



Combating Violence and Delinquency: The National Juvenile Justice Action Plan

Summary

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The Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention was established in 1974 as an independent organization in the executive branch of the Federal Government. The primary function of the Council is to make recommendations to the President and the Congress on coordination of overall policy and development of objectives and priorities for all Federal juvenile delinquency programs and activities. Members of the Coordinating Council are listed above. The nine practitioner members in the field of juvenile justice are appointed, without regard to political affiliation, by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the Senate, and the President of the United States.

Combating Violence and Delinquency: The National Juvenile Justice Action Plan

Summary

**Coordinating Council on
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention**

March 1996

Foreword

Every day, crime shatters the peace in our Nation's neighborhoods. Violent crime and the fear it engenders cripple our society, threaten personal freedom, and fray the ties that are essential for healthy communities. No corner of America is safe from increasing levels of criminal violence, including violence committed by and against juveniles. Parents are afraid to let their children walk to school alone. Children hesitate to play in neighborhood playgrounds. The elderly lock themselves in their homes, and innocent Americans of all ages find their lives changed by the fear of crime.

This Summary of the Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's *National Juvenile Justice Action Plan (Action Plan)* presents innovative and effective strategies designed to reduce violence and victimization. Through these efforts, communities and citizens are working to bring about positive change. They are establishing neighborhood watches and citizen patrols and working with law enforcement and other agencies to close down drug houses. They are cleaning up playgrounds and parks and creating drug- and weapon-free school zones. They are forming community planning teams to identify risk factors for delinquency, assess resources and needs, and provide programs designed to prevent juvenile involvement in delinquency and crime. They are creating opportunities for youth to take part in community-building activities. In concert with community oriented policing and strict accountability for offenders, these local prevention efforts are our Nation's most effective long-term weapons against crime and violence.

Although the public is deeply concerned about juvenile violence and victimization, many Americans do not know how they can help. Because the effects of juvenile violence are felt by entire communities, the search for solutions must be a communitywide effort, and every citizen needs to be involved.

The *Action Plan* describes how communities can generate solutions and how individuals and groups can prevent or reduce violence in their own block, public housing unit, or neighborhood. Cooperative partnerships among justice, health, child welfare, education, and social service systems can lay the foundation for measurable successes. Working together, individuals, groups, and communities can make real and sustained changes. The *Action Plan* also provides important information about Federal training, technical assistance, grants, research, evaluation, and other resources that support these efforts.

The Coordinating Council recognizes that much work needs to be done. However, by continuing to build partnerships throughout our government and communities, we can promote early intervention and prevention of youth violence. The solutions are within reach. The power to change America is within ourselves. Together, we can redeem the promise that every young life holds.

Attorney General Janet Reno
Chair
Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice
and Delinquency Prevention

Acknowledgments

The problem of violent crime committed by and against juveniles is a national crisis. The work of the Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in developing the *Action Plan* represents an extraordinary accomplishment. The *Action Plan* frames the fight against juvenile violence through eight objectives that can be supported by activity at the Federal, State, local, community, and individual levels—and bases its recommended actions on research and program evaluations that give us reason to believe that we can be successful. The *Action Plan* also provides an annotated bibliography and technical assistance resources that can assist in ensuring that success.

While all of the members of the Coordinating Council participated in the development of the *Action Plan*, a Coordinating Council Working Group that includes the practitioner members and staff from both the member and other participating Federal agencies helped make this a document truly reflective of the needs of the field. The individuals, listed in Appendix B, spent countless hours reviewing, refining, and finalizing the *Action Plan*. I thank them for their significant contribution. Special thanks are due to the Department of Justice’s Youth Violence Working Group and to the bureaus of the Office of Justice Programs.

There are several members of the staff of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) without whom this *Action Plan* could not have been produced. Gina E. Wood, Director of Concentration of Federal Efforts, guided this project with patience and vision to its conclusion. OJJDP Deputy Administrator John J. Wilson helped refine the document into its present clear statement. Sarah Ingersoll, Special Assistant to the OJJDP Administrator, served as the *Action Plan*’s primary author. OJJDP’s Juvenile Justice Resource Center provided invaluable support in developing the *Action Plan*.

The *Action Plan* was designed to provide a framework and strategy for action to address the problem of juvenile violence facing communities, their youth, and the juvenile justice system. I believe it has accomplished this goal. I look forward to implementing the action steps and seeing the emergence of a stronger juvenile justice system and a safer America.

Shay Bilchik
Vice Chair
Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice
and Delinquency Prevention

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An Urgent Call to Action

This Nation must take immediate and decisive action to intervene in the problem of juvenile violence that threatens the safety and security of communities—and the future of our children—across the country. Demographic experts predict that juvenile arrests for violent crimes will more than double by the year 2010,¹ given population growth projections and trends in juvenile arrests over the past several decades. (See figure 1.)

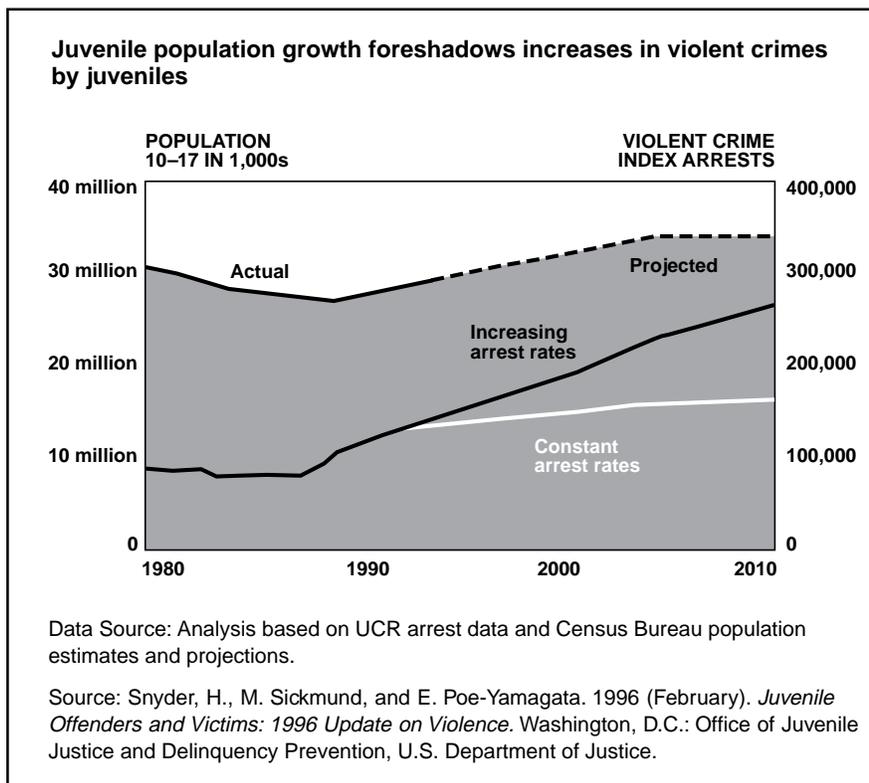
There is, however, reason for hope. Juvenile violent crime arrests are increasing, but only a fraction of youth (one-half of 1 percent) is arrested for violent crimes each year.² We can interrupt this escalation of violence based on identified positive and negative characteristics—protective and risk factors—that are present or lacking in communities, families, schools, peer groups, and individuals. These factors either equip a child with the capacity to

become a healthy, productive individual or expose that child to potential involvement in crime and violence. Of equal importance, communities are learning that they can make dramatic changes in delinquency levels by taking steps that successfully reduce the risk factors and strengthen the protective factors in children's lives.

In partnership with State and Federal agencies, communities are beginning to mobilize to combat juvenile delinquency through prevention, early intervention, and community-building strategies that address local needs. They are taking steps to reduce serious and violent juvenile delinquency by using multi-agency, coordinated approaches and innovative programs and services in the juvenile justice system.

In support of these efforts, the Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention offers *The National Juvenile Justice Action Plan*. The *Action Plan*, summarized in this document, is an eight-point statement of objectives and strategies designed to strengthen State and local initiatives to reduce juvenile violence, increase the capacity of the juvenile justice system to respond, and prevent delinquency. The primary audiences for the *Action Plan* are State and local leaders, juvenile justice practitioners, and community members who are initiating or engaging in these activities and

Figure 1: Juvenile population and arrest rates



are seeking guidance, support, and resources. Educators, crime victims, law enforcement, service providers, parents, religious organizations, youth, probation officers, judges, community and business leaders, legislators, mayors, and governors—all of these individuals can benefit from and use this plan to coordinate State and local initiatives and integrate proposed Federal actions and resources into local plans.

What We Can Accomplish Together

To combat juvenile violence, all citizens must recognize that they can make a difference in their communities, both through individual action and by joining with others in comprehensive, collaborative initiatives. Efforts to reduce juvenile violence can be as basic as parents setting clear expectations and standards for children's behavior or as far-reaching as a local government implementing community oriented policing. Many national organizations are committed to supporting the implementation of community-based anti-violence initiatives and can provide products and services related to juvenile justice and delinquency prevention. A list of these national organizations appears in Appendix C, Matrix of Technical Assistance Resources. The full *Action Plan* includes an annotated bibliography that is a comprehensive compilation of publications that address juvenile violence.

