

SAFER **CITIES**



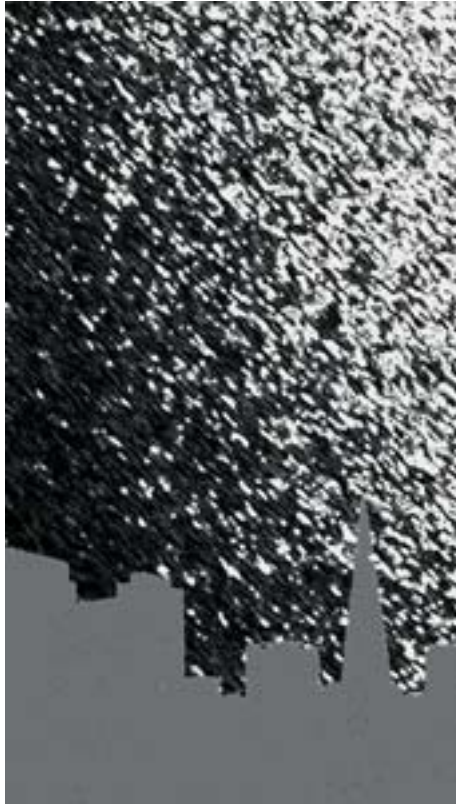
REDUCING AND PREVENTING CRIME AND VIOLENCE

In the same series:

What is Conflict?
What is Interpersonal Communication?
What is Negotiation?
What is Facilitation?
What is Mediation?
What is Decision Making?
What is Participatory Planning?

This Booklet was developed by Partners Foundation for Local Development FPDL, in cooperation with UN-HABITAT in Serbia and UN-HABITAT Safer Cities Programme, with the financial support of the Government of Italy.

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SAFER CITIES

Reducing and Preventing Crime and Violence

INTRODUCTION

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STRATEGIES TO REDUCE AND PREVENT CRIME AND VIOLENCE

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COMMUNITY-BASED CRIME AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION

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CONCLUSIONS

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Booklet is to support local public officials and community members to make their cities safer by joint strategies aimed at reducing and preventing crime and violence. It brings together theories that explain the causes of crime and violence, approaches to address them, a model for a crime prevention process, as well as international examples of municipal crime and violence reduction and prevention strategies.

What is Crime? What is Violence?

We propose the following definitions¹:

Crime is a breach of a rule or a law for which a punishment may ultimately be prescribed by some governing authority or force.

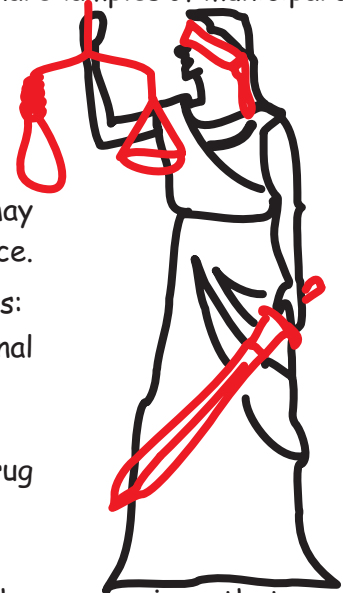
Generally speaking, crime could be divided into four main categories:

- **General crime:** murders, assaults, against property, personal freedoms and rights
- **Economic crime:** forgeries, tax evasion, smuggling, frauds
- **Crime against public peace and order:** family violence, drug production, possession and distribution
- **Traffic crime**

What is considered to be a crime changes over time. Of course, there are crimes that are from times immemorial and nearly universally outlawed such as murder, theft or rape. But there are other behaviors and actions that over time were criminalized or decriminalized, such as in the recent history, gambling, prostitution or alcohol consumption.

Violence is a crime in which the offender uses or threatens to use violent force upon the victim. This entails both crimes in which the violent act is the objective, such as murder, as well as crimes in which violence is the means to an end, such as robbery. Violent crimes include crimes committed with and without weapons.

It may be useful to know the typology of violence as described by the World Report on Violence and Health (WRVH):



¹Wikipedia, The free encyclopedia

- **Self-directed violence** in which the perpetrator and the victim are the same individual: self-abuse and suicide.
- **Interpersonal violence** between individuals: family and intimate partner violence (child maltreatment, intimate partner violence, elder abuse) and community violence (youth violence, assault by strangers, violence related to property crimes, violence in workplaces).
- **Collective violence** committed by larger groups of individuals: social, political and economic violence.

The Costs of Crime and Violence

In recent decades crime and violence increased dramatically. The global statistics are chilling: two out of three inhabitants in any big city are victimized at least once over a five year period. In all countries, most suspects as well as most victims of violence are young males. Youth crime (12 - 25 years) continues to increase and to become more violent, while the age of entrance into delinquency decreased to 10 years. The most common crime committed is theft, followed by burglary. Violent crimes account for up to 15% of all reported crimes².

Crime has always two victims: the person who suffers loss or injury and the entire community. When faced with rising crime, neighbors retreat behind locked doors, businesses are abandoned and streets become empty at night. Fear creates isolation and that increases the neighborhood's vulnerability to crime.

The costs of crime and violence are high and in order to be measured, they are often divided into different categories, such as:

- monetary and non-monetary costs
- economic and social costs



²Local Crime Prevention Toolkit, UN HABITAT

Monetary and Non-monetary Costs

Monetary costs of crime and violence are represented by:

- The value of goods and services spent from public and private resources, on the criminal justice system, incarceration, medical services, housing and social services, in order to deal with the effects of crime and violence
- The value of lost investment opportunities
- The value of victims' foregone earnings



Non-monetary costs are represented by the non-economic effects on the victims of crime and violence, such as:

- Disabilities, mental injuries, depressive disorders
- Increased alcohol or drugs abuse (substance abuse)
- Loss of lives



Economic and Social costs

The economic costs can be measured through the overall impact that crime and violence have on:

- The economic situation of a city
- The labor market
- The work productivity



The social costs are measured by the impact of crime and violence, such as:

- The erosion of social capital
- The erosion of confidence in the governmental institutions
- The inter-generational transmission of violence



For example, victims of domestic violence have higher rates of absenteeism, are more likely to be fired from their jobs. Domestic violence has a devastating effect on children witnessing it. Several studies revealed a significant link between victimization in childhood and later involvement in violent crimes, revealing a cycle of violence. Children that had been abused or witnessed abuse were more likely to be arrested as juveniles and as adults for violent crimes³.

³The National Institute of Justice Report, "The Cycle of Violence" by Cathy Spatz Widom, University of Albany, New York (1992)

Addressing Crime and Violence at Local Level

Due to the fact that crime occurs at local level, effective crime prevention policies should be taken at this level, with support from the regional and national governments. Mayors across the world are increasingly faced with electorates pressing for urgent action to make their communities safer. But often local governments do not have the skills and resources to offer an effective response to these requests. Many studies and actions across the world, built up the consensus that more proactive and coordinated strategies are needed at local level:

- The United Nations has developed a series of Crime Prevention Declarations that focus on proactive approaches that address social and economic factors linked to crime.
- This work has been further reinforced by the United Nations' Program for Human Settlements (UN HABITAT) Safer Cities Program. The program was launched in 1996 at the request of African mayors who wanted to address urban violence by developing prevention strategies at the city level. This shift to include local authorities in responding to urban violence was significant in broadening those responsible for crime and safety issues.
- The World Bank has also recognized the impact at local level on community safety.
- ECOSOC Resolution on Urban Crime Prevention (1995) and the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime (2002) highlight the need to support communities efforts and initiatives.
- A number of international meetings/conferences on urban safety and crime prevention involving regional bodies (European Forum for Urban Safety, Federation of Canadian Municipalities, U.S. Conference of Mayors) brought together experts and practitioners, further endorsing local actions that focus on prevention.
- Meetings for practitioners (elected officials, police, academics) have explored the relationship of prevention to each group. Key bodies involved national and local crime prevention councils from various countries and specific interest groups (International Association of Chiefs of Police, International Centre for the Prevention of Crime).

Over the last years, many EU Member States developed national and local crime prevention policies. Determining factors standing behind successful strategies are usually:

- A high level political commitment, making available adequate resources for prevention
- Providing guidance to local and regional governments
- A close cooperation between public authorities, society and the private sector⁴.

⁴ Commission of the European Communities, communication to the EU Council and the Parliament: Crime Prevention in the EU (2004)

STRATEGIES TO REDUCE AND PREVENT CRIME AND VIOLENCE

Better to Prevent than to Cure

The search for solutions to crime and violence made local governments and their law enforcement partners to turn toward more proactive, prevention-focused strategies.

The basic premise was that prevention is more cost effective and with more long-lasting results than repression. Is better to prevent than to cure, is a wise strategy used in many areas and problem-solving processes.

In order to stop crimes and violent acts from occurring, it is crucial to understand and address the causes, the risk factors associated with them, as well as to build safer communities by focusing more on their strengths, rather than exclusively on their weaknesses.

The Prevention Strategies reduce, deter or prevent the occurrence of specific crimes by altering the environment in which they occur, by changing the conditions that cause them and by providing a deterrent in the form of an effective justice system⁵. They are characterized by:

- A shift from a relatively narrow focus on crime prevention to the broader issue of community safety and security as a public good.
- A developing consensus about the need to tackle the social and economic conditions, the risks factors that foster crime and victimization.
- A shift from seeing the primary responsibility as that of the police, to recognizing that governments, communities and partnerships at all levels need to be actively engaged.
- A recognition of the crucial role which local municipal leaders play in this process through organizing and motivating local coalitions.

