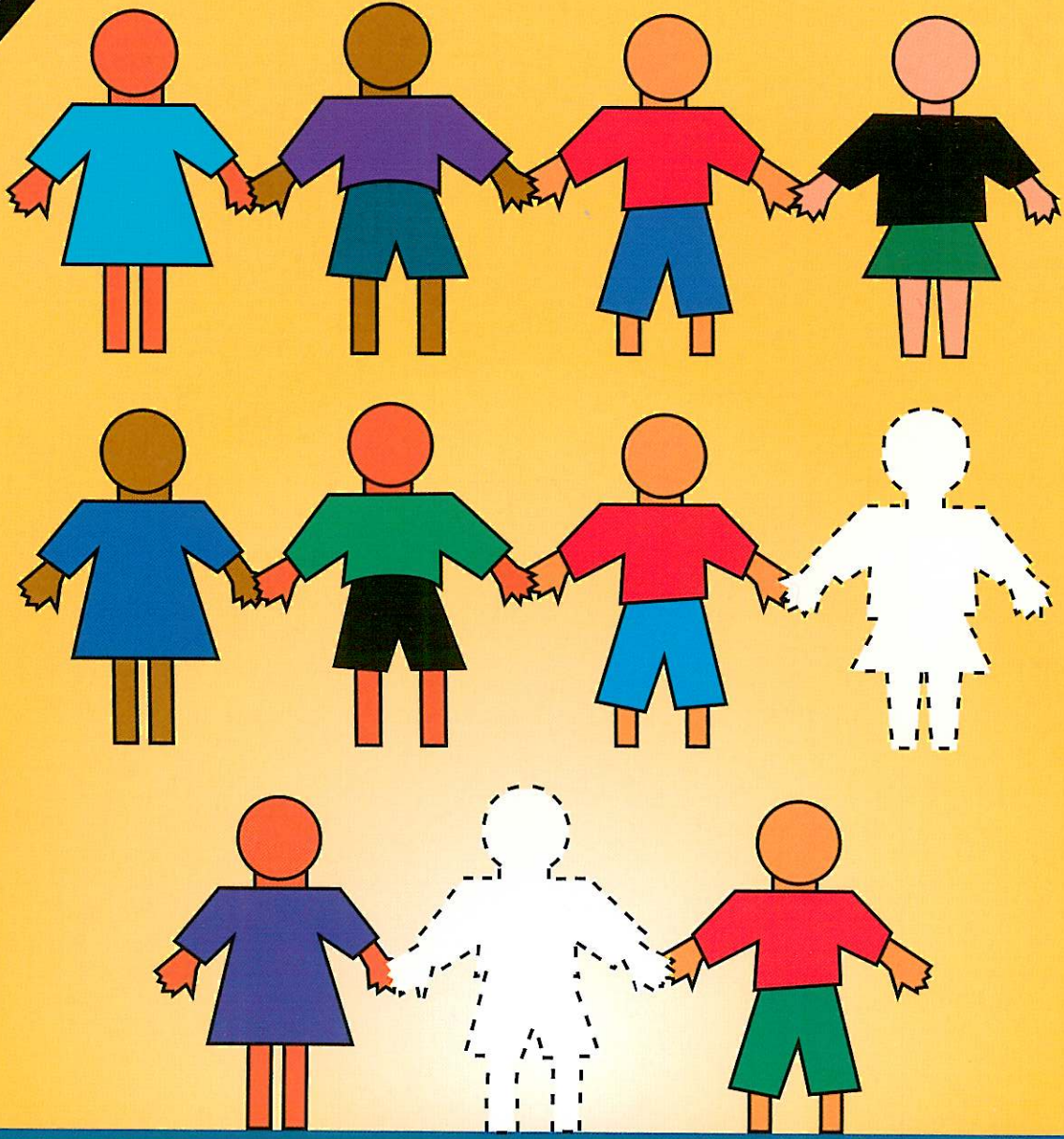




NOT ONE MORE!



Making Children, Families,  
and Communities  
**Safer**  
From Violence

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The National Crime Prevention Council is a private, nonprofit, tax-exempt organization whose principal mission is to enable people to prevent crime and build safer, more caring communities. NCPC manages the McGruff "Take A Bite Out Of Crime" public service advertising campaign and other aspects of the National Citizens' Crime Prevention Campaign including publications, training, and technical assistance. NCPC is the secretariat for the Crime Prevention Coalition, more than 130 national, federal, and state organizations committed to preventing crime. The National Citizens' Crime Prevention Campaign is substantially funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.

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# It's time to stop the violence . . .



What is killing our children and our communities. It's time to help each other build neighborhoods where each of us—kids, teens, adults—can feel safe and secure from crime. A tough task? Yes, but it's a challenge that each of us can do something about. We can reclaim our communities—child by child, family by family, neighborhood by neighborhood. This booklet explains some of the many ways you can help. You can do a lot in your home, in your neighborhood, and throughout your community.

Why accept this challenge? Because every child deserves a safe and healthy childhood. Because no community can afford the costs of violence. Because a healthier, safer community benefits each of us. Because failing to act costs lives and resources. Because our children should not have to raise their children amid violence. Because if we don't stop it, no one will.

## It's everyone's business



Violence holds victims, families, friends, and neighborhoods hostage. It rips communities apart or prevents them from coming together. Violence takes many forms. Assaults, rapes, robberies, and homicides are directly violent, but crimes like burglary are often cloaked in violence and cause sometimes-paralyzing fear.

Violence is not just about attacks by strangers. In about half the rapes in this country, the rapist knew the victim. In more than half the murders, the murderer and victim knew each other. Assaults are more likely between people who know each other than between strangers. Domestic violence wrenches apart millions of families each year. Child abuse, overwhelmingly involving someone close to the child, hurts more than a million children a year. Only robberies more commonly involve strangers than acquaintances.

Weapons are part of the problem. They make violence more deadly and less personal. Nine out of ten murders involve a weapon; eight of ten involve a firearm. Most robberies involve the use of a weapon, most frequently a gun. One in five children has reported taking a weapon of some kind to school, most often for self-protection against others whom they believe have weapons.



## What you can do



ork with your family, in your neighborhood, and in your community. Pick a place to start where you are comfortable.

Recognize that violence has many causes. Some are immediate—a specific argument, easy availability of a weapon, a situation in which an aggressor thinks violence will bring quick rewards, an anger that sees no other outlet. Some are less direct—for example, a community tolerance of high violence levels, reinforced by news and entertainment media. Some are individual—inability to see another way to settle disagreements, for instance. Some involve situations—such as peer pressure that measures or boosts self-esteem through violence.

No one needs to confront all these aspects of violence at once. The point is, there's something *everyone* can do.

The residents of Seattle, Washington, led by their mayor, have launched a citywide campaign against violence. One key element is Partners Against Youth Violence—a coalition of more than two dozen agencies and organizations seeking “to prevent youth gun violence by educating the community, specifically young people and their parents, about the consequences of youth gun possession and related gun violence.” Partners include a major local hospital, crisis

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### One city tackles youth, firearms, and violence

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clinics, school administrators, several civic and professional groups, the prosecutor's office, the City Council, the state medical association, and the police department's crime prevention, youth, D.A.R.E., and school safety units.

Buttressed by local statistics on youth homicides and gun-related injuries, the program points out that almost four of ten unnatural deaths among youth are from gunshot wounds, and that gunfire is the second-leading cause of death for area youth. The “Options, Choices, and Consequences” program has been developed using local statistics, local laws, and local experts to teach

adults and teens the legal and medical consequences of illegal firearms possession and use. Several partner organizations are training community volunteers to conduct these programs.

The Police Department has agreed to strengthen investigation and prosecution of those suspected of selling guns illegally to youth; to investigate and help prosecute youth who illegally possess handguns; to support the youth and adult education programs; to build parent and community awareness of youth violence; and to dedicate extra prevention and enforcement efforts in parts of the city where levels of youth gun violence are high.

Washington State University has researched the violence issue on behalf of the partners and identified interventions and alternatives to violence that have proved effective elsewhere. Its findings supported the partners' approach of using multiple strategies—including school-based curriculum, outreach to parents, a media campaign, and firearms regulation and enforcement—with hard evidence.

By investing time in recruiting partner organizations, identifying local conditions and needs, researching effective approaches, and designing activities that invest partners and enlist even more members of the community—younger and older—Seattle has launched a thoughtful, tailored, flexible initiative to address a difficult problem.

## Helping self and family



aking self and family safer from violence is, for most of us, the highest priority. Work with your own children, with other kids you care about, and with teens and adults you care about to reduce the risk that you or someone you love will fall victim to violence.

- Think long and hard about having weapons, especially firearms, in your home. Studies show that a firearm in the home is more than forty times as likely to hurt or kill a family member as to stop a crime. A gun in the home increases the likelihood of homicide three times and the likelihood of suicide five times. More than a quarter of a million firearms are stolen—and possibly used in other crimes—every year.
- If you do keep a firearm in your home,
  - ▶ Ensure that you are trained and that everyone else—adult and child—is fully trained in firearms safety. Refresh that training at least once a year.
  - ▶ Make certain that the weapon is safely stored—unloaded, trigger-locked, and in a locked gun case or pistol box, with ammunition separately locked and with different keys for all locks. Store keys out of reach of children, in locations away from weapons and ammunition.
  - ▶ Check frequently to make sure that storage is secure. Follow all federal, state, and local laws about storage, registration, carrying, and use.