The *Action Plan* supports State, local, and community-based implementation of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's (OJJDP's) *Comprehensive Strategy for Serious, Violent,*

*and Chronic Juvenile Offenders*³ and its recently published *Guide for Implementing the Comprehensive Strategy for Serious, Violent, and Chronic Juvenile Offenders*,⁴ which provide a framework for establishing a continuum of programs and services designed to reverse the trend of increased juvenile violence and delinquency.

To support implementation of State, local, and community activities, the *Action Plan* provides:

- A list of resources that Federal member agencies of the Coordinating Council will commit to the eight priority objectives, including training and technical assistance, financial assistance, research, evaluation, legislation, and information dissemination.
- A summary of research that supports the *Action Plan*'s objectives, which States and communities can use to guide their policy, planning, and communication activities.
- Model program examples that can be adapted to meet local needs.

Information in the *Action Plan* can help the reader undertake activities such as organizing a neighborhood meeting on the problem of juvenile violence, starting a teen court, supporting job training programs for youth, providing opportunities for youth to become involved in service to their communities, developing a conflict resolution or mentoring program, or volunteering as a court-appointed special advocate. Communities can also benefit from information designed to help parents raise their children without abuse, provide safe corridors to ensure safe passage for children on their way to and from school, create a community resource bank listing

local organizations that offer counseling and other services, get involved in neighborhood cleanup activities, and much more.

While the *Action Plan* recognizes the important Federal role of providing support and a national perspective, State, local, and individual commitment is critical if these efforts are to succeed.

Objectives of The National Juvenile Justice Action Plan

The *Action Plan* is a blueprint for community action designed to address and reduce the impact of juvenile violence and delinquency. It presents a framework for the handling of delinquent offenders, including possible transfer of the most serious and violent offenders to the criminal justice system, and describes programs that increase opportunities for youth to have a stake in their future. The *Action Plan* also provides tools for rebuilding the dependency court system to better assist children who are victims of abuse and neglect. Its broad spectrum of strategies can help mobilize youth and adults to strengthen their own neighborhoods and inform the public about preventing juvenile violence.

No single individual, organization, or agency—in isolation—can address the causes of juvenile violence. Working together, however, State and local leaders, representatives of public and private groups, and individual community members—including youth—can bring about measurable change based on strategies that work by directing their energies to meet the eight objectives of the *Action Plan*. The following objectives, all of equal importance, can be achieved by

communities that are willing to address public safety concerns while making a commitment to services for children.

Objective 1. Provide immediate intervention and appropriate sanctions and treatment for delinquent juveniles.

Safe communities and juvenile accountability are central to the *Action Plan*. It proposes a strong juvenile justice system that provides a continuum of services for juveniles who come into the system for a variety of reasons, such as truancy, homelessness, drug abuse, mental illness, or delinquent offenses. The juvenile justice system must be given the tools to assess the risk the juvenile offender poses to the community, determine rehabilitative needs, and provide graduated sanctions and treatment commensurate with both conduct and needs. It must also be able to meet the needs of dependent, abused, and neglected children and status offenders.

The juvenile justice system response to delinquent conduct should be based on the balanced and restorative justice philosophy, which balances the need for offender accountability to the victim and the community, the need to provide for public safety, and the system's goal of helping youth become competent, contributing members of society. However, an effective response to victims' concerns must be balanced with reasonable confidentiality protections for juvenile offenders.

The *Action Plan* emphasizes the need for multidisciplinary assessment teams and centers that

bring together a broad range of juvenile service workers (e.g., intake, probation, parole, education, social services, mental health) in a single place. These teams or centers can efficiently perform functions that are required to accurately identify the sentencing, treatment, or rehabilitative needs of each juvenile and assess risk to the community. Assessment centers offer a systematic and coordinated way for youth to enter or be diverted from the system that is likely to result in cost-effective, individualized treatment plans.

A system of graduated sanctions is the recommended mechanism for attaining treatment and accountability goals for delinquent offenders. Graduated sanctions encompass three levels:

- Immediate intervention (community restitution, day treatment centers, diversion programs, and protective supervision projects) for first-time delinquent offenders and many nonviolent repeat offenders.

The Bethesda Day Treatment Center Program in West Milton, PA, provides services to delinquent and dependent youth without removing them from their homes.

- Intermediate sanctions (residential and nonresidential community-based programs, weekend detention, intensive supervision, probation, wilderness programs, and boot camps) for many first-time serious and repeat offenders and some violent offenders.
- Secure confinement (community confinement in small, secure treatment facilities or, where necessary, incarceration in training schools, camps, and ranches) for offenders categorized as violent or repeat serious offenders.

Levels of sanctions should be based on consideration of the offense and offense history (risk) and the offender's treatment and rehabilitation needs.

The *Action Plan* provides examples of effective programs designed to systematically identify treatment needs. For example, Family Assessment Service Teams, a part of the Norfolk (VA) Police Assisted Community Enforcement effort, use an interagency approach to coordinate resources and improve the effectiveness of juvenile services. Reports show that crime and fear of crime have dropped markedly in neighborhoods targeted by this program.⁵

The Bethesda Day Treatment Center Program in West Milton, PA, provides services to delinquent and dependent juveniles without removing them from their homes. A preliminary study shows recidivism rates far lower than State and national norms.⁶ Also in Pennsylvania, Student Assistance Programs

(SAP's) are addressing truancy, school dropout, violence, and drug abuse through education. The development of effective working relationships among education, juvenile justice, law enforcement, school-based probation officers, other social service agencies, and families has been one of the program's most important accomplishments. SAP has been implemented in 29 Pennsylvania counties in recognition of its success in helping students make impressive academic and behavioral gains.⁷

The Florida Environmental Institute (FEI), also known as “The Last Chance Ranch,” targets Florida’s most serious juvenile offenders. Located in a remote area of the Florida Everglades, FEI offers both a residential phase and a nonresidential aftercare program. Two-thirds of its referrals are adjudicated delinquents from the criminal justice system. Yet, because of its strong emphasis on education, hard work, social bonding, and aftercare, recidivism rates of juveniles who have gone through the program are substantially less than rates of traditional training school programs: 30 percent instead of 50–70 percent.⁸

The *Action Plan* also supports intensive aftercare programs to provide juveniles who are returning to the community with high levels of social control and transitional support. Strengthened cooperation between schools and probation departments is a critical component of aftercare programming.

The Florida Environmental Institute (FEI), also known as “The Last Chance Ranch,” targets Florida’s most serious juvenile offenders.

Critical tasks for States and local communities are to determine what is being accomplished to prevent juvenile violence and to ensure that a system of graduated sanctions is put in place to provide immediate intervention and appropriate sanctions and treatment for delinquent juveniles. Key elected officials, grassroots community leaders, youth groups, crime victims, and other key participants should be included in community planning and implementation of a comprehensive multidisciplinary strategy

to address juvenile delinquency. Local leaders can establish a prevention policy board to assess risk factors for delinquency; review current juvenile programs, laws, and ordinances; identify gaps in service delivery; and establish priorities for addressing them, including the development of strategies that address gender issues and disproportionate minority confinement.

To support State and local efforts, Federal action will:

- Assist in the development of model State and local programs through training and technical assistance.
- Ensure that the rights of victims of juvenile offenders are recognized.
- Provide communities with guidance for implementing a comprehensive strategy that reflects both delinquency prevention and graduated sanctions.

- Provide model protocols for intake, assessment, and aftercare.
- Provide research on the effectiveness of alternatives to incarceration, such as boot camps and community-based programs and services.
- Address and support efforts to reduce disproportionate minority confinement in secure facilities.
- Highlight and address issues confronting female juvenile offenders.

Objective 2. Prosecute certain serious, violent, and chronic juvenile offenders in criminal court.

The purpose of this objective is both to protect the public and to separate certain serious, violent, and chronic juvenile offenders from those juveniles who can benefit from treatment and rehabilitation in the juvenile justice system. Statistics show that a small percentage of the juvenile offender population is responsible for most of the serious and violent juvenile crime.⁹ Transferring to criminal court those targeted juvenile offenders who are the most chronic and who commit the most serious and violent crimes enables the juvenile justice system to focus its efforts and resources on the much larger group of at-risk youth and less serious and violent offenders who can benefit from a wide range of effective intervention strategies.

However, States and the Federal Government should review their statutory transfer mechanisms to ensure that they are appropriately applied. The transfer alternative should only be considered for those juveniles whose criminal history, failure to respond to treatment, or serious or violent conduct clearly demonstrates that they require criminal justice system sanctions. We must also remain vigilant about a juvenile's right to effective counsel and cognizant of the potentially harmful impact of placing juveniles in adult jails, lockups, and correctional facilities, including problems associated with overcrowding, abuse, youth suicide, and the risk of transforming treatable juveniles into hardened criminals. Most of all, a recognition of the continuing

need for transfer of juveniles to criminal court must strengthen our resolve to prevent delinquency and intervene early to decrease the risk of future criminal conduct.