They can be placed in three main categories, addressing different causes of antisocial behaviors:

- **Criminal Justice Strategies** focusing on punishment of offenders
- **Situational Strategies** that focus on reducing the opportunities to commit crime.
- **Social Development Strategies** that focus on risk groups who are not only socially and/or economically disadvantaged, but who also experience family, school and community problems.



⁵Local Crime Prevention Toolkit, UN HABITAT

Criminal Justice Strategies (Institutional Crime Prevention Strategies)

The traditional response to increasing levels of crime and violence has been one of control or repression, through the Criminal Justice system law enforcement agencies, courts and corrective services. This approach focuses on addressing the problem after the crime or violent act has been committed through the issuing of fines, arrest, various kinds of sentencing and incarceration. Punishment is used also as a deterrent for criminal behavior.

Challenged by the increase in crime rate the criminal justice system usually react by 'toughening' up the legal and justice system, increasing policing resources and capacities, and introducing harsher penalties in an effort to deter and repress crime and violence. In this approach, addressing crime and violence are seen under the responsibility of police and courts.

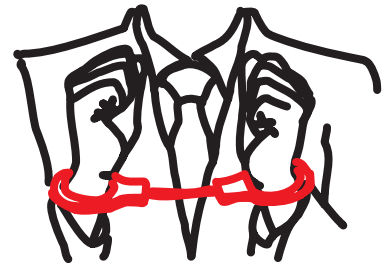
Most countries battling high levels of crime and violence, however, find that these measures are not sufficient to have a significant impact. More laws had not ensured safer communities; building a bigger criminal justice system including courts, police and corrections did not solve crime; longer and more prison sentences and building more prisons proved to be the wrong answer.

Statistical data shows also that, in many countries, despite criminal justice expenditures increasing year by year, crime rates did the same.

In Australia for example, between 1995 and 2000, the expenditures for the criminal justice system had an annual growth rate of 8.4%. In the same period, the rate of recorded violent crime increased nearly one and a half times and the recorded property crime rate doubled.

Governments have increasingly become aware that the traditional criminal justice response alone can not solve the problem of crime.

By the early 1990s in the United States, police and sheriffs, governors, and mayors recognized that although the violence must be removed from the communities and securely detained, the nation could not jail its way out of crime problems⁶.

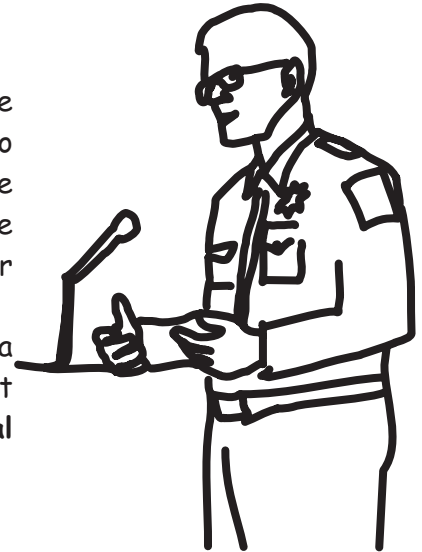


⁶Guide for Community Prevention Partnerships, Northern Government, Australia, Department of Justice, Office of Crime Prevention

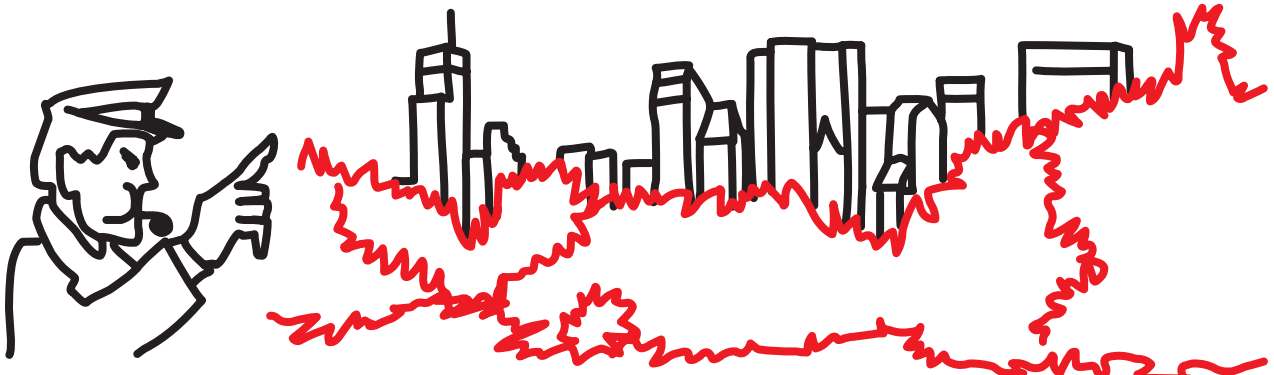
Situational Strategies (Strategies to design, plan and manage public spaces from a crime prevention perspective)

Situational crime prevention strategies aim to reduce the opportunity for crime, to increase the risks of being caught and to reduce the rewards of crime. It focuses on crime-prone situations rather than on offenders, based on the idea that the context in which we live can have a powerful influence on our behavior.

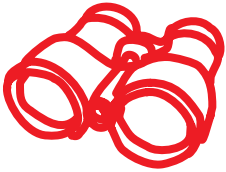
Crime Prevention through Environmental Design - CPTED is a comprehensive situational approach to planning and development that reduces opportunities for crime through **environmental design**, focused especially on the **built environment**.



CPTED strategies rely upon the ability to influence offenders decisions that precede the criminal acts. Research into criminal behavior shows that the decision to offend or not to offend is more influenced by the perceived risk of being caught. Consistent with this research, CPTED based strategies emphasize enhancing the perceived risk of detection and apprehension.

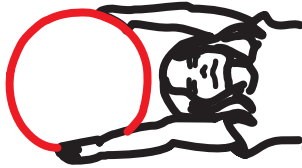
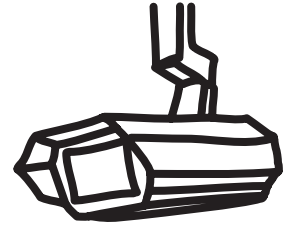


Communities, neighborhoods, individual homes and other buildings, streets and parks can all be made safer through the application of design principles that make it more difficult to carry out inappropriate activities. CPTED can reduce crime and fear through:



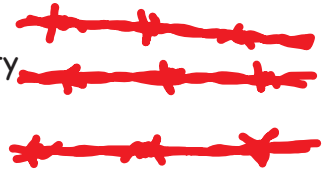
Territoriality - fostering residents' interaction, vigilance, and control over their neighborhood through community policing programs, such as the Neighborhood Watch scheme.

Surveillance - maximizing the ability to spot suspicious people and activities by improving street lighting, controlling access to buildings or restricting traffic and pedestrian flow, complemented by mechanical and organizational measures such as closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras that can be added in areas where window surveillance is unavailable.



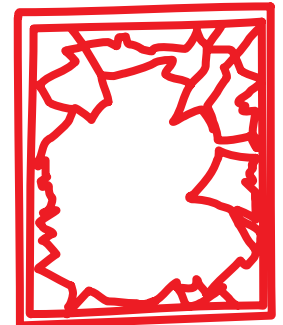
Activity support - encouraging the intended use of public space by residents with the intent of increasing the risk of detection of criminal and undesirable activities.

Access control/target hardening - using physical barriers, security devices and tamper-resistant materials to restrict entrance.



Environment - a design or location decision that takes into account the surrounding environment and minimizes the use of space by conflicting groups.

Image/Maintenance - ensuring that a building or an area is clean, well maintained, and graffiti-free. Maintenance is an expression of ownership of property. Deterioration indicates less control by the intended users of a site and indicate a greater tolerance of disorder.



Some Examples of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

Netherlands, Wagaman Residents' Committee for Amsterdam Circuit Park

The Wagaman Residents' Committee was formed in October 1999 in response to concerns about crime and anti-social behavior in the vicinity of Amsterdam Circuit Park. After a safety and security audit of the area, the Committee found that installation of lights in the park would discourage anti-social behavior in the area and increase the safety of residents using the park. A newsletter drop was undertaken by local residents to raise community awareness of the plan. Residents have reported that the level of antisocial behavior in the park has decreased since installation of the lighting, and hence, the park was used more often by residents.

Norway, Løvstakken Project

In the 1990's city owned housing in Løvstakksiden was in poor physical state: outdoor areas and playgrounds were dilapidated and littered and a high number of residents were suffering from alcohol and drug abuse. In 1994, a project, led and developed by the Bergen Housing and Renewal Company, focused on:

- Improving housing standards in and around the housing
- Upgrading outdoor and playgrounds
- Providing services to improve safety and quality of life

Some of the main activities included:

- Employment of private security to patrol on evenings and report problems
- Installation of specialized doors between flats and staircases against burglary
- The reconstruction of a building into a Community House
- The recruitment of additional partners to run the Community House for youth and immigrants



The Community House is used today for public meetings, social gatherings and official meetings between residents and township or housing representatives. The second floor provides rooms for the Youth Council created in 1996, with the support of the Norwegian Ministry of Children and Families. A Neighborhood committee was started at the initiative of residents working as an adult resource to the Youth Council. The Bergen Police established a Neighborhood Police Office, which functions as a service to the residents as opposed to control. The local crime rate in the neighborhood dropped by 25% between 1998-2000. A survey conducted in 1999 revealed that residents living in the renovated flats were happier with facilities and outdoor areas.

