



Justice Resource UPDATE

OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS Innovation • Partnerships • Safer Neighborhoods

VOLUME 2 • ISSUE 2 • 2008

Crime Prevention Month

Join with OJP to Celebrate Safe Communities in October

Partnerships are essential to building safer communities. The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) works with our partners throughout the year to prevent and fight crime. In October, Crime Prevention Month, we will focus on local efforts that help improve neighborhood safety.

From October 2-4, 2008, OJP's Bureau of Justice Assistance, the National Sheriffs' Association, and the National Crime Prevention Council will launch the Celebrate Safe Communities initiative to help kick off Crime Prevention Month.

Law enforcement plays a vital role in designing and implementing local Celebrate Safe Communities initiatives; however, law enforcement cannot do it alone. City officials, civic groups, community volunteers, neighborhood associations, business owners, and faith-based and youth-focused organizations all play a part in designing and supporting local events and ongoing crime prevention and safety programs.



Celebrate Safe Communities will harness the power of McGruff the Crime Dog® and other crime fighting programs to highlight Crime Prevention Month, demonstrate how local law enforcement works with other community safety-related agencies (e.g., fire, emergency management), and educate community partners about how they can watch out and help out in the fight against crime. For example, some communities are planning safety fairs to highlight the programs and services offered by local, county, State, and Federal public safety agencies, and others are

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I'm pleased to share some highlights from this issue of the Justice Resource Update (JRU).

Join us in October to recognize Crime Prevention Month by helping communities organize safety-focused events to Celebrate Safe Communities. Find information at www.celebratesafecommunities.org.

Find new resources, including the guide, *You're Not Alone: The Journey from Abduction to Empowerment*, prepared with young adults who were abducted as children. The guide is designed to help other survivors of abduction in their recovery. Get a copy at www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojdp/221965.pdf.

Through October 10, submit nominations online for the National Crime Victims' Service Awards at <https://ovcncvnrw.ncjrs.gov/awards>. Recognize people and efforts that have improved the lives of victims of crime. The awards kickoff 2009 National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

The JRU is a partnership between OJP's components and other Federal agencies that address justice issues. I hope you will find the information helpful and share it with your colleagues.

Jeffrey L. Sedgwick
Acting Assistant Attorney General
Office of Justice Programs

DOJ Commemorates National Missing Children's Day

On May 21, 2008, Attorney General Michael B. Mukasey honored law enforcement officers and citizens from across the country for their tireless commitment to recovering missing children and combating child exploitation.

This year's ceremony stressed the U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ) commitment to bringing missing children home safely and highlighted the progress made through initiatives that the Department, its components, and state and local partners have developed and implemented to protect children, such as Project Safe Childhood, which marked its second anniversary this spring.

At the ceremony, Attorney General Mukasey recognized the following awardees:

- Two detectives—Justin Spence, Florida Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, and Sgt. Jay Poupard, Michigan Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force—received the Attorney General's Special Commendation Award for their prompt actions and information sharing, which saved the life of an 8-year-old girl. Their actions also prevented the further distribution of pornographic images.
- Lt. Jessica Farnsworth from the Utah Attorney General's Office of Investigations received the AMBER Alert (America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response) Law Enforcement Award for her efforts to create the Utah Attorney General's Child Abduction Response Team, for which she successfully recruited dedicated Federal, State, and local investigators, along with highly skilled support staff.



- Two radiological technologists, Lisa Ahlbrandt and Sue Midgett, from Norfolk, Virginia, were presented with the AMBER Alert Citizen Award for their intuitive actions and fortitude in safely recovering an abducted infant.
- Trooper 1st Class Becky North, a Maryland State Police Officer, received the Child Protection Award for her tenacity in investigating a child abuse case, in which a sex offender received a 99-year prison sentence.
- Doyoun Park, a fifth grader from Quail Hollow Elementary School in Sandy, Utah, was selected as winner of the 2008 National Missing Children's Day poster contest.

Awardees were also recognized for their outstanding contributions to the AMBER Alert program. AMBER Alerts have saved the lives of more than 400 children since the program began in 1996. In 2001, only four states had statewide AMBER Alert plans. In 2005, the Department met its goal of having statewide AMBER Alert plans in all 50 states. The Department is now working with Canada and Mexico to have plans

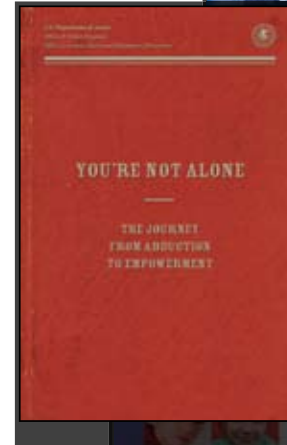
Our children are our Nation's most valuable treasure. It is therefore an honor to acknowledge those who work to make childhood the safe and hopeful time it should be. Today's honorees set the bar high and inspire others in the fight to defend and protect innocent children.