The *Action Plan* proposes a two-tier system of extended jurisdiction in the juvenile court for serious, violent, and chronic juvenile offenders and consideration of innovative blended sentencing options for juvenile offenders under criminal court jurisdiction. This system would permit the transfer of some juvenile offenders contingent upon age, presenting offense, and offense history, allowing greater prosecutorial discretion for the older, more serious offender. State laws should consider appropriate discretionary powers for prosecutors to proceed to criminal court as the ages of juvenile offenders and the severity of the offense increase, thereby allowing for individualized case review and decisionmaking.

Extended jurisdiction of the juvenile court can be predicated upon a judge's determination that a juvenile is a serious, violent, or chronic offender based upon the current offense and the juvenile's prior history in the justice system. The court could be authorized to use this extended jurisdiction to keep an adjudicated delinquent in the system beyond age 21 if there were a reasonable expectation of successful treatment.

The use of innovative blended sentencing options can function as a supplement to the provision of extended jurisdiction by authorizing the criminal or juvenile court judge to utilize or, when appropriate, to combine juvenile and adult responses into a continuum of sanctions appropriate to the offense history and age of the juvenile.

The *Action Plan* advocates a clear judicial role in either the decision to proceed against a juvenile as a criminal offender or at the dispositional stage through discretion in sentencing options, as previously outlined. However, while not advocating for statutory exclusion or lowering the age for criminal court jurisdiction, the *Action Plan* recognizes that, in some instances, State law may use more than one transfer mechanism and expressly provide for the imposition only of criminal sanctions for specific classes of offenses at specific ages.

If the graduated sanctions model recommended in the *Action Plan* is fully implemented in a jurisdiction with adequate programming and resources, then the numbers of juveniles being transferred into the criminal court or classified for extended jurisdiction should decrease. In the interim, however, a more flexible mechanism is needed that ensures public safety and provides appropriate sanctions for serious, violent, and chronic juvenile offenders. With flexibility in court sentencing, the criminal court judge can access juvenile court programming as a "last chance" option for these offenders, while also enhancing the supervision of the court and heightening the motivation of the offender, who is accountable to the criminal court and faces a potential prison sentence upon violation of sentencing conditions.

Once the juvenile justice system is strengthened to work more effectively with the serious, violent, and chronic offender, as advocated in the *Action Plan*, the number of juveniles who need to be transferred to the criminal court for public safety reasons should be reduced.

The *Action Plan* presents effective sentencing strategies to help meet this objective while providing flexibility and individualized justice. In Minnesota, for example, a blended sentencing law creates a new category of juvenile offenders called "extended sentence jurisdiction juveniles" who receive both a juvenile disposition and a suspended criminal sentence. The criminal sanction can be imposed if a juvenile fails to conform to the requirements of the juvenile disposition.

Similarly, Florida's three-tiered approach gives prosecutors expanded discretionary power in making jurisdictional decisions as the ages of defendants and the severity of offenses increase.¹⁰ In Florida's criminal courts, the judge has a variety of sentencing options and can sentence the offender as an adult or as a juvenile.

At the Federal level, the *Action Plan* also suggests examining the advisability of amending the Federal Juvenile Delinquency Code to remove procedural barriers to the transfer of juveniles under Federal jurisdiction for criminal prosecution, including adding prosecutorial transfer authority (direct file) for certain serious and violent offenses.

State and local juvenile justice and law enforcement responses to serious and violent juvenile delinquency are critical. They include prosecuting, adjudicating, and sentencing juveniles; implementing transfer mechanisms; and establishing and maintaining automated recordkeeping systems in local juvenile courts. State legislators, victims, child advocates, researchers, and the media also play critical roles in shaping and influencing proposed juvenile justice laws and policies, as well as ensuring that the system is meeting its goals.

To support State and local efforts, Federal action will:

- Promote innovative options for the appropriate maintenance and sharing of juvenile records.
- Improve targeting, apprehension, prosecution, treatment, and correctional facilities and programs for serious, violent, and chronic juvenile offenders.
- Assist States and local governments to identify juvenile offenders by offering guidance on appropriate ways to access and maintain juvenile records.
- Examine transfer statistics and the impact of innovative sentencing options.
- Develop and support innovative options for the handling of serious, violent, and chronic juvenile offenders.
- Review procedural barriers to prosecuting violent juvenile Federal offenders as criminal offenders.
- Provide training and technical assistance to Federal, State, and local prosecutors and judges handling juvenile cases.

Objective 3. Reduce youth involvement with guns, drugs, and gangs.

Youth access to guns is related to the increased youth homicide rate we are witnessing in this country. A strong relationship between illegal gun possession by juveniles, delinquency, and drug use has been found in an OJJDP-sponsored longitudinal study on the causes and correlates of delinquency. The study found that nearly

three-quarters of youth who possessed guns illegally committed some type of street crime; one-quarter committed a gun-related crime; and 4 out of 10 used drugs.¹¹

The Kansas City Experiment formed a working group consisting of law enforcement, human service agencies, and community organizations to focus police efforts in high-crime neighborhoods.

Drug activity appears to exacerbate youth violence, and firearms are more prevalent around drug activity.¹² In 1984, the United States saw a dramatic increase in youth gun homicide, coinciding with the introduction of crack cocaine into urban communities. Studies show that as the use of guns by drug-involved youth increases, other young people obtain guns for their own protection. This cycle of fear or “diffusion” theory¹³ is supported by forthcoming research on the “ecology of danger.”¹⁴

Today, youth gangs exist in nearly every State. One expert estimates that more than 3,875 juvenile gangs with a total of more than 200,000 members are established in the 79 largest U.S. cities.¹⁵ More disturbing is that gang violence has spread from the streets into areas traditionally considered safe havens, such as schools.

A joint effort between the Chicago Police Department and the Chicago Housing Authority Police Department provides another successful model.

The Kansas City (MO) Experiment is a project supported by the National Institute of Justice, the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), the U.S. Attorney’s Office, and the Kansas City Police Department. These groups have formed a

coalition consisting of law enforcement, human service agencies, and community organizations to focus police efforts in high-crime neighborhoods by routinely stopping

traffic violators, youth in violation of curfews, and individuals involved in other infractions of the law. Special gun-intercept teams have proven to be 10 times more cost effective than regular police patrols.¹⁶

A joint effort between the Chicago Police Department and the city Housing Authority Police Department provides another successful model. Funded by BJA, partners in the Building Interdiction Team Effort (BITE) work together to secure the perimeters of buildings, challenge suspicious persons, patrol and search common areas and vacant apartments, and conduct searches of occupied units with tenant consent. This concentrated effort on the part of police is sending a clear message to gangs that these buildings contain family homes and are neither havens for

criminal activity nor turf to be claimed. Preliminary results indicate that the strategy has improved overall safety and reduced drug trafficking in one housing development and drug-related violence in another.¹⁷

The *Action Plan* supports the coordination of Federal, State, and local law enforcement teams to improve investigative efforts and successful prosecution of gun-, gang-, and drug-related cases. It also recognizes that law enforcement has taken a lead role in implementing juvenile crime prevention and intervention strategies as part of a comprehensive community oriented policing approach. The *Action Plan* supports these efforts by promoting youth-focused community oriented policing that is effectively linked with the juvenile justice system and that can contribute significantly to reducing crime, disorder, and fear in communities. The *Action Plan* also supports implementation of effective gang prevention strategies and the development and consideration of model juvenile handgun legislation.

Nuestro Centro (Our Center) Gang, Drug, and Dropout Intervention Program took a grassroots preventive approach to the problem of juvenile violence.

Nuestro Centro (Our Center) Gang, Drug, and Dropout Intervention Program in Dallas, TX, inaugurated in 1991 with OJJDP funds, took a grassroots preventive approach to the problem of juvenile violence. Citizens and community leaders in a predominately minority neighborhood decided to take back their streets by converting an abandoned fire station into a community-run youth center. Participants in the afterschool program are unemployed and undereducated youth affected by drug abuse, gangs, school problems, family problems, physical and sexual abuse, and delinquency. Through the dedicated

work of counselors and volunteers, most of whom live in the neighborhood, the program has shown significant success in deterring gang violence and drug use, with 95 percent of the participants surveyed involved in educational activities.¹⁸

State and local actions to address gun, drug, and gang violence require a combination of tough and smart law enforcement and prevention activities including: seizing firearms from juvenile offenders in school and turning them over to appropriate law enforcement agencies for tracing; supporting technological innovations in gun and ammunition manufacturing that will help reduce the accessibility of lethal weapons; developing appropriate intervention programs for gang-involved youth; and involving youth in planning and

implementing youth-focused community oriented policing programs. The *Action Plan* also supports advances in drug and alcohol prevention and treatment strategies as effective anti-violence strategies.

To support State and local efforts, Federal action will:

- Enhance law enforcement capacity to respond to juvenile crime and drug trafficking by providing training, technical assistance, and additional funding for anti-drug efforts in public housing.

