

McElderry Park Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation **Evidence-Based Crime Reduction Strategies**

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Crime Reduction Strategy Search Methodology

Five different sources/strategies were used to search for evidence-based practices:

1. Crime Solutions (www.crimesolutions.gov) – To help practitioners identify and replicate evidence-based programs and practices, the National Institute of Justice, Office of Justice Programs produces a user-friendly suppository for crime justice practices and programs. Research studies on programs and practices are reviewed and scored on level of effectiveness (effective, promising, and no effect). Topics include corrections, courts, crime prevention, substance abuse, juveniles, law enforcement, and victimization.
2. Campbell Collaboration (www.campbellcollaboration.org) – a peer-reviewed online series of systematic reviews prepared by researchers. A systematic review sums up the best available research on a specific topic. The reviews summarize research evidence on the effects of interventions in crime and justice, education, and social welfare.
3. Center for Problem-Oriented Policing (POP Center) (www.popcenter.org) – an organization dedicated to the advancement of problem-oriented policing. Research is developed in collaboration with researchers, universities, and practitioners. POP produces a series of research guides and problem-solving tools for practitioners.
4. BJA Research Reviews – developed for the Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program to assist sites in reviewing evidence-based practices.
5. Internet and peer-reviewed article search – several categories on the implementation table are not topic areas found on the four websites listed above. To capture the research on those categories internet and library search engines were utilized to identify research studies that illustrate evidence of effectiveness or promise.

Rating Scale

Programs and practices were rated primarily using the Crime Solutions methodology. Two categories, mixed and unknown, have been developed by the research team. The following defines each rating. See www.crimesolutions.gov for more information rating system.

Effective (rating of 4) = Programs or practices have strong evidence to indicate they achieve their intended outcomes.

Promising (rating of 3) = Programs or practices have some evidence to indicate they achieve their intended outcomes.

Mixed (rating of 2) = Programs or practices have mixed results; certain programs/practices may be effective but other programs/practices of a similar type were ineffective.

Ineffective (rating of 1) = Programs or practices have strong evidence indicating that they had no effects or had harmful effects.

**McElderry Park Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation
Crime Reduction Strategies – Evidence from the Field**

1. Physical Disorder and Crime

A. Street Lighting – effective

- Source: two studies on crimesolutions.gov
- Program goal/components:
 - o Study 1¹: From February to March 1992, 129 “high-pressure” sodium street lights were put in poorly lit areas, which more than doubled the amount of light. Program goals include reducing fear of crime, and incident of crime in areas.
 - o Study 2²: increased lighting from mid-December 1992 to mid-January 1993- replaced domestic-type tungsten lamps with high-pressure sodium street lights. Looked at perceptions of crime and safety with 278 surveys in treatment and non-treatment areas.
- Place:
 - o Study 1: Dudley, West Midlands (England)
 - o Study 2: Stoke-on-Trent, England
- Results:
 - o Study 1 (effective): Study found that crime decreased by 23% vs. only a 3% in areas that did not have lighting **increase** (control). In neighborhoods populated by “over-60,” crime **decreased** by 44%. Self-report data also showed that offending **decreased**. The average number of victimization per 100 households **decreased** by 41% for all categories of crime, including car theft, property, and personal crime. Fear of crime also **decreased**, with women reporting less of a risk at night.
 - o Study 2 (effective): crime **decreased** (26%) in treated areas except burglary offenses. Victimization **decreased** by a quarter and crime by 21% in adjacent areas. Personal crimes **decreased** by 68% and vehicle crime by 46% in treatment areas and adjacent areas **decreased** by 45%; significant **decreases** occurred for property crime (38%), personal crime (66%), and all crimes in general (45%). Fear of crime was not significantly reduced. Diffusion did not occur.

B. Neighborhood Watch Programs – promising

- Source: 1 study (meta-analysis¹) from Campbell Collaboration, 1 from POP Center
- Program goal/components:
 - o Study 1³: To engage the community to work together to reduce crime, most often targeting burglaries and theft. Citizens watch out for suspicious activities, engage in citizen patrols of the community/neighborhood, and evaluate their properties for weakness and target suitability.
 - o Study 2⁴: 193 neighborhood block watches were organized between April 1981 and December 1983. Each watch was assigned to a census block. Analysis was conducted by a sample of 25 watches and phone interviews and on-site evaluations were conducted.
- Place:
 - o Study 1: England (literature review from 1977 to 1994 across 12 studies)
 - o Study 2: Washington, DC (1984)
- Results:
 - o Study 1 (effective): In 15 samples across 10 studies that evaluated the program through police data found that crime **decreased** by 16%. Across three samples through two studies using self-report data on victimization found that there was no significant reduction on victimization due to neighborhood watch.
 - o Study 2 (promising): There is some evidence that, within relatively high crime areas, neighborhood watches are likely to form in more prosperous blocks and those that are populated by white residents. Block captains perceived that fear of crime **decreased** and many believed that it is a deterrent. 15 of the 18 block captains perceived residents feel safer and more secure. Crime however, has not **decreased** in areas that have a neighborhood watch/block captains. Only in the case of robberies was a clear and steady drop in crime evident. Larcenies and assaults rose more rapidly in the year preceding the first watches than did crime in broader areas. Crime dropped throughout the city in the subsequent years but it dropped more sharply in the participating blocks.

¹ Meta-analysis is a statistical technique in which researchers analyze multiple studies to establish patterns and findings.