*No one wants to see children victimized by violence. No one wants to see kids hurt others. Talking with your kids can be a powerful anti-violence weapon, especially when combined with your actions as a positive role model.*

*Make it clear that you do not approve of violence as a way to handle anger or solve problems. Do your best to match your actions to your words.*

*Start early. Even very young children can learn not to hit, kick, or bite. Discipline without threatening violence. “Time outs;”*

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### Talking with children about violence

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*removal of privileges, restrictions, and similar penalties are successful, violence-free strategies that many parents have used, even with preschoolers.*

*Use the world around you. As children get older, help them learn to think about the real consequences of violent events and entertainment. Ask how else a conflict might have been settled, what the angry person might have done instead, what unseen or unspoken consequences violence might have.*

*Listen carefully, openly, and constructively. Letting children lay out their thoughts about violence helps them learn how to think through this and other issues.*

*Sometimes it's difficult for adults to know how to react when children approach them about a real or possible danger. You may be a neighbor, an aunt or uncle, or a grown-up who happens to be nearby. Suddenly a child comes to tell you something's wrong. How can you handle it helpfully?*

**Listen carefully.** *The child may be excited, nervous, or scared. Repeat what you've heard to make sure you understand clearly. Kneel down if necessary to communicate at the child's height.*

**Take it seriously.** *Children don't casually ask for help out of the blue. Even if it's not*

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## Honoring children's trust

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*a serious problem to you, it probably is from the child's view.*

**Act promptly.** *If the child has found a weapon or a possible weapon or describes some other immediate danger, go to the scene at once, if you're not putting yourself at risk.*

**Get help if necessary.** *Call police if you find a weapon, even if it might be a toy. Call other professionals (such as fire department, child protection services, public works department) if the situation warrants. If it turns out to be a "false alarm," reassure the child that telling a grown-up was a smart thing to do.*

- Make sure that your children know what to do if they ever find a firearm or something that might be a weapon—stop, don't touch, get away, and tell a trusted adult. The mini-poster on page 17 can help you teach these simple steps. Help children practice what to do. Remind them and review the lessons occasionally.
- Teach your children ways to handle conflicts and problems without using force. Act as a role model for them. Handle disagreements with other adults, including those close to you, in nonviolent ways. You can learn more by checking with your library, a school counselor, the pediatrician, mental health association, or neighborhood dispute resolution center.
- Discourage name-calling and teasing. These can easily get out of hand, moving all too quickly from "just words" to fists, knives, and even firearms. Teach children that bullying is wrong; help them learn to say "no" to bullies and to get adult help with the situation if need be. Remember that words can hurt as much as a fist.
- Take a hard look at what you, your family, and your friends watch and listen to for entertainment—from action movies to cop shows, from soap operas to situation comedies, from video games to music lyrics. What values are they teaching? Do they make violence appear exciting, humorous, or glamorous? How do characters solve problems? Are the real-life consequences of violence clear? Watch TV with your children; talk about how violence is handled in shows and what each of you did and didn't like. Set clear limits on viewing and provide active, positive alternatives for free time.



- Teach children basic strategies for personal safety to prevent violence and reduce their risk of victimization.
  - ▶ Help them learn and practice common courtesies. “Please,” “thank you,” “excuse me,” and “I’m sorry” help ease tensions that can lead to violence.
  - ▶ Emphasize the importance of being drug free. Research shows use of alcohol and other drugs is closely linked with violence, including the use of guns and other weapons.
  - ▶ Encourage children to stick with friends who steer clear of violence and drugs. Make your home a comfortable place for these kids to gather; help them find positive, enjoyable things to do.
  - ▶ Remind children of simple self-protection rules— not to go anywhere with someone they (and you) don’t know and trust; how and when to respond to phone calls and visitors if you are unavailable, how to deal with adults (or other children) who approach or touch them inappropriately, what are safe routes to favorite neighborhood destinations.
  - ▶ Rehearse what to do in urgent situations, like finding a weapon or being approached inappropriately by a stranger or seeing something wrong happen.
- Help your children to both learn and practice ways to keep arguments from becoming violent. On page 18, McGruff and Scruff show how kids can “chill it out, talk it out, walk away, or get help from a grown-up” for starters. Act out scenes with your children so you can both practice ways to settle disagreements without violence.

*It started in a Minneapolis suburb. Two people wondered what it would be like if, for one day, everyone would just refuse to be entertained by violence. No violent music, no violent movies or videos or TV shows or computer games. The idea grew quickly. Within a year, Turn Off the Violence Day had spread throughout the metropolitan area. Schools, police departments, mental and public health agencies, religious groups,*

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## Turn off the violence

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*and businesses joined in. Within three years, it had gained national attention and communities around the country picked up on the theme. No censorship is involved. Each individual decides what he or she should avoid. What emerges is thoughtful discussion of how violent messages can shape our thinking and a new awareness of the way violent ideas can creep into our daily lives.*

*Young people in Oakland and Los Angeles, California, realized that they could be a powerful force to educate their peers about the costs of gun violence, ways to prevent it, and how to spread the word that gun violence is not cool. Teens on Target, all of whose members have been touched by firearms violence, train others their age and younger in preventing firearms violence, work on promoting positive alternatives and opportunities, and educate adults in the community about what they believe is*

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## Teens target gun violence

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*required to reduce firearms deaths and injuries. "Our solution," one youth explained, "is to give opportunities to young people so they won't even want to use guns." Speaking from personal experience, these teens bring zeal and commitment to their task and credibility to their messages. They reach and teach thousands of youth and adults annually. The program gets support from a statewide anti-violence agency, YOUTH ALIVE!*

- Use news reports and other everyday examples to help older children learn how violence affects the community and their own lives. Let them know that teens are more frequently victimized by crimes—both violent crimes and property crimes—than any other age group. Help them think about the costs of crime and the benefits of prevention.
- Encourage young people to tackle the problem. Urge them to find out:
  - ▶ how they can learn simple strategies to prevent crime against themselves and their friends;
  - ▶ how groups can settle disagreements without using fists or weapons; and
  - ▶ what drug-free, alcohol-free positive activities are available for teens and how these can be improved to attract even more young people.

## Building a safer neighborhood



we and our families cannot be safe if our neighborhoods are riddled with violence. Research shows that there's less crime where communities are working together. Help your neighborhood become—or stay—healthy.

- Get to know your neighbors. You can't do it alone.
- Start, join, or reactivate a Neighborhood Watch or Block Watch. Include discussions of ways neighbors can watch out for situations that might involve children in or threaten them with violence. Consider starting a formal block parent program such as McGruff House so that children will have reliable, recognizable places to go in the neighborhood if they feel threatened, bullied, or scared.
- Talk with other adults in the neighborhood about how fights among children should be handled. Who should step in? How? Under what conditions? Make sure children in the neighborhood know that adults are prepared to help stop any form of violence.
- Share information on basic child protection from this booklet or other good sources. Help each other learn about signs of drug abuse and gangs, along with where to go for help in your community to address these problems.
- Agree on what a “trusted adult” will do for children in the neighborhood in case of troubling situations—being threatened, finding a gun or drugs, being approached by a stranger.
- Get to know and encourage the kids in your neighborhood. Many young people say that carrying weapons gives them a sense of power—a sense you can help them get in far more positive ways.

*Many communities have information and referral services that keep extensive records of the government and nongovernment groups that can help address neighborhood issues. These are usually listed in the telephone directory. United Way and similar groups sometimes operate referral services. Local taxpayer and civic associations can often provide information. It's smart to find out*

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### Getting help for problems

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*in advance who can help with such issues as abandoned cars, dangerous intersections, broken or inadequate street lighting, overgrown or littered vacant lots, deteriorated housing, and the like. A handy chart on page 19 can help you and neighbors find help fast. Work together on filling it in; share it with the whole neighborhood.*

## Building a safer neighborhood

*A group of mothers in Richmond, Washington, decided that by working with other mothers around the country they could help stop the violence that was taking away their children's freedom—even their lives. They organized as Mothers Against Violence in America (MAVIA) and began educating themselves and others, asking for policy changes, and working with others in the community who shared their goals. Teenagers*

### Mothers reach out

*formed school-based groups—Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE)—that not only promote nonviolent ways to handle anger and conflict in school settings, but stage violence-free Teen Nights, hold anti-violence poster contests, host forums and speakouts against violence, and sponsor countywide anti-violence planning conferences.*

*In Hartford, Connecticut, the city's nine branch libraries have become part of the solution to violence problems. Each branch has taken up the challenge to become a center*

### Booking up nonviolence

*of positive activity for kids in its neighborhood, including acting as homework centers. No new funds were used—libraries were asked to refocus existing resources to tackle this neighborhood need.*

- Work together to establish safe conditions in your neighborhood—a physical environment that doesn't invite crime or offer opportunities for violence to brew. With a group of neighbors, scan streets, yards, alleys, playgrounds, ball fields, parks, and other areas. Look with a child's eye; even invite some children to go with you. Ask your police department or sheriff's office if they'll provide pointers or other help.
- ▶ Look for things like overgrown lots, abandoned vehicles or appliances, public play areas blocked from public view, intersections and streets that need lighting or traffic control improvements, unsafe equipment or structures, abandoned buildings, hazards in nearby businesses or commercial areas, and signs of vandalism, especially graffiti.
- ▶ Talk with children in the neighborhood about what worries or scares them and about where and how they have felt threatened by violence. Interview teachers, school staff, crossing guards, and bus aides. Add these concerns to your list.
- ▶ Look around to see what happens to kids between 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Are there supervised programs for younger children? Opportunities for teens and preteens to work with children, help retirees, tackle neighborhood problems, get or give help with homework? After-school programs in many areas are located in schools themselves, known most often as Safe Havens or Beacon Schools.
- Work with your neighbors; with the police or sheriff's department and other government agencies like parks, transportation, public works, and highways; and with local elected officials to get dangerous conditions corrected. Recheck the neighborhood periodically—at least once a year—to catch new conditions that need attention.