- Support interagency gun and drug interdiction and suppression strategies.
- Get guns out of schools by providing guidance and technical assistance on enforcement of the Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994 and providing alternative education programs to keep youth suspended or expelled for weapons law violations off the streets.
- Support U.S. Attorneys' efforts to advance local anti-crime and anti-violence initiatives.
- Target youth gangs through prevention, intervention, and suppression strategies.
- Advance youth-focused community oriented policing through community demonstration projects and technical assistance.
- Provide information on effective curfew programs for juveniles.
- Disseminate information on model youth handgun legislation and strategies for reducing gun violence.
- Provide research on the efficacy of drug abuse prevention and treatment models.
- Promote the development of juvenile drug courts that supervise nonviolent juvenile offenders with substance abuse problems.
- Support community partnership efforts to prevent substance abuse and help youth resist pressure to use drugs.
- Advance technological interventions to reduce gun violence, such as guns that are harder to conceal and have trigger safeties, fingerprint identification, and loading indicators.

Objective 4. Provide opportunities for children and youth.

Comprehensive neighborhood-based programs that help children develop positive life skills and minimize risk factors, give them support and direction, and create opportunities for community involvement and service have proven to be the most effective defense against violent delinquency. Additionally, programs that address the needs of at-risk youth and juvenile status offenders provide a cost-effective and successful approach to delinquency prevention and intervention and help ensure future public safety.

Integrated prevention and intervention programs should be initiated early in a child's development, must be culturally appropriate, and must target multiple risk factors for delinquency. The *Action Plan* supports such integrated programs for two fundamental reasons.

First, delinquency prevention is cost effective. According to one conservative estimate, the average cost of incarcerating a juvenile for just 1 year is close to \$34,000.¹⁹ Others put the figure between \$35,000 and \$64,000.²⁰ The total cost of a young adult's (age 18–23) serious, violent criminal career is estimated to be \$1.1 million.²¹ In contrast, the current cost of Head Start's intervention program, which is effective in developing school readiness skills among high-risk children and reduction in later delinquency, is \$4,300 per year per child. Similarly, a delinquency prevention program in California produced a direct savings to law

enforcement and the juvenile justice system of \$1.40 for every \$1 spent on prevention.²² Such savings, when combined with the indirect benefit of producing healthy, engaged, and contributing youth, are invaluable.

Second, program evaluations have documented that "prevention works."²³ Effective prevention strategies reduce certain factors that increase the risk that a youth will engage in delinquent or violent behavior, and they strengthen or complement certain protective factors that help youth avoid delinquent behavior and make healthy life choices.²⁴ To successfully reduce youth violence, prevention strategies must engage the entire spectrum of individuals and community systems impacting a young person's life, including families, schools, peers, and other adults in the community.

The Madison Square Boys & Girls Club in Brooklyn, NY, helps strengthen protective factors for children.

Effective strategies combine programs such as truancy reduction, mentoring, conflict resolution, afterschool tutoring, vocational training, cultural development, recreation, and youth leadership in multipurpose family resource and neighborhood centers in school and community settings.

The Madison Square Boys & Girls Club in Brooklyn, NY, is a notable example of a program that strengthens protective factors for children by providing cooperative educational activities. According to a Columbia University study, Boys & Girls Clubs have been effective

in increasing rates of school attendance and improving academic performance. In addition, Clubs in public housing projects have reduced the juvenile crime rate by 13 percent.²⁵

The BJA-funded Teens as Resources Against Drugs project inspired teens in New York City, Evansville (IN), and three South Carolina communities to successfully fight drug activity through peer teaching, messages on murals, fine arts productions written and choreographed by youth, and community events such as fairs and substance-free New Year's Eve parties. One measure of success is that the initial Federal funding has been replaced by local resources, and most of the program sites remain active today.²⁶

Robert Taylor Homes in Chicago, IL, has developed a Mentoring and Rites of Passage program designed

to assist adolescents in their transition to adulthood. Mentors meet with small groups of young people to discuss self-concept, sexual awareness, communications, and appreciation for cultural heritage. Program evaluators ask participants to report on their social interactions, incidents involving violent behavior, hospital visits related to violence, and calls to police about violence in the housing project.

Delinquency prevention initiatives at the Federal, State, and local levels are key elements in the *Action Plan*. By preventing delinquency, communities can reduce juvenile crime

and deter youth from eventual involvement in crime as adults, decreasing both the current threat to public safety and future levels of funding for prosecution and incarceration.

To support State and local efforts, Federal action will:

- Launch an initiative to address the problem of youth outside the educational mainstream.
- Provide mentoring opportunities for youth.
- Provide guidance in implementing school-based conflict resolution programs.

The Elmira (NY) Home Visitation Program provides maternal and child health services to low-income, unmarried teens during pregnancy and the first 2 years of their children's lives.

- Increase school safety to improve opportunities for youth academic success.
- Provide youth with activities that encourage positive youth development.
- Provide training and opportunities for youth employment through education, the Job Corps, and programs focusing on high-technology skills.
- Establish and support family-based community centers that integrate service delivery through a range of promising prevention programs.
- Provide opportunities for youth to serve their communities.
- Coordinate and disseminate information about Federal crime prevention programs.

**Objective 5.
Break the cycle of violence by addressing youth victimization, abuse, and neglect.**

Many violent juveniles have themselves been victims of neglect, abuse, and violence. There is a clear link between violence in the home and a juvenile's later involvement in violent delinquency.²⁷

The *Action Plan* proposes strengthening three priority areas to help communities interrupt the cycle of violence. First, it advocates strengthening families' capabilities

to supervise and nurture the positive development of their children in nonviolent homes and communities. Family strengthening programs can provide support through assistance with effective parenting skills, home visitation, and teen-parent groups designed to prevent child abuse and neglect and to foster healthy development.

Second, if family strengthening efforts fail and abuse and neglect occur, juvenile and family courts can play a critical role in identifying cases of child abuse and neglect, making referrals to supportive services, and providing followup. To be effective, child protective service and dependency court personnel must be well trained and have manageable caseloads. They must also be equipped with sensitive intake protocols that allow them to identify abuse and neglect cases, thoroughly investigate them, and provide prompt and appropriate services.

Third, for children at substantial risk for continued familial abuse and neglect, the *Action Plan* recommends stable, high-quality foster care to prevent further victimization. Equally importantly, it calls for timely planning for permanent placement or reunification to avoid multiple placements during a child's formative years.

The Elmira (NY) Home Visitation Program is a successful program that strengthens families' abilities to supervise and nurture the positive development of their children. It provides a wide range of maternal and child health services to low-income, unmarried teens during pregnancy and the first 2 years of their children's lives. The program has resulted in a 75-percent reduction in cases of child abuse and neglect and a 32-percent reduction in emergency room visits for 2-year old children.²⁸

Children removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect need safe shelter, counseling, and assistance to adapt socially and academically. In Cincinnati, OH, members of the Hamilton Juvenile Court, the Cincinnati Bar Association, and the Junior League developed ProKids to serve as court appointed special advocates (CASA's) for abused and neglected children. When ProKids was created in 1981, only 25 programs in the Nation used community volunteers as child advocates for abused and neglected children. By 1994, ProKids had trained more than 450 child advocate volunteers, and 1,200 children have been served by the program.²⁹

Early prevention programming is supported by some of the strongest research on program effectiveness. State and local implementation of early prevention programming can include fostering substance abuse

treatment approaches for addicted parents, supporting adolescent pregnancy prevention programs, or providing mental health and treatment services and parenting skills for incarcerated abusers, including young offenders who are victims of abuse, to interrupt the cycle of violence.

To support State and local efforts, Federal action will:

- Improve juvenile and family court handling of child abuse and neglect cases by disseminating information to communities on model dependency court programs and protocols.

In Cincinnati the Hamilton Juvenile Court, the Cincinnati Bar Association, and the Junior League developed ProKids to serve as court appointed special advocates (CASA's) for abused and neglected children.

- Enhance local efforts to investigate and prosecute child abuse and neglect cases, including child abuse fatalities, and strengthen child protective services by promoting interdisciplinary efforts.
- Strengthen at-risk families through family support services and fund comprehensive health, educational, nutritional, social, and other services that give children a healthy start.
- Support community-based services that reduce family violence and victimization.
- Provide training and technical assistance to strengthen agencies serving children and their families.
- Improve services to children who are victims of abuse and other crimes by continuing to

provide support for the development and enhancement of local CASA's and funding for multidisciplinary teams at children's advocacy centers.

Objective 6. Strengthen and mobilize communities.

Juvenile violence stems in large part from a breakdown of family and community structures. Every community has the capacity and resources to address this breakdown by nurturing strong families, providing social support systems, and reinforcing healthy cultural norms and values. Too often, however,

services are not developed, coordinated, or integrated to support these resources, leading to frustration and ineffective efforts to build positive community institutions.

Mobilizing and strengthening communities means enabling residents to recognize and solve their own problems and creating opportunities for everyone to take responsibility for finding solutions. Effective problemsolving requires involvement by adults and youth, working in partnership with local service providers, to assess problems and set priorities and to ensure that scarce energies and resources are used wisely.

A communitywide approach to reducing youth violence and delinquency is promising for two reasons. First, it affects the entire social environment by focusing on community norms, values,

and policies as well as on conditions that place children at risk for adolescent problems. Second, all members of the community can apply their expertise where it is most effective. Community mobilization holds the promise of investing every local resident in solving what is truly a shared goal: helping young people grow up to maximize their potential and reduce their likelihood of involvement in violence and delinquency. Federal and State governments can assist communities by showing them the most effective ways to tap into fiscal and human resources.

