

Evidence on Community Safety Strategies & Promising Practices

Alameda County Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Action Team Meeting

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Melody Tulier, MCP, MPH, DrPH(c)

Call to Action

- Unsafe communities propel and reinforce health inequities
- Safer communities is a preventative approach to health
- Mandate for a multi-pronged approach – across public health, healthcare, social service and criminal justice systems
- Explicit identification of key outcomes and both risk and protective practices

Research Approach

- Review academic literature
 - In particular systematic reviews
- Include research from major centers
 - The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) at the U.S. Department of Justice, the Blueprints for Violence Prevention project developed by the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence (CSPV)
- Relevant case studies

Most Effective for Child & Youth: **Creating positive environments (classroom, families, individually)**

- Study of 9 programs with 3,600 participants found childhood programs can prevent criminal involvement
- Examples of programs include:
 - Nurse-Family Partnership
 - Infant Health and Development program
 - High/Scope Perry Preschool Program
 - Good Behavior Game
 - Second Step: Student Success through Prevention Program curriculum

Most Effective for Child & Youth: **Mentoring**

- 46 randomized control or quasi-experimental studies of mentoring programs
- Modest effect for outcomes related to academic achievement, drug use, and aggression
- Best performing programs included advocacy, teaching and emotional support
 - Mentoring - Big Brothers Big Sisters of America
 - Reductions in alcohol and drug use and truancy in addition to increased Grade Point Average

Most Effective for Child & Youth: **Enhancing paths through therapy and academic and career opportunities**

- Multisystemic Therapy – Intensive individual and family therapy on peer pressure, behavior, communication, and parenting.
 - Reductions in reported drug use, incarceration, days incarcerated, fewer arrests
- Career Academies - integrates career and academic curricula and opportunities
 - Reduced drop out rates, higher earnings, more hours worked per week

Most Effective Programs for Neighborhoods: **Vibrant Neighborhoods through Physical Changes**

- Effective programs/contexts which enhanced safety included:
 - Access to transit
 - Building reparations
 - Greening vacant lots
 - Reduction in alcohol outlets

Most Effective Programs for Neighborhoods: **Vibrant Neighborhoods through Problem Solving Interventions**

- “Coproduction” (where reductions in crime stem from cooperation with community members), rather than a zero-tolerance policy at specific places
- Police focusing on “hot spots” = shift from policing people to places
- Weapons bans have a moderately high effect
- Firearm violence also decreased with community interventions and policing strategies

Most Effective Programs for Neighborhoods: **Comprehensive community-based interventions**

- Outperformed limited interventions (gun buy-back programs, information and enforcement campaigns, etc.)
- Ex. Comprehensive Intervention On Robbery and Physical Disorder=
 1. Situational prevention strategies (improved street lighting, implementation of video surveillance, dispersing groups of loiterers, performing code inspections, cleaning up vacant lots)
 2. Social service actions
 - 42 percent reduction in robbery calls in treatment areas relative to control areas
 - Physical disorder was alleviated at 13 of 17 (76.5 percent) treatment places

Most Effective Programs for Neighborhoods: **Comprehensive community-based interventions**

- Ex. Comprehensive intervention Reducing Homicide=
 - The Milwaukee Police Department, criminal justice entities, service providers, and communities investigate, provide emergency services, assess community factors contributing to homicide, and educate the community
 - 52 percent decrease in the monthly count of homicides in the intervention districts

Key Components of Success

- When assessing success, must consider type of program to determine the most appropriate outcome, but also scale of which it is implemented
- Regardless of program, two major factors correlating to effectiveness are:
 1. A therapeutic intervention philosophy (such as counseling and skills training)
 2. Quality of implementation

Summary Target and Key Strategies

Children and Youth

- Creating positive environments (classroom, families, individually)
- Mentoring
- Paths through therapy and academic and career opportunities

Neighborhoods

- Physical Changes
- Problem Solving Interventions
- Community-based Interventions

Thank you.