

Juvenile Delinquency and Crime Prevention: A Comprehensive Analysis of Risk Factors, Interventions, and Policy Implications

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Abstract

Juvenile delinquency remains a persistent challenge in contemporary society, with far-reaching implications for individuals, families, and communities. This research paper examines the multifaceted nature of juvenile criminal behaviour, exploring the complex interplay of risk factors that contribute to delinquent activities among youth. Through a comprehensive review of existing literature and empirical evidence, this study analyses various crime prevention strategies, ranging from early intervention programs to community-based initiatives and restorative justice approaches. The paper identifies key risk factors including family dysfunction, educational disengagement, peer influence, socioeconomic disparities, and community disorganization. Furthermore, it evaluates the effectiveness of different prevention models, highlighting evidence-based practices that demonstrate promising outcomes in reducing juvenile offending rates. The findings suggest that successful crime prevention requires a multi-systemic approach that addresses individual, family, school, and community-level factors simultaneously. This research contributes to the growing body of knowledge on juvenile justice by providing insights into effective prevention strategies and offering policy recommendations for stakeholders working to reduce youth crime and promote positive developmental outcomes.

Keyword: Juvenile delinquency, crime prevention, risk factors, early intervention, community programs, restorative justice, youth development, evidence-based practices, recidivism, policy implications

Introduction

Juvenile delinquency represents one of the most pressing concerns in contemporary criminal justice systems worldwide. The transition from childhood to adulthood presents numerous challenges for young people, and for some, this developmental period is marked by engagement in criminal activities that can have lasting consequences for their future trajectories¹. Understanding the complex factors that contribute to juvenile delinquency and developing effective prevention strategies has become a critical priority for researchers, policymakers, and practitioners working within the juvenile justice system. The significance of addressing juvenile delinquency extends beyond the immediate impacts on individual offenders. Youth crime affects community safety, imposes substantial economic costs on society, and often perpetuates cycles of disadvantage that can span generations². Research consistently demonstrates that early involvement in criminal behaviour is a strong predictor of continued offending in adulthood, making prevention efforts particularly crucial during the formative years of adolescence³.

This research paper aims to provide a comprehensive examination of juvenile delinquency and crime prevention, synthesizing current knowledge about risk factors, protective factors, and intervention strategies. By analysing the effectiveness of various prevention approaches, this study seeks to inform evidence-based policy decisions and contribute to the development of more effective strategies for reducing youth crime and promoting positive youth development.

¹ Loeber, R., & Farrington, D. P. (2014). *Age-crime curve*. In G. Bruinsma & D. Weisburd (Eds.), *Encyclopaedia of criminology and criminal justice* (pp. 12-18). Springer.

² Cohen, M. A., & Piquero, A. R. (2009). *New evidence on the monetary value of saving a high-risk youth*. *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, 25(1), 25-49.

³ Moffitt, T. E. (1993). *Adolescence-limited and life-course-persistent antisocial behaviour: A developmental taxonomy*. *Psychological Review*, 100(4), 674-701.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Defining Juvenile Delinquency

Juvenile delinquency encompasses a broad range of behaviours that violate laws or social norms when committed by individuals below the age of majority, typically defined as those under 18 years of age⁴. The legal definition of juvenile delinquency varies across jurisdictions, but generally includes both criminal offenses that would be considered crimes if committed by adults, as well as status offenses that are specific to minors, such as truancy, running away from home, or underage drinking⁵.

The conceptualization of juvenile delinquency has evolved significantly over the past century, reflecting changing societal attitudes toward youth, crime, and punishment. The establishment of the first juvenile court in Chicago in 1899 marked a shift toward treating young offenders differently from adult criminals, recognizing their developmental differences and greater potential for rehabilitation⁶. This rehabilitative philosophy has continued to influence juvenile justice systems, although debates persist about the appropriate balance between punishment and treatment in responding to youth crime.

2.2 Theoretical Frameworks

Understanding juvenile delinquency requires examination of multiple theoretical perspectives that attempt to explain why some young people engage in criminal behaviour while others do not. Social disorganization theory suggests that communities lacking strong social institutions and informal social controls are more likely to experience higher rates of juvenile delinquency⁷. This

⁴ Steinberg, L. (2013). *The influence of neuroscience on US Supreme Court decisions about adolescents' criminal culpability*. *Nature Reviews Neuroscience*, 14(7), 513-518.