There are many examples of communities that have reduced despair and fear, involved a wide variety of citizens, and produced concrete results to improve circumstances for their children and youth. The Oakland (CA) Community Organization brought together local citizens, law enforcement, and municipal regulatory agencies to eliminate drug activity in their neighborhood. They organized a neighborhood cleanup and closed down more than 300 drug houses.³⁰

In the Texas City Action Plan To Prevent Crime (T-CAP), the National Crime Prevention Council worked with seven municipal governments, local leaders, private entities, and citizens to adopt and implement strategies to reduce violence. Nearly 600 people contributed time and effort to the process, logging over 30,000 volunteer hours in 12 months. The results of T-CAP were manifested in many ways, including the formation of a business crime council and improved communication in crime-besieged neighborhoods. In one city, the perspectives of the T-CAP coalition became the basis for reorganizing the city

police department and for the creation of a citywide resource center for crime prevention information.³¹

OJJDP's Title V Initiative, Incentive Grants for Local Delinquency Prevention Programs, provides an example of effective resource allocation combined with training. During 1994, the Title V Initiative distributed grants to 49 States and 6 Territories to promote local

The Oakland Community Organization brought together neighborhood residents, law enforcement, and municipal regulatory agencies to take action to eliminate drug activity.

planning and attract local financial and human resources. Nearly 2,500 participants attended OJJDP-sponsored training sessions and learned how to implement an effective prevention planning framework, design new approaches to interagency collaboration, and conduct valuable risk and resource assessments.³²

The *Action Plan* supports this process of developing partnerships on many levels. It advances a new paradigm that calls upon each community resident to play a role in preventing juvenile violence. The keys to success lie in adult guidance, youth responsibility, a responsive media, and an engaged private sector.

The Coordinating Council is a Federal model of interdisciplinary cooperation and leadership, encouraging each State and community to tailor these *Action Plan* steps to identified State and local priorities, needs, and resources.

The primary goal of community action is to involve citizens and create partnerships. Community

efforts can also include: using the Federal communications infrastructure to gather information about successful prevention and intervention programs that can be adapted to a local implementation strategy; engaging in neighborhood crime watches and cleanups; and enforcing local ordinances, housing codes, health and fire codes, anti-nuisance laws, and drug-free rental clauses in residential and business environments.

To support State and local efforts, Federal action will:

- Support concentrated strategies to improve distressed neighborhoods and reduce violence citywide through programs such as Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities (EZ/EC), Operation Weed and Seed, the Comprehensive Communities Program (CCP), and HOPE VI public housing Urban Revitalization Grants.
- Link Federal and private initiatives at the community level, for example, by funding the SafeFutures program in selected jurisdictions.
- Advance communities' use of the public health approach to assessing and reducing violence.
- Hold satellite video teleconferences to share information on successful delinquency prevention and juvenile justice system programs that can be implemented at the local level.

- Encourage youth and adults to contribute to the safety of their communities.
- Improve the existing communications infrastructure with efforts such as Partners Against Violence Network (PAVNET) and utilize state-of-the-art technology to enable Federal, State, and local governments to share information about effective strategies and current research.
- Establish a center to coordinate the delivery of juvenile justice and delinquency prevention training and technical assistance.
- Promote collaborative funding for programs among Federal agencies and public and private funding sources.

Objective 7. Support the development of innovative approaches to research and evaluation.

Juvenile delinquency and violence statistics come from both the juvenile justice system and data on delinquent behavior generated by other disciplines. Ideally, data collection systems should complement and enhance each other. For example, analysis of juvenile arrests should reveal information about causes of delinquency and entry into the juvenile courts and corrections systems. One goal of this objective is the effective coordination and integration of data and statistics.

To enhance evaluation and research efforts, the *Action Plan* advocates innovative approaches in three critical areas: national statistical

information and systems on the nature and extent of juvenile delinquency and violence; longitudinal research to strengthen our understanding of the complex relationships between risk and protective factors; and rigorous evaluation of programs designed to address juvenile delinquency. In each of these areas, we must develop data collection instruments that are sensitive to ethnicity, culture, and gender and that can better measure the complete context of juvenile delinquency.

Efforts to improve juvenile justice statistics and research will include an OJJDP plan to collect and analyze national indicators on risk and protective factors; expand juvenile custody information systems and include data on juvenile detention populations; build a knowledge base on criminal justice system handling of juveniles; coordinate data collection among the juvenile justice, mental health, and child welfare systems; and improve existing data collection systems and eliminate duplication of effort.

In addition, the *Action Plan* recommends that Federal agencies support or continue efforts to strengthen public and private research on the causes and correlates of violence; the role of drugs in delinquency; the nature and extent of youth gangs; the system response to juvenile sex offenders; and youth development.

The *Action Plan* advocates strong support for a juvenile program evaluation strategy that includes the following critical elements:

- Making evaluation funding an integral part of program development.

- Using evaluability assessments and constructing logic models.
- Enhancing local evaluation capacity.
- Linking evaluation findings to program development and practice.

Groups at State and local levels should engage in and support research and evaluation to ensure accurate and useful program results. The *Action Plan* encourages individuals and projects to develop linkages with colleges and universities that can provide the expertise, staffing, or funding to conduct research on local youth violence concerns and program evaluation. The *Action Plan* also supports expanding and coordinating management information systems across youth-serving agencies, involving youth or community members in surveying residents about their needs, and recording the development of projects so that others may replicate successes.

To support State and local efforts, Federal action will:

- Build local and Federal evaluation capabilities through information dissemination, training, and technical assistance.
- Implement a 5-year plan to improve national statistical data on violence and delinquency.
- Develop a 5-year comprehensive plan to coordinate research related to violence and delinquency.
- Implement additional long-term studies to increase understanding of the causes and correlates of youth crime and violence.

- Address gaps in youth gang, gun, and drug research.
- Examine the impact of different processing options for offenders in the juvenile justice system.
- Translate research findings into program development and practice.
- Integrate evaluation into demonstration projects.

Objective 8. Implement an aggressive public outreach campaign on effective strategies to combat juvenile violence.

A well-designed public information campaign is essential to the success of any juvenile violence reduction plan. The *Action Plan* advocates a national and local partnership with the media to mount a public information campaign designed to persuade young people to avoid violence and dangerous lifestyles, to teach adults about proven anti-violence strategies, and to involve all segments of the community in the fight against juvenile violence. The *Action Plan* also supports an aggressive media campaign that will help juvenile justice system and social service professionals be more effective. Communicating the types of actions that work in addressing juvenile violence to a wide variety of audiences will motivate community leaders and residents to work collaboratively.

One goal of public information efforts is to change public perception about the nature and extent of juvenile violence and inform the community about strategies that have

proven to be successful in reducing or preventing juvenile violence. An effective public information campaign can also convince adults and youth that their active involvement can make a difference.

Communities that conduct local targeted public information campaigns should include an evaluation mechanism that will provide important data on the effectiveness of their efforts. These data will help not only with planning for future public campaigns but also with the design and implementation of local anti-violence public awareness events. Evaluating public awareness efforts also serves as a mechanism for attracting local financial and other resources.

Several organizations have accumulated substantial experience in media campaigns and partnerships and are available to assist local jurisdictions. The National Crime Prevention Council, for example, distributes an action kit, *Partner With the Media To Build Safer Communities*, that includes reproducible materials to help communities reach the public with their anti-crime, anti-violence messages.³³

The National Citizens' Crime Prevention Campaign conducted a large-scale public education effort, symbolized by McGruff®, the "crime dog." An independent evaluation in 1991 determined that the campaign can generate individual action at a cost of only 2.9 cents per person.

The campaign's public service messages generate \$50 or more in donated print space and air time for every \$1 of Federal funds spent in their development.³⁴

The Turn Off the Violence campaign engaged the help of local print and electronic media to convince residents that violence is an unacceptable way to resolve conflict.

The Turn Off the Violence campaign, inaugurated in Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN, engaged the help of local print and electronic media to convince residents that violence is an unacceptable way to resolve conflict. The campaign also encouraged media to reevaluate its own violent entertainment programming. This grassroots initiative, which required limited funding, has spread throughout Minnesota and is being adopted by other States and cities.³⁵

Highlighting successes and sharing positive information about youth violence reduction efforts serves as a catalyst for encouraging community residents to address juvenile violence problems in their own neighborhoods. The local media can bring attention to the complex issues that surround juvenile crime and violence and can play a role in publicizing positive youth activities. Young people can create and distribute newsletters, produce a cable teen talk show, or plan and

implement an annual event such as a drug awareness fair. Elected officials and community leaders can write opinion and editorial pieces or sponsor radio public service

announcements. Together, these efforts can help to get the message out.

To support State and local efforts, Federal action will:

- Disseminate public service announcements that help to influence young people's choices to live healthy lifestyles and make all residents aware of the critical roles they can play in reducing delinquency and youth violence.
- Develop a document on ways community residents can reduce juvenile violence.
- Produce a videotape and CD-ROM on reducing juvenile violence.
- Produce a media message on reducing gun violence.
- Link successful local initiatives with a national public information campaign.

