

# EFFECTIVE MULTI-AGENCY SYSTEMS FOR EFFECTIVE URBAN CRIME PREVENTION

## Role of the Community in the Integrated Approach (multidisciplinary approach) and Establishment of an Effective Multi-Agency Cooperation and Collaboration System for Urban Crime Prevention

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### I. REVIEW OF KNOWLEDGE BASE AND INTERNATIONAL NORMS

At the beginning of the twentieth century, the laws and policies called for juvenile delinquents to be rehabilitated or cured by social workers, probation officers and child care workers. But the legislators never invested in the programmes to rehabilitate young offenders. So unfortunately by the 1970's rehabilitation was assumed to have failed.

This failure of rehabilitation was used by populist politicians to invest more in being "tough on crime". They wanted young persons to be prosecuted for a discrete offence, defended by a lawyer, and if found guilty, punished to the full extent of the law.

Statistical studies on large samples of young offenders in the USA, England and many other countries have evaluated whether a sentence of prison, service in the community or probation stops the juvenile from re-offending. In sum, they do not.

However, the studies do show that fifty per cent or more of the typical young offenders are reconvicted within three years of their original conviction. Those that are reconvicted tend to come from worse family situations and have done less well in school.

They also show that the nature of the sanction does not make any difference, unless it includes one of those few programmes "carefully designed to target the specific characteristics and problems of offenders that can be changed" (Sherman, 2002, 351). The number of police officers or the severity of court sentences do not figure among the factors that affect whether a youth will stop offending – indeed the more a youth is arrested or in front of a court, the more likely he is to the more-offend in the future.

Overall the conclusions about the effectiveness of corrections could be summarised as follows that corrections will contribute to reduced crime and victimisation through:

- Investment in programmes that divert offenders from prison to community programmes that are adequately resourced and known to tackle successfully the causes of violence and alcohol use.
- Marginal decreases in rates of crime achieved by massive increases in the number of persons incarcerated. In the USA, increasing the incarceration rate by 250% from 1974 to 2004 is estimated to have decreased the crime rate by 35% - but at costs exceeding \$20 billion - enough to provide a job to every unemployed youth or childcare for the poor that would have had a much larger impact on crime rates.
- A few correctional programmes that have reduced recidivism by small proportions, though most correctional agencies resist investment in programmes that work.

The accumulation of prestigious reviews which repeatedly recognize the effectiveness of prevention conclude that:

- Tackling particular social causes (inconsistent parenting, school abandonment, and so on) reduces offending.
- Tackling particular situational determinants (lack of surveillance, ease of turning into cash and so on) reduces victimization.
- Using enforcement must be strategic or in partnership to work (using GIS, intelligence, accountability).

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- Where costs are evaluated, tackling causes is significantly more cost effective than current policing, judicial and particularly prison practices.
- Social prevention projects lead to additional benefits (school completion, jobs, paid taxes and so on).

Large scale scientific studies identify the experiences in early childhood, the pre-teen years and adolescence that preceded involvement in offending. Data were collected from doctors, schools, peers and so on before the youth started offending.

Most young persons will commit acts occasionally that are prohibited under criminal codes. They may shoplift, use substances that are prohibited or even joyride in cars without permission. This behaviour is considered a normal even if worrying part of adolescence. Usually, they continue in school, sports and in their peer group in at least average ways.

These studies have shown that a small group of individuals (5 to 10 percent) account for most offences (50 to 70 percent) committed each year. This sub-group is often referred to as persistent offenders. This behaviour gets them in touch with the police frequently. They tend to grow up with negative family and school experiences, such as parents who were inconsistent and uncaring towards them, living in poverty that is worse than those around them, and facing difficulties in completing school. The conclusions are similar to what a police officer or prosecutor would conclude from looking at the bulk of the cases going through their hands.

- 5% of youth account for 55% of offences
  - Longitudinal studies confirm 5% risk factors such as relative poverty, ineffective parenting and dropping out of school
- 4% of victims account for 44% of victimisation
  - Victimization studies confirm 4% risk life routines such as not guarding goods, vulnerable to opportunity, close to offenders
- Hot spot locations for drugs and other offences
  - Police statistics confirm that hotspots concentrate offenders and victims geographically

The studies have been able to conclude that youth exposed to any or all of the following conditions are more likely to commit delinquent acts than those who are not:

- Born into a family in relative poverty and inadequate housing;
- Brought up with inconsistent and uncaring parenting;
- Limited social and cognitive abilities;
- Presenting behavioural problems in primary school;
- Excluded from, or dropping-out of, school;
- A witness or victim of intra-familial violence;
- Frequently unemployed and with relatively limited income;
- Living with a culture of violence on television and in the neighbourhood.

