

Struggling to survive, families often do not have the time or energy to maintain the formal and informal controls that keep their own and other neighborhood youths' behavior in check. Diminished resources—jobs, networks, housing, social services, and other institutions serving families' needs in neighborhoods—have all had a disproportionate impact on youth.

Some young people, surrounded by communities that function in fear, have not been able to develop a full appreciation of the value of life, either their own or others'. Yet most of the youth who carry guns say they do not do so because they want to hurt anyone, but because they fear for their own lives. Many youth in these conditions have lost faith in the future—theirs and everyone else's.

## *Causes of Violence*

*The roots of violence are many and varied.*

The next step to preventing violence is to understand its causes. The roots of violence are many and varied, but years of research on the subject have identified a number of traits, conditions and situations that increase children's likelihood of becoming violent, as well as ones that protect against violence and help make children more resilient. These include individual, family, school, neighborhood, peer, and societal characteristics. Though none is a guarantee of violent or nonviolent behavior, the more negative characteristics a child manifests, the more likely he or she is to become violent, absent help from outside. The more positive characteristics, the more positive the child's future is likely to be.

### **Risk Factors**

Factors that statistically increase the prospect that a young person will be the victim or perpetrator of violence are just that—statistical. They do not predict any one person's behavior but they do suggest major community issues that need to be addressed to help larger numbers of children avoid being victims or victimizers. With that thought in mind, a community should look closely at these kinds of factors that can ease a child along the road to violence.

#### *Individual Characteristics*

Low self-esteem; sense of hopelessness; emotional problems; lack of bonding with society; lack of coping, problem-solving, and refusal skills; rebelliousness; non-conformity; resistance to authority; and low achievement expectation from family or others.

### *Family Characteristics*

Inadequate parenting skills and involvement; abuse and neglect of all types; lack of values; inconsistent discipline; family problems with drugs, including alcohol; lack of positive role models; persistent family employment problems; lack of clear rules and norms about behavior; and absence of a religious ethic.

### *School and Other Educational Experience*

Early and persistent anti-social behavior; poor academic performance; dropout from school; and lack of commitment to school-work.

### *Peer and Other Social Interaction*

Rejection by peers; lack of social and communication skills; and involvement with delinquent peer groups, such as gangs.

### *Social Conditions*

Easy availability of drugs; easy availability of cheap guns; transitory population in the neighborhood; casual attitudes toward crime and violence in mainstream culture and among family and peers; and high crime in the neighborhood.

### *Behaviors*

Previous history of delinquent behavior; early use of drugs, including alcohol; teenage pregnancy and early parenthood ; and use of tobacco at an early age.

### *Community Systems*

Employment problems for young people and adults; lack of positive recreational opportunities for youths; inadequate or inaccessible health and social services; inadequate or substandard housing; overburdened juvenile justice system with minimal opportunity for treatment and effective intervention; and inadequate law enforcement resources.

### **Protective Factors**

According to some research,<sup>\*</sup> there are characteristics or factors that seem to protect youth against becoming violent. These factors seem to protect even children who are exposed to risk factors that might otherwise lead them toward encounters with violence.

Like risk factors, these are statistically based—they do not prescribe or predict the fates of individual children.

### *Individual Characteristics and Bonding*

Good health, a resilient temperament, positive social orientation, and bonding with encouraging family members, teachers and friends.

### *Stable Social Context*

Family stability, harmony, and positive communication; a strong sense of one's ethnic culture; positive adult role models who transmit healthy beliefs and clear standards for behavior and impose immediate and consistent sanctions for bad behavior.

### *School Environment*

Successful school experiences and achievement, knowledge of techniques for resolving conflicts peacefully, and positive recreational activities.

### *Social Values*

A stable community and society that promote consistent, positive values, racial equality, and healthy habits are essential.

## **Resiliency Factors**

Other research has pointed to resiliency factors—traits or characteristics that help a child faced with stresses in the environment to grow in positive ways and to overcome negative forces. These are the factors that seem to enable children from even the toughest of neighborhoods to become productive, valued adult citizens. They are traits within the child—not characteristics of the community—but they can be developed and enhanced by the community. As with the other factors, these are applicable across the population, not necessarily predictive of any specific child's future.

Resilient children have been found by researchers to have

- an adult mentor (parent or other adult with close and abiding interest in the child);
- a sense of humor;

- a talent or skill recognized and valued by themselves and others;
- a sense of values or spirituality; and
- a sense of and goals for the future.

These characteristics may have been developed through the influence of any of a number of sources—parents, other relatives, teachers, religious leaders, or other concerned adults.

## *Breaking the Cycle of Fear Through Partnerships*

Comprehensive partnerships that link community resources offer the best hope for developing and coordinating efforts to help children grow up free from violence. When broad-based coalitions of individuals, groups, and organizations take a community-wide approach to solving youth violence, the effort:

- reaches and engages more people;
- cuts through bureaucracy;
- communicates community standards for behavior;
- promotes prevention;
- creates a greater base of support for behavioral change;
- conserves scarce resources;
- improves people's satisfaction with the level of their work and effectiveness in communities; and
- is more likely to lead to long-term, integrated change.

### **Roles In Preventing Violence**

*The key is to recognize that each of us can do something about violence and has real reason to do so.*

Making communities safer from violence can include many actions from specific improvements in a neighborhood's physical appearance to bringing groups together to provide comprehensive one-stop youth services. The key is to recognize that each of us can do something about violence and has real reason to do so.

### *Elected Officials*

Mayors, council members, state legislators, and other elected officials understand the damage that violence inflicts on their community, the costs that both individuals and the city must pay, and the obvious consequences of reduced tax base owing to the flight of middle- and upper-income groups to the suburbs. Because they have status, access to resources, and authority, these

officials can bolster morale and provide momentum by appearing at meetings, and providing resources, skills, knowledge, accountability, and funds. Their involvement is critical in strengthening policies, making budget decisions, passing or enforcing ordinances and regulations, establishing programs that promote and reward prevention approaches, and providing positive opportunities for youth.

### *Law Enforcement Agencies*

In addition to providing trained, qualified leaders, the law enforcement community is usually the primary source of basic crime prevention information. Its participation reassures the public that the partnership intends to do something about violence in the near term and that the solutions are sanctioned by those most familiar with crime and its aftermath. Police, sheriff's depart-



ments, and other law enforcement agencies can provide local crime statistics, inspire local action, provide technical expertise on prevention strategies, explore new strategy options through professional networks, promote partnerships with and among community residents and organizations, and offer a variety of resources.

### *Courts and Corrections Agencies*

Prosecutors, judges, corrections officers, parole and probation officers, and social service providers often see the beginning or the aftermath of youth violence. They can give prevention information to victims (who often become among the most ardent prevention advocates). They can use the authority of their experience and position to draw attention to the need for action on causes of youth violence and the value of prevention. They can initiate programs that include prevention elements.

### *Veterans' Organizations*

Veterans' commitment, positive values, and sense of duty, developed through military experience, can serve as a positive force for young people and as a mobilizing force in the neighborhood. Veterans' organizations have been active in drug prevention and crime prevention. They frequently sponsor opportunities for youngsters in the community. Their networks and connections to officials and leaders can be a powerful base from which to build city-wide coalitions against violence.

*The roles that young people can play should not be underestimated.*

### *Nonprofit Community Organizations*

The challenge to many nonprofit organizations is to realize that violence prevention meets a wide range of local needs. Community organizations can advocate, bring groups together, emphasize and support prevention strategies, feature prevention in public education efforts, encourage government agencies to see prevention as a valued activity, or sponsor prevention programs.

### *Community Residents, Including Youth*

Each person's participation is an important step in sustaining or rebuilding the community. Community residents, especially youth, must be encouraged to become involved and given the opportunity to learn skills to improve their capacities. In turn,



they must actively educate civic officials and work to identify and resolve community problems.

The roles that young people can play should not be underestimated. They can provide unique perspectives and urgently needed services as a group or as individuals, among peers or working with adults. Youth teams in the community can work on specific problems. Youth groups can spread the word most quickly to those who may be the first victims or perpetrators of violence, and they can teach the skills everyone needs to reduce violence.

## *Toward Action*

Part One has looked at the problem—its costs and causes, and at those who should be involved in the solution. Part Two outlines strategies that community groups have used successfully. Part Three will profile communities that have developed comprehensive strategies. Part Four will list resources that can help communities launch their endeavors.

\*This list represents a compilation of factors noted in reports of the American Psychological Association and research by Developmental Research and Programs, Inc.



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# *A Framework of Strategies*

**Strategies to prevent violence include a broad array of actions by a variety of community members.**



What follows is a representative selection of strategies that address one or more factors that can lead to or help prevent youth violence. Some involve city leadership and a wide range of community interests; others focus on neighborhoods. All have proven effective in at least one community.

Strategies are not programs. They are approaches to solving problems. Any strategy must be adapted to suit specific local conditions and fit the availability of local resources, the political, social, and economic climates, and such other variables as state and local laws.

To provide a framework for thinking about these strategies, they are divided into four areas in which individuals, organizations, or agencies in the community can act effectively to help prevent youth violence:

- Family life
- School and childhood
- Adolescence
- Transition to adulthood and community citizenship

This section describes strategies to prevent violence in each of these areas. Concrete examples demonstrate local efforts that incorporate the strategies. By combining

these strategies, the community can devise a continuing flow of support that helps children and youth to avoid being victims or perpetrators of violence and, more important, helps them to become productive, active citizens in the community.

## *Develop Comprehensive Ways To Support Families*

*Strengthening the family is one of the most powerful ways to reduce youth violence.*

Strengthening the family—the natural, closest, and most cost-effective social unit to deal with the needs and development of youth—is one of the most powerful ways to reduce youth violence. Help from trained professionals may sometimes be required but, more often than not, trained volunteers can play effective roles.

