

Crime and Prevention Trends 2006



National Crime Prevention Council 2006



Objectives

- Consider current trends in crime and prevention
- Explore five major, emerging trends and challenges over the next 20 years
- Examine ways to meet these challenges
- How to use crime prevention as a strong foundation
- Ways to move forward

Why Pay Attention to Trends?

- They change our lives.
 - In 1986, how would you have called for emergency road service? Today?
 - In 1986, how could you get cash out of your bank in a strange city at 1:00 a.m? Today?
 - In 1986, how big was a high-quality personal music player? Today?
 - In 1986, how bulky were televisions? Today?

Crime Prevention Implications

- Look at some crime prevention implications:
 - Cell phones: Quick calls right from the car to road service or to 911, but small and easy to forget/steal
 - ATM: Would-be robbers know what you're probably doing when you walk up to one
 - Lightweight TVs: Convenient to move around house; easier for burglars to take; more attractive to use or fence
 - Tiny, top quality-sound I-pods are convenient to carry, but easy to steal or lose. They are also attractive for crooks to resell.

Other Recent Trends

- On-line banking, bill-paying lead to phishing and spoofing (cyber fraud attempts by crooks)
- Cyberbullying emerges as a serious crime; solutions still under development
- Identity theft zooms to major national issue; numerous prevention strategies emerge
- Local terrorism prevention emerges as added crime prevention responsibility

Understanding Crime Trends Helps Us...

- Anticipate prevention needs in current and new contexts and prepare for them
- Learn from the past about how to identify and implement future prevention strategies
- Reap the benefits of crime prevention
- Serve as effective advocates for crime prevention

Where Are We Now?

- Geography no longer governs community. The physical neighborhood around one's residence is only part of community.
- People now operate in many different communities that overlap only slightly if at all. Here are just some of these communities.
 - **Work**
 - **Home**
 - **Extended family**
 - **Shopping**
 - **Recreation**
 - **Faith**
 - **Professional associations**
 - **Special interests (hobbies, civic, fraternal, etc.)**

Crime Trends and How We Count Crime

Counting crime helps us track our progress. At the national level, there are currently two systems.

- *National Crime Victimization Survey* by the Bureau of Justice Statistics uses a national survey to count what happened, whether reported to police or not.
- *FBI Uniform Crime Reports* count what has been reported to the police. It does not gather details about victim characteristics (except for homicide victims).

Crime Trends and How We Count Crime (cont.)

- Two emerging systems will lead to more detailed and localized data:

FBI National Incident-Based Reporting System provides key information about the victim and circumstances in reported crime. At least 12 states now report this way; more are switching from Uniform Crime Reports system.

Local Crime Victimization Surveys are now possible through use of off-the-shelf software from the National Institute of Justice and the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Current Crime Trends

- In 2005, U.S. residents (12 years and older) experienced 23 million violent and property crimes -- an estimated 18 million property crimes (burglary, motor vehicle theft, and theft) and 5.2 million violent crimes (rape, robbery, aggravated and simple assault, and homicide).

Current Crime Trends (cont.)

- Personal and household victimizations are at 30-year lows, according to 2005 National Crime Victimization Survey data.

Source - BJS - National Crime Victimization Survey (Criminal Victimization, 2005)

- FBI Uniform Crime Report data for 2005 show a 2.3 percent increase in reported violent crime compared with 2004. Property crimes decreased by 1.5 percent in the same period.

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Crime Prevention Council 2005

Current Crime Trends (cont.)

- In 2005, 47 percent of violent crimes and 40 percent of property crimes were reported to police, a substantial increase from the 35 percent to 40 percent reporting levels in the late 1970s.

Source – BJS, National Crime Victimization Survey (*Criminal Victimization 2005*)

Current Crime and Prevention Issues

- Methamphetamine, identity theft, fraud against seniors, gangs, and homeland security are among the hot issues nationwide.
- Many residents feel that serious crime occurs only in isolated areas within their communities.
- Computers as tools of personal and economic crime are a well-established fact.
- Information brokering is a new criminal activity.

Current Crime Prevention Issues (cont.)

- Emphasis on fact-based, research-based programming is becoming a standard. Yet many crime prevention programs do not have a formal research base – just testing through experience.
- Pressure to demonstrate program outcomes – not how much was done but what has changed because of it – is increasingly prevalent at national, state, and local levels.

Current Crime Prevention Issues (cont.)