## Building a safer neighborhood

- Start a discussion of neighborhood views on weapons in the home, use of toy weapons by children in play, children and violent entertainment, and how arguments should be settled. Knowing that parents agree on what's acceptable makes it easier to insist on these standards for all children. If some people hold different views, at least be clear about what rules you'll enforce in your home and for your children.
- Be sure you know where and how to report potentially violent situations or concerns about conditions in your neighborhood, or about conditions that could lead to violence. Ask your police department—especially your community policing officer—for help in identifying what to report, when, to whom, and how.
- Consider an event that lets children turn in weapons, especially those that might be mistaken for real firearms, in exchange for public thank-yous, donated non-violent toys, books, or coupons from local merchants.
- If there's a family facing problems in your neighborhood, reach out in friendship and support. Sometimes people just need to know that they can talk to someone who's concerned. Offer to take on routine chores, to babysit, to provide transportation, or just to listen.
- Recognize that it's already your problem if violence is about to erupt in your neighborhood.
- Learn about hotlines, crisis centers, and other help available to victims of crime. Find out how you can help those who are touched by violence to recover as quickly and completely as possible.
- If you see a crime—or something you suspect might be a crime—report it. Agree to testify if needed.

*Police in Baltimore County, Maryland, reasoned that firearm safety was no less important than traffic safety and designed a one-hour lesson plan for third graders that they now teach in 90 percent of the county's public and private schools. Short talks are mixed with role playing to help emphasize what kids should do if they find a suspected gun (toy or real), how to resist peer pressure*

## Police, schools partner to teach firearm safety

*to play with guns, and where to turn for help. In less than one year, two children found and properly reported weapons, saying they knew what to do because of the program. Both the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence (STAR Curriculum) and the National Rifle Association (Eddie the Eagle) sponsor courses that address gun violence prevention among young people.*

# Strengthening the community

*Terming firearms a “public health crisis,” the Policy Council on Violence Prevention established by the California Attorney General has recommended sweeping changes in that state’s gun laws and vigorous enforcement of laws now on the books. Proposals include banning the manufacture of Saturday Night Special-style handguns in*

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## California statewide task force urges action

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*the state, mandating that gun manufacturers build in or provide child safety devices on all firearms sold in the state, requiring that all gun dealers register with the local police or sheriff’s department, and launching an educational campaign to promote firearms safety.*



Violence anywhere in the community affects all of the community. By working on community-wide anti-violence efforts, you are protecting yourself, your family, and your neighborhood. Equally important, community policies and regulations can boost neighborhood violence prevention measures.

- Work to build community standards and expectations that reject violence and other crimes. All kinds of groups—civic clubs, houses of worship, social clubs, the school system, professional associations, employee groups and unions, business groups, and government agencies—can sponsor educational efforts, conduct forums, develop community service messages for media, and create community-wide networks to prevent or reduce violence.
- Emphasize prevention as the preferred way to deal with violence. Ask what schools, law enforcement agencies, public health agencies, libraries, workplaces, religious institutions, child protective agencies, and others are doing to prevent—not just react to—violence. What policies do they have to prevent weapons-related violence? How can they help the community? The checklist on page 20 can help.
- Make sure that adequate services are available for victims of violence and other crimes—including help in following their cases through court, if necessary, and in recovering from physical, emotional, and financial losses.
- Enlist those familiar with the costs of violence—parole and probation officers, judges, doctors, emergency room staffs, victims and survivors (especially youth), local and

## Stopping School Violence

# A Dozen Things

- 1 Parents
- 2 Students
- 3 Teachers
- 4 Law Enforcement
- 5 Principals
- 6 The Rest of Us

Can Do...



12

The mix has become appallingly predictable: volcanic anger, no skills to vent the anger or ease the pain, no trusted adult to turn to, and accessibility of firearms. Result: dead and wounded students, faculty, and staff at schools in all parts of our nation. We can all help prevent these tragedies in three ways: violence prevention (not reaction) programs in every community; young people taught by all of us how to manage anger and handle conflicts peaceably; and guns kept out of the hands of unsupervised kids and treated as hazardous consumer products.

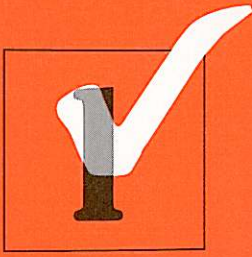
But the relatively small number of school-site homicides is only the tip of an iceberg that could cost our children their futures and our communities their civic health. Violence in our schools—whether it involves threats, fist fights, knives, or firearms—is unwarranted and intolerable. Children deserve a safe setting to learn in. Teachers and staff deserve a safe place to work in. Communities deserve safe schools that educate kids and help keep neighborhoods safer.

For some schools, violence may be a minor issue; for others, it may be a daily presence. Though the most extreme forms of violence are rare, the threat of all kinds of violence can keep students away from school, prevent them from going to after-school events, and leave them in fear every day.

To make our schools safer, everyone can and must pitch in—teachers, parents, students, policy makers, law enforcement officers, business managers, faith leaders, civic leaders, youth workers, and other concerned community residents. Each of us can do something to help solve the problem. And it's a problem we all must solve.

What can you do to stop school violence? Here are six starter lists of ideas. Some require only individual action; some require concerted effort. Some address immediate issues like kids bringing weapons to school; others address the problems that cause violence. Consider these lists a launching pad. There's lots more that can be done. We've listed resources that can provide even more ideas and help in carrying them out.

On your own, with a group, with your child, with a classroom full of children—whatever you do, there's something here you can do. Anything you do will help.



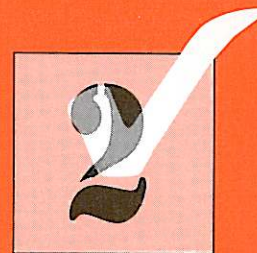
## Parents Can...

*help stop school violence with this starter list of ideas. Some require only individual action; some require concerted effort. Some address immediate issues; others address the problems that cause violence. Consider this list a launching pad—there's lots more that can be done. Check the resource section for places to contact for more ideas and help in carrying them out.*

- 1** Recognize that keeping firearms in your home may put you at legal risk as well as exposing you and your family to physical risk. In many states, parents can be held liable for their children's actions, including inappropriate use of firearms. If you do choose to keep firearms at home, ensure that they are securely locked, that ammunition is locked and stored separately, and that children know weapons are never to be touched without your express permission and supervision.
- 2** Take an active role in your children's schools. Talk regularly with teachers and staff. Volunteer in the classroom or library, or in after-school activities. Work with parent-teacher-student organizations.
- 3** Act as role models. Settle your own conflicts peaceably and manage anger without violence.
- 4** Listen to and talk with your children regularly. Find out what they're thinking on all kinds of topics. Create an opportunity for two-way conversation, which may mean forgoing judgments or pronouncements. This kind of communication should be a daily habit, not a reaction to crisis.
- 5** Set clear limits on behaviors in advance. Discuss punishments and rewards in advance, too. Disciplining with framework and consistency helps teach self-discipline, a skill your children can use for the rest of their lives.
- 6** Communicate clearly on the violence issue. Explain that you don't accept and won't tolerate violent behavior. Discuss what violence is and is not. Answer questions thoughtfully. Listen to children's ideas and concerns. They may bring up small problems that can easily be solved now, problems that could become worse if allowed to fester.
- 7** Help your children learn how to examine and find solutions to problems. Kids who know how to approach a problem and resolve it effectively are less likely to be angry, frustrated, or violent. Take advantage of "teachable moments" to help your child understand and apply these and other skills.
- 8** Discourage name-calling and teasing. These behaviors often escalate into fist fights (or worse). Whether the teaser is violent or not, the victim may see violence as the only way to stop it.
- 9** Insist on knowing your children's friends, whereabouts, and activities. It's your right. Make your home an inviting and pleasant place for your children and their friends; it's easier to know what they're up to when they're around. Know how to spot signs of troubling behavior in kids—yours and others (see page viii).
- 10** Work with other parents to develop standards for school-related events, acceptable out-of-school activities and places, and required adult supervision. Support each other in enforcing these standards.
- 11** Make it clear that you support school policies and rules that help create and sustain a safe place for all students to learn. If your child feels a rule is wrong, discuss his or her reasons and what rule might work better.
- 12** Join up with other parents, through school and neighborhood associations, religious organizations, civic groups, and youth activity groups. Talk with each other about violence problems, concerns about youth in the community, sources of help to strengthen and sharpen parenting skills, and similar issues.



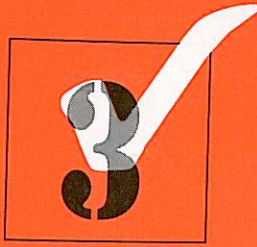
- 1 Refuse to bring a weapon to school, refuse to carry a weapon for another, and refuse to keep silent about those who carry weapons.
- 2 Report any crime immediately to school authorities or police.
- 3 Report suspicious or worrisome behavior or talk by other students to a teacher or counselor at your school. You may save someone's life.
- 4 Learn how to manage your own anger effectively. Find out ways to settle arguments by talking it out, working it out, or walking away rather than fighting.
- 5 Help others settle disputes peaceably. Start or join a peer mediation program, in which trained students help classmates find ways to settle arguments without fists or weapons.
- 6 Set up a teen court, in which youths serve as judge, prosecutor, jury, and defense counsel. Courts can hear cases, make findings, and impose sentences, or they may establish sentences in cases where teens plead guilty. Teens feel more involved and respected in this process than in an adult-run juvenile justice system.
- 7 Become a peer counselor, working with classmates who need support and help with problems.
- 8 Mentor a younger student. As a role model and friend, you can make it easier for a younger person to adjust to school and ask for help.
- 9 Start a school crime watch. Consider including a student patrol that helps keep an eye on corridors, parking lots, and groups, and a way for students to report concerns anonymously.
- 10 Ask each student activity or club to adopt an anti-violence theme. The newspaper could run how-to stories on violence prevention; the art club could illustrate costs of violence. Career clubs could investigate how violence affects their occupational goals. Sports teams could address ways to reduce violence that's not part of the game plan.
- 11 Welcome new students and help them feel at home in your school. Introduce them to other students. Get to know at least one student unfamiliar to you each week.
- 12 Start (or sign up for) a "peace pledge" campaign, in which students promise to settle disagreements without violence, to reject weapons, and to work toward a safe campus for all. Try for 100% participation.