Reduce Tomorrow's Violence: Take Action Today

The sobering projections about the future of juvenile violence underscore the need for strong, immediate, well-planned, and decisive action to intervene early with efforts to prevent younger children from following in the self-destructive footsteps of many of their older brothers and sisters. At the same time, it is imperative that we effectively respond to that small percentage of juvenile offenders who repeatedly victimize the community and who account for the vast majority of serious and violent delinquent acts. We must take immediate steps to improve the capacity of the juvenile justice system to respond to juvenile offenders. If we fail to respond to their needs, the potential costs to society in human lives and productivity will be an onerous and tragic burden to future generations.

In taking action, States and localities have a variety of choices that are both critical and difficult. Funds must be allocated for juvenile justice program options, ranging from secure facilities to day treatment, probation placements, and improvements in research and data collection and dissemination about juvenile violence issues. Also, funding must be made available for a broad spectrum of effective youth development and delinquency prevention programs, including family strengthening and afterschool programs, childcare for low-income working families, community policing efforts, summer recreation and job opportunities for low-income youth, and Head Start.

In addition to funding programs, there are many actions that States and local communities can take that build on their commitment to the safety, health, development, and well-being of children. By starting

new initiatives, implementing the objectives, accessing the resources, and engaging in the activities of the *Action Plan*, leaders at the Federal, State, and local levels working together can make a difference.

The Nation can ill afford to make the wrong choices. The *Action Plan* presents examples of community commitment to solutions that work. We have an opportunity to build on these accomplishments and implement them in our own communities.

Copies of *The National Juvenile Justice Action Plan* Report (NCJ 157106) can be obtained by sending in the order form at the end of the Summary or by calling the Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse at 800-638-8736. The *Action Plan* can also be ordered via the Internet by sending an e-mail to askncjrs@aspensys.com.

Endnotes

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Appendix A

Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Background

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) was established by the President and Congress through the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act of 1974, Public Law 93-415, as amended. Located within the Office of Justice Programs of the U.S. Department of Justice, OJJDP's mission is to provide national leadership in addressing the issues of juvenile delinquency and improving juvenile justice. OJJDP sponsors a broad array of research, program, and training initiatives to improve the juvenile justice system as a whole, as well as to benefit individual youth-serving agencies. OJJDP also provides direction and resources to the juvenile justice community to help prevent and control delinquency throughout the country.

Section 206 of the JJDP Act, as amended, established the Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention as an independent organization in the executive branch of the Federal Government. The primary function of the Coordinating Council is to coordinate all Federal programs that address juvenile delinquency, detention or care of unaccompanied juveniles, and missing and exploited children.

The Council is composed of an equal number of Federal and practitioner members. The nine Federal members include the Attorney General; Secretaries of Health and Human Services, Labor, Education, and Housing and Urban Development; the Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy; Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National Service; Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service; and any other officers of Federal agencies who hold significant decisionmaking authority as the President may designate. Therefore, the Director of the President's Crime Prevention Council has been added as an ex-officio member of the Council. The nine non-Federal members are practitioners in the field of juvenile justice who are appointed, without regard to political affiliation, by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the Senate, and the President.

As mandated by the JJDP Act, the Coordinating Council is responsible for the following actions:

- Examining how programs can be coordinated among Federal, State, and local governments to better serve at-risk children and juveniles.
- Making recommendations to the President, Congress, and the OJJDP Administrator on the coordination of overall policy and development of priorities and objectives for all Federal juvenile justice and delinquency prevention programs and activities.
- Ensuring that the practices of Federal agencies are consistent with the mandates of the JJDP Act.
- Reviewing and making recommendations regarding any joint funding proposal undertaken by OJJDP and any other agency represented on the Council.
- Reviewing reasons why Federal agencies take juveniles into custody and making recommendations about how to improve Federal practices and facilities for holding juveniles in custody.
- Making recommendations on the OJJDP Administrator's long-term plan and the implementation of overall policy and strategy to carry out the plan.

Appendix B

Working Group Participants

The following individuals served on a working group of the Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to develop the *Action Plan*. They discussed issues, contributed information on relevant research, resources, and programs, and reviewed several drafts.

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Presiding Judge
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Ada Montare
Mid-Atlantic Conciliation Specialist

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Elizabeth Herskovitz
Detention and Deportation Officer
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President's Crime Prevention Council

Greg Everts
Special Counsel

Appendix C

Matrix of Technical Assistance Resources

The following organizations provide products and services related to juvenile justice and delinquency prevention. Topical resources and types of services available are indicated in the matrix. Please feel free to contact these organizations directly for more information.

	Policies/Regulations/Laws	Gun-Related Issues	Gang-Related Issues	Drug-Related Issues	Youth-Based Prevention Programs	Anti-Violence Initiatives	School-Related Initiatives	Child Victimization	Community Mobilization	Statistics and Research	Public Relations/Media Strategies	Training/Technical Assistance	Publications	Program Evaluation	Clearinghouse Services/Dissemination
Academy for Educational Development (AED) Center for Youth Development and Policy Research 1875 Connecticut Avenue NW. Washington, DC 20009 202-884-8267 202-884-8404 (fax)	•				•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•		
American Academy of Pediatrics 141 Northwest Point Boulevard P.O. Box 927 Elk Grove, IL 60009 708-228-5005 708-228-5097 (fax)		•		•		•									
American Bar Association (ABA) Juvenile Justice Center 740 15th Street NW., 10th Floor Washington, DC 20005 202-662-1506 202-662-1501 (fax)	•	•			•			•				•	•		•
American Correctional Association (ACA) 4380 Forbes Boulevard Lanham, MD 20706 800-222-5646 301-918-1800 301-918-1900 (fax)	•		•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
American Prosecutors Research Institute (APRI) 99 Canal Center Plaza, Suite 510 Alexandria, VA 22314 703-549-9222 703-836-3195 (fax)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•		•	•	•	•

	Policies/Regulations/Laws	Gun-Related Issues	Gang-Related Issues	Drug-Related Issues	Youth-Based Prevention Programs	Anti-Violence Initiatives	School-Related Initiatives	Child Victimization Issues	Community Mobilization	Statistics and Research	Public Relations/Media Strategies	Training/Technical Assistance	Publications	Program Evaluation	Clearinghouse Services/Dissemination
Annie E. Casey Foundation 701 St. Paul Street Baltimore, MD 21202 410-547-6600 410-547-6624 (fax)	•			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America 230 North 13th Street Philadelphia, PA 19107 215-567-7000 215-567-0394 (fax)					•		•						•		
Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta 100 Edgewood, Suite 700 Atlanta, GA 30303 404-527-7100 404-527-7689 (fax)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•		•			•	
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms U.S. Department of the Treasury 650 Massachusetts Avenue NW. Washington, DC 20226 202-927-7777 202-927-8112 (fax)	•	•	•		•	•	•			•	•	•	•		
Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Clearinghouse P.O. Box 6000 Rockville, MD 20849-6000 800-688-4252 301-251-5212 (fax)		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•
Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) Clearinghouse P.O. Box 6000 Rockville, MD 20849-6000 800-732-3277 410-792-4358 (fax)										•			•		•
Center for Civic Education (CCE) 5146 Douglas Fir Road Calabasas, CA 91302 818-591-9321 818-591-9330 (fax)				•	•	•	•					•	•		
Center for Media Literacy 1962 Shenandoah Los Angeles, CA 90034 310-559-2944 310-559-9396 (fax)				•	•	•	•						•		•

	Policies/Regulations/Laws	Gun-Related Issues	Gang-Related Issues	Drug-Related Issues	Youth-Based Prevention Programs	Anti-Violence Initiatives	School-Related Initiatives	Child Victimization Issues	Community Mobilization	Statistics and Research	Public Relations/Media Strategies	Training/Technical Assistance	Publications	Program Evaluation	Clearinghouse Services/Dissemination
Center for Substance Abuse Prevention PREV-LINE National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information (NCADI) P.O. Box 2345 Rockville, MD 20847-2345 800-729-6686 301-468-6433 (fax)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●		●
Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence University of Colorado at Boulder Campus Box 442 Boulder, CO 80309-0442 303-492-8465 303-443-3297 (fax)		●	●		●					●			●		
Center to Prevent Handgun Violence 1225 Eye Street NW., Suite 1100 Washington, DC 20005 202-289-7319 202-371-9615 (fax)	●	●	●			●	●	●		●	●		●	●	
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Center for Injury Prevention and Control Division of Violence Prevention 4770 Buford Highway NE., Mailstop K60 Atlanta, GA 30341-3724 404-488-4362 404-488-4349 (fax)					●	●	●			●			●	●	
Chapin Hall Center for Children University of Chicago 1313 East 60th Street Chicago, IL 60637 312-753-5900 312-753-5940 (fax)					●		●	●	●	●			●	●	
Child Welfare League of America 440 First Street NW., Suite 310 Washington, DC 20001-2085 202-638-2952 202-638-4004 (fax)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Children's Defense Fund 25 E Street NW. Washington, DC 20001 202-628-8787 202-662-3550 (fax)	●				●	●			●			●			