USA, Neighborhood Watch



Neighborhood Watch is one of the oldest and most effective crime prevention programs in USA, bringing citizens together with law enforcement to deter crime and make communities safer. Sponsored by the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA), Neighborhood Watch can trace its roots back to the days of colonial settlements, when night watchmen patrolled the streets. The modern version of Neighborhood

Watch was developed in response to requests from sheriffs and police chiefs who were looking for a crime prevention program that would involve citizens and address an increasing number of burglaries. Launched in 1972, Neighborhood Watch counts on citizens to organize themselves and work with law enforcement to keep a trained eye and ear on their communities, while demonstrating their presence at all times of day and night. The program took off quickly: in just ten years, NSA data showed that 12% of the population was involved in a Neighborhood Watch. Neighborhood Watch works because it reduces opportunities for crime to occur.

UK, Liverpool, Crime and Opportunity Reduction

An alley gating scheme in Liverpool has proved to be a successful way of reducing crime and fear of crime. Alleys or alleyways are narrow walkways between housing where gates are installed to restrict access only to residents. Numerous benefits of alley gating include, among others:

- Reduction of domestic burglary and drug dealing
- Reduction of fear of crime
- Creation of a safer and cleaner environment
- Eradication of areas where anti-social behavior takes place
- Improvement of community spirit by giving a sense of ownership of the alley etc.



The applications for planning permissions and closure for a standard alley gating scheme are covered by the city council, but the residents have to pay for the gates themselves. Once the gates and the alley are installed, it is the responsibility of its owner and the neighbors to maintain the gates and look after the alley through a residents' association.

USA, New York City, Applying the "Broken Windows Theory"

Fixing Broken Windows: Restoring Order and Reducing Crime in Our Communities by George L. Kelling and Catherine Coles is a criminology and urban sociology book published in 1996, about crime and strategies to contain or eliminate it from urban neighborhoods. The title of the book comes from the 1982 article *Broken Windows* by James Q. Wilson and George L. Kelling, including the following example:

Consider a building with a few broken windows. If the windows are not repaired, the tendency is for vandals to break a few more windows. Eventually, they may even break into the building, and if it's unoccupied, perhaps become squatters or light fires inside. Or consider a sidewalk. Some litter accumulates. Soon, more litter accumulates. Eventually, people even start leaving their bags of trash from take-out restaurants or breaking into cars.



A successful strategy for preventing is to fix the problems when they are small. Repair the broken windows within a short time, say, a day or a week, and the tendency is that vandals are much less likely to break more windows or do further damage. Clean up the sidewalk every day, and the tendency is for litter not to accumulate (or for the rate of littering to be much less). Problems do not escalate and thus respectable residents do not flee a neighborhood. The theory makes two major claims: that petty crime and low-level anti-social behavior will be deterred, and that major crime will, as a result, be prevented.

The book's author, George L. Kelling, was hired as a consultant to the New York City Transit Authority in 1985 and robust measures to test the Broken Windows theory were implemented. Graffiti vandalism was intensively targeted, and the subway system was cleaned line by line and car by car from 1984 until 1990. In 1990, the new head of the New York City Transit Police described George L. Kelling as his "intellectual mentor", and implemented Zero Tolerance of fare-dodging, easier arrestee processing methods and background checks on all those arrested. Since 1993 mayor Rudy Giuliani also adopted the strategy more widely in New York City under the rubrics of "zero tolerance" and "quality of life". Rates of both petty and serious crime fell suddenly and significantly, and continued to drop for the following ten years⁷.

⁷The 2001 Study of Crime Trends in New York by George Kelling and William Sousa

Social Development Strategies

Crime Prevention Through Social Development (CPTSD) is a long term developmental approach, aiming to improve social and economic conditions in communities and strengthening the social bonds by encouraging people to participate in strategies and decision making in short, by strengthening the community.

CPTSD does not replace other crime prevention strategies, but complement them. It is based on partnerships and collaboration among agencies and groups responsible for dealing with the conditions that are associated with crime. This includes those responsible for planning and development, for family, health, employment and training, housing, social services, leisure activities, schools, police and other sectors of the justice system.

Social Development Strategies may include:

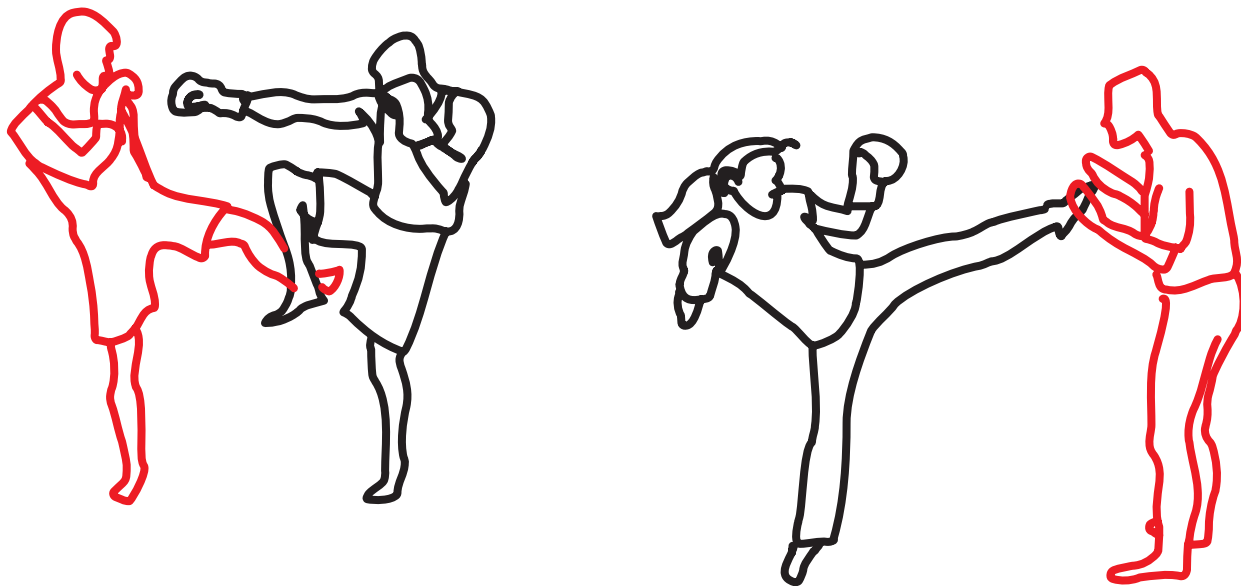
- **Child and Youth Development** programs that focus on interventions to improve the life chances of children and youth by ensuring they grow up in secure and caring environments. It is proved that it is a crucial link between early childhood development and violence prevention: early childhood is a critical time during which essential intellectual and emotional abilities are formed; early experience of violence impact brain development, survival skills being preferentially developed at the expense of learning and other social skills. Interventions should include improved parenting programs, enriched day care and programs that improve the chances of children and youth healthy development.
- **Community Development** programs that capitalize upon resources within communities to strengthen social cohesiveness and neighborhood problem-solving capacity. Initiatives aim to improve the quality of life and health of communities.
- **Economic Development** programs focused on economic opportunities, to address factors like poverty, unemployment, low education levels, discrimination, migration, immigration and social exclusion issues.



For social development strategies to be effective in preventing crime, the activities must be focused and targeted on individuals who are at risk of developing criminal behavior, by tackling the causes of crime and thereby preventing crime before it can occur.

Researches have found that individuals who experience a range of particular, cumulative circumstances are more likely to follow a path that leads to serious offending in adolescence and into adulthood. These are known as "risk factors". Conversely, a range of "protective factors" have been identified. The more protective factors experienced, the lesser the possibility of offending. It's important to note that an individual who experiences risk factors will not automatically become a serious offender. Those on the path to offending can be diverted by early intervention but the longer on the path, the more likely offending behavior will occur.

The information in the following tables will assist in the identification of those at risk of becoming offenders, as well as providing ideas about the sorts of intervention programs that will prevent offending*.



* Guide for Community Crime Prevention Partnerships, Australia, Northern Territory Government, Office of Crime Prevention

INDIVIDUAL CHILD FACTORS

Risk Factors

Prematurely born
Low birth weight
Prenatal brain damage
Low intelligence
Difficult temper
Chronic illness
Low self esteem
Lack of empathy
Alienation
Hyperactivity and disruptive behavior
Impulsiveness
Community/cultural norms against violence
A strong cultural and ethnic pride

Protective Factors

Social skills
Above average IQ
Attachment to family
Empathy
Problem solving skills
Optimism, good coping style
School achievements
Easy temperament
Emotional control
Developed moral beliefs and values
Self-related cognition

SCHOOL FACTORS

Risk Factors

School failure
Deviant peer group
Bullying
Peer rejection
Poor attachment to school
Inadequate behavior management
Inadequate numeracy

Protective Factors

Positive school climate
Pro-social peer group
Responsibility and required helpfulness
Sense of belonging
Opportunities for some success at school and recognition of achievement
School norms not tolerating violence

LIFE EVENTS

Risk Factors

Divorce and family breakup
Death of a family member
Incarceration of a parent

Protective Factors

Meeting significant person
Positive move to new areas
Opportunities at critical turning points or major life transitions



FAMILY FACTORS

Risk Factors

Parental traits
 Teenage mothers
 Poverty
 Single parents
 Psychiatric disorders
 Substance abuse
 Criminality
 Family environment
 Family violence
 Marital discord
 Large family size
 Father absence
 Long-term parental unemployment
 Parenting style
 Poor supervision and monitoring of child
 Rejection of child
 Abuse
 Lack of warmth and affection
 Low involvement in child's activities
 Neglect

Protective Factors

Supportive caring parents and/or carers
 Family harmony
 More than two years between siblings
 Responsibility and required helpfulness
 Secure and stable family
 Supportive relations with other adults
 Small family size
 Strong family norms and morality



COMMUNITY&CULTURAL FACTORS

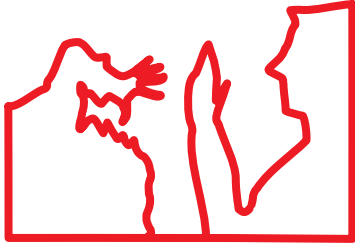
Risk Factors

Social, economic as well as cultural discrimination
 High density and poor infrastructure
 Urban area
 Exposure to violence and crime in the area
 Cultural norms which support violence or anti-social behavior
 Media portrayal of violence
 Lack of support services
 Inadequate social infrastructure
 Low levels of social connection among residents/social capital
 Presence of homeless
 Large and visible gaps between the haves and have nots
 Racism or hatred among residents

Protective Factors

Access to support services
 Community networking
 Attachment to the community
 Participation in church or other community group
 Community/cultural norms against violence
 A strong cultural and ethnic pride

Occasional and Persistent Offenders



The risks factors analysis may help differentiate the occasional offenders from the persistent and serious ones when targeting social development programs. Many people commit one or two delinquent acts in their lifetimes, typically during adolescence, but individuals persistently involved in serious offences, however, are usually more disadvantaged in several areas of their lives than an average person .

