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America's Child Care Crisis: A Crime Prevention Tragedy

A Report From

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS

by

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Families-
CHILD
CARE

"Early childhood and youth development programs can lead us to a stunning victory against violence. When these investments are proven to save lives and tax dollars, why shouldn't policy-makers provide the funding that will enable communities to get the job done?"

—former U.S. Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson

- Barnett estimates that the cost, including increased crime and welfare costs, of *failing* to provide at least two years of quality educational child care to low-income children is approximately \$100,000 per child. That's a total of about \$400 billion for all poor children now under age five.
- A recent study by Professor Mark A. Cohen of Vanderbilt University estimates that for each high-risk youth prevented from adopting a life of crime, the country would *save \$1.7 million*.
- A recent Rand Corporation report shows that, even without counting the savings to crime victims and society, the resulting *savings to government* alone from effective early childhood programs *exceeds by two to four times the cost of the programs*.

Law Enforcement United in Calling for Crime-Prevention Investments in Kids

Who says these four steps are among our most powerful weapons to fight crime?

- The hundreds of law enforcement leaders and crime victims who make up FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS.
- Over the last six months, virtually every major national law enforcement organization — including the Major Cities [Police] Chiefs' Organization, the Police Executive Research Forum, the National Sheriffs' Association, and the National District Attorneys' Association — have adopted forceful calls for boosting critical crime prevention investments like these.
- In a Northeastern University poll, 92 percent of police chiefs nationwide agreed that "America could sharply reduce crime if government invested more in programs to help children and youth get a good start" by "fully funding Head Start for infants and toddlers, preventing child abuse, providing parenting training for high-risk families, improving schools and providing after-school programs and mentoring." Nine out of ten chiefs also agreed that "if America doesn't pay for greater investments in programs to help children and youth now, we will all pay far more later in crime, welfare, and other costs."

"Police leaders know America's commitment to putting criminals in jail must be matched by its commitment to keeping kids from becoming criminals in the first place."

— Los Angeles (CA) Chief of Police Bernard Parks

For citations of studies referred to above, visit www.fightcrime.org



Launched in 1996, FIGHT CRIME is led by hundreds of America's leading police chiefs, prosecutors, sheriffs, crime victims, and leaders of police officer organizations. Major funding for its operations is provided by:

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FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS



From America's Front Line Against Crime: A School and Youth Violence Prevention Plan

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AS AN ORGANIZATION OF HUNDREDS OF POLICE CHIEFS, SHERIFFS, PROSECUTORS, CRIME SURVIVORS AND LEADERS OF POLICE OFFICER ORGANIZATIONS, we are determined to see that dangerous criminals are put behind bars. But anyone who thinks that jailing a criminal undoes the agony crime leaves in its wake hasn't seen crime up close.

America's anti-crime arsenal contains no weapons more powerful than the proven programs that help kids get the right start — like quality educational child care, youth development programs for the after-school and summer hours, child abuse prevention, and intervention programs proven to help get troubled kids back on track.

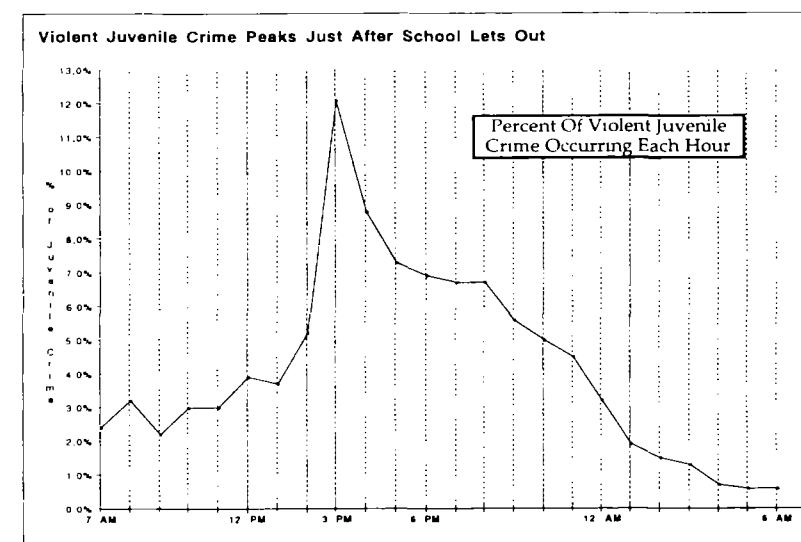
Yet today, inadequate funding for Head Start, educational child care, after-school youth development programs and counseling for troubled kids leaves millions of children at needless risk of becoming violent or delinquent teens and adult criminals — and leaves every American at needless risk of becoming a victim.

We call on all public officials to adopt a four-part plan to dramatically reduce crime and violence and adult crime, and help young people learn the skills and values they need to become good neighbors and responsible adults. While no plan can prevent every violent act, this common-sense plan — based on our experience and the latest research about what really works to fight crime — can make all of us safer.

Four Steps to Dramatically Reduce School and Youth Violence

1. Assure all school-age children and teens access to after-school, weekend and summer youth development programs to shut down the "Prime Time for Juvenile Crime."

In the hour after the school bell rings, turning millions of children and teens out on the street with neither constructive activities nor adult supervision, violent juvenile crime suddenly *triples* and prime time for juvenile crime begins. On school days, the peak hours for such crime are from



3:00 PM to 6:00 PM. These are also the hours when kids are most likely to become victims of crime. They are the peak hours for teen sex, and being unsupervised after school doubles the risk that 8th-graders will smoke, drink alcohol or use drugs.

Quality youth development programs can cut crime immediately and transform this Prime Time for Juvenile Crime into hours of academic enrichment, wholesome fun and community service. They protect both kids and adults from becoming victims of crime, and cut teen pregnancy, smoking, and drug use, while they help

"When the peak hours of violent juvenile crime are between the end of school and 8:00 P.M., it's just common sense to provide the after-school programs that give kids the values and skills they need to say 'no' to crime and violence."

— Sheriff Patrick Sullivan (R-Arapahoe County, CO)

youngsters develop the values and skills they need to become contributing citizens. For example:

- When a public housing project intensively recruited youths to join in a new after-school program, *arrests among its teen residents plummeted to one-fourth of their previous level*, while those among the teens who lived in a nearby comparison project were actually going up by two-thirds.
- High school freshmen boys randomly selected from welfare households to participate in the Quantum Opportunities after-school program were *only one-sixth as likely to be convicted of a crime* during the high school years as those not selected. Together, the boys and girls who participated in the program were *50% more likely to graduate high school on time*.
- Young people who received a Big Brothers/Big Sisters mentor were *half as likely to begin illegal drug use or to hit someone* as applicants randomly assigned to a waiting list.

In short, failing to provide programs like these can multiply by as much as four times your family's risk that at-risk kids will become delinquent.

2. Assure all babies and preschool children access to the quality educational child care programs proven to cut crime.

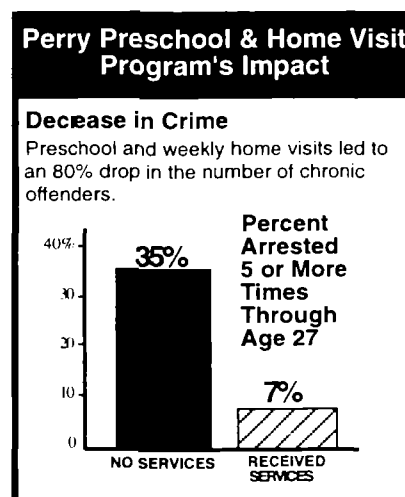
Rigorous studies, hard experience, and brain pictures from modern medical equipment tell the same story: In the first few years of life, children's intellects and emotions, and even their ability to feel concern for others — a prerequisite to "conscience" — are being permanently shaped. When parents are at work trying to make ends meet, programs providing nurturing, stimulating, educational child care for babies and toddlers can not only prepare children to succeed in school but also dramatically reduce crime. For example:

"America's fight against violence must begin in the high chair, not the electric chair. Anything less leaves America's police fighting with one hand tied behind our backs."

— George Sweat, Director, Office of Juvenile Justice (North Carolina):
former Chief of Police, Winston-Salem (NC)

- In Ypsilanti, Michigan, low-income three- and four-year-olds randomly assigned to be in the High/Scope Educational Research Foundation's preschool program were *only one-fifth as likely* to have become chronic lawbreakers at age 27, compared to similar children who did without this educational child care.
- In Syracuse, at-risk infants and toddlers enrolled in a quality child development program, with parenting support for their mothers, were *only one-tenth as likely* as similar children to be delinquent ten years later.

In other words, failing to make sure that at-risk kids have access to quality child care and development programs like these can multiply by five to ten times the risk that they will grow up to lead a life of crime. When millions of struggling parents are forced to leave their children in inadequate child care, we all pay a terrible price.



3. Help schools identify troubled and disruptive children at an early age, and provide children and their parents with the counseling and training that can help kids get back on track.

When elementary school children display disruptive behavior, it is a warning signal that it is time to start looking for the causes of the problem, and to provide the proven social skills training, counseling, and other help for the children and their families that can lead them back to a healthier path. For example:

- A Montreal study showed that providing disruptive first- and second-grade boys with services like these *cut in half* the odds that they would later be in special classes, rated highly disruptive by a teacher or by peers, or have been required to repeat a grade in school — all signs that the risk of future violence has been sharply reduced.
- Five years after randomly selected disruptive, low-achieving seventh-grade students completed a three-year program involving behavioral therapy and rewards, they were only one-third as likely to have a juvenile record as those who did not receive these services.

4. Improve deficient parenting and prevent child abuse and neglect by: a) Offering high-risk parents in-home parenting-coaching; and b) making sure child protective, foster care and adoption services have policies and enough well-trained staff to protect and heal abused and neglected children.

Being abused or neglected multiplies the risk that a child will grow up to be violent. Almost three million children are reported abused or neglected each year. Child protective and foster care services in most states lack adequate staff, and often the training or policy support, to protect children and to see that those who have been maltreated get the nurturing care and treatment needed to help them heal. We must also act *before* abuse takes place to expand parenting-coaching and family support programs that prevent children from being abused and neglected, prevent subsequent delinquency, and improve other outcomes for children. For example:

- The Prenatal and Early Infancy Project randomly assigned half of a group of at-risk mothers to receive visits by specially trained nurses who provide coaching in parenting skills and other advice and support. Rigorous studies show the program not only *reduced child abuse by 80%* in the first two years, but that fifteen years after the services ended, *these mothers had only one-third as many arrests*, and *their children were only half as likely to be delinquent*.

The Bottom Line: Investing in Kids Saves Lives and Money

When America fails to invest in its children and youth, we pay far more later — not just in lives and fear, but also in tax dollars. The federal treasury will actually have *more* money to dedicate to other uses a few years from now — whether for social security, paying off the accumulated national debt, or tax cuts — if we invest *today* in programs to help kids get the right start. For example:

- Economist Steven Barnett found that the High/Scope Foundation's Perry Preschool study *saved \$150,000 per participant in crime costs alone*. Even after subtracting the interest that could have been earned by investing the program's funding in financial markets, the project produced a *net savings of \$7.16* — including more than six dollars in crime savings — for every dollar invested.

"We could be saving thousands of lives — and sparing thousands of families unimaginable heartbreak — by investing up front in the proven early childhood care and youth development programs that can turn kids away from crime."

— Jean Lewis, President, National Organization of Parents of Murdered Children

THE NATION'S NEWSPAPER

USA TODAY

NO. 1 IN THE USA . . . FIRST IN DAILY READERS

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1999

NATIONLINE

HELPING KIDS: Child-care and after-school programs are better ways to end juvenile violence than hiring more police officers, prosecuting children as adults or increasing security in schools, according to a survey of 556 police chiefs released at the annual convention of the International Association of Chiefs of Police in Charlotte, N.C. The survey, commissioned by Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, found that 69% identified child-care and after-school programs as their top solutions to fighting juvenile crime. By comparison, 17% of the chiefs said more children should be prosecuted as adults, 13% said hiring more officers would be their top solution, and 1% opted for adding metal detectors and surveillance cameras to schools.

— Gary Fields

The Charlotte Observer

TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 2, 1999

Police say care for kids is vital

After-school care prevents
youth crime, chiefs believe

By LEIGH DYER
Staff Writer

If it came to choosing between money to hire more officers and money to pay for expanded after-school and child-care programs, most of the nation's police chiefs would choose the programs for children, a new poll released Monday found.

In the poll results announced in Charlotte, 69

percent of 556 chiefs ranked after-school and child-care programs as the most effective strategy to reduce youth violence. That's over five times the number who ranked hiring more police officers as their top priority - just 13 percent.

"We can't spend a dollar better than an investment in our children," said Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Chief Darrel Stephens, who conducted the news conference outside the Charlotte Convention Center.

The Washington-based nonprofit group "Fight Crime: Invest in Kids," released the poll during the convention of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

The crime-fighting group is now using the poll results to push Congress to increase funding for child care and after-school programs over the next five years. At a minimum, the group wants to see \$800 million in funding for childhood initiatives proposed by President Clinton restored to the federal budget, where it was trimmed by lawmakers earlier this year. Sandy Newman, Fight Crime's president, said the funding shouldn't stop there.

The Major Cities Police Chiefs association, the National Sheriff's Association and the Police Executive Research Forum have endorsed the call for increased funding. The N.C. Association of Police Chiefs has also endorsed the proposal, but the S.C. association has not taken a vote.

Mecklenburg District Attorney Peter Gilchrist noted that studies show juvenile crime triples in the hour after the school day ends. Other studies show students who don't attend after-school programs are six times more likely to be convicted of a crime during their high school years than those who do attend

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Please see POLL / page 5C

Police urge better care for children

POLL from IC

such programs, he said.

Dozens of other chiefs from around the country voiced their support Monday. "Investing in our young people and investing in families are much more cost-effective than the investment we make in building prisons," said Joseph Samuels, chief of police in Richmond, Calif.

After receiving federal funds throughout the 1990s to enlarge their police forces, many chiefs say they still wouldn't turn down the opportunity to hire more officers. But the poll shows many chiefs believe other priorities are more important, Fight Crime officials said.

The poll asked chiefs to select their top priority among four youth-violence prevention measures. In addition to the 69 percent who chose after-school and

child-care programs and the 13 percent who chose hiring more officers, 17 percent voted for prosecuting more juveniles as adults, and 1 percent chose installing more metal detectors and surveillance cameras in schools.

In a separate question, 91 percent of the poll respondents said they agreed that without more funding for after-school and child-care programs, "we will pay far more later in crime, welfare and other costs."

Professors from George Mason University conducted the survey from Oct. 14 to Oct. 27. They received 556 responses from 855 randomly selected municipal police chiefs. The margin of error was plus or minus 5 percentage points.

Monday's announcement was part of an ongoing discussion at the chief's convention about ways to reduce youth violence, particularly in schools. Hundreds

of chiefs crowded into workshops Sunday and Monday to learn about the latest school violence prevention programs across the country. Many officials also discussed their retooled plans for responding to school crises in the wake of last April's school shootings in Littleton, Colo.

But Fight Crime's Newman said using metal detectors and other security measures to drive violence out of schools won't solve the problem of youth violence.

"In an average week, 40 kids are killed in America by violence. That's 150 Littletons a year," Newman said.

"We won't have accomplished much if we just move violence out of the schools and into communities."

Reach public safety reporter Leigh Dyer at (704) 358-5058 or ldyer@charlotte.com.

THE PLAIN DEALER

To help teens, police favor after-school efforts over more enforcement

By TOM DIEMER
and STEPHEN KOFF
PLAIN DEALER BUREAU

WASHINGTON — A majority of the men and women on the front lines in the fight against youth crime say expanded after-school programs and better child care would be more effective in dealing with troubled kids than hiring extra cops or installing metal detectors in schools, according to a new national survey.

Chief Edward A. Flynn of Arlington, Va., said he knew the finding would strike many as "counter-intuitive," since it is assumed police favor tough en-

as Head Start "would greatly reduce youth crime and violence."

When asked to rank anti-crime strategies, 69 percent thought after-school programs were most effective, while 17 percent said prosecuting more juveniles as adults was preferable. Thirteen percent said the most effective strategy would be to hire additional officers to investigate youth crimes. Only 1 percent responded that more metal detectors and surveillance cameras in schools would solve youth violence.

"People who don't know a lot about what policing has been through in the last several years

forcement over a preventive approach. That is no longer the case, he said.

"I think we need after-school programs and we need to help turn kids around and try and give them some direction," said Shaker Heights Chief Walter Ugrinic, who agreed with the survey findings. Children and parents, especially single parents, need help in getting through the late afternoon and evening hours, which is when authorities say most youth crime occurs.

Given a choice of spending \$100,000 on youth-crime officers or on programs for kids, Ugrinic said, "I'd go with after-school

would assume that the police policy-makers would be heavy on punishment, heavy on reaction, heavy on sanctions when it comes to trying to deal with our crime problem," Flynn said. "If anything, the opposite would be true."

George Mason University conducted the mailed survey for Fight Crimes: Invest in Kids, an anti-crime group — favoring preventive approaches — made up of police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors, criminologists and victims of crime. Nearly one-third of those polled were from cities with populations above 100,000; the margin of error was plus or minus 5 percentage points.

programs. What's two [more] officers going to do for me? They're going to bring these kids in, but now what am I going to do with them? I'd rather take the \$100,000 and help 50 kids than arrest 100. The goal is to work with our kids, to turn them around."

Chief Flynn and Sanford Newman, president of Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, will release the survey of 566 police chiefs today in Charlotte, N.C., where the International Association of Chiefs of Police is holding its convention. The poll showed that 86 percent of the chiefs questioned agree that after-school activities and educational child care such

Elyria Police Capt. Dennis Will said a mix of after-school programs was needed.

"Some are athletic, others are mentoring programs or tutoring for school, others are just social programs we put together to give the kids an alternative. And one of the aims is obviously to get them before they get into a cycle that's going to lead them down the wrong path," Will said. "I absolutely think that's a worthwhile thing. It may not be the overall solution, but I believe it's money well spent."

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MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

As youth homicide arrests rise, police chiefs weigh in on prevention

Officers want more after-school programming

By FRANK A. AUKOFER
of the Journal Sentinel staff

Washington — America's police chiefs overwhelmingly believe that the best strategy for reducing youth violence and crime is to provide more after-school and educational child care programs.

Only a few are convinced that more metal detectors and surveillance cameras in schools would help.

Those are the major conclusions of a new survey, released this morning at a convention of the International Association of Chiefs of Police in Charlotte, N.C.

By a whopping 69%, the chiefs endorsed after-school programs and educational child care. That far outstripped the second choice, prosecuting more juveniles as adults, which was chosen by just

Please see CHIEFS page 12

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Chiefs/More programming sought

From page 1

17% of those responding to the survey.

Only 1% of the chiefs said they believed installing more metal detectors and surveillance cameras in schools was an effective strategy against youth violence and crime. A total of 13% endorsed hiring more police officers to investigate juvenile crime.

Responding to a question about after-school programs and early educational efforts like Head Start, 86% of the chiefs said expanding those programs would greatly reduce youth violence and crime.

Only 14% replied that such an expansion would have little impact.

The survey, conducted between Oct. 14 and Oct. 27, went to 855 randomly selected police departments around the country, large as well as small. The chiefs were asked to "guide elected officials" by selecting among the four main strategies.

A total of 556 chiefs responded, a rate of 65%.

The survey was conducted by two professors from George Mason University in Fairfax, Va. — Stephen D. Mastrofski and Scott Keeter — and commissioned by Fight Crime: Invest In Kids, a bipartisan, non-profit organization of police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors and victims of violence.

Among the members of the organization's state and national advisory committee are Milwaukee County Sheriff Lev Baldwin and District Attorney Paul Bucher and Sheriff William Kruziki of Waukesha County.

At a briefing for reporters, the police chief of Arlington, Va., Edward A. Flynn, described the survey's results as counter-intuitive. He said most people likely assumed that police chiefs would be heavy on punishment, quick reaction to crimes and tough laws.

"If anything," he said, "the opposite is true."

Flynn, a member of the board of Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, said police departments all over

Strategies for Curbing Youth Crime

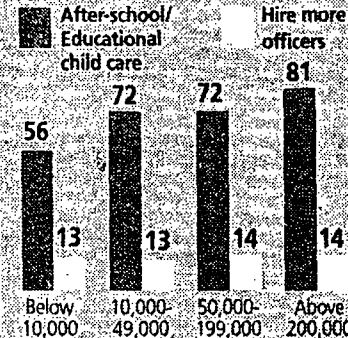
A survey released at the International Association of Chiefs of Police convention found that by a wide margin the chiefs endorsed after-school programs and educational child care as the best strategy for reducing youth violence and crime.

Which of these strategies do you think is most effective?

- Provide more after-school programs and educational child care programs **69%**
- Prosecute more juveniles as adults **17%**
- Hire more police officers to investigate juvenile crimes **13%**
- Install more metal detectors and surveillance cameras in schools **1%**

Top choices of chiefs

A comparison of jurisdictions by population



Source: George Mason University Department of Public and International Affairs

Journal Sentinel

the nation were moving toward the "known but seldom understood" concept of community policing, in which the police respond to problems in neighborhoods as defined by the residents.

But he said police chiefs sometimes did not publicly endorse such strategies as educational child care and after-school programs because they feared "it might brand them as liberals."

For that reason, Flynn said, all of the chiefs who were surveyed were guaranteed anonymity.

The public, he said, expects law officers to be "heavy on the enforcement side," although "there's a lot more going on in the profession."

Flynn said the most dangerous criminal activity period was right after school. Juvenile crime triples after school and peaks at 3 p.m., he said. So, he said, it makes sense to counter peer group pressures by providing mentors and activities for young people in the 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. time period.

Preschool programs also are crucially important, he said, as are programs to help people develop parenting skills so they can cope with the problems involved in rearing children. Flynn pointed out that 75% of the calls to which police officers respond are social problems, especially domestic disputes.

"Kids are involved as victims and observers," he said.

Bucher, a member of the Fight Crime: Invest in Kids advisory committee, said the results of the survey did not surprise him.

Much of the public incorrectly thinks "just because we're law enforcement officers, the mentality is 'lock 'em up.'"

However, "police are more proactive," promoting such programs as school liaison officers and outreach activities, he said.

"At least in Waukesha and southeastern Wisconsin (the feeling is that) giving kids alternatives will go the longest way," Bucher said.

Another advisory committee member, Baldwin, called police chiefs realists.

"We know what we need to do," he said. "If they're going to be in a gang, they're going to be in our gang. If we get them on the front end, I won't have to worry about seeing them."

Baldwin gave the Safe & Sound initiative as an example of what the Milwaukee metropolitan area is doing to try to reduce juvenile crime and violence. The program is setting up "safe places" where tutoring and recreation are available after school, in evenings and on weekends.

Sanford A. Newman, president of Fight Crime: Invest In Kids, said studies showed that juveniles in after-school and preschool programs were far less likely to be involved in crimes, and far less likely to commit crimes later in life.

But he said schools were not meeting this need, and Congress and local governments were not providing enough money for such programs.

Eldon Knoche of the Journal Sentinel

THE DENVER POST

After-school programs backed by police chiefs

By Bill McAllister

Denver Post Washington Bureau Chief

WASHINGTON — The nation's police chiefs overwhelmingly believe that after-school programs for youngsters are a more effective way to fight crime than adding more police officers, according to a survey to be released today.

The surprising findings of the survey of 556 police chiefs go counter to the "get-tough" more-cops approach pushed by President Clinton and many members of Congress.

But the findings did not surprise officials of the coalition Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, a nonpartisan group that has been advocating such a program since its founding in 1996. It sponsored the survey and plans to officially announce the results this morning at a convention of the International Chiefs of Police in Charlotte, N.C., a group that should be receptive to the findings.

Politicians resist idea

Most politicians, however, seem to advocate much more punitive steps, the group acknowledged as it provided reporters with an advance look at the survey.

"The president and Congress just don't get it," said Sanford A. Newman, Fight Crime's president.

Arlington, Va., Police Chief Edward Flynn said the findings show that the nation's police administrators no longer view their job as just responding to crime, but as advocating programs to prevent crime.

Most chiefs also realize that most juvenile crimes tend to occur between 3 p.m. and 8 p.m., the after-school hours when an estimated 7 million children lack adult supervision, the officials said.

Flynn expressed surprise that few politicians seem to be taking seriously what the chiefs have advocated.

"Politicians like us standing behind them — with our mouths shut," Flynn quipped during a media preview of the survey.

The survey, conducted by George Mason University in the Virginia suburbs in the aftermath of the massacre at Columbine High School, showed that nearly nine of 10 police chiefs believe expanding after-school programs and providing educational child-care programs such as Head Start would "greatly reduce youth crime and violence."

Asked what strategies are most effective in fighting juvenile crimes, nearly seven of 10 said more after-school programs and child-care programs. Seventeen percent said prosecuting juveniles as adults would help.

Thirteen percent said hiring more police to investigate juvenile crime would help, and only 1 percent favor installing metal detectors and surveillance cameras in schools.

Pay now or pay later

If the nation does not invest in such strategies, the chiefs said by a ratio of better than 9-to-1 that the nation will "pay far more later in crime, welfare and other costs."

Asked to rate various strategies for fighting crime, the chiefs once again gave the highest marks to after-school programs, which received a top rating from 57 percent of those responding to the survey.

Fifty-three percent said they rated highly programs that provide "parent coaching for high-risk families." Fourteen percent gave top ratings to prosecuting juveniles as adults, 7 percent to building more juvenile detention centers, and 4 percent to putting metal detectors in schools.

The survey was mailed in mid-October to 855 chiefs, 65 percent of whom responded. That gave the survey a margin of error of plus or minus 5 percentage

points, the George Mason researchers said.

Clinton, who made adding new police officers a central theme of his anti-crime program, also has advocated increases in after-school programs, but Congress has rejected many of them, the Fight Crime group noted.

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids was organized with the financial support of a number of private foundations. It has actively lobbied for more funding for after-school programs and other community-based efforts that help identify troubled children before they have problems with the law.

Previous polls commissioned by the group showed that the public would overwhelmingly support giving up a tax rebate or paying more taxes to provide better access to after-school programs and programs such as Head Start.

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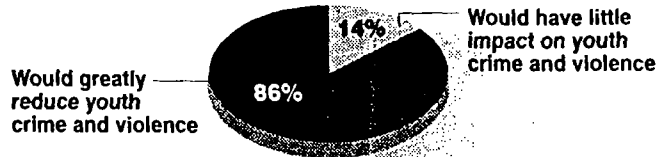
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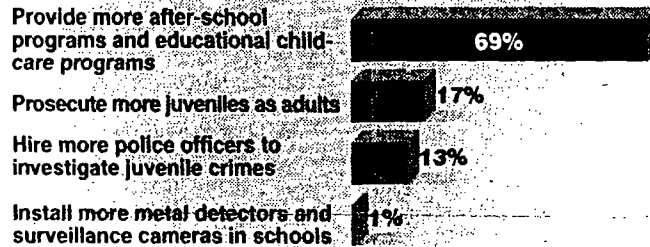
Not all police chiefs 'get tough' on youth crime

A survey of the country's police chiefs shows they favor after-school programs as a more effective way to fight crime than adding more officers.

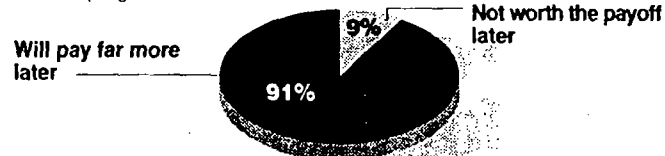
1. Chiefs were asked about the effectiveness of after-school programs on youth crime and violence:



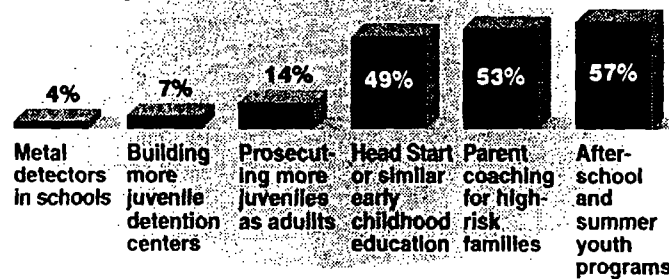
2. Chiefs were asked about most effective strategies to combat youth crime:



3. Chiefs were asked whether investing more in after-school and child-care programs is worth it:



4. Chiefs were asked to rate strategies from 1 to 5. Here are the percentages that rated a particular strategy best:



Source: George Mason University for Fight Crime: Invest in Kids

The Denver Post

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Posted at 11:23 p.m. EST Monday, November 1, 1999

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Police say care for kids is vital

After-school care prevents youth crime, chiefs believe

By LEIGH DYER

If it came to choosing between money to hire more officers and money to pay for expanded after-school and child-care programs, most of the nation's police chiefs would choose the programs for children, a new poll released Monday found.

In the poll results announced in Charlotte, 69 percent of 556 chiefs ranked after-school and child-care programs as the most effective strategy to reduce youth violence. That's over five times the number who ranked hiring more police officers as their top priority - just 13percent.

"We can't spend a dollar better than an investment in our children," said Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Chief Darrel Stephens, who conducted the news conference outside the Charlotte Convention Center.

The Washington-based nonprofit group "Fight Crime: Invest in Kids," released the poll during the convention of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

The crime-fighting group is now using the poll results to push Congress to increase funding for child care and after-school programs over the next five years. At a minimum, the group wants to see \$800 million in funding for childhood initiatives proposed by President Clinton restored to the federal budget, where it was trimmed by lawmakers earlier this year. Sandy Newman, Fight Crime's president, said the funding shouldn't stop there.

The Major Cities Police Chiefs association, the National Sheriff's Association and the Police Executive Research Forum have endorsed the call for increased funding. The N.C. Association of Police Chiefs has also endorsed the proposal, but the S.C. association has not taken a vote.

Mecklenburg District Attorney Peter Gilchrist noted that studies show juvenile crime triples in the hour after the school day ends. Other studies show students who don't attend after-school programs are six times more likely to be convicted of a crime during their high school years than those who do attend such programs, he said.

Dozens of other chiefs from around the country voiced their support Monday. "Investing in our young people and investing in families are much more cost-effective than the investment we make in building prisons," said Joseph Samuels, chief of police in Richmond, Calif.

After receiving federal funds throughout the 1990s to enlarge their police forces, many chiefs say they still wouldn't turn down the opportunity to hire more officers. But the poll shows many chiefs believe other priorities are more important, Fight Crime officials said.

The poll asked chiefs to select their top priority among four youth-violence prevention measures. In addition to the 69percent who chose after-school and child-care programs and the 13percent who chose hiring more officers, 17percent voted for prosecuting more juveniles as adults, and 1percent chose installing more metal detectors and surveillance cameras in schools.

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In a separate question, 91 percent of the poll respondents said they agreed that without more funding for after-school and child-care programs, "we will pay far more later in crime, welfare and other costs."

Professors from George Mason University conducted the survey from Oct. 14 to Oct. 27. They received 556 responses from 855 randomly selected municipal police chiefs. The margin of error was plus or minus 5 percentage points.