The overall list of established causes should be important for efforts to solve youth offending. It implies that sectors, that can tackle these problems such as housing, social services, schools, police and so on, should be able to reduce youth offending.

Various innovative projects have been established along these lines. A few of them have been evaluated scientifically by comparing children who experienced the programme to similar children who did not. The results provide strong evidence that investing in children to solve these problems is much more effective than court ordered sanctions such as incarceration. It is the results of some of these projects that are the focus of the next part of this paper.

Bonnemaïson provided the vision where crime will be solved through wise partnerships of schools, local government and policing to tackle these multiple causes. These must use systematic analysis, planning, implementation, and evaluation

The various guidelines have been accepted including the UN Guidelines for Crime Prevention, which include:

- Multi-sector partnerships to tackle the multiple social factors associated with crime
- Comprehensive strategies, targeting high risk neighbourhoods and encompassing environmental design

## II. INSPIRING EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS

In 1998 the Crime and Disorder Act included sections to create the *Youth Justice Board* (YJB) which is a permanently funded public body mandated to prevent crime and re-organize the youth justice system by using evidence on effective practice. The prevention, intervention, and rehabilitation strategies of the YJB are knowledge-driven, and follow a process of systematic analysis, planning, implementation, and evaluation.

The antecedents to the YJB are important as they show that the government was interested in using its funds carefully and committed to implementing change.

- In 1994, the audit report concludes that paying for police and criminal justice was *Misspent Youth*.
- In 1998, the government passes the trail blazing Crime and Disorder Act which establishes the Youth Justice Board to implement effective pre-crime prevention.
- In 2003, an audit of its flagship youth prevention programme concludes that youth offending is reduced by more than 50% in 70 communities.

Crime prevention is a permanent part of the youth justice structure of the United Kingdom. Resources allocated to prevention are used to identify and promote various strategies that are known to be effective in reducing crime. The YJB sets out to achieve specific short and long-term crime reduction goals, and invests a portion of its funds toward the quality of implementation and the evaluation of its efforts in crime prevention.

The “Youth Inclusion Programme” is a prime example of the YJB’s knowledge-driven practice. For this national programme, the YJB funded an independent group called Crime Concern to focus on the 50 most at-risk youth aged 13-16 in 70 of the most difficult neighbourhoods. The youth are provided with 10 hours a week of activities, including sports training, in information technology, mentoring, and help with literacy and numeracy issues. The Programme also includes assistance in dealing with violence, drugs, gangs and personal health. I mentioned Crime Concern in my first paper and I will have more to say in my section on implementation below.

One of the YJB’s goals is to achieve an overall 30% reduction in youth offending in at least two-thirds of the neighbourhoods with a Youth Inclusion Programme. The YJB set aside 8% of the Youth Inclusion Programme costs to ensure the quality of its implementation, and 6% for the evaluation of the project nationwide.

A preliminary evaluation of the Youth Inclusion Programme reports a 65% reduction in youth arrests, a 27% reduction in youth removed from schools, and a 16% reduction in overall crime. The Youth Inclusion Programme clearly illustrates the reductions in crime and victimization that can result from the leadership of a governmental crime prevention responsibility centre dedicated to effective practice.

The programme costs about \$5,000 per place per year. Coincidentally, this is the cost of taking a young offender through the youth justice system for one offence.

The Youth Justice Board used the results from the evaluation to expand the programme to more than 100 neighbourhoods and start an equivalent programme with youth aged 8-13.  
[[www.youth-justice-board.gov.uk](http://www.youth-justice-board.gov.uk)]

Crime Concern meets the challenges from the Youth Justice Board to reduce youth arrests by 65% and general crime by 16%.

- Locates 50 most at risk youth aged 13-16 in each of 70 of the most difficult neighbourhoods
  - 10 hours a week focused on sports, training in information technology, mentoring, help with literacy and numeracy, and coping with violence, drugs, gangs and personal health
  - cost about \$5,000 per place per year
  - Targets
  - 60% reduction in youth arrests
  - 30% general reduction in crime
  - 30% reduction in youth removed from schools.
- | Targets                                      | Outcome |
|--|---------|
| 60% reduction in youth arrests               | 65%     |
| 30% general reduction in crime               | 16%     |
| 30% reduction in youth removed from schools. | 30%     |

The Youth Justice Board used the results from the evaluation to expand the programme to 140 neighbourhoods and start an equivalent programme with youth aged 8-13.