The following factors often characterize the persistent offenders:

Location

Crime rates are highest in poor, disadvantaged areas where access to recreational, health and educational services may be lacking, where poor quality and crowded housing conditions exist, and where there are many single young males.

Age

15 to 18 years of age is the peak period for delinquent acts. With persistent and serious delinquents, these acts are likely to start at an earlier age and continue later. Children identified as troublesome by parents and teachers by the age of 10 are more likely to be convicted of a crime at every age up to 25. In one of the most systematic studies, one in four such children were persistent offenders by age 17, compared to one in 150 of the least troublesome.

Sex

Crime usually involves aggression, risk-taking, and predatory behavior. Although there is some overlap between the sexes on aggressivity, research indicates that males are more aggressive than females due to both biological differences and the influences of social learning. Males are much more likely than females to engage in offences involving property and violence.

Personality

Persistent delinquents commonly exhibit personality traits such as cognitive and educational retardation, hyperactivity and attention deficits. These terms describe individuals who have a lower than average IQ, they may have a learning disability or be hyperactive, they are easily bored and frustrated. They react emotionally when angry or upset, and often find it difficult to solve problems in a logical, step-by-step manner. Such individuals experience difficulties in their home, school and work environments⁸.

⁸ Crime Prevention through Social Development, a Discussion Paper for Policy Makers and Practitioners, Canadian Council on Social Development, Canadian Criminal Justice Association

Cities with High Risk: the Social Disorganization Theory⁹

The social disorganization theory assumes that strong networks of social relationships prevent crime and delinquency. When most community or neighborhood members are acquainted and on good terms, a substantial portion of the adult population has the potential to influence each child.

The larger the network of acquaintances, the greater the community capacity:

- For informal surveillance, because residents are easily distinguished from outsiders
- For supervision, because acquaintances intervene when children behave unacceptably
- For shaping children values and interests



Social disorganization is defined as an inability of community members to achieve shared values and to solve jointly experienced problems. The degree of social disorganization is influenced by:

- The rate of turnover in the population (residential instability): when a population of an area is constantly changing, the residents have fewer opportunities to develop strong, personal ties to one another and to participate in community organizations
- Populations size or density: high population density creates problems by producing anonymity that interferes with accountability to neighbors. Average crime rates are higher in communities with larger populations
- The rapid population growth that diminishes greatly the proportion of people who know one another, which in turn interferes with surveillance and socialization of the young
- Family disruption: the smaller the number of parents relative to the number of children, the more limited the network of adults supervision; single parenting strains also parents' resources of time, money, energy and interferes with their ability to supervise their children
- Economic status: urban residential areas with physical, economic and social decline, become most easily available to the poor and emigrants. These areas will also have the greatest residential instability and diversity, which in turn will create social disorganization

⁹ Juvenile Justice Bulletin, 2003, Department of Justice, Washington DC, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Some Examples of Crime Prevention Through Social Development

Canada, Ontario, Academy on Parenting

The Academy on Parenting, a component of TV Ontario, provides learning opportunity combining TV programs, reading materials and discussion groups.

The Academy was developed to assist parents in:

- Acquiring greater understanding of discipline and communication.
- Recognizing family behaviors which may affect children negatively, and proposing solutions

The program stresses six key concerns: children and television, communications in the family, discipline, parenting styles, problem behaviors and seeking advice.



Canada, Alternative Education through Theater

An alternative education program focusing on personal development is promoted by Insight Theatre Company. This program stimulates young people to think and talk about their concerns, and to raise awareness among teenagers and adults. The actors themselves create skits based on their greatest concerns. Problems addressed include teen pregnancy, depression, drug and alcohol abuse, difficulties in communicating, homosexuality, sexual assault and pressures to have sex¹⁰.



Poland, Warsaw, Activities for Youth at Risk

Street University program involved former prisoners in activities with "difficult youth". Its main objective was to prevent crime and anti-social behavior. The realization of the program involved:

- Meetings between young people "at risk" and former prisoners who share their experiences and discuss threats resulting from not obeying social and legal laws.
- Increased number of volunteer program animators working with youth and juvenile delinquents
- Discussing with football fans and improving the security during and after matches
- Organization of recreational activities for young people.



The program has been developed by the municipality of Warsaw, the Department of Security and Crisis Management in partnership with the municipal police and the Warsaw University¹¹.

¹⁰Crime Prevention through Social Development, Canadian Council on Social Development, Canadian Criminal Justice Association

¹¹European Forum for Urban Safety, Urban Crime Prevention Policies in Europe, 2006

Spain, Saragossa, Counteracting Gender Violence.



The Department of Social Issues and Cooperation for Development of the City of Saragossa has developed a Municipal Integrated Plan against Gender Violence, which offers information, psychological, social, legal and work care, and refuge for battered women. This Plan has the objective of tackling the problem of domestic violence from its origin, helping the abused women regain their self-esteem and rebuild their lives.

The Plan is based on four basic pillars: Prevention, Detection, Attention and Insertion.

Prevention is based on raising public awareness related to this problem, through specific campaigns, talks, round tables etc. It is also based on the education of teaching staff (training, elaboration of materials and publications) and of the pupils (of Primary and Secondary education, and University). A book *Educar en Relación* has been published, which is a good instrument to promote values of equality and non-sexist education in schools and institutes.

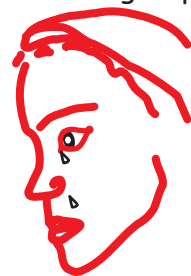
Detection is mainly aimed at bringing to the surface violent situations which are hidden, through the Municipal Centers of Social Services and the House of Woman (information service, and training courses and social promotion, among other things).

Attention

Once the case is detected, the "attention" pillar is realized. It is carried out through the Attention and Support Services where social, psychological, educational and legal support, as well as feeding, dressing and economic aid in general, including support to find stable housing, is offered. Attention is also based on psychological support, by means of individual and group therapy.

Insertion

Finally, the insertion of women takes place through different short courses and participation in real development groups helping women to find a job and to create relations with the surrounding environment¹².



¹²European Forum for Urban Safety, Urban Crime Prevention Policies in Europe, 2006

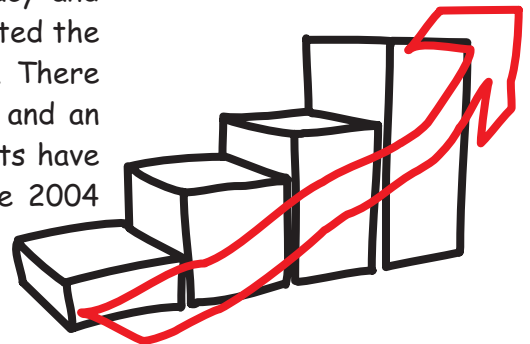
Australia, Queensland, Pathways to Prevention Project

The project Pathways to Prevention Developmental and Early Intervention Approaches to Crime in Australia, was commissioned by the Australian Government in 1997. The 1st stage of the project resulted in the publication of the report Pathways to Prevention, released in 1999. The report pointed to the importance of developmental early intervention approaches in preventing youth crime and other forms of at-risk behavior.

Stage 2 of the project included the implementation of an early intervention in Inala, Queensland, incorporating both family-based and school-based programs. It was an innovative intervention model where a number of partners worked together to support families in promoting their children's cognitive, social, and emotional development. The family support component assisted parents, caregivers, and families to create a stimulating home environment, harmonious and conducive to learning, by providing an array of culturally-sensitive support services. School based interventions involved a Communication Program to improve children's functional language and communication skills, and a Social Skills Program to reduce the incidence and severity of conduct problems, as well as increase the incidence of pro-social behaviors.

So far, results have indicated improved behavior, social competence, and communication skills in children whose families have been involved in project initiatives. Results with children were more successful if they had been involved in a preschool program and one of their parents had participated in one or more of the family programs.

Other indicators pointed to improved parental efficacy and satisfaction in parents and caregivers who have completed the parenting programs, or who sought individual support. There appeared to have been a reduction in family violence and an improvement in family functioning. Project achievements have been recognized through the first prize award in the 2004 Australian Crime and Violence Prevention Awards¹³.



¹³International Centre for the Prevention of Crime: Compendium of Promising Strategies and Programs from around the World, at: <http://www.crime-prevention-intl.org/>

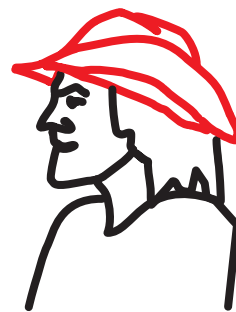
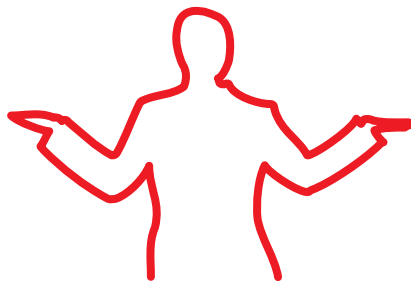
France, Perpignan, Street Mediators

Feelings of insecurity in the city centre and the entire urban area led to the development of this initiative. Conflict arose between homeless people, neighborhood residents and City Centre Businesses.