### **Increase Parent Effectiveness and Family Skills**

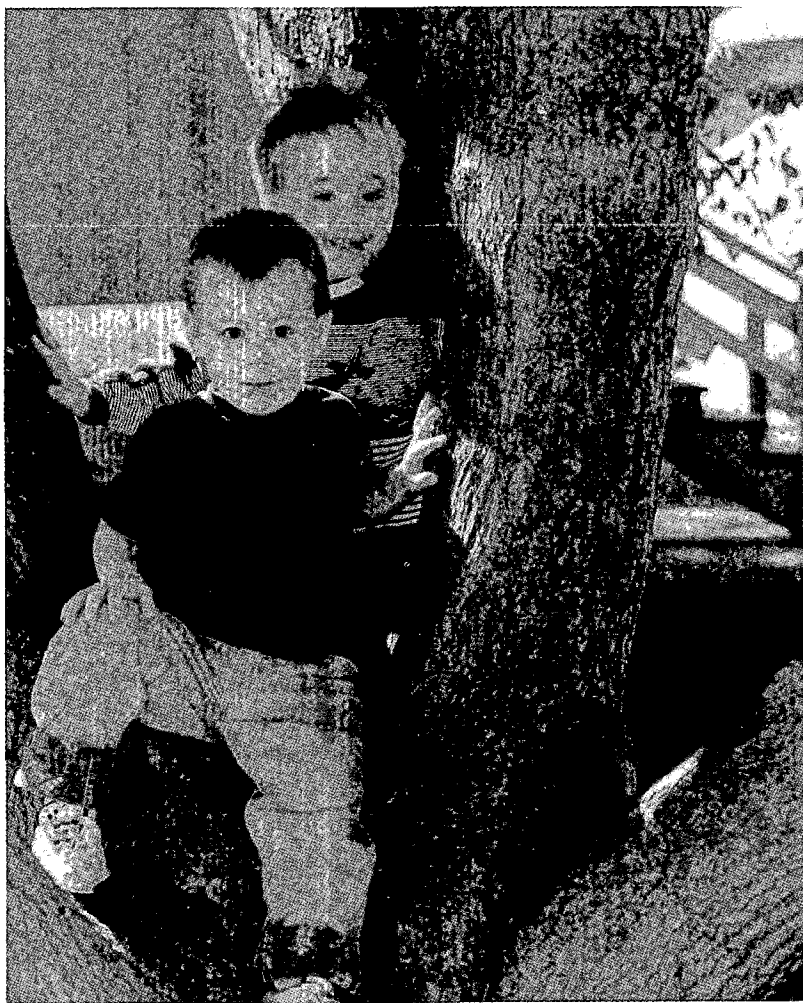
Support families by teaching the adult members how to be positive, supporting and effective parents. This may include helping them to acquire family management skills and tools (such as figuring out the monthly grocery budget); showing them ways to model effective and honest communication; and helping them to learn skills in solving problems and dealing with conflict. Sometimes these skills are passed on by grandparents, neighbors, and friends. Sometimes a more formal program using professionals or trained volunteers is needed. There is no doubt, though, that these skills increase families' cohesion, help them to cope more successfully with external pressure, and tend to minimize repeat arrests for domestic violence and delinquent behavior.

- Through periodic home visits, home medical services, and the teaching of parenting and parent-child interaction skills, Healthy Start in Hawaii helps at-risk parents of newborns to find positive ways of dealing with stressful situations. The program actually starts with visits to the new family in the hospital. Evaluations show that the program improved early identification of families less likely to have coping and decision-making skills and helped them to bring up thriving children, dramatically reducing child abuse and neglect cases and improving family functioning. As a result, the program has become a national model.

## Support Families

Violence in the home is linked to violence in the streets. Over 80 percent of men in prison for violent crimes grew up in homes where spouse or child abuse occurred. Supporting families can involve providing orientation help for families new to the community; volunteering at a Head Start program; starting a parent support group; encouraging residents to become trained child care providers; becoming a literacy volunteer for adults in the community; becoming foster grandparents; or working with the housing authority to provide child care.

- The Virginia Crime Prevention Association brings together public housing resident families, representatives from the Housing Authority, local law enforcement, social services, and



other public agencies into an effective problem-solving group that seeks to support families as it tries to reduce crime. The Association identifies causes of high rates of aggravated assault in the community and helps the community to implement remedies, including needed services. Residents have developed positive activities for youth, counseling for adults and children, and a code of conduct for the community. This partnership approach resulted in one public housing site experiencing a 53 percent reduction in calls about fights, a 50 percent reduction in domestic violence calls, and a nine percent reduction in disturbance calls.

- Staff and volunteers at Black Family Development Inc., in Chicago, Illinois, offer a variety of in-home services to families, from juvenile delinquency prevention and tutoring to substance abuse counseling and treatment; from foster care services and school readiness coaching to marriage counseling and parenting training. The program emphasizes community support for families and children and traditional African American cultural values. By giving participating families the “home court advantage,” demonstrable progress resulting from the program has gained the long-term support of the families and staff.



## Encourage Teen Abstinence and Family Planning

Parents who are fully prepared to have children are more likely to raise them in safe and healthy conditions. Working with schools, agencies, and churches to provide more information on preventing teenage parenthood through encouraging abstinence (or, at the least, responsible sexual behavior) for adolescents is one way to prevent children from having children and to increase their safety and well-being.

- Hospital staff and peer leaders coordinate Atlanta's Postponing Sexual Involvement program for eighth graders, a 10-session curriculum that emphasizes long-term consequences of pregnancy and engages young people in discussions about values, particularly how to resist peer pressure to become sexually active. An evaluation revealed that students not part of the program were as much as five times more likely to have begun such activity than those enrolled in the program. In addition, 95 percent of those who had not yet become sexually active believed the program helped them to feel better prepared to reject peer pressure.
- The Awareness and Development for Adolescent Males (ADAM) program in Chicago supplements discussions about long-term life goals and reasons to delay sexual activity with a focus on creating strong relationships between youth and adults through recreational activities and field trips related to career objectives. The program influenced many students to refrain from sexual activity and convinced others who were already active to use birth control. Before the program, eighth grade participants believed that 16 was the best age to become a parent; afterward, they felt that 22 was the best age.

## Ensure Safe Childhoods

*Healthy development of children requires a safe and caring environment.*

Healthy development of children requires a safe and caring environment. High stress levels, poverty, violence, and substance abuse in the family or community can contribute to low self-esteem, poor academic performance, high suspension rates, and increased fighting and discipline problems.

### Create Safe After-School Activities

One way to enhance security of a child's environment is to provide after-school activities and summer programs at schools,

local community centers, churches, and similar locations. This protects children, provides them with a wide range of social and human services, and gives them opportunities for recreation, tutoring, and job skills training.

Improving the safety and security-related design features of school buildings, or starting an escort service run by volunteers, elderly or teen, to accompany younger children to and from school are two other strategies to enhance the security of children's environments.

- A partnership of schools, parents, civic leaders, and others has turned the schools in Trenton, New Jersey, into after-school centers for youth' activities that include sports, crafts, and tutoring. Children have flocked to the centers as a positive alternative to being at home alone after school or being at risk on the streets.

### **Improve the School Environment**

A range of programs can improve the school climate. Individuals can initiate, support, or volunteer for such programs as drug and alcohol prevention, bullying and gang prevention, and peer pressure resistance, conflict management training, and acquisition of personal safety skills. All prevent violence, especially if they are introduced early to young students, are age-appropriate, and involve parents. Parents and teachers can endorse or seek standards





in the school that have a crime-reducing effect. For example, uniforms for students can help to prevent clothing competition, inhibit muggings for clothing, and increase a sense of community and school spirit.

Helping people who work with youth is an often-neglected violence prevention strategy. Addressing the issue of burnout, in particular, is critical. Staff working at schools that have violence problems need prevention and crisis response training as well as access to services to help them cope with difficult working conditions.

- Project Stress Control in Atlanta, Georgia, has worked with 30,000 students and 1,500 teachers and administrators, providing stress-reduction training workshops, educational seminars on positive coping skills for stress reduction, consultation, referral, and resource information. The result in two schools has been a 47 percent decrease in office referrals, a 40 percent decrease in suspensions, a noticeable decrease in violent acts and fighting, a 30 percent increase in the use of support services, and a 30 percent increase in public awareness of factors that lead to stress in youngsters.

### **Offer a Challenging School Curriculum That Develops Positive Values**

*Successful violence prevention efforts are comprehensive in scope and grounded in practical application.*

Successful violence prevention efforts in a curriculum are comprehensive in scope and grounded in practical application. They pervade the school environment and can be infused into a number of disciplines. Social studies classes can discuss social conditions and values that contribute to violence. English classes can write essays on self-esteem or interpersonal conflict. Art classes can design anti-violence posters. Physical education or health classes can address the role of body language and alertness to one's surroundings in preventing victimization.

Helping children appreciate both their own heritage and diversity in the cultural community is also crucial. A sense of one's culture strengthens identity, sets norms for behavior, and provides a sense of belonging that is vital to a child's growth and development. Appreciation for the value of other cultures and the benefits of diversity builds a sense of community. Schools can expand and promote activities and foster discussions that explore and reject stereotypes; promote teamwork, moral reasoning, social problem-solving, and ethical values consistent with our laws; encourage interaction among and appreciation for people from

different cultures; and make sure that educational materials reflect the diversity of contemporary U.S. society.

- Every elementary school in Dayton, Ohio now involves students in a comprehensive character education program that promotes discussion about such values as loyalty, courage, responsibility, and fairness. Suspensions have decreased dramatically in the school that initiated the program. Teachers in that school also report that students are more focused in their studies. Students say they feel safer and that the school now feels more like a family.
- Local partnerships between the school and community organizations, law enforcement, victims' services, and other specialists enrich the Teens, Crime, and the Community (TCC) curriculum, which couples classroom education with opportunities for youth-led action projects in the school or the community. Formal evaluations show that students are highly enthusiastic about TCC and have learned crime prevention techniques, the value of community action against crime, and how to avoid becoming victims. This and similar efforts work best when students learn cooperatively and interactively, when resource persons from the community interact with the students, and when youth can select and participate in designing prevention projects. In six years, the TCC program has grown to include urban, suburban, and rural communities in 40 states.



## Involve Parents

Parents are children's first teachers and their strongest advocates. Working with parents to involve them in school and community projects taps into those teaching and advocacy roles.

- Kids House, one innovative after-school program in Oakland, California, uses parents and neighbors as paraprofessionals in service delivery. Kids Houses are private residences that offer local junior high school students after-school tutoring, support, snacks, and supervision three hours a day, three days a week. At ten kids per residence, the program costs about \$12,000 annually, including a \$400 monthly stipend for Home Providers and \$7 an hour for tutors. Funding comes from private foundations and businesses. Kids House builds a sense of communities taking care of kids. In its first year of operation, 63 percent of the students improved their grades.
- The McGruff House program helps community groups throughout the country establish neighborhood homes as reliable sources of help for children who are lost, threatened, or hurt. Participating homes display a sign featuring McGruff the Crime Dog, a symbol recognized and trusted by better than nine out of 10 children. Children in areas with McGruff Houses are taught to recognize the sign and ask for help when they need it. These facilities, operated through a school-police-neighborhood partnership, have recently helped a young girl involved in a domestic dispute; contacted social services on behalf of a young girl who was being abused by a neighbor; and assisted an eight-year-old boy who had been attacked by local bullies, as just a few examples.

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## Help Those Who Witness Violence

Children who repeatedly witness violence and do not receive immediate support in understanding it are more at risk of using violence as a means of dealing with their own conflicts. They also show traumatic stress symptoms that impair their capacity to succeed in school, to develop healthy relationships, and to become productive adults. Psychological health services or volunteer victim assistance groups can help young victims and witnesses to violence deal with the trauma, thus stopping the cycle of violence, and preventing academic and emotional problems that victims and witnesses sometimes experience while trying to cope with its aftermath.