One important primary source used by most of the prestigious reviews is Del Elliott's "Blue Prints" programme at the University of Colorado at Boulder, which has identified eleven of the most effective early childhood and youth programmes for reducing delinquency.

In 1996, the Centre for the Study and Prevention of Violence (CSPV), with funding from the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice and the Centres for Disease Control (and later from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency), initiated a project to identify ten violence prevention programmes that met a very high scientific standard of *programme effectiveness—programmes that could provide an initial nucleus for a national violence prevention initiative*.

Their objective was to identify truly outstanding programmes, and to describe these interventions in a series of "blueprints". The practical descriptions set out the theoretical rationale, the core components of the programme as implemented, the evaluation designs and results, and the practical experiences programmes encountered while implementing the programme at multiple sites.

The blueprints would allow states, communities, and individual agencies to: (1) determine the appropriateness of this intervention for their state or community; (2) provide a realistic cost estimate for this intervention; (3) provide an assessment of the organizational capacity needed to ensure its successful start-up and operation over time; and (4) give some indication of the potential barriers and obstacles that might be encountered when attempting to implement this type of intervention. (Elliott, 2002)

There are now eleven model programmes which have met these rigorous selection criteria. In addition, a number of programmes met some of the criteria and were designated promising programmes. The Blue Prints web site (Elliott, 2002) contains considerable information on each of the programmes.

The Blue Prints projects at the early childhood and in primary school level include:

- Sending nurses to *visit homes* of new mothers who are at risk, such as young single mothers, of low socio-economic background and weak school achievement. The aim is to improve their parenting skills by assisting with infant health and development problems as well as strengthening the mother's support network and development.
- Developing *emotional skills* for primary school children so that they can understand, express and regulate their emotions. *PATHS* is one model programme. Another is the *Incredible years*.
- Using pre-school and other programmes to increase the cognitive and social abilities of children, particularly in underprivileged socio-economic surroundings.
- Increasing support and respite for parents.

The Blue Prints projects at the teenage - secondary or high school – level include:

- Fostering adult *mentors* who can develop a caring relationship with youth aged 6-18 from single parent families reduces youth crime. Big brothers, big sisters are the best known example of this programme.
- Reducing *dropping out* from school for small groups of disadvantaged teens reduces delinquency and violence. Quantum Opportunities provided education and development coupled as well as a sustained relationship with a peer group and a caring adult over the four years of high school. It focused on youth at risk from poor families and neighbourhoods to graduate from high school and attend college.
- Preventing *bullying* by changing the social climate at the school to increase awareness and make appropriate responses through involving students, teachers, and parents. It enforces rules and assists both victims and bullies.
- Avoiding *drug abuse* from primary to secondary school by training students in *life skills* and providing information and skills to avoid drug use. The *Midwestern Project* tackles parent, school, media, community organization and health policy to reduce adolescent drug use.

A further group of Blue Prints deal with chronic and violent juvenile offenders:

- Helping parents to deal with specific factors in their family life, such as the family, peer, school and neighbourhood, that contribute to poor school performance, deviant peers and crime. *Multi-systemic Therapy* is one model programme. *Function Family Therapy* is another which also emphasises using outside system resources.

- Providing *foster care* as an alternative to incarceration, which provides structured and therapeutic living with foster parents

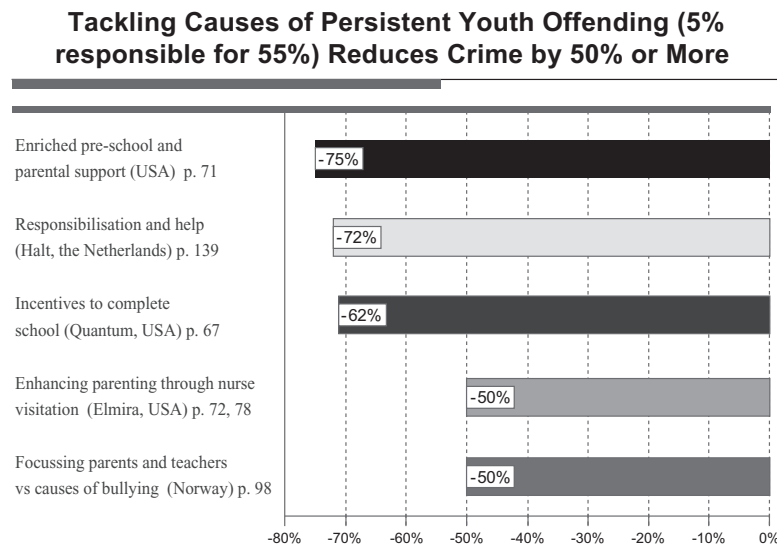
When treating young children and their parents, the following interventions have proved useful:

- Visiting at-risk families at home to improve parenting skills (particularly of young, single, low income mothers with limited schooling).
- Increasing support and assistance for parents.
- Using preschool and after-school programmes to increase the cognitive and social abilities of children, particularly in underprivileged social environments.

The following interventions are used with school-age children:

- Improving cognitive and social skills through at-home visits by teachers and structured recreational and cultural activities.
- Providing incentives to complete secondary studies by offering educational and financial assistance.
- Improving self-esteem and social integration capacity through neighbourhood programmes such as Big Brothers/Big Sisters and Boys & Girls Clubs.
- Offering on-the-job training and opportunities.
- Organizing school and after-school activities to decrease violent behaviour.
- Working with families of first time youthful offenders to decrease domestic dysfunction.

Governments and communities that tackle the established causes of the concentrations of crime achieve reductions such as those demonstrated in the following chart for the social causes.



Promising results for individual prevention projects in the USA, the Netherlands and the UK have been confirmed by thorough evaluations and demonstrate that crime can be reduced. Though the USA has made little use of its research to multiply effective projects, it is a rich source of extensive blue prints for ways to intervene with teenagers, pre-teens and young children to reduce everything from persistent offending to school bullying.

A recent study was completed on the impact of an early childhood project in Chicago on the lives of 989 children born in a disadvantaged suburb of Chicago. The study compared the 989 children with a comparison group of 550 born in the same neighbourhood. 17% of those who attended the child parent centre had been arrested by age 20 compared to 25% of the comparison group. So the Child Parent Centre contributed to a 32% reduction in arrests.

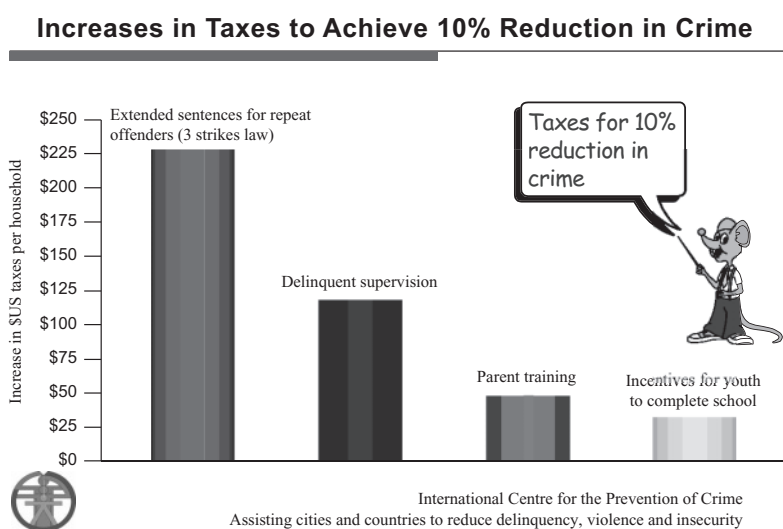
The knowledge available goes beyond what has been shown to reduce crime and victimisation. We also

have some useful information about the comparative costs and benefits of different strategies and some of this information is being used to decide large investments by governments in strategies to reduce crime. Some is being used to avoid litigation as we shall see in the USA in later chapters.

The analysis underlying these conclusions can be illustrated by the cost benefit analysis of the Chicago Child Parent Centre. (Reynolds et al., 2002) The average cost of the programme per child was \$6,730. Benefits were demonstrated of \$25,771 made up of \$4,000 to \$7,000 for each of four sectors. For instance, \$7,200 additional taxes were paid. Similar benefits were identified for the reduction in losses to victims, decreased costs for policing and criminal justice, and less need for remedial services.