⁵ Bishop, D. M. (2006). *Public opinion and juvenile justice policy: Myths and misconceptions*. *Criminology & Public Policy*, 5(4), 653-664.

⁶ Platt, A. M. (1977). *The child savers: The invention of delinquency*. University of Chicago Press.

⁷ Sampson, R. J., & Groves, W. B. (1989). *Community structure and crime: Testing social-disorganization theory*.

theory emphasizes the importance of community cohesion, collective efficacy, and the presence of

positive role models in preventing youth crime.

Strain theory, developed by Robert Merton, posits that delinquency results from the disconnect between culturally prescribed goals and the legitimate means available to achieve them⁸. For many young people, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, conventional paths to success may seem unattainable, leading to the adoption of illegitimate means to achieve desired outcomes.

Social learning theory provides another important framework for understanding juvenile delinquency, emphasizing the role of modelling, reinforcement, and peer influence in shaping behaviour⁹. According to this perspective, young people learn delinquent behaviours through observation and interaction with others, particularly within their immediate social environments.

3. Risk Factors for Juvenile Delinquency

3.1 Individual Risk Factors

Individual-level risk factors for juvenile delinquency encompass a range of personal characteristics and experiences that increase the likelihood of engaging in criminal behaviour. Early aggressive behavior⁹, particularly when it emerges during childhood, has been identified as one of the strongest predictors of later delinquency¹⁰. Children who display persistent patterns of aggression, defiance, and antisocial behaviour are at significantly elevated risk for continued problems throughout adolescence and into adulthood.

American Journal of Sociology, 94(4), 774-802.

⁸ Merton, R. K. (1938). *Social structure and anomie*. *American Sociological Review*, 3(5), 672-682

⁹ Akers, R. L., & Jensen, G. F. (2006). *The empirical status of social learning theory of crime and deviance: The past, present, and future*. In F. T. Cullen, J. P. Wright, & K. R. Blevins (Eds.), *Taking stock: The status of criminological theory* (pp. 37-76). Transaction Publishers.

¹⁰ Tremblay, R. E. (2000). *The development of aggressive behaviour during childhood: What have we learned in the past century?* *International Journal of Behavioural Development*, 24(2), 129-141.

Substance abuse represents another critical individual risk factor, with strong associations between drug and alcohol use and delinquent behaviour among youth¹¹. The relationship between substance uses and delinquency is complex and bidirectional, with each factor potentially contributing to the escalation of the other. Mental health issues, including depression, anxiety, and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), also increase the risk of delinquent involvement, particularly when these conditions remain untreated or inadequately addressed¹².

Academic difficulties and educational disengagement constitute significant risk factors for juvenile delinquency. Young people who struggle academically, experience chronic school failure, or become disconnected from their educational environment are more likely to engage in delinquent activities¹³. The relationship between educational problems and delinquency is multifaceted, involving factors such as reduced attachment to conventional institutions, increased opportunities for unsupervised time, and association with similarly disengaged peers.

3.2 Family Risk Factors

Family factors play a crucial role in shaping youth behaviour and influencing the likelihood of delinquent involvement. Parental supervision and monitoring represent fundamental protective

mechanisms, with research consistently demonstrating that inadequate supervision increases the risk of delinquent behaviour¹⁴. Parents who are unaware of their children's activities, whereabouts, and peer associations are less able to prevent problem behaviours or intervene early when issues arise.

Family structure and stability also influence delinquency risk, although the relationship is more complex than simple family composition might suggest¹⁴. While single-parent households face

¹¹ Hawkins, J. D., Catalano, R. F., & Miller, J. Y. (1992). *Risk and protective factors for alcohol and other drug problems in adolescence and early adulthood: Implications for substance abuse prevention. Psychological Bulletin*, 112(1), 64-105.

¹² Taplin, L. A., Abram, K. M., McClelland, G. M., Dulcin, M. K., & Mericle, A. A. (2002). *Psychiatric disorders in youth in juvenile detention. Archives of General Psychiatry*, 59(12), 1133-1143.