— Michael B. Mukasey
Attorney General

in place in the event children are abducted across our northern or southern borders. The Department also is expanding the AMBER Alert program into Indian Country.

During the ceremony, the Department's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) announced the release of a new publication, *You're Not Alone: The Journey from Abduction to Empowerment* (www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/221965.pdf). Written with the assistance of young adults who were abducted as children, the publication is designed to help other

survivors of abduction recover from their trauma and gain a sense of empowerment over the experience. The document joins two other OJJDP publications that support those affected by abduction: *When Your Child Is Missing: A Family Survival Guide*, which provides helpful advice and information from parents of missing or abducted children, and *What About Me? Coping with the Abduction of a Brother or Sister*, which was written by siblings of missing or abducted children and helps brothers and sisters who are left behind cope in the aftermath of an abduction.



Final National Guidelines Issued for Sex Offender Registration and Notification


On July 1, 2008, the U.S. Department of Justice announced the final guidelines for Title I of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006—the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA). The guidelines provide necessary tools for states, the District of Columbia, territories, and certain federally recognized Indian tribes to incorporate SORNA minimum requirements into their sex offender registration and notification programs.

The final guidelines provide direction and assistance to all jurisdictions in their efforts to meet the minimum standards of the Adam Walsh Act. Since the enactment of the Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act in 1994, all states, the District of Columbia, and two territories currently have some form of a sex offender registration and notification program. The Adam Walsh Act, which President Bush signed into law on July 27, 2006, dramatically enhanced the effectiveness of current programs by establishing a new comprehensive set of minimum standards for sex offender registration and notification throughout the United States.

Before the guidelines were finalized, the Department published proposed guidelines for the SORNA provisions of the Adam Walsh Act in the Federal Register on May 30, 2007, which were available for public comment until August 1, 2007. More than 275 comments were received from criminal justice professionals, sex offender registration officials, State and local governments, tribal communities, Congress, and the

general public. Based on the comments received, the final guidelines provide general principles for jurisdictions working to implement SORNA and further clarification on several topics, including the treatment of juveniles, retroactivity, tribal issues, information subject to Web site posting, and duration of registration.

In addition, the Department has awarded more than \$11.8 million to State, local, and tribal governments to assist them in developing or enhancing programs designed to implement the SORNA provisions. These awards are made through the Adam Walsh Act Implementation Grant Program.



The Department is pleased to provide guidance to states and other covered jurisdictions in complying with the Adam Walsh Child Safety and Protection Act. These guidelines will provide valuable implementation strategies to enhance their abilities to respond to crimes against children and adults and prevent sex offenders who have been released back into the community from victimizing others.

— Jeffrey L. Sedgwick
Acting Assistant Attorney General
Office of Justice Programs

Find Out More

The final guidelines and additional information on significant changes can be found at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/smart/guidelines.htm.



New Performance Standard Announced for Body Armor

A new performance standard for body armor was announced by the U.S. Department of Justice at the National Institute of Justice's (NIJ) annual conference in Arlington, Virginia, on July 21, 2008. The new standard includes more rigorous testing and methods that expose body armor to temperature, humidity, and wear and tear prior to testing the performance.

Performance standards ensure that commercially available body armor, such as bullet-resistant vests, provide a minimum level of protection. NIJ has published standards for both ballistic and stab resistance of personal body armor for law enforcement and corrections officers.