Monday's announcement was part of an ongoing discussion at the chief's convention about ways to reduce youth violence, particularly in schools. Hundreds of chiefs crowded into workshops Sunday and Monday to learn about the latest school violence prevention programs across the country. Many officials also discussed their retooled plans for responding to school crises in the wake of last April's school shootings in Littleton, Colo.

But Fight Crime's Newman said using metal detectors and other security measures to drive violence out of schools won't solve the problem of youth violence.

"In an average week, 40 kids are killed in America by violence. That's 150 Littletons a year," Newman said.

"We won't have accomplished much if we just move violence out of the schools and into communities."

Reach public safety reporter Leigh Dyer at (704) 358-5058 or ldyer@charlotte.com.

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NOVEMBER 01, 09:00 EST

Police Chiefs Back Child Care Plans

By CASSANDRA BURRELL
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Eighty-six percent of police chiefs participating in a survey believe the government could reduce youth crime by increasing after-school and child care programs, an advocacy group said today.

Nearly nine of 10 agreed that failing to do so will cost the nation more in the long run in crime, welfare and other expense, said Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, a group lobbying Congress to spend more on juvenile crime-prevention efforts.

“Congress’ failure to substantially increase funding for education child care and after-school programs is irresponsible and shortsighted,” said Edward A. Flynn, a member of the group’s board and police chief of Arlington County, Va.

“Congress doesn’t seem to be listening to law enforcement or the public.”

Flynn said the results of the survey may seem surprising.

“For some people, perhaps, it’s counterintuitive,” he said. “I suspect that most people who don’t know many police chiefs or don’t know a lot about what policing has been through in the last several years would assume that the police policy-makers would be heavy on punishment, heavy on reaction and heavy on sanctions.”

Survey results were being released at a meeting of the International Association of Chiefs of Police in Charlotte, N.C.

The survey was conducted from Oct. 14 to Oct. 27 by two George Mason University professors who received 556 responses from the 855 randomly selected municipal police chiefs who received faxes of a written questionnaire. The margin of error is plus or minus 5 percentage points.

The police chiefs were guaranteed anonymity, and survey participants did not know that Fight Crime had commissioned the study, professors Stephen Mastrofsky and Scott Keeter said.

The chiefs were asked to "guide elected officials" by ranking the effectiveness of four juvenile crime-fighting strategies.

"Sixty-nine percent gave the highest priority to providing more after-school programs and educational child care," the group reported. Seventeen percent chose "prosecute more juveniles as adults" their No. 1 strategy.

Thirteen percent gave "hire more police officers to investigate juvenile crime" their highest ranking, and 1 percent said "install more metal detectors and surveillance cameras in school."



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Police Chiefs Back After-School Programs

Increased Spending Urged for Juvenile Crime Prevention

Nov. 1, 1999

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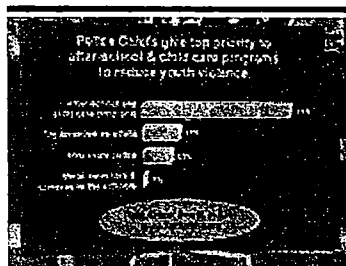
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Participants selected at random



Hoag Levins/APBnews.com
Chart of poll results

Ranked crime-fighting strategies

The chiefs were asked to "guide elected officials" by ranking the effectiveness of four juvenile crime-fighting



Hoag Levins/APBnews.com

**Edward A. Flynn, chief of
 police of Arlington County,
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David Broder's July 1996 column about FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS ran in more than 140 newspapers nationwide including: *The Washington Post*, *Atlanta Journal & Constitution*, *Houston Chronicle*, *Seattle Post Intelligencer*, *San Diego Union Tribune*, *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, *Oregonian*, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, and many others.

David Broder

Pseudo-tough talk about juvenile crime

WASHINGTON — It is a fascinating paradox of politics that the further removed an official is from the front lines of the war on crime, the tougher he talks.

That is particularly true of violence by juveniles, a problem that Americans rightly find alarming.

When Republican candidate Bob Dole talked about it in a radio address earlier this month, he promised to crack down on these "merciless criminals capable of committing the most vicious acts for the most trivial reasons: a pair of sneakers or a football jersey."

When President Clinton responded a few days later, he spoke in ominous tones of the fact that in the last two decades, "The number of homicides by teens who have guns has tripled."

BOTH SAID prosecutors should have much more leeway to try juveniles as adults.

"If a teen-ager commits a crime as an adult," Clinton said, "he should be prosecuted as an adult."

Before leaving the Senate, Dole introduced legislation to allow adult prosecution of people as young as 13 and the death penalty at 16.

But when a cross section of police chiefs was surveyed by Northeastern University's Center for Criminal Justice Policy on the effectiveness of four approaches to reducing crime and violence, the least favored option was the one candidates Dole and Clinton have endorsed — and many governors already have put into effect.

Only 14 percent of the 540 chiefs chose the policy of trying more juveniles as adults and sentencing more of them to adult prisons.

About the same number said hiring additional police officers would be the



What works is early work with kids.

best tool and a somewhat larger group said the priority should be making parents legally liable when their children commit crimes.

The overwhelming majority — three out of every four big city chiefs and three out of five in the overall sample — said the best way to reduce crime and violence is to increase investment in programs that help children and youths get a good start.

These findings were reported at a Washington press briefing last week by a new advocacy group calling itself "Fight Crime: Invest in Kids," run by an activist named Sanford Newman. Participants included police chiefs of Chicago and Buffalo, former chiefs of New York City, Detroit and Washington and the head of the largest police organization, the Fraternal Order of Police.

A cynic might argue that the chiefs — who are, after all, mostly appointees — have just found new rhetoric to support old programs that pump federal money into the cities.

But the cynical view will not withstand the sincerity of people like Gil Kerlikowske of Buffalo, who complained, "The preventive programs are getting lost because everyone (in politics) is trying to grow hair on his chest in this election year."

What he means is illustrated by the juvenile crime bill Dole introduced. It would allocate \$100 million a year for prevention programs run by communi-

ty-based groups, including religious organizations, and four times that amount for investigating, prosecuting and jailing juvenile offenders. The whole \$500 million would be paid for by cutting "social spending provisions" of the 1994 crime bill, including after-school and family counseling programs.

James Alan Fox, the Northeastern University center's director, presented studies from criminology literature showing that intensive early intervention can reduce the later delinquency and criminal behavior of at-risk youths by as much as 80 percent. In Lansing, Mich., when police, schools and social service agencies began youth programs in a new community center, the number of crimes in nearby neighborhoods was cut from 156 in 1990 to 40 in 1993.

I was skeptical about these case studies. But John J. Dilulio Jr., of Princeton, a scholar whose work is much admired by conservatives and who was not part of this group, told me, "The more scientific the study, the stronger the link and the more positive the results. We now can say with some confidence that programs that get responsible adults involved with at-risk kids can reduce later delinquency and crime."

THAT IS of enormous importance, because teen-agers have the highest arrest rate for violent offense and in the next decade, the number of teen-agers will explode. There are now 39 million children under age 10, the most since the 1950s.

Prosecuting teen criminals as adults may satisfy political pressures, but we better be serious about preventing their younger brothers from becoming criminals — or we are in big trouble.

Washington Post Writers Group

The Boston Globe

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1996

Studies prove it: The best way to fight crime is to invest in children

**ELLIOT L. RICHARDSON
and R. GIL KERLIKOWSKE**

All across America, candidates for federal, state and local office are talking about crime. But too few are focusing on our most effective weapons in the battle against crime — the proven investments that help children get the right start in life so they become contributing citizens instead of criminals.

Incarcerating dangerous criminals is a vital defense. But few battles are won with defensive tactics alone. Those of us who have been on the front lines as police, prosecutors and crime survivors know America must fight crime not just from the back but by investing in Head Start and parenting education, "keep up" programs to prevent overburdened schools and vulnerable students from falling behind, after-school, mentoring and job training programs and strategies to address delinquency and help troubled children get back on track.

Do these investments really reduce crime? Absolutely. For example:

- The High/Scope Foundation's Perry Preschool study in Ypsilanti, Mich., showed that when at-risk 3- and 4-year-olds were randomly assigned to receive child care similar to a Head Start program, together with a weekly home visit providing coaching for parents, the risk these children would grow up to become chronic lawbreakers was cut by a startling 80 percent.

- The Syracuse University Family Development Study showed that providing quality early-childhood programs to families until children reached age 5 reduces the children's risk of delinquency 10 years later by 90 percent.

- The Quantum Opportunities Program, conducted in Philadelphia, San Antonio, Milwaukee, Oklahoma City and Saginaw, has shown that a high school program of counseling, academic and life-skills support, community service and other incentives cut the risk of arrest during high school years by 50 percent.

Even when youths begin to get into trouble, we don't have to throw in the towel. The Salt Lake County Juvenile Court, for example, found that when it randomly assigned some delinquent children and their families to participate in family systems counseling, their risk, as well as their siblings' risk, of committing an offense was cut in half.

No wonder that in a recent survey by criminologist Jack McDavitt, nine out of 10 police chiefs said, "America could sharply reduce crime if government invested more" in these programs. Police chiefs know their first mission is responding to the public's calls by arresting

criminals and seizing drugs and guns from the street. But when asked which strategies would have the greatest long-term impact in reducing crime, police chiefs picked increasing investments in children by a 3-to-1 margin over trying more juveniles as adults or even hiring more police officers.

Can we afford to make these investments? Economist Steve Barnett estimates that the High/Scope preschool program saved nearly \$150,000 in crime costs alone per participant. Professor Mark Cohen of Vanderbilt University estimates that preventing one high-risk youth from becoming a criminal saves at least \$1.5 million. Yet these investments are so underfunded that they can reach only tiny fractions of those who need them.

That is why we recently joined with many other police leaders, prosecutors and crime survivors in launching the "Fight Crime: Invest in Kids Campaign" and in challenging candidates to tell the American people what they will do to increase the front-end investments proven to dramatically reduce crime.

Back-end, punishment-only approaches can't undo the agony crime leaves behind. As Marc Klaas explained, after his 12-year-old daughter's murderer was sentenced to death: "That won't bring Polly back. When politicians pretend that punishing criminals after people are hurt is a substitute for preventing crimes, the first people who get sentenced are crime victims and their families — sentenced to shattered lives and broken hearts."

Ignoring prevention investments leaves us stuck on a treadmill, running faster and faster to put people in jail while kids are turned into criminals faster than we can lock them up. To make America safe, we need to be as willing to guarantee our kids space in Head Start or an after-school or job training program as we are to guarantee room and board in a prison cell for a criminal.

We'll win the war on crime when we're ready to invest time and dollars in our most vulnerable youths before they become our most wanted adults.

It's time Republicans and Democrats joined in a commitment to the investments in children. These programs are our strongest weapons in the fight against crime. Each of us should join Jean Lewis, president of the National Organization of Parents of Murdered Children, in taking this pledge: "When I cast my vote, I'll be asking which candidates are ready to fight crime not only from the back end after someone has been hurt, but also from the front end by investing in today's children — because anything else is too little, too late."

Elliot L. Richardson served as US attorney general, secretary of commerce, secretary of defense and secretary of health, education and welfare. Buffalo Police Commissioner R. Gil Kerlikowske is president of the Police Executive Research Forum.

Study says youth crime peaks before 8 p.m.

Justice officials want Congress to spend more on afterschool programs

Knight-Ridder Newspapers

WASHINGTON — Violent juvenile crime on school days occurs much more frequently between 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. than late at night, says a report released Wednesday.

With violent juvenile crime rising, the Justice Department is promoting the report to persuade the Republican-controlled Congress to spend more money on after-school youth programs. Several bills are pending and may be taken up this week.

"In the afternoons, we used to have sports, drama and music. We had violins, and now it's violence," said James Alan Fox, dean of Northeastern University's College of Criminal Justice in Boston and an author of the report. "We've closed down ball fields. We've closed down community centers. We have disinvested in childhood, and kids literally have too much time to kill."

The report also raises questions about the need for curfews, a popular crime-control measure. Although many civil rights groups and individuals challenge the constitutionality of curfews, about three-fourths of the nation's 200

biggest cities have them.

The report says that on school days, nearly half of violent juvenile crime — murders, rapes, robberies and aggravated assaults — occur from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. It found that just one-seventh occurs from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m., when curfews typically are in effect.

"What a curfew does is tell kids, 'You should not commit crimes when you are asleep,'" Mr. Fox said.

The report was released by Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, a youth-advocacy group made up of police chiefs, prosecutors and crime survivors.

The study, billed as the most comprehensive on the relation of crime by people under 18 and the time of day, details how crime tracks juveniles' movements.

Violent juvenile crime triples from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m., the hour immediately after school, compared with 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., when school is still in session. It dips around dinner time, rises slightly, then declines in the later evening as most parents want their children home for bed.

In contrast, Mr. Fox said, adult

crime rises all through the day and evening and peaks at 11 p.m.

The new report focuses on school days, when 57 percent of violent juvenile crime is committed. Mr. Fox said that juvenile crime on weekends and during the summer is also higher in the afternoon and evening than the morning or late night, but without the 3 p.m. peak.

"Prime time for juvenile crime," Mr. Fox said, is when parents are working and kids are hanging out on street corners with little to do.

The study's findings did not surprise Detroit Police Chief Isaiah McKinnon, whose city struggles with violent juvenile offenders.

Mr. McKinnon said most cities confront a "triple-edge sword," meaning they need to worry about kids during school hours, after school and late at night. He said police officers have to monitor truants who gather at "skip houses" where parents aren't home, as well as youths who are unsupervised after school.

He also said the report is evidence that curfews affect crime.

"Those communities that are enforcing curfews, where children

are being told to stay in their homes, that is why less crime is occurring," said Chief McKinnon, whose city has an 11 p.m. curfew.

Attorney General Janet Reno and leaders of the youth-advocacy group use these figures to criticize pending crime legislation.

Over the next few weeks, Congress will consider two measures that deal with juvenile crime. In one, President Clinton proposed \$63 million for after-school programs, but House and Senate legislators want to cut that.

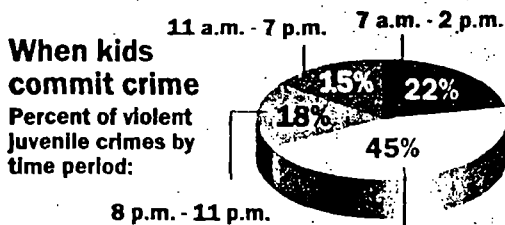
Another Senate bill would spend \$868 million over five years on juvenile justice. But a big chunk of that — \$500 million — would be a block grant in which after-school programs would compete with juvenile facilities, drug testing, juvenile records and truancy programs for a share of new funding.

"There is no doubt that prevention is important, but throwing more money at these programs is not necessarily the answer," Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., chairman of the Senate's youth crime subcommittee, said in a statement. "Before spending more money on prevention we need to first take a close look at the programs currently in place."

Distributed by Knight-Ridder Tribune News Wire

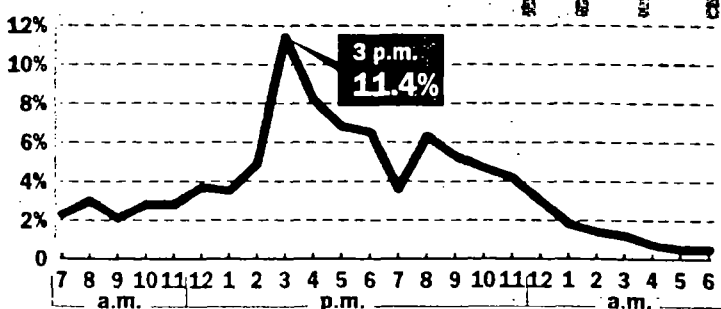
After school is crime time

A new study documents what time of day children under 18 commit violent crime on school days. Some highlights:



By the hour

Percent of violent juvenile crimes by hour:



This Knight Ridder story about FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS' joint press event with Attorney General Janet Reno appeared on September 11 and 12, 1997, the *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, the *Arkansas Democrat Gazette*, the *Denver Post* and many other newspapers totaling a circulation of over 3 million.

The Washington Post

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1998

c

Police Officials Back Spending On Child Care

By Barbara Vobejda
Washington Post Staff Writer

After lobbying Congress to ban weapons and put more officers on the street, police officials from around the country have seized on what they say will be an even more powerful anti-crime weapon: child care.

Yesterday, more than 170 police chiefs, sheriffs and prosecutors called for the states and federal government to increase support for quality educational child care for preschoolers and after-school programs for older children.

They said after-school programs would keep children occupied in positive ways at a time of day when juvenile crime peaks. And they cited research indicating that children who have attended early education programs similar to Head Start are less likely to become delinquent offenders.

The group praised President Clinton's recent proposal to spend nearly \$22 billion over five years to improve child care and help low-income parents pay for it. If enacted, "it would be one of the most important steps Congress has taken to fight crime," said Sanford A. Newman, president of a Washington group that brought together the law enforcement officials, called Fight Crime: Invest in Kids.

Their lobbying support adds a new twist to the growing child-care debate, which could become a major legislative battle this year. Republican leaders have rejected the administration's plan as too expensive and many have said any child-care measure must provide help to stay-at-home parents as well as working parents.

Yesterday, the debate shifted again as the crime prevention argument triggered a new round of criticism.

"The whole idea that kids commit crimes simply because their parents aren't around is specious," said Darcy Olsen, a policy analyst at the libertarian Cato Institute. "Most people in the country have spent time without their parents at one time or another and not become criminal."

Brenda Hunter, a psychologist who appeared last week with the conservative Family Research Council in opposition to the president's plan, said "the research is being misinterpreted" by those advocating more child care.

"The research supports consistent, sensitive and responsive nurturing and mother is the best person to provide that," she said.

But law enforcement officials at yesterday's news conference urged that the child-care debate not pit working parents against stay-at-home parents.

Arlington County Police Chief Edward A. Flynn, one of the police officials appealing for more child-care funding, called it an "endless no-win debate over the philosophy of the family unit." The reality, he said, is that most parents work out of economic necessity.

The group referred to several studies, including one at the Perry Preschool program in Michigan, which is similar to Head Start, which found children who had been in the program were five times less likely to become chronic lawbreakers than a comparable group that had not attended the program.

One of the important ingredients of such programs, said Newman, was parent education, which helps reduce child abuse and neglect. That, in turn, helps reduce the likelihood those children will grow up to be lawbreakers.

Child care and after-school programs "are smart spending," Flynn said. "They can save us billions of tax dollars" that might otherwise be spent on imprisoning offenders and the other costs related to crime.

The group called for a bigger investment than Clinton's plan—more than \$130 billion over five years—to provide all families that need it good child care, after school care and help with parenting skills.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 1999

JUDY MANN

Invest in Kids Now, or Pay Later

In an average week, 40 children are killed in America by violence. Most of these killings—98 percent, in fact—take place outside of schools. We are paralyzed with shock at the killings in a Littleton, Colo., high school, but do the math and it shows the deaths among youngsters that don't make the headlines add up to more than 150 Littletons a year.

In the last few months, there's been the usual hand wringing over school violence and the requisite White House conference. But at summer's midpoint, when policies and programs affecting schools should be moving into place for fall's opening, there's scant evidence of significant changes. In fact, programs that could prevent youth violence are in considerable jeopardy in the Republican tax-cutting plans. In the end, Littleton has not had much of an impact.

What makes this more than a pity, what makes it really unforgivable, is that there are proven programs that curb violence and other dangerous behavior.

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids is an organization formed in 1996 with the bedrock philosophy memorably expressed by former Winston-Salem police chief George Sweat. As he put it: The fight against crime "needs to start in the highchair, not wait for the electric chair." What gives the message so much clout is that it comes from a group whose members include 500 police chiefs, sheriffs, district attorneys, violence prevention scholars, as well as parents who have lost children to violence. This is not the ivory tower liberal set. These are people who are on the bloody front lines.

They have put together a School and Youth Violence Prevention plan, which has been endorsed by many national and state law enforcement organizations. Minimizing access to guns is a given. But their plan also involves other aspects, including early intervention and prevention programs that spot troubled kids and make sure they get timely and effective help. Most young people who engage in violence show signs of problems in elementary school. Fight Crime: Invest in Kids cites studies that show that children who get professional help when they are young are 50 percent less likely to be delinquent later on.

They want all children to have access to good after-school programs. The importance of this can't be overstated: Violent juvenile crime triples in the hour after school ends, and after-school hours are peak hours for kids to become crime victims or to be involved with drugs, alcohol or sex. Being unsupervised after school doubles the risk that eighth-graders will smoke, drink or use drugs.

But there are programs that work against those influences. In a five-city study, half of a group of at-risk high school youngsters were assigned to participate in the Quantum Opportunities after-school program. The high school freshman boys randomly selected from welfare households were only one-sixth as likely to be convicted of a crime during the high school years as those not selected. All of the boys and girls

selected were one-fourth as likely to be convicted of a crime as those not chosen. The boys and girls who participated in the program were 50 percent more likely to graduate from high school on time.

The third part of the invest-in-kids plan would provide access to early childhood development programs for all families. This is the time when children learn to get along with others. Researchers at the High/Scope Educational Research Foundation enrolled half a group of low-income toddlers in quality child care. Twenty-two years later, those left out were five times as likely to have become chronic lawbreakers.

The fourth dimension calls for preventing child abuse through programs that coach parents on how to relate to their children, and through programs to help heal abused and neglected youngsters. Parenting programs for low-income, first-time mothers have cut abuse and neglect by 80 percent and halved the numbers of subsequent pregnancies.

Economist Steven Barnett found that the High/Scope Foundation's Perry Preschool program saved \$150,000 per participant in costs that would have been incurred had they become involved in crime.

When Professor Mark A. Cohen, of Vanderbilt University, studied chronic offenders, he estimated that each youngster saved from a life of chronic crime saves Americans between \$1.7 million and \$2.3 million in the cost of incarceration and in victim costs, such as pain and suffering and property loss.

These kinds of programs should be expanded as part of a crime-fighting initiative. Instead, they are going to be put on life support if the tax cut package approved by the House last week becomes law.

There is, as with all budget matters, some history. When Congress adopted the Balanced Budget Act in 1997 it required massive, across-the-board spending cuts, starting with small cuts in fiscal 1997 and 1998. Cuts of 11 percent to 14 percent are required this year, with more cuts over the next 10 years. The budget surplus we've been hearing so much about is dependent on these spending caps.

Sanford A. Newman, president of Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, says, "Key Republicans who head the appropriation process have already said they can't even come up with appropriations bills that stay within these caps, so it's been widely assumed they'd be lifted this year since cuts are no longer necessary to balance the budget. These bills would lock in massive budget cuts and likely produce a massive crime wave for decades to come."

These spending caps have gotten relatively little attention, but their implications for federal spending in all areas, including law enforcement and programs for children, are huge. Instead of investing in kids, we are headed straight down the road of investing in criminals. It's shortsighted and fiscally foolish. It makes even less sense if you allow yourself to think about the heartache and human tragedy of children lost to violence.

Making Kids Safer

When kids pull out their guns at school and open fire on classmates and teachers, it tends to get our attention. Which is why school safety has trumped academic quality as the top concern of parents whose children are returning to school this month.

Parents and school board members are clamoring for metal detectors, armed guards, see-through knapsacks, whatever it takes. Some of the wackos at the National Rifle Association want to arm teachers and administrators. Kids are being thrown out of school for trafficking in violent fantasies and — in the case of a second grader in Maryland — making a gun out of construction paper.

Please, a little perspective.

James Alan Fox, a professor of criminal justice at Northeastern University, reminds us that despite the tragedies in Littleton and Jonesboro, the public schools are just about the safest places available for children.

"If you look at the school shootings for last year and the year before, there were about four dozen homicides a year," he said. "When you consider that there are about 50 million schoolchildren, the chance that your child will get killed in school is literally one in a million."

His point was not that we should be unmoved by the four dozen homicides that occur annually at schools, but that we should be taking steps to cut down on the violence that threatens youngsters wherever they might be. And the most effective way to do that, according to Professor Fox and a sensible group in Washington called *Fight Crime: Invest in Kids*, is to look beyond the quick fixes (metal detectors and the like) to those difficult, long-term preventive efforts that can bring about wholesale reductions in the amount of youth crime and violence.

In addition to saving lives, you can enrich the environment of enormous numbers of children by investing in early childhood education programs like Head Start, by providing after-school programs that give children and teen-agers something valuable to do during the peak crime hours for juveniles (2 P.M. to 7 P.M.), and by offering parenting programs and other assistance to young mothers and fathers whose children are at high risk for getting into trouble.

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids is a group of 550 law enforcement officers and crime victims. Many of its members are fiscally conservative, but the group is committed to public

investment in crime prevention programs that have been shown to work.

"We have 40 kids being killed a week, 98 percent of them outside of schools," said the group's president, Sanford Newman. "We know how to dramatically reduce that violence."

After-school programs are among the easiest and most effective crime prevention efforts. As Professor Fox put it:

"Bring back the 'frills' in school — violins rather than violence. In the wake of various taxpayer revolts, many of the extracurricular options — band, chorus, drama, various sports, computer clubs, etc. — were eliminated in a return to the basics.

A challenge to quick school fixes.

This has made school increasingly distasteful and unpleasant for those kids who fail to excel in academics, but could feel good about their achievements in other areas."

Some school districts have restored after-school programs in recent years but have undermined their effectiveness by placing them off limits to the kids who need them most. In some cases youngsters who do not maintain a C average are barred from extracurricular activities. Or kids whose parents cannot provide transportation at the end of the extended school day are excluded.

"What we've done," said Professor Fox, "is made after-school programs a privilege for the good kids as opposed to a necessity for the marginal kids."

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids sponsored a poll in which 47 percent of respondents said their chief concern as kids headed back to school was the problem of crime and violence. Nineteen percent cited academic issues as their top concern.

Both Mr. Newman and Professor Fox said the concern over school violence presented an opportunity to generate support for programs that target violence in general.

"You can understand the anxiety over violence in the schools," said Professor Fox. "What we should do is build upon that anxiety to do some really meaningful things for children." □

The Washington Post

TUESDAY, AUGUST 31, 1999

Polls Urge Taxes to Fund Youth Crime Prevention

More Early Childhood, After-School Initiatives Sought by Law Enforcement Group

By SEWELL CHAN
Washington Post Staff Writer

Congress should use the budget surplus to expand Head Start and other early childhood development initiatives and after-school programs, a group of national and local law enforcement executives urged yesterday.

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, a nonprofit organization of 550 law enforcement officials and crime survivors, has written Congress asking for new funding for Head Start, day-care programs, parenting classes, family counseling and delinquency prevention efforts.

If Congress passes tax cuts instead of investing in children, "we'll be looking at a crime wave the likes of which we've never seen before,"

Sanford A. Newman, the organization's president, said at a news conference outside the District's Alice Deal Junior High School.

The group released the results of two polls conducted this summer that found that 74 percent of the respondents would be willing to pay more taxes or forgo a tax cut in order to provide greater access to after-school and early childhood development programs to combat youth violence. Each survey polled about 1,000 people.

Two-thirds of those polled said initiatives that deter youth violence are a greater national priority than cutting taxes; 81 percent said violence prevention programs are as important as efforts to punish or incarcerate young offenders.

Arlington Police Chief Edward

A. Flynn and D.C. Executive Assistant Police Chief Terrance W. Gainer endorsed the findings of both polls.

"We invest far too little in our kids," said Gainer, who was director of the Illinois State Police before coming to the District last year. He said his oldest son, an FBI agent, and his second-oldest son, a Cook County, Ill., prosecutor, are "now locking up the grandchildren" of people Gainer arrested as a rookie officer in Chicago.

"We need to do something about making sure our kids don't have run-ins with law enforcement," Gainer added, noting that preventive rather than reactive efforts are a key element in community policing. "Prevention is the only solution," he said.

The group's recommendations also have been endorsed by the Major Cities Chiefs and the Police Executive Research Forum, Newman said.

In the District, police have been working with school officials and security guards to document disputes among children, according to Assistant Chief Brian K. Jordan, who said, "Many of the incidents either carry over from school to the streets or from streets to the school."

Jordan said school safety coordinators met last week with conflict resolution experts and members of the police emergency response team to discuss how to prevent school violence and keep school buildings closed to people who don't belong there.

THE NATION'S NEWSPAPER



**USA
TODAY**

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NATIONLINE

CONCERN FOR KIDS: Three out of four U.S. residents are willing to pay more taxes or pass up a tax cut to provide children with access to good early childhood development and after-school programs, according to a survey of 2,027 adults. The survey, done for Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, also found: 47% say violence and crime were the top concerns as students return to school, and 90% agree or strongly agree that crime could be reduced by investing more in preventive programs for kids.

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids is an organization of crime victims, police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors and other law enforcement leaders.

— Gary Fields

The Sacramento Bee

Anti-crime lobby urges school-violence programs

Americans willing to pay, group says

By Muriel Dobbin
Bee Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON - Armed with new polls showing Americans are alarmed about school violence, a crime-fighting lobby on Monday called on Congress to boost federal funding for programs that could "close the crime-prevention gap."

The group, called Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, said Americans overwhelmingly are willing to pay more taxes or give up a

tax cut to put money into prevention programs.

Sanford Newman, president of the organization that represents 500 police chiefs and victims of violence, released surveys indicating that the public's concern over school violence rivaled its anxiety about shoring up Social Security and Medicare.

He called on Congress to increase, by more than \$26 billion, funding for programs such as Head Start, which helps children in the early stages of schooling, and the 21st Century Community Learning Centers, which would provide after-school programs.

Polls taken this month for the group showed that 66 percent of adults thought that providing access to after-school and early childhood development programs was more important than receiving a tax cut.

Of those interviewed, 50 percent said they would be willing to pay more taxes to fund violence prevention projects, and 47 percent said they were more concerned about violence and crime in schools than in the cost or quality of education.

"Key solutions are linked to prevention," said Newman, who appealed to lawmakers to rescue programs so underfunded that they currently reach "a frac-

tion" of the kids who need them.

In a letter to President Clinton and congressional leaders, the anti-crime group warned that tax-cut proposals risked a new crime wave.

James Fox, professor of criminal justice at Northeastern University in Boston, cautioned against relying on "quick fixes" in schools, such as more metal detectors, security guards and locked doors.

But Fox criticized Clinton for launching a series of television ads depicting scared youngsters pleading with schoolmates to behave. He also complained about school decisions to put more guards in the halls,

a move he said would boost student anxiety.

Instead, Fox said, schools should restore extracurricular activities such as band, chorus, drama and sports, which in many cases were cut to save money. He also recommended decreased class size, and an early warning system designed to track troubled kids from early grades rather than seeking "just in time" signs of impending violence.

He also recommended alternative programs for students suspended for carrying weapons, noting that expulsion means putting potentially dangerous and unsupervised kids on the street.

Sacramento, CA

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AUG 31, 1999

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America's Child Care Crisis: A Crime Prevention Tragedy

A Report

from

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS

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America's Child Care Crisis: A Crime Prevention Tragedy

Contents

Acknowledgment	ii
Introduction	1
Chapter One: Quality Educational Child Care Prevents Crime	5
Chapter Two: Child Storage Isn't Child Care	8
Chapter Three: Too Many Families Can't Afford Adequate Child Care	9
Chapter Four: Federal and State Governments Fall Short of Investment Needed to Protect Public Safety	12
Chapter Five: Penny-Wise, Pound-Foolish Policy Choices: Wasting Money and Lives	15
Chapter Six: From the Front Lines of the Battle Against Crime: A Call for Action	16
Conclusion	18

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Sanford A. Newman,
President

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS

This report is available free of charge on the
FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS web site
<http://www.fightcrime.org/>.