## Students

### Can...

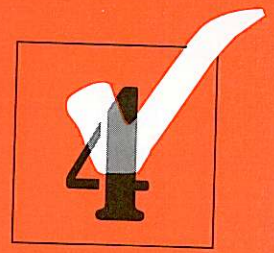
*help stop school violence with this starter list of ideas. Some require only individual action; some require concerted effort. Some address immediate issues; others address the problems that cause violence. Consider this list a launching pad—there's lots more that can be done. Check the resource section for places to contact for more ideas and help in carrying them out.*



## Teachers Can...

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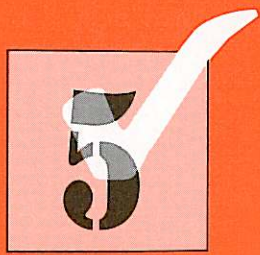
- 1** Report to the principal as quickly as possible any threats, signs of or discussions of weapons, signs of gang activity, or other conditions that might invite or encourage violence.
- 2** With help from students, set norms for behavior in your classroom. Refuse to permit violence. Ask students to help set penalties and enforce the rules.
- 3** Regularly invite parents to talk with you about their children's progress and any concerns they have. Send home notes celebrating children's achievements.
- 4** Learn how to recognize the warning signs that a child might be headed for violence and know how to tap school resources to get appropriate help (see page viii).
- 5** Encourage and sponsor student-led anti-violence activities and programs ranging from peer education to teen courts to mediation to mentoring to training.
- 6** Offer to serve on a team or committee to develop and implement a Safe School Plan, including how teachers should respond in emergencies.
- 7** Firmly and consistently but fairly enforce school policies that seek to reduce the risk of violence. Take responsibility for areas outside as well as inside your classroom.
- 8** Insist that students not resort to name-calling or teasing. Encourage them to demonstrate the respect they expect. Involve them in developing standards of acceptable behavior.
- 9** Teach with enthusiasm. Students engaged in work that is challenging, informative, and rewarding are less likely to get into trouble.
- 10** Learn and teach conflict resolution and anger management skills. Help your students practice applying them in everyday life. Discuss them in the context of what you teach.
- 11** Incorporate discussions on violence and its prevention into the subject matter you teach whenever possible.
- 12** Encourage students to report crimes or activities that make them suspicious.



- 1** Get to know students in non-confrontational settings. Help them see you as a mentor, peace keeper, and problem solver, not just as an enforcer.
- 2** Develop a formal memorandum of understanding with the school about handling complaints, criminal events, and other calls for service. Volunteer to serve on the school's Safe School planning team.
- 3** Offer to train teachers, staff, and students in personal safety. Work with students to help present these trainings.
- 4** Help students learn about the costs of violence to their community—financial, social, and physical. Link them with others in the community who are affected by violence to help them understand its lasting impacts.
- 5** Provide accurate information about your state's juvenile and criminal justice systems and what happens to youth who are arrested because they've been involved in violence. Explain the kinds of help available to young people who are in distress or who are victims of crime.
- 6** If you are qualified in crime prevention through environmental design, offer to help school staff perform a security survey of the school building, identifying lighting needs, requirements for locks and other security devices, areas where physical changes to the building could increase safety, and needs for pruning or other landscaping changes. Share training opportunities through your department with school security personnel.
- 7** Work to include school administrators, staff, and students in existing prevention action against gangs, weapons, and other threats.
- 8** Consider starting a school resource officer program, in which a law enforcement officer is assigned to a school to work with the students, provide expertise to teachers on subjects in which they are qualified, help address school problems that can lead to violence, provide personal safety training for students, and the like.
- 9** Work with school attendance officers to identify truants and return them to school or to an alternate facility.
- 10** Develop links with parents through parent-teacher associations and other groups; educate them on violence prevention strategies and help them understand the importance of their support.
- 11** Work with community groups to put positive after-school activities in place throughout the community and for all ages.
- 12** Together with principals and parents, start safe corridor programs and block parent programs to make the trip to and from school less worrisome for students. Help with efforts to identify and eliminate neighborhood trouble spots; using community policing and problem-solving principles.

## Law Enforcement Can...

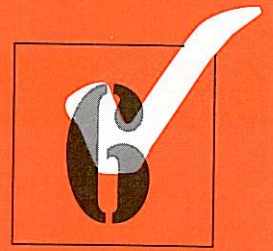
*help stop school violence with this starter list of ideas. Some require only individual action; some require concerted effort. Some address immediate issues; others address the problems that cause violence. Consider this list a launching pad—there's lots more that can be done. Check the resource section for places to contact for more ideas and help in carrying them out.*



## Principals Can...

*help stop school violence with this starter list of ideas. Some require only individual action; some require concerted effort. Some address immediate issues; others address the problems that cause violence. Consider this list a launching pad—there's lots more that can be done. Check the resource section for places to contact for more ideas and help in carrying them out.*

- 1** Establish “zero tolerance” policies for weapons and violence. Spell out penalties in advance. Adopt the motto “If it’s illegal outside school, it’s illegal inside.” Educate students, parents, and staff on policies and penalties. Include a way for students to report crime-related information that does not expose them to retaliation.
- 2** Establish a faculty-student-staff committee to develop a Safe School Plan. Invite law enforcement officers to be part of your team. Policies and procedures for both day-to-day operations and crisis handling should cover such subjects as identifying who belongs in the building, avoiding accidents and incidents in corridors and on school grounds, reporting weapons or concerns about them, working in partnership with police; following up to ensure that troubled students get help.
- 3** Work with juvenile justice authorities and law enforcement officers on how violence, threats, potentially violent situations, and other crimes will be handled. Meet regularly to review problems and concerns. Develop a memorandum of understanding with law enforcement on access to the school building, reporting of crimes, arrests, and other key issues.
- 4** Offer training in anger management, stress relief, mediation, and related violence prevention skills to staff and teachers. Help them identify ways to pass these skills along to students. Make sure students are getting training.
- 5** Involve every group within the school community—faculty, professional staff, custodial staff, students, and others—in setting up solutions to violence. Keep lines of communication open to all kinds of student groups and cliques.
- 6** Develop ways to make it easier for parents to be involved in the lives of their students. Provide lists of volunteer opportunities; ask parents to organize phone trees; hold events on weekends as well as week nights. Offer child care for younger children.
- 7** Work with community groups and law enforcement to create safe corridors for travel to and from school; even older students will stay home rather than face a bully or some other threat of violence. Help with efforts to identify and eliminate neighborhood trouble spots.
- 8** Reward good behavior. Acknowledging students who do the right thing, whether it’s settling an argument without violence or helping another student or apologizing for bumping into someone helps raise the tone for the whole school.
- 9** Insist that your faculty and staff treat each other and students the way they want to be treated—with respect, courtesy, and thoughtfulness. Be the chief role model.
- 10** Develop and sustain a network with health care, mental health, counseling, and social work resources in your community. Make sure that teachers, counselors, coaches, and other adults in the school know how to connect a needy student with available resources.
- 11** Ensure that students learn violence prevention techniques throughout their school experience. Don’t make it a one-time thing. Infuse the training into an array of subjects. Draw from established, tested curricula whenever possible.
- 12** Consider establishing such policies as mandatory storage of outerwear in lockers (to reduce chances of weapons concealment), mesh or clear backpacks and duffle bags (to increase visibility of contraband); and limited entry access to the building (to reduce inappropriate visitors).



## The Rest of Us Can...

*help stop school violence with this starter list of ideas. Some require only individual action; some require concerted effort. Some address immediate issues; others address the problems that cause violence. Consider this list a launching pad—there's lots more that can be done. Check the resource section for places to contact for more ideas and help in carrying them out.*

- 1** Adopt a school. Help students, faculty, and staff to promote a sense of community in the school and with the larger community through involvement in a wide range of programs and activities.
- 2** Help to strengthen links between school services and the network of community services that can help students and families facing problems.
- 3** Join with school and law enforcement in creating and sustaining safe corridors for students traveling to and from school. Help with efforts to identify and eliminate neighborhood trouble spots.
- 4** Help students through such opportunities as job skills development, entrepreneurship opportunities, and internships.
- 5** Encourage employees to work with students in skills training, youth group leadership, mentoring, coaching, and similar one-to-one and small group activities. Make your facilities available for these activities when possible.
- 6** Provide anger management, stress relief, and conflict resolution training for your employees. They can help build an anti-violence climate at home, at school, and in the community. You might gain a more productive working environment, too!
- 7** Speak up in support of funding and effective implementation of programs and other resources that help schools develop an effective set of violence prevention strategies.
- 8** Offer your professional skills in educating students on costs and effects of violence in the community (including their school). Public health personnel, trauma specialists, defense and prosecuting attorneys, and judges are among those with important messages to deliver.
- 9** Help employees who are parents to meet with teachers by providing flexible hours or time off; encourage employee involvement in sponsoring or coaching students in school and after-school activities.
- 10** Develop an anti-violence competition, including speech, dance, painting, drawing, singing, instrumental music, acting, play-writing, and other creative arts. Get youth to help suggest prizes. Make it a community celebration.
- 11** Report crimes or suspicious activities to police immediately. Encourage employees and families to do the same.
- 12** Establish business policies that explicitly reject violent behavior by employees or others on the premises.