	Policies/Regulations/Laws	Gun-Related Issues	Gang-Related Issues	Drug-Related Issues	Youth-Based Prevention Programs	Anti-Violence Initiatives	School-Related Initiatives	Child Victimization Issues	Community Mobilization	Statistics and Research	Public Relations/Media Strategies	Training/Technical Assistance	Publications	Program Evaluation	Clearinghouse Services/Dissemination
Coalition for Juvenile Justice 1211 Connecticut Avenue NW., Suite 414 Washington, DC 20036 202-467-0864 202-887-0738 (fax)	●				●				●	●		●	●		●
Coalition to Stop Gun Violence Educational Fund to End Handgun Violence 100 Maryland Avenue NE., Suite 402 Washington, DC 20002 202-544-7190 202-544-7213 (fax)	●	●			●	●			●				●		●
Community Relations Service U.S. Department of Justice 5550 Friendship Boulevard, Suite 330 Chevy Chase, MD 20815 301-492-5929 301-492-5984 (fax)	●		●		●	●	●		●			●	●		
Community Research Associates, Inc. 41 East University Avenue, Suite 300 Champaign, IL 61820 217-398-3120 217-398-3132 (fax)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Corporation for National Service 1201 New York Avenue NW. Washington, DC 20525 202-606-5000 202-565-2781 (fax)					●				●			●			
D.A.R.E. America P.O. Box 2090 Los Angeles, CA 90051 800-223-DARE 310-215-0180 (fax)				●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●		
Developmental Research and Programs, Inc. 130 Nickerson, Suite 107 Seattle, WA 98109 206-286-1805 206-286-1462 (fax)					●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●		
Eastern Kentucky University College of Law Enforcement Training Resource Center 300 Stratton Building Richmond, KY 40475-3131 606-622-1498 606-622-6264 (fax)	●				●			●	●			●	●	●	●

	Policies/Regulations/Laws	Gun-Related Issues	Gang-Related Issues	Drug-Related Issues	Youth-Based Prevention Programs	Anti-Violence Initiatives	School-Related Initiatives	Child Victimization Issues	Community Mobilization	Statistics and Research	Public Relations/Media Strategies	Training/Technical Assistance	Publications	Program Evaluation	Clearinghouse Services/Dissemination
Educational Development Center, Inc. Center for Violence and Injury Prevention 55 Chapel Street Newton, MA 02158-1060 617-969-7100 617-244-3436 (fax)	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●
Educators for Social Responsibility 23 Garden Street Cambridge, MA 02138 800-370-2515 617-492-1764 617-864-5164 (fax)			●		●	●	●					●	●		
Family Resource Coalition 200 South Michigan Avenue, Suite 1520 Chicago, IL 60604 312-341-0900 312-341-9361 (fax)							●				●	●			
Florida Atlantic University Balanced and Restorative Justice Project University Tower 220 SE. Second Street Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301 305-760-5668 305-760-5673 (fax)					●							●	●	●	
Fox Valley Technical College Criminal Justice Department P.O. Box 2277 1825 North Bluemound Drive Appleton, WI 54913-2277 800-648-4966 414-735-4757 (fax)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●			
Handgun Control Incorporated 1225 Eye Street NW., Suite 1100 Washington, DC 20005 202-898-0792 202-371-9615 (fax)	●	●							●				●		
Hands Net 20195 Stevens Creek Boulevard, Suite 120 Cupertino, CA 95014 408-257-4500 408-257-4560 (fax)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

	Policies/Regulations/Laws	Gun-Related Issues	Gang-Related Issues	Drug-Related Issues	Youth-Based Prevention Programs	Anti-Violence Initiatives	School-Related Initiatives	Child Victimization Issues	Community Mobilization	Statistics and Research	Public Relations/Media Strategies	Training/Technical Assistance	Publications	Program Evaluation	Clearinghouse Services/Dissemination
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information P.O. Box 1182 Washington, DC 20013-1182 800-FYI-3366 703-385-3206 (fax)	●			●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Drug Information & Strategy Clearinghouse P.O. Box 6424 Rockville, MD 20849-6424 800-578-DISC 301-251-5211 301-251-5767 (fax)		●	●	●	●		●		●			●	●	●	●
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Resident Initiatives Clearinghouse P. O. Box 6424 Rockville, MD 20849-6424 800-995-2232 301-251-5312 301-251-5767 (fax)	●		●	●	●							●	●		●
International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) 515 North Washington Street Alexandria, VA 22314 800-843-4227 703-836-6767 703-836-4543 (fax)		●			●		●		●	●					
Justice Research and Statistics Association (JRSA) 444 North Capitol Street NW., Suite 445 Washington, DC 20001 202-624-8560 202-624-5269 (fax)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●
Juvenile Law Center 801 Arch Street, Suite 610 Philadelphia, PA 19107 215-625-0551 215-625-9589 (fax)	●											●			

	Policies/Regulations/Laws	Gun-Related Issues	Gang-Related Issues	Drug-Related Issues	Youth-Based Prevention Programs	Anti-Violence Initiatives	School-Related Initiatives	Child Victimization Issues	Community Mobilization	Statistics and Research	Public Relations/Media Strategies	Training/Technical Assistance	Publications	Program Evaluation	Clearinghouse Services/Dissemination
Midwest Regional Children's Advocacy Center LaRabida Children's Hospital and Research Center 65th Street at Lake Michigan Chicago, IL 60649 312-363-6700, ext. 421 312-363-7664 (fax)								●		●		●	●		
National Adolescent Health Resource Center Box 721 420 Delaware Street SE. Minneapolis, MN 55455 612-624-8644 612-626-2134 (fax)										●		●	●		●
National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG) 444 North Capitol Street NW., Suite 339 Washington, DC 20001 202-434-8000 202-434-8008 (fax)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●					●	●		●
National Association for Mediation in Education (NAME) 1726 M Street NW., Suite 500 Washington, DC 20036-4502 202-466-4764 202-466-4769 (fax)						●	●						●		
National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD) and the National Prevention Network (NPN) 444 North Capitol Street NW., Suite 642 Washington, DC 20001 202-783-6868 202-783-2704 (fax)	●				●						●		●		
National Center for Community Policing (NCCP) School of Criminal Justice 560 Baker Hall Michigan State University East Lansing, MI 48824 517-355-2322 517-432-1787 (fax)										●		●	●	●	

	Policies/Regulations/Laws	Gun-Related Issues	Gang-Related Issues	Drug-Related Issues	Youth-Based Prevention Programs	Anti-Violence Initiatives	School-Related Initiatives	Child Victimization Issues	Community Mobilization	Statistics and Research	Public Relations/Media Strategies	Training/Technical Assistance	Publications	Program Evaluation	Clearinghouse Services/Dissemination
National Center for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ) 710 Fifth Avenue, Third Floor Pittsburgh, PA 15219-3000 412-227-6950 412-227-6955 (fax)	•									•		•	•	•	
National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) 2101 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 550 Arlington, VA 22201-3052 800-843-5678 703-235-3900 703-235-4067 (fax)								•				•	•		•
National Center for State Courts (NCSC) 300 Newport Avenue Williamsburg, VA 23185 804-253-2000 804-220-0449 (fax)	•							•		•		•		•	
National Child Welfare Resource Center for Organizational Improvement P.O. Box 15010 Portland, ME 04112 207-780-5810 207-780-5817 (fax)	•		•	•	•	•		•			•		•		•
National Clearinghouse on Families and Youth P.O. Box 13505 Silver Spring, MD 20911-3505 800-621-4000 301-608-8098 301-608-8721 (fax)															•
National Committee to Prevent Child Abuse 332 South Michigan Avenue, Suite 1600 Chicago, IL 60604 312-663-3520 312-939-8962 (fax)					•			•		•	•	•	•		
National Conference of State Legislatures 1560 Broadway, Suite 700 Denver, CO 80202 303-830-2200 303-863-8003 (fax)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•		•	•		•

	Policies/Regulations/Laws	Gun-Related Issues	Gang-Related Issues	Drug-Related Issues	Youth-Based Prevention Programs	Anti-Violence Initiatives	School-Related Initiatives	Child Victimization Issues	Community Mobilization	Statistics and Research	Public Relations/Media Strategies	Training/Technical Assistance	Publications	Program Evaluation	Clearinghouse Services/Dissemination
National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) University of Nevada P.O. Box 8970 Reno, NV 89507 702-784-6012 702-784-6628 (fax)	•		•	•	•	•		•		•		•	•		
National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD) 685 Market Street, Suite 620 San Francisco, CA 94105 415-896-6223 415-896-5109 (fax)									•	•	•	•	•	•	
National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association (NCASAA) 2722 Eastlake Avenue East, Suite 220 Seattle, WA 98102 206-328-8588 206-323-8137 (fax)								•				•	•		
National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) 1700 K Street NW., Second Floor Washington, DC 20006-3817 202-466-6272 202-296-1356 (fax)		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA) 444 North Capitol Street NW., Suite 608 Washington, DC 20001 202-347-4900 202-508-3859 (fax)	•	•		•		•				•					
National Governors' Association (NGA) 444 North Capitol Street NW., Suite 267 Washington, DC 20001 202-624-5320 202-624-5313 (fax)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•			•		
National Institute for Citizen Education in the Law (NICEL) 711 G Street SE. Washington, DC 20003 202-546-6644 202-546-6649 (fax)		•		•	•	•	•	•				•	•		