¹³ Magin, E., & Loeber, R. (1996). *Academic performance and delinquency. Crime and Justice*, 20, 145-264. ¹⁴

Patterson, G. R., & Stout Hamer-Loeber, M. (1984). *The correlation of family management practices and delinquency. Child Development*, 55(4), 1299-1307.

¹⁴ Demuth, S., & Brown, S. L. (2004). *Family structure, family processes, and adolescent delinquency: The significance of parental absence versus parental gender. Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, 41(1), 5881.

certain challenges, it is the quality of family relationships, rather than structure alone, that appears most predictive of youth outcomes. Families characterized by high levels of conflict, inconsistent discipline, harsh punishment, or abuse create environments that may contribute to the development of antisocial behaviour patterns.

Economic hardship and poverty represent significant family-level risk factors for juvenile delinquency. Families experiencing financial stress may face numerous challenges that indirectly increase delinquency risk, including residential instability, limited access to resources and opportunities, parental stress, and reduced capacity for supervision and monitoring¹⁵.

3.3 Peer and School Factors

The influence of peer relationships on juvenile delinquency cannot be overstated. Association with delinquent peers is one of the strongest predictors of individual involvement in criminal behaviour¹⁶. The mechanisms through which peer influence operates include social learning, social reinforcement, and the provision of opportunities for delinquent activities. Young people who associate with peers who engage in substance use, truancy, or criminal activities are significantly more likely to adopt similar behaviours themselves.

School climate and environment play important roles in either promoting or preventing delinquent behaviour. Schools characterized by high levels of disorder, inconsistent discipline policies, low academic expectations, and poor relationships between students and staff create conditions that may facilitate delinquent behaviour¹⁸. Conversely, schools that maintain positive climates, high expectations, and strong connections with students can serve as important protective factors against delinquency.

4. Crime Prevention Strategies

¹⁵ Jarjoura, G. R., Triplett, R. A., & Brinker, G. P. (2002). *Growing up poor: Examining the link between persistent childhood poverty and delinquency*. *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, 18(2), 159-187.

¹⁶ Warr, M. (2002). *Companions in crime: The social aspects of criminal conduct*. Cambridge University Press.¹⁸

Gottfredson, G. D., & Gottfredson, D. C. (2001). *What schools do to prevent problem behaviour and promote safe environments*. *Journal of Educational and Psychological Consultation*, 12(4), 313-344.

4.1 Primary Prevention

Primary prevention strategies aim to prevent juvenile delinquency before it occurs by addressing risk factors and strengthening protective factors in the general population. These approaches focus on creating conditions that support healthy youth development and reduce the likelihood that young people will engage in delinquent behaviour¹⁷. Primary prevention efforts often target entire communities or populations rather than focusing on individuals already identified as highrisk.

Early childhood intervention programs represent a particularly promising form of primary prevention. Programs such as the Perry Preschool Project and the Carolina cbedecarian Project have demonstrated long-term benefits in reducing criminal behaviour among participants¹⁸.

These programs provide high-quality early education, family support, and developmental services during the critical early years of child development, creating foundations for positive life trajectories.

School-based prevention programs constitute another important component of primary prevention efforts. Comprehensive school programs that combine academic instruction with social and emotional learning, conflict resolution skills, and character development have shown effectiveness in reducing aggressive behaviour and improving school climate¹⁹. These programs recognize the school as a critical setting for youth development and seek to create environments that promote positive behaviour and academic success.

4.2 Secondary Prevention

Secondary prevention strategies target youth who are at elevated risk for delinquent behaviour but have not yet become extensively involved in the juvenile justice system. These interventions seek to identify and address problems early, before they escalate into more serious or persistent

¹⁷ Hawkins, J. D., & Catalano, R. F. (1992). *Communities that care: Action for drug abuse prevention*. JosseyBass.

¹⁸ Reynolds, A. J., Temple, J. A., Robertson, D. L., & Mann, E. A. (2001). *Long-term effects of an early childhood intervention on educational achievement and juvenile arrest: A 15-year follow-up of low-income children in public schools*. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 285(18), 2339-2346.

¹⁹ Wilson, D. B., & Lipsey, M. W. (2007). *School-based interventions for aggressive and disruptive behaviour: Update of a meta-analysis*. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 33(2), S130-S143.

patterns of criminal behaviour²⁰. Secondary prevention approaches often involve screening and assessment procedures to identify high-risk youth and provide targeted interventions tailored to their specific needs and circumstances.