- A group of psychologists, social workers, community recreation workers, and specially trained police officers in Washington, D.C., formed the Youth Trauma Team, which patrols the city at all hours. The team appears at the scene of a violent incident as quickly as possible to help children cope with what they have witnessed. The work of the team is helped by the Howard University Violence Prevention Project, which offers an after-school middle school program, a preschool program, and a summer camp that provide social support, tutoring, esteem-building, and cultural enrichment for children who have been exposed to serious violence.

### **Promote Healthy Recreation**

Young people sometimes get in trouble simply because they feel that they have nothing better to do. Encouraging schools, recreation departments, or housing authorities to provide or expand recreation programs, trips, and educational activities for young people is one way to address the need. Creating such programs is another. Developing a youth-oriented resource directory of organizations and services that can help young people can spur youth interest. Sponsoring youth sports teams or recreation centers is a strategy that can enlist businesses, civic clubs, and youth membership groups. National youth-related organizations, including Boys & Girls Clubs, YMCAs, and many more, have local chapters whose primary goal is healthy recreation.

- Police in Houston, Texas, collaborate with the local YMCA, Boys & Girls Clubs, Chicano Family Center, the Parks and Recreation Department, churches, universities, and other organizations to provide a wide range of interesting, nonviolent, drug-free recreational and cultural options for about 800 young Houstonians each year through the Police Activities League (PAL), a more wide-ranging version of the Police Athletic Leagues found throughout the U.S.

### **Teach Conflict Resolution and Peer Mediation Skills**

Well-developed and structured peer mediation and conflict resolution programs, if combined with community organizing, can be very effective in reducing delinquency.

- The Resolving Conflict Creatively Program (RCCP), co-sponsored by the New York public schools and Educators for Social Responsibility, is one of the oldest conflict resolution programs in the nation for adolescents and their teachers. This

program has also had a positive impact on student behavior, as indicated by less physical violence in the classroom, less name-calling, fewer verbal put-downs, more caring behavior, increased willingness to cooperate, and increased understanding of others' points of view. By training teachers in nonviolent dispute resolution, the program has improved teacher attitudes about conflict and conflict resolution; increased a willingness to let young people take responsibility for solving their own problems; and heightened understanding of individual children's needs and concerns.

- The Student Conflict Resolution Experts (SCORE) program in Massachusetts has reduced physical fights and harassment incidents at high schools throughout the Boston area. The state-supported program helps to establish community mediation programs and trains students representative of the school population to mediate disputes among their peers. By the end of 1993, students had mediated over 1,000 disputes, reaching agreements that still stood in 95 percent of the cases. Also, the number of assaults and suspensions decreased in participating schools.

### **Teach Attitudes That Stop Violence Among Youth**

Teaching children and teenagers social interaction skills is particularly useful in preventing relationship and situational violence among family members and acquaintances. Long-term success has been documented in programs that provide children with the training, opportunity, and practice in decision-making and experiencing the consequences of their decisions.

- The School of Professional Psychology, in cooperation with the Dayton, Ohio, public schools offers a culturally sensitive social skills program developed specifically for African-American youth. Through videotapes, small-group discussions, modeling, and rehearsal, the Positive Adolescents Choices Training program teaches middle-school youngsters effective ways to respond to common social problems that can provoke aggression and violence. Those who participate in the program have fewer school suspensions, show positive changes in observable social skills, have fewer referrals to juvenile court, and are rated by teachers as showing improved conflict resolution skills.

## Mentor Young People

Young people will tell you that what they really need to stay out of trouble is someone to talk to. Becoming a mentor and offering realistic standards and a consistent and positive presence in a child's life can make all the difference. Improving the attitudes, skills, and practices of those working with adolescents can also help.

- Young people are involved as mentor-trainers and in the decision-making process at the Omega Boys Club in Oakland, California. They offer intensive mentoring and peer counseling to 10- to 20-year-olds, including youth at juvenile detention centers; they conduct workshops on violence prevention, politics, and spirituality; and they are establishing community centers in the schools and computer centers in middle schools. The program began six years ago with 15 members; today it has more than 300; it reaches 200,000 young people weekly through its radio call-in program. More than 100 program members, many of them former gang members and drug dealers, have been placed in college and have obtained community support to help pay for their education.



## **Involve Young People**

Involving young people in violence prevention does not mean just putting a youth's face on the cover of a brochure. Young people can and should be involved in planning and decision-making; they should have real responsibilities for concrete tasks. Sometimes they are the only ones to whom other youth will listen. They can be peer counselors and tutors. They can produce public service announcements. They can implement or help to implement programs. Involving young people helps them to develop skills they need to become productive adults—as workers and citizens. Whether or not the youth are at risk, they can play effective, important roles in the community.

- A group of young people in Decatur, Georgia, started Ujima because they felt there was a lack of grassroots organizations in the Atlanta area that focused on community needs. They have taken on a remarkable array of issues: the “Unity in Community” campaign, “Peace in the Streets” and environmental campaigns, concerts to attract young people’s attention, reducing gang violence, AIDS awareness programs, anti-violence projects, visits to elderly communities, and self-defense classes.
- The Youth as Resources programs in more than 20 communities enables youth to tackle problems of great concern to them, and to make a real change in the city and community. Young people identify needs, develop approaches, and calculate budgets. If their presentations to community boards are accepted, they get the funds to carry out the project. Teens designed and built a playground at a shelter for abused children, established a peer counseling program, painted anti-drug murals in their neighborhoods, and produced a video to educate their peers on the effects of drug abuse on teens, their families, and their friends.

## **Increase Accountability of Juvenile Offenders and Their Parents**

Individuals can help ensure that youthful offenders are both held accountable and rehabilitated. Young people’s behavior most often depends on the values and patterns of behavior both stated and demonstrated by their families and communities. For interventions to work best, they must be swift, consistent, include increasing sanctions, and involve the offender’s family and community, according to studies of effective programs. Parents can

be made to respond more immediately to youthful behaviors that disrupt the community. One community requires that the parent pick up a truant child before the child can re-enter school or when a curfew is violated. Parents aware of their civil liability for the offenses committed by their children, such as vandalism and graffiti, are more likely to discourage such behavior. Family courts and family therapy for youthful offenders offer promise for healing family breaches and making families more effective. Innovative sentencing options include restitution to victims, or work on community projects. In addition, youth can operate courts in which they judge their peers, and in which sentences are binding under law, and the entire community can support after-care programs that integrate juvenile offenders back into the community.

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- In July 1992, Wilmington, Delaware, was awarded a federal Weed and Seed grant to “weed” out crime elements and “seed” prevention programs in two target neighborhoods. The initiative focuses on efforts that make youth more accountable and provide them with opportunities for improvement. These include drug enforcement, community policing, intensive probation during which serious youth offenders are watched closely, parole supervision, targeted prosecution, substance abuse treatment services, recreational and tutoring programs, victim services, and parenting skills training. Occurrences of assault and homicide offenses have dropped, sentencing practices are being restructured, a drug court is being established, and a range of intermediate sanctions is being developed.
- One community addressed needs of young offenders by improving the home detention program in which youth are monitored and must report their whereabouts, and developing community-based foster and group homes, using community organizations’ facilities for secure detention. The community is also reviewing cases of juveniles entering the system to determine which of them could be safely placed in small-scale community-based programs, and is striving to enhance communication among the various agencies concerned with juvenile justice in the county. Since the Broward County, Florida, Detention Project was established in 1988, the average daily population of the county detention facility has decreased by two-thirds. Juveniles supervised in the community have honored their court appearances. The program has resulted in a substantially reduced cost to taxpayers without any increase in public safety concerns.



## **Prevent Gangs and Related Behavior**

Establishing anti-truancy programs and curfews; improving ways to help runaway and homeless youngsters so that they won't feel compelled to undertake illegal activities such as robbery, assault and prostitution; enforcing regulations against loitering and drinking in city parks; reporting businesses that sell alcohol to minors; or starting a boycott or campaign to remind business owners of penalties for selling alcohol to minors—all can help prevent the delinquency and gang-related actions that lead to violent behavior.

- The city of Paramount, California, had relied on law enforcement to resolve the problem of gang violence. Law enforcement had been mostly reactive and had not shared information freely with other organizations or even within the agency. In response to increased gang violence, a multi-agency task force was formed to include law enforcement and city officials, school officials, probation, parole, and prosecution, personnel and social services and citizen participants. The coalition has a four-part strategy for preventing gang violence:
  - A 15-week program to teach recognition of gang activity and gang members to students in area elementary schools;
  - A follow-up curriculum and program for middle school students;
  - Parent-community awareness meetings; and
  - An information and case management program focusing on the most violent offenders.

An evaluation revealed that only three percent of the young participants in Paramount's Alternative to Gang Membership Program (AGMP) ever joined a gang. Furthermore, significant reductions in gang-related violence have been achieved. The AGMP model has been replicated by several communities since it was established in 1980.

## **Offer Job Training and Skills Development**

Jobs offer young people a legitimate source of income, positive activity, and a source of self-esteem. Partnerships that bring together employers and youth employment services can help to reduce the chances of violence and help youth to make a successful transition from school to the workplace.

- A coalition of neighborhood developers and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in the South Central district of Los Angeles developed the Youth Empowerment Project. The program has recruited, employed, and trained youth leaders to design and implement an internship and job placement program, a community development plan, a public policy resources initiative, and a youth recreation program that provides constructive activities for 1,000 youngsters.
- The University of North Carolina, Durham County Health Department, Durham Business and Professional Chain, and Durham Employment and Training Office joined in a partnership to Support Adolescents with Guidance and Employment (SAGE) in Durham, North Carolina. The intervention components include cultural and values education programs designed for African American males ages 13 to 16 as well as a mentoring program, an entrepreneurial program, and a job training and placement program. The 250 young men exposed to the program, initially skeptical, became highly enthusiastic participants. Their job experiences have included working at libraries, the local YMCA, museums, sports facilities, and with African- American entrepreneurs in the district.

## *Create Healthy, Supportive Communities That Involve Citizens*

Feeling attached to and caring about their communities is critical for young people and for adults. Making connections across neighborhoods creates a web of support for the healthy growth of children, youth, and families.

*Making connections across neighborhoods creates a web of support for the healthy growth of children.*

How can this web be built? List, in order of priority, local problems that contribute to violence. Determine what resources are available to prevent those problems or enhance positive aspects of the community. Obtain the support of other city or community organizations, realistic goals, and choose, as a group, strategies or combinations of strategies that have proven effective in dealing with issues most relevant to your community.

### **Be Active in Efforts To Protect Neighborhoods**

Having strong neighborhood, apartment building, business, and similar watch programs helps build communities. Creating drug-free and gun-free zones in which penalties for violations are doubled or tripled can be effective, especially if community mem-

bers and businesses actively report violence-related activity. Posters and signs can send clear messages about expected and tolerated behavior. Citizens can influence licensing and zoning decisions for businesses that might attract crime.