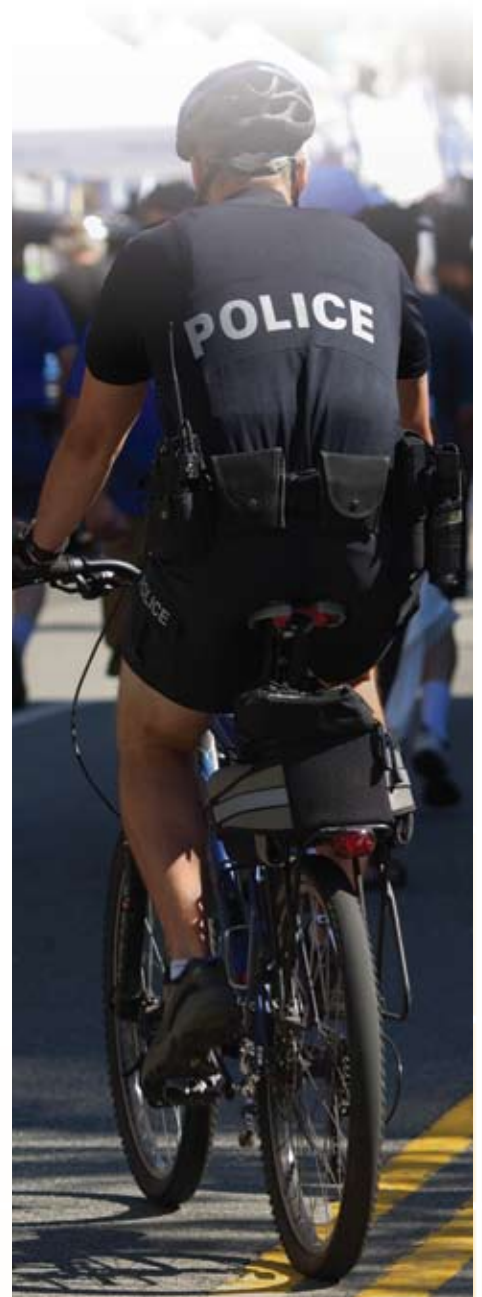
The new standard is a major component in the Department's 2003 Body Armor Safety Initiative, established in response to concerns from the law enforcement

community about the effectiveness of body armor in use at that time. As part of the initiative, NIJ developed the enhanced compliance testing program in partnership with the National Institute of Standards and Technology Office of Law Enforcement Standards.

With the release of this new standard, law enforcement officers do not need to immediately replace the body armor they currently own. NIJ encourages officers to continue to wear body armor listed on NIJ's comprehensive list of models compliant with the NIJ standard. The listing is located on JUSTNET, NIJ's Justice Technology Information Network Web site, at www.justnet.org/BatPro. NIJ recommends replacing armor when its useful service life has expired with armor that meets the requirements of the new standard.

This important advancement in body armor standards is in direct response to changes in threats faced by law enforcement, advances in ballistic materials and technology, and the need to ensure that body armor performs well when subjected to environmental factors. Body armor standards are needed to ensure that law enforcement and corrections officers' equipment provides a high level of safety and protection.

— Kevin O'Connor
Associate Attorney General



Find Out More

More information on the new body armor standard and the U.S. Department of Justice's Body Armor Safety Initiative is available at www.ojp.gov/nij/topics/technology/body-armor/safety-initiative.htm.

Evaluation Finds

DNA Technology Increases Chances of Arrest

The information gained from this study will be valuable to other cities and communities interested in collecting DNA evidence in property crimes. It provides valuable information and best practices about collecting DNA at burglary scenes. It could lead to major changes in law enforcement policy and practice.

— Jeffrey L. Sedgwick
Acting Assistant Attorney General
Office of Justice Programs

The use of DNA technology results in a higher probability of arrest for all property loss crimes, according to an evaluation of the DNA Field Experiment, a five-city study funded by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ). The evaluation found that obtaining DNA samples in property crimes dramatically increases the chances of a burglar being caught and is more cost-effective in the long run to law enforcement.

NIJ, a division of the Office of Justice Programs, funded the study through a competitive grant process. The five funded cities—Denver, Colorado; Topeka, Kansas; Phoenix, Arizona; Los Angeles, California; and Orange County, California—experimented with DNA evidence collection in property crimes. The experiment was designed to determine if collecting DNA evidence at property crimes scenes could be a cost-effective tool in helping local law enforcement officials identify and apprehend burglary suspects.

The Urban Institute conducted an independent evaluation of the study. Additional findings include the following:

- When DNA evidence is analyzed in property crimes, twice as many suspects are identified, twice as many suspects are arrested, and more than twice as many cases are accepted for prosecution compared with traditional investigation (which does not use DNA evidence).
- DNA evidence is at least five times as likely to result in suspect identification compared with fingerprint evidence.
- Suspects identified by DNA had at least twice as many prior felony arrests and convictions as those identified by traditional investigation.