	Policies/Regulations/Laws	Gun-Related Issues	Gang-Related Issues	Drug-Related Issues	Youth-Based Prevention Programs	Anti-Violence Initiatives	School-Related Initiatives	Child Victimization Issues	Community Mobilization	Statistics and Research	Public Relations/Media Strategies	Training/Technical Assistance	Publications	Program Evaluation	Clearinghouse Services/Dissemination
National Institute of Justice National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS) P.O. Box 6000 Rockville, MD 20849-6000 800-851-3420 301-251-5212 (fax)		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●
National Institute for Dispute Resolution (NIDR) 1726 M Street NW., Suite 500 Washington, DC 20036-4502 202-466-4764 202-466-4769 (fax)					●	●	●				●	●	●	●	
National Juvenile Detention Association (NJDA) 301 Perkins Building Richmond, KY 40475 606-622-6259 606-622-2333 (fax)										●		●	●	●	●
National League of Cities (NLC) 1301 Pennsylvania Avenue NW., Suite 550 Washington, DC 20004 202-626-3000 202-626-3043 (fax)	●	●	●	●	●				●	●			●		
National Legal Resource Center for Child Welfare Services 740 15th Street NW., 9th Floor Washington, DC 20005 202-662-1748 202-662-1755 (fax)	●							●				●	●		
National Network of Children's Advocacy Centers, Inc. (NNCAC) 1319 F Street NW., Suite 1001 Washington, DC 20004 202-639-0597 202-639-0511 (fax)								●				●	●	●	
National Office for Social Responsibility Law-Related Education in Juvenile Justice Settings 222 South Washington Street Alexandria, VA 22314 703-549-5305 703-836-7269 (fax)					●		●					●		●	

	Policies/Regulations/Laws	Gun-Related Issues	Gang-Related Issues	Drug-Related Issues	Youth-Based Prevention Programs	Anti-Violence Initiatives	School-Related Initiatives	Child Victimization Issues	Community Mobilization	Statistics and Research	Public Relations/Media Strategies	Training/Technical Assistance	Publications	Program Evaluation	Clearinghouse Services/Dissemination
National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA) 1757 Park Road, NW. Washington, DC 20010 800-TRY-NOVA 202-232-6682 202-462-2255 (fax)	•	•		•		•	•	•		•		•	•		•
National PTA 330 North Wabash, Suite 2100 Chicago, IL 60611-3690 312-670-6782 312-670-6783 (fax)		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•				•		•
National Resource Center for Family-Centered Practice University of Iowa School of Social Work 112 North Hall Iowa City, IA 52242-1223 319-335-2200 319-335-2204 (fax)	•						•					•	•	•	•
National Resource Center for Family Support Programs 200 South Michigan Avenue, 16th Floor Chicago, IL 60604 312-341-0900 312-341-9361 (fax)							•					•	•		
National Resource Center on Child Abuse and Neglect (NRCCAN) 63 Inverness Drive East Englewood, CO 80112-5117 800-227-5242 303-792-9900 303-792-5333 (fax)						•		•					•		•
National Resource Center on Child Sexual Abuse (NRCCSA) 2204 Whitesburg Drive, Suite 200 Huntsville, AL 35801 800-KIDS-006 205-534-6868 205-534-6883 (fax)					•			•		•		•	•		
National School Boards Association (NSBA) 1680 Duke Street Alexandria, VA 22314 703-838-6722 703-838-7590 (fax)	•	•		•			•	•			•		•		•

	Policies/Regulations/Laws	Gun-Related Issues	Gang-Related Issues	Drug-Related Issues	Youth-Based Prevention Programs	Anti-Violence Initiatives	School-Related Initiatives	Child Victimization Issues	Community Mobilization	Statistics and Research	Public Relations/Media Strategies	Training/Technical Assistance	Publications	Program Evaluation	Clearinghouse Services/Dissemination
National School Safety Center (NSSC) Pepperdine University 4165 Thousand Oaks Boulevard, Suite 290 Westlake Village, CA 91362 805-373-9977 805-373-9277 (fax)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•		•	•	•		•
National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) 1450 Duke Street Alexandria, VA 22314-3490 703-836-7827 703-519-8567 (fax)	•				•	•				•		•	•		
National Training and Technical Assistance Center 11990 Grant Street, Suite 318 Northglenn, CO 80233 303-457-9947 303-451-1049 (fax)												•			
National Victim Center 2111 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 300 Arlington, VA 22201 703-276-2880 703-276-2889 (fax)	•							•		•		•	•		
National Youth Employment Coalition (NYEC) 1001 Connecticut Avenue NW., Suite 719 Washington, DC 20036 202-659-1064 202-775-9733 (fax)	•				•					•			•		
National Youth Gang Center Institute for Intergovernmental Research P.O. Box 12729 Tallahassee, FL 32317 904-385-0600 904-386-5356 (fax)			•							•					
Northeast Regional Children's Advocacy Center 4000 Chestnut Street, Second Floor Philadelphia, PA 19104 215-387-9500 215-387-9513 (fax)					•			•				•	•	•	

	Policies/Regulations/Laws	Gun-Related Issues	Gang-Related Issues	Drug-Related Issues	Youth-Based Prevention Programs	Anti-Violence Initiatives	School-Related Initiatives	Child Victimization Issues	Community Mobilization	Statistics and Research	Public Relations/Media Strategies	Training/Technical Assistance	Publications	Program Evaluation	Clearinghouse Services/Dissemination
Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) Office for Victims of Crime Resource Center P.O. Box 6000 Rockville, MD 20849-6000 800-627-6872 301-251-5212 (fax)								●		●			●	●	●
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse P.O. Box 6000 Rockville, MD 20849-6000 800-638-8736 301-251-5212 (fax)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●
Office of National Drug Control Policy Drugs and Crime Clearinghouse P.O. Box 6000 Rockville, MD 20849-6000 800-666-3332 301-251-5212 (fax)	●			●						●	●		●		●
Pacific Center for Violence Prevention San Francisco General Hospital San Francisco, CA 94110 415-285-1793 415-282-2563 (fax)		●			●	●				●		●			●
Partnership for a Drug-Free America 405 Lexington Avenue, 16th Floor New York, NY 10174 212-922-1560 212-922-1570 (fax)				●											
Phi Alpha Delta Public Service Center 1511 K Street NW., Suite 611 Washington, DC 20005 202-638-2898 202-638-2919		●	●	●	●	●	●		●		●	●	●		
Police Executive Research Forum 1120 Connecticut Avenue NW., Suite 930 Washington, DC 20036 202-466-7820 202-466-7826 (fax)						●	●		●	●		●	●	●	
Police Foundation 1001 22nd Street NW., Suite 200 Washington, DC 20037 202-833-1460 202-659-9149 (fax)						●		●		●		●	●	●	

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Southern Regional Children's Advocacy Center 2204 Whitesburg Drive, Suite 201 Huntsville, AL 35801 800-747-8122 205-533-0523 (fax)								●	●			●			
University of Utah Family Strengthening Programs Health Education Department 215 HPER-N Salt Lake City, UT 84112 801-581-7718 801-581-5872				●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●		●	
Western Regional Children's Advocacy Center 301 West 13th Pueblo, CO 81003 800-582-2203 719-543-0383								●	●		●	●	●		
Yale Child Study Center Child-Centered Community Policing Program 47 College Street, Suite 218 New Haven, CT 06510 203-785-7047 203-785-6860 (fax)					●	●		●				●			
YOUTH ALIVE! Summit Medical Center 3012 Summit Avenue, Suite 3670 Oakland, CA 94609 510-444-6191 510-444-6195 (fax)	●	●	●		●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●		
Youth Crime Watch of America Dadeland Towers North, Suite 100 9300 South Dadeland Boulevard Miami, FL 33156 305-670-2409 305-670-3805 (fax)		●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	
Youth Law Center 114 Sansome Street, Suite 950 San Francisco, CA 94104 415-543-3379 415-956-9022 (fax)	●										●				

THE SUMMARY IS JUST THE BEGINNING...

THE NATIONAL
JUVENILE
JUSTICE
ACTION PLAN
IS NOW
AVAILABLE
THROUGH
THE JUVENILE
JUSTICE
CLEARINGHOUSE.

Combating Violence and Delinquency: The National Juvenile Justice Action Plan

The Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention has developed *The National Juvenile Justice Action Plan*, which provides greater detail of each key objective described in the Summary. The *Action Plan* also includes an annotated bibliography—an exhaustive compilation of juvenile justice resources—as well as a listing of program catalogs and directories and a summary of selected commissions and task forces.

The *Action Plan* Report, along with the Summary, will become important tools to support community efforts to fight against juvenile violence and victimization. Everyone involved in juvenile justice, including educators, crime victims, law enforcement officers, service providers, parents, religious organizations, probation officers, judges, community and business leaders, legislators, mayors, and governors can benefit from the *Action Plan*.

To order your free copy of the *Action Plan* Report (NCJ 157106), contact:

The Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse,
P.O. Box 6000, Rockville, MD 20849-6000,

800-638-8736

e-mail: askncjrs@aspensys.com, fax: 301-251-5212



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