Copies may also be ordered by sending \$12 for postage and handling to FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS, Child Care Report, 1334 G Street NW, Suite B, Washington, D.C. 20005-3107.

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Educational Child Care A Vital Weapon Against Crime

A Report from
FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS

NOVEMBER, 1999

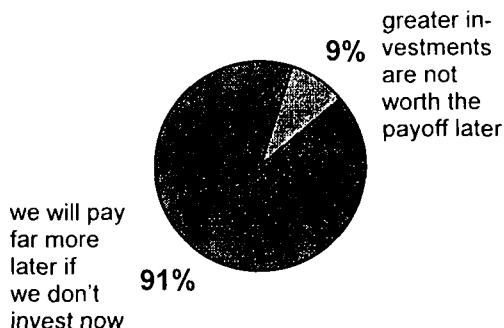
Introduction

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS is a national anti-crime organization led by hundreds of those on the front lines of the battle against crime: Police chiefs, sheriffs, police organization leaders, prosecutors, crime victims and those from whom murder has taken loved ones.

Our members are determined to put dangerous criminals behind bars. But we also know no punishment after someone gets hurt can undo the agony that crime leaves in its wake. When children don't get the right start in life, all of us are endangered. Good educational child care is one of our most powerful weapons against crime.

George Mason University surveyed police chiefs and found that 9 out of them agreed with the statement:

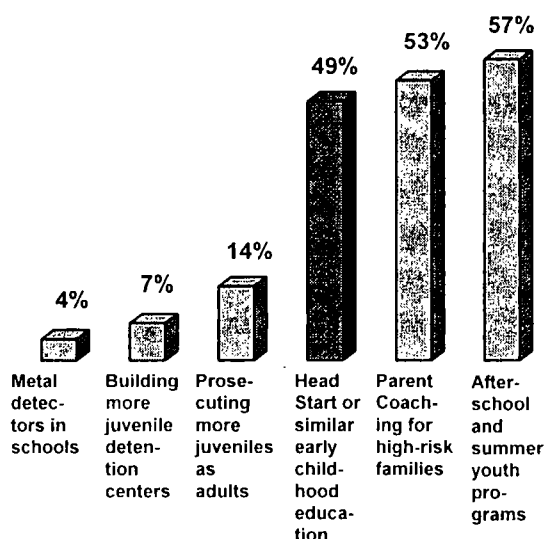
"If America does not make greater investments in after-school and educational child care programs to help children and youth now, we will pay far more later in crime, welfare, and other costs."



In a recent survey of police chiefs conducted by George Mason University scholars Stephen Mastrofski and Scott Keeter, nearly nine out of ten police chiefs said America could greatly reduce crime by expanding educational child care programs and after-school programs. Nine out of ten said that if America doesn't boost investments in child care programs now, it will pay far more later in crime, welfare, and other costs.¹

When police chiefs were asked to rate various strategies "on their value as a crime prevention tool," educational child care was given the top rating by many times the number of chiefs who picked such alternatives as trying more juveniles as adults, building more juvenile detention facilities, or installing more metal detectors in

In the George Mason University survey police chiefs were asked to rate strategies on a 1 to 5 scale as a crime prevention tool. The chart shows the percentage given the highest rating for each strategy.



schools.²

Just the Facts Please

This report isn't about ideology or philosophy; it's about facts. Like other Americans, crime fighters hold a range of views on whether it would be desirable for more parents to leave the workforce to stay home with their children. The *fact* is most parents are working, and their children are in some form of child care. Their tender minds and emotions are being powerfully shaped by the quality of that care.

The issue for law enforcement is whether the care the children receive while their parents are working will be good enough to help the kids get a good start in life, or whether it will be care that damages their development and ultimately endangers the

public safety. Wishful thinking won't save lives. Good educational child care will.

The time for philosophical debate about whether such investments "might work" is past. The proof is in, and the facts are clear.

The Good News: Educational Child Care Prevents Crime and Violence

Educational child care yields extraordinary returns, saving lives and even saving tax dollars. Nurturing, stimulating, child care teaches youngsters to get along with others, to care about others, and to start school ready to succeed, and helps them become the contributing citizens and good neighbors we all want them to be.

Powerful evidence from one study after another proves that quality educational child care in the first years of life can greatly reduce the risk that today's babies and toddlers will become tomorrow's violent teens and adults.

For example, in one study, half of a group of at-risk toddlers was randomly assigned to be in the High/Scope preschool program until they started kindergarten. Twenty-two years later, those who had been left out were five times more likely to have become chronic lawbreakers, with five or more arrests.

In other words, failing to provide these youngsters with quality child care

multiplied by five times the risk — every Americans risk — that they would become chronic lawbreakers.

The Bad News: Millions of Working Families Can't Afford Adequate Child Care.

Inadequate child care —the only kind millions of families can afford— not only fails to deliver those benefits, but multiplies the danger that at-risk children will grow up to threaten the safety of every American family.

Today, millions of children are getting child care so inadequate it should be called "child storage."

Even though many child care teachers are working for poverty wages, often with little training and high turnover, tuition for two babies in a child care center averages \$12,000 a year. That's way out of reach for parents making \$10,000 a year at full-time minimum wage jobs, and for millions of other struggling families.

These families —mostly young and still near the lowest earning levels of their working lives— can no more afford to pay for adequate child care during these years than they could pay the full cost of the education we provide in our public schools.

Protecting the Public Safety Requires Child Care Help for Families.

Just as government couldn't meet its responsibility to protect the public safety without providing public schooling, it can't protect the public safety without at least assuring that adequate educational child care is accessible to every family.

Yet today:

- The Head Start child development program remains so under-funded it can reach just four in ten eligible three- and four-year olds, and usually for just half of their parents' work day, for only part of the year.
- Programs like Early Head Start, designed for kids under three, have funds to serve only a tiny fraction of the babies and toddlers who need them.
- The Child Care and Development Fund, which assists communities in helping working families afford adequate child care, can serve only one in ten of those families that are eligible, and serves them with stipends so meager that adequate care usually remains out of reach.

“We need to start fighting crime in the high chair, not the electric chair — by then it’s too late.”

George Sweat, former Police Chief of Winston-Salem, NC.

The Public Gets It.

Americans now realize that, if we want our families to be safe, we all have a stake in making sure that every working family has access to adequate educational child care programs. Polls conducted in July and August for FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS by the Opinion Research Corporation showed:

- By a margin of nine to one, Americans said crime could be greatly reduced by boosting investment in child care, after-school, and similar programs.
- By a margin of three to one they would be prepared either to pay more in taxes or pass up a tax cut to provide kids with access to such programs.

Providing access to child care and after-school programs was picked as a top priority even with Social Security.

The People on the Front Lines Get It.

For those of us on the front lines in the battle against crime and violence, the once-quiet crisis in child care is now noisy, pervasive, insistent and tragic. It screams through our police sirens rushing to yet another crime that didn't have to happen. We hear it in the wrenching sobs of thousands of victims of violence and their families. We see it in yellow crime scene tape, body bags, blood stained sidewalks, and lives needlessly lost or shattered.

It's time for Elected Officials to Get It.

America has a tremendous opportunity. It can greatly reduce crime and violence by making sure that when parents are at work, children have access to quality educational child care. If we continue to pass up that opportunity, we will pay a tragic price.

Make no mistake about it: Our nation's child care crisis is a crime prevention crisis.

Chapter One: Quality Educational Child Care Prevents Crime

Rigorous studies, hard experience and brain pictures from modern "brain scan" technology tell the same story: in the first several years of life, children's intellects and emotions are being powerfully shaped. Even the ability to feel concern for others — the basis of "conscience" is rooted in the brain "wiring" that occurs during this period.

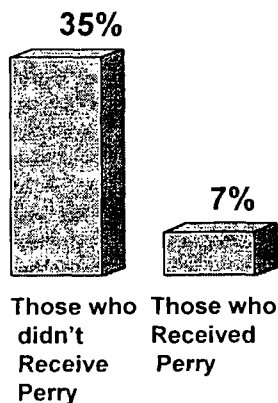
The kind of stimulation and interaction the child receives— touching, holding, rocking, talking, showing — determines the permanent physical wiring of the brain, as billions of unused synapses and neurons are whittled away. While learning continues throughout life, this brain development proceeds at an astounding pace in the first several years.³

This brain imaging research is confirmed by behavioral research comparing children exposed in infancy to good nutrition, toys, playmates, and nurturing with others not so lucky. These factors had a substantial impact on brain function at age twelve, and an even greater impact by age fifteen.⁴

The child care programs which have proven most effective in preventing future delinquency and crime are those that supplement quality developmental day care with visits to coach parents in child-rearing skills.⁵ For example:

High/Scope Preschool Program. In Ypsilanti, Michigan, the High/Scope Educational Research Foundation randomly divided low-income three- and four year-olds into two groups. Half received no special services, while the others were enrolled in a quality preschool program, including a weekly home visit, until they started kindergarten.⁶ When the children reached age 27, arrest records showed that those who had received the quality preschooling were only one fifth as likely to be "chronic offenders," with more than four arrests.⁷

High/Scope Perry Preschool
At-Risk 3 & 4 year olds who didn't
receive the preschool and weekly
home visits were five times more
likely to become chronic offenders
by age 27.



In other words, those who were denied the quality preschool and parenting education visitor program as toddlers were *five times* more likely to become chronic offenders in adulthood!

**Syracuse Program:
Probation Cases by Ages 13-16***

Those in the Program	Those not in the Program
Juvenile Del.	Juvenile Del. Juvenile Del. Juvenile Del. Juvenile Del. Criminal Mischief Violation of Probat. Petit Larceny Petit Larceny Burglary Attempted Assault Robbery Robbery Assault Sexual Assault
4 Individuals (of 65 tracked) 1 Case	12 Individuals (of 54 tracked) 14 cases

*Excludes ungovernable cases where parents are unable to control a child, but

Syracuse University Family Development Program. Researchers found that subsequent delinquency was cut by 90% when families were provided educational child care, parenting-education home visits, and other services beginning prenatally and continuing until the children began elementary school. Ten years later:

Among those children who had **not** received the early childhood services, **nearly one in five had already been charged with offenses.** At age 15, nearly 1 in 10 were already "chronic offenders," with more than four arrests. And, as the inset shows, many of these offenses were serious.

Among those children who *had* received the extra services, only one in twenty had even been charged with simple unruliness, and **only 1.5% had been delinquent.**⁸

In other words, failing to provide these babies and toddlers with good educational child care and related services **multiplied by ten times the risk that they would become delinquent as teens.**

Of course, the benefits of these programs are not limited to crime prevention. When the High/Scope toddlers became adults, for example, they were far better able to support themselves and their families than those left out of the program. Among males, the children who received preschool and home visitors were *eight times more likely to earn over \$24,000 a year.*⁹

While earnings were lower for females, nearly three times as many of the pre-schooled females (48%) as of those left out of the program (18%) were earning more than \$12,000 a year. Those who received preschool and home visits as toddlers were also *25% less likely ever to have received welfare or other means-tested social services as adults.*¹⁰

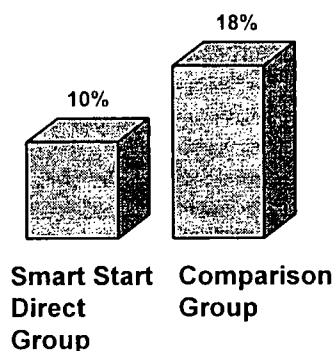
High/Scope Perry Preschool			
Outcomes at age 27		Perry	Controls
All	Chronic Offending	7%	35%
Fem.	Earn > \$12,000/year	48%	18%
Fem.	High School Diploma	84%	35%
Fem.	Married at age 27	40%	8%
Male	Earn > \$24,000/year	42%	6%
Fem.	Receiving Gov. \$	26%	59%

Females who had participated in the preschool program were two and a half times more likely to earn a high school diploma (84% vs. 35%), five times more likely (40% vs. 8%) to be married at age 27, and had one-third fewer out-of-wedlock births than the control group.¹¹

But the bottom line for law enforcement is that providing these proven “right-start” services dramatically reduces the risk that children will grow up to become criminals. Failing to provide kids with these services sharply increases crime, and costs lives.

Because it is difficult and expensive to follow toddlers for ten years after their participation in an early childhood program ends (as in the Syracuse study), and even harder to follow them for the 24 years of the High/Scope Perry study, few other studies have been able to directly measure the impact of early childhood investments on delinquency and arrests. But other studies do show that quality early education programs, especially when combined with a family support/parenting education component, have a positive impact on children’s ability to get along with others and work to reduce other anti-social behavior¹²

North Carolina’s Smart Start Program: Comparison children were almost twice as likely to score poorly on behavior problems in Kindergarten as kids who attended Smart Start centers that received all the quality supports.



These results are not limited to small, model programs. For example, North Carolina's pioneering Smart Start program is spending \$78 million a year on enhancing access to quality child care and other services for children under six. A new study by the University of North Carolina's Frank Porter Graham Center shows that children in the child care centers receiving substantial quality-improvement help from Smart Start were only about half as likely to have serious behavior problems in kindergarten.¹³

The flip side of that statement is equally telling: Kids in centers not receiving the Smart Start services were nearly twice as likely to be disruptive in kindergarten. Research consistently shows that children who

exhibit problem behaviors in kindergarten are far more likely than others to become teen delinquents and adult criminals.¹⁴

A recent study of 400 child care centers across the country found that "children who attended higher quality child care centers did better through the transition to school, both in math and language skills, but in getting along with peers and having fewer behavior problems."¹⁵

Taken as a whole, these research breakthroughs make clear that “early care and nurture have a decisive, long-lasting impact on how people develop, their ability to learn, and their capacity to regulate their own emotions.”¹⁶ It is to our distinct advantage to put the teachings of this science to work.

Chapter Two: Child Storage Isn't Child Care

High quality, educational child care programs cut crime. Mediocre child care doesn't.

Of course, when their parents are working, nearly all preschool children will receive some kind of care, of whatever quality. Marriott Corporation executive Donna Klein reports that everyday she finds children of service workers in hotel lobbies and dangerous cleaning supply rooms, because the low-wage working parents are unable to find decent child care at an affordable price.¹⁷ Other parents may take their children to family day care homes in which a provider trying to make a living while keeping fees down is caring for too many babies and toddlers, or knows too little about child development, to provide the nurturing and stimulation they need. As children reach school age, and sometimes even before, desperate parents may reluctantly leave them to "take care of themselves."

Recent research makes clear that "quality child care" must do far more than keep children safe from immediate physical injury. Good child care stimulates and nurtures children to maximize their healthy intellectual and emotional development. The old distinction between "custodial care" and educational and developmental care has been thoroughly discredited.

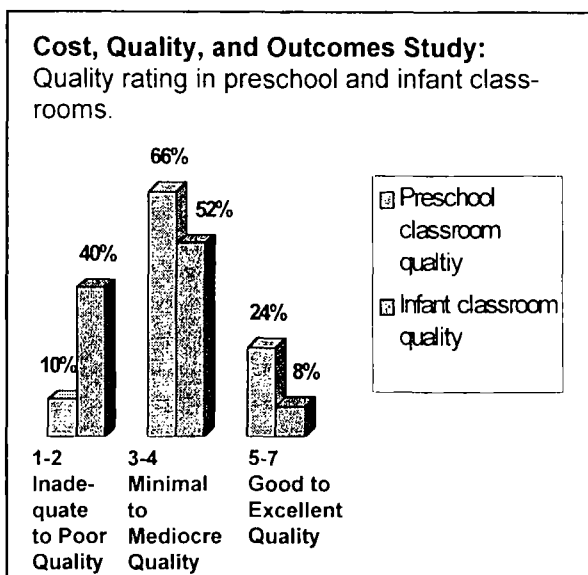
We can no more afford to accept child care that is merely "custodial" than we could accept assigning some children to public schools that are "custodial" rather than "instructional".¹⁸

As the Committee for Economic Development, a group of business executives from major corporations, emphasizes, "All programs for children from birth to age five — whether designated as child care, early childhood education or preschool — should focus on their educational and developmental needs and take into account what children will need to succeed in school and in life."¹⁹

The programs which have been proven to have the most substantial impact in reducing antisocial behavior, delinquency, and adult crime were quality programs. Staff-child ratios in such quality educational child care programs were one adult for every three or four infants and toddlers, or one adult for every six preschoolers; staff were well-trained and supervised;²⁰ and the programs included parenting-education components.

Just as high-quality care can markedly reduce the risk of delinquency and other unhappy outcomes, low-quality care leads to increased risk of such results.²¹

Unfortunately much of the child care America's children are receiving is sub-



standard. *The Cost, Quality, and Outcome Study* ranked 400 randomly selected child care centers on the following scale (and midpoints between the ratings): 1) **Inadequate – children’s need for health and safety are not met, there is no observed warmth or support from adults, and no learning is encouraged.** 3) Minimal – children’s basic health and safety needs are met, a little warmth and support is provided by adults, and a few learning experiences are provided; 5) Good – health and safety needs are fully met, warmth and support is provided for all children, and learning is encouraged in many ways through interesting, fun activities. 7) Excellent – all of the characteristics of good care are present,

plus children are encouraged to become independent, teachers plan for children’s individual learning needs, and adults have close, personal relationships with each child.”²²

The study found that 10% of pre-school care and fully 40% of infant center care was of poor quality (scoring 1-2). Only 24% of preschool centers and 8% of infant centers achieve developmentally adequate quality (scoring 5-7).²³

Chapter Three: Too Many Families Can’t Afford Adequate Child Care

Today, in large part because so many parents cannot afford quality care, millions of children are in child care so inferior in quality that it not only fails to produce these positive results but actually damages their development.

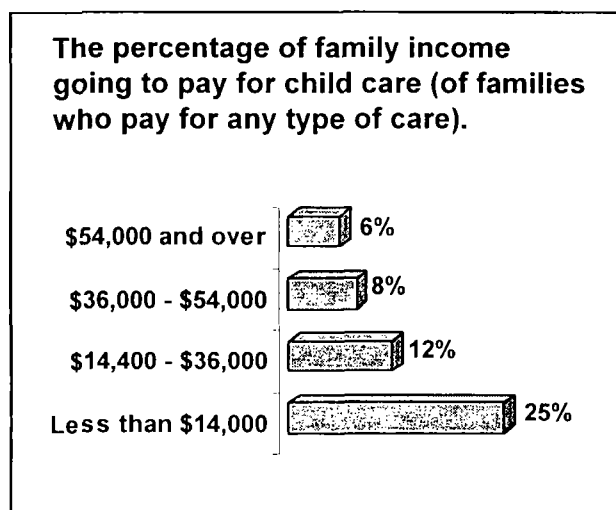
As this decade began, the Committee for Economic Development declared, “The lack of availability of quality child care that is developmentally appropriate, has educational value, and is affordable has created a crisis of national proportions that affects most families but hits low-income families the hardest.”²⁴

As we near the end of the millennium, that crisis has escalated.

Today, only 23% of all families with children younger than age 6 have one parent working and one at home.²⁵ One out of four children lives with only one parent,²⁶ and half of all children can now expect to live an average of at least five years in a single-parent family.²⁷ Child care is expensive. In fact, a survey by the

Children's Defense Fund and the National Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies found that, "The average annual cost of child care for a 4-year-old in an urban center is more than the average annual cost of public college tuition in almost every state. In some cities child care costs *twice* as much as college tuition."²⁸

The report concludes, "The average annual cost for a 4-year old in a child care center exceeds \$4,000 in over two thirds of 47 cities surveyed and is more than \$5,000 in one third of the cities... The cost of care for infants is even higher. The average cost of center care for a 12-month-old is above \$5,500 in half the cities surveyed, including 11 urban areas where child care center costs for an infant average more than \$7,000 per year."²⁹



These are average costs. Experts estimate that quality care for infants and toddlers in many cities can rarely be purchased for less than \$10,000 a year.³⁰

Especially at the lower end of the average range, the quality of much of the care provided is woefully inadequate.³¹ It is nearly impossible for child care centers to provide necessary staff-to-child ratios and group sizes, and pay enough to retain appropriately trained staff, without charging higher fees.³²

Census Bureau data shows that, of families paying for child care, even families with incomes over \$54,000 a year are spending 6% of their income on child care.³³ But

families with less than \$14,000 annual income are spending on average fully 25% of their income on child care. It is hard to argue, given that percentage, that poor families don't care about their children. Yet even with that huge portion of their income going to child care, poor families are able to spend only half as much on child care as families with incomes over \$54,000 per year.³⁴

How can a single parent with two children, working full time at \$10,000 a year pay \$8,000 - \$12,000 a year (\$4,000-\$6,000 per child) for child care? Even two parents making \$20,000 a year cannot afford that. Clearly, unless government helps, quality child care is simply not an available option for most of the families whose children are most at risk.

Today, quality child care and after-school programs are financially out of reach for millions of America's most at-risk children and youth. Young families, most

of whom are still near the lowest earning levels of their working lives, can no more afford to pay for quality child care during these years than they can afford to pay the full cost of the education we provide through public schools.

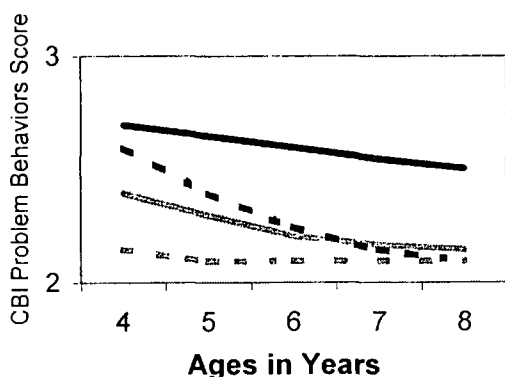
High-quality child care and child development programs are least available to those who would derive the greatest benefit from them — poor children.³⁵

Research shows that children whose mothers have lower levels of education receive the greatest benefits from high quality child care, and are most sensitive to the negative effects of poor quality care. For example, one study shows that, when they start first grade, middle-class children have been exposed to an average of 1,000 to 1,700 hours of one-on-one picture book reading — but that the average for low-income children is only 25 hours!³⁶

Cost Quality and Outcome Study: Children of mothers with less education who attended low quality child care had higher ratings for problem behaviors at age 4, and that behavior continued through age 8, (the dark top line). Whereas for children of college educated mothers who received poor quality care (the dark dashed line) the impact of poor quality child care was important at age 4, but it disappeared

child care center quality / mother's education

- high quality/college mothers
- high quality/high school mothers
- - low quality/college mothers
- low quality/high school mothers



The Cost, Quality, and Outcome Study, was conducted by a team of researchers from four different universities. It found that, at age nine, the children who had low-educated mothers' and had attended poor quality child care centers were substantially more likely to have behavior problems than other children who also had low-educated mothers but had attended better child care centers in their pre-school years.³⁷

Even among those children from low- and moderate-income families who are enrolled in child care programs, the services they are able to afford are typically inadequate. As the Carnegie Corporation's Task Force on Learning in the Primary Grades recently concluded, "With the notable exception of Head Start and some exemplary state-funded programs, programs attended by lower-income children do not ordinarily provide the full range of child development, health, and parent services that help children get ready for school."³⁸

Of course, large numbers of a community's children are reaching school un-

prepared to succeed, schools and teachers may be overwhelmed, jeopardizing the development and education of even those children who are adequately prepared.³⁹

From a law enforcement perspective, the child care crisis is especially severe because it strikes with greatest force at the most vulnerable children — those who are most at risk. When we shortchange their child care, we increase the risk they will grow up to pose a threat to the rest of us.

Chapter Four: Federal and State Governments Fall Short of the Investment Needed to Protect Public Safety

State and local governments have long shouldered the cost of public schools, from kindergarten to high school, and much of the cost of state university systems. But when it comes to child care, parenting education, and after-school programs, government help for struggling working parents has been disastrously inadequate.

The federal government assists families in obtaining child care primarily through:

- 1. The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF),⁴⁰** which provides states with funds which they may use to help families pay for child care, if the families' income is below 85% of the state's median income. Most states, in practice, choose to set an eligibility ceiling lower than 85% of median income. In some states, eligibility is capped at income levels as low as \$17,000. In order to obtain their full CCDF block grant, states are required to match a portion of the funding.

Families receiving this assistance are free to choose child care provided by a relative or neighbor, a child care center, or someone who provides child care in the provider's home. The average federal subsidy for the children served is about \$66 per week.⁴¹

States design their own programs to spend these funds as each sees fit, with virtually no federal requirements attached.⁴² All states currently have established a sliding scale, under which the parents pay a greater portion of the cost of child care as their income approaches the eligibility ceiling, but the scale itself varies widely from one state to another.

CCDF funding is so inadequate that it can serve only one in ten of the children eligible. A recent study by the Department of Health and Human Services

found that **nine in ten eligible children with working parents —13.2 million of the 14.7 million eligible—get nothing. Most of the rest receive subsidies at levels far too low to enable them to purchase adequate child care.**

An Urban Institute study of child care for low-income families in six communities (Bath, NY; Birmingham, AL; Boulder, CO; Chicago, IL; Dallas, TX; and San Francisco, CA) found that **a low-income family with no welfare history, despite eligibility for child care subsidies, would find no funds available to them in five of the six communities.**⁴³ Although families moving from welfare to work must be provided with transitional child care assistance, that assistance ends after one year, at which point they may be unable to get assistance from any other source.⁴⁴ A recent Center for Law and Social Policy review of available state surveys found that less than half of the welfare-to-work families who have left welfare and are now working are receiving child care assistance.⁴⁵

2. Head Start. The Head Start program, which began in 1965, provides comprehensive education, social and emotional development, physical and mental health and nutrition services, and parent involvement for children whose families are below the poverty line. It serves primarily 3- and 4-year-olds. The federal government sets minimum standards, but funds hundreds of community-based grantees — nonprofit organizations and school systems—to provide services.⁴⁶

Because of inadequate funding, Head Start today can serve only four in ten eligible three- and four-year olds. Fifty-five percent of Head Start children come from single-parent families, and as of 1993, 33% of Head Start families had at least one parent working full-time.⁴⁷ These numbers have undoubtedly increased, and will be increasing further, because of the passage of the new welfare laws.

Nevertheless, Head Start programs have been forced by inadequate funding to move steadily away from providing the nine-hour-a-day programs that full-time working parents typically need. In fact, the percentage of full-day programs dropped from one-third in 1972 to about 15% in 1989,⁴⁸ and only about 6% of Head Start children are now in full-day programs.⁴⁹

3. Early Head Start was created to provide comprehensive child development and family support services to low-income babies and toddlers from birth to age three. Its first 68 grants to community-based service providers were awarded late in 1995. In Fiscal Year 1997, Early Head Start served 27,000 children, out of a total of nearly three million eligible youngsters. That number has increased slightly but remains tiny.

4. Tax Credits. The Dependent Care Tax Credit (DCTC) allows parents who need child care in order to work to claim an income tax credit for a part of their child care expenses or children younger than thirteen.

For a married couple with two children and an income up to \$17,900, or a single parent with an income up to \$11,600,⁵⁰ the tax credit is absolutely no help, because they would not owe any taxes in any event; and even for families with slightly higher incomes, its help is modest. This is because the credit is not "refundable;" that is, a family can subtract the credit from the amount it would otherwise owe in federal income taxes, but once its federal income tax liability reaches zero, the family gets nothing further from the credit.

Families that owe enough in federal income taxes can receive a credit for between twenty and thirty percent⁵¹ of the first \$2,400 in expenses for one child or the first \$4,800 for two or more children. Families with adjusted gross incomes over \$28,000 get a 20% credit. Families with lower incomes theoretically get credit for a slightly larger percentage of their expense, but many do not get the full benefit of the credit because they do not have enough tax liability.

The upshot is that **of the \$2.5 billion in federal tax expenditures (forgone revenue) for the credit** in tax year 1994, just under 4% (less than \$96 million) **went to families making less than \$15,000.**⁵² **In contrast,** about \$1.4 billion went to families making between \$15,000 and \$50,000, and about \$1 billion went to families making over \$50,000.⁵³

The DCTC should not be confused with the new \$500 per child tax credit which Congress passed in 1997, and which goes to all families regardless of whether they have child-care expenses. Now that this credit is becoming available, a two-parent family will have to make at least \$21,233 before it would owe any taxes⁵⁴, so such families making less than that amount will receive no net benefit from the DCTC. In fact, a two-parent family would need to make almost \$31,000 a year before it would receive the full benefit of the DCTC.⁵⁵ In other words, even fewer low-and lower-middle-income families will be helped by the DCTC beginning in 1998 than in past years.

The other substantial federal tax provision subsidizing child care, the Dependent Care Assistance Plan, allows an employee to set aside up to \$5,000 per year in non-taxed income for child care expenses. These credits, totaling \$890 million in fiscal year 1998,⁵⁶ were even more heavily tilted toward upper-income taxpayers.⁵⁷

Taken together then, **these provisions allocate roughly \$1.5 billion in child-care assistance to families with incomes above \$50,000, and about one-tenth of that amount to families making under \$15,000.**

Some state and local governments have also recognized the importance of getting and keeping children on a track which will turn them into productive and law-abiding citizens. For example, North Carolina's Smart Start initiative, spearheaded by Governor Hunt, and Ohio's "Families and Children First Initiative,"

spearheaded by then-Governor Voinovich have made important contributions to helping children in those states get the solid start that quality child care can provide.

Despite such examples, public investment has fallen lamentably and tragically short of what America's children and the public safety demand.

Chapter Five:

Penny-Wise, Pound-Foolish Policy

Choices: Wasting Money and Lives

Do investments like these bust budgets — or save money?

Rutgers University economist Steven Barnett has estimated that the High/Scope Perry Preschool Program produced nearly \$150,000 per participant in savings from reduced crime alone.⁵⁸ Even after discounting these savings to take into account interest which could have been earned on the preschool investment while the High/Scope toddlers were growing up, Barnett concluded that the net savings were more than \$70,000 per participant in crime-related savings alone, and a total of \$88,000 once welfare, tax and other savings are included.⁵⁹

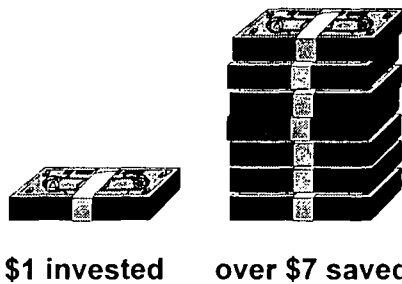
In short, *every dollar invested in the Perry program returned \$7.16 to the public.* These savings count only the benefits to the public at large — in reduced costs of crime, welfare and remedial education and in added revenues from taxes paid when the preschoolers became adult workers—without even taking into account the enormous direct benefits to the kids themselves.⁶⁰

Barnett estimates that the cost to society of failing to provide at least two years of quality early-childhood care and education to low-income children is approximately \$100,000 per child, totalling about \$400 billion for all poor children now under five.⁶¹

A recent RAND Corporation study found that *even after excluding all benefits to crime victims and other citizens*, and discounting to account for alternative investments, savings to government alone from providing the High/Scope services would come to twice the program's costs

Economists, looking at this and other research, and their own analysis have concluded that early childhood educational investments are the best investment government can make in education. As James Heckman at the University of Chicago puts it, "Skills [including social skills] acquired early on make later learning easier."⁶² William Gale and Isabel V. Sawhill of the Brookings Institution, wrote in a Washington Post opinion piece that investing in early childhood

**High/Scope Perry Preschool:
Even after accounting for inflation, over
seven dollars was saved by the public
for every dollar invested in a preschool
and home visitation program**



education provides government and society, "with estimated rates of return that would make a venture capitalist envious."⁶³

A recent study by Professor Mark A. Cohen of Vanderbilt University estimates that each high-risk youth prevented from adopting a life of crime could save the country between \$1.7 million to \$2.3 million.⁶⁴

The Committee for Economic Development, summed up the bottom line this way, as they called for a greater investment in educational child care programs:

"Education is an investment, not an expense. If we can ensure that all children are born healthy and develop the skills and knowledge they need to be productive, self-supporting adults, whatever is spent on their development and education will be returned many times over in higher productivity, incomes, and taxes, and in lower costs for welfare, health care, crime, and myriad other economic and social problems."⁶⁵

The bottom line: investments in quality child development and after-school programs are money-savers, not budget-busters.

