



NATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION CENTRE

A BLUEPRINT FOR EFFECTIVE CRIME PREVENTION

Canada is a safe country and most Canadians enjoy safe neighbourhoods. But we cannot take this for granted. Furthermore, crime and victimization still cost Canadian society more than \$70 billion in 2003, and \$13 billion of that was spent in the criminal justice system. We have unacceptable levels of interpersonal violence. Gang and gun-related violence, especially among youth, needs our attention. Crime is a complex, multi-faceted phenomenon, and a traditional response or single approach cannot efficiently reduce its social and economic impacts.



The National Crime Prevention Strategy (NCPS) provides a policy framework for the implementation of crime prevention interventions in Canada. It is jointly managed with the provinces and territories and administered by the National Crime Prevention Centre (NCPC) in the Community Safety and Partnerships Branch of Public Safety Canada.

Mission

The NCPC mission is to provide national leadership on effective and cost-efficient ways to both prevent and reduce crime by addressing known risk factors in high-risk populations and places.

The NCPC concentrates on two core activities: supporting targeted interventions and building and sharing practical knowledge.

Principles

The NCPC's principles are that, to produce optimum results, crime prevention interventions should: be integrated with the activities of other programs and services, build on the knowledge of known risk and protective factors and use evidence-based practices, be focused on specific priorities, and be measurable.

1. Integration

In Canada, many services and programs contribute to creating safer communities. Government and non-government organizations, police and correctional services all have strategies and programs to reduce crime. Programs implemented by schools or health services, sports and culture, also contribute, in varying ways, to helping children and youth keep out of trouble.

Since its inception in 1998, the NCPC has collaborated with key partners at the local, provincial, territorial, and international level to address the factors that put individuals at risk. We need to strengthen partnerships across all sectors and systematically integrate crime prevention with enforcement, corrections and other relevant interventions.

2. Evidence-led efforts

In the past decade, knowledge of successful crime prevention has grown considerably. The NCPC identifies successful interventions and the conditions of their adaptation to local needs and conditions. Supporting evidence-based practices promotes effective crime prevention.

3. Focused action

Our focus is on specific priorities, established in partnership with key stakeholders and on the basis of careful analysis of key crime trends. Our priorities are to:

- address early risk factors among vulnerable families and children and youth at risk;
- respond to priority crime issues (youth gangs, drug-related crime);
- prevent recidivism among high-risk groups; and
- foster prevention in Aboriginal communities.

4. Measurable results

Projects supported by the NCPC must have the potential to demonstrate the extent to which risk factors are addressed, how the approach chosen is based on evidence of what works and whether these are efficient means to reduce crime.

Our funding programs

Crime Prevention Action Fund (CPAF)

The CPAF supports crime prevention projects in both large and small communities. The CPAF's key objective is to support promising practices that address known risk factors and are related to NCPC's priority crime issues.

Priority is given to projects that focus on individuals or groups with multiple risk factors. Capacity building, especially in Aboriginal communities, rural and/or remote areas, will be funded based on need, as part of a broader strategy to address specific risk factors or crimes.

Research and Knowledge Development Fund (RKDF)

The RKDF has three funding streams: research, knowledge transfer and demonstration projects accompanied by independent evaluations.

The RKDF's objectives are to: identify promising community-based crime prevention models; determine the effectiveness and cost-benefits of projects, which are the key components of successful programs and how they might be used in other communities; and promote high-quality, cost-effective and sustainable crime prevention projects.

The RKDF supports:

- demonstration projects to test interventions with high-risk populations and places;
- independent evaluations of selected projects;
- selected institutes that gather, synthesize and disseminate information on successful and promising practices in Canada and around the world;
- studies where the information is essential to developing demonstration projects; and
- sharing this knowledge through electronic bulletins, printed reports, training sessions, practical seminars, etc.

Youth Gang Prevention Fund (YGPf)

The YGPf invests in communities with gang issues. It invests in projects targeting youth who are already members of gangs or at the greatest risk of joining gangs. The NCPC works with the provinces and territories to identify affected communities.

Funding goes to projects where community-based organizations and municipalities have worked together to assess needs and develop a coordinated, integrated response to the gang phenomenon they face.

Conclusion

There is no single approach to crime prevention. A wide array of interventions is needed to maximize effectiveness. Accordingly, the NCPC adopts the position reflected in the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime (2002) that social, situational and recidivism prevention measures are, together with effective partnerships at the community level, an effective way to contribute to crime reductions.

For more information on the National Crime Prevention Centre please contact us at 1-877-302-6272, or visit our website at: www.publicsafety.gc.ca/ncpc.

If you wish to register for the NCPC mailing list to receive information from the Centre please visit the subscription page at: www.publicsafety.gc.ca/prg/cp/maillinglist/subscribe-en.aspx.