Under the auspices of the "Boutique de Solidarite", the Institute of Street Mediators hired people (many of whom were homeless) to work with homeless people on the street. Recruitment was by interview and the police and the judicial authorities were consulted when hiring. New agents were selected on the basis of skills (such as street experience), and qualities such as the ability to approach people, motivation and ability to network. Street mediators received no specific training before they started their job. The Director and the team of educators (qualified experts) provided guidance, and monitored the agents' activities. On week days, between the hours of 10:00 am and 8:00 p.m., street mediators did out-reach work in the streets and established contacts with homeless people. Mediators primarily provided information to homeless people, referring them to soup kitchens, shelters and emergency care services.

This project was built into the urban safety plan implemented by the Municipal Crime Prevention Council and was based on partnerships between street mediators having regular contacts with voluntary associations, social workers, business concerns, national and municipal police forces.

Some of the challenges included: there was no training for street mediators, homeless people were becoming younger and younger, many often speaking neither French or English and this made contacts increasingly difficult. Some of the main outcomes included: increased employment among homeless people, local residents appeared to welcome and appreciated the work of street mediators and improved the environment for businesses from a safety perspective¹⁴.



¹⁴International Centre for the Prevention of Crime: Compendium of Promising Strategies and Programs from around the World, at: <http://www.crime-prevention-intl.org/>

Mixed Strategies

While situational measures on their own can reduce crime, they are more effective when they are mixed with other measures, such as criminal justice and social crime prevention strategies. Always a combination of these three approaches is recommended. The benefits are:

- A greater reduction in crime and violence
- Improved community bonding (social capital/social cohesion)
- Reduced fear of crime and violence

Sharing information between partners is critical. Strategies may need ongoing adjustments because of unintended effects or changes in conditions.

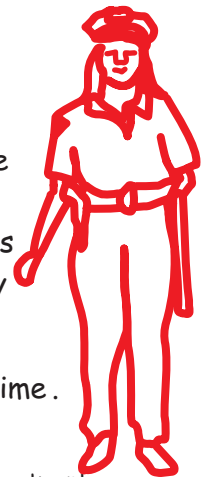
Some Examples of Mixed Strategies

Australia, Queensland, Townsville Safety Action Project¹⁵

The aim of the project was to reduce alcohol-related offences and disorder in and around central business district. The project brought together the City Council, Queensland Police, Department of Tourism, Sport and Youth, Regional Health Authority, Alcohol & Drugs Services, Chamber of Commerce, the Army, Consumers Affairs, Old Centre for Crime Policy and Public Safety, Griffith University and Legal Aid. Significant support came from the Mayor who participated in briefings with the Project Officer, as well as in safety initiatives through council. A Community Forum and a Steering Committee set up Task Groups: Venue Management, Security and Policing, and Safety in Public Places. A Community and Business Survey and Venue Risk Assessments were conducted. The following actions were taken:

- A Project Officer was employed by the council
- Lighting was improved at a taxi rank which was the site of frequent fights
- Emergency telephones were installed at two 'hot spots', with appropriate signage
- Communication between police and security firms was improved
- A Code of Practice for the responsible serving of alcohol was adopted by licensees
- The Venue Management Task Force continues to operate as a self regulating body
- A media program publicized the project, especially the efforts of the licensees.

The Project has been extended and scaled-up because of its success in reducing crime .



¹⁵ Resource Manual in Preventing Crime, Australia, Crime Prevention Division of the NSW Attorney General's Department

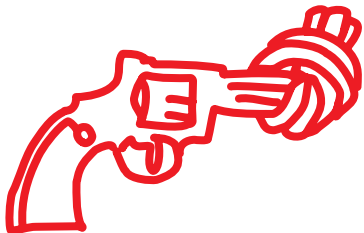
USA, New York City¹⁶

Crime in New York City has been a concern of residents since the 19th century. In the 1980s and early 1990s crime rates spiked as the crack epidemic hit the city. But in 2005 the violent crime and the murder rate in New York City has decreased and was at its lowest level since 1963, and New York had the lowest crime rate among the ten largest cities in the US. This success was the result of mixed strategies applied by the city hall and other public agencies.

Police reforms were introduced during the 1990s by William Bratton, appointed as the 38th Commissioner of the NYPD by Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani. He introduced the CompStat system of tracking crimes, a real-time police intelligence computer system which proved successful in reducing crime and is still used to this day. A new tax surcharge enabled the training and deployment of around 5,000 new better-educated police officers and police decision-making was devolved to precinct level. Police numbers were further boosted in 1995 when New York's housing and transit police were merged into the New York City Police Department (NYPD). The Zero Tolerance Strategy was applied as well as the situational strategies based on the Broken Windows theory. Bratton's efforts to effectively turn around the New York City Police Department is used today by many business schools as a tool for teaching organizational design and change management.

Beside police reform strategies, aimed at making laws enforcement more effective and deter crime, other initiatives were happening in New York, such as:

- Programs that moved people into jobs from welfare
- Housing vouchers that enabled poor families to move to better neighborhoods
- Issuance of more severe laws on drugs (the Rockefeller drug laws)



Researches showed that alternative factors that contributed to the significant decrease in crime rates were:

- The waning of the crack epidemic
- The drop in number of males aged 16-24 due to demographic changes and the legalization of abortion

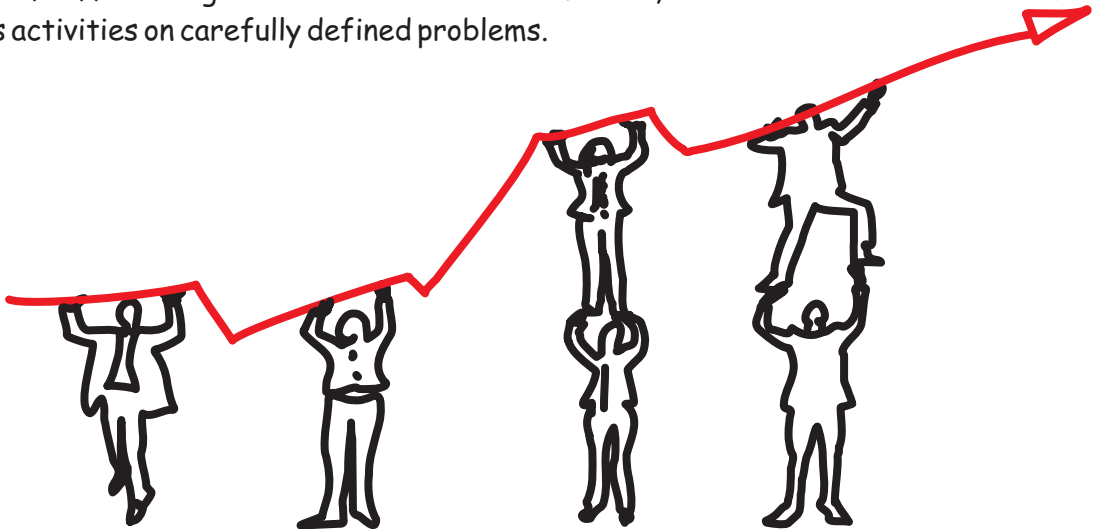
¹⁶Wikipedia, The free encyclopedia

COMMUNITY-BASED CRIME AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION

What is the best way to prevent crime and violence in your community? The answer to this question depends upon the nature of your community's problems and on the human and financial resources available to deal with these problems. In this Booklet, we will provide you with the information local governments and community groups require to design effective crime prevention programs. You will learn how to analyze your community and its crime and violence problems and to design, carry out, and evaluate programs that address the circumstances underlying these problems. The approach we propose assumes that crime and violence are not simply random occurrences, but that they occur in patterned ways. For example, some children are more likely to become involved in delinquent activities than others, crimes are more likely to happen in some places than in others, and certain categories of people are more likely to be victimized than others. We can use our knowledge of these patterns/trends to help prevent future occurrences of the crime and violence.

The key to successful prevention is planning. This means that you will approach your community's problems logically and systematically. You will develop programs that address your community's needs and you will evaluate these programs to ensure they are effective.

Focusing prevention efforts where they are most needed has several positive consequences. First, limited resources can be directed towards the most serious problems. Second, the activities of different agencies can be coordinated. Third, it is easier to assess the results when you focus activities on carefully defined problems.



To guide your work, this booklet presents a Crime Prevention Process Model, adapted from UN HABITAT Safer Cities Toolkit that you can use to design and to carry out problem-oriented prevention programs.

The Process Model, as displayed below, suggests a key role for the Mayor as a Champion and for a Coordinator as a Manager/Coordinator in the mobilization of stakeholders and the development and implementation of a local crime prevention strategy. Although other institutions, including civil society, may in some countries be better equipped or in a better position to drive local crime prevention initiatives, this Booklet's suggestions are based on the philosophy that local governments should be the institution coordinating and supervising local crime prevention partnerships.