This document was produced by the National Crime Prevention Council under its Cooperative Agreement (No.97-DD-BX-K003) with the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. Opinions are those of the National Crime Prevention Council and do not necessarily reflect the policies or positions of the U.S. Department of Justice. ©NCPC 1998.

## Watch for Signs

# Take Action

Know signs that kids are troubled and know how to get them help.

- lack of interest in school
- absence of age-appropriate anger control skills
- seeing self as always the victim
- persistent disregard for or refusal to follow rules
- cruelty to pets or other animals
- artwork or writing that is bleak or violent or that depicts isolation or anger
- talking constantly about weapons or violence
- obsessions with things like violent games and TV shows
- depression or mood swings
- bringing a weapon (any weapon) to school
- history of bullying
- misplaced or unwarranted jealousy
- involvement with or interest in gangs
- self-isolation from family and friends
- talking about bringing weapons to school

The more of these signs you see, the greater the chance that the child needs help. If it's your child and he or she won't discuss these signs with you, see if a relative, a teacher, a counselor, a religious leader, a coach, or another adult can break the ice.

Get help right away. Talk with a counselor, mental health clinic, family doctor, a psychologist, religious leader, the school's dean of students, or the office of student assistance. The faster you find help, the more likely the problem can be resolved.

Not your child? Recognizing these signs in any child should set off alarm bells for any community member. If you know a child well enough to notice these changes, constructively express concern to the parent(s), who may already be taking action and would welcome your support. If parents appear disinterested, speak to the child's teacher or counselor.

## RESOURCES

This is a brief list of just a few of the many groups and agencies that can help you stop school violence. Many of their websites link to those of other groups. Many of their publications provide even more referrals.

### Big Brothers Big Sisters of America

230 North 13th Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
215-567-7000  
215-567-0394 (fax)  
Website: [bbbsa.org](http://bbbsa.org)

### Boys & Girls Clubs of America

1230 West Peachtree Street, NW  
Atlanta, GA 30309  
404-815-5700  
404-815-5789 (fax)  
Website: [bgca.org](http://bgca.org)

### Bureau of Justice Assistance Clearinghouse

PO Box 6000  
Rockville, MD 20849-6000  
800-688-4252  
Website: [ncjrs.org](http://ncjrs.org)  
Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence

### Institute of Behavioral Science, University of Colorado

Campus Box 442, Building #10  
Boulder, CO 80309-0442  
303-492-8465  
303-443-3297 (fax)  
Website: [colorado.edu/CSPV](http://colorado.edu/CSPV)

### Educational Resources Information Clearinghouse

National Library of Education  
U.S. Department of Education  
600 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202-0498  
800-LET ERIC  
Website: [aspensys.com/eric](http://aspensys.com/eric)

### Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse

PO Box 6000  
Rockville, MD 20849-6000  
800-638-8736  
Website: [ncjrs.org](http://ncjrs.org)

### National Association of Police Athletic Leagues

618 North US Highway 1, Suite 201  
North Palm Beach, FL 33408  
561-844-1823  
561-863-6120 (fax)

### National Center for Conflict Resolution Education

Illinois Institute for Dispute Resolution  
110 West Main Street  
Urbana, IL 61801  
217-384-4118  
217-384-8280 (fax)

### National Clearinghouse on Alcohol and Drug Information

PO Box 2345  
Rockville, MD 20852  
301-468-2600  
Website: [health.org](http://health.org)

### National Crime Prevention Council

1700 K Street, NW, Second Floor  
Washington, DC 20006-3817  
202-466-6272  
202-296-1356 (fax)  
Website: [ncpc.org](http://ncpc.org)

### National Injury Control and Prevention Center

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
1600 Clifton Road, NE  
Atlanta, GA 30333  
404-693-3311  
404-639-1623 (fax)  
Website: [cdc.gov/ncic/](http://cdc.gov/ncic/)

### National Institute for Dispute Resolution

1726 M Street, NW, Suite 500  
Washington, DC 10036  
202-466-4764  
202-466-4769 (fax)  
Website: [nidr.org](http://nidr.org)

### National PTA

330 North Wabash Avenue, Suite 2100  
Chicago, IL 60611  
312-670-6782  
Website: [pta.org](http://pta.org)

### National School Safety Center

4165 Thousand Oaks Boulevard, Suite 290  
Westlake Village, CA 91362  
805-373-9977  
805-373-9277 (fax)  
Website: [nssc1.org](http://nssc1.org)

### National Youth Gang Information Center

Institute for Intergovernmental Research  
PO Box 12729  
Tallahassee, FL 33217  
850-385-0600  
850-386-5356 (fax)  
Website: [intranet.iir.com/nygc/](http://intranet.iir.com/nygc/)

### Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program

Office of Elementary and Secondary Education  
U.S. Department of Education  
Portals Building, 600 Independence Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20202-6123  
202-260-3954  
202-260-7767 (fax)  
Website: [ed.gov/offices/OESE/SDFS](http://ed.gov/offices/OESE/SDFS)

### Street Law, Inc.

918 16th Street, NW, Suite 600  
Washington, DC 20006-2902  
202-293-0088  
202-293-0089 (fax)  
Website: [streetlaw.org](http://streetlaw.org)

### Teens, Crime, and the Community

c/o NCPCL, 1700 K Street, NW, Second Floor  
Washington, DC 20006-3817  
202-466-6272, x152 or 161  
202-296-1356 (fax)  
Website: [nationaltcc.org](http://nationaltcc.org)

### Youth Crime Watch of America

9300 South Dadeland Boulevard, Suite 100  
Miami, FL 33156  
305-670-2409  
305-670-3805 (fax)  
Website: [ycwa.org](http://ycwa.org)

### Youthinfo (website on adolescence-related issues)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Website: <http://youth.os.dhhs.gov/>

## Readings

This list highlights just a few of the more recent documents that offer ideas about programs and strategies that can help reduce or prevent violence in schools, as well as information on the problem. They in turn offer referrals to still more sources of information and ideas. Many of the organizations listed above will send free catalogs listing all their publications.

Arnette, June and Marjorie C. Walsleben. *Combating Fear and Restoring Safety in Schools*. Washington, DC: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. April 1998. (NCJ 167888).

Drug Strategies, Inc. *Safe Schools, Safe Students: A Guide to Violence Prevention Strategies*. Washington, DC: Drug Strategies, Inc. 1998.

Heavise, Sheila, Cassandra Rowand, Catrina Williams, and Elizabeth Farris. *Violence and Discipline Problems in U.S. Public Schools: 1996-1997*. Washington, DC: National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education. March 1998. (NCES 98-030).

Kenney, Dennis J. and T. Steuart Watson. *Crime in the Schools: Reducing Fear and Disorder with Student Problem Solving*. Washington, DC: Police Executive Research Forum. 1998.

Lockwood, Daniel. *Violence Among Middle School and High School Students: Analysis and Implications for Prevention*. Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. 1997. (NCJ 166363)

U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Justice. *Creating Safe and Drug-Free Schools: An Action Guide*. Washington, DC. 1996. Electronically available through <http://www.ed.gov> or <http://www.ncjrs.org/ojjhome.htm>, or by calling 800-624-0100.

Zimmer, Judy, Terrence W. Modglin, and Jean F. O'Neil. *Teens, Crime, and the Community: Education and Action for Safer Schools and Communities, Third Edition*. Cincinnati, OH: West Educational Publishing (a Thomson International company). 1998.

## Strengthening the community

state legislators and chief executives, youth workers, and others—in pushing for prevention strategies and educating the public about their effectiveness. Personal testimony can be powerfully persuasive.

- Make sure your community offers ways people can learn about anger management, conflict mediation, and other nonviolent ways to handle problems.
- Find out what positive, enjoyable opportunities there are for young people to have fun in your community. What services are there for kids facing problems? What programs help kids of various ages spend the critical 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. hours (when the largest numbers are without adult supervision) in safe, productive ways?
- Establish policies that reduce danger from weapons, especially firearms. Make safe storage of firearms a community expectation, even a law. Ensure that licensing laws are rigorously enforced. Some states and communities have outlawed sale of weapons to those under 18 or 21. Others have imposed age restrictions on permits to carry concealed weapons. In at least one state, conviction of a firearm violation can cost a young driver his or her license.
- Work with police to help community residents get rid of unwanted weapons through turn-ins, “amnesty days,” and even buybacks. Join forces with other community groups and government agencies to publicize, finance, and staff these events.
- Learn your state and local laws on firearms. Insist that these laws be enforced vigorously but fairly. Support police, prosecutors, judges, and other local officials who enforce laws designed to prevent gun violence.
- Encourage local and state resources to go toward both prevention and enforcement.