C. Neighborhood Cleanups/Beautification

- Source: Two studies through internet searches – effective
- Program goal/components:
 - o Study 1⁵: Will greening a vacant lot be associated with a reduction in violent crime? Greening is associated with cleaning the lot, planting trees and grass, and building a wooden fence around the perimeter. Looked at one vacant lot that was greened and one that was not (control). Looked at crime data and baseline and follow-up conducted interviews with residents living two blocks surrounding the randomly selected vacant lots on their perceptions of crime and disorder.
 - o Study 2⁶: By analyzing data from 1999 to 2008, what relation does greening have with health and safety outcomes? Used a quasi-experimental² difference-in-difference study design in areas on and around the vacant lots in the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS) program before and after treatment, as compared with matched control vacant lots over the same period. Looked at multiple types of crime including violent crime, drug offenses, and quality of life offenses.
- Place:
 - o Study 1: Pennsylvania
 - o Study 2: Pennsylvania (efforts by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society)
- Results:
 - o Study 1 (effective): In a half-mile buffer around the vacant lot sites, estimates showed reductions for total crime (209.0 crimes during the greening vs. 266 before). Aggravated assaults, theft, and disorderly conduct were **reduced** by larger amounts around the cities after greening. Robbery, vandalism, narcotics use and distribution, and burglary were **increased** around the intervention site compared with the control. Before the greening, disorder scores were 41.8 at the intervention and 35.9 at the control site and after the greening disorder scores were **increased** to 42.1 and 39.1. Residents however, reported improved perception of safety and perceived neighborhood safety ($p < 0.01$).
 - o Study 2 (effective): Statistically significant reductions for gun assaults and disorderly conduct in all 4 sections of the city combined in greened areas. Vandalism and criminal mischief (West Philly), illegal dumping (South Philly) showed statistically significant reductions, but for each category, only one part of the city showed results depending on the crime. High cholesterol in all 4 sections of the city showed a statistically significant reduction. High stress showed consistent, statistically significant reductions only for North Philly and exercising less than 2 days per week showed consistent, statistically significant reductions only for West Philly.

² Quasi-experimental is a statistical tool in which the sample of participants are not randomly assigned to part take in the study.

D. Community Gardens – promising

- Source: Three found online
- Program goals/components:
 - o Study 1⁷: The study looked at how gardens impact health and well-being of neighborhood residents and how gardens' social processes could lead to broader community impacts. Used qualitative interviews during 2005 with community gardeners to explore the social processes of the gardens and its impact. Sample included 15 interviews and 14 focus groups (67 participants over 29 garden sites).
 - o Study 2⁸: Looked to determine the effect of community gardens on property crime. 11 community gardens were included in the sample.
 - o Study 3⁹: asks the question whether community gardens reduce violent crime? Looked at homicide, robbery, and aggravated assaults in 450 census blocks from 1990 to 2004.
- Place
 - o Study 1: Denver, Colorado
 - o Study 2: Houston, Texas
 - o Study 3: St. Louis, Missouri
- Results
 - o Study 1 (promising): qualitative interviews suggest that gardens offer a unique social opportunity to foster friendships and a sense of belonging to a group. Also found that gardens allowed for a sense of trust among members, while others mentioned that it gave the community an opportunity to steal the products in the garden. Gardens fostered collective decision-making on what things to do to produce a beneficial affect on the garden as a whole. Respondents mentioned that the garden offered an opportunity to “bridge social barriers and build social networks,” especially those barriers in the form of differences of race, age, religion, etc.
 - o Study 2 (promising): Looked at reported property crime (2005) and looked at demographic data from the census. While there was no statistically significant³ difference between the mean number of crimes in areas with community gardens and those without, residents reported less crime in the form of illegal activity, dumping, and drug activity, and reported **increased** in property values and neighborhood redevelopment.
 - o Study 3 (promising): Results suggest that robberies **decreased** at a greater rate for blocks with community gardens than other areas even after controlling for concentrated disadvantage, and residential instability.

³ Statistically significant is a mathematical, statistical technique to measure if the results of a study are likely to be true.

The use of vegetation (trees and gardens)¹⁰

- Source: 1 study found online – effective
- Program goals/components:
 - o Does vegetation⁴ in poor inner-city neighborhoods have an effect on crime rates? How does vegetation correspond with fear, fear of crime, and crime itself? Used crime reports from the Chicago Police Department for property crimes (simple thefts, vehicle thefts, burglaries, and arson), violent crime (assaults, batteries, robberies, and homicide), and total crime (total crime reported). Assessed vegetation levels by taking 35mm photographs of each development by helicopter, and ground-level photographs. Each area was assessed on a five-point scale (0=no trees, 4= a space completely covered with tree canopy). Controlled for the number of units in an apartment house, building height, and vacancies. Final sample- 98 apartment buildings
- Place:
 - o Chicago (Ida B. Wells- a large public housing development)
- Results:
 - o Buildings with high levels of vegetation had 52% fewer total crimes, 48% fewer property crimes, and 56% fewer violent crimes than buildings with low vegetation. Even after controlling for the number of units per building, vegetation still continues to be a significant negative predictor of total crime (property and violent). Vegetation remains a significant or marginally significant predictor of crime with building height and number of units controlled.

⁴ Vegetation is considered to be all plant life in a particular area.

E. Foot Patrols – promising

- Source: 2 studies from crimesolutions.gov; 1 effective and 1 promising
- Program goal/components:
 - o Study 1¹¹: The use of foot patrols to reduce the high incidents of violent crime, especially during the summer months. Officers not only patrolled but engaged with the residents, visiting day care centers and juvenile hangouts, while others stopped cars at stop signs/intersections. Using police data from 2006 to 2008, high crime areas (n=120) were identified (60 control and 60 treatment). Two pairs of officers engaged in foot patrols from 10AM-6PM or 6PM-2AM.
 - o Study 2¹²: Foot patrol initiative in NJ that targeted street-level disorders and illicit narcotics trade. More coverage at night and on weekends during June 2008 involving 12 officers that patrolled a quarter-square mill area of the city. During the study period, 3,186 enforcement actions took place, including 634 arrests, 1,202 quality of life summonses, and 1,350 field interrogations.
- Place:
 - o Study 1: Philadelphia, PA
 - o Study 2: Newark, NJ
- Results:
 - o Study 1 (effective): Violent crime reduced by 23% in targeted areas. Displacement occurred indicating a **decrease** of 90 crimes in the targeted areas, which **increased** 37 offenders in buffer zones⁵ that surrounded the target areas. Pedestrian stops **increased** by 64%, vehicle stops by 7%, police disruption of disturbances by 47%, disruption of narcotics by 15%, and disruptions of disorder by 57%.
 - o Study 2 (promising): Piza and O’Hara (2012) conducted a quasi-experimental study and looked at the 1-year-pre-implementation period and then during the 1-year-implementation period. They found that it did reduce overall violence (42%), aggravated assaults (60%), and shootings (60%) in the target areas. However, the evidence for murder was less evident and did not influence robberies.

⁵ A buffer zone is the an area surrounding the place or target of interest.

