

Selected Facts

- In 2004, the General Social Survey of adult Canadians by Statistics Canada showed :
 - * 1 in 4 Canadians were the victims of crimes such as thefts, vandalism, and assaults – annually- and approximately 40% of these were victimized more than once. (Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004)
 - * Close to half a million women were sexually assaulted and over half a million households experienced a break-in or an attempted break-in. 2 million persons were victims of physical assault (Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2004)
- Canada spends more than \$13 billion each year on police, corrections and other criminal justice services. (Department of Justice Canada, 2003)
- Two out of every three Canadians believe their provincial government should place crime prevention among the top five priorities, along with health care, education, child poverty, and the environment. (Ekos Research, 2004)

Examples of Effective Prevention

- Education experiments in the USA such as *Quantum Opportunities*, provided disadvantaged teens at risk of dropping out of high school with after school activities, and as a result reduced youth arrests by 71%. (Hahn, A. et al., 1994; Lattimore, C.B., Mihalic, S.F., Grotmeter, J.K., & Taggart, R., 1998)
- *The Fourth R curriculum* – developed in Ontario - is a school-based prevention program designed to prevent bullying, dating violence and peer violence which has already shown significant reductions in aggressive behaviour towards peers. (Wolfe, D.A., Crooks, C.V., Chiodo, D., Hughes, R., Jaffe, P. 2005)
- *Youth Inclusion Programs* reduced youth arrests by 65% and overall crime in neighbourhoods by up to 27% when they were implemented in 110 of the most deprived and high crime areas in England and Wales. (Youth Justice Board of England and Wales, 2003)
- Helping kids to flourish and grow up to avoid offending results in savings, thereby minimizing losses to victims and the costs of additional criminal justice. A long term evaluation of the prevention dividend from the early childhood education program known as *Perry Preschool*, shows savings to criminal justice that are 11 times the cost of the program. (Schweinhart, 2004)
- Programs that combine law enforcement and citizen engagement in a problem solving model have reduced break-ins and car theft significantly.
 - * The Manitoba Car Theft Reduction program prevents youth crime and protects car owners – the evaluation of a similar program in Regina showed a 32% reduction over 2 years (*Regina Auto Theft Strategy: Regina Police Service, 2004*).
 - * The Tandem Montreal program that was shown to prevent break-ins in St Henri was modeled on a *burglary prevention project* in the UK where burglary was reduced by 75% over 4 years. (Forrester et al., 1990).
- *Problem solving partnerships* in Boston, where police worked together with families and service agencies – guided by university research - to address youth carrying illegal guns, demonstrated a 71% reduction in homicides committed by youth within two years. (Kennedy, National Institute of Justice, 2001)
- The *Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy*, a problem solving partnership at the neighbourhood level – guided by by university research - demonstrated a 58% reduction in robbery and greater enjoyment of the neighborhoods. (Skogan & Hartnett, 1997; Skogan & Steiner, 2004)