When these sectoral benefits are aggregated, they represent a benefit of \$3.83 for every dollar invested. For the 1000 children in the study this is \$26 million which is impressive enough. But for the total of 100,000 children who have passed through this programme, this represents \$2.6 billion in benefits. The taxes are real production, but the benefits to remedial services and criminal justice represent freeing these services for other purposes rather than actual savings to taxpayers.

These savings far exceed those from detention. Rand has already shown that for a 10% reduction in crime, taxes would need to be increased US \$250 per household for incarceration, yet only US \$50 for assistance with school completion and US \$35 for family training (ICPC, 1999a).



In addition, investments in crime prevention through social development provide other social benefits as shown for the Chicago Child Parent Centre.

### III. THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

City wide crime will be solved through joint work of schools, local government and policing to tackle multiple causes.

In France, reports from the Mayors' Commission chaired by Gilbert Bonnemaïson have inspired the creation of over a thousand local government Community Crime Prevention Councils to tackle problems of urban planning and youth delinquency. Headed by the Délégation interministerielle à la ville (DIV; Inter-ministerial secretariat to the city), the Councils receive local safety contracts, which require municipalities to perform safety audits involving resident participation and consultation. The contracts further require the implementation of a rigorous action plan, along with the evaluation of actions taken. [www.ville.gouv.fr]

Bonnemaison Approach in France

- City crime prevention councils

Federation of Canadian Municipalities

- Primer gives an explanation on how to

White Paper on Safety and Security, South Africa

Habitat - Safer Cities

Crime and Disorder Act, UK

- requirement of cities and police services to collaborate in inter-agency strategy with schools, social services □

Neighbourhood renewal unit, UK

In 1998, the UK adopted the landmark Crime and Disorder Act, requiring every local government to establish a permanent committee jointly chaired by a senior manager from the city and the police service. The committee must create a permanent responsibility centre to bring together police services, municipal government, schools, social services, and so on, ensuring a multi-sector approach to community safety. The committee must examine the crime problems faced by the city and prepare an appropriate strategy to respond to them. Cities hire skilled staff to prepare the diagnosis for the committee and implement the plan. Many of these plans are available to the public over the Internet for comment, and all strategies must include some type of evaluation. Agencies such as Crime Concern and NACRO (see first paper), which were established to provide technical assistance and coaching to those implementing crime prevention, assist local governments in ensuring the success of this process.

The city of Brent is one of 350 communities in the UK to provide core funding for crime prevention planning that is separate from policing. With a population of 250 000, Brent receives \$650,000 in core funding, allowing them to plan for crime prevention through systematic crime analysis, community mobilization, and project proposal. Brent receives another \$800,000 in project funds to implement and evaluate community-based efforts. At the municipal level alone, this represents a cost of \$6 per resident. [www.brent.gov.uk/crimezone]

Recognizing the important role that local governments play in ensuring community safety through crime prevention, City leaders across Canada have taken these matters into their own hands. The Federation of Canadian Municipalities has produced a primer that guides municipal leaders on how to implement these strategies. The City of Toronto adopted a *Municipal Community Safety Plan* in 2004 balancing enforcement and prevention to address increases in gun violence and youth crime.

- a *Mayor's Advisory Panel on Community Safety* was created - comprising the Mayor, city councillors, school board officials, provincial and federal representatives, the Attorney General of Ontario, judges, business people, youth, citizens, media - to coordinate a multi-sector strategy to tackle the root causes of crime in Toronto.
- At-risk neighbourhoods will benefit from increased resources and support, and efforts will focus specifically on guns, gangs, and increasing economic opportunities.
- A *Community Safety Secretariat* will co-ordinate, implement, and evaluate the Panel's plans and initiatives.

Since 1982, the City of Montreal annually invests \$1.50 per resident for *Tandem Montreal*, a city agency that integrates, coordinates, and financially supports local crime prevention initiatives based on "what works" to prevent crime.

- With a current budget of around \$1.5 million, Tandem focuses on improving home security and safety for children, youth, women, and the elderly, with particular attention to at-risk neighbourhoods.
  - Tandem's success has been exemplary in Canada, with a 50% drop in home burglary in Montreal since 1982.
  - Tandem funded and supported "Little Burgundy's Neighbourhood Coalition", which reduced overall crime by 46% and violent crime by 45% for that particular high crime neighbourhood.