F. Cameras – promising

(3 studies)

Study 1: CCTV in five English cities - promising

- Source: found on crimesolutions.gov
- Program goals/components:
 - o Study 1¹³: Closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras were installed in 5 urban center districts that attract economic activity at night and high pedestrian and vehicle traffic. In all but Eastbourne, the cameras were linked with the police through dedicated telephone lines in the CCTV control rooms. Sivarajasingam et al. (2003) looked at the CCTV cameras on detection of violent crime and decreases in emergency department visits for assault-related injuries. Comparison had no cameras and data was collected from Spring 1995 to Spring 1999- 2 years of data before the installation of cameras and 2 years following the cameras were assessed. Violent offense data was collected by the local police.
- Place:
 - o Ashford, Eastbourne, Lincoln, Newport (Isle of Wight) and Peterborough
- Results: (promising)
 - o The study found that visits to the ER for assault-related injuries **decreased** by 3% in the intervention sites and **increased** by 11% in the control sites, which is statistically significant. There was a significant reduction in assault-related ER visits in Eastbourne, Newport, and Peterborough but not in Lincoln. Police-recorded violence **increased** in both the intervention and control sites but more in the intervention sites.

Study 2: CCTV in Gillingham, England – promising

- Source: found on crimesolutions.gov
- Program goals/components:
 - o Study 2¹⁴: Public spaces in High Street and the town center car parks were selected for CCTV installations in order to assess if crime reduces and if there is an increase in feelings of safety among community residents. Gillingham is a market town and a suburban center. Seven cameras were installed along High Street, which is a pedestrian zone and in the adjacent car parks and security staff monitored the cameras 24 hours each day. Griffiths (2003) used a quasi-experimental design with a control area to assess crime changes.
- Place:
 - o Gillingham, England
- Results:
 - o Griffiths et al. (2003) found that the treatment area had a 35% reduction in crime over a 5 year period, while the comparison site only had a .05% reduction. The treatment area had a 44% reduction in the 1st year and a 32% reduction across year 1 to 5, mostly in the form of property crimes. The comparison areas benefited in the first year but then crime rates rose. A total of 2,104 crimes were estimated to be reduced by the CCTV installation. Violent crimes however **increased** by 32% in Gillingham and 37% in the control areas, a statistically

significant **increase**⁶. Property crime was reduced in the treatment areas, specifically theft by 33-36% and criminal damage by 22%. In the control areas, theft from vehicles **decreased** by 4%, and other thefts rose by 14% and criminal damage rose by 29%.

Study 3: CCTV in Philadelphia – promising

- Source: One study found on crimesolutions.gov
- Program goals/components:
 - o Study 3¹⁵: 18 CCTV cameras were installed between July 2006 and November 2006. Cameras were monitored by the police department and controlled by a remote operator. A quasi-experimental study was conducted to examine before and after crime incidents. 18 cameras were installed at 12 sites but because they were close in proximity, the researchers looked at 8 evaluation sites. The study looked at monthly crime incidents for 32 months for 8 locations.
- Place:
 - o Philadelphia, PA
- Results:
 - o Results indicated that camera implementation had no significant effect on serious crime as serious crime only **decreased** slightly (~5%). Camera implementation significantly reduced disorder crime in the targeted areas, the average expected disorder crime found was 16% lower. The cameras significantly reduced the number of crime events within the target areas. The months after the cameras demonstrated a significant reduction of 13.3% in expected crime counts after controlling for other factors, while the average indicated significant reduction in all crimes. There was mixed results among displacement/diffusion of benefits across evaluation sites.

⁶ Statistically significant is a mathematical, statistical technique to measure if the results of a study are likely to be true.

G. Enforcing Curfew Laws – promising

Dallas (Texas) Anti-gang Initiative – promising

- Source: One study found on crimesolutions.gov
- Program goals/components:
 - o Anti-gang Initiative¹⁶ implemented in 1996 in Dallas, TX. Dallas had 79 gangs, 6,145 gang members and 1,332 gang-related incidents and thus led to a police initiative to try to reduce gang-related crime. Part of the initiative was aggressive curfew enforcements (11PM weekdays, 12AM weekends) Among other components, include aggressive truancy enforcement and simple saturation patrols. Teams of 6 to 8 officers were assembled to be part of the initiative. Fritsch et al. (1999) used a quasi-experimental design to evaluate the impact of the program on gang activity. Five target areas were selected based on high amounts of gang violence. Four control areas were selected.
- Place:
 - o Dallas, TX
- Results:
 - o Fritsch et al. (1999) found that the pre-intervention monthly average of violent gang-related offenses was 20.9 for all target areas combined and **decreased** by 8.9 post-intervention; this was a statistically significant **decrease** of 57%. The pre-intervention monthly mean was 22.6 for the control areas and dropped to 14.3 post-intervention; this was also a statistically significant **decrease** of 37%. Aggressive curfews and truancy enforcement were effective in reducing gang-related violence, while saturated patrols (e.g. stop and frisks) were not. There was no statistically significant reduction in gang-related offenses reported to the police but significant **increases** in targeted areas in reported robberies (23.8%) and auto thefts (15.4%). There was a statistically significant **decrease** in reported criminal mischief (15%) and weapons violations (30%).

H. Burglary Prevention Strategies

Alley gating – effective

- Source: one study on crimesolutions.gov; and one study found via online search
- Program goals/components:
 - o Study 1¹⁷: to restrict access to alleyways in order to decrease the incidents of burglary and theft, among other types of crimes. In England, many of the houses are designed in such a way that alleys are located in the back of people's houses (similar to Baltimore). In the study cite, 134 houses had gates installed, for a total of 3,178 gates in 106 districts.
 - o Study 2¹⁸: using data on burglary data from August 2005 to August 2007 and GIS mapping, looked at Oldham crime and disorder reduction on 164 alley-gated locations. Before installation and after crime data was analyzed. Also conducted a focus group with 9 residents to get opinions on program.
- Place:
 - o Study 1: Liverpool, England
 - o Study 2: Oldham, England
- Results:
 - o Study 1 (effective): burglaries were **decreased** up to 37%, resulting in a statistically significant **decrease**, totaling in a 875 reduction in burglaries. There was also evidence to suggest that treatment areas produced a benefit to other surrounding areas with 200 m of the treated area, suggesting diffusion of benefits.
 - o Study 2 (effective): of the 120 burglaries during August 2005-2007, 74% occurred before the gates were installed and 26% occurred after the gates were installed. Burglaries that occurred during the afternoon and at night were significantly reduced after the gates were installed. No displacement occurred. Residents felt that the environment was improved by the gating (reduced anti-social behavior) and that burglary had **decreased** (gets at fear of crime and perceptions of crime).