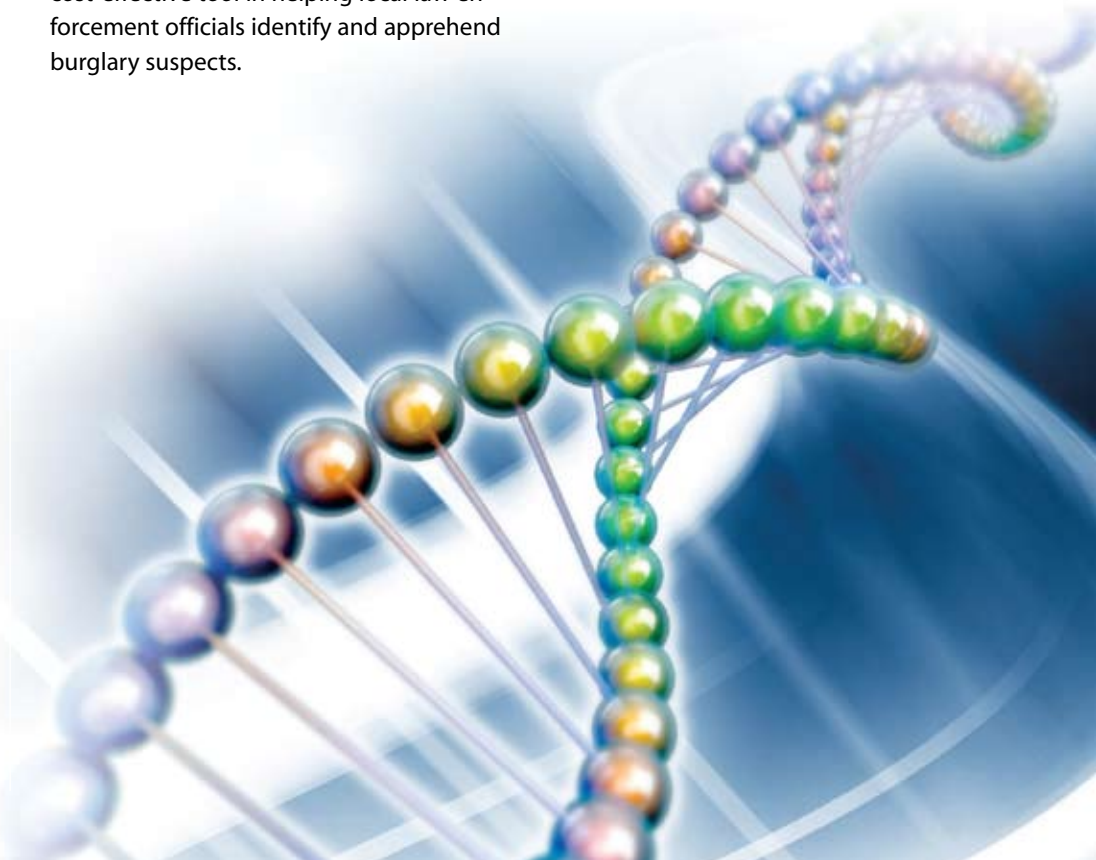
Find Out More

Evaluation of the DNA Field Experiment

www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/topics/forensics/dna/property-crime/evaluating-experiment.htm

Forensic DNA Analysis

www.dna.gov/basics/analysis



OVC HELP for Victim Service Providers Web Forum

The OVC HELP for Victim Service Providers Web Forum allows victim service providers and allied professionals to connect with peers and share ideas about best practices. Each month, through the Guest Host Session series, the Nation's experts answer questions about best practices in victim services.

In 2008, between January and June, OVC hosted 11 Guest Host Sessions, yielding more than 600 posts to the Web Forum. An impressive roster of experts moderated these sessions, including Anne Seymour, cofounder and senior advisor of Justice Solutions, a nonprofit organization that specializes in crime victims' rights and services; Dr. Mario Gaboury, Professor and Chair for the Department of Criminal Justice, University of New Haven; and Michelle Garcia, Director of the Stalking Resource Center at the National Center for Victims of Crime. High-activity sessions reflected current trends and issues of special concern to service providers—assisting victims of intimate partner stalking, cultivating relationships between victim service providers and the media, and responding to teen victims of dating violence.

Upcoming Sessions will focus on various topical victim issues, including—

- **Assisting Child Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation**
This topic will be further defined as it includes a number of different offenses. Additional topics include the use of technology, examples of how to reduce commercial sexual exploitation, and prevention techniques.
- **Enforcing Victims' Rights in Court**
This Session will focus on best practices for enforcing victims' rights throughout court proceedings and the issues victim service providers may encounter during the process.
- **Responding to Sexual Violence on Campus**
Session topics may include services available to victims on and off campus and the prevention of sexual violence in relation to specific at-risk populations (e.g., minority groups, women with disabilities, international students).