Chapter Six: From the Front Lines of the Battle Against Crime: A Call for Action

The people on the front lines fighting crime are less concerned with political ideology than with hard-nosed practical solutions. They insist on doing what really works to fight crime.

Everyone agrees, of course, that dangerous criminals need to be locked up. But the people who work day-in and day-out to track down, arrest, and prosecute criminals know that this vital defense is only a stop-gap measure. So do crime victims.

Today, hundreds of our nation's most distinguished police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors, crime victim advocates and scholars have joined in calling on all public

**Former U.S. Attorney General and Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare
Elliot L. Richardson:**

““The question is not whether we can afford these programs, it is whether we can afford to jeopardize the safety of millions of Americans and saddle future generations with the cost of failing to make these proven investments today. When child care and after-school programs save dollars and cut crime, why shouldn't our federal and state governments provide the funding that will enable communities to get the job done?”

officials to protect the public safety by providing **for all infants, toddlers and preschool children access to quality child care at a price their parents can afford.**

That means child care in which staffing levels are high enough and training good enough to assure that children receive the nurturing and stimulation they need to start school ready to succeed and to learn the core values which begin to develop in the first years of life. To be most effective in reducing crime, quality child care and development programs for our most at-risk families should be linked to parenting education and family support.

At the federal level, it means we should be assuring through Early Head Start and other quality programs that our most at-risk babies and toddlers receive the care they need from birth to age three. It means we should be assuring that Head Start has enough funding to serve all the low-income children who need it, and provide full-day, high-quality, year-round care for the children of working parents. And it means sufficient increases in funding for the Child Care and Development Fund so that all families will have the help they need to access quality care.

For states, it means sharp increases in their own investment in quality child care and development programs to help their children get the right start.

“To make our families safe, we need to be as willing to guarantee all kids space in a good child care program as we are to guarantee a criminal room and board in a prison cell..”

*— Jean Lewis, President, National
Organization of Parents of Murdered Children*

C o n c l u s i o n

Our federal and state governments are falling far short of the investment in child care needed to meet their responsibility to protect the public safety. That shortfall is part of a gaping crime-prevention deficit that jeopardizes the safety of every American.

It is time that leaders at the state and federal levels lay out a plan to eliminate that deficit. No responsibility of federal and state governments is more fundamental than protecting the public safety.

That responsibility simply cannot be met without providing communities with the resources to assure that all families, and especially those whose children are most at risk of going astray, have access to quality child care at a price they can afford.

Endnotes:

- 1 Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, "Poll of Police Chiefs conducted by George Mason University Professors Stephen D. Mastrofski and Scott Keeter," Washington, DC, November 1, 1999.
- 2 Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, "Poll of Police Chiefs conducted by George Mason University Professors Stephen D. Mastrofski and Scott Keeter," Washington, DC, November 1, 1999.
- 3 Committee for Economic Development, Research and Policy Committee, *The Unfinished Agenda: A New Vision for Child Development and Education* (New York: Committee for Economic Development, 1991), pp. 27-28.
- 4 Carnegie Task Force on Meeting the Needs of Young Children, *Starting Points: Meeting the Needs of Our Youngest Children* (New York: Carnegie Corporation of New York, 1994), p. 8.
- 5 Yoshikawa, H., supra, n.1, pp.56,59; Zigler, E., and Styfco, S.J., "Can Early Childhood Intervention Prevent Delinquency? A Real Possibility," *Constructive and Destructive Behavior: Implications for Family, School and Society* (forthcoming), pp. 25-27.
- 6 Schweinhart, L. J., Barnes, H.V., Weikart, D.P., *Significant Benefits: The High/Scope Perry Preschool Study Through Age 27* (Ypsilanti, MI: High/Scope Press, 1993).
- 7 Ibid. More than 1/3 (35%) of the control group, but only 1/14 (7%) of the preschoolled group, had been arrested more than four times by age 27. Among males, nearly half (49%) of the control group, but less than 1/8 of the preschoolled group, had more than four arrests by age 27. Ibid., pp. xvii-xviii, 84-87.
- 8 Lally, J.R., Mangione, P.L., and Honig, A.S., "The Syracuse University Family Development Research Program: Long-Range Impact of an Early Intervention with Low-Income Children and Their Families." In D.R. Powell (Ed.), *Parent Education as Early Childhood Intervention: Emerging Directions in Theory, Research and Practice* (pp. 79-104), Norwood, NJ: Ablex Publishing Corp (1988). For this purpose, "delinquency" means conduct which would be considered criminal if committed by an adult.
- 9 42% of the participating group were earning at this level, compared to 6% of the control group.
- 10 Schweinhart, L.J., et al., supra, n.11.
- 11 Ibid.
- 12 Yoshikawa, H., supra, n.1, pp. 55, 66-67. See also, for example, Seitz, V., and Apfel, N., "Parent-focused intervention: Diffusion effects on siblings," *Child Development* (1994) 65:677-83; Zigler, E., and Styfco, S.J., supra.
- 13 FPG-UNC Smart Start Evaluation Team, "Smart Start: A Six County Study of the Effects of Smart Start Child Care on Kindergarten Entry Skills", Frank Porter Graham Child Development center Smart Start Evaluation Team, North Carolina, September 1999.
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- 15 Peisner-Feinberg, E.S., et al., "The Children of the Cost, Quality, and Outcomes Study Go to School." 1999, <http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~NCEDL/PAGES/cq.htm>.
- 16 Shore, R., "Rethinking the Brain, New Insights into Early Development" (Families and Work Institute, 1997), p. 27.
- 17 Oral statement of Donna Klein, Congressional Staff Briefing on School-Age Care, January 13, 1998.
- 18 Carnegie Task Force on Learning in the Primary Grades, *Years of Promise: A Comprehensive Strategy for America's Children*

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20 Yoshikawa, H., "Long-Term Effects of Early Childhood Programs on Social Outcomes and Delinquency," *Long Term Outcomes of Early Childhood Programs, The Future of Children*, Vol. 5, No. 3 (Winter 1995), p. 68.

21 Carnegie Task Force on Meeting the Needs of Young Children, *supra*, n.71, p.49. see also: Peisner-Feinberg, E.S., et al., "The Children of the Cost, Quality, and Outcomes Study Go to School," 1999, <http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~NCEDL/PAGES/cq.htm>.

22 Cost, Quality, and Outcomes Study Team, "Cost, Quality, and Child Outcomes in Child Care Centers: Key Findings and Recommendations," *Young Children*, May 1995, p40-44.

23 *Ibid*.

24 Committee for Economic Development, Research and Policy Committee, *The Unfinished Agenda: A New Vision for Child Development and Education* (New York: Committee for Economic Development, 1991), p. 31.

25 Schulman, K., Adams, G., "Issue Brief: The High Cost of Child Care Puts Quality Care Out of Reach for Many Families," *Children's Defense Fund*, Washington, D.C., December 1998.

26 Carnegie Task Force on Meeting the Needs of Young Children, *Starting Points: Meeting the Needs of Our Youngest Children* (New York: Carnegie Corporation of New York, 1994), p. 4.

27 *Ibid*.

28 Schulman, *supra*, pi.

29 *Ibid*.

30 Carnegie Task Force on Meeting the Needs of Young Children, *supra*,.71.

31 A recent national study found that nearly half of the care afforded babies and toddlers in child care centers was of such poor quality that they jeopardized the children's safety or development. A similar study of "family day care homes" (in which a non-relative cares for one or more unrelated children in the provider's home) found that nearly one in three settings provided care that could hinder a child's development. CDF State Development in Child Care and Early Education.

32 One-third of all child care teachers leave their centers each year. "Profile: The Child Care Work Force (Washington, DC: National Center for the Early Childhood Work Force, 1998). That is five times the turnover rate reported for public school teachers and three times the annual turnover reported by U.S companies overall. Carnegie Task Force on Meeting the Needs of Young Children, *Starting Points: Meeting the Needs of Our Youngest Children* (New York: Carnegie Corporation of New York, 1994), p. 55. Child development expert Deborah Philips explains that, especially for very young children, "what we call turnover, they experience as loss." The main reason for turnover is low pay. Child care center teachers, although better educated than the general population, earn an average of \$6.89 per hour, while regulated family child care providers earn just over \$9,500 per year, and unregulated providers typically earn just over \$5,000 per year. "Profile: The Child Care Work Force" (Washington, DC: National Center for the Early Childhood Work Force, 1998).

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34 *Ibid*.

35 Carnegie Task Force on Learning in the Primary Grades, *Years of Promise: A Comprehensive Strategy for America's Children* (New York: Carnegie Corporation of New York, 1996), p. 57; Packard Foundation, *The Future of Children: Long-Term Outcomes of Early Childhood Programs*, Vol. 5, No. 3 (Los Altos, CA: Center for the Future of Children, The David and Lucille Packard Founda-

tion, Winter 1995), p. 8; Helburn et al., Cost Quality and Child Outcomes Study (Denver, CO: University of Colorado, 1995), p. 4.

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37 The Children of the Cost, Quality, and Outcome Study Go to School, *supra*, p.2.

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Fdr., Mothers of All Children

Carole Grant Hall

Director, Ginger Ridge
Residents' Initiative

Ellen Halbert

Editor, National Crime
Victims Report

Marc Klaas

Pres., Klaas Fdn. for Children

Dennis Lees, Ph.D.

Mgr., Mental Health Clinic

Jean Lewis

President, Parents of
Murdered Children

**Gordon Rondeau &
Elaine Rondeau**

Founders, Action America:
Murder Must End Now

**FIGHT
CRIME**



**INVEST
IN KIDS**

**Police, Prosecutors, and
Crime Survivors
Fighting to Prevent Crime
and Violence**

Table of Contents

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS Letter to Congress on Appropriations.....	1
Graphs showing the Crime Prevention Impact of Early Childhood and After School Programs.....	2
National Poll of Police Chiefs	3
Public Opinion Polls	4
National and State Resolutions supporting Fight Crime's <i>School and Youth Violence Prevention Plan</i>	5

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Donald Warshaw
Chief, Miami, FL

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Marc Klaas
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Dennis Lees, Ph.D.
Mgr., Mental Health Clinic
Jean Lewis
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**Gordon Rondeau &
Elaine Rondeau**
Founders, Action America,
Murder Must End Now

**FIGHT
CRIME**



**INVEST
IN KIDS**

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Associate Directors
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Brendan J. Fitzsimons

State Operations Director
Marci Wasserman

Research Director
William C. Christeson, M.H.S.

Education Policy Director
Joe Torn Easley, J.D., M.P.H.

Development Coordinator
Jonah S. Van Zandt

Sept. 28, 1999

United States Congress
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senators and Representatives,

We write as leaders of **FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS**, and on behalf of the 550 police chiefs, prosecutors, sheriffs, victims of violence and leaders of police officer organizations who are our colleagues nationally in **FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS**. We urge that in negotiations with the President over tax and appropriation bills, you not only avoid cuts in the programs that help kids get the right start, but also fully implement the **FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS School and Youth Violence Prevention Plan**.

That plan calls on public officials to:

- 1) **Assure all kids access to after-school programs that connect them with caring adults during the peak hours of violent juvenile crime;**
- 2) **Assure all families access to quality early childhood development programs;**
- 3) **Prevent child abuse and neglect and help heal those who have been abused and neglected;**
- 4) **Assure that troubled kids get early, effective help.**

The plan reflects such extraordinary consensus among law enforcement that its components have been endorsed by the **National Sheriffs Association**, the **Major Cities [Police] Chiefs**, the **Police Executive Research Forum**, and state groups ranging from the **Sheriffs' Associations in Arizona, California, Maine, and New York** to the **Police Chiefs' Associations in Illinois, Iowa, Maine, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island, and Texas** to the **District Attorneys' Associations in Arizona, California, Illinois, and Iowa**.

Government's most fundamental responsibility is to protect the public safety. To meet that responsibility, Congress should lay out a timetable to implement our **School and Youth Violence Prevention Plan**, and begin to close the **crime-prevention gap** — the gaping shortfall in the investments we ought to be making to help our nation's kids get the right start.



As a first step, we urge that you provide for FY 2000 in tax and appropriation bills at least:

- \$5.3 billion for **Head Start**, so that the program can expand to serve more eligible children, and can maintain and further strengthen its quality.
- \$2 billion for the **Early Learning Trust Fund**, modeled after North Carolina's successful Smart Start Program, so communities can provide home-visitor and other parenting-education programs, and quality child development services to children under five.
- \$7.5 billion for the **Child Care and Development Block Grant**, maintaining appropriate set-asides for quality, infants and toddlers, school-age care, and resource and referrals.
- \$350 million for the **"Parenting as Prevention" block grant program**, so communities can provide parents with coaching, advice, family counseling, and other services that can dramatically reduce child abuse and neglect and subsequent delinquency.
- \$600 million for the **21st Century Community Learning Centers** to expand after-school programs that provide constructive activities and connect kids with caring adults during the peak hours of violent juvenile crime.
- \$250 million for **Title V of the Juvenile Justice Act** for local delinquency prevention programs.
- \$2.38 billion for the **Title XX Social Services Block Grant**. Recent cuts in this program have shortchanged child care (15% of state spending under the block grant), child abuse prevention, removal and placement of abused children, drug treatment, and other critical crime prevention investments.
- \$8.75 billion for **Title I- Education for the Disadvantaged**.

Of course, these are not the only important crime prevention programs in the federal budget. Little would be gained if increases in these programs came at the expense of children's mental health services, child abuse prevention, child protection, foster care and adoption programs, youth and school-to-work programs or other important investments in children and youth.

The evidence is clear that well-designed programs for kids can dramatically reduce crime and violence, and keep kids from becoming criminals. But these programs remain so under-funded they reach only a fraction of the youngsters who need them. For example:

- In a five-city study, half of a group of at-risk high-school kids were assigned to participate in the Quantum Opportunities after-school program. *The boys left out of that program were six times more likely to be convicted of a crime* in their high-school years. Yet between five and seven million youngsters under twelve, and millions more teens, lack after-school programs that put them in touch with caring adults providing supervision and constructive activities.
- A High/Scope Foundation study at the Perry Preschool in Michigan randomly chose half of a group of at-risk toddlers to receive a quality Head Start-style preschool program, supplemented by weekly in-home coaching for parents. *Twenty-two years later, the toddlers left out of the program were five times more likely to have grown up to be chronic lawbreakers, with five or more arrests.* Yet inadequate funding for Head Start and the Child Care Development Block Grant leaves millions of at-risk children without critical early childhood services.

Many of our members are conservatives who believe we should, in the long run, be able to cut taxes. But our experience and hard scientific evidence prove that boosting investments in children now will save lives and tax dollars, leaving far more money for tax cuts down the road. For example:

- Economist Steven Barnett found that the High/Scope Foundation's Perry Preschool program saved \$150,000 per participant in crime costs alone. Even after subtracting the interest that could have been earned by investing the program's funding in financial markets, the project produced a net savings of \$7.16 — including more than \$6.00 in crime savings — for every dollar invested. That's a total of about \$400 billion for all poor children now under age five.
- A study by Professor Mark A. Cohen of Vanderbilt University estimates that each youngster saved from adopting a life of crime saves Americans between \$1.7 million and \$2.3 million.
- A recent Rand Corporation report shows that, even without counting the savings to crime victims and society, the resulting savings *to government alone* from effective early childhood programs exceeds by two to four times the cost of the programs.

As you know, the so called "non-Social Security surplus" shrinks dramatically unless Congress imposes the massive spending cuts sketched out as emergency budget-balancing measures in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. **Any tax plan which would slash federal investments in children** (as well as funding for law enforcement) **will leave every American at far greater risk of becoming a victim of crime and violence.** The resulting crime wave would be both a needless human tragedy and, as crime's costs to government and business skyrockets, a fiscal disaster ultimately requiring steep tax increases.

We hope that you choose instead to put Congress this year on a path to full implementation of the *School and Youth Violence Prevention Plan* that will produce massive cuts in crime and violence.

When it comes to reducing crime and violence, an ounce of prevention is worth many pounds of cure.

For a copy of the *School and Youth Violence Prevention Plan*, and additional information about effective crime prevention programs, visit our website at www.fightcrime.org.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Chief Garvin Arrell, Surprise Police Dept., Surprise, AZ
 Chief Douglas L. Bartosh, Scottsdale Police Dept., Scottsdale, AZ
 Sheriff Gary H. Butler, Navajo County Sheriffs Dept., Holbrook, AZ
 Hon. William J. Ekstrom, Jr, Mohave County Attorney, Kingman, AZ
 Ms. Sophia Espindola, Mothers Against Gangs, Son murdered at age 16, Phoenix, AZ
 Ms. Janet D. Fiero, Son Aaron murdered at age 2, Scottsdale, AZ
 Ms. Barbara L. Haralson, Founder, Stand Against Violence Everywhere,
 Father murdered in 1997, Safford, AZ
 Ms. Kathleen Hill, Son Clint murdered in 1993, Phoenix, AZ
 Chief Harold Hurtt, Phoenix Police Dept., Phoenix, AZ
 Sheriff Ralph E. Ogden, Yuma County Sheriffs Dept., Yuma, AZ
 Sheriff Frank R. Reyes, Pinal County Sheriffs Dept., Florence, AZ
 Sheriff Tom Sheahan, Mohave County Sheriff, Kingman, AZ
 Chief Michael L. Strobe, Peoria Police Dept., Peoria, AZ
 Chief Glenn A. Walp, Bullhead City Police Dept., Bullhead City, AZ
 Hon. Jack M. Williams, Graham County Attorney, Safford, AZ
 Chief John Wintersteen, Paradise Valley Police Dept., Paradise Valley, AZ
 Sheriff Virginia R. Black, Yuba County Sheriffs Dept., Marysville, CA

Chief James Bueermann, Redlands Police Dept., Redlands, CA
 Chief Edward J. Chavez, Stockton Police Dept., Stockton, CA
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 Sheriff Jim Denney, Sutter County Sheriffs Dept., Yuba City, CA
 Mr. Ron Exley, Government Relations Dir., California Police Activities League, Oakland, CA
 Hon. Terry R. Farmer, Humboldt County District Attorney, Eureka, CA
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 Chief Bob Harrison, Vacaville Police Dept., Vacaville, CA
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 Director J. Ronald Lally, Ed.D., West Ed Center for Child and Family Studies,* Sausalito, CA
 Dr. Dennis Lees, El Dorado County Mental Health Clinic,* Placerville, CA
 Chief Burnham Matthews, Alameda Police Department, Alameda, CA
 Hon. Phil McDowell, Inyo County District Attorney, Independence, CA
 Chief Arnold Millsap, Eureka Police Department, Eureka, CA
 Sheriff Clay Parker, Tehama County Sheriffs Dept., Red Bluff, CA
 Hon. David Paulson, Solano County District Attorney, Fairfield, CA
 Sheriff Charles C. Plummer, Alameda County Sheriffs Dept.,
 President, California Sheriff's Association, Oakland, CA
 Chief Joseph Samuels, Richmond Police Dept., Richmond, CA
 Hon. Jan Scully, Sacramento County District Attorney, Sacramento, CA
 Hon. Grover C. Trask II, Riverside County District Attorney,
 President, California District Attorney's Association, Riverside, CA
 Chief Arturo Venegas, Jr., Sacramento Police Dept., Sacramento, CA
 Chief Paul Walters, Santa Ana Police Dept., Santa Ana, CA
 Mr. Norman S. Early, Jr., Former District Attorney, Denver, CO
 Chief Lorne C. Kramer, Colorado Springs Police Dept., Colorado Springs, CO
 Sheriff Patrick Sullivan, Arapahoe County Sheriff,
 Congressional Affairs Chairman, National Sheriffs Association, Littleton, CO
 Chief Dean M. Esserman, Stamford Police Department, Stamford, CT
 Dr. Edward Zigler, Yale University Dept. of Psychology,* New Haven, CT
 Hon. Elliot Richardson, Former United States Attorney General, Washington, DC
 Hon. Joseph D'Alessandro, 20th Circuit State's Attorney, Fort Myers, FL
 Sheriff Cal Henderson, Hillsborough County Sheriffs Dept., Tampa, FL
 Ms. Jean Lewis, Nat'l Organization of Parents of Murdered Children, Inc., Sarasota, FL
 Chief Richard Overman, Delray Beach Police Dept., Delray Beach, FL
 Chief Darrel W. Stephens, former Chief of Police, St. Petersburg, FL
 Mr. Joe Wilson, Executive Director, National Police Activities League, North Palm Beach, FL
 Chief Beverly Harvard, Atlanta Police Dept., Atlanta, GA
 Hon. Spencer Lawton Jr, Chatham County District Attorney, Savannah, GA
 Mrs. Elaine Rondeau, A.A.M.M.E.N., Marietta, GA
 Mr. Gordon Rondeau, A.A.M.M.E.N., Marietta, GA
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 Sheriff Steve Allendorf, Jo Daviess County Sheriff, Galena, IL

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 Chief David Dial, Naperville Police Dept.,* Naperville, IL
 Mr. Mark Donahue, President, Ill. State Lodge, Fraternal Order of Police, Western Springs, IL
 Chief Ray Giovannelli, Niles Police Dept., Niles, IL
 Ms. Carole Grant Hall, Son Lateef was murdered, Chicago, IL
 Chief George Incledon, Morton Grove Police Dept., Morton Grove, IL
 Chief Robert Jones, Gurnee Police Dept., Gurnee, IL
 Chief Frank Kaminski, Evanston Police Dept., Evanston, IL
 Chief Eugene Karczewski, Riverside Police Dept., Riverside, IL
 Chief David Kentner, Freeport Police Dept., Freeport, IL
 Chief Geoffrey J. Korous, Woodridge Police Dept., Woodridge, IL
 Ms. Glenda Kretzer, Sister and parents murdered, Sandoval, IL
 Hon. David W. Lewis, Clark County State's Attorney, Marshall, IL
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 Chief Timothy McCarthy, Orland Park Police Dept.,* Orland Park, IL
 Chief William Miller, Elgin Police Department, Elgin, IL
 Chief John J. Millner, Elmhurst Police Department, Elmhurst, IL
 Chief Bruce Morris, Prospect Heights Police Dept., Prospect Heights, IL
 Chief Jeff Nielsen, Rockford Police Dept., Rockford, IL
 Chief Ignacio Joe Pena, East Dundee Police Dept., East Dundee, IL
 Ms. Shirley R. Pringle, Knox County State Attorney, Galesburg, IL
 Sheriff Richard Randall, Kendall County Sheriff's Dept., Yorkville, IL
 Chief Thomas Reasoner, Clarendon Hills Police Dept., Clarendon Hills, IL
 Hon. Charles Reynard, McLean County State's Attorney, Bloomington, IL
 Mr. Mike Robbins, Officer shot in the line of duty, Chicago, IL
 Mr. Matt L. Rodriguez, Former Police Superintendent, Chicago, IL
 Chief Darrell Sanders, Frankfort Police Department, Frankfort, IL
 Chief Gary J. Schira, Bloomingdale Police Dept., Bloomingdale, IL
 Chief Ron Sheley, Crystal Lake Police Dept.,* Crystal Lake, IL
 Chief Robert Sturlini, Des Plaines Police Dept., Des Plaines, IL
 Mr. Thomas Vanden Berk, Executive Director, Uhlich Children's Home,
 Son Tommy was murdered, Chicago, IL
 Sheriff James Vazzi, Montgomery County Sheriff's Dept., Hillsboro, IL
 Chief Nicholas Weiss, Lincolnwood Police Dept., Lincolnwood, IL
 Chief Frank Williams, Wood Dale Police Dept., Wood Dale, IL
 Chief Steven Williams, Rolling Meadows Police Dept., Rolling Meadows, IL
 Chief Jerry Zywczyk, Westmont Police Dept., Westmont, IL
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President, Police Executive Research Forum, Baltimore, MD
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 Chief Charles A. Moose, Montgomery County Police Dept., Rockville, MD
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 Chief Butch Asselin, Skowhegan Police Dept., Skowhegan, ME
 Chief Terry A. Burgess, Camden Police Dept., Camden, ME
 Chief Mike Chitwood, Portland Police Department, Portland, ME
 Chief Stephen Cobbett, Paris Police Dept., South Paris, ME
 Sheriff Barry A. DeLong, Somerset County Sheriffs Dept., Skowhegan, ME
 Sheriff Lloyd Herrick, Oxford County Sheriffs Dept., South Paris, ME
 Commissioner Michael Kelly, Maine Department of Public Safety, Augusta, ME
 Chief Darrell Malone, Houlton Police Dept., Houlton, ME
 Chief Richard Pickett, Dixfield Police Dept., Dixfield, ME
 Sheriff Mark A. Westrum, Sagadahoc County Sheriff, Bath, ME
 Hon. David Gorcyca, Oakland County Prosecutor, Pontiac, MI
 Hon. James C. Backstrom, Dakota County Attorney,
 Vice President, National District Attorneys Association, Hastings, MN
 Chief Robert K. Olson, Minneapolis Police Dept., Minneapolis, MN
 Chief Bracy Coleman, Jackson Police Dept., Jackson, MS
 Chief Gregg Lewis, Meridian Police Dept., Meridian, MS
 Hon. Al Smith, Bolivar County Attorney, Cleveland, MS
 Chief Glen Allen, Henderson Police Dept.,* Henderson, NC
 Chief Robert J. Blakely, Norwood Police Dept., Norwood, NC
 Hon. Howard S. Boney, Edgecombe County District Attorney, Tarboro, NC
 Hon. Luther Johnson Britt III, 16th B Prosecutorial District, Lumberton, NC
 Chief Mitchell Brown, Raleigh Police Department, Raleigh, NC
 Chief Mike Bustle, Lake Lure Police Dept., Lake Lure, NC
 Chief John Cease, Wilmington Police Dept., Wilmington, NC
 Chief Francis T. D' Ambra, Manteo Police Department, Manteo, NC
 Hon. Michael F. Easley, Attorney General, Raleigh, NC
 Chief Chris Fay, Woodfin Police Dept., Asheville, NC
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 Chief John W. Hodges, Hope Mills Police Dept., Hope Mills, NC
 Chief Julius Kerr, Sunset Beach Police Department, Sunset Beach, NC
 Chief Gary Lafone, Conover Police Dept.,* Conover, NC
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 Chief Frank Palombo, New Bern Police Dept., New Bern, NC
 Chief E. J. Phillips, Troy Police Dept., Troy, NC
 Officer Rodney Rowland, Director, Dunn Police Activities League,* Dunn, NC
 Chief Danny Toppings, Four Oaks Police Department, Four Oaks, NC
 Chief Ronald Wagner, Maxton Police Dept., Maxton, NC
 Chief Jack F. Warlick, Lenoir Police Dept., Lenoir, NC
 Chief Johnny L. Wehunt, Graham Police Dept., Graham, NC
 Chief Robert C. White, Greensboro Police Dept., Greensboro, NC
 Chief Michael Wightman, Kinston Police Department, Kinston, NC

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 Sheriff Michael Davidson, San Juan County Sheriffs Dept., Aztec, NM
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 Mr. Don Barrett, AVID, Syracuse, NY
 Sheriff Thomas Beilein, Niagara County Sheriffs Dept., Lockport, NY
 Mr. Bill Bratton, Former Police Commissioner, Boston, MA and New York, NY
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 Ms. Carolyn Brooks, Brother David murdered at age 28, New York , NY
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 Ms. Laureen Buschman, Twin sister murdered, Auburn, NY
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 Ms. Frances Davis, Mothers of All Children, Three sons murdered, Brooklyn, NY
 Chief Robert J. Duffy, Rochester Police Department, Rochester, NY
 Sheriff Ernest Dustman, Cattaraugus County Sheriffs Dept., Little Valley, NY
 Chief Frederick Fusco, Rensselaer Police Dept., Rensselaer, NY
 Ms. Patricia Gioia, Daughter Mary was murdered, Schenectady, NY
 Chief John Grebert, Colonie Police Dept., Latham, NY
 Sheriff Charles Houper, Chemung County Sheriff, Elmira, NY
 Mr. Ralph Hubbard, Son Brett murdered, Brooklyn, NY
 Hon. Robert T. Johnson, Bronx County District Attorney, Bronx, NY
 Sheriff Gary Maha, Genesee County Sheriffs Dept., Batavia, NY
 Sheriff Andrew Meloni, Monroe County Sheriff, Rochester, NY
 Sheriff Daniel G. Middaugh, Oneida County Sheriffs Dept., Oriskany, NY
 Hon. Gerald F. Mollen, Broome County District Attorney, Binghamton, NY
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 Sheriff Peter J. Pinckney, Cayuga County Sheriffs Dept., Auburn, NY
 Mr. Alan Pottinger, Brother David murdered at age 28, Fresh Meadows, NY
 Sheriff Ronald Spike, Yates County Sheriffs Dept., Penn Yan, NY
 Mr. Hirokazu Yoshikawa, Ph.D., Department of Psychology, NYU, New York, NY
 Sheriff Gary Haines, Montgomery County Sheriff, Dayton, OH
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Chief Rob Deu Pree, Astoria Police Dept., Astoria, OR
 Sheriff Stan Robson, Corvallis Sheriff's Dept., Corvallis, OR
 Chief Frank Baranyai, Cochranon Police Dept., Cochranon, PA
 Chief James Childs III, Southern Regional Police Dept., New Freedom, PA
 Sheriff Peter DeFazio, Allegheny County Sheriffs Dept., Pittsburgh, PA
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 Chief George Arruda, Tiverton Police Dept., Tiverton, RI
 Mr. John D. Carpenter, Son John murdered in 1995, Providence, RI
 Mr. Charles E. Collyer, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI
 Ms. Katharine Cutting, Father murdered at age 79, North Kingstown, RI
 Ms. Anne Marie D'Aleasio, Director, Survivors Outreach Services, Cranston, RI
 Chief William Devine, North Providence Police Dept., North Providence, RI
 Chief Gary Dias, East Providence Police Dept., East Providence, RI
 Chief William Mack, Scituate Police Dept.,* North Scituate, RI
 Ms. Renate Marek, Son murdered at age 21, Portsmouth, RI
 Chief Steven Reynolds, North Smithfield Police Dept., North Smithfield, RI
 Chief James Wynne, North Kingstown Police Dept.,* North Kingstown, RI
 Sheriff Johnny Mack Brown, Greenville County Sheriff, Greenville, SC
 Sheriff Leon Lott, Richland County Sheriff, Columbia, SC
 Hon. Randall E. Nichols, Knox County District Attorney General, Knoxville, TN
 Chief Emmett H. Turner, Nashville Metro Police Dept., Nashville, TN
 Chief Michael Courville, Executive Director, Texas Police Chiefs Association, Austin, TX
 Hon. Ronald Earle, Travis County District Attorney, Austin, TX
 Ms. Ellen Halbert, Victim of multiple stabbing, Austin, TX
 Ms. Thomas Ann Hines, Son murdered at age 21, Plano, TX
 Sheriff Larry Olivarez, Neuces County Sheriff, Corpus Christi, TX
 Chief Al Philppus, San Antonio Police Dept., San Antonio, TX
 Ms. Joyce Strickland, Mothers Against Teen Violence, Son murdered in 1993, Dallas, TX
 Chief Thomas Windham, Fort Worth Police Dept., Fort Worth, TX
 Chief Gregory M. Cooper, Provo Police Dept., Provo, UT
 Hon. Mark R. Decaria, Weber County Attorney, Ogden, UT
 Sheriff Aaron D. Kennard, Salt Lake County Sheriffs Dept., Salt Lake City, UT
 Sheriff Lynn Nelson, Cache County Sheriffs Dept., Logan, UT
 Chief James Paine, Brigham City Police Dept., Brigham City, UT
 Chief Ruben B. Ortega, Salt Lake Police Dept.,
 Chairman, Major Cities (Police) Chiefs' Organization, Salt Lake City, UT
 Chief Edward A. Flynn, Arlington County Police Dept., Arlington, VA
 Chief Joseph Arduca, Brandon Police Dept., Brandon, VT
 Sheriff Robert R. Bart, Snohomish County Sheriff, Everett, WA
 Hon. Paul Bucher, Waukesha County District Attorney, Waukesha, WI
 Captain Bob Kavanaugh, Appleton Police Dept., Appleton, WI
 Sheriff William Kruziki, Waukesha County Sheriff's Dept., Waukesha, WI

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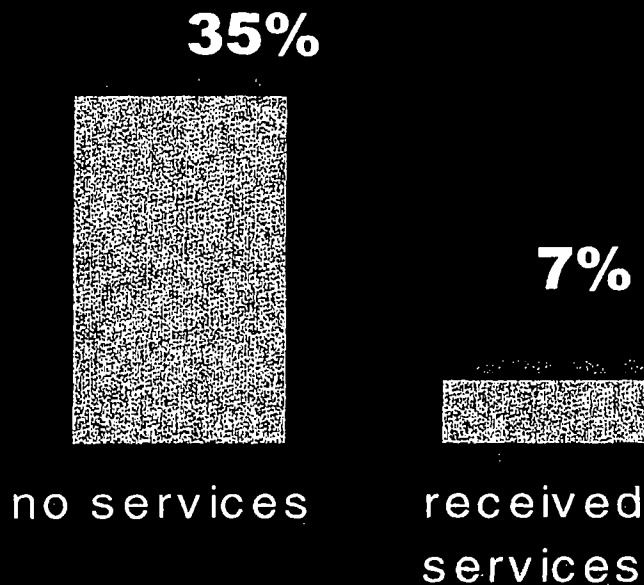
2

Divider Title: _____

Preschool & Home Visit Program Cuts Crime

Preschool and weekly home
visits led to an 80% drop in the
number of chronic offenders.