Kirkholt (England) Burglary Prevention project – effective

- Source: from crimesolutions.gov
- Program goals/components:
 - o Kirkholt¹⁹, a public housing area, was the selected sample of the study because of its high burglary rate. The goals were to establish links between agencies for crime prevention and reducing residential burglaries and the second aim was to secure community ownership of the project and introduce offender/community initiatives to reduce crime. Burglary victims were targeted for intervention and services because one of the strongest predictors of victimization is having been victimized. The second part of the study aimed to reduce the motivation to commit crime and included things like establishing a credit union, a work program, school-based crime prevention programs, group meetings for offenders, and better information for probation officers and courts.
- Place:

- Rochdale, England
- Results:
 - After the first phase, the level of burglary fell to 40% of its pre-implementation rate. The level of residential burglary during the follow-up year was one quarter of the rate for the pre-implementation year. A significant reduction in burglary was due to the removal of cash-fed meters from the homes as prior to the intervention, almost 50% of burglaries resulted in the theft of meter cash. At the end of the 1st year, these rates were reduced to 22% and after the 2nd year it was reduced only by 2%. The largest **decrease** in victimization occurred among 19-35 year olds. There was no evidence of a displacement effect.

Burglary reduction (Hartlepool, England)- promising

- Source: One study on crimesolutions.gov
- Program goals/components:
 - Program²⁰ targeted two high burglary areas that were identified as having rates twice the national average. Included target hardening, property marking (e.g. mark five items of property at each house), youth programs (e.g. engage at-risk youth in local sports and youth development programs), education and awareness activities (e.g. promote crime prevention through visiting schools, newsletters, and the organization of crime prevention week), and community development (e.g. establishing new resident association and neighborhood watch group)
- Place:
 - Hartlepool, England
- Results:
 - Program led to a 25% **decrease** in burglaries; the average number was reduced from 17.5 in the two years prior to the program to 13.2 in the 2 years after. Overall, the program prevented 55 burglaries over a two year period. The impact was greater in the 1st year (prevented 38 burglaries) compared to the 2nd year (prevented 17 burglaries). Four years after, the reduction was 28% compared to control areas (13% and 8%). Overall, after four years, the total number of burglaries prevented was 138.

Operation Burglary Countdown – promising

- Source: One study found of crimesolutions.gov
- Program goals/components:
 - Operation Burglary Countdown²¹ is a community-based crime program implemented in 2003 to reduce residential burglary in hotspot locations and is part of a larger initiative referred to as the Burglary Beware Campaign. Two target sites were chosen for a pilot of the program, both of which needed to have high burglary rates, community capacity (Neighborhood Watch group and state and local government support for project). Program components included: volunteer home visits to provide security and crime prevention advice, security audits, and community engagement.
- Place:

- Perth in Western Australia
- Results:
 - Using a quasi-experimental design burglary rates in two areas were compared to two other areas. In the treatment areas, residential burglary rates ranged from 25 to 70 a month, while in the comparison areas, rates were above 100 a month. There was about a 40% reduction in burglaries; specifically 127 burglaries were prevented and 67 in the surrounding buffer areas. There was no change in feelings of safety in one area (Bentley) but feelings of safety **increased** from 70% to 82% in the other area (Morley).

Biting Back in Huddersfield (England) – effective

- Source: One study found on crimesolutions.gov
- Program goals/components:
 - Biting Back²², part of the Police Operations Against Crime program that ran from 1994 to 1996 that targeted repeated victimization from domestic burglary and auto theft. Police identified repeat victims of these crimes and offered support depending on the time of victimization. Victims, once identified were given discount vouchers for security equipment and after a second incident, the police implemented the “silver response,” which includes a visit from a crime prevention officer and police watch visits. If victimized a third time, the police implemented the “gold response,” which included an increased police watch and installation of high-tech equipment, such as alarms and covert cameras by the police.
- Place:
 - Huddersfield, England
- Results:
 - Study from that there was a greater **decrease** in repeated victimization. The counting of tiers (bronze, silver, or gold) suggested a larger reduction in repeat victimizations, however the survey administered to victims suggested only a modest effect. Reductions were larger for domestic burglary (**decreased** 30%) than for theft from vehicles (**decreased** 20%). Satisfaction with police services **increased** by a statistically significant result of 10% in targeted area, vs. only 2% in control areas.

Liquor Stores and Crime – mixed research

Research conducted on the density of alcohol outlets and violent crime has been conducted in many cities across the country. For example, a study in Los Angeles County found that the rate of violent crime was significantly associated with the density of alcohol outlets.²³ Similar findings were found in a study conducted in New Orleans.²⁴ Another study conducted in New Jersey found no relationship between violent crime and location of alcohol outlets.²⁵

Vacant Houses and Crime – supported by research

Some research supports the theory that vacant and foreclosed buildings increase crime rates. For example, Immergluck and Smilth (2006)²⁶ found that as foreclosure rates increase violent crime increases as well (a 1% increase in foreclosure rate leads to a 2.3 percent increase in violent crime). Additionally, Goodstein and Lee (2010)²⁷ found that foreclosures increase burglary and other property crime. Spelman (1993)²⁸ looked specifically at vacant buildings and crime and found that blocks with multiple vacant properties had higher rates of crime than blocks with no vacant properties. Additional research, and strategies to alleviate vacant properties, can be found here: http://www.popcenter.org/problems/pdfs/abandoned_buildings_and_lots.pdf

