Prevention Programs

- **Identify and recommend programs to link at-risk youth with responsible adults:**
  - The White House Initiative, My Brother’s Keeper provides guidance on establishing public-private campaigns to actively recruit mentors for youth and improve the quality of mentoring programs.
  - Review the role of School Resource Officers to balance enforcement and mentorship.
  - The Spokane, WA, Police Department’s Youth Police Initiative places off-duty police officers as basketball coaches, community service advocates, and mentors for at-risk youth.

- **Review the role of School Resource Officers to balance enforcement with prevention:**
  - According to The Washington Post, it is estimated that in Maryland, 21 percent of school sites have at least a part-time school resource officer (SRO). In Virginia, 47 percent of the schools have a part-time police presence, according to recent data. Concentrate on having the SRO increase information sharing, intelligence gathering, and mentoring.

- **Ensure that messaging with departments about at-risk youth strategies flows from chief to mid-rank to line:**
  - The Spokane, WA, Police Department’s Youth Police Initiative places off-duty police officers as basketball coaches, community service advocates, and mentors for at-risk youth.

- **Develop violence prevention programs in context with guns, families, education, poverty, and mental health—all count in the formula:**
  - A large percentage of juveniles in the criminal justice system were themselves victims and witnesses of violence in their neighborhoods and homes.

**Identify and respond to children exposed to violence:**
- The criminal justice implications of children exposed to violence are grave. Exposed children are at greater risk for drug and alcohol abuse, as well as becoming perpetual offenders, the consequences of which commonly require police involvement. Suffering from abuse or neglect increases the likelihood of arrest as a juvenile by 59 percent, as an adult by 28 percent, and for a violent crime by 50 percent. The New Haven, CT, Police Department, together with the Yale Child Study Center, created a groundbreaking program called the Child Development-Community Policing (CDCP) program, which provides a collaborative response of police and mental health providers to assist children exposed to violence. Responding effectively to children using both developmentally appropriate and trauma-informed approaches at scenes of violent crimes can be critical in decreasing the traumatic nature of children’s exposure to violence and aiding in children’s long-term recovery.

**Support pathways to school completions:**
- Research indicates that developing alternatives to expulsions, suspensions, and/or court referrals will reduce patterns of truancy and offenses. Partnerships between law enforcement and schools to promote completion are critically important. The Framingham, MA, Police Department, has adopted a program to work with local school districts to identify kids who are skipping school and focusing the push to completing their education.

**Support the implementation of curfews:**
- New Orleans, LA, Police Department has long utilized curfews in an effort to reduce and prevent crime. Curfews can be controversial, but when partnered with other community services, they can also connect at-risk youth to counseling, mentoring, or social programs and improve communications among police, parents, schools, social agencies, and youth.

**Visit IACP’s Youth-Focused Policing Resource Center** (www.iacpyouth.org): The website is dedicated to proactive intervention strategies that enable law enforcement to intervene with youth to reduce crime, victimization, and more. It also offers a searchable program directory of law enforcement programs addressing a variety of juvenile justice issues, training and technical assistance information, and a resource library.
Community Outreach

- Establish a dialogue with community organizers to gauge issues:
  - Jerry Silver, former captain of the Richmond Police Department during the Project Exile initiative, which drastically reduced homicides in the city, invited some of the most vocal critics of his police department to meet with him in his office and voice their concern. The allowed the critics to feel that everyone had an opportunity to provide input on police policy.
  - Explore the feasibility of establishing a not-for-profit foundation:
    - Working with groups in the community to establish a nonprofit allows funds to be used in a variety of ways, including advertising. Advertising enhanced penalties for the illegal possession of a firearm can have a significant effect. Research suggests this helps the idea that the threat of swift and certain penalties can deter crime.
  - Follow the Project Safe Neighborhoods model regarding community outreach recommendations:
    - One of the six core elements of this crime reduction strategy is outreach activities, including distributing literature; conducting mail campaigns; sponsoring local workplaces; and producing public service announcements (PSAs), educational literature, crime reduction toolkits, billboard advertisements, press releases, and news articles. Media partners work with the local PSN task force to identify local stakeholders, leverage the support of potential partners, identify resources, and engage members of the community in the PSN initiative.
  - Establish a relationship with local university crime researchers to identify crime patterns:
    - Dr. Anthony Beige worked as an embedded criminologist in the Boston, MA, Police Department between 2007 and 2013, and earned the trust of officers and command staff. He devised problem-oriented policing strategies to reduce violent crime and impact热点s. Researchers can assist in making successful arguments to budget decision makers for research funds. Having a professional criminologist dedicated to developing evidence-based policing strategies will assist in supporting this initiative in the face of any criticism.
  - Use your bully pulp as chief to advocate for health, education, and welfare programs and services that target at-risk youth:
    - Your position in the community carries significant influence, and you must be an advocate for your community. You can support programs that help prevent violent crime.
      - Your support can be pivotal in helping governing bodies to adopt police policies.
      - Your position in the community carries significant influence and clout that cannot be overlooked. Your support can be pivotal in helping governing bodies to adopt police policies.

Enforcement Strategies

- Use hotspot policing data to identify high-crime areas:
  - Australia, the United States, and a number of other countries have found that crime patterns provide law enforcement with timely, actionable leads to assist in identifying serial shooters and violent criminal organizations.
  - The New Haven, CT, Police Department recently employed the ATF National Integrated Ballistic Network (NIBIN) successfully and found that one gun was used in five shootings, including an unsolved homicide. This ballistic data provides law enforcement with timely, actionable leads to assist in identifying serial shooters and violent criminal organizations.

Government-Wide Coordination

- Employ all government agencies in the fight to combat violence:
  - Prince George's County, MD, Police Department enlists an all-hands approach to dealing with crime hotspots and areas of criminal activity to include involving the Health and Human Services Division; Department of Permits, Inspection, and Enforcement; and the Board of Education in order to provide the necessary support to assist in their respective roles to impact geographic areas suffering violent crime.
  - Advocate for other agencies and government service providers who have demonstrated innovative criminal justice system models.

Understanding the Issue

Many communities in the United States are confronted by unacceptable levels of crime and violence on our streets. Typically, a disproportionate amount of this violence is the result of young males killing other young males. In the United States, homicide is the second leading cause of death for all young males 15-24 years old. According to the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, homicide is the leading cause of death for all young African Americans. This is simply unacceptable. It is imperative that law enforcement works with our partners in the criminal justice system to reduce the level of violence through an array of successful approaches.

This range of early intervention, to effective enforcement and prosecution, to enhanced penalties for those who commit crime.

This guide was developed as part of an IACP Presidential Initiative and designed for the purpose of providing an action agenda for law enforcement, leadership, their agencies, and the communities they serve.