- The Newport News, Virginia, Crime Watch Coalition promotes the concept with block captains throughout the city and fosters communication between residents and police through monthly meetings on special topics. The coalition has helped police apprehend a serial rapist, won city council funding for its work and, in addition, has played a role in essay contests for kids; Big Brothers/Big Sisters; citywide food and clothing drives; drug prevention and child abuse prevention efforts; workshops on rape prevention and self defense; forming welcome committees for new neighbors; and volunteer work with shelters.

### **Encourage Community-Oriented Policing**

Community policing has teamed police in areas ranging from Dade County, Florida, to San Diego, California, to Lansing, Michigan, with public works staffs, social workers, school officials, public health professionals, and other service providers to address community and family issues that contribute to delinquency and violence. Expanding the number of neighborhood-oriented patrol officers, fostering and rewarding prevention strategies, establishing mini-stations in neighborhoods or public housing communities, and serving as mentors, are a few ways in which police can develop a closer understanding of how to help a community prevent violence. Officers have positive opportunities to get to know local youth and other residents; they also get to know situations that might lead to crime in a community; and they learn to work with youth and other community members on solving problems.

- Memphis, Tennessee, was the site of a strong community approach to addressing drug, youth gang, and violent crime problems. The county sheriff's department joined with the area Neighborhood Watch, more than a dozen other groups, and 53 professionals to conduct the Violence Reduction Project at a local public housing complex. In a wide-ranging program that includes tutoring, positive activities, cultural celebrations, health education, community service, and field trips, children and parents in the neighborhood learn how to protect themselves against crime and drugs, handle schoolwork better, and

express themselves in nonviolent ways. A Junior Deputy Program and special Neighborhood Watch training helps both youth and adults to meet and develop positive relationships with the law enforcement community.

### **Reclaim Public Spaces**

Many communities have recognized the connection between neighborhood deterioration and crime. Often, in areas where housing, health, safety, and fire codes are violated, street violence is endemic. Establishing or enforcing drug-free clauses in rental leases; passing and enforcing anti-graffiti ordinances; using noise and other nuisance abatement laws to close unsafe or illegally used buildings; starting campaigns against drug use that also aim to prevent the sale of drug-related paraphernalia; upgrading lighting standards, initiating programs to restore parks to legitimate recreational use; and enforcing of standards for housing, health, and fire codes; can all lead to a more positive neighborhood image and a safer neighborhood.

Partnerships of the community, the police department, and other government agencies (such as transportation, housing, health, sanitation, and public utilities) can also help clean up neighborhoods, ridding them of properties used for drug trafficking and making them inhospitable to would-be criminals.

Neighborhood initiatives can go even further by working with other organizations to ensure that the community is involved in citywide planning; advocating for conveniently located services (grocery, laundry, pharmacy, service stations, etc.); ensuring that parks are maintained; and embracing and sponsoring economic development ideas, including initiatives that seek to turn former drug houses into affordable housing.

- Youth Build offers young people vocational skills, leadership training, and the opportunity to earn a high school equivalency diploma while learning fundamentals of the construction trade, providing rehabilitated low-income housing and earning a wage. The program has also employed young people as clerical workers, aides to senior citizens, and workers on such beautification projects as vacant lot clean-ups. In less than five years, Youth Build expanded into 14 inner cities.
- Each neighborhood of St. Petersburg, Florida, is surveyed for code violations as part of the city's Operation Commitment. The multi-agency project is the catalyst for implementation of neighborhood-based improvement plans that target areas with housing, crime and code problems. Since it was established in

1993, the program has removed tons of trash, replaced hundreds of street lights, inspected over a thousand commercial and residential properties for violations of fire codes, and rehabilitated a dozen dilapidated houses.

- The Alisco-Pico Recreation Center in Los Angeles involves hundreds of children each week in recreational, cultural, and academic programs. In 1980, residents of the area noticed that children were no longer using the park near the center because it had become dominated by gang members and graffiti. They organized, along with the business community, to secure funding to rebuild the park and establish additional recreation programs there.

### **Provide Opportunities To Serve the Community**

*Opportunities to help  
out are not always  
obvious.*

Many people, young and old, are willing—even eager—to teach someone what they have learned from life or to contribute to their community. But opportunities to help out are not always obvious. Local governments, school boards, the Housing Authority, and other organizations can develop or encourage youth service projects (as a requirement for graduation or for scholastic credit, for example) to give students the opportunity to contribute to solving community problems that they feel are important.

A gamut of service activities, including housekeeping services for senior citizens, Study Buddies, etc., community-based programs such as painting murals, creating neighborhood gardens, rehabilitating housing, trimming shrubbery in the park, and repairing and maintaining public places such as parks and recreational facilities, help to reclaim the neighborhood as a public resource, and also can reduce vandalism and provide jobs.

### **Integrate Services to Youth and Families**

Procedures and structures that coordinate the delivery of services are essential to providing a continuum of care to youth and families. Effective coordination also eliminates duplication of services, saves money and improves morale. Establishing a multi-agency youth violence task force can help start and guide this process of integration.

- The Contra Costa County, California, Prevention Program is directed by a collaboration of the county health services department, the school district, city and district representatives, and grass-roots organizations. The program emphasizes getting diverse people and organizations to work together for

violence prevention. It pays specific attention to issues of economic, sexual, racial, and political discrimination as they relate to violence. Programs address the effects of unemployment, the media, drugs and alcohol, aggressive behavior, post-traumatic stress, burn-out among professionals, and conflict resolution.

### **Base Services Where They Are Most Needed**

Services located where the customers are—at the neighborhood level—are more likely to be used and useful. If they are consolidated and coordinated, they can be even more effective. Work with the local housing authority, parent-teacher organization, schools, health organizations, domestic violence support services, or drug and alcohol rehabilitation services, to provide a local comprehensive community health program or a multi-purpose prevention resource center. Offer quick and easy access to crime-prevention information; organizations that can provide counseling, job training, or job opportunities; a bulletin board or a newsletter to communicate important current information; mentors; and a directory to take profile opportunities for the many concerned people who want to volunteer their time.

*Effective coordination eliminates duplication of services, saves money and improves morale.*

- Since 1990, the Sparrow Estates Community in Lansing, Michigan, has benefitted from the Neighborhood Network Center. The center was formed after a community police officer from the area worked with residents to identify crime-related problems and prioritize possible solutions. The full-time service center right in the neighborhood offers a variety of services, including parenting classes, drug abuse counseling, health care advice, dropout-prevention programs, job placement assistance, interpreters for non-English-speaking residents, and coordinated efforts to close drug houses through enforcement of local codes. After three years, the neighborhood experienced a 75 percent reduction in reported crime. Law enforcement has closed several drug houses and sponsored youth programs. Other service providers have helped residents locate jobs and housing, and residents have organized community cleanups.

The efforts of health care, social service and criminal justice professionals in St. Paul, Minnesota, have produced the Midwest Children's Resource Center. This collaborative fosters positive working relationships between youth' service and

health care providers and, more important, provides children with the care they need in one location, and reduces the need for repetitive examinations and visits to other sites.

### **Involve Health Providers and Hospitals**

The health care system is often the first and only place to which a victim of violence turns for help. As a result, doctors and community health professionals are natural allies in violence prevention efforts. They recognize that violence is not just a law enforcement problem but also a daily public health problem.

Youth Alive, in partnership with the Oakland, California, Unified School district and the Pediatric Spinal Injury Service, uses two strategies to address this problem:

- “Teens on Target” trains high-risk eighth and ninth graders to become health advocates for preventing gun violence, family violence, drugs and alcohol and street violence. They arrange visits to urban emergency rooms to see first-hand the plight of victims and the value of prevention.
- “Caught in the Crossfire” sends these young counselors into neighborhood hospitals to try to persuade teenaged gunshot victims to avoid further violence. Since 1989, the program has trained 50 Oakland students who, in turn, have reached 3,000 other youth.

### **Develop Community and Business Partnerships**

Local businesses can contribute much to violence prevention efforts. They know that the community’s gain is their gain. They can work with schools and the community to provide scholarships and support for young people; they can “Adopt a School” or “Adopt a Block”; sponsor safety and self-defense workshops for the community; become part of a crime prevention action plan committee; or build employee commitment to staying in the community. They bring skills and resources to complement those of residents and public sector agencies.

- As part of a plan to spur economic development in a targeted area of Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Commercial Development Corporation started a model business crime prevention program that coordinates an annual Crime Prevention Month observance and offers free security surveys and business crime-prevention seminars in English, Spanish, and Korean to small businesses. Since its creation in 1981, the program has devel-

oped a strong relationship with the police and district attorney, provided more than \$800,000 in matching funds for security improvements to small businesses, and advised more than 800 businesses on prevention strategies.

### **Start a Campaign To Educate the Media**

Television violence, stereotypes, and frightening headlines have a direct impact community efforts to prevent violence. But the media also can be a major ally in preventing violence. They can educate the community on the costs of violence and the importance of prevention; they can make an editorial column available for youth perspectives or promote youth as an important resource in the community. The media can develop a pledge to provide more coverage of positive youth-related events; seek to better serve the educational and informational needs of children; and restrict times when violent entertainment is aired.

Residents can also lobby for content warnings to precede violent television programs; media literacy programs that teach critical viewing skills; a meaningful program-rating system; lock-out switches that let parents control television channel selection; and anti-violence themes in programming.

- The Department of the Attorney General in Hawaii has taken on an unusual role — production of a television talk show for teens. “Bridging the Gap” provides a platform for teens to voice their concerns, and to tackle such topics as runaways, teen suicides, anger management, teen alcoholism, AIDS, sexual harassment, teen pregnancy, date rape, and violence in dating. The program provides not only a forum for young people, but also offers information to teens and parents. The teen pregnancy discussion, for example, generated so many phone calls from parents unaware of how prevalent is the problem that the program was extended 30 minutes. As a result of its successes, the partnership between the Attorney General and the media has expanded to include businesses, foundations, and other government agencies.

### **Sponsor Rallies, Marches, Vigils and Prayers**

Public rallies, marches, candlelight vigils, and neighborhood events are great ways to bring a community together, initiate a project, motivate others to get involved, or celebrate a successful program. They also are a sign that residents are reclaiming control of the neighborhood. Invite speakers to a shopping mall or



some other well known place that is visible and safe, and have the youngsters organize music, skits, and small sessions to discuss issues. End the event with a vigil against violence or plan a citywide week of prayer during which congregations give special attention in worship services to violence issues.

- The Houston Recreation Action Plan includes a “Crime-Kicker” carnival, the theme of which is crime and crime prevention. The subject of guns, gangs, drugs, burglaries, and crime prevention strategies are addressed through skits. Morality and punishment are illustrated by a fund-raiser booth called “locks and stocks.” Games are designed to entertain, but also to serve as a means to release frustration. Strolling, costumed figures, such as the “Magic Crook” magician and other crime-fighting heroes, add further to the carnival atmosphere.
- The Greater San Antonio Crime Prevention Commission asked each religious congregation in the city to dedicate a day of prayer against violence. Over 800 churches and other faith organizations participated in the city-wide week of prayer in 1993, and all delivered anti-violence messages and encouraged members to join neighborhood crime prevention efforts.