Youth Programs & Youth Development

A. Youth Mentoring:

Big Brother Big Sister – effective

- Source: 1 study from crimesolutions.gov and 1 study found on promising practices network (PPN) referred to as proven program.
 - Average national cost per youth is \$1,000 (local funds; private and public).
- Program goal/component:
 - Study 1²⁹: Utilizes community mentoring for youth ages 6-18 by adults 22-49 in order to reduce risk factors and increase protective factors. Mentors spend around 3-5 hrs a week, for at least a year with youth.
 - Study 2³⁰: Second study looked at school-based mentoring in which students are given weekly breaks from school to take part in one-on-one activities with their mentor. Random sample of students (4th – 9th grade) were assigned (565) to a mentor were compared to those with no mentor (574). Surveys given to teachers, youth, and mentors at three points (baseline, end of 1st year, during 2nd year).
- Place:
 - Study 1: Philadelphia, PA
 - Study 2: Columbus, OH; Denver, CO; Ellsworth, ME; St. Louis, MO; Cleveland, OH; Oak Harbor, WA; Dallas, TX; Show Low, AZ; Dalton GA; Wilkes-Barre, PA.
- Results:
 - Study 1 (effective): Tierney et al. (2000) found that after an 18-month evaluation of 1,138 youths ages 10-16, this program reduced initiation of drug use by 46% and initiation of alcohol use by 27%. Youths were also 32% less likely to strike someone during the last 12 months. Youths earned higher graders and skipped school less frequently. Parental relationships with youth also improved.
 - Study 2 (effective): Treatment youth received significantly higher teacher ratings than control: overall academic performance (2.73 vs. 2.62), quality of class work (3 vs. 2.89), and number of assignments completed (3.12 vs. 2.98). A lower percentage of youth committed a serious school offense compared to control group (14% vs. 21%). Unexcused absences were lower among treatment vs. control group (12% vs. 18%); and lower truancy rates for treatment group (11% vs. 17%). No significant differences were found for drug and alcohol use, misconduct outside school, relationships with parents and peers, and self-esteem.

B. Youth Recreation Programs:

Bayview Safe Haven Program – promising

- Source: One study found online about California initiatives to fighting crime
- Program goals/components:
 - o Program³¹³² takes place in a recreational center located in a high crime area in which the program serves youth ages 12 to 21 five days a week from 1pm to 9pm annually. Program includes academic assistance such as tutoring, computer lab, homework help, culinary workshops, sports, art classes, community service, mentoring, and counseling. A wide range of community-based organizations are also involved in helping with the program. LaFrance et al. (2001) compared 120 youth ages 10 to 17 who were participants of the Bayview Safe Haven program and matched them with a similar group of youth who were not. The study looked at youth that were involved in the criminal justice system and those who were at risk of becoming involved.
- Place:
 - o San Francisco, CA
- Results:
 - o For youth with a prior history of arrest, those who did not participant in the program were 2 times more likely to be arrested during the 6 month initial intervention period (43.8% vs. 19.8%). For youth with no prior history, those who did not part take in the program were 3 times more likely to be arrested during the 6 months than the program participants (36% vs. 12.1%). Youth who were wards of the juvenile court were 5 times more likely to remain wards during the follow-up period if they did not part take in the program (27.3% vs. 5%).

Girls, Inc. – promising

- Source: One study found online on an evaluation site of the Boys and Girls Club
- Program goals/components:
 - o Girls, Inc.³³³⁴³⁵ delivers research-based education programs that teach math and science education, pregnancy and drug abuse prevention, media literacy, economic literacy, adolescent health, violence prevention, and sports participation. Girls Inc. programming is offered at Girls Inc. centers, schools, churches, community centers and housing projects, with most programming offered in low-income areas. An average of 30 hours weekly of after-school, weekend and summer activities are provided. Johnston Nicholson et al. (1991) evaluated the pregnancy prevention program of Girls, Inc. in four sites using survey data from 1985-88 to compare participants with a matched control group on attitudes towards teenage pregnancy, educational and career goals, sexual experience, and use of birth control methods.
- Place:
 - o Dallas, TX, Memphis, TN, Omaha, NE, and Wilmington, DE.
- Results:

- Girls ages 12-14 were less than half as likely as the control group to have sex within a year of program participation. Girls ages 15-17 were half as likely as the control group to have sex without some form of birth control within a year of program participation. Girls were 1/3 as often to report having sex without birth control as the control group and half as likely to become pregnant within one year of the program.

C. Parent-child development

Common Sense Parenting – promising

- Source: One study found on crimesolutions.gov
- Program goals/components:
 - o Common Sense Parenting³⁶ is a group-based parent-training class for parents with youths ages 6-16 with behavioral and emotional problems. The program is 6 weekly 2-hour sessions with 10-12 parents in a group led by a certified trainer. Selected topics of discussion include: encouraging good behavior, preventing problems, correcting problem behavior, teaching self-control, etc. Program was evaluated to see if program taught by one trainer without individual sessions could have positive results. Parents were assigned to either a parent training condition (n=39) or a waitlist condition (n=27) and a pretest comparison was used.
- Place:
 - o Three locations in a Midwestern community
- Results:
 - o Parents who completed training reported significant greater improvement on youth externalizing behaviors including aggressive behavior compared to the control group. There were no statistically significant effects for internalizing problem behaviors such as depression or anxiety. There was a significant post-treatment effect for parent sense of competence scale and parents reported significantly greater improvements on efficacy. Finally, parents who completed the program reported significantly greater improvements in their satisfaction with family relationships than compared to the control group. Two-parent households were more likely to report satisfaction with family relationships than single parents however.

Family Foundations- promising

- Source: Two studies found on crimesolutions.gov
- Program goals/components:
 - o Study 1³⁷: Program is a psycho-educational, skill-based program for first-time expectant parents delivered through childbirth education departments at local hospitals to reduce later child problems such as aggressive or anti-social behaviors. Program focuses on improving how parents coordinate parenting, supporting each other, and managing conflict relating to child rearing. The program is delivered through 8 group sessions, with the first 4 being prenatal classes around the 5/6th month of pregnancy. The latter 4 sessions are delivered when the child is around 6 months old.
 - o Study 2³⁸: Feinberg et al. (2010) looked at the impacts on the same sample of couples from the 2009 study and data was collected from home visits when children were 36 months. Three waves of data were used from the follow-up at 6 months post-birth through 3 years post-birth.