Percent Arrested 5 or More Times
Through Age 27



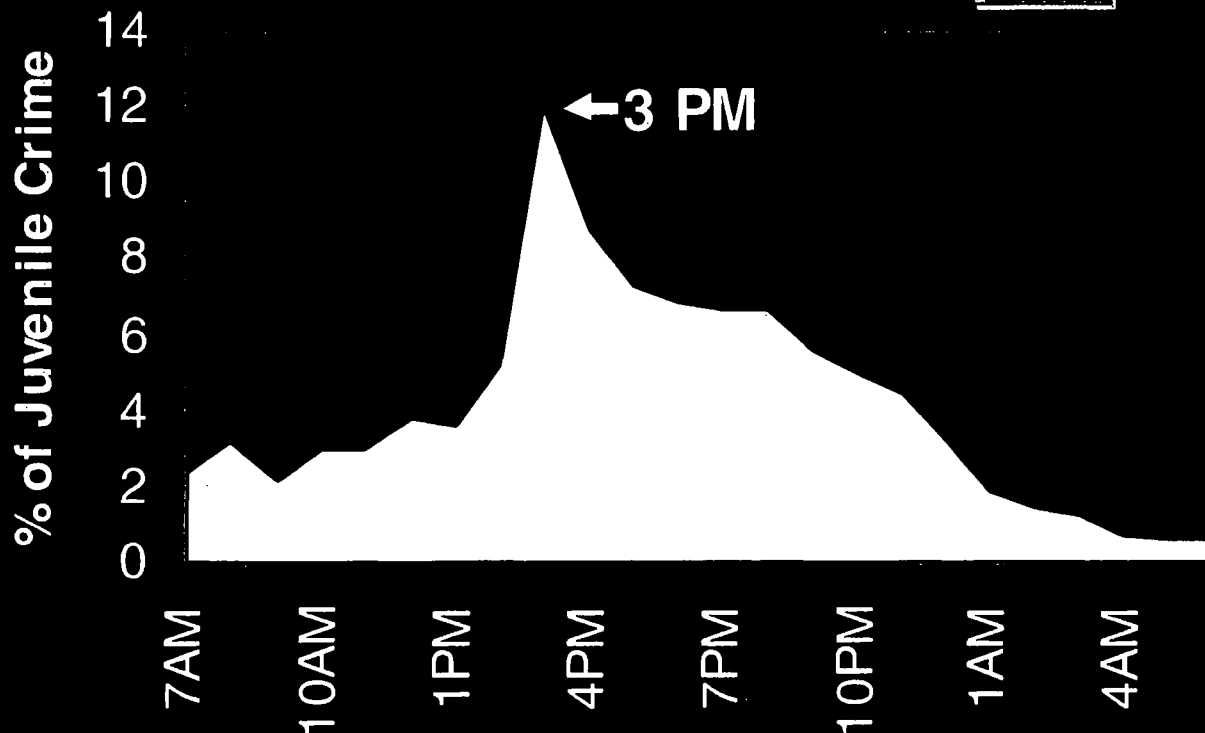
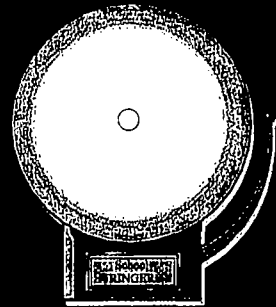
High/Scope Perry Preschool Study

Source: Lawrence J. Schweinhart, Helen B. Barnes, and David P. Weikert, Significant benefits: The High / Scope Perry Preschool Study Through Age 27 (Ypsilanti, MI: High Scope Press, 1993)

Fight Crime: Invest In Kids
www.fightcrime.org

Percent of Violent Juvenile Crime Occurring Each Hour

Violent Juvenile Crime Triples When the School Bell Rings

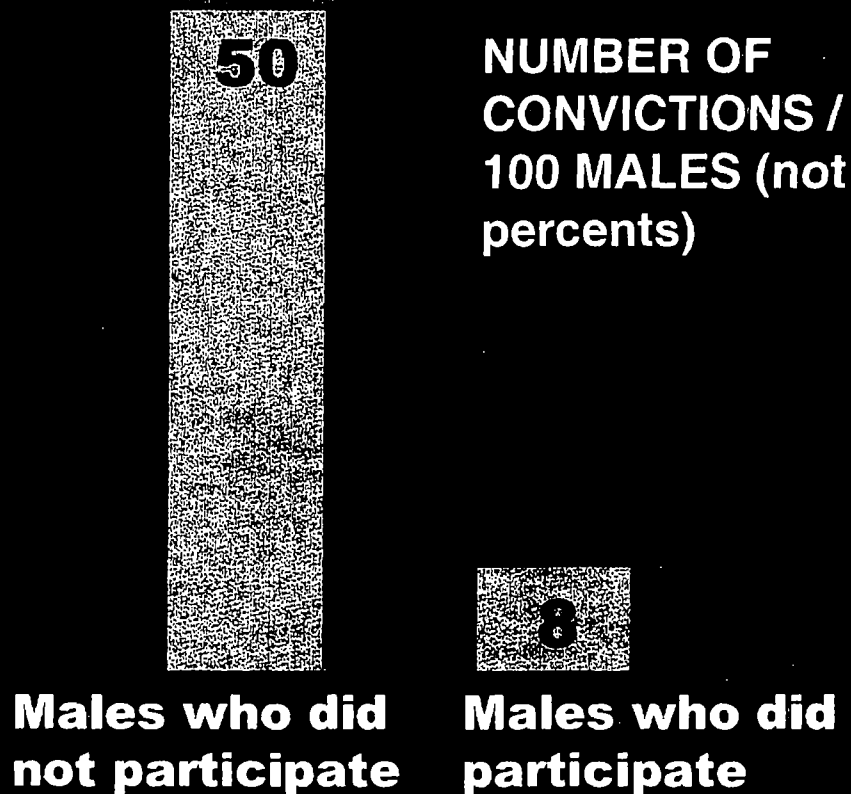


Source: Sickmund M., Snyder H.N., Poe-Yamagata E., "Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 1997 Update on Violence," National Center for Juvenile Justice, (Washington, DC: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention) which was based on data compiled by the F.B.I.'s National Incident-Based Reporting System.

Quality After-School Programs Prevent Crime

An intensive after-school enrichment program combining academics, personal development, community service and monetary incentives keeps kids on track.

Male Controls, who did not participate in Quantum Opportunities, had six times the average number of convictions as Males in the program.



Quantum Opportunities Program

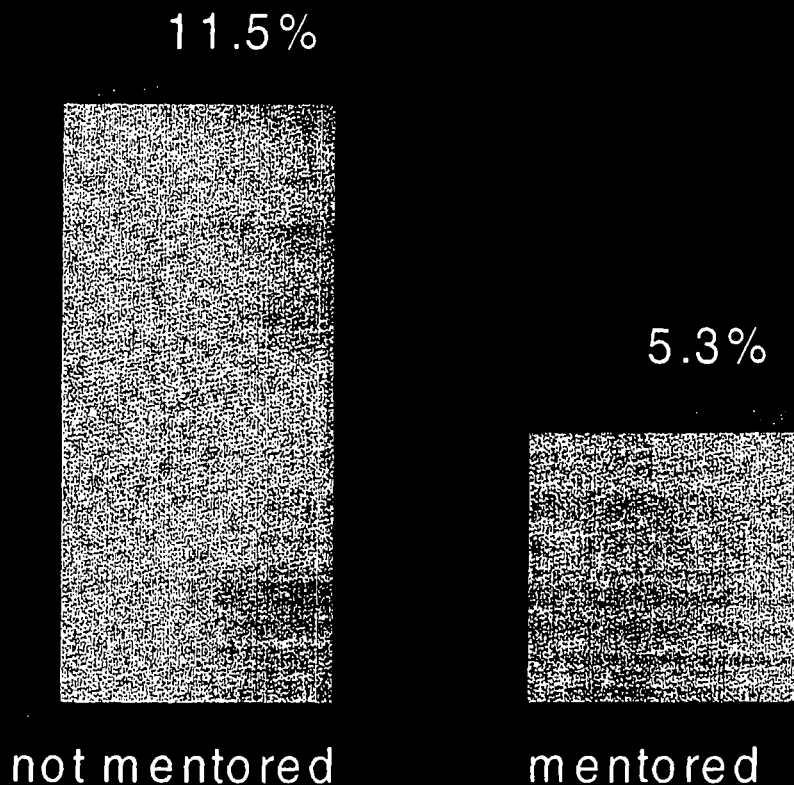
Source: Lattimore, C.B., et al. The Quantum Opportunities Program, in Elliot, D.S., *Blueprints for Violence Prevention*, Book 4 of a series, Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence, Boulder CO, 1998.

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids
www.fightcrime.org

Quality Mentoring Cuts Drug Use

Mentored kids were half as likely to start using drugs, and almost a third less likely to hit someone.

Percentage of 10- to 16- year-olds who started using drugs



Big Brothers / Big Sisters Mentoring Program

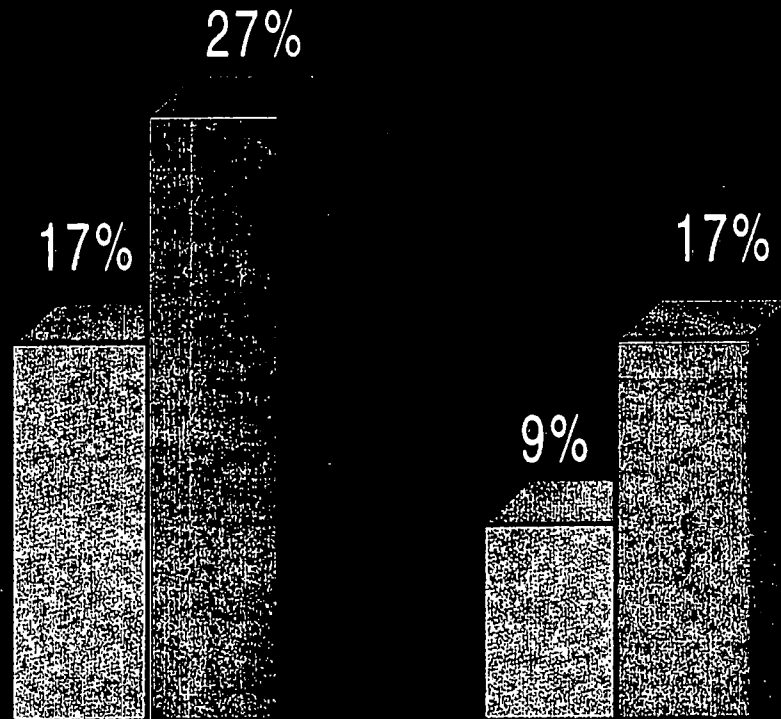
Source: Tierney, J.U., Grossman, J., and Resch, N., "Making a Difference: An Impact study of Big Brothers/Big sisters," *Public/Private Ventures* (November 1995), p. 33.

Fight Crime Invest in Kids
www.fightcrime.org

Abuse & Neglect Increases Crime

■ COMPARISON
GROUP

■ ABUSED OR
NEGLECTED



**Percent Who Were
Arrested as
Juveniles**

(59% INCREASE)

**"Chronic Offenders"
Percent Arrested
Five or More Times**

(88% INCREASE)

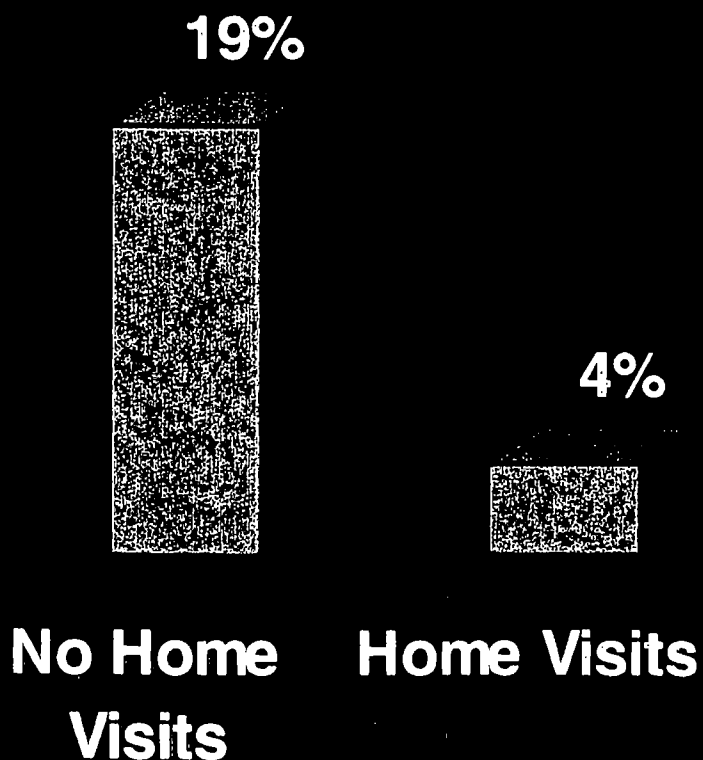
Source: Maxfield M.G., Spatz Widom C., "The Cycle of Violence: Revisited 6 Years Later," Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine, Vol. 150, April, 1996, and Spatz Widom C., "The Cycle of Violence," National Institute of Justice, October, 1992.

Fight Crime. Invest in Kids
www.fightcrime.org

Home Visitation Services Prevent Child Abuse

The high-risk Families who received prenatal and early childhood home visitation services were 80% less likely to abuse or neglect their children.

Verified Child Abuse or Neglect During the First 2 Years



Prenatal and Early Infancy Project

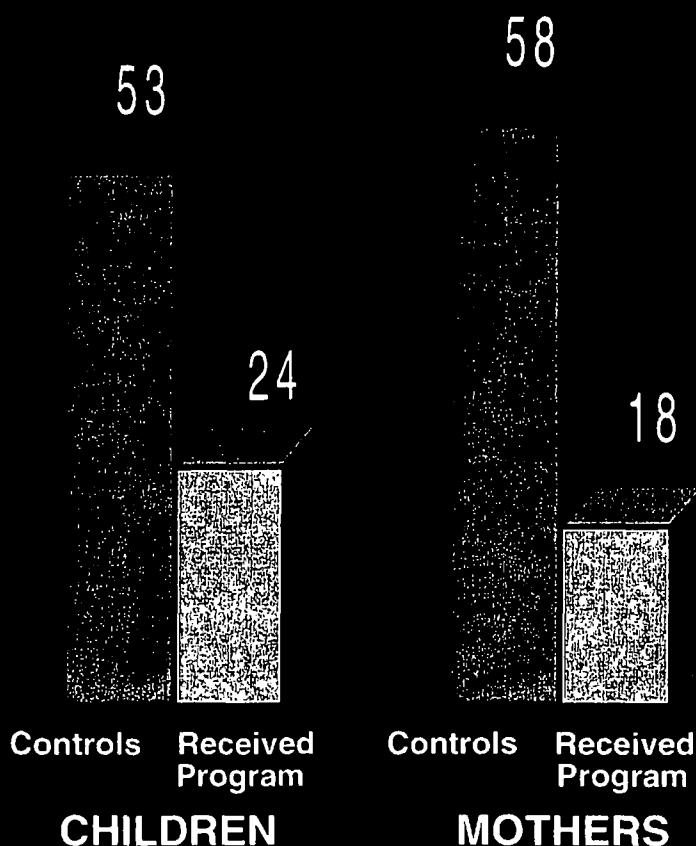
Source: Olds, D., Henderson, C., Tatelbaum, R., and Chamberlin, R., "Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect: a randomized trial of nurse visitation," Pediatrics, (1986) vol. 78, pp. 65-78.

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids
www.fightcrime.org

Home Visitation Services Prevent Arrests of both Mothers and Children

The high-risk Mothers who received prenatal and early childhood home visitation services were arrested one-third as often, and their children half as often, by the time their children reached age 15.

These figures are arrest rates: arrests per 100 children or arrests per 100 mothers. Since some children and mothers are arrested more than once, these figures are the total arrests/100 not the % of all children or mothers who were ever arrested.



Prenatal and Early Infancy Project

Source: Olds (1996) and Olds (JAMA, 1997) in Karoly, L.A. et al. Investing In Our Children, (Santa Monica CA: Rand 1998).

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids
www.fightcrime.org

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3

Divider Title: _____

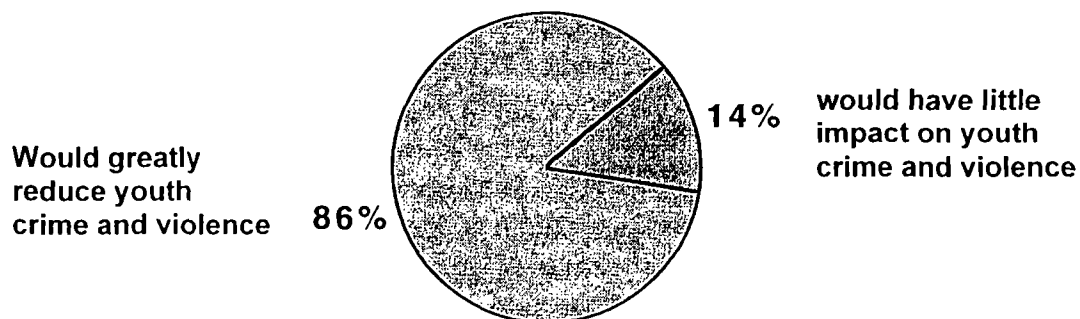
Poll of Police Chiefs

Conducted by George Mason University Professors
Stephen D. Mastrofski, Director of the Administration of Justice Program,
and Scott Keeter, Chair of the Department of Public and International Affairs.

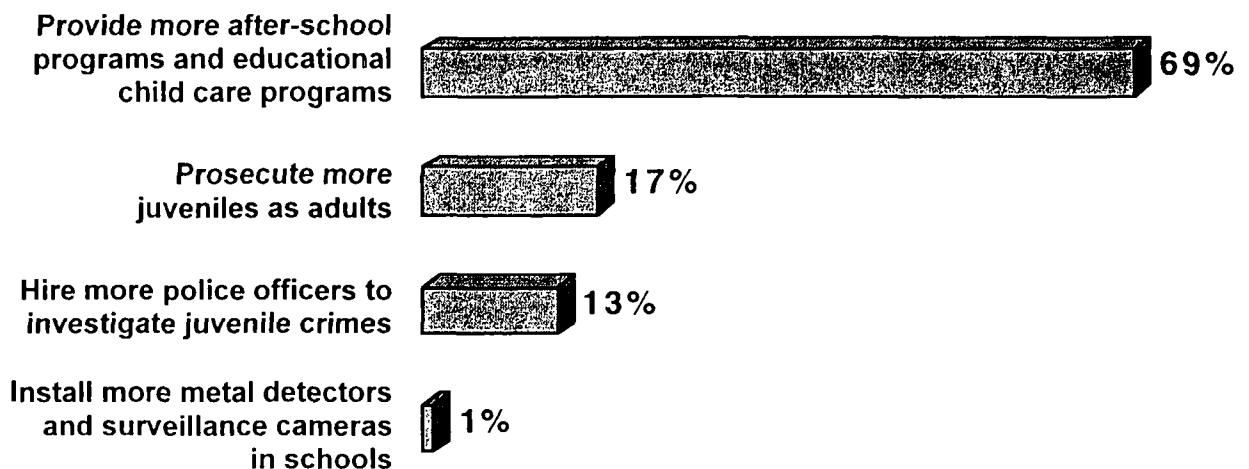
1) Which of these statements comes closer to your view?

Statements: Expanding after-school programs and educational child care programs like Head Start would greatly reduce youth crime and violence.

Expanding after-school programs and educational child care programs like Head Start would have little impact on youth crime and violence.



2) Which of these strategies do you think is most effective?*

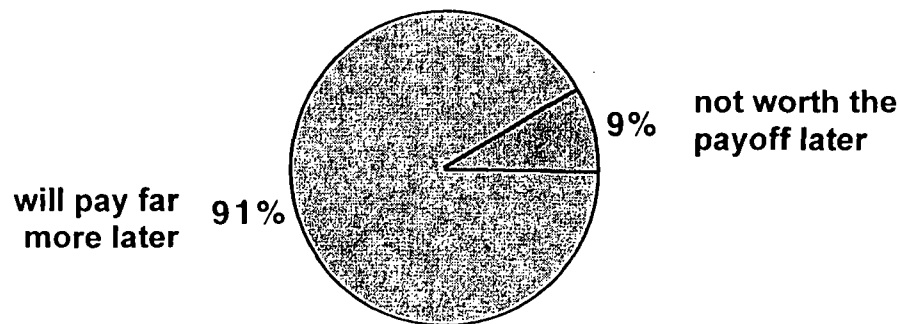


* In order to guide elected officials please rank the following four strategies. Place a "1" next to the approach you think will ultimately have the biggest impact in reducing youth violence, a "2" for the next most effective, and so forth. (Please rank all strategies and do not give the same ranking to more than one strategy). [Percentages shown are those ranked "1".]

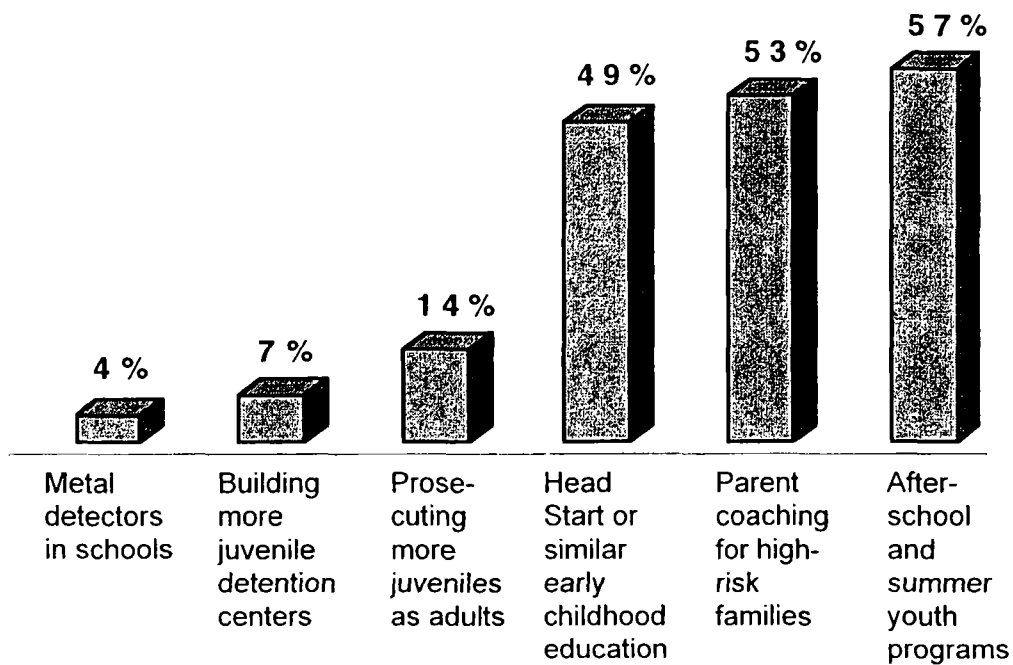
3) Which of these statements comes closer to your view?

Statements: If America *does not* make greater investments in after-school and educational child care programs to help children and youth now, we will pay far more later in crime, welfare, and other costs.

If America *makes* greater investments in after-school and educational child care programs to help children and youth now, the cost of these programs will not be worth the payoff later.



4) The Police Chiefs were asked "Please rate the following strategies on a scale of 1 to 5 on their value as a crime prevention tool." This chart shows the percentage for each strategy that received a "1" rating by the Police Chiefs.



The poll was conducted for Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, from October 14th through the 27th, 1999. 855 Chiefs were surveyed, from a sample including all 255 Chiefs from cities over 100,000, and a random sample of 600 Chiefs serving smaller cities. 566 Chiefs responded to the survey (66%), and the margin of error was 5%.

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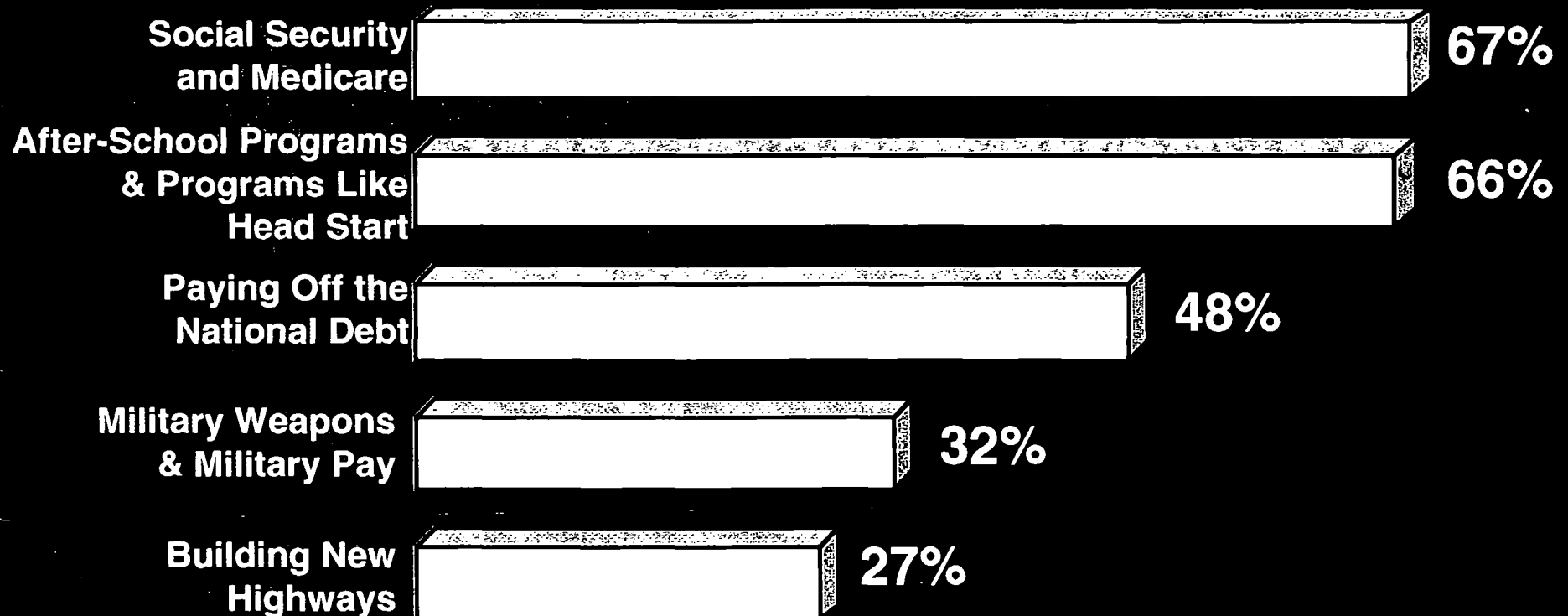
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4

Divider Title: _____

Poll: What's more important than a tax cut?
After-school programs and programs like Head Start
rank with Social Security and Medicare.



Fight Crime: Invest in Kids
www.fightcrime.org

**The following tables summarize the results of two polls conducted by
Opinion Research Corporation International for Fight Crime: Invest in Kids:**

August 12-15

Question 1.

To provide kids in your community with access to good after-school programs and early childhood development programs like Head Start, would you be willing to:

- a) Pay more taxes?
- b) Pass up a tax cut?

Pay more taxes?	50%
Those who were unwilling to pay more taxes, but who were willing to pass up a tax cut:	24%
Total percent of those willing to pay more taxes, pass up a tax cut, or both:	74%

Question 2.