### **Remove Items Associated with Violence**

The availability of guns has a self-evident impact on the lethality of youth violence. Keeping guns out of the hands of young people, supporting efforts to have manufacturers mark toy guns so that they can be distinguished from real guns, or blocking production of certain types of guns reduces this availability. Increasing the penalties for using a gun in the commission of a crime helps discourage gun-toting offenders. Gun buy-back or amnesty programs provide incentives for residents to give up guns. In 1974, the City of Baltimore decided to offer \$50 per gun in a buy-back program. In three months, 13,792 guns were turned in to the police. In 1991, St. Louis collected 7,547 guns by offering cash. In 1994, in Hartford Connecticut, 226 assault weapons (at \$500 each), 3,577 operable guns (at \$100 each), and 378 inoperable guns (at \$50 each) were turned in.

*The availability of guns has a self-evident impact on the lethality of youth violence.*

3



# Comprehensive Approaches Bring Results

**Local governments are often best-situated to coordinate violence prevention initiatives. They have resources and continuity that grass-roots organizations often lack, and they are closer to the problem and the solution than state government, although local governments do not have all the needed resources, and cannot do it alone.**

Attending to the safety and health of children, youth and families in the city is a major responsibility of local government. Local government has the ability to adapt principles of prevention to local situations, mobilize local involvement and cooperative partnerships among agencies and residents, and sustain the commitment to young people and families for the long haul.

Here are the stories of violence prevention in five cities—how their residents have rallied together and what key strategies they have implemented. Two profiles focus on comprehensive citywide plans; two demonstrate successful efforts to address problems within neighborhoods faced with high rates of youth violence; and one offers a model for focusing on drugs, family problems, and school performance—risk factors linked to youth violence.

We have highlighted the theme or concept that provides the focus of each city's activities. The positive outcomes of their efforts are also indicated. These profiles demonstrate that sound, bold, and persistent action will reduce youth violence. Both the overall approach of the cities and the strategies they have used provide useful precedents.

## SAN ANTONIO

### *Combining Sanctions and Opportunities for Adolescents*

San Antonio is a diverse city with a population of nearly 950,000, over half of whom are Hispanic. It has a sizeable community of military retirees. It is also the top tourist draw in Texas, boasting the Alamo, a new sports stadium, Fiesta Texas, Sea World of Texas, the romantic Riverwalk area, and a world-class convention center. Emphasizing the sensitivity of business and tourist travel to crime, a prominent business leader and crime prevention advocate said, "We do not want the convention planner, meeting planner, or tourist having one moment's hesitation about coming to or doing business in our city."

This strong civic pride drives community energy for crafting solutions to the city's crime and crime-related problems, which include youth gang violence, drug abuse, a shortage of safe recreation and job opportunities for youth, troublesome dropout and truancy rates, and lack of academic progress by some of San Antonio's student population.

*Strong civic pride drives community energy for crafting solutions to the city's crime and crime-related problems.*

Formed in 1992, San Antonio's Greater San Antonio Crime Prevention Commission was the brainchild of the officer then serving as captain of the police department research and planning unit. The 29-member commission consists of representatives of the city council, clergy, business, medicine, education, law enforcement, media, community service organizations, neighborhood associations, the judiciary, and the mayor's office. Two of the commission's four goals focus on teen crime—one to promote positive educational, social, and recreational opportunities for youth and the other to increase the accountability and responsibility of juvenile offenders.

#### **Strategies**

- *Neighborhood Youth Safe Havens and Recreation*, the city's Youth Initiatives program, sought increases in city support for youth recreation programs. It also developed leadership institutes for girls at several middle schools.
- *Juvenile Basic Training Programs* were established at local military installations for non-violent offenders.
- *Juvenile Court* strengthened restitution and community service programs for youthful offenders.
- *Youth Crime Services Unit* gathers information on violent juvenile offenders.

- *Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.), Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.), and gang alternative program* have been emphasized.
- *A keep-kids-in-school ordinance, late night juvenile curfew,* and the city policy on truancy emphasize juvenile accountability and parental responsibility. The truancy policy requires young people to be in school on school days. Violators and their parents are subject to fines and detention. Late night curfews for juveniles require them to be off the street unless they are returning from a job, school-sponsored activity, or church function.
- *Citizen Police Academy and Police Explorer Scouts* offer opportunities for adolescents and adults. Citizen Police Academy training was made available to all residents beginning in March 1994; simultaneously, cultural diversity training began for all police officers.
- *Cellular on Patrol Program* includes training given at police substations to persons involved in the program for identifying and reporting code violations through a cellular phone network.
- *Nine additional code compliance officers* were added to the force in 1993 and code compliance violation forms have been distributed to neighborhood associations for their use.
- *The Business Crime Council of South Texas*, based in San Antonio, promotes business-law enforcement cooperation on crime prevention throughout the region. The membership of over 5,000 also promotes crime prevention and enforcement legislation locally and at the state level.
- *Graffiti and weapons ordinances aimed at juveniles* in the city prohibit them from carrying graffiti implements, vandalizing property with graffiti or carrying weapons. As with curfew and truancy policies, repeat violations can result in fines and detention for juveniles and their parents.
- *Media pledges* agreed to by area media outlets have resulted in more balanced and positive youth- and school-related coverage.
- *Crime prevention public service announcements* featuring city and community leaders focus on parental responsibility and the youth perspective on the consequences of joining a gang or committing a crime. The announcements were produced and sponsored by one of the leading corporations in the city.
- *Community-Wide Week of Prayer* initiated by letters from the mayor involved over 800 local congregations in giving special attention in services to crime and violence.

- *Health care* programs supported additional immunizations, injury prevention, maternal substance-abuse prevention, prenatal care, and well- child clinics.

### **Products and Outcomes**

- Increased parks and recreation funding. The city increased its budget for youth programs from \$57 million in fiscal year 1993 to \$67 million in 1994.
- The city expanded its after-school programs from 20 to 60 city-wide, at a cost of only \$558,930. San Antonio Fighting Back, a very successful community-based initiative, established seven after-school tutoring and recreational programs, and the YMCA has 76 of these programs.
- Leadership programs for teenage girls have been implemented at nine middle schools.
- A firearm/weapon-removal ordinance, juvenile daytime curfew, and graffiti removal ordinance were enacted by the City Council. The juvenile curfew helped to reduce juvenile crime during late night hours by 5 percent, and reduce youth victimization by violent crime during those hours by 43 percent. Violations of the youth-oriented ordinances decreased over time as youth and parents became aware of police enforcement and the increased legal and financial penalties of repeat offenses.
- From 1991 to 1993, the violent crime rate in San Antonio declined 19.3 percent as the steps recommended by the government-grassroots coalition were implemented.

## **MINNEAPOLIS**

### ***“Success by Six” Organization Supports Youngest Children***

With a population of over 360,000, Minneapolis is the largest city in Minnesota. It was the 12th-fastest-growing city in the U.S. in the 1980s, and the median age of the population is lower than that in 19 of the 25 largest cities in the country. A major regional trucking and product distribution center, the city’s economy is a diverse one that has attracted an increasing number of Asian and other immigrants seeking jobs. Despite the strength of the economy generally, some segments of the population have struggled with long-term unemployment and poor job skills. In addition, community leaders and city officials have grown in-

creasingly concerned over the years about violence in the city, particularly youth violence.

In 1983, the mayor and the superintendent of schools joined forces with business and other community leaders to address unemployment and related family and child health problems and ways in which to ensure that youth become positive contributors to society. More than 125 citizens were involved in creating “City’s Children: 2007,” a 20-year vision for children and families in Minneapolis.

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and families in  
Minneapolis.*

After many months of study and deliberation, residents and city officials concluded that the problem lies in children’s early years, with inadequate social and intellectual development. Based on this conclusion, Minneapolis’ Youth Coordinating Board (YCB) was established in 1986 through an agreement between the city, school district, Park and Recreation Board, Public Library Board, and County Board of Commissioners. In 1988, United Way of the Minneapolis Area created Success by Six, an umbrella organization to develop and coordinate the YCB’s efforts to serve at-risk children and their families.

## Strategies

- *Way to Grow*, community-based and designed centers, provide pregnant women and families with children up to age six with preventive health exams, home visits, job training and placement advice, child care assistance, nutrition advice, and parent counseling. Services are delivered by trained residents, nurses, and social workers.
- *Neighborhood Early Learning Centers* offer quality child care and family services, a Head Start program, Early Childhood Family Education, and maternal and child health services.
- *The Minneapolis Youth Organization (MYO)* promotes and recognizes youth service to the city through awards and special events.
- *Connections*, a newsletter that goes out to community groups throughout the city, offers practical advice on parenting and suggests community-based resources for families in need of services.
- *School Human Services Redesign Initiative (SHSRI)* is a collaborative of school and human service representatives aimed at major system-wide reform in the way schools and human services serve families and ensures that children receive a quality education to prepare them for the future.

## Products and Outcomes

- The city has successfully established six Way to Grow service collaborative centers. Staff of Way to Grow sites made over 7,000 home visits in 1993.
- Two Neighborhood Learning Centers have opened and a third is under construction.
- MYO participants established a Neighborhood Youth Leadership Academy and have been the catalyst behind such events as Youth Vote 91, Twin Cities Youth Policy Forums, Minnesota Youth Service Days, Youth Action Conferences, the 1989 Summer Youth Initiative (which raised \$1 million in expanded summer resources), and the Youthline Teen Advisory Councils.
- The program successfully lobbied along with other organizations for a comprehensive state legislative agenda on children, resulting in an increase of over \$35 million dollars spent on children and child care.
- Success by Six efforts have resulted in improved prenatal care, a school for pregnant teens, and an expanding public education campaign directed at parents and child care providers.
- Ten culturally diverse child development workbooks for parents with low reading skills were produced and distributed to more than 30,000 families.
- Many crimes by juveniles have declined in Minneapolis in recent years. From 1990 to 1991, rape by juveniles declined by 29 percent and incidents of simple assault decreased by 15 percent. From 1992 to 1993 rape by juvenile offenders was again reduced by four percent.

## BOSTON

### *Engaging Police-Community Partnerships and a Public Health Model to Prevent Violence*

Long famous for its historical sites, political energy, seafood, museums, sports teams, and collection of major universities, Boston is also now known as a major banking center and prominent outpost of the biotechnology and computer industries.

The largest city in New England, Boston reflects diverse cultures living in a variety of distinct neighborhoods, each with long histories of community action. Unfortunately, a few areas of the city are also known for the violence that occurs there or because of racially based conflict during the late 1970s.



In 1990, Boston experienced an unusually large number of juvenile homicides. Concerned about escalating and increasingly violent confrontations among juveniles in the city, the police department, other city officials, and local public health experts decided to pursue improved partnerships between neighborhood residents and police, along with public education on violence prevention as priority strategies.