*In San Antonio, Texas, a year-long planning process brought dozens of civic leaders together and led to a 57-point plan to address crime problems in the community. Energized residents and leaders turned that plan into action, increasing services to troubled youth, involving businesses in prevention*

## Comprehensive planning pays

*strategies, devising public education campaigns, engaging schools in teaching conflict management and mediation skills, and more. The city, within a year after implementation had started, saw a 20 percent drop in reported crime.*

*The Missing Peace, Inc., a community-based group that encompasses the entire Washington, DC, metropolitan area, has conducted gun turn-ins throughout the area in cooperation with the region's police departments and sheriff's offices. Providing a way for people to dispose safely of unwanted firearms not only reduces risks of accidents,*

## Buybacks benefit children's safety, health

*thefts, and assaults; each weapon turned in results in \$25 donated by a local business alliance to the local children's hospital's division of child protection.*

## Strengthening the community

*In Oklahoma, parents can be fined if their child brings a weapon to school. In North Carolina, failure to store firearms safely in homes where children are present can result in prosecution and fines. Twenty-one states have enacted laws mandating gun-free school zones and imposing sharply increased penal-*

## States act against gun violence

*ties for firearms possession or use in such areas. Florida and Maryland are among the states that have set up special statewide organizations to help address school-related violence, including gun use. More than two dozen states have increased judicial or prosecutorial discretion to try youth involved in especially violent offenses as adults.*

- Insist that local laws or regulations require that confiscated or surrendered weapons be melted down rather than auctioned off or sold to dealers.
- Make sure that local laws mandate the most secure possible storage of any firearm stored in a private home.
- Use Crimestoppers, a similar hotline system, or even 911 to encourage reporting of illegal weapons.
- Reach out to educate the whole community about ways to stop or prevent violence. Find out what's going on now and support it. Help start what's needed. Some ideas:
  - ▶ Promote public service advertising that offers anti-violence tips or highlights local services. Call and encourage stations to air the messages; compliment them when they do.
  - ▶ Develop and distribute widely a directory of community anti-violence programs and services. Get several groups to cooperate in this effort. Include programs to help kids headed for trouble.
  - ▶ Help spread the news about available violence prevention training and programs through groups you belong to, your workplace, and other local institutions. Invite speakers on violence prevention to talk to your club or organization.
  - ▶ Participate in public forums that allow residents to talk with elected and appointed leaders about violence prevention needs.
- Work with business groups and individual businesses to develop workplace violence prevention programs that include employee training, anti-violence procedures, and physical security measures. Have explicit, written policies about possession of firearms in or on the worksite.



## Strengthening the community

- Talk with school personnel, juvenile officers, and youth workers to find out the nature and extent of gangs or “wanna-be” groups in your community. Support gang prevention and intervention programs. Volunteer to help keep kids out of gangs.
- Work with schools, colleges, employers, civic and social clubs, religious organizations, and professional associations to create the widest possible array of resources to discourage violence. Make sure that services are accessible to those who need them most, consumer-friendly, and confidential if necessary.
- Put anti-violence policies in place in your state or community through laws or regulations. Weapons control policies can include ammunition taxes, safe storage laws, ownership restrictions, laws limiting weapons in public places, zoning requirements for firearm sales, and more.
- Talk with school administrators about anti-violence policies and particularly about policies to reduce possession of weapons in or near schools. Your community may want to establish gun-free zones around schools or parks.
- Urge adoption of anti-violence courses that help children learn ways to manage anger without using fists or weapons. *Second Step*, from The Committee for Children, *Resolving Conflict Creatively*, from Educators for Social Responsibility, and *We Can Work It Out!*, created through Teens, Crime, and the Community, are only three of many such courses.
- Enlist children from elementary grades to senior high in solving the violence problems in the school and community. Encourage them to teach violence prevention to younger children, reach out to educate peers, work with adults on community-wide problems, and identify and tackle community conditions that they are concerned about.

*In Kansas City, Missouri, police selected an 80-block area hard-hit by gun violence for specialized enforcement. In this area, which had a gun homicide rate 20 times the national average, a specially trained group of police dedicated their energy to checking for firearms in the course of their duties. They worked 7:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. seven*

## Enforcement prevents violence

*days a week. Careful attention was paid to ensuring that residents' constitutional rights were protected. Results were dramatic—gun seizures increased by 64 percent; gun-related crime dropped 49 percent. There were no increases in crime in the surrounding area and there was no similar drop in crime in a comparable area elsewhere in the city.*

## Strengthening the community

*Civic leaders in Mobile, Alabama, concerned about sharp increases in weapons incidents in schools, conducted a campaign in 1992 to educate the community and get weapons out of the hands of kids. "Kid With a Gun? Call 911" used billboards, bumper stickers, news stories, and public*

### Community reports kids with guns

*transit ads to highlight the consequences of youth handgun possession and remind adults of their responsibility for children's—and the community's—safety. Law enforcement authorities agreed to respond immediately to any call about a kid in possession of a gun.*

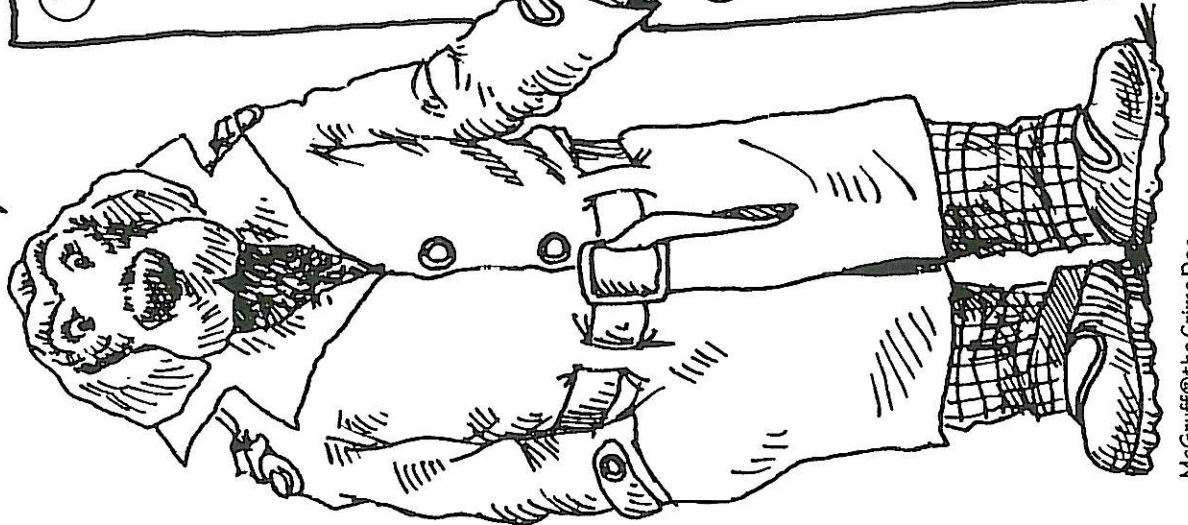
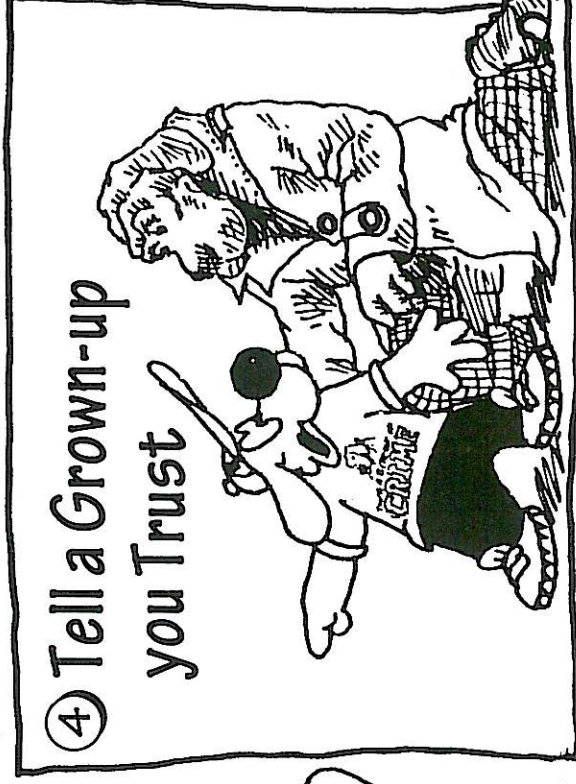
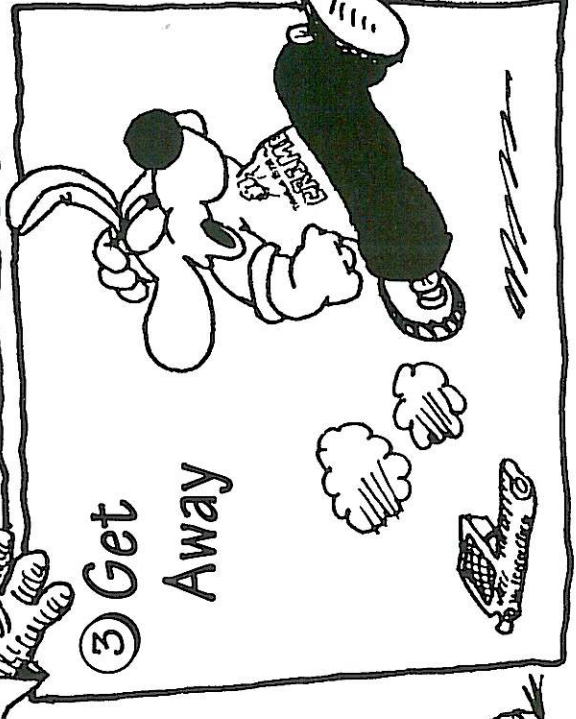
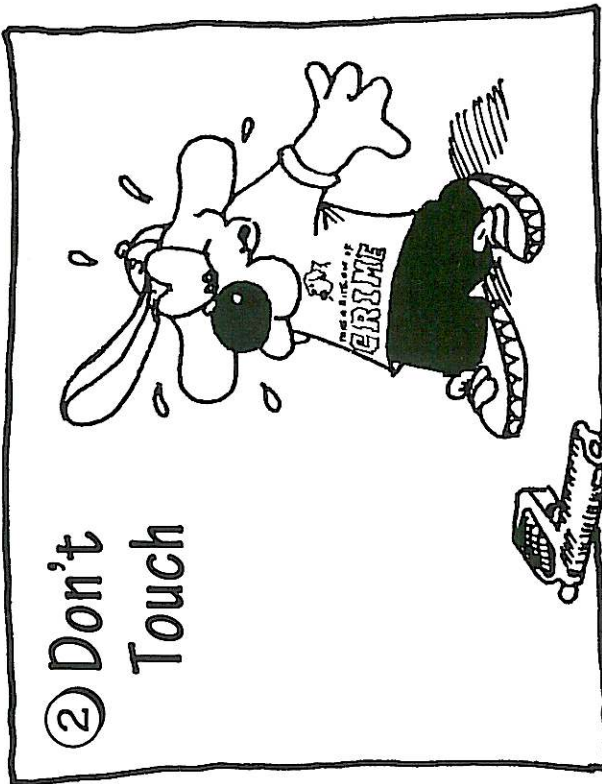
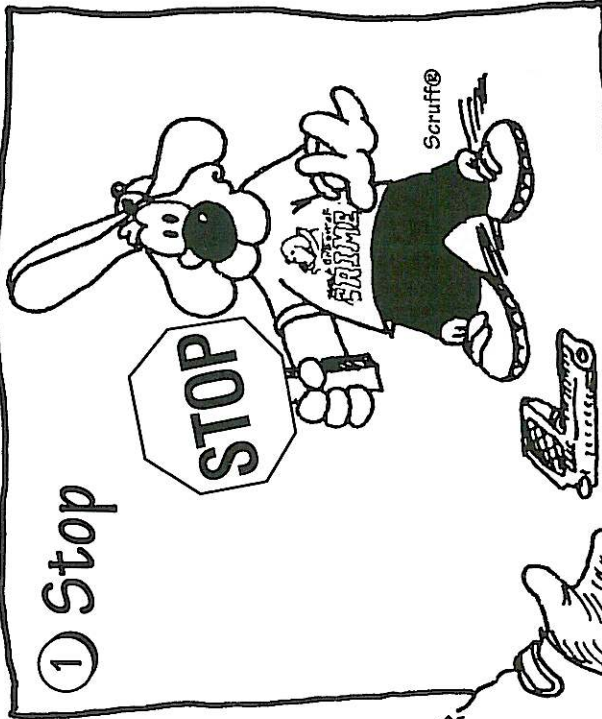
*ADT Security Systems, Inc., has provided "panic alarms" for women severely threatened by domestic violence. In participating communities, local officials determine those women at greatest risk, and ADT places the alarms in the women's homes. Using the*