Which of these priorities are more important than cutting taxes?

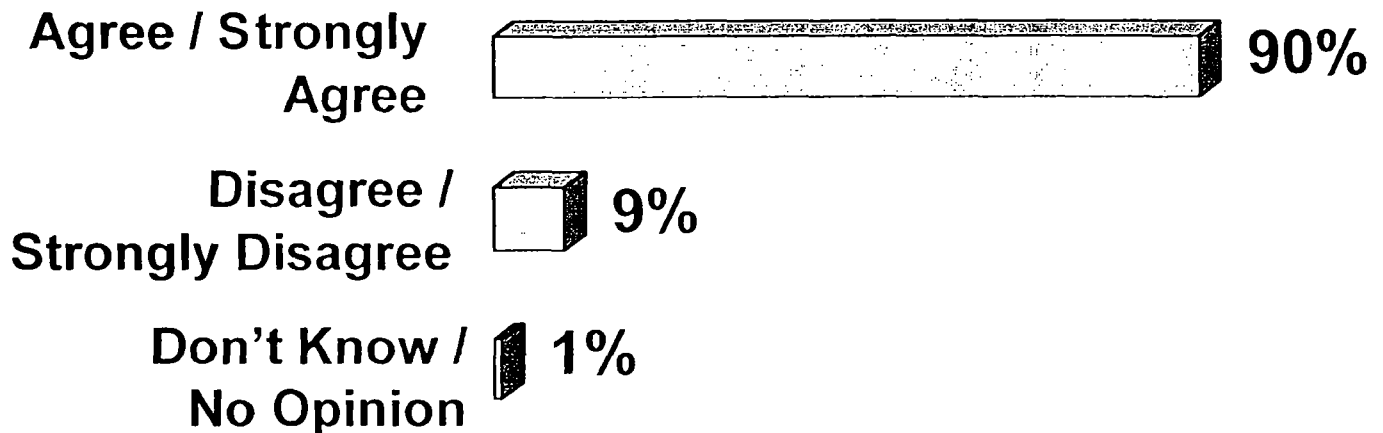
Shoring up Social Security and Medicare.	67%
Providing access to after-school programs and early childhood development programs like Head Start.	66%
Paying off the national debt.	48%
Building new highways.	32%
Building more advanced military weapons and spending more on military pay.	27%
Don't know / None of these	5%

Question 3.

As children in your community head back to school what are you most concerned about?
[Those polled volunteered their own answers.]

Violence / Crime	47%
Inadequate Education	18%
The Cost of Education	2%
Any other Concerns	21%
No Concern / No Answer	11%

9 out of 10 Americans agree: Investing more in preventive programs for kids could greatly reduce crime.



Actual Question Wording:

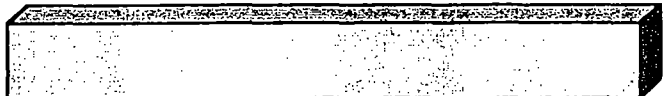
"Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement: 'In the long run, America could greatly reduce crime if we invested more in preventive efforts aimed at helping children and youth get the right start in life. For example, community-based coaching for high-risk teen parents to improve their parenting, Head Start and other early childhood development programs, programs for troubled kids, and after-school programs and mentoring.'"

Opinion Research Corporation International, Caravan Services, 1011 respondents, July 1-3, 1999.
Margin of error + or - 2%.

Fight Crime. Invest in Kids
www.fightcrime.org

In Fighting Juvenile Crime Should We
Focus primarily on punishment
or
Focus equally on prevention programs
for kids?

**Focus on
Punishment**  **14%**

**Focus Equally on
Prevention**  **81%**

**Don't Know /
Neither**  **5%**

Actual Question Wording:

“Which of these statements comes closer to your views?”

1. America’s fight against juvenile crime should focus primarily on locking up juvenile delinquents and other punishment when crimes are committed.
2. America’s fight against juvenile crime must include strong efforts to lock up dangerous delinquents, but should focus equally on prevention programs aimed at keeping kids from getting into trouble and on efforts to help get troubled kids back on track.”

Opinion Research Corporation International, Caravan Services, 1011 respondents, July 1-3, 1999. Margin of error + or - 2%.

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids
www.fightcrime.org

July 1-3 1999

Question 1

Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statement: "In the long run, America could greatly reduce crime if we invested more in preventive efforts aimed at helping children and youth get the right start in life. For example, community-based coaching for high-risk teen parents to improve their parenting, Head Start and other early childhood development programs, programs for troubled kids, and after-school programs and mentoring."

Investing more in preventive programs for kids could greatly reduce crime:						
Strongly Agree	Agree but not Strongly	Total who Agree or Strongly Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total who Disagree or Strongly Disagree	Don't Know / Have no Opinion
62%	27%	90%	6%	3%	9%	1%

Question 2.

Which of these statements comes closer to your view?

- a) America's fight against juvenile crime **should focus on locking up juvenile delinquents and other punishment** when crimes are committed.
- b) America's fight against juvenile crime must include strong efforts to lock up dangerous delinquents, but **should focus equally on prevention programs** aimed at keeping kids from getting into trouble and on efforts to help get troubled kids back on track.

Should focus on locking up juvenile delinquents and other punishment	14%
Should focus equally on prevention programs	81%
Don't know / Neither	5%

The CARAVAN surveys were conducted by Opinion Research Corporation International for Fight Crime: Invest in Kids. 1016 adults, 18 years of age and over, were surveyed during the period of August 12-15, 1999, and 1011 adults were surveyed during the period July 1-3, 1999.

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5

Divider Title: _____

NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

POLICE

William Bratton
Fmr. Commiss'r., NYC

Sam Cabral
President, Int'l Union of
Police Ass'ns, AFL-CIO

Dean Esserman
Chief, Stamford, CT

Edward Flynn
Chief, Arlington Co., VA

Thomas Frazier
Police Commissioner,
Baltimore, MD

Gilbert Gallegos
President, Fraternal
Order of Police

Phil Keith
Chief, Knoxville, TN

John Millner
Chief, Elmhurst, IL

Charles Moose
Chief, Montgomery Co., MD

Patrick Murphy
Former Commiss'r, NYC,
DC, Detroit, Syracuse

Ruben Ortega
Chief, Salt Lake City, UT

Bernard Parks
Chief, Los Angeles, CA

Al Philippus
Chief, San Antonio, TX

Matt Rodriguez
Fmr. Police Sup'l, Chicago, IL

Joseph Samuels, Jr.
Chief, Richmond, CA

Jerry Sanders
Fmr. Chief, San Diego, CA

Darrel Stephens
Chief, Charlotte, NC

Patrick Sullivan, Jr.
Sheriff, Arapahoe Co., CO

Donald Warshaw
Fmr. Chief, Miami, FL

PROSECUTORS

Michael Bradbury
District Atty., Ventura, CA

Ronald Earle
District Atty., Travis Co., TX

Norm Early
Former D.A., Denver, CO

Ralph Martin, II
District Atty., Suffolk Co., MA

Janet Napolitano
Attorney General, AZ

Jeanine Pirro
District Atty., Westchester, NY

Elliot Richardson
Former Attorney General
and Secretary of HEW, of
Defense and of Commerce

VIOLENCE VICTIMS

Frances Davis
Fdr., Mothers of All Children

Carole Grant Hall
Director, Ginger Ridge
Residents' Initiative

Ellen Halbert
Editor, National Crime
Victims Report

Marc Klaas
Pres., Klaas Fdn. for Children

Dennis Lees, Ph.D.
Mgr., Mental Health Clinic

Jean Lewis
President, Parents of
Murdered Children

**Gordon Rondeau &
Elaine Rondeau**

Founders, Action America:
Murder Must End Now

FIGHT CRIME



INVEST IN KIDS

President
Sanford A. Newman, J.D.

Associate Directors

Amy R. Dawson

Brendan J. Fitzsimons

Research Director

William C. Christeson, M.H.S.

State Operations Director

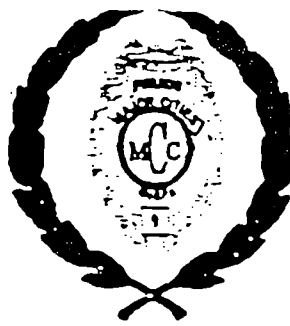
Marci Wasserman

Communications Director

Philip Evans

Law Enforcement Organization Crime Prevention Resolutions (Attached in the following order)

- Major Cities Police Chiefs
- National Sheriffs' Association
- Police Executive Research Forum
- National District Attorneys Association
- Arizona Association of Chiefs of Police
- Arizona County Attorney and Sheriff's Association
- California District Attorneys' Association
- California Sheriffs' Association
- Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police
- Illinois State's Attorneys Association
- Iowa State Sheriff's & Deputies' Association
- Maine Chiefs of Police Association
- Maine Sheriff's Association
- New York Association of Chiefs of Police
- North Carolina Association of
Chiefs of Police
- Rhode Island Chiefs' Association
- Texas Police Chiefs' Association



MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS

Resolution on Curbing School & Youth Violence

Approved by the

Major Cities Chiefs

February 9, 1999

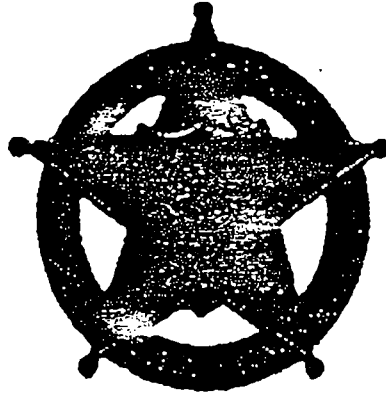
RESOLUTION

As police chiefs in America's largest cities, we know that investments today to help kids get the right start are among America's most powerful weapons against crime. Quality child care, parenting coaching and after-school programs can help kids learn the values and skills they need to become good neighbors instead of criminals. We therefore call on all our public officials to adopt the policies described in **FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS School and Youth Violence Prevention Plan**:

- ☛ Assure all families access to quality child care for babies and preschool children.
- ☛ Reduce child abuse and neglect by offering all at-risk parents "parenting coaches" through proven home visiting programs, as well as access to community-based family resource centers.
- ☛ Help schools identify troubled and disruptive children at an early age, and provide children and their parents with the counseling and training that can help kids get back on track.
- ☛ Offer all school-age children and teens after-school programs and access to weekend and summer programs that provide recreation, arts, academic support and community service experience.

Phoenix, Arizona
Los Angeles, California
Los Angeles Co., California
San Diego, California
San Francisco, California
San Jose, California
Denver, Colorado
Jacksonville, Florida
Metro-Dade, Miami, Florida
Atlanta, Georgia
Honolulu, Hawaii
Chicago, Illinois
Indianapolis, Indiana
New Orleans, Louisiana
Baltimore, Maryland
Baltimore Co., Maryland
Montgomery Co., Maryland
Prince George's Co., Maryland
Boston, Massachusetts
Detroit, Michigan
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Kansas City, Missouri
St. Louis, Missouri
Las Vegas, Nevada
Newark, New Jersey
Buffalo, New York
Nassau Co., New York
New York City, New York
Suffolk Co., New York
Charlotte-Mecklenburg, North Carolina
Cincinnati, Ohio
Cleveland, Ohio
Columbus, Ohio
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Tulsa, Oklahoma
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Memphis, Tennessee
Nashville Metro, Tennessee
Austin, Texas
Dallas, Texas
El Paso, Texas
Fort Worth, Texas
Houston, Texas
San Antonio, Texas
Salt Lake City, Utah
Washington, D.C.
Seattle, Washington
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
.....
Calgary, Canada
Montreal, Canada
Toronto, Canada

NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION



Resolution

NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS INVESTING IN OUR NATIONS YOUTH

- WHEREAS, public safety is the principal goal of the nation's sheriffs; and
- WHEREAS, our nation's sheriffs work continuously to fight crime and remove criminals from our streets and neighborhoods; and
- WHEREAS, more and more "at-risk" kids are becoming involved in crime because they do not have any other positive alternatives; and
- WHEREAS, the peak hours for violent juvenile crime are between the end of school and 8:00 p.m.; and
- WHEREAS, helping kids keep out of trouble during these hours is an effective weapon against crime; and
- WHEREAS, investing in programs that educate parents and children to become good neighbors is beneficial to the community; and
- WHEREAS, quality child care, parental education and after-school programs can help kids learn the values and skills needed to become responsible adults instead of juvenile delinquents and adult criminals; and
- WHEREAS, sheriffs and other elected officials have a public duty and responsibility to ensure our kids have a fighting chance; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Sheriffs' Association supports programs to provide all infants, toddlers and preschoolers with quality educational child care at a price parents can afford; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Sheriffs' Association strongly supports programs designed to reduce child abuse and neglect by advocating "parenting coaches" through proven home visitation programs and community-based family resource centers; and furthermore the National Sheriffs' Association strongly supports after-school programs, weekend programs, and summer programs that offer recreational activities, academic support, and community service opportunities to America's school-age children.

Adopted at a meeting of the General
Membership on this 1st day of July, 1998
in Phoenix, Arizona



Resolution on Early Childhood Care and After-School Programs

May 1, 1998

As police professionals serving more than 40 percent of the nation's population, we are deeply committed to getting dangerous criminals off the street. But we also know that even the most effective policing, prosecution, and punishment will never be enough to win the fight against crime unless they are coupled with effective prevention and intervention programs that will minimize the need for back-end solutions.

Findings

Scientific research now clearly shows that quality educational child care, parenting coaching and after-school programs can have a dramatic anti-crime impact because they help kids learn right from wrong and learn the skills and values they need to become good neighbors instead of criminals. In some studies early childhood investments have reduced by as much as 90% the risk of subsequent delinquency and by as much as 80% the risk that a toddler will grow up to have been arrested five or more times as an adult. And after-school youth development programs have been proven to sharply reduce juvenile crime and juvenile victimization.

Research also shows that investments in effective early childhood and youth development programs today will reap dramatic cost savings tomorrow. Boosting such investments represents not only a significant crime-reduction opportunity, but also an opportunity to substantially reduce budgetary demands on federal and state governments in the years to come.

Call for Action

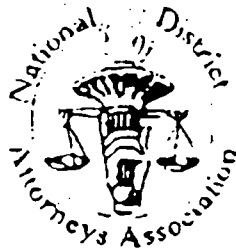
We therefore adopt, as a legislative priority for this year, a call on all our elected officials to support policies that:

- Ensure all communities the funds to provide all infants, toddlers and preschool children with quality, educational child care at a price their parents can afford.

Resolution on Early Childhood Care and After-School Programs
May 1, 1998

- Reduce child abuse and neglect by offering all at-risk parents "parenting coaches" through proven home visiting programs, as well as access to community-based family resource centers.
- Provide for all of America's school-age children and teens after-school programs, and access to weekend and summer programs that offer recreation, academic support and community service experience.
- Increase existing funds for law enforcement and increase the discretionary authority of law enforcement executives to use those funds to support successful and proven crime-preventing investments in children and youth.

America should move steadily forward to implement on a large scale the child care, early childhood development and after-school programs that have already been proven to prevent crime. We also urge that funds be allocated to permit ongoing evaluation of implementation as model programs are "scaled up," and research on other promising crime-prevention investments, in order to further refine our knowledge of best practices to protect public safety and improve developmental outcomes for at-risk youth.



NATIONAL DISTRICT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION

99 Canal Center Plaza • Suite 510 • Alexandria, Virginia 22314
Telephone: (703) 549-9222 Fax: (703) 836-5195

RESOLUTION
ON
CURBING YOUTH VIOLENCE

WHEREAS, the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA) recognizes the importance of nurturing and responsible parenting and supports programs that promote core family values, and intervention and prevention initiatives that focus on the serious negative impact of violence, abuse, neglect, crime and drugs upon the lives of youth; and

WHEREAS, the collective experience of state and local prosecutors across the nation is that the incidence of abuse, juvenile crime and delinquency is greatly increased when these basic needs of children have not been met;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NDAA supports a coordinated and balanced approach to address our nation's growing youth violence problem, emphasizing the importance of proven prevention and intervention initiatives, such as efforts to ensure the availability of quality child-care, after-school programs and programs aimed at reducing child abuse, provided that such are not viewed as alternatives to the apprehension and prosecution of juvenile criminal offenders.

Adopted by the Board of Directors, March 21, 1998, at Clearwater, Florida.
98-013.SPR

Resolution on Curbing Youth Violence

*Approved by the Arizona Association of
Chiefs of Police*

September 15, 1998

RESOLUTION

As chiefs of police working every day to get dangerous criminals off the streets, we know that investments today to help kids get the right start are among America's most powerful weapons against crime. The evidence is in that quality child care, parenting coaching and after-school programs can help kids learn the values and skills they need to become good neighbors instead of criminals. We therefore call on all our elected officials to adopt policies to:

- ☐ Provide all infants, toddlers and preschool children with quality educational child care at a price their parents can afford.
- ☐ Reduce child abuse and neglect by offering all at-risk parents "parenting coaches" through proven home visiting programs, as well as access to community-based family resource centers.
- ☐ Provide for all of America's school-age children and teens after-school programs, and access to weekend and summer programs that offer recreation, academic support and community service experience.

Arizona County Attorney & Sheriff's Association

Sheriff Marvin Hare, President
Martha Chase, Secretary/Treasurer

RESOLUTION ON CURBING YOUTH VIOLENCE

WHEREAS, the Arizona County Attorney & Sheriff's Association recognizes the importance of nurturing and responsible parenting and supports programs that promote core family values, and intervention and prevention initiatives that focus on the serious negative impact of violence, abuse, neglect, crime and drugs upon the lives of youth; and

WHEREAS, the collective experience of state and local prosecutors across the nation is that the incidence of abuse, juvenile crime and delinquency is greatly increased when these basic needs of children have not been met;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Arizona County Attorney and Sheriff's Association supports a coordinated and balanced approach to address our nation's growing youth violence problem, emphasizing the importance of proven prevention and intervention initiatives, such as efforts to ensure the availability of quality child-care, after-school programs and programs aimed at reducing child abuse, provided that such are not viewed as alternatives to the apprehension and prosecution of juvenile criminal offenders.

Adopted by Members, Arizona County Attorney & Sheriff's Association, May 14, 1998.

Resolution on Curbing School & Youth Violence

Approved by the

California District Attorney's Association

January, 1999

RESOLUTION

As prosecutors working every day to get dangerous criminals off the streets, we know that investments today to help kids get the right start are among America's most powerful weapons against crime. Quality child care, parenting coaching and after-school programs can help kids learn the values and skills they need to become good neighbors instead of criminals. We therefore call on all our public officials to adopt policies described in FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS *School and Youth Violence Prevention Plan*:

- ☛ Provide all infants, toddlers and preschool children with quality educational child care at a price their parents can afford.
- ☛ Reduce child abuse and neglect by offering all at-risk parents "parenting coaches" through proven home visiting programs, as well as access to community-based family resource centers.
- ☛ Help schools identify troubled and disruptive children at an early age, and provide children and their parents with the counseling and training that can help kids get back on track.
- ☛ Provide for school-age children and teens after-school programs and access to weekend and summer programs that offer recreation, academic support and community service experience.



California State Sheriffs' Association

Organization Founded by the Sheriffs in 1894

RESOLUTION ON CURBING SCHOOL & YOUTH VIOLENCE

WHEREAS: SHERIFFS WORK EVERY DAY TO GET DANGEROUS CRIMINALS OFF THE STREETS; AND

WHEREAS: KNOWING THAT AN INVESTMENT IN HELPING KIDS GET THE RIGHT START IS AMONG AMERICA'S MOST POWERFUL WEAPONS AGAINST CRIME; AND

WHEREAS: QUALITY CHILD CARE, PARENTING COACHING AND AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS CAN HELP KIDS LEARN THE VALUES AND SKILLS THEY NEED TO BECOME GOOD NEIGHBORS INSTEAD OF CRIMINALS; AND

WHEREAS: THE FOLLOWING POLICIES ARE PART OF THE FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS SCHOOL AND YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION PLAN:

PROVIDE ALL INFANTS, TODDLERS AND PRESCHOOL CHILDREN WITH QUALITY EDUCATIONAL CHILD CARE AT A PRICE THEIR PARENTS CAN AFFORD;

REDUCE CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT BY OFFERING ALL AT-RISK PARENTS "PARENTING COACHES" THROUGH PROVEN HOME VISITING PROGRAMS, AS WELL AS ACCESS TO COMMUNITY-BASED FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS;

HELP SCHOOLS IDENTIFY TROUBLED AND DISRUPTIVE CHILDREN AT AN EARLY AGE, AND PROVIDE CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS WITH THE COUNSELING AND TRAINING THAT CAN HELP KIDS GET BACK ON TRACK; AND

PROVIDE FOR SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN AND TEENS AFTER-SCHOOL AND ACCESS TO WEEKEND AND SUMMER PROGRAMS THAT OFFER RECREATION, ACADEMIC SUPPORT AND COMMUNITY SERVICE EXPERIENCE; NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED: THAT THE CALIFORNIA STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION URGES PUBLIC OFFICIALS TO ADOPT POLICIES SET FORTH IN FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS SCHOOL AND YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION PLAN; AND

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED: THAT THE CALIFORNIA STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION ENCOURAGES MEMBERS TO REVIEW FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS CRIME PREVENTION RESEARCH AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES, AND JOIN ITS ANTI-CRIME EFFORTS.

Adopted this twenty-eighth day of March 1999

[Signature]
President

[Signature]
Secretary

[Signature]
Executive Director

Attest



Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police

426 South Fifth Street, Suite 200 - Springfield, Illinois 62701-1824
PH 217-523-3765, FAX 217-523-8352, E-MAIL: IACP@ILCHIEFS.ORG

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Resolution on Curbing School & Youth Violence

Approved by the

Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police

December, 1998

RESOLUTION

As police chiefs working every day to get dangerous criminals off the streets, we know that investments today to help kids get the right start are among America's most powerful weapons against crime. The evidence is in that quality child care, parenting coaching and after-school programs can help kids learn the values and skills they need to become good neighbors instead of criminals. We therefore call on all our elected officials to adopt policies named in **FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS School and Youth Violence Prevention Plan**:

- ☐ Provide all infants, toddlers and preschool children with quality educational child care at a price their parents can afford.
- ☐ Reduce child abuse and neglect by offering all at-risk parents "parenting coaches" through proven home visiting programs, as well as access to community-based family resource centers.
- ☐ Help schools identify troubled and disruptive children at an early age, and provide children and their parents with the counseling and training that can help kids get back on track.
- ☐ Provide for school-age children and teens after-school programs and access to weekend and summer programs that offer recreation, academic support and community service experience.

The IACP encourages members to review **FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS ILLINOIS** ' crime prevention research and implementation strategies, and join their anti-crime efforts if they see fit.

Resolution on Curbing School & Youth Violence

Approved by the

Illinois State's Attorneys Association

December 9, 1998

RESOLUTION

As State's Attorneys working every day to get dangerous criminals off the streets, we know that investments today to help kids get the right start are among America's most powerful weapons against crime. The evidence is in that quality child care, parenting coaching and after-school programs can help kids learn the values and skills they need to become good neighbors instead of criminals. We therefore call on all our elected officials to adopt policies advocated by FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS ILLINOIS to:

- ☛ Provide all infants, toddlers and preschool children with quality educational child care at a price their parents can afford.
- ☛ Reduce child abuse and neglect by offering all at-risk parents "parenting coaches" through proven home visiting programs, as well as access to community-based family resource centers.
- ☛ Provide for school-age children and teens after-school programs and access to weekend and summer programs that offer recreation, academic support and community service experience.

The ISAA encourages local State's Attorneys to review the information from FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS ILLINOIS and get involved in their crime prevention efforts if they see fit.



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Resolution on Curbing School and Youth Violence

Approved by the board of the

Iowa State Sheriff's & Deputies' Association

September 16, 1999

RESOLUTION

As Sheriff's and Deputies working every day to get dangerous criminals off the streets, we know that investments today to help kids get the right start are among America's most powerful weapons against crime. Quality child care, parenting coaching and after-school programs can help kids learn the values and skills they need to become good neighbors instead of criminals. We therefore call on all our public officials to adopt the policies described in the **FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS School and Youth Violence Prevention Plan:**

- Assure all families access to quality child care for babies and preschool children.
- Reduce child abuse and neglect by offering all at-risk parents "parenting coaches" through proven home visiting programs, as well as access to community-based family resource centers.
- Help schools identify troubled and disruptive children at an early age, and provide children and their parents with the counseling and training that can help kids get back on track.
- Offer all school-age children and teens after-school programs and access to weekend and summer programs that provide recreation, arts, academic support and community service experience.

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Maine Chiefs of Police Association

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Crime Prevention Resolution

Bar Harbor, May 29, 1998

Whereas, we, as police chiefs working every day to get dangerous criminals off the streets and we know that investments today to help kids get the right start are among America's most powerful weapons against crime; and,

Whereas, the evidence that quality child care, parenting coaching and after-school programs can help kids learn the values and skills they need to become good citizens instead of criminals; and

Whereas, we recognize that children are the key to our future; and,

Whereas, crime prevention is everyone's responsibility,

Be it Resolved, that the Maine Chiefs of Police Association by unanimous vote, call out to all elected officials to adopt policies to:

Provide all infants, toddlers and preschool children with quality educational childcare at a price their parents can afford,

Reduce child abuse and neglect by offering all at-risk parents "Parenting coaches" through proven home visitation programs, as well as access to community-based family resource centers.

Provide for all of Maine's school-age children and teens after school programs, and access to weekend and summer programs that offer recreation, academic support and community service experience.



Joseph E. Young, Sr.,
President

5-29-98
Date

C.O.P.s Care



MAINE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

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Penobscot County
947-4585

Chaplain
Sgt. Donald B. Williams
Kennebec County
622-0990

RESOLUTION

As law enforcement officials constantly working to remove dangerous criminals off our streets, we know that current investments to help kids get a positive start in life are among America's most powerful weapons against crime. Quality child care, quality parenting, coaching and after-school programs have proven to be effective tools to teach kids the values and skills they need to become good citizens instead of criminals. We, therefore, call on all our elected officials to adopt policies to:

- Provide all infants, toddlers and preschool children with quality educational childcare at a price that all parents can afford.
- Reduce child abuse and neglect by offering all at-risk parents "parenting coaches" through proven home visiting programs, as well as, access to community-based family resource centers.
- Provide for all of America's school-age children and teens, after-school programs and access to weekend and summer programs that offer recreation, academic support and community service experience.



New York State Association of Chiefs of Police, Inc.

Executive Offices: 2697 Hamburg Street - Schenectady, NY 12303-3783 • (518) 355-3371 • FAX (518) 356-5767

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New York State Association of Chiefs of Police, Inc. 99th Annual Training Conference Sheraton-Saratoga Springs Hotel and Conference Center Saratoga, New York July 26 - 30, 1999

CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION #37

**Urges Public Officials to Adopt the
Policies Described in FIGHT CRIME:
INVEST IN KIDS School and Youth
Violence Prevention Plan**

WHEREAS, as Police Chiefs working every day to get dangerous criminals off the streets, we know that today's investments to help kids get the right start are among America's most powerful weapons against crime; and

WHEREAS, quality child care, parenting coaching and after-school programs can help kids learn the values and skills they need to become good neighbors instead of criminals;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the New York State Association of Chiefs of Police, Inc. calls on all our public officials to adopt the policies described in FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS School and Youth Violence Prevention Plan:

...Assure all families access to quality child care for babies and preschool children.

...Reduce child abuse and neglect by offering all at-risk parents "parenting coaches" through proven home visiting programs, as well as access to community-based family resource centers.

...Help schools identify troubled and disruptive children at an early age and provide children and their parents with the counseling and training that can help kids get back on track.

...Offer all school-age children and teens after-school programs and access to weekend and summer programs that provide recreation, arts, academic support and community service experience.

**Saratoga, New York
1999**

July 30,

N. C. Association of Chiefs of Police

Chief Robert E. Cansler
President
P. O. Box 308
Concord, NC 28026-0308



Telephone (704) 783-2207

E-mail recep101@etc.net

Pager (704) 783-3715

Fax (704) 786-3494

Whereas, we, as police chiefs in North Carolina's cities, working every day to get dangerous criminals off the streets, and we know that investments today to help kids get the right start are among North Carolina's most powerful weapons against crime; and,

Whereas, the evidence that quality child care, parenting coaching and after-school programs can help kids learn the values and skills they need to become good citizens instead of criminals; and

Whereas, we recognize that children are the key to our future; and,

Whereas, a primary objective of the Association is crime prevention and we recognize that crime prevention is everyone's responsibility,

Be it Resolved, that the North Carolina Association of Chiefs of Police therefore call on all our elected officials to adopt policies named in Fight Crime Invest In Kids Quality Early Childhood And Youth Development Programs: Powerful Weapons Against Crime In North Carolina and School and Youth Violence Prevention Plan to:

- o Provide all infants, toddlers and preschool children with quality educational child care at a price their parents can afford;
- o Strengthen families and reduce child abuse, neglect and delinquency by offering all at-risk parents (at their option) "parenting coaches" through proven home visitation programs;
- o Provide for all of North Carolina's school-age children and teens access to after school programs, weekend and summer youth development programs that offer recreation, academic support, tutor-mentoring resources and community service experience, and;
- o Help schools identify troubled and disruptive children at an early age, and provide children and their parents with the counseling and training that can help kids get back on track.

Adopted this the 23rd day of February, 1999

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert E. Cansler".

Chief Robert E. Cansler, President



RHODE ISLAND POLICE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION

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East Greenwich Police Dept.

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RESOLUTION

As law enforcement officials constantly working to remove dangerous criminals off our streets, we know that current investments to help kids get a positive start in life are among America's most powerful weapons against crime. Quality child care, quality parenting, coaching and after-school programs have proven to be effective tools to teach kids the values and skills they need to become good citizens instead of criminals. We therefore call on all our elected officials to adopt policies to:

- Provide all infants, toddlers and preschool children with quality educational childcare at a price that all parents can afford.
- Reduce child abuse and neglect by offering all at-risk parents "parenting coaches" through proven home visiting programs, as well as, access to community-based family resource centers.
- Provide for all of America's school-age children and teens, after-school programs and access to weekend and summer programs that offer recreation, academic support and community service experience.

Resolution on Curbing School & Youth Violence

Approved by the

Texas Police Chiefs Association

February, 1999

RESOLUTION

As police chiefs working every day to get dangerous criminals off the streets, we know that investments today to help kids get the right start are among America's most powerful weapons against crime. Quality child care, parenting coaching and after-school programs can help kids learn the values and skills they need to become good neighbors instead of criminals. We therefore call on all our public officials to:

- ☛ Provide all infants, toddlers and preschool children with quality educational child care at a price their parents can afford.**
- ☛ Reduce child abuse and neglect by offering all at-risk parents "parenting coaches" through proven home visiting programs, as well as access to community-based family resource centers.**
- ☛ Help schools identify troubled and disruptive children at an early age, and provide children and their parents with the counseling and training that can help kids get back on track.**
- ☛ Provide for school-age children and teens after-school programs and access to weekend and summer programs that offer recreation, academic support and community service experience.**

THE NATION'S NEWSPAPER

USA TODAY

NO. 1 IN THE USA . . . FIRST IN DAILY READERS

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1999

NATIONLINE

HELPING KIDS: Child-care and after-school programs are better ways to end juvenile violence than hiring more police officers, prosecuting children as adults or increasing security in schools, according to a survey of 556 police chiefs released at the annual convention of the International Association of Chiefs of Police in Charlotte, N.C. The survey, commissioned by Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, found that 69% identified child-care and after-school programs as their top solutions to fighting juvenile crime. By comparison, 17% of the chiefs said more children should be prosecuted as adults, 13% said hiring more officers would be their top solution, and 1% opted for adding metal detectors and surveillance cameras to schools.