The Boston Police Department's new strategic planning process emphasizes implementation of deeper, more productive partnerships between the department and residents of the city's neighborhoods. The department and other city agencies have developed a number of cooperative partnerships and violence prevention programs with neighborhoods throughout the city and strengthened those already in existence. The problem-solving partnerships are coordinated by community residents and officials of the ten police districts through Neighborhood Advisory Councils. Fear of crime among residents and violence (particularly youth violence) are the major issues addressed through the councils.

The Boston Violence Prevention Project (BVPP) is another multi-institutional, community-based prevention and education initiative aimed at curbing violence among adolescents. The project's focus is on preventing homicide, identifying risk factors for homicide, and educating about anger management and nonviolent conflict management. The goals of the project are to prevent violent incidents and injuries to adolescents; to create service support for youth already involved in specific forms of interpersonal violence; to identify risk factors and to educate about prevention methods; to promote a new community ethos supportive of violence prevention; and to foster coalition-building among providers, agencies, and institutions around these issues. One of the first programs to address violence as a public health problem, the project has been identified as a national model.

## Strategies

- The police department, the district attorney, residents, and the Commonwealth Attorney General recently established the *Safe Neighborhood Initiative* (SNI) in the city's Dorchester section. A violent crime enforcement and intervention collaborative, the SNI members prioritize solutions to combat crime, fear, and quality of life problems in the high-crime sections of the community. The local prosecutors also review cases with residents to determine whether they will be prosecuted in the district court or by a grand jury.

*The Boston Police Department's new strategic planning process emphasizes implementation of deeper, more productive partnerships between the department and residents of the city's neighborhoods.*

- ***The Youth and Police in Partnership Program*** hires at-risk youth in the city's South End section to help secure area playgrounds for use by children and to keep them free of drug dealers and gang members. This program is a partnership of the police department and the United Methodist Urban Services Group.
- ***Violence Prevention Curriculum Training and Education***—A ten-session violence prevention curriculum developed by the BVPP reaches students, agencies, and service providers throughout the city.
- ***The Clinical Treatment Services Team*** intervenes with victims of violence and their families by providing violence-prevention education, introduction of nonviolent conflict management skills, and referrals to other community-based services, including a support group.
- ***Health Care Provider Protocol*** provides guidance in violence prevention to emergency room physicians and nurse practitioners who treat adolescents.
- ***Media Campaign*** focuses on peer pressure and the responsibility of friends; offers public service announcements and documentaries on the theme: "Friends for Life, Don't Let Friends Fight."
- ***Youth Violence Prevention Providers Network*** has brought together community-based and local government youth services agencies to plan how to address the needs of at-risk youth and families throughout the city. Network members assess existing services, identify gaps, and develop public education tools to build awareness of the range of available services within the community.
- ***Teacher Training***—Violence-prevention resource coordinators from among the teaching staff in 15 schools within the city's school district have been trained through the BVPP.

## **Products and Outcomes**

- More than 5,000 people have participated in workshops and training since the inception of the BVPP.
- BVPP has expanded to include program activities on the prevention of relationship violence, bias-related violence, and gang- and drug-related violence.
- New collaborative relationships have been formed with a Gang Drug Prevention Program and a Teen Line.
- BVPP puts out a bimonthly newsletter that describes new initiatives, events, effective program strategies, current city news, and resources.

- BVVP founded the annual “Increase the Peace Week,” which profiles each community’s violence-prevention efforts.
- Overall, the violent crime rate in Boston has declined since 1991, though youth violence remains a serious concern. Violent crime by juveniles decreased in two of the city’s most crime-ridden police districts each year since 1991. Youth homicide dropped drastically from 1990 to 1994. In the first half of 1994, aggravated assaults in Boston declined by nine percent compared with those in 1993.

## SAVANNAH

### *Creating Safe and Productive School Years*

Savannah is a city whose architecture and coastal setting make it an increasingly popular tourist attraction. Nearly five million visitors per year tour the Georgia city’s historic district, one of the nation’s largest and best-preserved. A major port and hub of manufacturing and transportation in the region, the city of more than 137,000 has a strong economy.

In recent years, Savannah has become concerned about a high rate of violent crime that has left residents fearful for their safety and worried about the impact that crime could have on the area’s economy. Furthermore, the deteriorating condition of some housing and the departure of noticeable numbers of middle-class residents has city officials concerned.

Half of Savannah’s residents are African American; most of the remainder are Caucasian. The city is proud that racially based divisions among residents during the 1960s have now given way to increasing cooperation and interaction among racial groups.

By 1988, Savannah’s leaders were becoming increasingly uneasy about juvenile crime, school dropouts, teen pregnancy, and drug abuse. In their evaluation of the services then available to children and youth in the community, they found these services too limited and fragmented to make a real difference in helping youngsters to succeed. A collaborative body, composed of representatives from schools, city and county government, the community, and the business sector, formed the citywide Savannah Youth Futures Authority. To meet its goal of improving students’ academic level, increasing school attendance and graduation rates, increasing youth employment after high school, and reducing adolescent pregnancy, Savannah developed several approaches to

bring a wide range of comprehensive and coordinated services to young people who were at risk of dropping out of school or becoming pregnant.

## Strategies

*A collaborative  
body formed  
the citywide  
Savannah Youth  
Futures Authority.*

- *The Community-Based Family Resource Center* based in the community offers a wide array of family-based services and activities directed by neighborhood residents in a targeted area of the city.
- *The Preschool Readiness Program* serves preschool children at three Montessori sites in the schools and six “readiness” sites in local churches. The staff at each site includes a teacher, a paraprofessional, and a family advocate to help families gain access to needed services.
- *The Stay Team* identifies all high-risk students for intensive services from a multi-disciplinary “Stay Team” that includes school officials and youth service agency staff. The team develops an individualized service plan for each identified student, and a case manager helps in obtaining needed services.
- *The Teenage Parenting Program* provides teens with an alternative school that has special provisions for their needs.
- *The After-School Program (ASP) and Summer Camp* are located at four middle schools and provide students with supervised constructive recreation and academic enrichment activities to help them spend their leisure-time hours more productively.
- *Transition Resource Teachers* at four high schools provide a support system for ninth grade New Futures Initiative students, monitors their academic and behavioral performance, and provides a link between home, school, and community agencies for needed services.
- *The Strategic Intervention for High Risk Youth (SIHRY) program* through the Uhuru project, offers intensive education, social services, and crime-prevention activities to high risk youngsters in one of the most troubled neighborhoods; enhances the real and perceived safety of program participants by reducing illegal drug use and crime in the neighborhood; increases the coordination and delivery of services; and enables program participants to become productive, drug-free and law-abiding citizens.
- *The Burger King Academy*, funded by Burger King and other local sources, is administered by Cities in Schools. It provides an alternative educational setting for students whose achievement is accelerated in a non-school setting.

## Products and Outcomes

- The Youth Futures Authority has received high marks for its skillful use of available data to gain community support for critical decision-making regarding program funding and strategic planning.
- Evaluation of the Youth Futures Authority also shows success in reaching out to a variety of community groups and involving them in the planning, implementation, and monitoring of neighborhood initiatives.
- In one year, over 275 students per day were involved in the after-school program.
- School failures have declined slightly and more progress is expected as the programs take root. The number of students suspended has also begun to decline.
- About 1,200 middle school students each year have passed the Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) and have been promoted more than one grade; once promoted, many more students pass core subjects, and attendance and behavior have improved.
- Overall, crime in Savannah has declined since 1990. The city experienced half as many homicides in 1994 as in 1991 and one-third as many rapes in 1994 as 1990. In 1994, murder declined by 40 percent in one police district, and commercial robbery dropped by over 90 percent in another district.

## LITTLE ROCK

### *Fighting Back Against Substance Abuse in Families*

The Arkansas capital is located in the central part of the state at the intersection of several major statewide and regional highways. It has few major industrial enterprises. Over 85 percent of Little Rock businesses employ fewer than fifty people. Significant numbers of families residing in the city live on very modest incomes and many others live at the poverty level. The primary health- and crime-related concerns in Little Rock include alcohol and other drug abuse, drug trafficking, violence associated with substance abuse, and one of the nation's highest rates of teen pregnancy and births.

In 1991, the effects of alcohol and other drug abuse in Little Rock were having a citywide impact. Alcohol-related suspensions and expulsions in the school district had doubled. The prosecuting attorney's office reported that about 350 youth were on file as habitual offenders and accounted for approximately 2,000 court

dockets. Two years later, a survey of residents indicated that 88 percent believed that teen violence had increased in the previous three years, and 96 percent believed that the solution lay in giving youth more hope for the future. The City of Little Rock's Fighting Back initiative intends to do just that.

## Strategies

- *Step-Up Center and Neighborhood Support Centers* encourage treatment and prevent relapse for alcoholic and otherwise addicted persons on waiting lists for treatment or getting ready to leave treatment. Other services include temporary shelter and food, job training and assistance, temporary child care, transportation, and relapse-prevention support groups.
- *The Little Rock Woman's Center* offers early identification, substance-abuse treatment, pre- and post-natal care, general medical care, and child care for pregnant women, women with children in the home, and newborn babies who are addicted through their mother's drug use.
- *Services for Youth Who Are Violent* coordinates local social service agencies, law enforcement, and churches in delivery of treatment and support services to violent and drug-addicted youth.
- *Neighborhood Mobilization* includes small, \$5,200 mobilization grants, paying approximately \$100 per week to a neighborhood resident. Five neighborhoods each year get the grants to identify and engage neighbors in organizing to fight the problem of terror from gangs, increased crime, and threats to residents.
- *Fighting Back Media Partners Campaign* is implemented by media partners who have the dedication, financial resources, and audience. This initiative promotes an informational campaign to break down substance abuse denial and myths while encouraging action and increasing utilization of resources to fight substance abuse.
- *Fighting Back Through Primary Health Care* assures that health care and public assistance providers have access to regularly scheduled continuing education in the areas of identification and referral, intake methods, data utilization, care for alcoholic and otherwise addicted pregnant women, and general substance abuse information.

*Ninety-six percent believed that the solution lay in giving youth more hope for the future.*

## Products and Outcomes

- Five million dollars in city funds are spent on prevention, intervention and treatment programs (including youth employ-

- ment), parks and recreation, adolescent and adult treatment, and neighborhood-based drug treatment programs.
- A 30-foot-long Neighborhood Mobile Resource Center travels throughout the city with basic information on such topics as how to obtain help with housing and food, nutrition, health, crime prevention, and substance abuse prevention. Counselors are on board to assist with information and referral.
- Implemented in eight neighborhoods, the Neighborhood Alert System integrates multiple systems, such as law enforcement, code inspection and enforcement, human services resources, religious organizations, schools and support centers, to concentrate efforts on fighting substance abuse.
- A voluntary child care recruitment and referral network has been formed for parents or guardians who need substance-abuse treatment and cannot receive this treatment without free child care.
- During 1994, overall crime decreased by 22 percent, and violent crime decreased by nine percent to the lowest level since 1990. Murder decreased by 19 percent in 1994.