#### IV. COUNTRY WIDE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK TO MAINTAIN CRIME PREVENTION

The UN Guidelines for Crime prevention call for a permanent and funded responsibility centre for prevention. Based on scientific knowledge of "what works" in reducing crime, this entity provides the leadership for creating and co-ordinating crime prevention strategies and partnerships, while also seeking

active public participation.

As a permanent part of crime policy and programming, this centre has a voice that is equal to the other three pillars of crime control (police, courts, and corrections). It has adequate resources to ensure that crime prevention programmes are sustained to produce significant long-term reductions in crime and victimization.

On an international level, examples of government action in Sweden, Australia and the United Kingdom, for example, show how jurisdictions have implemented more developed crime prevention plans through proper legislation, funding, and a dedication to research and evaluation. These strategies benefit from adequate funding, and provide clear accountability for programming, coordinating, and evaluating crime prevention initiatives that are successful in demonstrating the achievement of planned results.

In Sweden, the National Council for Crime Prevention is a permanent agency established by legislation in 1974. It aims to reduce crime through the implementation of crime prevention strategies at both the local and national level. Following a review of its activities, it was re-organized in the 1990's to cover crime response as a whole. The success of this Council is largely attributed to its permanency, and to its strong and well-funded research and evaluation component. [[www.bra.se/web/english/](http://www.bra.se/web/english/)]

In Australia, Crime Prevention Victoria is the successor to a series of multi-sector crime prevention strategies that have evolved over the last decade. Responsible for co-ordinating the crime prevention aspect of the Growing Victoria Together policy, this entity ensures that governments and local key players (police, school, public health, etc.) work in partnership to address the underlying causes of crime. Its priorities are to improve safety on the streets and in homes, and to reduce the incidence of crime and violence among youth. Funding is expended towards local professional development, sustaining successful programmes and evaluating experimental strategies. Similar entities exist in South Australia, New South Wales and Queensland. [[www.justice.vic.gov.au](http://www.justice.vic.gov.au)]

National Crime Prevention Board, Sweden  
 National Crime Prevention Centre, South Africa  
 Youth Justice Board, UK  
 Crime Prevention Victoria, Australia  
 National Crime Prevention Strategy, Canada

The funds available to these boards are also critical. Annual budgets of country wide efforts to invest in prevention vary from less than 1% to nearly 5% of expenditures on law enforcement and criminal justice. A good guideline is spend 5% of CJS expenditures on prevention.

In France, the Délégation interministerielle à la ville (DIV; Inter-ministerial secretariat to the city) was established to promote multi-sector approaches to tackle problems of urban planning and youth delinquency. As a result, over a thousand local governments have created a Community Crime Prevention Council to provide leadership in fostering partnerships between school boards, police, social services, community groups, sports agencies, and so on. Typically the local government will have one or more employees to support and co-ordinate the work of the Council. These Councils diagnose the local crime situation and propose appropriate activities to tackle the particular causes of crime. The DIV also funds a number of national programmes such as summer camps, community justice centres and community policing. [[www.ville.gouv.fr](http://www.ville.gouv.fr)]

In the United Kingdom, the Prime Minister launched the Social Exclusion Unit (SEU) in 1997, a multi-sector approach to reduce social exclusion by tackling crime and improving housing, education, unemployment and health conditions at the local level. The inter-departmental programme has established Units in some of the most high-risk estates of the UK. Efforts focus on making sure everyone has access to mainstream services while also reintegrating those who have fallen through the cracks. The Units benefit from significant and sustained funding, and SEU evaluations show positive impacts such as a 66% reduction in people sleeping on streets at night, a 33% reduction in children excluded from school, and the successful placement of over 17,000 youth previously not involved in school, training or employment. As part of the SEU, a newly established Children's Fund, with a budget of over \$1 billion, will fund local services to increasingly prevent the social exclusion of children and youth. As a parallel project, the UK Department of



Health has invested significant funds in a programme called Sure Start to specifically help young children and families in difficulty. [[www.socialexclusionunit.gov.uk/](http://www.socialexclusionunit.gov.uk/)]