— Gary Fields

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The Plain Dealer

November 1, 1999 Monday, FINAL / ALL

SECTION: NATIONAL; Pg. 12A

LENGTH: 547 words

HEADLINE: TO HELP TEENS, POLICE FAVOR AFTER-SCHOOL EFFORTS OVER MORE ENFORCEMENT

BYLINE: By TOM DIEMER and STEPHEN KOFF; PLAIN DEALER BUREAU

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

A majority of the men and women on the front lines in the fight against youth crime say expanded after-school programs and better child care would be more effective in dealing with troubled kids than hiring extra cops or installing metal detectors in schools, according to a new national survey.

Chief Edward A. Flynn of Arlington, Va., said he knew the finding would strike many as "counter-intuitive," since it is assumed police favor tough enforcement over a preventive approach. That is no longer the case, he said.

"I think we need after-school programs and we need to help turn kids around and try and give them some direction," said Shaker Heights Chief Walter Ugrinic, who agreed with the survey findings. Children and parents, especially single parents, need help in getting through the late afternoon and evening hours, which is when authorities say most youth crime occurs.

Given a choice of spending \$100,000 on youth-crime officers or on programs for kids, Ugrinic said, "I'd go with after-school programs. What's two [more] officers going to do for me? They're going to bring these kids in, but now what am I going to do with them? I'd rather take the \$100,000 and help 50 kids than arrest 100. The goal is to work with our kids, to turn them around."

Chief Flynn and Sanford Newman, president of **Fight Crime: Invest in Kids**, will release the survey of 566 police chiefs today in Charlotte, N.C., where the International Association of Chiefs of Police is holding its convention. The poll showed that 86 percent of the chiefs questioned agree that after-school activities and educational child care such as Head Start "would greatly reduce youth crime and violence."

When asked to rank anti-crime strategies, 69 percent thought after-school programs were most effective, while 17 percent said prosecuting more juveniles as adults was preferable. Thirteen percent said the most effective strategy would be to hire additional officers to investigate youth crimes. Only 1 percent responded that more metal detectors and surveillance cameras in schools would solve youth violence.

"People who don't know a lot about what policing has been through in the last several years would assume that the police policy-makers would be heavy on punishment, heavy on reaction, heavy on sanctions when it comes to trying to deal with our crime problem," Flynn said. "If anything, the opposite would be true."

George Mason University conducted the mailed survey for **Fight Crimes: Invest in Kids**, an anti-crime group - favoring preventive approaches - made up of police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors, criminologists and victims of crime. Nearly one-third of those polled were from cities with populations above 100,000; the margin of error was plus or minus 5 percentage points.

Elyria Police Capt. Dennis Will said a mix of after-school programs was needed.

"Some are athletic, others are mentoring programs or tutoring for school, others are just social programs we put together to give the kids an alternative. And one of the aims is obviously to get them before they get into a cycle that's going to lead them down the wrong path," Will said. "I absolutely think that's a worthwhile thing. It may not be the overall solution, but I believe it's money well spent."

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: November 2, 1999

Search: General News;"Fight Crime: Invest in Kids"

To narrow this search, please enter a word or phrase:

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Example: House of Representatives

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The Denver Post

November 1, 1999 Monday 2D EDITION

SECTION: A SECTION; Pg. A-06

LENGTH: 704 words

HEADLINE: After-school programs backed by police chiefs

BYLINE: By Bill McAllister, Denver Post Washington Bureau Chief,

BODY:

WASHINGTON - The nation's police chiefs overwhelmingly believe that after-school programs for youngsters are a more effective way to fight crime than adding more police officers, according to a survey to be released today. The surprising findings of the survey of 556 police chiefs go counter to the 'get-tough' more-cops approach pushed by President Clinton and many members of Congress.

But the findings did not surprise officials of the coalition **Fight Crime: Invest in Kids**, a nonpartisan group that has been advocating such a program since its founding in 1996. It sponsored the survey and plans to officially announce the results this morning at a convention of the International Chiefs of Police in Charlotte, N.C., a group that should be receptive to the findings.

Politicians resist idea

Most politicians, however, seem to advocate much more punitive steps, the group acknowledged as it provided reporters with an advance look at the survey.

'The president and Congress just don't get it,' said Sanford A. Newman, Fight Crime's president.

Arlington, Va., Police Chief Edward Flynn said the findings show that the nation's police administrators no longer view their job as just responding to crime, but as advocating programs to prevent crime.

Most chiefs also realize that most juvenile crimes tend to occur between 3 p.m. and 8 p.m., the **after-school hours** when an estimated 7 million children lack adult supervision, the officials said.

Flynn expressed surprise that few politicians seem to be taking seriously what the chiefs have advocated.

'Politicians like us standing behind them - with our mouths shut,' Flynn quipped during a media preview of the survey.

The survey, conducted by George Mason University in the Virginia suburbs in the aftermath of the massacre at Columbine High School, showed that nearly nine of 10 police chiefs believe expanding after-school programs and providing educational child-care programs such as Head Start would 'greatly reduce youth crime and violence.'

Asked what strategies are most effective in fighting juvenile crimes, nearly seven of 10 said more after-school programs and child-care programs. Seventeen percent said prosecuting juveniles as adults would help.

Thirteen percent said hiring more police to investigate juvenile crime would help, and only 1 percent favor installing metal detectors and surveillance cameras in schools.

Pay now or pay later

If the nation does not invest in such strategies, the chiefs said by a ratio of better than 9-to-1 that the nation will 'pay far more later in crime, welfare and other costs.'

Asked to rate various strategies for fighting crime, the chiefs once again gave the highest marks to after-school programs, which received a top rating from 57 percent of those responding to the survey.

Fifty-three percent said they rated highly programs that provide 'parent coaching for high-risk families.' Fourteen percent gave top ratings to prosecuting juveniles as adults, 7 percent to building more juvenile detention centers, and 4 percent to putting metal detectors in schools.

The survey was mailed in mid-October to 855 chiefs, 65 percent of whom responded. That gave the survey a margin of error of plus or minus 5 percentage points, the George Mason researchers said.

Clinton, who made adding new police officers a central theme of his anti-crime program, also has advocated increases in after-school programs, but Congress has rejected many of them, the **Fight Crime** group noted.

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids was organized with the financial support of a number of private foundations. It has actively lobbied for more funding for after-school programs and other community-based efforts that help identify troubled children before they have problems with the law.

Previous polls commissioned by the group showed that the public would overwhelmingly support giving up a tax rebate or paying more

taxes to provide better access to after-school programs and programs such as Head Start.

'get tough' on youth crime

GRAPHIC: The Denver Post Not all police chiefs 'get tough' on youth crime

LOAD-DATE: November 02, 1999

Search: Advanced Search;(Fight Crime w/2 Invest in Kids) or (prime tim w/2 juvenile crime)...

To narrow this search, please enter a word or phrase:

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Example: House of Representatives

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Posted at 11:23 p.m. EST Monday, November 1, 1999
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Police say care for kids is vital

After-school care prevents youth crime, chiefs believe

By LEIGH DYER

If it came to choosing between money to hire more officers and money to pay for expanded after-school and child-care programs, most of the nation's police chiefs would choose the programs for children, a new poll released Monday found.

In the poll results announced in Charlotte, 69 percent of 556 chiefs ranked after-school and child-care programs as the most effective strategy to reduce youth violence. That's over five times the number who ranked hiring more police officers as their top priority - just 13percent.

"We can't spend a dollar better than an investment in our children," said Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Chief Darrel Stephens, who conducted the news conference outside the Charlotte Convention Center.

The Washington-based nonprofit group "Fight Crime: Invest in Kids," released the poll during the convention of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

The crime-fighting group is now using the poll results to push Congress to increase funding for child care and after-school programs over the next five years. At a minimum, the group wants to see \$800 million in funding for childhood initiatives proposed by President Clinton restored to the federal budget, where it was trimmed by lawmakers earlier this year. Sandy Newman, Fight Crime's president, said the funding shouldn't stop there.

The Major Cities Police Chiefs association, the National Sheriff's Association and the Police Executive Research Forum have endorsed the call for increased funding. The N.C. Association of Police Chiefs has also endorsed the proposal, but the S.C. association has not taken a vote.

Mecklenburg District Attorney Peter Gilchrist noted that studies show juvenile crime triples in the hour after the school day ends. Other studies show students who don't attend after-school programs are six times more likely to be convicted of a crime during their high school years than those who do attend such programs, he said.

Dozens of other chiefs from around the country voiced their support Monday. "Investing in our young people and investing in families are much more cost-effective than the investment we make in building prisons," said Joseph Samuels, chief of police in Richmond, Calif.

After receiving federal funds throughout the 1990s to enlarge their police forces, many chiefs say they still wouldn't turn down the opportunity to hire more officers. But the poll shows many chiefs believe other priorities are more important, Fight Crime officials said.

The poll asked chiefs to select their top priority among four youth-violence prevention measures. In addition to the 69percent who chose after-school and child-care programs and the 13percent who chose hiring more officers, 17percent voted for prosecuting more juveniles as adults, and 1percent chose installing more metal detectors and surveillance cameras in schools.

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In a separate question, 91 percent of the poll respondents said they agreed that without more funding for after-school and child-care programs, "we will pay far more later in crime, welfare and other costs."

Professors from George Mason University conducted the survey from Oct. 14 to Oct. 27. They received 556 responses from 855 randomly selected municipal police chiefs. The margin of error was plus or minus 5 percentage points.

Monday's announcement was part of an ongoing discussion at the chief's convention about ways to reduce youth violence, particularly in schools. Hundreds of chiefs crowded into workshops Sunday and Monday to learn about the latest school violence prevention programs across the country. Many officials also discussed their retooled plans for responding to school crises in the wake of last April's school shootings in Littleton, Colo.

But Fight Crime's Newman said using metal detectors and other security measures to drive violence out of schools won't solve the problem of youth violence.

"In an average week, 40 kids are killed in America by violence. That's 150 Littletons a year," Newman said.

"We won't have accomplished much if we just move violence out of the schools and into communities."

Reach public safety reporter Leigh Dyer at (704) 358-5058 or ldyer@charlotte.com.

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As youth homicide arrests rise, police weigh in on prevention

Officers want more after-school programming

By Frank A. Aukofer
of the Journal Sentinel staff

Last Updated: Nov. 1, 1999

Washington - America's police chiefs overwhelmingly believe that the best strategy for reducing youth violence and crime is to provide more after-school and educational child care programs.

Only a few are convinced that more metal detectors and surveillance cameras in schools would help.

Those are the major conclusions of a new survey, released this morning at a convention of the International Association of Chiefs of Police in Charlotte, N.C.

By a whopping 69%, the chiefs endorsed after-school programs and educational child care. That far outstripped the second choice, prosecuting more juveniles as adults, which was chosen by just 17% of those responding to the survey.

Only 1% of the chiefs said they believed installing more metal detectors and surveillance cameras in schools was an effective strategy against youth violence and crime. A total of 13% endorsed hiring more police officers to investigate juvenile crime.

Responding to a question about after-school programs and early educational efforts like Head Start, 86% of the chiefs said expanding those programs would greatly reduce youth violence and crime.

Only 14% replied that such an expansion would have little impact.

The survey, conducted between Oct. 14 and Oct. 27, went to 855 randomly selected police departments around the country, large as well as small. The chiefs were asked to "guide elected officials" by selecting among the four main strategies.

A total of 556 chiefs responded, a rate of 65%.

The survey was conducted by two professors from George Mason University in Fairfax, Va. - Stephen D. Mastroski and Scott Keeter - and commissioned by Fight Crime: Invest In Kids, a bipartisan, non-profit organization of police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors and victims of violence.

Among the members of the organization's state and national advisory committee are Milwaukee County Sheriff Lev Baldwin and District Attorney Paul Bucher and Sheriff William Kruziki of Waukesha County.

At a briefing for reporters, the police chief of Arlington, Va., Edward A. Flynn, described the survey's results as counter-intuitive. He said most people likely assumed that police chiefs would be heavy on punishment, quick reaction to crimes and tough laws.

"If anything," he said, "the opposite is true."

Flynn, a member of the board of Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, said police departments all over the nation were moving toward the "known but seldom understood" concept of community policing, in which the police respond to problems in neighborhoods as defined by the residents.

But he said police chiefs sometimes did not publicly endorse such strategies as educational child care and after-school programs because they feared "it might brand them as liberals."

For that reason, Flynn said, all of the chiefs who were surveyed were guaranteed anonymity.

The public, he said, expects law officers to be "heavy on the enforcement side," although "there's a lot more

going on in the profession."

Flynn said the most dangerous criminal activity period was right after school. Juvenile crime triples after school and peaks at 3 p.m, he said. So, he said, it makes sense to counter peer group pressures by providing mentors and activities for young people in the 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. time period.

Preschool programs also are crucially important, he said, as are programs to help people develop parenting skills so they can cope with the problems involved in rearing children. Flynn pointed out that 75% of the calls to which police officers respond are social problems, especially domestic disputes.

"Kids are involved as victims and observers," he said.

Bucher, a member of the Fight Crime: Invest in Kids advisory committee, said the results of the survey did not surprise him.

Much of the public incorrectly thinks "just because we're law enforcement officers, the mentality is 'lock 'em up.'"

However, "police are more proactive," promoting such programs as school liaison officers and outreach activities, he said.

"At least in Waukesha and southeastern Wisconsin (the feeling is that) giving kids alternatives will go the longest way," Bucher said.

Another advisory committee member, Baldwin, called police chiefs realists.

"We know what we need to do," he said. "If they're going to be in a gang, they're going to be in our gang. If we get them on the front end, I won't have to worry about seeing them."

Baldwin gave the Safe & Sound initiative as an example of what the Milwaukee metropolitan area is doing to try to reduce juvenile crime and violence. The program is setting up "safe places" where tutoring and recreation are available after school, in evenings and on weekends.

Sanford A. Newman, president of Fight Crime: Invest In Kids, said studies showed that juveniles in after-school and preschool programs were far less likely to be involved in crimes, and far less likely to commit crimes later in life.

But he said schools were not meeting this need, and Congress and local governments were not providing enough money for such programs.

Eldon Knoche of the Journal Sentinel staff contributed to this report.

Appeared in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel on Nov. 2, 1999.

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NOVEMBER 01, 09:00 EST

Police Chiefs Back Child Care Plans

By CASSANDRA BURRELL
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Eighty-six percent of police chiefs participating in a survey believe the government could reduce youth crime by increasing after-school and child care programs, an advocacy group said today.

Nearly nine of 10 agreed that failing to do so will cost the nation more in the long run in crime, welfare and other expense, said Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, a group lobbying Congress to spend more on juvenile crime-prevention efforts.

“Congress’ failure to substantially increase funding for education child care and after-school programs is irresponsible and shortsighted,” said Edward A. Flynn, a member of the group’s board and police chief of Arlington County, Va.

“Congress doesn’t seem to be listening to law enforcement or the public.”

Flynn said the results of the survey may seem surprising.

“For some people, perhaps, it’s counterintuitive,” he said. “I suspect that most people who don’t know many police chiefs or don’t know a lot about what policing has been through in the last several years would assume that the police policy-makers would be heavy on punishment, heavy on reaction and heavy on sanctions.”

Survey results were being released at a meeting of the International Association of Chiefs of Police in Charlotte, N.C.

The survey was conducted from Oct. 14 to Oct. 27 by two George Mason University professors who received 556 responses from the 855 randomly selected municipal police chiefs who received faxes of a written questionnaire. The margin of error is plus or minus 5 percentage points.

The police chiefs were guaranteed anonymity, and survey participants did not know that Fight Crime had commissioned the study, professors Stephen Mastrofsky and Scott Keeter said.

The chiefs were asked to "guide elected officials" by ranking the effectiveness of four juvenile crime-fighting strategies.

"Sixty-nine percent gave the highest priority to providing more after-school programs and educational child care," the group reported. Seventeen percent chose "prosecute more juveniles as adults" their No. 1 strategy.

Thirteen percent gave "hire more police officers to investigate juvenile crime" their highest ranking, and 1 percent said "install more metal detectors and surveillance cameras in school."



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Police Chiefs Back After-School Programs

Increased Spending Urged for Juvenile Crime Prevention

Nov. 1, 1999

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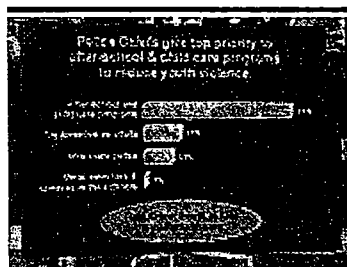
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Participants selected at random



Hoag Levins/APBnews.com
Chart of poll results

Ranked crime-fighting strategies

The chiefs were asked to "guide elected officials" by ranking the effectiveness of four juvenile crime-fighting



Hoag Levins/APBnews.com

Edward A. Flynn, chief of police of Arlington County, Va.

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strategies.

"Sixty-nine percent gave the highest priority to providing more after-school programs and educational child care," the group reported. Seventeen percent chose "prosecute more juveniles as adults" their No. 1 strategy.

Thirteen percent gave "hire more police officers to investigate juvenile crime" their highest ranking, and 1 percent said "install more metal detectors and surveillance cameras in school."

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David Broder's July 1996 column about FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS ran in more than 140 newspapers nationwide including: *The Washington Post*, *Atlanta Journal & Constitution*, *Houston Chronicle*, *Seattle Post Intelligencer*, *San Diego Union Tribune*, *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, *Oregonian*, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, and many others.

David Broder

Pseudo-tough talk about juvenile crime

WASHINGTON — It is a fascinating paradox of politics that the further removed an official is from the front lines of the war on crime, the tougher he talks.

That is particularly true of violence by juveniles, a problem that Americans rightly find alarming.

When Republican candidate Bob Dole talked about it in a radio address earlier this month, he promised to crack down on these "merciless criminals capable of committing the most vicious acts for the most trivial reasons: a pair of sneakers or a football jersey."

When President Clinton responded a few days later, he spoke in ominous tones of the fact that in the last two decades, "The number of homicides by teens who have guns has tripled."

BOTH SAID prosecutors should have much more leeway to try juveniles as adults.

"If a teen-ager commits a crime as an adult," Clinton said, "he should be prosecuted as an adult."

Before leaving the Senate, Dole introduced legislation to allow adult prosecution of people as young as 13 and the death penalty at 16.

But when a cross section of police chiefs was surveyed by Northeastern University's Center for Criminal Justice Policy on the effectiveness of four approaches to reducing crime and violence, the least favored option was the one candidates Dole and Clinton have endorsed — and many governors already have put into effect.

Only 14 percent of the 540 chiefs chose the policy of trying more juveniles as adults and sentencing more of them to adult prisons.

About the same number said hiring additional police officers would be the



What works is early work with kids.

best tool and a somewhat larger group said the priority should be making parents legally liable when their children commit crimes.

The overwhelming majority — three out of every four big city chiefs and three out of five in the overall sample — said the best way to reduce crime and violence is to increase investment in programs that help children and youths get a good start.

These findings were reported at a Washington press briefing last week by a new advocacy group calling itself "Fight Crime: Invest in Kids," run by an activist named Sanford Newman. Participants included police chiefs of Chicago and Buffalo, former chiefs of New York City, Detroit and Washington and the head of the largest police organization, the Fraternal Order of Police.

A cynic might argue that the chiefs — who are, after all, mostly appointees — have just found new rhetoric to support old programs that pump federal money into the cities.

But the cynical view will not withstand the sincerity of people like Gil Kerlikowske of Buffalo, who complained, "The preventive programs are getting lost because everyone (in politics) is trying to grow hair on his chest in this election year."

What he means is illustrated by the juvenile crime bill Dole introduced. It would allocate \$100 million a year for prevention programs run by communi-

ty-based groups, including religious organizations, and four times that amount for investigating, prosecuting and jailing juvenile offenders. The whole \$500 million would be paid for by cutting "social spending provisions" of the 1994 crime bill, including after-school and family counseling programs.

James Alan Fox, the Northeastern University center's director, presented studies from criminology literature showing that intensive early intervention can reduce the later delinquency and criminal behavior of at-risk youths by as much as 80 percent. In Lansing, Mich., when police, schools and social service agencies began youth programs in a new community center, the number of crimes in nearby neighborhoods was cut from 156 in 1990 to 40 in 1993.

I was skeptical about these case studies. But John J. Dilulio Jr., of Princeton, a scholar whose work is much admired by conservatives and who was not part of this group, told me, "The more scientific the study, the stronger the link and the more positive the results. We now can say with some confidence that programs that get responsible adults involved with at-risk kids can reduce later delinquency and crime."

THAT IS of enormous importance, because teen-agers have the highest arrest rate for violent offense and in the next decade, the number of teen-agers will explode. There are now 39 million children under age 10, the most since the 1950s.

Prosecuting teen criminals as adults may satisfy political pressures, but we better be serious about preventing their younger brothers from becoming criminals — or we are in big trouble.

Washington Post Writers Group

The Boston Globe

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1996

Studies prove it: The best way to fight crime is to invest in children

**ELLIOT L. RICHARDSON
and R. GIL KERLIKOWSKE**

All across America, candidates for federal, state and local office are talking about crime. But too few are focusing on our most effective weapons in the battle against crime — the proven investments that help children get the right start in life so they become contributing citizens instead of criminals.

Incarcerating dangerous criminals is a vital defense. But few battles are won with defensive tactics alone. Those of us who have been on the front lines as police, prosecutors and crime survivors know America must fight crime not just from the back but by investing in Head Start and parenting education, “keep up” programs to prevent overburdened schools and vulnerable students from falling behind, after-school, mentoring and job training programs and strategies to address delinquency and help troubled children get back on track.

Do these investments really reduce crime? Absolutely. For example:

- The High/Scope Foundation's Perry Preschool study in Ypsilanti, Mich., showed that when at-risk 3- and 4-year-olds were randomly assigned to receive child care similar to a Head Start program, together with a weekly home visit providing coaching for parents, the risk these children would grow up to become chronic lawbreakers was cut by a startling 80 percent.

- The Syracuse University Family Development Study showed that providing quality early-childhood programs to families until children reached age 5 reduces the children's risk of delinquency 10 years later by 90 percent.

- The Quantum Opportunities Program, conducted in Philadelphia, San Antonio, Milwaukee, Oklahoma City and Saginaw, has shown that a high school program of counseling, academic and life-skills support, community service and other incentives cut the risk of arrest during high school years by 50 percent.

Even when youths begin to get into trouble, we don't have to throw in the towel. The Salt Lake County Juvenile Court, for example, found that when it randomly assigned some delinquent children and their families to participate in family systems counseling, their risk, as well as their siblings' risk, of committing an offense was cut in half.

No wonder that in a recent survey by criminologist Jack McDavitt, nine out of 10 police chiefs said, “America could sharply reduce crime if government invested more” in these programs. Police chiefs know their first mission is responding to the public's calls by arresting

criminals and seizing drugs and guns from the street. But when asked which strategies would have the greatest long-term impact in reducing crime, police chiefs picked increasing investments in children by a 3-to-1 margin over trying more juveniles as adults or even hiring more police officers.

Can we afford to make these investments? Economist Steve Barnett estimates that the High/Scope preschool program saved nearly \$150,000 in crime costs alone per participant. Professor Mark Cohen of Vanderbilt University estimates that preventing one high-risk youth from becoming a criminal saves at least \$1.5 million. Yet these investments are so underfunded that they can reach only tiny fractions of those who need them.

That is why we recently joined with many other police leaders, prosecutors and crime survivors in launching the “Eight Crime: Invest in Kids Campaign” and in challenging candidates to tell the American people what they will do to increase the front-end investments proven to dramatically reduce crime.

Back-end, punishment-only approaches can't undo the agony crime leaves behind. As Marc Klaas explained, after his 12-year-old daughter's murderer was sentenced to death: “That won't bring Polly back. When politicians pretend that punishing criminals after people are hurt is a substitute for preventing crimes, the first people who get sentenced are crime victims and their families — sentenced to shattered lives and broken hearts.”

Ignoring prevention investments leaves us stuck on a treadmill, running faster and faster to put people in jail while kids are turned into criminals faster than we can lock them up. To make America safe, we need to be as willing to guarantee our kids space in Head Start or an after-school or job training program as we are to guarantee room and board in a prison cell for a criminal.

We'll win the war on crime when we're ready to invest time and dollars in our most vulnerable youths before they become our most wanted adults.

It's time Republicans and Democrats joined in a commitment to the investments in children. These programs are our strongest weapons in the fight against crime. Each of us should join Jean Lewis, president of the National Organization of Parents of Murdered Children, in taking this pledge: “When I cast my vote, I'll be asking which candidates are ready to fight crime not only from the back end after someone has been hurt, but also from the front end by investing in today's children — because anything else is too little, too late.”

Elliot L. Richardson served as US attorney general, secretary of commerce, secretary of defense and secretary of health, education and welfare. Buffalo Police Commissioner R. Gil Kerlikowske is president of the Police Executive Research Forum.

Study says youth crime peaks before 8 p.m.

Justice officials want Congress to spend more on after-school programs

Knight-Ridder Newspapers

WASHINGTON — Violent juvenile crime on school days occurs much more frequently between 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. than late at night, says a report released Wednesday.

With violent juvenile crime rising, the Justice Department is promoting the report to persuade the Republican-controlled Congress to spend more money on after-school youth programs. Several bills are pending and may be taken up this week.

"In the afternoons, we used to have sports, drama and music. We had violins, and now it's violence," said James Alan Fox, dean of Northeastern University's College of Criminal Justice in Boston and an author of the report. "We've closed down ball fields. We've closed down community centers. We have disinvested in childhood, and kids literally have too much time to kill."

The report also raises questions about the need for curfews, a popular crime-control measure. Although many civil rights groups and individuals challenge the constitutionality of curfews, about three-fourths of the nation's 200

biggest cities have them.

The report says that on school days, nearly half of violent juvenile crime — murders, rapes, robberies and aggravated assaults — occur from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. It found that just one-seventh occurs from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m., when curfews typically are in effect.

"What a curfew does is tell kids, 'You should not commit crimes when you are asleep,'" Mr. Fox said.

The report was released by Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, a youth-advocacy group made up of police chiefs, prosecutors and crime survivors.

The study, billed as the most comprehensive on the relation of crime by people under 18 and the time of day, details how crime tracks juveniles' movements.

Violent juvenile crime triples from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m., the hour immediately after school, compared with 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., when school is still in session. It dips around dinner time, rises slightly, then declines in the later evening as most parents want their children home for bed.

In contrast, Mr. Fox said, adult

crime rises all through the day and evening and peaks at 11 p.m.

The new report focuses on school days, when 57 percent of violent juvenile crime is committed. Mr. Fox said that juvenile crime on weekends and during the summer is also higher in the afternoon and evening than the morning or late night, but without the 3 p.m. peak.

"Prime time for juvenile crime," Mr. Fox said, is when parents are working and kids are hanging out on street corners with little to do.

The study's findings did not surprise Detroit Police Chief Isaiah McKinnon, whose city struggles with violent juvenile offenders.

Mr. McKinnon said most cities confront a "triple-edge sword," meaning they need to worry about kids during school hours, after school and late at night. He said police officers have to monitor truants who gather at "skip houses" where parents aren't home, as well as youths who are unsupervised after school.

He also said the report is evidence that curfews affect crime.

"Those communities that are enforcing curfews, where children

are being told to stay in their homes, that is why less crime is occurring," said Chief McKinnon, whose city has an 11 p.m. curfew.

Attorney General Janet Reno and leaders of the youth-advocacy group use these figures to criticize pending crime legislation.

Over the next few weeks, Congress will consider two measures that deal with juvenile crime. In one, President Clinton proposed \$63 million for after-school programs, but House and Senate legislators want to cut that.

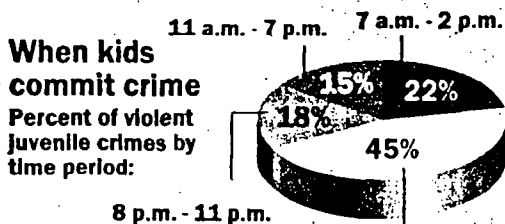
Another Senate bill would spend \$868 million over five years on juvenile justice. But a big chunk of that — \$500 million — would be a block grant in which after-school programs would compete with juvenile facilities, drug testing, juvenile records and truancy programs for a share of new funding.

"There is no doubt that prevention is important, but throwing more money at these programs is not necessarily the answer," Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., chairman of the Senate's youth crime subcommittee, said in a statement. "Before spending more money on prevention we need to first take a close look at the programs currently in place."

Distributed by Knight-Ridder Tribune News Wire

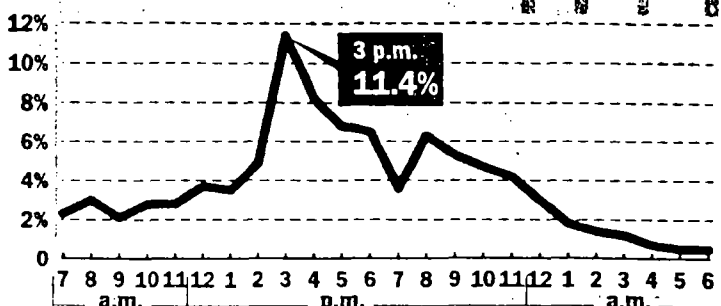
After school is crime time

A new study documents what time of day children under 18 commit violent crime on school days. Some highlights:



By the hour

Percent of violent juvenile crimes by hour:



This Knight Ridder story about FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS' joint press event with Attorney General Janet Reno appeared on September 11 and 12, 1997, the *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, the *Arkansas Democrat Gazette*, the *Denver Post* and many other newspapers totaling a circulation of over 3 million.

The Washington Post

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1998

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Police Officials Back Spending On Child Care

By Barbara Vobejda
Washington Post Staff Writer

After lobbying Congress to ban weapons and put more officers on the street, police officials from around the country have seized on what they say will be an even more powerful anti-crime weapon: child care.

Yesterday, more than 170 police chiefs, sheriffs and prosecutors called for the states and federal government to increase support for quality educational child care for preschoolers and after-school programs for older children.

They said after-school programs would keep children occupied in positive ways at a time of day when juvenile crime peaks. And they cited research indicating that children who have attended early education programs similar to Head Start are less likely to become delinquent offenders.

The group praised President Clinton's recent proposal to spend nearly \$22 billion over five years to improve child care and help low-income parents pay for it. If enacted, "it would be one of the most important steps Congress has taken to fight crime," said Sanford A. Newman, president of a Washington group that brought together the law enforcement officials, called Fight Crime: Invest in Kids.