- Place:
 - o Study 1 and 2: Pennsylvania (Altoona and Harrisburg)
- Results:
 - o Study 1 (promising): Program produced significantly higher levels of self-soothing compared to the control group's children at the 12-month follow-up but there was no significant difference between both groups on sustained attention. Intervention group produced significantly higher levels of positive parenting compared with the control group, but there was no significant difference on negative parenting. Intervention group's fathers demonstrated significantly higher levels of positive parenting compared with the control group fathers.
 - o Study 2 (promising): At the 36-month follow-up, study found significant effects on the Child Behavior Checklist but child's gender was a factor in these results. For example, intervention boys and the control group's boys were significant for total problems, externalizing problems, internalizing problems, aggression, and attention/hyperactivity scales. There was no significant difference for intervention girls and control girls. There were significant intervention effects for parenting scales such that the intervention group demonstrated significantly lower levels of over-reactivity and laxness and less likely to inflict physical punishment. There was also a significant intervention effect on the co-parenting scale such that the intervention group demonstrated higher measures of positive co-parenting compared with the control group. Child gender however, was a factor as parents of boys in the intervention group showed significantly higher relationship quality than compared to parents of boys in the control group, but there was no significant difference for girls in both groups.

Employment

A. Youth Employment

Career Academies – effective

- Source: three studies from crimesolutions.gov (all used data from study 1)
- Program goal/components: are schools within schools that link students with peers, teachers, and community partners to increase academic success, emotional health, and labor market success; ultimately to increase protective factors and decrease risk factors. Typically employed in high schools with 50 to 75 students in a group of 3 to 5 teachers over 3 or 4 years of high school.
 - o Study 1³⁹: Data was collected from nine high schools predominately populated by African Americans and Hispanics, also with a high dropout rate, high unemployment rate, and high percentage of low-income families than the national average. Sample of 959 students randomly assigned to treatment and 805 in the control group. Survey data was analyzed 48 months after the high school graduation or 8 years after they entered the program.
 - o Study 2⁴⁰: Used previous study sample but with an additional 4 years of research
 - o Study 3⁴¹: Used data from the above study to look at enrollment rates.
- Place: San Francisco, CA.
- Results:
 1. Study 1 (effective): treatment group earned 18% (\$10,000, averaged \$212 per month) than the control group over the 4-year follow up period. For women however, there was no effect. The highest outcomes resulted from those who were at high or medium risk of dropping out of high school. In terms of high school completion rates, these rates were the same for treatment and control groups but among those students most likely to drop out, the dropout rates were lower for those assigned to the treatment group. Postsecondary educational rates were also the same for control and treatment.
 2. Study 2 (effective): treatment group had an **increase** in 11% (\$2,088 per year) than the control group, which averaged \$16,704 in total earnings over the 8 year follow-up. There was no **increase** among women. High school completion rates were also the same among both groups, as was postsecondary education.
 3. Study 3 (effective): 8 years after graduation date, male students with 3 years of treatment earned \$588 per month. Little impact was observed for students who were only enrolled for 1 year. For those in the program for 2 years, monthly earnings **increased** by \$180.

Boys and Girls Club of America – effective

- Source: One study found online
- Program goals/components:
 - o The Career Prep Pilot Program^{42 43} began in 1998 and was funded by the U.S. Department of Labor and U.S. Department of Justice with the intent of providing comprehensive career preparation services to youth ages 16-18. The program involved a full-time staff member, targeted recruitment of high-risk youth, pre-employment training, case management and referrals, job placement and follow-up support after training and placement. Marzke et al. (2003) surveyed staff from 38 clubs prior to their 4th year of implementation. Telephone interviews were attempted (n=31) and researchers analyzed quarterly reports and documentation of participating youth at all 45 clubs.
- Place:
 - o 45 clubs through the U.S.
- Results:
 - o In a sample of 14,000 youth, over four years, a total of 6,652 participants (48%) were placed in jobs. About 67% who completed pre-employment training obtained jobs. An average of 45% of youth in Year 1 and 53% in year 4 were placed in jobs. Most employed youth worked 20 or fewer hours per week, but 39% of youth in year 4 worked 31 to 40 hours per week. In Year 4, 72% of youth received wages above minimum wage. In the third and fourth years of the program, 30 to 38% worked in Clubs, 16% in restaurants, 13% in retail stores and 18% in other settings such as grocery stores and nursing homes.

SNAP (stop and now plan)- Under 12 outreach project – effective

- Source: two studies
- Program goal/components: family focused intervention for boys under 12 who are aggressive and have anti-social behavioral problems aimed at school retention and keeping them out of trouble. Six different approaches can be used with this program; one of which is mentoring and befriending using volunteers that use structured recreational activities to improve youth functioning. Average cost for 4-6 months of service is \$1,424 for low-risk youth, compared with \$3,430 for moderate risk 6-12 months, and \$7,000 for high-risk children for 12-18 months of service.
 1. Study 1⁴⁴: Study sampled 32 delinquent children under 12 (24 boys, 8 girls). Study used matched pairs, with one group in the treatment and one in the control group. Parental ratings were analyzed over 5 time period over 18 months.
 2. Study 2⁴⁵: Evaluated the program with boys ages 6 to 11 who had police contact or had been considered at-risk of police contact. Teacher's reports on student behavior began in February 2002 and ran three times a year. Treatment group included 223 boys and control group of 116 boys who were on a waiting list.
- Place:
 1. Study 1: Toronto, Ontario

2. Study 2: Hamilton, Ontario
- Results:
 1. Study 1 (effective): over time, the experimental group's level of delinquency, and aggression, was significantly **decreased** compared to control group. The percent of control group youth with a criminal conviction was almost twice as high as the treatment group (57% vs. 31%).
 2. Study 2 (effective): Boys in the treatment group significantly improved on all measures 6 months later; rule breaking, aggression, and conduct problems. Based on teacher reports, treatment group showed no significant improvements (rule-breaking, aggression, conduct problems, total problems, and adaptive functioning) except for adaptive functioning.

B. Neighborhood cleanups involving youth

Youth Empowerment Solutions for Peaceful Communities (YES) program

- Source: One study found online (promising)
- Program goals/components:
 - o YES program⁴⁶ used a random sample of 7th and 8th graders to engage them in neighborhood improvements and beautification projects. Sample included youth with poor academic and disciplinary records. Over two years, community crime and individual level outcomes were assessed.
- Place:
 - o Michigan
- Results:
 - o 50% reduction in violent crime near the park renovation project, which was the most involved community project completed by the kids. Youth were more likely to report nonviolent conflict avoidance and resolution than those who did not participate in the project. Also, fewer instances of victimization among youth participants.

