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Crime Prevention and
 Social Development:
 Police and Community
 Working Together

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Goals of CP & SD = well-being:
Individual and community

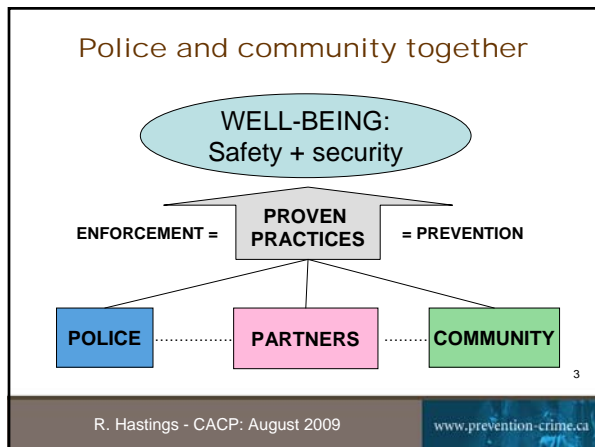
Key crime and justice dimensions:

- Social control
- Dispute resolution
- Emergency response
- Social or physical disorder
- Crime and victimization

2

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1. Some basic assumptions

1. Safety and security are only one dimension of social well-being
2. Crime and crime prevention are only one aspect of the work the police do
3. CPSD is only one aspect of crime prevention – focuses on social and development factors related to repeat offending/victimization and “hot spots”
4. Police do not have the mandate and resources for most CP & SD, but they are a vital partner in effective CP and SD initiatives

4

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The current context

1. Increased demand...largely because of developments in other areas (motive, opportunities and controls)
2. Increasing complexity of problems
3. Competition for “market share” and for resources (capacity)
4. Challenges to legitimacy

5

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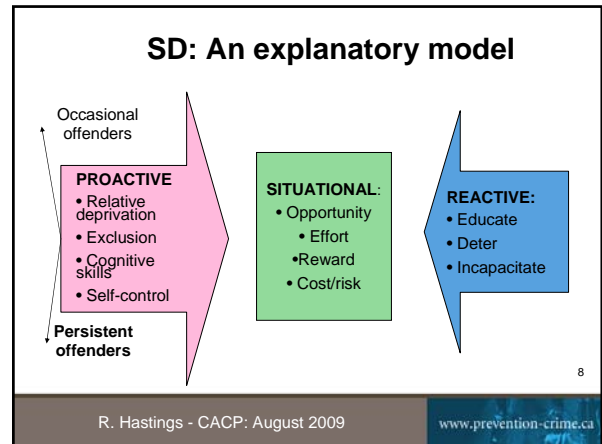
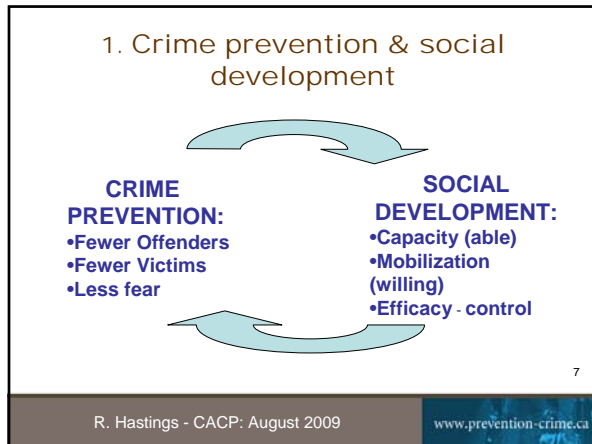
Key questions

1. What do we mean by CP & SD – how can they help?
2. CP & SD: what do the police do best?
3. CP & SD: what is the role of the “community”?
4. Resistance and innovation: how can we move the CP & SD agenda forward?

6

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2. What the police do best: Reactive and situational prevention

1. Community policing

- Improved police-community interaction seems to contribute to reducing fear of crime
- Little evidence that, *on their own*, community meetings, NW, storefronts, newsletters or more information to the public reduce crime
- Improves the perceived legitimacy of the police (key to partnerships), but this can be undermined by disrespectful policing

9

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2. Policing hot spots

- Crackdowns on offenders (temporary): short-term deterrent effects, but benefits decay + can have negative impacts on the community
- Strong evidence that a focused geographic approach can increase police effectiveness
- Benefits easier to sustain if initiative is part of a broader response (POP partnerships)
- Less spatial displacement than feared + indications of diffusion of benefits

10

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3. Problem-oriented policing