- Federal and state shifting of financial burdens to localities have reduce crime prevention resources at the same time our population is growing and becoming more diverse, new crime issues are emerging, and signs suggest crime rates are trying to edge up.
- New tools to help crime prevention (crime mapping, crime analysis, email, web, etc.) have become available, though they are underused. These tools have the potential to help local and regional governments and communities more quickly identify and address emerging crime problems.



What Is the Outlook for the Future?

- Five major predictions
 - The United States is significantly more diverse.
 - Communications technology is evolving dramatically.
 - Data technology is expanding dramatically.
 - People live longer, are more active longer.
 - The need to educate each new wave of children, adolescents, and adults continues.

U.S. Demographics and Diversity Predictions

- The United States is becoming more diverse – racially, linguistically, culturally, ethnically.
- Estimates are that by 2050, people of color (predominantly African Americans and Hispanics/Latinos) will comprise nearly a majority of the U.S. population.

Projected Population of the United States, by Race and Hispanic Origin: 2010 to 2050

	2010	2030	2050
% of TOTAL			
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0
White alone	79.3	75.8	72.1
Black alone	13.1	13.9	14.6
Asian alone	4.6	6.2	8.0
All other races	3.0	4.1	5.3
Hispanic (of any race)	15.5	20.1	24.4
White alone (not Hispanic)	65.1	57.5	50.1

* Includes American Indian and Alaska Native alone, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, and Two or More Races

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2004, "U.S. Interim Projections by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin," <www.census.gov/ipc/www/usinterimproj/>



U.S. Demographics and Diversity Challenges

- We will have more diverse languages, cultures, norms, issues of personal and group behaviors, and ideas of lawful behavior and activity.
- Laws and enforcement of the laws we have in place may conflict with the customs and experiences of diverse populations.
- One size will not fit all in crime prevention.

U.S. Demographics and Diversity Recommendations

- Develop ways to explain legal and enforcement systems so they can be understood by diverse populations.
- Develop crime prevention strategies to reach widely different populations in languages and frameworks that meet their needs.
- Find and build bridges between law enforcement and various cultural groups.

Communications Technology Predictions

- Communications capabilities will continue growing exponentially.
- The youth of today are used to being connected routinely by picture as well as voice with people living thousands of miles away. This will increase a sense of familiarity and friendship where there may be no grounds for trust.
- Technology will allow for faster communication, closer and closer to “real time” exchanges – nearly instantaneous action – that can abet criminal intent.

Communications Challenges

- People may not be able to tell the true intentions of all those they communicate with.
- Links between criminals across national borders will grow. Networks of criminals will become larger, less detectable, and harder to stop.

Communications Challenges (cont.)

- Technology – whether used for productive or destructive purposes – crosses national borders while our law enforcement and legal systems are largely restricted by national borders.
- Law enforcement agencies nationally and internationally will struggle to reduce technical, legal, and administrative barriers to information sharing – barriers that do not hamper criminals.

Communications Technology Recommendations

- Develop strategies that help youth understand the risks and apply a healthy level of skepticism when instantaneously communicating.
- Identify and teach youth, adults, and seniors preventive strategies against stalking, bullying, fraud, and other predatory behaviors that draw increasingly on electronic communications technology.

Data Technology Predictions

- More information will be concentrated in more places.
 - Financial
 - Identification
 - Medical
 - Employment
- More links will be established across information sources.
- More economic resources will be electronically accessible.

Data Technology Predictions (cont.)

- Less direct personal contact in business, finance equals more room for deception as well as for misunderstanding. The cost of greater efficiency is loss of personal connection.
- The technological race between criminals and law enforcement will continue and even accelerate.
- Every computer user – home or workplace – will be faced with an ever-growing number of patches and upgrades to protect systems.

Data Technology Challenges

- Innovations will expand faster than people can master the changes. Many unaware computer users can be duped through these innovations.
- Innovation creates room for criminal creativity, changing and increasing the risk of crime.
- Generations differ in their degree of comfort with technological innovation. They will experience different risks and need different prevention techniques.



Data Technology Recommendations

- Tailor approaches based on the vulnerabilities facing different groups – older, younger, more and less experienced, etc.
- Educate people on how to protect themselves using a combination of technology-based safeguards and behavior.
- Encourage industry to help bridge technology and behavior in prevention strategies – building prevention into innovation in software and hardware.