Project Sweep Community Service Initiative – promising

- Source: One study found on POP Center website
- Program goals/components:
 - o Project Sweep⁴⁷ to reduce recidivism, beautify the city, and give youth a chance to interact and engage with positive role models. Juveniles are referred to the project following municipal court proceedings, and it provides an opportunity for youth to part take in community service initiative. The Waukesha Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association mentored the youth through their court obligation.
- Place:
 - o Waukesha, WI
- Results:
 - o After 15 hours of community service, only 5% of the youth referred to the program revisited the court after their initial appearance. 186 youth surveys completed by youth after the completion of the program believe that (88%) that their work will deter them from committing crime and 65% reported for this question, that they strongly agree. 94% of the youth believe that the mentors act as positive role models, 69% responded that they strongly agree with that statement.

C. Re-entry/employment programs

Community and Law Enforcement Resources Together (ComAlert) – promising

- Source: found on crimesolutions.gov
- Program goal/components:
 - o ComAlert⁴⁸ Provides substance abuse treatment, employment, and housing to parolees in order to reduce recidivism rates and increase the likelihood of success once back into society. A social worker ensures that the participant meets as the release requirements including substance abuse treatment and employment, as well as attend individual therapy sessions once a week and group treatment sessions. The program lasts anywhere between three and six months long. Participants are also referred to the “Ready, Willing & Able Program,” that offers employment opportunities, transitional housing, vocational training, financial management and life skill training, and 12-step meetings.
- Place:
 - o Brooklyn, NY
- Results:
 - o When compared with a control group, ComALERT participants were less likely to be re-arrested during the first two years after release from prison (29.3% graduates v. 39.2% attendees vs. 47.6% control group). Attendees were 18% less likely to be re-arrested and graduates were 39% less likely to be arrested than control group. Participants were less likely to be re-convicted two years after being released (27.8% participants vs. 34.2% control group). Nearly 19% of graduates were reconvicted compared to 34.2% of the control group. Employment rates were 50% higher than the control group’s rate. Those in the Ready, Willing, and Able Program had a 90% employment rate (15 points higher than ComALERT participants and 70 points higher than the control group’s rate). No significant difference in substance abuse.

Boston (Massachusetts) Reentry Initiative (BRI) – promising

- Source: One study from crimesolutions.gov
- Program goals/components:
 - o BRI⁴⁹ is a Re-entry program for those who pose the greatest risk of committing violent crime when released. The program goal is to reduce recidivism rates by offering mentoring services, case management, social services assistance, and vocational development. Every month, 15 to 20 inmates from Suffolk County House of Corrections are assigned to the program. Those who volunteer to participate are assigned to a case manager and a discharge plan is made including: obtaining a identification/drivers license, health insurance, transportation, employment, drug and/or mental health treatment, education, and housing.
 - ** Annual budget is \$1.8 million a year (federal and state grants).
- Place:
 - o Boston, MA
- Results:
 - o Program had significantly lower failure rates for participants vs. control group.

One year after post-release, 36% of participants had been re-arrested for a new crime vs. 51% for the control group. After two years, 68% of participants had been re-arrested for a new crime compared to 78% of the control group. After three years, 78% of participants had been re-arrested versus 88% of the control group. For violent crime, after 2 years, 20% of participants had been re-arrested vs. 35% for the control group. After three years, 28% of participants had been re-arrested vs. 39% of control group. Participants were 30% less likely to be re-arrested for a violent crime than the control group.

New-York City-based Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO)- promising

- Source: One study found online
- Program goal/component:
 - o Study 1⁵⁰: Ex-prisoners are placed in paid transitional jobs and supervised by CEO staff to ensure best results and job support. Participants, if they perform well enough, will receive help finding a permanent job. Based on a total of 977 ex-prisoners assigned to the participant or control group were followed for two years.
- Place:
 - o Study 1: New York
- Results:
 - o Study 1 (promising): 70% of the program group worked in a transitional job for an average of 8 weeks. Although CEO employed a large amount of participants, by the end of the first year, the program and the control groups were equally likely to be employed and their incomes were similar. Recidivism rates during the first and second year were significantly reduced for both groups.

The Baltimore Living Insurance for Ex-Prisoners (LIFE)- effective in reducing theft re-arrests

- Source: One study found online⁵¹
- Program goal/components:
 - o Tested the hypothesis that income support to released prisoners would facilitate post-release adjustment and reduce the likelihood of property crimes. Study conducted in 1971, sampled 432 prisoners released from Maryland state prison. Released prisoners were grouped into 4 groups: those who received 13 weeks of payment of \$60 per week and intensive job counseling and placement services, those who received payment only, those who received counseling and placement only, and a control group with no services. High risk individuals were selected to participate.
- Place:
 - o Baltimore, Maryland.
- Results:
 - o Those receiving the cash payments had fewer arrests in the first year than compared to those in the control group. Specifically, they had 17.4 fewer arrests or 26% reduction in recidivism. Men in the financial-aid group had higher paying jobs when they were employed. For theft only, those who did not receive job

placement nor money had the largest success. The provision of job placement assistance had no significant impact on post-release behavior, in fact, men who received these services were more likely to recidivate than those who had received the program.

National Supported Work Demonstration- mixed (depends on age)

- Source: One study found online⁵²
- Program goals/components:
 - Looked at the effect of jobs on recidivism rates. Sample included 3,105 men who had been recently incarcerated, were unemployed, and had been employed for no more than three of the preceding 6 months between 1975 and 1977. Individuals were assigned to either a minimum wage job in crews of 6-8 workers or a control group. Looked at self-reported arrests for those under 26 and those older than 26. Looked at recidivism rates from 18 to 36 months thereafter.
- Place:
 - Nine U.S. cities
- Results:
 - The effect of employment varied by age of the participants; it significantly reduced recidivism for those over 26 years of age only. For those under 26, at the end of year 1, 31% of those in the treatment and control group had been re-arrested. These rates differ from those over 26, as those in the treatment group had 8% fewer arrests than those in the control group. After three years, those rates **decreased** by an additional 11%.

Job Training Program for Probationers: ineffective

- Source: One study found online⁵³
- Program goals/components:
 - 216 individuals on probation were randomly assigned to either a job training (e.g. preparing resumes and employment applications, role-playing job interviews, and skill training) program or to community probation. Looked at the effect of job training on recidivism rates: arrests, probation revocation, and new sentences at 6 and 12 months.
- Place:
 - A Midwest city in 1979, 1980, and 1981
- Results:
 - No differences in 6 and 12 month outcomes; at 6 months, 15% of control and 13.5% of treatment had either probation revocation or a new conviction and at 12 months, treatment 15.5% vs. control 23% - which was not statistically significant.