## *Afterword*

Raising youth free from fear and violence is an urgent need and a long-term task. In attempting to achieve this goal, we must choose the wisest paths, those strategies proven successful. Recognizing that we cannot replicate every aspect of the best strategies and programs in every community, we must make every effort to prioritize action on youth violence.

Every parent organization or crime watch group formed, each new recreation or mentoring program established, every support to a child victimized by crime, and every instance where a police officer becomes involved in promoting community partnerships to protect youth is evidence that prevention *works*. Youth violence prevention that is problem-focused, based in communities and neighborhoods, fueled by the energies of the people who live and work there, helped appropriately by outside resources, and supported by all levels of government is a model that has consistently produced positive results. If more agencies and more residents will work together to extend such partnerships to every neighborhood, town and city that wants to promote violence prevention, protect its residents, and enable youth to prosper in a healthy, growing community, we will have families and communities empowered to bring up youth free from fear and violence.

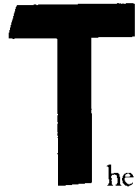




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# *Resources: Organizations and Publications*

**This is a listing of some of the organizations that can offer information, materials, program details, and other assistance for communities developing anti-violence efforts, as well as key publications that can provide important details on violence and its prevention.**



he list is not complete, but it does include all the major groups consulted and materials used in compiling this document.

## **Organizations**

Corporation for National and Community Service  
1201 New York Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20525  
202-606-5000

Provides support to community-based volunteer organizations through its “mini-grant” program. Also operates Americorps, Learn and Serve America, the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP); Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA); and the Peace Corps.

**American Academy of Pediatrics**  
141 Northwest Point Boulevard  
PO Box 927  
Elk Grove Village, IL 60009-0927  
708-228-5005

A professional association, the academy also publishes educational materials for health care providers on recognizing the dangers to children of gun violence and information on how to work with families of children who have experienced gun violence-related injuries.

**Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc.**  
660 First Avenue  
New York, NY 10016  
212-683-1515

Promotes participation in community affairs and training of community leaders by local chapters. Develops service projects and advocacy efforts to address such issues as juvenile justice, mental health counseling, parenting, and substance abuse.

**Board of Young Adult Police Commissioners**  
Department of Police Services  
One Union Avenue  
New Haven, CT 06519  
203-946-6276

Founded in 1991, the Board is a partnership between the Department of Police Services and young people of the community. The Board will consult with organizations on how they work successfully in New Haven, and how this kind of inclusion and empowerment can work in your city.

**Boys & Girls Clubs of America**  
National Headquarters  
100 Edgewood, Suite 700  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
404-527-7100

Helps young people gain skills and a sense of belonging through its 1,460 clubs and its Gang Prevention Targeted Outreach Program, the SMART Moves drug prevention curriculum, and other efforts. Offers a variety of resource materials.

**Bureau of Justice Assistance**  
Office of Justice Programs  
U.S. Department of Justice  
633 Indiana Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20531  
BJA Clearinghouse 800-688-4252

The Bureau of Justice Assistance oversees a variety of grants programs and ongoing initiatives to strengthen criminal justice at the state and local levels. It provides technical assistance, reports on innovative programs, and a variety of other help to law enforcement agencies and others working to make communities safer.

**Center for Applied Study of Ethno-Violence**  
Room 132 Stephens Hall Annex  
Towson State University  
Towson, MD 21204  
410-830-2435

Provides research, education, training, technical assistance; collects, analyzes, publishes, and distributes materials and information on public policy, human and civil rights issues, reducing intergroup conflict, and programs on preventing and responding to ethno-violence—violence and intimidation based on race, religion, ethnicity, or sexual orientation.

**Center for Community Change**

1000 Wisconsin Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20007  
202-342-0519

Assists groups of urban and rural poor to make positive changes in their communities. Designs and delivers technical assistance to these organizations, focuses attention on national issues dealing with poverty, and works to make government more responsive to the needs of the poor.

**Center for Substance Abuse Prevention's**

National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information  
PO Box 2345  
Rockville, MD 20847  
800-729-6686

Distributes a wide range of no-cost alcohol- and drug prevention materials in English and Spanish. Operates a computerized database and provides a free catalog of materials.

**Center to Prevent Handgun Violence**

1225 I Street, NW, Suite 1100  
Washington, DC 20005  
202-289-7319

Provides educational materials and programs for adults and children on preventing gun deaths and injuries, information about: children and gun violence, firearm homicide, suicide and unintentional shootings, violence in schools, violence among African Americans, and conflict resolution.

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

U.S. Public Health Service  
1600 Clifton Road, NE  
Atlanta, GA 30333  
404-639-3311

Operates an information center that deals directly with the public or refers them to appropriate offices for more technical information. Assists state and local agencies in disease prevention and health promotion, including prevention of violence.

**Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence**

University of Colorado at Boulder  
Campus Box 442  
Boulder, CO 80309-0442  
303-492-1032

Provides research reviews on the causes of violence, particularly adolescent violence, and the effectiveness of prevention and intervention programs; topical bibliographic searches; and technical assistance for the development and evaluation of violence- prevention programs.

**Children's Defense Fund**

25 E Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001  
800-275-2222

A national organization that advocates on behalf of children and their families. Sponsors the Black Community Crusade for Children project in partnership with regional child-serving institutions.

**D.A.R.E. America**

P.O. Box 2090

Los Angeles, CA 90051

800-223-DARE

Provides trained police officers for fifth and sixth grade classrooms during 17 weeks of the school year. Teaches kids how to refuse drugs and alcohol.

Curriculum topics, focus on: personal safety, drug use and misuse, consequences of behavior, resisting peer pressure, building self-esteem, assertiveness training, and managing stress without drugs.

**Education Development Center**

55 Chapel Street

Newton, MA 02158

617-969-7100

A non-profit organization that applies educational strategies to address a wide range of health, education, and social problems. EDC develops materials, conducts training, provides technical assistance, and assists in evaluation and diffusion of inoculation. EDC's work in violence prevention includes operation of a National Network of Violence Prevention Practitioners and an Adolescent Violence Prevention Resource Center.

**National Association for Mediation in Education (NAME)**

205 Hampshire House

University of Massachusetts

Amherst, MA 01003

413-545-2462

Serves as an umbrella organization for hundreds of mediation programs nationwide. Provides a bimonthly newsletter and written materials, audio tapes, videos, and training on starting and evaluating programs, substance abuse, and conflict resolution.

**National Clearinghouse on Runaway and Homeless Youth**

PO Box 13505

Silver Spring, MD 20911-3505

301-608-8098

Distributes semi-annual briefing packages, information about program approaches, resources, and current activities relevant to runaway and homeless youth organizations. Facilitates forums to discuss issues and strategies important in battling runaway episodes and homelessness.

**National Committee to Prevent Child Abuse**

332 South Michigan Avenue, Suite 1600

Chicago, IL 60604-4357

(312)663-3520

Has chapters in all 50 states, which translates into 120,000 community volunteers working to stop child abuse before it happens. Conducts research, produces public service advertising, and provides low-cost materials.

**National Council on Crime and Delinquency**

685 Market Street, Suite 620

San Francisco, CA 94105

415-896-6223

Provides technical assistance to state governments, conducts research, publishes documents on youth delinquency and incarceration, and sponsors professional training institutes. Membership includes correction specialists and others interested in community-based programs, juvenile and family courts, and the prevention, control and treatment of crime and delinquency.

### **National Crime Prevention Council**

1700 K Street, NW, Second Floor  
Washington, DC 20006-3817  
202-466-6272

Works to enable people to prevent crime and establish safer, more caring communities. Publishes books, brochures, program kits, reproducible materials, posters, and other items. Operates demonstration programs, especially in municipal, community, and youth issues areas. Provides training on a wide range of topics to federal, state, municipal, community, school, and youth groups; offers technical assistance and information and referral services; manages (with The Advertising Council, Inc., and the U.S. Department of Justice) the McGruff public education campaign; and coordinates the activities of the Crime Prevention Coalition (more than 120 national, federal, and state organizations and agencies active in preventing crime).

### **National Institute for Dispute Resolution**

1726 M Street, NW, Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20036  
202-466-4764

Promotes the development of fair, effective, and efficient conflict resolution processes and programs in new arenas—locally, nationally, and internationally. Stimulates innovative approaches to the productive resolution of future conflict. Programs include initiatives in public policy, youth care and support, quality of justice, communities, and education.

### **National League of Cities**

1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20004  
202-626-3000

Develops and pursues a national municipal policy that can meet the future needs of cities and help cities solve critical problems. Offers training, technical assistance, and information to municipal officials to help them improve the quality of local government. Maintains 20,000-volume library.

### **National School Safety Center**

4165 Thousand Oaks Boulevard,  
Suite 290  
Westlake Village, CA 91362  
805-373-9977

Focuses on school-crime prevention throughout the country, especially on the role of law enforcement in creating a safe school environment. Provides a variety of materials on subjects ranging from gangs to vandalism prevention, as well as technical assistance to school systems. Publishes *School Safety* magazine.

### **National Urban League, Inc.**

500 East 62d Street  
New York, NY 10021  
212-310-9000

Collects, evaluates, and supports research, curricula, model programs, training and techniques that provide effective violence and crime prevention services to African American youth, their families and communities. Works with Urban League affiliates and other interested community-based organizations through demonstration grants, technical assistance, and training seminars.

**Office of Juvenile Justice and  
Delinquency Prevention**

Office of Justice Programs  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse  
Box 6000

Rockville, MD 20850  
800-638-8736

Clearinghouse of programs and practices for juvenile justice professionals. Collects program descriptions, project reports, research studies and evaluations and maintains information in a computerized database with on-line search and retrieval capabilities. Covers many subjects on prevention and treatment.

**Youth Crime Watch of America**

Dadeland Towers North, Suite 320  
9200 South Dadeland Boulevard  
Miami, FL 96284  
305-670-2409

Motivates students to create crime-free and drug-free schools through involvement of the entire school in emphasizing positive peer pressure to change attitudes, promote values, and activate students to take responsible action through an array of youth-led activities. Provides workshops, materials, and on-site training for schools and communities seeking to initiate crime watch programs.

**Youth Service America**

1101 15th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20004  
202-296-2992

Youth Service America is a national, nonprofit organization that promotes opportunities for young people to be engaged in youth service programs. The organization sponsors an annual conference and National Youth Service Day.

**Publications**

*Children, Families & Cities: Programs that Work at the Local Level.*

Washington, DC: The National League of Cities, 1987

Provides analyses of issues and more than three dozen profiles of local efforts to deal with child care, child and family homelessness, youth unemployment, and teen pregnancy prevention. Includes lessons learned, project contacts, and discussion of local strategic planning and integrated program delivery.