Older Populations Predictions

- People will live longer.
- There will be a larger population of older people – the baby boomers.
- People will be productive into older ages, whether traveling or with “hobby jobs.”
- Wealth will be much more concentrated in older age groups.
- Individual retirees, not employer pension funds, will be responsible for managing the significant majority of retirement assets.

Older Populations Challenges

- Older people are less likely to keep up with innovations in technology.
- Older people are more vulnerable to economic crime. Most will control their own retirement assets, yet may lack technological skills.
- Many in this age group will need crime prevention strategies that take into account various impairments.

Older Populations Recommendations

- Develop crime prevention strategies that effectively link older people's experiences and the steps necessary to prevent crime in new conditions.
- Develop behavioral, technological, and hardware crime prevention techniques that work together to help reduce vulnerabilities, with special attention to the needs of those with impairments.
- Because travel and activity are likely to be part of older people's lifestyles, teach crime prevention accordingly.

Generation Gaps in Knowledge Predictions

- Crime prevention differs for children, youth, and adults.
- People frequently don't teach these skills to their children or bring them to their new life situations.
- Each generation needs to be taught anew at each stage.

Generation Gaps in Knowledge Challenges

- It is hard to predict precisely how future trends will affect crime prevention strategies for different life stages – but we can be sure that they will.
- It is not clear how often people need to be reminded or reeducated about different prevention strategies.

Generation Gaps in Knowledge Recommendations

- We must persist in renewing crime prevention education for each age group.
- We need to assess new crime and crime prevention trends as they apply to each age group.
- We should create intergenerational crime prevention strategies that engage people in teaching each other.

Crime Prevention Tools and Benefits

- The ten Principles of Crime Prevention set forth by the Crime Prevention Coalition of America –*Engaging the Power of Prevention* (2005) – provide guidance to everyone about how to build and sustain crime prevention programs and strategies.

The 10 Principles of Crime Prevention

- Preventing crime is everyone's business
- Preventing crime is more than security
- Preventing crime is a responsibility of all levels of government and agencies of government
- Preventing crime is linked with solving social problems
- Preventing crime is cost-effective

10 Principles Continued...

Preventing crime

- Requires a central role in law enforcement
- Requires an active cooperation and collaboration by all elements of the community
- Requires education
- Requires tailoring to local needs and conditions
- Requires continual testing and improvement

Crime Prevention Improves

The Quality of Life for Every Community



Building on Experience

A look at achievements of crime prevention will help us update crime prevention strategies for the future.

“We can chart our future clearly and wisely only when we know the path which has led to the present.”

- Adlai Stevenson

The 1970s

- Crime prevention is seen by the public as the responsibility of police.
- The concept of citizen action to reduce crime emerges from Law Enforcement Assistance Administration-sponsored programs.
- Neighborhood Watch is born.

The 1980s

- Major Developments
 - Crime Prevention Coalition of America
 - McGruff the Crime Dog®
 - National Citizens' Crime Prevention Campaign
- The role of youth in crime prevention is recognized and engaged.
- Comprehensive action-focused community planning emerges.

The 1990s

- Crime Prevention Coalition of America publishes Principles of Crime Prevention.
- Violence prevention programs proliferate in response to a rise in youth crime.
- The costs of crime are more thoroughly documented.

The 1990s (cont.)

- Comprehensive fact-based prevention approaches gain momentum.
- School safety becomes a major issue.

Today, Our Base is Strong

- Communities are safer than in the 1970s. Both FBI and National Crime Victimization crime event data are at 30-year lows.
- People see themselves as having an important role in making their communities safer.
- Crime prevention has a wider foundation than just law enforcement.
- The Coalition, NCPC, and McGruff continue to provide focus and resources.
- The Bureau of Justice Assistance (U.S. Department of Justice) is actively engaged in enhancing the capacity of crime prevention organizations to meet the challenges of the future.



Opportunities for Crime Prevention in the 21st Century

- Build worldwide links to strengthen prevention.
- Make new communications technology effective in teaching crime prevention.
- Incorporate prevention in new technologies.
- Enlist new generation in crime prevention.
- Strengthen and institutionalize crime prevention.

Hold on – just a minute!

The Future Just Changed

- The future is not guaranteed.
- We can predict but not promise.
- Prediction helps us think about the future, which helps us prepare for change, whatever it looks like.
- The best advice is to stay alert, stay up-to-date, stay flexible, stay committed – and stay safe!

National Crime Prevention Council

1000 Connecticut Avenue, NW

Thirteenth Floor

Washington, DC 20036-5325

202-466-6272

www.ncpc.org