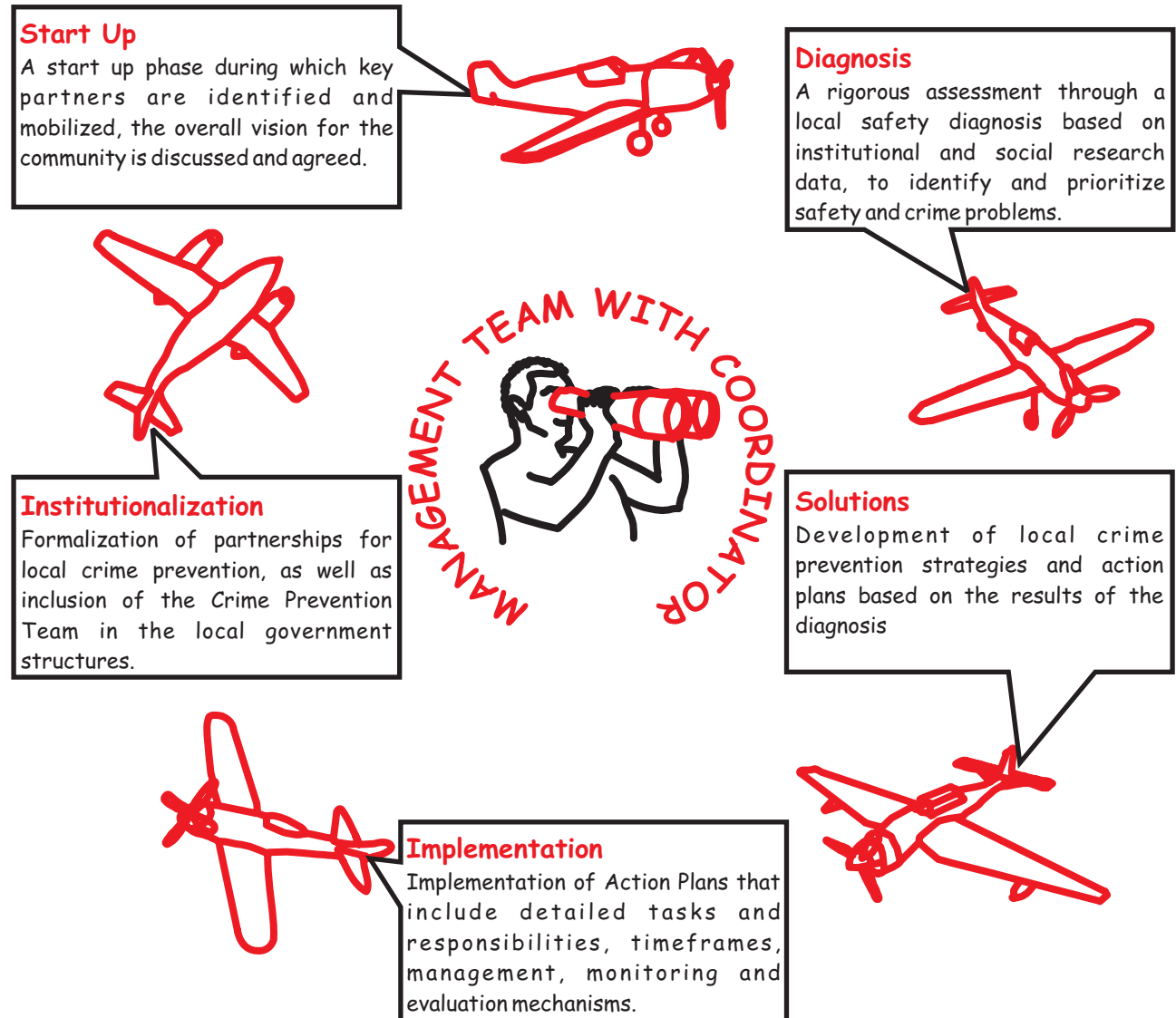
The Process Model suggests a circular process in recognition of the fact that situations are never static but constantly evolving. Therefore, assessments of the environment and dynamics of crime and violence should be ongoing and strategies and action plans should be reviewed on a regular basis. Partnership building and consolidating crime prevention approaches require continuous attention.

Furthermore, management, information and communication as well as monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are essential in making partnerships work.

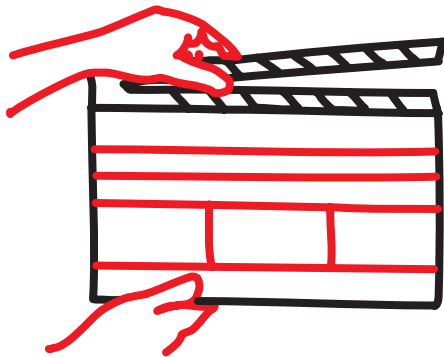


The Local Crime Prevention Process Model

The Local Crime Prevention Process Model consists of the following Phases:



Start Up



Crime and violence are sensitive topics, even frightening ones, and getting started a local crime prevention initiative can be a challenge. A crime prevention initiative depends on the commitment and support of leaders who strongly believe in working together to reduce crime and improve quality of life for citizens.

This phase can have the following steps:

- Know your Environment: identify what the local issues are
- Identify a Coordinator and a Champion: decide on who should take the lead of the Crime Prevention Team
- Mobilize Support and Build Partnerships: decide who should be involved
- Establish a working structure: establish the Crime Prevention Team within an existing government and institutional structure
- Agree on the Vision: what is the local vision of a crime and violence free community
- Launch the Local Crime Prevention Initiative: in a public way, to indicate the start of the process



Making cities safer actually improve the citizens' quality of life.

Example

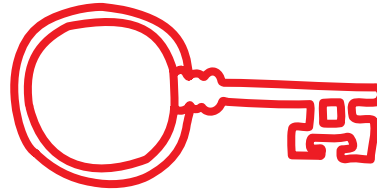
Serbia, Valjevo Vision Statement

Valjevo- the town where citizens will feel safe and free and work together in providing safety for all the community members.

Diagnosis: Local Safety Uppraisal



The objective of this Phase is to diagnose the existing situation through a local crime and safety uppraisal. The term diagnosis is borrowed from the health sector and it means that the assessment goes beyond the symptoms and seeks to establish the causes of the problems.



This Phase can have the following steps:

- Establish a Diagnosis Working Group to design the process and validate results
- Design the Diagnosis process: the DWG agree on the scope, timeframes and budget, on the information to be collected, the sources of information and the methods to be used
- Conduct the Diagnosis: analyze, interpret data and prioritize problems

Before you establish what your community's crime problems are, it is important that you define the boundaries of the focus area of your partnership. This could be a suburb, a town or a whole region. In some cases, the partnership focus area might be defined by factors other than geographical boundaries, such as a crime prevention partnership that focus on socially and economically disadvantaged ethnic groups.

The Diagnosis Phase will need resources: time, money and people. You have to be strategic in what information is collected and how. Use all your existing sources of information and the ones of your key partners.

Remember that violence is normally the most serious problem, but a lot of it (such as domestic violence, rape, and child and elder abuse) is hidden. Remember that community members whose voices are most loudly heard are not necessarily those who are most affected by crime and violence. You need to identify correctly who is most at risk.

If you understand when, where and how a particular crime or act of violence takes place, it is easier to think of ways to prevent it.

What information you will need about Crime and Violence?¹⁷

Information about the nature of crime:

- Diversity of crime types: You will need sources that tell you about all types of crime and violence.
- Where crime and violence occurs: Crime and violence patterns are often linked to particular places so your data should be as location and time-specific as possible.
- Victim/target information: Factors like race, age, sex, occupation, type and location of home or business, type of stolen property.
- Offender characteristics: Factors like age, race, sex, distances traveled to commit the crime / act of violence, previous criminal history and probable motivation for committing the crime.
- Details about how crimes are committed: useful information for trying to prevent crime.

Information about the amount of crime:

- When crime and violence occur: You need information about how much crime occurs in a given period, such as per year, month, season, day and even time of day. This helps indicate whether particular crimes are increasing or decreasing. It is always better to work with data over a long period of time: several years, months, days, etc. These data also help explain crime: levels of crime and violence often increase on certain days of the weekend, after sport events, and during holiday periods such as in December every year.
- Crime rates: Rates are more accurate than numbers if you are comparing areas.
- Impact of crime and violence: This information is helpful, especially if several types of crime are high in your community and you cannot decide where to start. Remember that crimes with the greatest impact are not necessarily those that occur most often.
- The level of fear of crime and violence or feelings of insecurity: This information will help you better understand what people do and how they behave in order to feel safe.

Information about government services delivery:

- People's perceptions on police/courts, health sector, municipal services
- Responses/support available to victims
- Response time



¹⁷ A Resource Guide for Municipalities, Community Based Crime and Violence Prevention in Urban Latin America, The World Bank Department of Finance, Private Sector and Infrastructure

Sources and Methods of Collecting Information on Crime and Violence

Many different sources provide information about crime and violence. The two main sources of information you may use are the Police and the Community.

The Police: Statistics

Police or other law enforcement agencies usually compile figures such as Crime Rates (the number of specific crimes committed among a given number of persons), based on reported crimes.

Statistics are usually collected on:

- Offences - Breaches of the law
- Offenders - Those who commit offences
- Victims - Those who are offended against

However, it is well known that not all crime victims report to the police, police procedures and ways of categorizing the types of crimes can change and may be different from country to country and bias may exist in the gathering and interpretation of statistics. That is why there are several points to keep in mind when using statistics:

- Avoid using a statistic in isolation
- Assess the numbers in the context of time, location and social and economic conditions
- Be aware of who is interpreting and presenting the statistics--ask yourself to what extent the statistics reflect the assumptions, values and priorities of the presenter



The Community: Surveys, Interviews, Focus Group Meetings

Public surveys are sometimes conducted to estimate the amount of crime not reported to police and to ascertain levels of victimization. They are a systematic method of gathering information from your community. They not only fill in the gaps in police data, but also tell you what people think about the crime and violence problems and about existing services, like the police. Your community's perceptions are as important as how much crime happens - community consultation is a vital step in the planning process. People's ideas about local crime and violence problems often differ from what the official statistics suggest.