- Moderate evidence that it is an effective approach for reducing crime, disorder and fear – strongest evidence of effectiveness when focused on hot spots/places
- Most effective (less risk of decay) if part of a wider collaborative effort involving other partners who can “pull levers”
- Less spatial displacement than feared + indications of diffusion of benefits

11

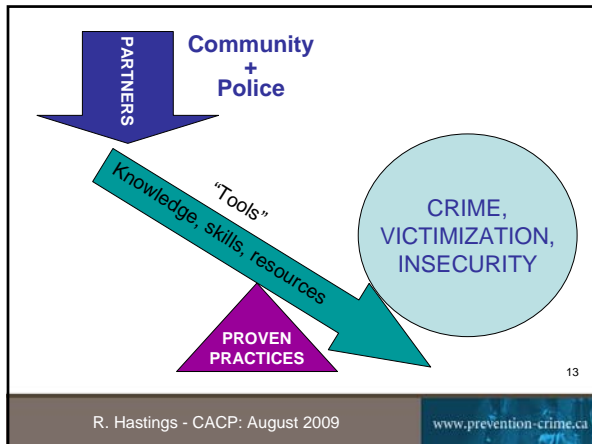
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3. Community: what's in a word? And, what does “success” mean?

- A place...geography: **IN**
- A social bond...identity: **US**
- A delivery mechanism...an agent: **BY**
- A partner: **WITH**
- A client: **FOR**

12

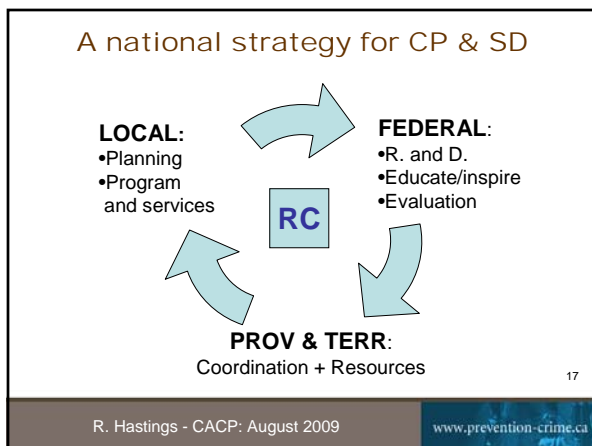
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- ### The “community”: social, and situational prevention
1. Address developmental risk/protective factors to improve cognitive skills and self-control
 2. Address social and structural factors that contribute to social exclusion, hopelessness (“nothing to lose”) and a sense that crime is a “solution”
 3. Situational prevention
 4. Mobilize “moral authority” – key = community leaders
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- ### The limits of localism
1. « Blind spots » : a tendency to ignore certain types of social factors
 2. Capacity and mobilisation: risk reducing prevention to what the community is willing and able to do!
 3. Download responsibility, but not power and control :
 - Focus on projects rather than comprehensive and sustained initiatives
 - Focus on outputs/activities rather than on their impact
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- ### 4. Moving forward: Key elements of a CP & SD strategy
1. Develop problem-solving collaborations: vision, leadership, action plans, responsibility centres (with power over priorities, resources, accountability)
 2. Concentrate resources on greatest needs
 3. Rely on evidence-based approaches
 4. Assure initiatives have adequate and sustained supports (must go beyond project-based funding)
 5. Engage the public: knowledge, support and participation
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- ### Change: Three basic rules
1. **LEAD FROM THE TOP:** articulate a vision and assure that strategic supports are in place
 2. **THINK FROM THE BOTTOM:** convert the vision into meaningful and doable tasks (that will be counted!)
 3. **START IN THE MIDDLE:** 4 “Ts” - Technology, Time, Teams and Tasking
- 18
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4. Resistance to innovation in CP & SD

1. Public opinion: the politics of crime
2. Entrenched interests
3. Crime pays!
4. Prevention is hard to « see » + concerns over who gets credit or blame
5. Partnerships are risky and resource intensive
6. Prevention is marginal to political and administrative power

19

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5. Conclusion: an uncertain future

- A fragmented strategy – little consensus re. a sustainable comprehensive national strategy
- A climate of crisis and insecurity and powerful sources of resistance to innovation
- Insufficient capacity and resources – 1st step = R & D
- CP and SD are more talk than action – relatively little power or influence
- Need stronger police-community “voices”

20

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Conclusion: where do we stand?

Police, community and partnerships
are powerful tools

vs

Risk = reducing CP and SD
To what communities are
willing and able to do

21

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