Mentoring programs represent one of the most widely implemented forms of secondary prevention. Programs such as Big Brothers Big Sisters provide young people with adult mentors who can offer guidance, support, and positive role modelling²¹. Research has demonstrated that high-quality mentoring relationships can reduce delinquent behaviour, improve academic performance, and enhance social and emotional development among participating youth.

Family-based interventions constitute another important category of secondary prevention strategies. Programs such as Functional Family Therapy and Multisystemic Therapy work directly with families to address dysfunctional patterns, improve communication, and strengthen parental supervision and monitoring²². These approaches recognize that family factors play a crucial role in youth behaviour and seek to enhance family functioning as a means of preventing delinquent involvement.

4.3 Tertiary Prevention

Tertiary prevention strategies focus on youth who have already become involved in the juvenile justice system and aim to prevent continued or escalating criminal behaviour. These interventions recognize that young people who have committed offenses remain at high risk for future delinquent involvement and require intensive, evidence-based interventions to support their rehabilitation and reintegration into the community²³.

Multisystemic Therapy (MST) represents one of the most rigorously evaluated tertiary prevention approaches. MST is an intensive family- and community-based intervention that addresses

²⁰ Tolan, P., & Guerra, N. (1994). *What works in reducing adolescent violence: An empirical review of the field*. Centre for the Study and Prevention of Violence.

²¹ DuBois, D. L., Holloway, B. E., Valentine, J. C., & Cooper, H. (2002). *Effectiveness of mentoring programs for youth: A meta-analytic review*. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 30(2), 157-197.

²² Alexander, J., & Parsons, B. V. (1973). *Short-term behavioural intervention with delinquent families: Impact on family process and recidivism*. *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*, 81(3), 219-225.

²³ Lipsey, M. W. (2009). *The primary factors that characterize effective interventions with juvenile offenders: A meta-analytic overview*. *Victims & Offenders*, 4(2), 124-147.

multiple systems that influence youth behaviour, including family, school, peer, and community factors²⁴. Research has consistently demonstrated that MST is effective in reducing recidivism, improving family functioning, and enhancing youth outcomes across diverse populations and settings.

Therapeutic communities and residential treatment programs provide intensive interventions for youth with severe behavioural problems or those who cannot be safely maintained in community settings. These programs typically combine therapeutic services, educational programming, and structured environments designed to address the complex needs of high-risk youth²⁵. While residential placement represents a significant intervention, research suggests that communitybased alternatives are generally more effective and less costly than institutional care.

5. Evidence-Based Practices

5.1 What Works in Juvenile Crime Prevention

The development of evidence-based practices in juvenile crime prevention has been significantly advanced through systematic reviews and meta-analyses of intervention research. These comprehensive

examinations of the literature have helped identify programs and approaches that demonstrate consistent effectiveness in reducing delinquent behaviour and improving youth outcomes²⁶. The emphasis on evidence-based practice reflects a commitment to implementing interventions that have been rigorously evaluated and shown to produce positive results.

Cognitive-behavioural interventions have emerged as particularly effective approaches for working with delinquent youth. These programs focus on helping young people develop better problem-solving skills, improve impulse control, and learn to manage anger and aggression more

²⁴ Henggeler, S. W., Schoenwald, S. K., Bordun, C. M., Rowland, M. D., & Cunningham, P. B. (2009). *Multisystemic therapy for antisocial behaviour in children and adolescents*. Guilford Press.

²⁵ Dishion, T. J., McCord, J., & Poulin, F. (1999). *When interventions harm: Peer groups and problem behaviour*.

American Psychologist, 54(9), 755-764.

²⁶ Lipsey, M. W., & Wilson, D. B. (1998). *Effective intervention for serious juvenile offenders: A synthesis of research*. In R. Loeber & D. P. Farrington (Eds.), *Serious & violent juvenile offenders: Risk factors and successful interventions* (pp. 313-345). Sage Publications.

effectively²⁷. Programs such as aggression Replacement Training and Moral Recondition Therapy have demonstrated significant effects in reducing recidivism and improving behavioural outcomes among participating youth.