Interviews with key people could include local leaders of political parties; women's groups; church groups and leaders; non-governmental organizations working on related issues; victim support agencies; legal resource centers; school heads or counselors; social workers; police chiefs in your area and heads of local crime prevention units; magistrates; judges; prosecutors; neighborhood watch members; drivers; informal traders; trade union and civic leaders.

Focus Group Meetings can be organized with residents or community organizations to discuss community problems. Unlike formal surveys, the views presented will not represent the whole community, but you may get more detailed information from specific groups like women, youth or school teachers.



The Physical and Social Characteristics of Your Community

You will need to gather information about the physical and social features of your area. This will help you analyze and understand the causes of crime and violence. Information about the physical and social characteristics of your area can be obtained from city planners in your local government.



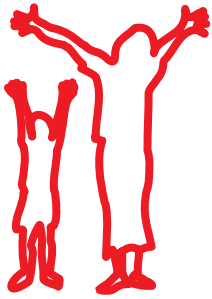
Physical characteristics

This information is useful for crime prevention projects focused on the design, planning and management of public spaces implemented alongside social and law enforcement projects that target a specific crime problem. Some of the main physical characteristics you may collect information about are:

- **Population density:** This may contribute to crime if people are living in very over-crowded conditions.
- **Layout and housing type:** allocating land for specific uses, the type of housing and the size of plots can encourage criminality.
- **Image and infrastructure:** Graffiti, garbage, broken windows and neglected yards create the impression that an area is unsafe. Poor street lighting encourages criminality and a lack of infrastructure and services makes people vulnerable to crime.
- **Transport routes:** The layout and nature of roads and railway lines can provide opportunities for crime and hinder crime prevention efforts. Highways bring non-resident traffic and provide easy routes for criminals to enter and escape from an area.
- **Vacant lands:** Large areas of vacant or underdeveloped land are often poorly maintained spaces and provide opportunities for committing crime, render people walking in these areas vulnerable to attack and make police patrols more difficult.
- **Commercial and industrial facilities:** Certain types of business may attract or facilitate crime. For example, a concentration of pawnshops may provide an easy way to sell stolen goods shortly after committing a crime.

Social characteristics

Important social characteristics you may collect information about are:



Age: this can be an important factor in understanding and anticipating crime and violence levels in your area, because researches show that many offenders are between 15 and 24 years old.

Gender: Women are vulnerable to certain types of crime, such as domestic violence and sexual assault. Young men are most at risk of being victims of violence in public space.

Socio-economic status: Social exclusion and unemployment can cause crime and need to be considered in your planning.

High levels of inequality: High levels of crime and violence are often linked to high levels of economic inequality. Many big cities are characterized by rich and poor people living side by side and this is often where crime is highest.



Youth activities: Many types of crimes and violence are committed by young unemployed or unoccupied adults and adolescents. It is important to find out what recreational sport and social facilities exist in your area and whether there are any organizations to which young people can belong. You should also investigate the schools in your community and the extent to which they can be involved in providing extra-curricular activities. In Durban, South Africa, youth delinquency dropped by about 70% in a disadvantaged community when youth were engaged in various activities (theatre, sports, music) during the holidays.



Activities promoting social cohesion: It will be easier to implement crime and violence prevention programs in communities where there is good communication among residents and high levels of participation in local organizations and activities. Initiatives like neighborhood watches and street or block committees are also indicators of people's willingness to participate in crime and violence prevention activities.

Security of tenure: Crime tends to be higher in communities where there is a high degree of change of occupancy of property. Residents who rent may have less interest in securing their communities than do homeowners. Different types of land tenure can affect the ability of residents to invest in their houses. Rapid turnover of housing also affects the social cohesion of the community.

Analyze and Interpret Data, Prioritize Problems and Analyze Them More

Crime mapping is a useful tool to map, visualize and analyze crime incidents patterns and to identify crime hot spots along with other trends and patterns. Datasets can be overlaid, with the support of the GIS Geographic Information Systems: demographic data, social and economic data, location of schools, informal settlements, etc, to better understand the underlying causes of crime by correlating the different factors and to identify why not just where crime and violence is occurring.

Your crime prevention strategy is likely to succeed only if you will focus on a small number of manageable problems. Setting priorities means you will have to choose. You will probably have to choose between several serious crime or violence problems and between geographical areas in your community.

Once you have decided what your community's main problems are you will have to make an in-depth analysis of each of them. A single crime type can be committed in various ways, in various settings and by different kinds of offenders, on different types of victims.

To effectively reduce the crime, you will need to understand:

- Who are the target/victims and who are the offenders
- When, Where and How the specific crime activities are occurring
- Why are they occurring what are the opportunity factors enabling their appearance, what are the underlying social and economic causes



If the analysis shows that certain parts of your community are crime/violence prone you might decide to prioritize those areas for intervention. It is also important that priority target groups are identified in these areas: they might include victims and/or offenders.

Solutions

This Phase can have the following steps:

- Elaborate and select options for solutions to address priority problems
- Adopt the Strategic Plan (Strategies, Programs and Projects, Action Plans)



Elaborate and assess options for solutions

Determine the level of intervention

You must decide who can deal with the problems you selected. Crime and violence prevention programs can operate at national, provincial, city, town or neighborhood levels. The level you choose will depend on the nature of your community's problem and the time and resources that are available.

Use information on good and bad practices to elaborate your solutions

Consult other practitioners and review examples of other programs and projects. Various websites have good practice examples in crime and violence prevention. Remember that successful crime prevention strategies use an integrated, multi-sectoral approach which includes: criminal justice, situational as well as social prevention.

Example of a Municipality Crime and Violence Prevention Strategies and Programs¹⁸

Reducing youth related crime and violence

- Develop after school sports and recreational programs at local schools
- Enforce laws relating to under-age drinking and sale of alcohol to minors
- Develop school completion and business development program for at-risk youth
- Keeps schools open later with supervision for pupils
- Train teachers to recognize child abuse
- Develop parenting programs: single-parent support and training opportunities
- Ensure children with learning difficulties continue at school
- Support pre-school activities

¹⁸ A Resource Guide for Municipalities, Community Based Crime and Violence Prevention in Urban Latin America, The World Bank Department of Finance, Private Sector and Infrastructure

Reducing domestic violence

- Develop and run a shelter and provide a job-placement service
- Develop a school-based sensitivity program
- Provide for victims and abusive partners counseling services through primary healthcare workers
- Restrict the sale of alcohol and supervise bars



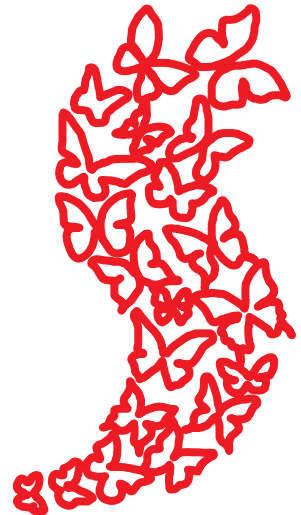
Developing internal crime and violence prevention capacity in the municipality

- Train officials in crime prevention through environmental design principles
- Initiate a quarterly meeting of department heads to discuss integrating crime and violence prevention programs across departments
- Agree on priorities with all departments and ensure that they are included in strategic work plans and budgets

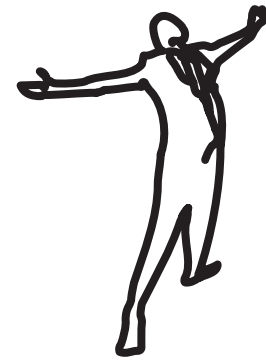


Adopt the Strategic Plan

This can become the first step in institutionalizing the Strategic Plan Implementation. It can take the form of agreements with the municipality on how the crime prevention team will work within their system or it can be something like Community Safety Pacts, which all stakeholders sign to formalize their commitment in the community.



Implementation



This Phase can have the following steps:

- Develop Action Plans and Assign Responsibilities
- Implement Activities (short and long-term)
- Develop Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanisms

Develop Action Plans and Assign Responsibilities

You will need to develop Implementation Action Plans for your programs and projects, including activities, timelines, responsibilities and costs. It might happen that you need to hire experienced project managers to manage some of the projects. Remember that the most important thing is to have motivated people who work hard according to agreed and clear objectives, and who regularly report back to the community.

Implement Activities (short and long-term)

There are a few lessons that may help you implement successfully your strategic plan:

- Pick up the low hanging fruits: have quick win activities that demonstrate benefits of your crime prevention strategies
- Keep up the work of both the Champion and the Coordinator, even if at this point the work has grown to include many more stakeholders and partners. The Champion has a key role in encouraging action and promoting successes while the Coordinator is driving the process.

Develop Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanisms

Assessing (Monitoring and Evaluating) the implementation of the strategies and action plans is essential. Without this you will not be able to tell whether you have achieved your objectives, whether certain projects should be continued or changed, and whether resources have been well spent. Monitoring is a managerial function. Evaluation should be done, ideally, by someone skilled who has not been involved in the design or implementation of the strategic plan.

Monitoring and evaluation need to be planned from the very beginning. This will ensure that the information you will need in order to measure the impact of the strategic plan implementation will be collected from the very beginning, helping you understand the reasons for the success or failure of your program. You will be in a position to track emerging crime problems and routinely scan your community to detect and prevent possible increases.

Example: Evaluation of Community-based Programs in USA¹⁹

In 1997, the U.S. Attorney General, presented a report for Congress, which classified different U.S. programs in three groups: 1) what works, 2) what doesn't work; 3) what is promising. More details on the methodology of the evaluation can be found on the National Institute of Justice, Research in Brief, July 1998 at <http://www.preventingcrime.org>).

The key findings of the report can be summarized as follows:

In communities

The report has been able to list several promising programs.