### Partnership reduces violence risk

*alarm immediately summons help to deal with the abuser. Participating women must have court orders of protection and must agree to prosecute the offender to the fullest extent of the law. The AWARE™ program is free to participating communities.*

- Volunteer to mentor young people who need positive support from adults. Programs ranging from Big Brothers and Big Sisters to Adopt-a-School include mentoring as a central ingredient.
- Protect domestic violence victims (and their children) through policies as well as laws that offer them prompt and meaningful response to calls for help and appropriate legal recourse.
- Work with others in your community to develop comprehensive, coordinated plans that direct civic resources to deal with immediate symptoms of violence, help neighborhoods strengthen themselves, and work on problems that cause violence. Enlist all kinds of groups; compare notes to avoid duplicating efforts and to benefit from each other's know-how.

Kids, if you find a gun, here's what you should do.



Walk away.



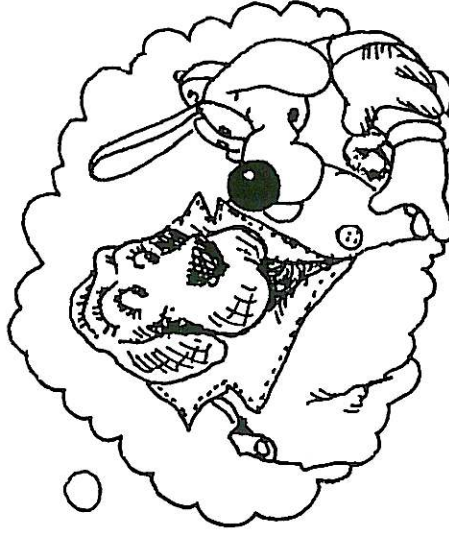
Talk it out.



Stick with friends.



Talk to a trusted adult.



Scruff®

McGruff®  
the Crime Dog

# Got a problem?

Here are four ways to work it out without fighting.  
Can you think of more?

# Link-ups and referrals

Because you will be working on many issues and with many people, it might be helpful to keep key phone numbers of organizations that are working in partnership with you or that can provide help for problems you may encounter. Feel free to use this checklist as a starter to create your own, adding agencies and organizations appropriate to your community.

Child Protection	_____
Community Center	_____
Drug Treatment	_____
Family Services	_____
Information & Referral	_____
Mediation Services	_____
Mental Health	_____
Job Training	_____
Juvenile Services	_____
Police Department (Nonemergency)	_____
Public Health Agency	_____
Public Works	_____
Recreation & Parks	_____
School System	_____
Social Services	_____
Victim Assistance	_____
Volunteer Center	_____
Youth Groups	_____
Youth Services	_____
Hotlines	_____
	_____
	_____

# Checklist for violence prevention

## *Do my family and I*

- understand the dangers of weapons, especially firearms, and how to prevent them?
- talk about the costs—personal and financial—of violence?
- think carefully about the kinds of entertainment we watch or hear?
- know and practice ways to settle disputes without violence?
- understand and practice basic self-protection strategies?

## *Do my neighbors and I*

- know each other reasonably well?
- work together to make our neighborhood safe for children?
- agree on how and when to step in to prevent kids' quarrels from becoming violent?
- discuss how we feel about weapons, including firearms, and what rules and standards we agree on?
- help each other by joining and taking an active role in Neighborhood Watch?
- know that there are good ways for our children to spend their time and energy after school?
- identify, discuss, and solve (or get help to solve) troubling conditions in our area?
- work with police, school officials, civic groups, and others to address larger issues for the community?

## *Does my community*

- have and enforce sound laws and regulations for secure weapons storage and against weapons violence?
- provide safe ways for residents to dispose of unwanted weapons?
- actively provide resources and know-how to help residents learn how to solve problems without violence?
- provide mentoring and other outreach services to troubled youth and families?
- enlist young people in addressing violence problems
- coordinate community groups to develop comprehensive anti-violence strategies and plans?
- offer an attractive array of both family-oriented and youth-focused events?
- have clear standards that reject violence as a presence in the community?

## *Add your own reminders here!*

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

# Resources

There are hundreds of groups across the nation working to reduce and prevent violence. New groups are being formed all the time, and no one list could cover them all. This list notes some groups dealing with aspects of every area the booklet addresses. It indicates in a general way the kinds of work each group is doing. Please get in touch with the groups that interest you to get up-to-date information on programs, materials, training, local affiliates, and other assistance. Also check with local affiliates of organizations that belong to the Crime Prevention Coalition. Member groups are listed on the inside back cover.

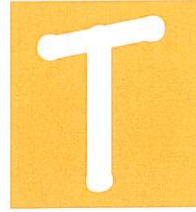
				<i>Statistics, research</i>	<i>Anti-violence curricula</i>	<i>Youth program ideas</i>	<i>Community program ideas</i>	<i>Policies, regulations, laws</i>	<i>School-related initiatives</i>	<i>Professionals in community</i>	<i>Gun-related issues</i>	<i>Media literacy</i>	<i>State/local affiliates</i>
American Academy of Pediatrics 141 North West Point Boulevard, Elk Grove, IL 60007	847-228-5005	Fax 708-228-5097		■	■				■	■			■
American Bar Association 740 15th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005	202-662-1680	Fax 202-662-1032		■		■	■		■	■			■
American Medical Association Department of Mental Health, 515 North State Street Chicago, IL 60610	312-464-5066	Fax 312-464-5841		■		■	■		■	■			■
Association of Junior Leagues International 660 First Avenue, New York, NY 10016-3241	212-683-1515	Fax 212-481-7196				■	■		■	■			■
Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America 230 North 13th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107	215-567-7000	Fax 215-567-0394				■	■						■
Boys & Girls Clubs of America 1230 West Peachtree Street, NW, Atlanta, GA 30309	404-815-5700	Fax 404-815-5787			■	■							■
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms US Department of Treasury, 650 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20226	202-927-7777	Fax 202-927-8112		■	■		■						■
Bureau of Justice Assistance Clearinghouse PO Box 6000, Rockville, MD 20850	800-688-4252	Fax 301-251-5212		■	■	■	■	■					■
Bureau of Justice Statistics Clearinghouse PO Box 6000, Rockville, MD 20850	800-723-3277	Fax 301-251-5212		■			■						■
Center for Media Literacy 1962 South Shenandoah, Los Angeles, CA 90034	213-931-4177	Fax 213-931-4474		■									■
Center to Prevent Handgun Violence 1225 Eye Street, NW, Suite 1100, Washington, DC 20005	202-289-7319	Fax 202-408-1851		■	■		■						■
Center for Substance Abuse Prevention's National Clearinghouse on Alcohol and Drug Information 1146 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852	800-729-6686			■	■	■	■	■	■				■
Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence Institute of Behavioral Science, University of Colorado at Boulder, Campus Box 442, Boulder, CO 80309-0442	303-492-1032	Fax 303-443-3297		■	■	■	■	■	■				■
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention U.S. Department of Health and Human Services 1600 Clifton Road, NE, Atlanta, GA 30333	404-639-3311	Fax 404-639-1623		■	■	■		■					■
Child Welfare League of America 440 First Street, NW, Suite 310, Washington, DC 20001	202-638-2952	Fax 202-638-4004					■			■			■
Children's Defense Fund 25 E Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001	202-662-3520			■		■	■			■			■
Committee for Children 2203 Airport Way South, #500, Seattle, WA 98134-2027	800-634-4449	Fax 206-343-1445			■	■	■		■				■