Also parallel to the Social Exclusion Unit of the UK, the federal Neighbourhood Renewal Unit (NRU) was created to narrow the gap between deprived neighbourhoods and the rest of the country. The goals of the NRU are to tackle the many core problems that contribute to deprivation, such as weak economies and poor schools. To this end, around \$4.5 billion was invested over four years in multi-sector Neighbourhood Renewal Teams to improve local services and conditions in 88 of the most deprived estates of the UK. As a comprehensive strategy, the NRU also funds and implements Neighbourhood Warden Teams, who work closely with residents, police and local organizations to reduce individual deprivation and anti-social behaviour. The NRU further funds other national partnership programmes, such as the Neighbourhood Management Pathfinders, who are responsible for testing new ways of effectively delivering multi-sector services at the local level. In its dedication to effective practice, the NRU also has a Research and Development Branch, as well as a Skills and Knowledge Branch. [[www.neighbourhood.gov.uk](http://www.neighbourhood.gov.uk)]

Integrating Crime Prevention into Social Development  
Interministerial secretariat on the city, France  
Neighbourhood Renewal Units, UK  
Safer beginnings, safer futures, Canada  
Nurse visitation programmes, e.g. Hawaii, USA  
Success requires public support

## V. CHALLENGE OF IMPLEMENTATION

Among the prerequisites for effective implementation of preventive measures are the following:

### Visibility

- Multiply victimisation and longitudinal surveys
- Public awareness – media, “years”, school curricula

### Capacity

- Invest massively at all levels in prevention training - handbooks

### Ownership

- Promote municipal and school co-ownership with police

### Intersectoral action

- Create responsibility centres at all government levels to mobilise schools, social services, police, parents and others

### Effective government

- Shift investment from law and custody to prevention
- Require accountability for outcomes (not outputs)

## VI. WORLD REPORT ON HEALTH AND VIOLENCE: IMPLEMENTATION STEPS

- Increasing the capacity for collecting data on violence
- Researching violence – its causes, consequences and prevention
- Promoting the primary prevention of interpersonal violence
- Promoting social and gender equality and equity to prevent violence
- Strengthening support and care services for victims
- Bringing it all together – developing a national plan of action

## VII. CANADIANS BELIEVE

- The best examples of crime prevention are support for children and parents (31 per cent), recreational activities for youth (20 per cent), community policing (20 per cent) and educating families on avoiding victimization (14 per cent) - Ekos Research Associates, 2000.
- Eighty seven per cent of Canadians believe that police, government and community groups working together are in the best position to successfully implement crime prevention - Ekos Research Associates, 2000.
- Seventy one per cent of Canadians believe that crime prevention is more cost effective than law enforcement - Ekos Research Associates, 2000.

In California, the public belief in prevention was put to the test in proposition 36. With 61% in favour, the proposition was adopted showing that the public is indeed in favour of prevention when given the facts.

- Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act (Proposition 36)
- Passed by 61% of California voters on November 7, 2000
- Initiative allows:
  - first- and second-time, non-violent, simple drug possession offenders
  - to receive substance abuse treatment in community instead of incarceration
- Initiative allocates \$120 million annually for five and a half years to pay for treatment services
- Public awareness campaign
  - 70% reduction in violent recidivism
  - \$19,000 per offender less in costs
  - \$7 in collateral benefits for every \$1
  - Avoid \$300 million cost of prison

### VIII. CONCLUSIONS

Comprehensive crime prevention strategies – led and organised by crime prevention board at each critical level of government – will lead to a quality of life where rates of crime have been reduced significantly below international norms without any unwarranted increase in taxes and with a better use of present social and criminal justice policy dollars.

This requires legislation to assure the permanency and sustainability of the lead crime prevention entity as well as the investment of 5% of enforcement and criminal justice dollars, so that it can do the diagnosis and planning as well as foster the implementation and evaluation of the measures that are needed.

It will need to use what has been tested and shown to reduce crime and elsewhere as well as capacity development, better data and so on. The following overviews some of the elements discussed above that would form part of the business plan to reduce crime and victimization, avoid considerable annual losses due to crime and improve the quality of life.

Business plan for Prevention that will reduce crime and its costs by 50% in the next ten years

1. Consolidate national, state and local government centres to
  - Spearhead shift to solving crime
  - 5% rule.
2. Main stream well planned crime prevention into policing, schools and local government and set targets.
3. Invest immediately in human skills to implement well planned crime prevention at State and local level.
4. Ensure basic data such as victimisation, longitudinal, offender based and comparative co-benefit.
5. Communicate to public what works and targets will be set
6. Balance efforts to tackle common crime, intra-familial violence and high need communities – start with quick hits.

Results are less crime, less costs and a better future for youth.

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