- Gang violence may be reduced by monitoring gang members with the help of community workers, probation and police officers.
- Increasing the number of police officers in cities may diminish crime in general. Polite field interrogations of suspicious persons may lessen street crimes. Police showing greater respect for crime offenders may abate the number of repeat offenses.
- Community-based mentoring may prevent drug abuse amongst young children. Community-based after-school recreational programs may decrease local juvenile crime.
- Creating shelters for battered women may help reduce repeat domestic abuse.

In schools

The best way to prevent violence in schools is to change the school and classroom environment. Four strategies have been found successful:

- Building school capacity to manage itself
- Implementing behavioral norms and enforcing school rules, policies and regulations.
- Changing classroom organization for the improvement of climate and educational processes.
- Grouping students in different ways to achieve more suitable micro-climates within the school.



¹⁹ A Resource Guide for Municipalities, Community Based Crime and Violence Prevention in Urban Latin America, The World Bank Department of Finance, Private Sector and Infrastructure

In families

- The home visiting programs proved to be successful: targeting infants to prevent at an early stage - the development of antisocial behavior in children and youth resulting from abuse, neglect, and bad parenting. The program sends trained nurses and other helpers to educate expecting mothers and mothers with babies aged 0-2 on parenting skills and ways to cope with issues such as depression, anger, impulsiveness and substance abuse.
- Classes complemented by weekly visits by teachers constitute a successful strategy to reduce violence amongst young children. This program is similar to the home visiting strategy; moreover in this approach both child and parent are sensitized on violence prevention since the work done by the school personnel is prolonged at home, thus providing a certain continuity in the process.
- Family therapy and parent training about delinquent and at-risk preadolescents has been found to reduce aggression and hyperactivity, risk factors of delinquency.

In labor markets

- Providing job training for ex-offenders no longer on probation prevents repeat offending.
- Arresting domestic abusers on the work scene has proven to be an effective way to reduce domestic violence.

In places

Civil action (suit) against landlords for not addressing drug problems on the premises, reduces drug dealing and crime in privately owned rental housing

Police

Adding more police patrols in high crime areas helps reduce crime and the fear of crime in those places. The police can effectively help reduce crime through the installation of a monitoring unit aimed at tracking repeat offenders and returning them to jail faster than when they are not monitored.

Criminal justice agencies

- Developing rehabilitation programs for adult and juvenile offenders has been found to reduce repeat offending. Good programs must target the offenders' specific risk factors.
- Drug treatment in prison operated through therapeutic community programs also reduces chances of repeat offenses after release from prison.



Institutionalization

Institutionalization means integrating the Local Crime Prevention Initiative and its management structure into the core functions of the municipality. There is no recipe of where to locate crime prevention in local government. Solutions need to be found that best suit your local situation and priorities. Crime prevention could be located in one of the following functions:

- Line functions
- Support functions
- Strategic functions

The following Tables highlight the strengths and weaknesses of these various options.

Location Factor - Ability to get resources and sustain activities

Line Functions	Support Functions	Strategic functions
Public safety, Protection services, Community safety, Metro police	Planning, Urban strategy units	Office of the CEO, City Manager or Mayor

STRENGTHS

+ Direct access to a local authority budget and an entry point to lobby for increased provisions in future.	+ Easier to fund processes like drawing up development plans.	+ Can develop separate line department budgets by directive.
+ Increased sustainability, as getting funds depends less on changes in political or strategic commitment to crime and violence reduction.		+ Can create additional discretionary budgets for crime-prevention work.

WEAKNESSES

	- Cannot ensure that other departments allocate funds within their line budgets for crime and violence prevention	- Sustainability more dependent on the electoral cycle.
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Location Factor- Degree to which local governments can implement the full range of crime and violence prevention activities.

Line Functions	Support Functions	Strategic functions
Public safety, Protection services, Community safety, Metro police	Planning, Urban strategy units	Office of the CEO, City Manager or Mayor

STRENGTHS

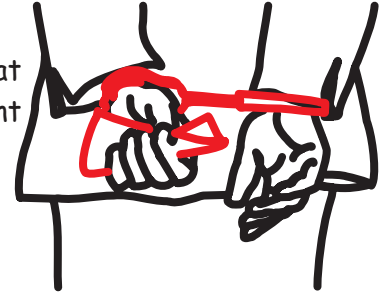
+ Links to a 'safety' line function are good for municipal/community policing and law enforcement. + Officials' networks with policing structures will be well developed.	+ Integrated development plans, spatial planning, economic development plans and community consultation processes. + Assistance in capacity building for crime and violence prevention. + Officials experience of working with non-policing partners. + External coordination.	+ Elevates the importance of crime and violence prevention and provides high level leadership + Provides direction to a range of different departments. + Better for interacting and negotiating with external partners.
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WEAKNESSES

- Insufficient understanding of a broad vision of crime and violence prevention. - Success depends to a greater extent on the commitment of the departmental head to issues beyond enforcement. - Lack of influence to encourage prevention work in other departments	- Competition with other strategic priorities such as sustainable development, poverty alleviation, local economic development etc. - Power issues between the council and the mayoral office.
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The Emergence of a European Crime Prevention Policy²⁰

The 1992 European Urban Charter is a precursory document that brings together a series of principles on proper urban management and crime prevention meant to transcend national policies.



European Urban Charter (Excerpts)

Theme 6. Urban Safety and crime prevention Principles

1. A coherent safety and crime prevention policy must be based on prevention, law enforcement and mutual support.
2. A local safety policy must be based on up-to-date comprehensive statistics and information.
3. Crime prevention involves every member of the community.
4. An effective urban safety policy depends on close co-operation between the police and the local community.
5. A local anti-drug policy must be defined and applied.
6. Programs for preventing relapse and developing alternatives to incarceration are essential.
7. Support for victims is a key component of any local urban safety policy

The Stockholm Conference (1996) examined the link between crime prevention and social exclusion, and the Amsterdam Treaty (1997) marked an important step in the area of crime prevention at the European Union level. In its Article 29 it mentions crime prevention amongst the policies of the European Union working towards an area of freedom, security and justice.

Treaty of Amsterdam (Excerpts)

Article 29

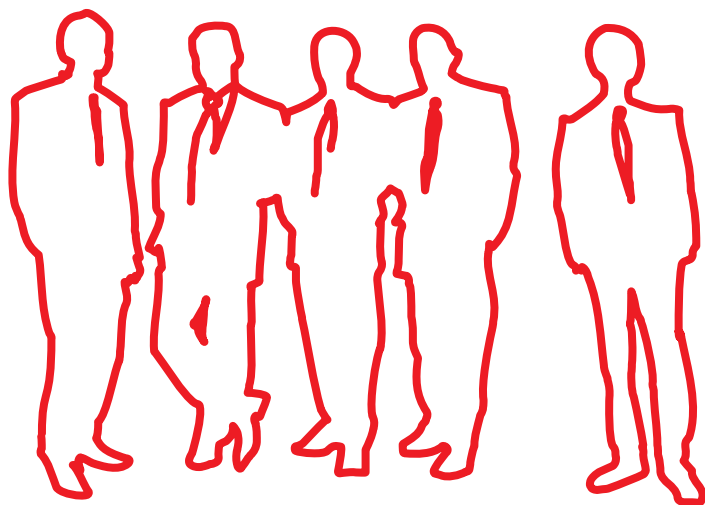
Without prejudice to the powers of the European Community, the Union's objective shall be to provide citizens with a high level of protection within an area of freedom, security and justice, by developing common action among the Member States in the fields of police and judicial co-operation in criminal matters and by preventing and combating racism and xenophobia. That objective shall be achieved by preventing and combating crime, organized or otherwise, in particular terrorism, trafficking in persons and offences against children, illicit drug trafficking and illicit arms trafficking, corruption and fraud [...].

²⁰SecuCities, Urban Crime Prevention in Europe, European Forum for Urban Safety

In 2001, the Council of the European Union set up a European Union Crime Prevention Network, grouping institutional representatives (from the ministries of Justice and/or the Interior), researchers as well as representative associations of each of the Union's member countries. The importance was focused on the identification of crime types, good practices inventory, methodology development for further crime prevention projects, monitoring and evaluation of national policies and the adjustment to statistical procedures in order to make them comparable at international level. In November 2004, the European Council adopted the Hague Program, which set the objectives to be implemented in the area of freedom, security and justice in the period 2005-2010. The objectives and priorities in the field of crime prevention should be:

- Reducing the opportunities that facilitate crime
- Attenuating the factors that facilitate entering into crime as well as relapse
- Avoiding victimization
- Reducing the feeling of insecurity
- Promoting a culture of legality
- Preventing the infiltration of economic structures by criminal elements

In addition to the cross-disciplinary nature of all the policies that have been stimulated, must be stressed the interest accorded to the local level by national and European policies.



CONCLUSIONS

Community safety is:

- A consistent priority for citizens.
- Usually among the top three priority issues identified in local consultations
- The general responsibility of all agencies but the specific responsibility of none.
- Cutting across prevailing structures.
- Dependent on joint action.

Addressing safety concerns through prevention strategies improves city development, bringing together a wide range of community members - residents, business, and government agencies - to define problems, identify solutions, carry out plans and evaluate results.

The preventive approaches face many challenges: the reluctance of governments to invest in them, the absence of a legal framework to facilitate preventive actions or the lack of cities legal or financial capacity.

These challenges can be overcome by local governments through fully integrating and mainstreaming safety in their strategic urban planning processes and delivery of services. Mainstreaming community safety is recognized as the key to achieving sustainable urban development.

Good governance needs safe cities where inhabitants are free from fear, where the interaction between people and public institutions is possible and an enabling environment is supporting the inclusion of all inhabitants.





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