*Creating a Climate of Hope: Ten Neighborhoods Tackle the Drug Crisis.*

Washington, DC: National Crime Prevention Council, 1992

Neighborhoods in communities across the nation show how local groups can partner with civic leaders and policy makers to reduce crime, drugs, and fear, as well as build community spirit and capacity. Explains process, group strategies, start-up considerations.

*Finding Funds and Building Support for Community Crime Prevention.*

Washington, DC: National Crime Prevention Council, 1993

Describes federal resources that can fund community crime prevention-related activities, notes strategies states have used to encourage crime prevention action in communities, profiles the efforts of six states that made prevention a priority, and lists state-by-state contacts for further information on community crime prevention.

*Getting Together To Fight Crime: How Working With Others Can Help You Build a Safer and Better Community.* Washington, DC: National Crime Prevention Council, 1992

Provides step-by-step pointers for people to organize their blocks or neighborhoods against crime, violence, and drugs. Explains ways to overcome neighbors' fear and apathy, shows how to find resources for local programs, and suggests sources of help in the community.

**Hawkins, David, and Richard Catalano, Jr.** *Communities That Care.* San Francisco: Jossey-Bass Inc. 1992

*Juveniles and Violence: Juvenile Offending and Victimization.* Washington, DC: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice, 1993

*Making a Difference: Young People in Community Crime Prevention.* Washington, DC: National Crime Prevention Council, 1985

Practical how-to's and tips on starting and running successful programs. Thirty programs profiled in detail, including teens teaching younger children, assisting with community organizing, helping the elderly.

*Making Government Work for Your City's Kids: Getting Through the Intergovernmental Maze of Programs for Children and Families.* Washington, DC: The National League of Cities, 1992

A guidebook that helps local elected officials to act as effective advocates for children and families in their communities by asking the right questions, holding other levels of government accountable, and making local concerns heard. Describes how to deal with the intergovernmental maze of programs, services, plans, and policies of the county, state, and federal governments; clarifies the roles of various levels of government; and identifies key decision points where local input is particularly effective.

**Mandel, Michael J., Paul Magnusson, James E. Ellis, Gail DeGeorge, and Keith L. Alexander.** *The Economics of Crime.* Business Week, December 13, 1993

Describes the economic impact of crime on correctional and health care systems.

*National Service and Public Safety: Partnerships for Safer Communities.* Washington, DC: National Crime Prevention Council, 1994

Describes new national service legislation, public safety opportunities for AmeriCorps and Learn and Serve America programs. Demonstrates how law enforcement, community groups, prosecutors and probation, parole, and corrections staffs can benefit from AmeriCorps service.

**National Crime Prevention Council, *Working as Partners With Community Groups, Community Partnerships Bulletin*.** Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, September 1994

**National Crime Prevention Council, *Partnerships to Prevent Youth Violence, Bulletin*.** Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, August 1994

***Preventing Violence: Program Ideas and Examples.*** Washington, DC: National Crime Prevention Council, 1992

Guide to ways to invest community in violence prevention. Shows how and why to recruit key partners, including law enforcement, schools, community groups, policy makers; explains strategies for anti-violence work. In-depth profiles of 27 programs—from gang prevention for youth and adults to conflict management, from domestic violence prevention to dealing with violence on TV—demonstrate diversity of approaches that can help.

***Preventing Youth Violence: Reducing Access to Firearms.*** A policy paper. California Wellness Foundation, Pacific Center for Violence Prevention, 1994

Within the context of violence as a public health issue, notes the direct and indirect societal costs of firearm injury to juveniles and adults. It also reviews past policy efforts to reduce firearm violence and proposes prevention and intervention strategies developed from an understanding of conditions which lead to increased risk of intentional injury.

***Stop the Violence: Start Something.*** Washington, DC: National Crime Prevention Council, 1991

A concise booklet that shows a variety of anti-violence activities that children, adults, and neighborhoods can undertake. Identifies some of the many additional resources that can help.

***Taking the Offensive to Prevent Crime: How Seven Cities Did It.*** Washington, DC: National Crime Prevention Council, 1994

Path-breaking action by seven major cities that engaged government agencies, civic leadership, and grassroots citizens in partnership to develop comprehensive action plans to reduce and prevent crimes. Describes process, lessons learned; shows how plans addressed both symptoms and causes of crime. Provides prototype and action steps for use by others.

***Teenage Victims: A National Crime Survey Report.*** Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, May 1991. NCJ 128129

Updates prior surveys on criminal victimization of youth in the U.S. aged 12 to 19. Summarizes information gained through interviews conducted twice a year from 1985 to 1988 of a national sample of 50,000 households about violent and property crime victimizations. Information presented also includes detailed statistics on the severity of crimes against younger teens, victim and offender characteristics, the place the crimes occurred, and reporting crimes to the police.



Tolan, Patrick, and Nancy Guerra. *What Works in Reducing Adolescent Violence: An Empirical Review of the Field*. Boulder, CO: The Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence, 1994

Trunkey, Donald D., *Impact of Violence on the Nation's Trauma Care*, Health Affairs, Winter 1993, pp. 162-170

Discusses the trauma care system as an essential component of a comprehensive response to violence and the impact on trauma care systems of uncompensated care for patients who were the victims of violence.

*Our Future and Our Only Hope: A Survey of City Halls Regarding Children and Families*. Washington, DC: The National League of Cities, 1989

Highlights results of a 390-city survey concerning problems and needs of children and families in cities. For children, lack of child care, substance abuse, and education were top-rated problems needing attention. For families, a shortage of affordable housing, especially low-income housing, topped the list of needs. Includes 250 brief success stories.

*Uniting Communities Through Crime Prevention*. Washington, DC: National Crime Prevention Council, 1994

Frames prevention as a major community anti-crime strategy compatible with community policing. Makes the case for prevention's effectiveness; shows how all members of community can play critical roles; describes a variety of physical and social strategies for prevention; offers start-up and program improvement ideas, sources for further information.

Wilson-Brewer, Renee, Stu Cohen, Lydia O'Donnell, and Irene F. Goodman. *Violence Prevention for Young Adolescents: A Survey of the State of the Art*. Washington, D.C., Carnegie Council on Adolescent Development, 1991

Prepared by the Education Development Center, Inc., for the conference, "Violence Prevention for Young Adolescents," held in 1990 in Washington, DC; third in a series designed to develop programs and methods of intervention aimed at reducing violent behavior among young adolescents. Focused specifically on identifying the methods by which current programs are evaluated and the use of these methods. Addressed need to improve evaluation techniques in order to improve understanding of programs and their effectiveness. Gives background information, summary of conference, and program, specific product, and activity recommendations.

*Violence in Urban America: Mobilizing a Response, Summary of a Conference*. Washington, DC: National Academy Press, 1994

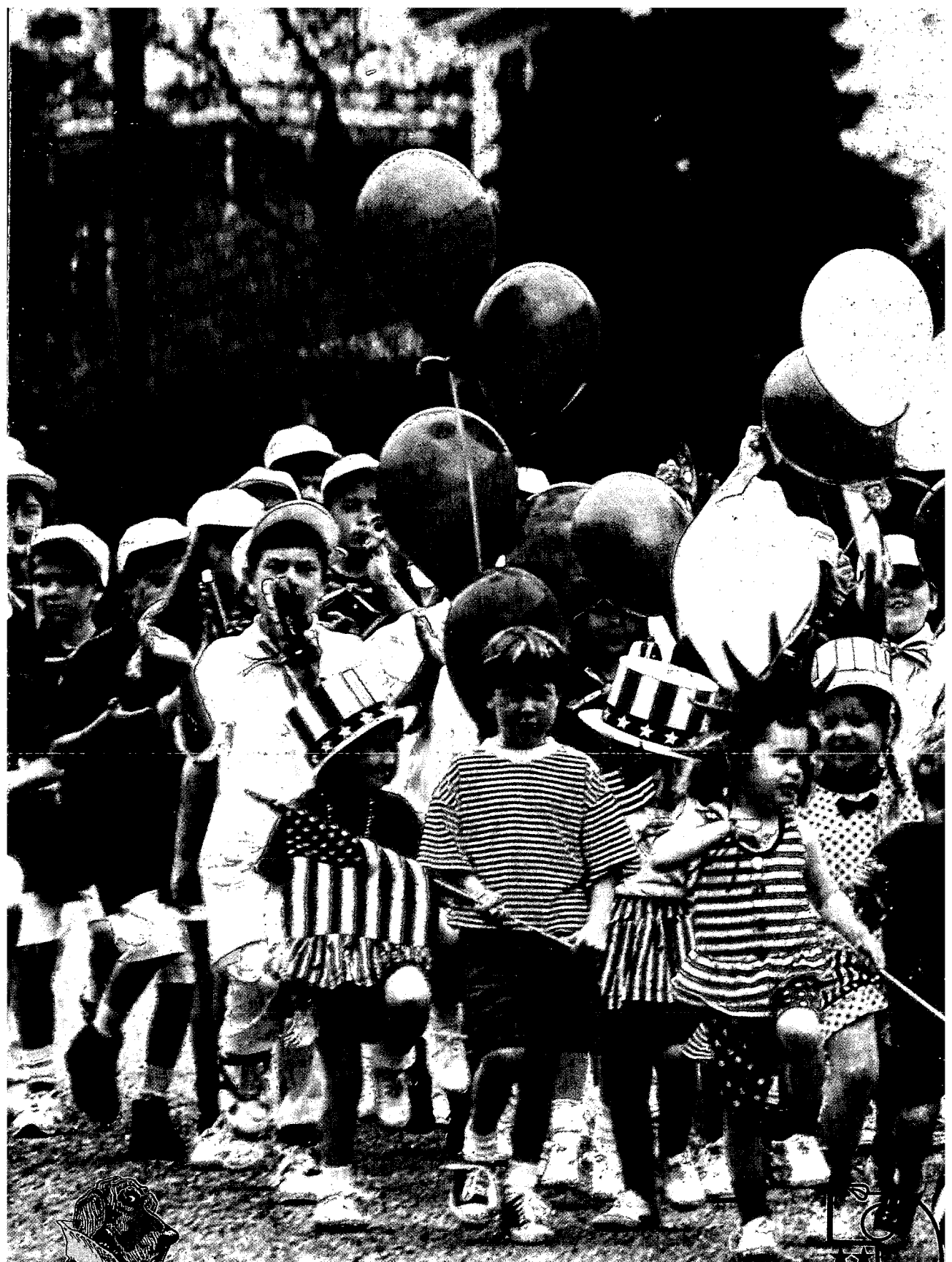
*Violence and Youth: Psychology's Response*, Summary Report of the American Psychological Association Commission on Violence and Youth. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association, 1993

*Ways and Means for Children and Families.* Washington, DC: The National League of Cities, 1991

Guidebook for local officials provides information on funding sources for programs that assist children and families. Examines role of local government as broker or provider of services; discusses ways to organize and administer local programs; and provides examples of model programs and lists of resource agency contacts.



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