## Resources Continued

				Statistics, research	Anti-violence curricula	Youth program ideas	Community program ideas	Policies, regulations, laws	School-related initiatives	Professionals in community	Gun-related issues	Media literacy	State/local affiliates
National Governors Association 444 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 267, Washington, DC 20001	202-624-5320	Fax 202-624-5313		■	■	■	■						
National Institute for Citizen Education in the Law 711 G Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003	202-546-6644	Fax 202-546-6649			■	■		■					■
National Institute for Dispute Resolution 1726 M Street, NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20036	202-466-4764	Fax 202-466-4769			■	■	■	■	■				■
National League of Cities 1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, 6th Floor, Washington, DC 20004	202-626-3010	Fax 202-626-3043		■		■	■				■		■
National McGruff House Network 616 East Cleveland Avenue, Salt Lake City, UT 84115	801-486-8691	Fax 801-486-8815				■	■		■				
National Organization for Victim Assistance 1757 Park Road, NW, Washington, DC 20010	202-232-6682	800-TRY-NOVA Fax 202-462-2255				■	■	■					■
National PTA 330 North Wabash, Suite 2100, Chicago, IL 60611-3690	312-670-6782	Fax 312-670-6783			■	■			■		■		■
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence 6400 Flank Drive, Suite 1300, Harrisburg, PA 17112-2778	800-537-2238	Fax 717-545-9456		■	■		■						■
National Rifle Association 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030	703-267-1000			■		■					■		■
National School Boards Association 1680 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314	703-838-6722	Fax 703-683-7590		■	■	■			■				■
National School Safety Center 4165 Thousand Oaks Boulevard, Suite 290, Westlake Village, CA 91362	805-373-9977	Fax 805-373-9277		■	■	■	■		■		■		
National Sheriffs' Association 1450 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-3490	703-836-7827	Fax 703-683-6541				■	■	■					■
National Urban League 500 East 62nd Street, New York, NY 10021	212-310-9000	Fax 212-593-8250		■	■	■	■	■		■			■
National Victim Center 2111 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22201	703-276-2880	Fax 703-276-2889		■		■	■	■					
Parents' Music Resource Center 1500 Arlington Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22209				■		■	■	■					■
Pacific Center for Violence Prevention San Francisco General Hospital, San Francisco, CA 94110	415-285-1793	Fax 415-282-2563		■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■	
Partners Against Youth Gun Violence c/o Crime Prevention Division, Seattle Police Department, 610 Third Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104-1886	206-684-7929	Fax 206-684-7730			■	■	■	■	■				
Turn Off the Violence PO Box 27558, Minneapolis, MN 55427	612-593-8041					■	■	■	■				■
YOUTH ALIVE! Summit Medical Center, 3012 Summit Avenue, Suite 3670, Oakland, CA 94609	510-444-6191	Fax 510-444-6195			■	■	■		■		■		
Youth Crime Watch of America 9300 South Dadeland Boulevard, Suite 100, Miami, FL 33156	305-670-2409	Fax 305-670-3805			■	■		■					■



This booklet is only a starter. There really *is* something everyone can do to stop the violence. Have you decided how you'll help?

The National Crime Prevention Council offers several other free publications and a catalog of low-cost materials that offer ideas on how to get started or how to strengthen local efforts.

To get free single copies of the publications below or a copy of the catalog, simply call 1-800-NCPC-911 or write NCPC Fulfillment, PO Box 1, 100 Church Street, Amsterdam, NY 12010.

*Stop the Violence, Start Something* (item J22)

Packing a host of ideas into 12 pages, this booklet offers ten things each for kids, adults, and neighborhood groups to do.

*Getting Together To Fight Crime* (item J23)

A 32-page, information-filled guide to organizing neighbors for action on local problems, with how-tos on everything, from first meeting to community partnerships.

*Accompañados y sin miedo/Not Alone, Not Afraid* (item SP1)

In both Spanish and English, this booklet outlines key personal crime prevention strategies as well as tips and strategies for organizing neighborhoods.

*Your Inside Look at Crime Prevention* (item J20)

This 24-page booklet describes the basics of crime prevention, explains the need for individual and community action, and highlights individual and community actions that can help stop crime.

For kids, McGruff and his nephew Scruff offer two exciting comic-activity books. One is translated into Spanish. Write for single copies as shown below:

*Scruff Beats the Scary Streets*

McGruff, Chicago, IL 60652

*Scruff vence el peligro de la calle*

McGruff en español, Chicago, IL 60652

*More Adventures With Scruff*

Scruff-McGruff, Chicago, IL 60652

# The Crime Prevention Coalition

## State Members

Alabama Crime Prevention Network  
Arizona Crime Prevention Association  
Arizona Department of Public Safety  
Arkansas Crime Information Center  
California Attorney General's Office  
California Crime Prevention Officers Association  
California Governor's Office of Criminal Justice Planning  
Colorado Crime Prevention Association  
Crime Prevention Association of Connecticut  
Florida Bureau of Criminal Justice Programs  
Florida Crime Prevention Association  
Georgia Crime Prevention Association  
Georgia Department of Community Affairs  
Hawaii Department of the Attorney General  
Idaho Crime Prevention Association  
Idaho Department of Law Enforcement  
Illinois Attorney General's Office  
Illinois Crime Prevention Association  
Indiana Crime Prevention Coalition  
Iowa Crime Prevention Association  
Iowa Department of Public Safety  
Kansas Bureau of Investigation  
Kansas Crime Prevention Association  
Northern Kentucky Prevention Information Network  
Maine Crime Prevention Association  
Maryland Crime Prevention Association  
Maryland Community Crime Prevention Institute  
Massachusetts Crime Prevention Officers Association  
Massachusetts Criminal Justice Training Council  
Crime Prevention Association of Michigan  
Minnesota Crime Prevention Practitioners, Inc.  
Minnesota Office of Drug Policy and Violence Prevention  
Mississippi Crime Prevention Association  
Mississippi Division of Public Safety Planning  
Missouri Crime Prevention Association  
Missouri Department of Public Safety  
Nebraska Crime Commission  
Nebraska Crime Prevention Association  
Nevada Office of the Attorney General  
New Jersey Crime Prevention Officers' Association, Inc.  
New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety  
New Mexico Crime Prevention Association  
New York Division of Criminal Justice Services  
New York State Crime Prevention Coalition  
North Carolina Crime Prevention Officers' Association  
North Carolina Department of Crime Control and Public Safety  
North Dakota Office of the Attorney General  
Ohio Crime Prevention Association

Ohio Governor's Office of Criminal Justice Services  
Oklahoma Department of Public Safety  
Crime Prevention Association of Oregon  
Oregon Board on Public Safety Standards and Training  
Crime Prevention Association of Western Pennsylvania  
Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency  
Pennsylvania Crime Prevention Officers Association  
Rhode Island Crime Prevention Association  
South Carolina Department of Public Safety  
South Dakota Police Chiefs Association  
Texas Crime Prevention Association  
Texas Governor's Office  
Utah Council for Crime Prevention  
Vermont State Police  
Virginia Crime Prevention Association  
Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services  
Washington Crime Prevention Association  
Washington State Attorney General's Office  
West Virginia Criminal Justice and Highway Safety Office  
Wisconsin Crime Prevention Practitioners Association, Inc.  
Wisconsin Department of Justice  
Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance

## National Agencies

The Advertising Council, Inc.  
American Association of Retired Persons  
American Crime Prevention Association  
American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations  
American Probation and Parole Association  
American Society for Industrial Security  
The Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc.  
Boy Scouts of America  
Boys & Girls Clubs of America  
Crime Stoppers International, Inc.  
General Federation of Women's Clubs  
Girl Scouts of the USA  
Institute of Criminal Justice Studies  
Insurance Information Institute  
International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators  
International Association of Chiefs of Police  
International Association of Credit Card Investigators  
International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training  
International Association for Healthcare Security and Safety

International City/County Management Association  
International Society of Crime Prevention Practitioners  
International Union of Police Associations  
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People  
National Association of Attorneys General  
National Association of Broadcasters  
National Association of Counties  
National Association of Elementary School Principals  
National Association of Police Athletic Leagues  
National Association of Town Watch  
National Council of La Raza  
National Council on Crime and Delinquency  
National Crime Prevention Council  
National Crime Prevention Institute  
National Criminal Justice Association  
National District Attorneys Association  
National Exchange Club  
National Family Partnership  
National 4-H Council  
National Governors' Association  
National League of Cities  
National Network of Runaway and Youth Services  
National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives  
National Organization for Victim Assistance  
National Recreation and Park Association  
National Sheriffs' Association  
National Urban League, Inc.  
National Victim Center  
Police Executive Research Forum  
Service Corps of Retired Executives Association  
U.S. Conference of Mayors

## Federal Agencies

Department of Defense  
Drug Enforcement Administration  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
General Services Administration  
U.S. Department of Air Force  
U.S. Department of Army  
U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs  
Bureau of Justice Assistance  
Bureau of Justice Statistics  
National Institute of Justice  
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention  
Office for Victims of Crime  
U.S. Department of Navy  
U.S. Marine Corps  
U.S. Postal Inspection Service



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