Job Training Partnership (JTPA) [for juveniles]- ineffective

- Source: One study found online⁵⁴
- Program goals/components:
 - o Provided employment and training for economically disadvantaged Americans, including school drop-outs with arrest records. Includes basic education, job-readiness training, vocational exploration, job shadowing, and tryout employment. 390 male ex-offenders with an average of 21 months after and 198 males at 36 months were analyzed for recidivism rates.
- Place:
 - o Doesn't specify: 16 local JTPA programs from across the country
- Results:
 - o No significant effect on youths 17-21. At the 21 months, 43% of both the treatment and control had re-arrests, and at 36 months, 59% of the treatment group were rearrested versus 56% of the control group.

JOBSTART [for youth] - ineffective⁵⁵

- Source: One study found online
- Program goals/components:
 - o Provides basic skill education, occupational training, support services, and job placement assistance to youth. Looked at 291 male and female ex-offenders, with one prior arrest ages 17-21 who were assigned to either treatment or control group. Looked at the effect of job training on recidivism rates at 1 and 4 years.
- Place:
 - o Not specific: 13 sites between 1985 and 1989
- Results:
 - o No significant difference between treatment and control group 4 years thereafter; at year 1, 35% of treatment and control had been re-arrested and at 4 years, 69% of treatment and 75% of controls had been re-arrested.

Job Corps [for youths]- promising⁵⁶

- Source: one study found online
- Program goals/components:
 - o Residential program that involves academic and vocational preparation with some job placement primarily for school dropouts. Intended for youths 16 to 24. Conducted a random sample of those involved in the program from November 1994 to February 1996, using self-report.
- Place:
 - o Based on a nationwide sample
- Results:
 - o Participants improved their functional literacy rates at a statistically significant level compared to the control group. Employed programs earned an average of \$0.22 more per hour than the employed control group. Participants reduced the receipt of cash welfare plus food stamps by \$640 per participant (statistically

significant by 1%). Re-arrests rates were 1.3% for a group with prior arrests for non-serious crimes and 4.7% for serious offenders with prior arrests. There were no impacts for those with prior arrests. 33% of control group were re-arrested during the 48 months follow-up compared to 29% of program group members. Arrest rates were largest during the 1st year but it led to a small arrest reduction during the later months of the follow-up period. Larger impact on reducing arrests for less serious crimes such as disorderly conduct and trespassing than more serious crimes. Alcohol consumption and hard drug use were reduced among participants with non-serious arrests.

Opportunity to Succeed (OTS)- ineffective⁵⁷

- Source: One study found online
- Program goals/components:
 - o Designed to reduce substance abuse and criminal recidivism by utilizing job readiness classes, job training, and job placement to ex-prisoners with alcohol and drug offense histories. Randomly assigned 398 participants to either the treatment or control group when the treatment was available for up to 2 years. Used both self-report and official records for the first year of supervision.
- Places:
 - o Kansas City, MO, St. Louis, MO, and Tampa, FL.
- Results:
 - o Self-report data suggested that individuals had fewer robberies and engaging in less disorderly conduct but these results were significant at the .10 level. Official records suggested no difference in the two groups on the number of arrests. Found that clients with greater contact with case managers results in **increased** detection of violations.

D. Work training programs in low-income communities:

The Annie E. Casey Foundation Jobs Initiative (JI) promising⁵⁸

- Source: One report found on the Annie E. Casey Foundation website
- Program goals/components:
 - o In 1995, the Casey Foundation established the JI project to help low-income inner-city residents gain greater employment. Strategies used for the JI included contacting community-based organizations for recruitment, case management and support services, developing soft-skills training program, working with community colleges to design and implement vocational training, and partnering with workforce development organizations for job development. Six cities were included in the evaluation: Denver, Milwaukee, New Orleans, Philadelphia, St. Louis, and Seattle. The initiative is carried out in three phases and underwent an 18-month planning phase. By December 2000, the JI sites had 12,000 participants and 2/3 of people were between the ages of 18 and 35, over half has children, and 80% were people of color (62% black).
- Place:
 - o Denver, Milwaukee, New Orleans, Philadelphia (PhAME), St. Louis (WorkLink), and Seattle.
- Results:
 - o Nearly 5,500 JI participants were placed in jobs and 5,700 children had parents placed in a job. At 18 months after enrollment, 65% were working compared to 25% when they were enrolled. Participants were able to **increase** the average number of hours worked per week from 36 hours before placement to 39 hours and they worked 5 more workweeks per year after placement. The average placement wage was \$9.13.

Research on Collective Efficacy

In neighborhoods, the shared willingness of local residents to intervene for the common good depends on conditions of cohesion and mutual trust among neighbors (for example, residents working together to stop local youth from loitering in front of a business establishment). Residents are unlikely to take action, and work together, in a community where the rules are unclear and people mistrust one another (Sampson and Raudenbush, 1999)⁵⁹. Research indicates that neighborhoods with high levels of collective efficacy have lower rates of disorder and crime. The term collective efficacy is defined as the linkage of cohesion and mutual trust with shared expectations for intervening (working together) in support of neighborhood social control (Sampson et al. 1997)⁶⁰. Sampson and Raudenbush's study (1999) found that collective efficacy predicted lower observed disorder after controlling for socio-demographics, land-use characteristics, perceived disorder, and prior rates of predatory crime. Research suggests not investing in formal policing strategies to prevent crime, and instead suggests developing informal but collective efforts (increasing collective efficacy) among residents to reduce disorder and crime rates (Skogan and Hartnett 1998⁶¹; Sampson & Raudenbush, 1999).

Although there is little research on what type of strategies produce collective efficacy, many of the short term social strategies on the implementation table are efforts to build stronger community relations. Under the "community-building and organizing" strategy specific activities such as gatherings to get to know neighbors and sharing good things taking place in the community have the potential to build trust and encourage community involvement. Developing efforts to communicate with neighbors and enhancing resident accountability (under "Property owner/resident accountability) may also improve community relations and trust.

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