Family-based interventions consistently rank among the most effective approaches for preventing and addressing juvenile delinquency. Programs that work directly with families to improve communication, strengthen parental supervision, and address dysfunctional patterns have shown remarkable success in reducing delinquent behaviour²⁸. The effectiveness of family interventions reflects the central role that family factors play in shaping youth behaviour and outcomes.

5.2 Promising Practices

Several intervention approaches show promise but require additional research to establish their effectiveness conclusively. Restorative justice programs, which emphasize repairing harm caused by criminal behaviour and involving victims, offenders, and community members in the justice process, have gained increasing attention in recent years²⁹. While research on restorative justice is still developing, preliminary findings suggest that these approaches may be effective in reducing recidivism while also promoting accountability and healing.

Community-based alternative sanctions represent another area of promising practice in juvenile crime prevention. Programs such as intensive supervision, electronic monitoring, and day treatment centres provide alternatives to secure confinement while maintaining community safety³⁰. These approaches recognize that most young offenders can be effectively supervised and treated in community settings, avoiding the potential negative effects of institutional placement.

²⁷ Landenberger, N. A., & Lipsey, M. W. (2005). *The positive effects of cognitive-behavioural programs for offenders: A meta-analysis of factors associated with effective treatment*. *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, 1(4), 451-476.

²⁸ Woolfenden, S. R., Williams, K., & Peat, J. K. (2002). *Family and parenting interventions for conduct disorder and delinquency: A meta-analysis of randomised controlled trials. Archives of Disease in Childhood*, 86(4), 251-256.

²⁹ Latimer, J., Dowden, C., & Muise, D. (2005). *The effectiveness of restorative justice practices: A meta-analysis. The Prison Journal*, 85(2), 127-144.

³⁰ Altschuler, D. M., & Armstrong, T. L. (1994). *Intensive aftercare for high-risk juveniles: Policies and procedures.*

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Wraparound services models attempt to provide comprehensive, individualized services to youth and families by coordinating multiple agencies and service providers. These approaches recognize that delinquent youth often have complex, multi-faceted needs that require coordinated responses from various systems ³¹. While wraparound models show promise, challenges in implementation and coordination have limited their widespread adoption and evaluation.

6. Policy Implications and Recommendations

6.1 Investment in Prevention

The evidence strongly supports increased investment in prevention strategies as a cost-effective approach to reducing juvenile delinquency. Prevention programs, particularly those implemented during early childhood and adolescence, have been shown to generate substantial returns on investment through reduced criminal justice costs, improved educational outcomes, and enhanced lifetime earnings ³². Policymakers should prioritize funding for evidence-based prevention programs and ensure that these initiatives receive sustained support over time.

The development of comprehensive prevention strategies requires coordination across multiple systems and agencies. Schools, mental health providers, social services, law enforcement, and community organizations all play important roles in preventing juvenile delinquency³³. Policies should promote collaboration and coordination among these various stakeholders, creating integrated approaches that address the multiple factors that contribute to delinquent behaviour.

³¹ Bruns, E. J., Burchard, J. D., Suter, J. C., Leverentz-Brady, K., & Force, M. M. (2004). *Assessing fidelity to a community-based treatment for youth: The wraparound fidelity index. Journal of Emotional and Behavioural Disorders*, 12(2), 79-89.

³² Aos, S., Lieb, R., Mayfield, J., Miller, M., & Pennucci, A. (2004). *Benefits and costs of prevention and early intervention programs for youth. Washington State Institute for Public Policy.*

³³ Catalano, R. F., Arthur, M. W., Hawkins, J. D., Berglund, L., & Olson, J. J. (1998). *Comprehensive community and school-based interventions to prevent antisocial behaviour. In R. Loeber & D. P. Farrington (Eds.), Serious & violent juvenile offenders: Risk factors and successful interventions (pp. 248-283). Sage Publications.*

³⁶ Lipsey, M. W., & Cullen, F. T. (2007). *The effectiveness of correctional rehabilitation: A review of systematic reviews. Annual Review of Law and Social Science*, 3, 297-320.

6.2 Reform of Juvenile Justice Systems

Contemporary juvenile justice systems should emphasize rehabilitation and treatment over punishment,

particularly for first-time and non-violent offenders. Research consistently demonstrates that punitive approaches are less effective than therapeutic interventions in reducing recidivism and promoting positive youth development³⁶. Policies should support the implementation of evidence-based treatment programs and alternatives to secure confinement whenever possible.