Their lobbying support adds a new twist to the growing child-care debate, which could become a major legislative battle this year. Republican leaders have rejected the administration's plan as too expensive and many have said any child-care measure must provide help to stay-at-home parents as well as working parents.

Yesterday, the debate shifted again as the crime prevention argument triggered a new round of criticism.

"The whole idea that kids commit crimes simply because their parents aren't around is specious," said Darcy Olsen, a policy analyst at the libertarian Cato Institute. "Most people in the country have spent time without their parents at one time or another and not become criminal."

Brenda Hunter, a psychologist who appeared last week with the conservative Family Research Council in opposition to the president's plan, said "the research is being misinterpreted" by those advocating more child care.

"The research supports consistent, sensitive and responsive nurturing and mother is the best person to provide that," she said.

But law enforcement officials at yesterday's news conference urged that the child-care debate not pit working parents against stay-at-home parents.

Arlington County Police Chief Edward A. Flynn, one of the police officials appealing for more child-care funding, called it an "endless no-win debate over the philosophy of the family unit." The reality, he said, is that most parents work out of economic necessity.

The group referred to several studies, including one at the Perry Preschool program in Michigan, which is similar to Head Start, which found children who had been in the program were five times less likely to become chronic lawbreakers than a comparable group that had not attended the program.

One of the important ingredients of such programs, said Newman, was parent education, which helps reduce child abuse and neglect. That, in turn, helps reduce the likelihood those children will grow up to be lawbreakers.

Child care and after-school programs "are smart spending," Flynn said. "They can save us billions of tax dollars" that might otherwise be spent on imprisoning offenders and the other costs related to crime.

The group called for a bigger investment than Clinton's plan—more than \$130 billion over five years—to provide all families that need it good child care, after school care and help with parenting skills.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 1999

JUDY MANN

Invest in Kids Now, or Pay Later

In an average week, 40 children are killed in America by violence. Most of these killings—98 percent, in fact—take place outside of schools. We are paralyzed with shock at the killings in a Littleton, Colo., high school, but do the math and it shows the deaths among youngsters that don't make the headlines add up to more than 150 Littletons a year.

In the last few months, there's been the usual wringing over school violence and the requisite White House conference. But at summer's midpoint, when policies and programs affecting schools should be moving into place for fall's opening, there's scant evidence of significant changes. In fact, programs that could prevent youth violence are in considerable jeopardy in the Republican tax-cutting plans. In the end, Littleton has not had much of an impact.

What makes this more than a pity, what makes it really unforgivable, is that there are proven programs that curb violence and other dangerous behavior.

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids is an organization formed in 1996 with the bedrock philosophy memorably expressed by former Winston-Salem police chief George Sweat. As he put it: The fight against crime "needs to start in the highchair, not wait for the electric chair." What gives the message so much clout is that it comes from a group whose members include 500 police chiefs, sheriffs, district attorneys, violence prevention scholars, as well as parents who have lost children to violence. This is not the ivory tower liberal set. These are people who are on the bloody front lines.

They have put together a School and Youth Violence Prevention plan, which has been endorsed by many national and state law enforcement organizations. Minimizing access to guns is a given. But their plan also involves other aspects, including early intervention and prevention programs that spot troubled kids and make sure they get timely and effective help. Most young people who engage in violence show signs of problems in elementary school. Fight Crime: Invest in Kids cites studies that show that children who get professional help when they are young are 50 percent less likely to be delinquent later on.

They want all children to have access to good after-school programs. The importance of this can't be overstated: Violent juvenile crime triples in the hour after school ends, and after-school hours are peak hours for kids to become crime victims or to be involved with drugs, alcohol or sex. Being unsupervised after school doubles the risk that eighth-graders will smoke, drink or use drugs.

But there are programs that work against those influences. In a five-city study, half of a group of at-risk high school youngsters were assigned to participate in the Quantum Opportunities after-school program. The high school freshman boys randomly selected from welfare households were only one-sixth as likely to be convicted of a crime during the high school years as those not selected. All of the boys and girls

selected were one-fourth as likely to be convicted of a crime as those not chosen. The boys and girls who participated in the program were 50 percent more likely to graduate from high school on time.

The third part of the invest-in-kids plan would provide access to early childhood development programs for all families. This is the time when children learn to get along with others. Researchers at the High/Scope Educational Research Foundation enrolled half a group of low-income toddlers in quality child care. Twenty-two years later, those left out were five times as likely to have become chronic lawbreakers.

The fourth dimension calls for preventing child abuse through programs that coach parents on how to relate to their children, and through programs to help heal abused and neglected youngsters. Parenting programs for low-income, first-time mothers have cut abuse and neglect by 80 percent and halved the numbers of subsequent pregnancies.

Economist Steven Barnett found that the High/Scope Foundation's Perry Preschool program saved \$150,000 per participant in costs that would have been incurred had they become involved in crime.

When Professor Mark A. Cohen, of Vanderbilt University, studied chronic offenders, he estimated that each youngster saved from a life of chronic crime saves Americans between \$1.7 million and \$2.3 million in the cost of incarceration and in victim costs, such as pain and suffering and property loss.

These kinds of programs should be expanded as part of a crime-fighting initiative. Instead, they are going to be put on life support if the tax cut package approved by the House last week becomes law.

There is, as with all budget matters, some history. When Congress adopted the Balanced Budget Act in 1997 it required massive, across-the-board spending cuts, starting with small cuts in fiscal 1997 and 1998. Cuts of 11 percent to 14 percent are required this year, with more cuts over the next 10 years. The budget surplus we've been hearing so much about is dependent on these spending caps.

Sanford A. Newman, president of Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, says, "Key Republicans who head the appropriation process have already said they can't even come up with appropriations bills that stay within these caps, so it's been widely assumed they'd be lifted this year since cuts are no longer necessary to balance the budget. These bills would lock in massive budget cuts and likely produce a massive crime wave for decades to come."

These spending caps have gotten relatively little attention, but their implications for federal spending in all areas, including law enforcement and programs for children, are huge. Instead of investing in kids, we are headed straight down the road of investing in criminals. It's shortsighted and fiscally foolish. It makes even less sense if you allow yourself to think about the heartache and human tragedy of children lost to violence.

Making Kids Safer

When kids pull out their guns at school and open fire on classmates and teachers, it tends to get our attention. Which is why school safety has trumped academic quality as the top concern of parents whose children are returning to school this month.

Parents and school board members are clamoring for metal detectors, armed guards, see-through knapsacks, whatever it takes. Some of the wackos at the National Rifle Association want to arm teachers and administrators. Kids are being thrown out of school for trafficking in violent fantasies and — in the case of a second grader in Maryland — making a gun out of construction paper.

Please, a little perspective.

James Alan Fox, a professor of criminal justice at Northeastern University, reminds us that despite the tragedies in Littleton and Jonesboro, the public schools are just about the safest places available for children.

"If you look at the school shootings for last year and the year before, there were about four dozen homicides a year," he said. "When you consider that there are about 50 million schoolchildren, the chance that your child will get killed in school is literally one in a million."

His point was not that we should be unmoved by the four dozen homicides that occur annually at schools, but that we should be taking steps to cut down on the violence that threatens youngsters wherever they might be. And the most effective way to do that, according to Professor Fox and a sensible group in Washington called *Fight Crime: Invest in Kids*, is to look beyond the quick fixes (metal detectors and the like) to those difficult, long-term preventive efforts that can bring about wholesale reductions in the amount of youth crime and violence.

In addition to saving lives, you can enrich the environment of enormous numbers of children by investing in early childhood education programs like Head Start, by providing after-school programs that give children and teen-agers something valuable to do during the peak crime hours for juveniles (2 P.M. to 7 P.M.), and by offering parenting programs and other assistance to young mothers and fathers whose children are at high risk for getting into trouble.

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids is a group of 550 law enforcement officers and crime victims. Many of its members are fiscally conservative, but the group is committed to public

investment in crime prevention programs that have been shown to work.

"We have 40 kids being killed a week, 98 percent of them outside of schools," said the group's president, Sanford Newman. "We know how to dramatically reduce that violence."

After-school programs are among the easiest and most effective crime prevention efforts. As Professor Fox put it:

"Bring back the 'frills' in school — violins rather than violence. In the wake of various taxpayer revolts, many of the extracurricular options — band, chorus, drama, various sports, computer clubs, etc. — were eliminated in a return to the basics.

A challenge to quick school fixes.

This has made school increasingly distasteful and unpleasant for those kids who fail to excel in academics, but could feel good about their achievements in other areas."

Some school districts have restored after-school programs in recent years but have undermined their effectiveness by placing them off limits to the kids who need them most. In some cases youngsters who do not maintain a C average are barred from extracurricular activities. Or kids whose parents cannot provide transportation at the end of the extended school day are excluded.

"What we've done," said Professor Fox, "is made after-school programs a privilege for the good kids as opposed to a necessity for the marginal kids."

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids sponsored a poll in which 47 percent of respondents said their chief concern as kids headed back to school was the problem of crime and violence. Nineteen percent cited academic issues as their top concern.

Both Mr. Newman and Professor Fox said the concern over school violence presented an opportunity to generate support for programs that target violence in general.

"You can understand the anxiety over violence in the schools," said Professor Fox. "What we should do is build upon that anxiety to do some really meaningful things for children." □

The Washington Post

TUESDAY, AUGUST 31, 1999

Polls Urge Taxes to Fund Youth Crime Prevention

More Early Childhood, After-School Initiatives Sought by Law Enforcement Group

By SEWELL CHAN
Washington Post Staff Writer

Congress should use the budget surplus to expand Head Start and other early childhood development initiatives and after-school programs, a group of national and local law enforcement executives urged yesterday.

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, a nonprofit organization of 550 law enforcement officials and crime survivors, has written Congress asking for new funding for Head Start, day-care programs, parenting classes, family counseling and delinquency prevention efforts.

If Congress passes tax cuts instead of investing in children, "we'll be looking at a crime wave the likes of which we've never seen before,"

Sanford A. Newman, the organization's president, said at a news conference outside the District's Alice Deal Junior High School.

The group released the results of two polls conducted this summer that found that 74 percent of the respondents would be willing to pay more taxes or forgo a tax cut in order to provide greater access to after-school and early childhood development programs to combat youth violence. Each survey polled about 1,000 people.

Two-thirds of those polled said initiatives that deter youth violence are a greater national priority than cutting taxes; 81 percent said violence prevention programs are as important as efforts to punish or incarcerate young offenders.

Arlington Police Chief Edward

A. Flynn and D.C. Executive Assistant Police Chief Terrance W. Gainer endorsed the findings of both polls.

"We invest far too little in our kids," said Gainer, who was director of the Illinois State Police before coming to the District last year. He said his oldest son, an FBI agent, and his second-oldest son, a Cook County, Ill., prosecutor, are "now locking up the grandchildren" of people Gainer arrested as a rookie officer in Chicago.

"We need to do something about making sure our kids don't have run-ins with law enforcement," Gainer added, noting that preventive rather than reactive efforts are a key element in community policing. "Prevention is the only solution," he said.

The group's recommendations also have been endorsed by the Major Cities Chiefs and the Police Executive Research Forum, Newman said.

In the District, police have been working with school officials and security guards to document disputes among children, according to Assistant Chief Brian K. Jordan, who said, "Many of the incidents either carry over from school to the streets or from streets to the school."

Jordan said school safety coordinators met last week with conflict resolution experts and members of the police emergency response team to discuss how to prevent school violence and keep school buildings closed to people who don't belong there.

THE NATION'S NEWSPAPER

 **USA
TODAY**

NO. 1 IN THE USA . . . FIRST IN DAILY READERS

NATIONLINE

CONCERN FOR KIDS: Three out of four U.S. residents are willing to pay more taxes or pass up a tax cut to provide children with access to good early childhood development and after-school programs, according to a survey of 2,027 adults. The survey, done for Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, also found: 47% say violence and crime were the top concerns as students return to school, and 90% agree or strongly agree that crime could be reduced by investing more in preventive programs for kids.

Fight Crime: Invest in Kids is an organization of crime victims, police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors and other law enforcement leaders.

— Gary Fields

The Sacramento Bee

Anti-crime lobby urges school-violence programs

Americans willing to pay, group says

By Muriel Dobbin
Bee Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Armed with new polls showing Americans are alarmed about school violence, a crime-fighting lobby on Monday called on Congress to boost federal funding for programs that could "close the crime-prevention gap."

The group, called Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, said Americans overwhelmingly are willing to pay more taxes or give up a

tax cut to put money into prevention programs.

Sanford Newman, president of the organization that represents 500 police chiefs and victims of violence, released surveys indicating that the public's concern over school violence rivaled its anxiety about shoring up Social Security and Medicare.

He called on Congress to increase, by more than \$26 billion, funding for programs such as Head Start, which helps children in the early stages of schooling, and the 21st Century Community Learning Centers, which would provide after-school programs.

Polls taken this month for the group showed that 66 percent of adults thought that providing access to after-school and early childhood development programs was more important than receiving a tax cut.

Of those interviewed, 50 percent said they would be willing to pay more taxes to fund violence prevention projects, and 47 percent said they were more concerned about violence and crime in schools than in the cost or quality of education.

"Key solutions are linked to prevention," said Newman, who appealed to lawmakers to rescue programs so underfunded that they currently reach "a frac-

tion" of the kids who need them.

In a letter to President Clinton and congressional leaders, the anti-crime group warned that tax-cut proposals risked a new crime wave.

James Fox, professor of criminal justice at Northeastern University in Boston, cautioned against relying on "quick fixes" in schools, such as more metal detectors, security guards and locked doors.

But Fox criticized Clinton for launching a series of television ads depicting scared youngsters pleading with schoolmates to behave. He also complained about school decisions to put more guards in the halls,

a move he said would boost student anxiety.

Instead, Fox said, schools should restore extracurricular activities such as band, chorus, drama and sports, which in many cases were cut to save money. He also recommended decreased class size, and an early warning system designed to track troubled kids from early grades rather than seeking "just in time" signs of impending violence.

He also recommended alternative programs for students suspended for carrying weapons, noting that expulsion means putting potentially dangerous and unsupervised kids on the street.

Sacramento, CA

BEE

Sacramento
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AUG 31, 1999

LUCE PRESS CLIPPINGS P1416

"Early childhood and youth development programs can lead us to a stunning victory against violence. When these investments are proven to save lives and tax dollars, why shouldn't policy-makers provide the funding that will enable communities to get the job done?"

—former U.S. Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson

- Barnett estimates that the cost, including increased crime and welfare costs, of *failing* to provide at least two years of quality educational child care to low-income children is approximately \$100,000 per child. That's a total of about \$400 billion for all poor children now under age five.
- A recent study by Professor Mark A. Cohen of Vanderbilt University estimates that for each high-risk youth prevented from adopting a life of crime, the country would *save \$1.7 million*.
- A recent Rand Corporation report shows that, even without counting the savings to crime victims and society, the resulting *savings to government* alone from effective early childhood programs *exceeds by two to four times the cost of the programs*.

Law Enforcement United in Calling for Crime-Prevention Investments in Kids

Who says these four steps are among our most powerful weapons to fight crime?

- The hundreds of law enforcement leaders and crime victims who make up FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS.
- Over the last six months, virtually every major national law enforcement organization — including the Major Cities [Police] Chiefs' Organization, the Police Executive Research Forum, the National Sheriffs' Association, and the National District Attorneys' Association — have adopted forceful calls for boosting critical crime prevention investments like these.
- In a Northeastern University poll, 92 percent of police chiefs nationwide agreed that "America could sharply reduce crime if government invested more in programs to help children and youth get a good start" by "fully funding Head Start for infants and toddlers, preventing child abuse, providing parenting training for high-risk families, improving schools and providing after-school programs and mentoring." Nine out of ten chiefs also agreed that "if America doesn't pay for greater investments in programs to help children and youth now, we will all pay far more later in crime, welfare, and other costs."

"Police leaders know America's commitment to putting criminals in jail must be matched by its commitment to keeping kids from becoming criminals in the first place."

— Los Angeles (CA) Chief of Police Bernard Parks

For citations of studies referred to above, visit www.fightcrime.org



Launched in 1996, FIGHT CRIME is led by hundreds of America's leading police chiefs, prosecutors, sheriffs, crime victims, and leaders of police officer organizations. Major funding for its operations is provided by:

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*Indicates that funding is for research dissemination.



FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS

President
Sanford A. Newman

Associate Directors
Amy R. Dawson
Brendan J. Fitzsimons

Research Director
William C. Christeson

From America's Front Line Against Crime: A School and Youth Violence Prevention Plan

AS AN ORGANIZATION OF HUNDREDS OF POLICE CHIEFS, SHERIFFS, PROSECUTORS, CRIME SURVIVORS AND LEADERS OF POLICE OFFICER ORGANIZATIONS, we are determined to see that dangerous criminals are put behind bars. But anyone who thinks that jailing a criminal undoes the agony crime leaves in its wake hasn't seen crime up close.

America's anti-crime arsenal contains no weapons more powerful than the proven programs that help kids get the right start — like quality educational child care, youth development programs for the after-school and summer hours, child abuse prevention, and intervention programs proven to help get troubled kids back on track.

Yet today, inadequate funding for Head Start, educational child care, after-school youth development programs and counseling for troubled kids leaves millions of children at needless risk of becoming violent or delinquent teens and adult criminals — and leaves every American at needless risk of becoming a victim.

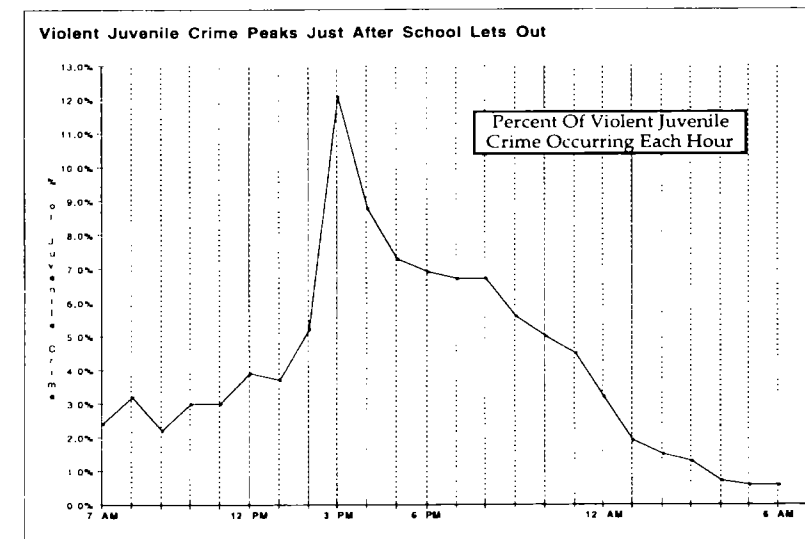
We call on all public officials to adopt a four-part plan to dramatically reduce crime and violence and adult crime, and help young people learn the skills and values they need to become good neighbors and responsible adults. While no plan can prevent every violent act, this common-sense plan — based on our experience and the latest research about what really works to fight crime — can make all of us safer.

Four Steps to Dramatically Reduce School and Youth Violence

1. Assure all school-age children and teens access to after-school, weekend and summer youth development programs to shut down the "Prime Time for Juvenile Crime."

In the hour after the school bell rings, turning millions of children and teens out on the street with neither constructive activities nor adult supervision, violent juvenile crime suddenly *triples* and prime time for juvenile crime begins. On school days, the peak hours for such crime are from

3:00 PM to 6:00 PM. These are also the hours when kids are most likely to become victims of crime. They are the peak hours for teen sex, and being unsupervised after school doubles the risk that 8th-graders will smoke, drink alcohol or use drugs.



Quality youth development programs can cut crime immediately and transform this Prime Time for Juvenile Crime into hours of academic enrichment, wholesome fun and community service. They protect both kids and adults from becoming victims of crime, and cut teen pregnancy, smoking, and drug use, while they help

"When the peak hours of violent juvenile crime are between the end of school and 8:00 P.M., it's just common sense to provide the after-school programs that give kids the values and skills they need to say 'no' to crime and violence."

— Sheriff Patrick Sullivan (R-Arapahoe County, CO)

youngsters develop the values and skills they need to become contributing citizens. For example:

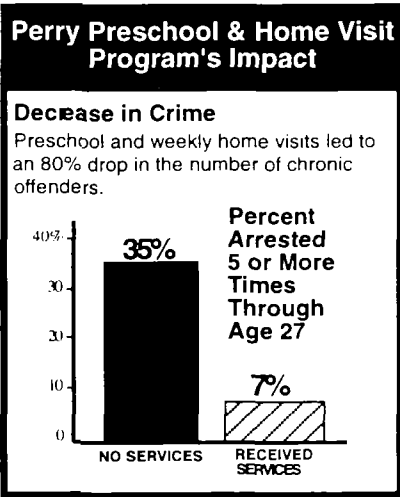
- When a public housing project intensively recruited youths to join in a new after-school program, *arrests among its teen residents plummeted to one-fourth of their previous level*, while those among the teens who lived in a nearby comparison project were actually going up by two-thirds.
- High school freshmen boys randomly selected from welfare households to participate in the Quantum Opportunities after-school program were *only one-sixth as likely to be convicted of a crime* during the high school years as those not selected. Together, the boys and girls who participated in the program were *50% more likely to graduate high school on time*.
- Young people who received a Big Brothers/Big Sisters mentor were *half as likely to begin illegal drug use or to hit someone* as applicants randomly assigned to a waiting list.

In short, failing to provide programs like these can multiply by as much as four times your family's risk that at-risk kids will become delinquent.

2. Assure all babies and preschool children access to the quality educational child care programs proven to cut crime.

Rigorous studies, hard experience, and brain pictures from modern medical equipment tell the same story: In the first few years of life, children's intellects and emotions, and even their ability to feel concern for others — a prerequisite to "conscience" — are being permanently shaped. When parents are at work trying to make ends meet, programs providing nurturing, stimulating, educational child care for babies and toddlers can not only prepare children to succeed in school but also dramatically reduce crime. For example:

"America's fight against violence must begin in the high chair, not the electric chair. Anything less leaves America's police fighting with one hand tied behind our backs."
— George Sweat, Director, Office of Juvenile Justice (North Carolina):
former Chief of Police, Winston-Salem (NC)



- In Ypsilanti, Michigan, low-income three- and four-year-olds randomly assigned to be in the High/Scope Educational Research Foundation's preschool program were *only one-fifth as likely* to have become chronic lawbreakers at age 27, compared to similar children who did without this educational child care.
- In Syracuse, at-risk infants and toddlers enrolled in a quality child development program, with parenting support for their mothers, were *only one-tenth as likely* as similar children to be delinquent ten years later.

In other words, failing to make sure that at-risk kids have access to quality child care and development programs like these can multiply by five to ten times the risk that they will grow up to lead a life of crime. When millions of struggling parents are forced to leave their children in inadequate child care, we all pay a terrible price.

3. Help schools identify troubled and disruptive children at an early age, and provide children and their parents with the counseling and training that can help kids get back on track.

When elementary school children display disruptive behavior, it is a warning signal that it is time to start looking for the causes of the problem, and to provide the proven social skills training, counseling, and other help for the children and their families that can lead them back to a healthier path. For example:

- A Montreal study showed that providing disruptive first- and second-grade boys with services like these *cut in half* the odds that they would later be in special classes, rated highly disruptive by a teacher or by peers, or have been required to repeat a grade in school — all signs that the risk of future violence has been sharply reduced.
- Five years after randomly selected disruptive, low-achieving seventh-grade students completed a three-year program involving behavioral therapy and rewards, they were only one-third as likely to have a juvenile record as those who did not receive these services.

4. Improve deficient parenting and prevent child abuse and neglect by: a) Offering high-risk parents in-home parenting-coaching; and b) making sure child protective, foster care and adoption services have policies and enough well-trained staff to protect and heal abused and neglected children.

Being abused or neglected multiplies the risk that a child will grow up to be violent. Almost three million children are reported abused or neglected each year. Child protective and foster care services in most states lack adequate staff, and often the training or policy support, to protect children and to see that those who have been maltreated get the nurturing care and treatment needed to help them heal. We must also act *before* abuse takes place to expand parenting-coaching and family support programs that prevent children from being abused and neglected, prevent subsequent delinquency, and improve other outcomes for children. For example:

- The Prenatal and Early Infancy Project randomly assigned half of a group of at-risk mothers to receive visits by specially trained nurses who provide coaching in parenting skills and other advice and support. Rigorous studies show the program not only *reduced child abuse by 80%* in the first two years, but that fifteen years after the services ended, *these mothers had only one-third as many arrests, and their children were only half as likely to be delinquent*.

The Bottom Line: Investing in Kids Saves Lives and Money

When America fails to invest in its children and youth, we pay far more later — not just in lives and fear, but also in tax dollars. The federal treasury will actually have *more* money to dedicate to other uses a few years from now — whether for social security, paying off the accumulated national debt, or tax cuts — if we invest *today* in programs to help kids get the right start. For example:

- Economist Steven Barnett found that the High/Scope Foundation's Perry Preschool study *saved \$150,000 per participant in crime costs alone*. Even after subtracting the interest that could have been earned by investing the program's funding in financial markets, the project produced a *net savings of \$7.16* — including more than six dollars in crime savings — for every dollar invested.

"We could be saving thousands of lives — and sparing thousands of families unimaginable heartbreak — by investing up front in the proven early childhood care and youth development programs that can turn kids away from crime."
— Jean Lewis, President, National Organization of Parents of Murdered Children

Study Finds Major Benefits From Quality Child Care

■ **Preschool:** Intensive program's effects lasted into adulthood, long-term survey of underprivileged children shows.

By THOMAS H. MAUGH II
TIMES MEDICAL WRITER

Quality child care for underprivileged preschoolers produces benefits that persist well into adulthood, according to a new study released Thursday.

Twenty years after their enrollment in an intensive day-care program at the University of North Carolina, young black adults from poor families were twice as likely to still be in school as children in conventional care programs or who stayed at home with a parent. They also scored significantly higher on reading and math achievement tests, were more likely to have a job and had their first children later in life.

The year-round child care program—more personalized than Head Start programs and beginning earlier in life—clearly demonstrates that early childhood education can make a critical difference in the later success of poor children, said university psychologist Frances Campbell, who headed the assessment.

The findings imply "that they will be able to obtain good jobs, support their families, have much brighter futures," she said. The extra cost of such care, she added, "is well worth the investment."

"I don't know that people appreciate how important this finding is," said developmental psychologist Steve Barnett of Rutgers University. The only similar study that is longer running is the Perry Preschool project in Ypsilanti, Mich., that was started in 1963, he said.

Long-term results from that study, which worked with 3- and 4-year-olds, found similar improvements in academic achievements, employment and other outcomes among poor children. But the North Carolina study released today shows that if you start educating the children earlier, "you get bigger results," Barnett said.

The findings also agree well with studies in animals by researchers such as Bill Greenough of the University of Illinois, who have found that exposing newborn and infant animals to a rich and complex environment stimulates the growth of brain cells. In contrast, young animals raised in a barren environment have less gray matter.

"Learning begins in infancy," Campbell said. "Education should too."

The study results will provide policymakers with a potent ethical question, said psychologist Craig Ramey, who initiated the North Carolina project and is now at the University of Alabama. How, he asked in a press conference, can bureaucrats justify not providing good child care to at-risk children now that the benefits have been proven?

Ramey and his colleagues began the project in 1972 at the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Center at the University of North Carolina. They enrolled 111 infants from low-income families within commuting distance of the center, 98% of them from African American families. The team randomly assigned 57 of the infants to high-quality child care at the center, while the rest had a variety of child-care arrangements, ranging from being at home with the mother to attending full-time child care centers.

The Abecedarian Project—named for the first three letters of the alphabet—differed from other child care studies by enrolling the infants as early as 6 months and by having them come all day, year-round. The project also had a high adult-to-child ratio—1 to 3 for the infants, 1 to 7 for older children—and specially designed play programs that incorporated subtle teaching techniques to encourage social, emotional and cognitive development.

The protocol has been described previously in research articles and a book, "Learning Games for the First Three Years," and has been adopted by many day-care centers. Some Head Start programs have begun enrolling children at an earlier age as a result of reports from earlier phases of the study.

Of the 111 original subjects in the Abecedarian Project, 104 participated in the most recent follow-up. Please see **PRE-SCHOOL**, A13



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LORENA INIGUEZ / Los Angeles Times

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By H.J. Cummins
MINNEAPOLIS FILE DESK THRU LINE

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The Washington Times
TUESDAY, AUGUST 17, 1999

Study Finds Major Benefits From Quality Child Care

■ **Preschool:** Intensive program's effects lasted into adulthood, long-term survey of underprivileged children shows.

By THOMAS H. MAUGH II
TIMES MEDICAL WRITER

Quality child care for underprivileged preschoolers produces benefits that persist well into adulthood, according to a new study released Thursday.

Twenty years after their enrollment in an intensive day-care program at the University of North Carolina, young black adults from poor families were twice as likely to still be in school as children in conventional care programs or who stayed at home with a parent. They also scored significantly higher on reading and math achievement tests, were more likely to have a job and had their first children later in life.

The year-round child care program—more personalized than Head Start programs and beginning earlier in life—clearly demonstrates that early childhood education can make a critical difference in the later success of poor children, said university psychologist Frances Campbell, who headed the assessment.

The findings imply "that they will be able to obtain good jobs, support their families, have much brighter futures," she said. The extra cost of such care, she added, "is well worth the investment."

"I don't know that people appreciate how important this finding is," said developmental psychologist Steve Barnett of Rutgers University. The only similar study that is longer running is the Perry Preschool project in Ypsilanti, Mich., that was started in 1963, he said.

Long-term results from that study, which worked with 3- and 4-year-olds, found similar improvements in academic achievements, employment and other outcomes among poor children. But the North Carolina study released today shows that if you start educating the children earlier, "you get bigger results," Barnett said.

The findings also agree well with studies in animals by researchers such as Bill Greenough of the University of Illinois, who have found that exposing newborn and infant animals to a rich and complex environment stimulates the growth of brain cells. In contrast, young animals raised in a barren environment have less gray matter.

"Learning begins in infancy," Campbell said. "Education should too."

The study results will provide policymakers with a potent ethical question, said psychologist Craig Ramey, who initiated the North Carolina project and is now at the University of Alabama. How, he asked in a press conference, can bureaucrats justify not providing good child care to at-risk children now that the benefits have been proven?

Ramey and his colleagues began the project in 1972 at the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Center at the University of North Carolina. They enrolled 111 infants from low-income families within commuting distance of the center, 98% of them from African American families. The team randomly assigned 57 of the infants to high-quality child care at the center, while the rest had a variety of child-care arrangements, ranging from being at home with the mother to attending full-time child care centers.

The Abecedarian Project—named for the first three letters of the alphabet—differed from other child care studies by enrolling the infants as early as 6 months and by having them come all day, year-round. The project also had a high adult-to-child ratio—1 to 3 for the infants, 1 to 7 for older children—and specially designed play programs that incorporated subtle teaching techniques to encourage social, emotional and cognitive development.

The protocol has been described previously in research articles and a book, "Learning Games for the First Three Years," and has been adopted by many day-care centers. Some Head Start programs have begun enrolling children at an earlier age as a result of reports from earlier phases of the study.

Of the 111 original subjects in the Abecedarian Project, 104 participated in the most recent follow-up.

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