The disproportionate representation of minority youth in the juvenile justice system represents a significant concern that requires targeted policy responses. Disparities in arrest rates, adjudication decisions, and sentencing outcomes suggest the need for reforms to promote equity and fairness in juvenile justice proceedings³⁴. Policies should address both explicit and implicit bias in the system while also addressing the underlying social and economic factors that contribute to these disparities.

6.3 Community Engagement and Support

Effective juvenile crime prevention requires strong community engagement and support. Communities play crucial roles in providing positive opportunities for youth development, maintaining informal social controls, and supporting families in their efforts to raise healthy children³⁵. Policies should promote community-based initiatives that strengthen neighbourhood cohesion, provide positive youth activities, and create environments that support healthy development.

The importance of community engagement extends to the involvement of former offenders and community members who have been affected by crime. Restorative justice approaches and community accountability models recognize that effective crime prevention requires the active participation of those most directly affected by criminal behaviour³⁶. Policies should create opportunities for meaningful community involvement in juvenile justice processes and crime prevention efforts.

³⁴ Piquero, A. R. (2008). *Disproportionate minority contact. The Future of Children*, 18(2), 59-79.

³⁵ Sampson, R. J., Raudenbush, S. W., & Earls, F. (1997). *Neighbourhoods and violent crime: A multilevel study of collective efficacy. Science*, 277(5328), 918-924.

³⁶ Braithwaite, J. (1989). *Crime, shame and reintegration. Cambridge University Press*.

7. Conclusion

This comprehensive examination of juvenile delinquency and crime prevention reveals the complex, multifaceted nature of youth criminal behaviour and the diverse strategies available to address this significant social problem. The research evidence clearly demonstrates that juvenile delinquency results from the interaction of multiple risk factors operating at individual, family, peer, school, and community levels. Effective prevention strategies must therefore adopt a systemic approach that addresses these various domains simultaneously rather than focusing on any single factor in isolation.

The evidence base for juvenile crime prevention has grown substantially in recent decades, providing policymakers and practitioners with valuable guidance about what works in reducing delinquent behaviour and promoting positive youth development³⁷. Programs that demonstrate the strongest evidence of effectiveness tend to be those that are theoretically grounded, wellimplemented, and sustained over time. These interventions typically address multiple risk factors, strengthen protective factors, and involve multiple systems in their implementation.

The implications of this research extend beyond the immediate concerns of reducing juvenile crime to broader questions about how society can best support the healthy development of all young people. Effective juvenile crime prevention requires investments in families, schools, and communities that create conditions supportive of positive youth development³⁸. Such investments benefit not only those

youth who might otherwise become involved in delinquent behaviour but all young people who grow up in stronger, more supportive environments.

Moving forward, continued research is needed to refine our understanding of effective prevention strategies and to develop new approaches that can address emerging challenges in juvenile

³⁷ *Welsh, B. C., & Farrington, D. P. (2007). Scientific support for early prevention of delinquency and later offending. Victims & Offenders, 2(2), 125-140.*

³⁸ *Catalano, R. F., Berglund, M. L., Ryan, J. A., Lonczak, H. S., & Hawkins, J. D. (2004). Positive youth development in the United States: Research findings on evaluations of positive youth development programs. The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, 591(1), 98-124.*

delinquency. The field would benefit from longer-term follow-up studies of prevention programs, research on the implementation and sustainability of evidence-based practices, and investigations of how prevention strategies can be adapted to serve diverse populations and communities³⁹. Additionally, research should continue to examine the cost-effectiveness of various approaches to help guide resource allocation decisions in an era of limited public resources.

The prevention of juvenile delinquency represents both a significant challenge and an important opportunity for society. By implementing evidence-based prevention strategies, investing in positive youth development, and maintaining commitment to rehabilitation over punishment, communities can work toward the goal of reducing youth crime while promoting the healthy development of all young people. The stakes are high, but the potential benefits—for individuals, families, and communities—make this effort one of the most important investments societies can make in its future.

³⁹ *Fagan, A. A., & Catalano, R. F. (2013). What works in youth violence prevention: A review of the literature. Research on Social Work Practice, 23(2), 141-156.*