Find Out More

Web Forum

OVC's message board helps victim service providers exchange lessons and practices. Visit the Web Forum at <http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ovcproviderforum/index.asp>.

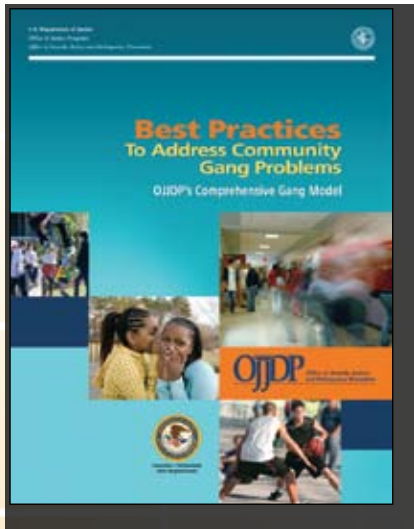
Web Forum E-Alert

OVC's e-mail alert service keeps the victim assistance community informed of recent activity on the Web Forum. Sign up at https://puborder.ncjrs.gov/listservs/subscribe_ovcWebForum.asp.



Offering Guidance In Implementing OJJDP Gang Model

Best Practices To Address Community Gang Problems: OJJDP's Comprehensive Gang Model helps guide communities responding to a present or potential youth gang problem in implementing the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's (OJJDP's) Comprehensive Gang Model. This report describes the research informing the model, notes findings from evaluations of several programs demonstrating the model, and outlines best practices developed by practitioners who have implemented the model in their communities. Online at www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/222799.pdf.



Examining Violence by Girls

OJJDP convened the Girls Study Group to guide the development, testing, and dissemination of strategies to reduce or prevent girls' involvement in delinquency and violence. One of a series of bulletins detailing the findings of the Girls Study Group, *Violence by Teenage Girls: Trends and Context*, examines the involvement of girls in violent activity (including whether such activity has increased relative to the increase for boys) and the contexts in which girls engage in violent behavior. Online at www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/218905.pdf.

Highlighting U.S. Juvenile Gang Problem

OJJDP's Highlights of the 2006 National Youth Gang Survey fact sheet summarizes findings from the annual survey of urban, suburban, and rural law enforcement agencies regarding the presence and characteristics of local youth gangs. According to the survey, an estimated 785,000 gang members and 26,500 gangs were active in the United States in 2006. Online at www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/fs200805.pdf.

Addressing Crime and Social Disorder

Community Policing Dispatch (CPD), the newsletter of the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), assists law enforcement practitioners in addressing crime and social disorder and explores best practices in community policing. CPD also presents new technologies to bring the latest principles to the practitioner. The July issue has stories about police recruitment challenges, California's gang prevention network, the new COPS Office program to combat child sexual predators, the murder-prevention star strategy for preventing homicides, and an exploration of how community policing is tough on crime. Online at www.cops.usdoj.gov/html/dispatch/july_2008/index.htm.



Mapping Out Solutions

Geography & Public Safety, a collaborative effort between the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and the COPS Office, is a new quarterly newsletter of applied geography for the study of its effects on crime and public safety that launched in March 2008. Geographic information systems provide an efficient, visual approach to mapping, analyzing, and alleviating law enforcement problems, such as areas of crime concentration, traffic congestion, or drunk driving. The newsletter is divided into four substantive areas: practice related to mapping and problem analysis, policy that analyzes the intersect between geography and crime, technical tips to aid practitioners in comprehending spatial analysis, and news briefs of developments in the field. The newsletter, which also includes announcements of upcoming conferences and training opportunities, is useful for police practitioners at all levels who are interested in geography's relationship to crime, as well as for researchers, policymakers, and others. The July 2008 issue includes information about traffic, mapping techniques, and advanced statistical analysis. Online at www.cops.usdoj.gov/ric/ResourceDetail.aspx?RID=458.



Dealing With Dealers

Evaluations of drug interventions over recent years show that focused, partnership-based law enforcement approaches are more effective than unfocused, law enforcement-only efforts. *Disrupting Street-Level Drug Markets*, which summarizes the findings from these evaluations, emphasizes the importance of police efforts that rely on police-citizen relationships and consider the conditions that support street-level drug market activity. This first report in a series of crime prevention research reviews, published by the COPS Office with the Campbell Collaboration Crime and Justice Group, recommends what it calls “problem-oriented” policing, using 34 evaluation studies that focus on people, places, and victims. Online at www.cops.usdoj.gov/RIC/ResourceDetail.aspx?RID=428.



Targeting “Hot Spots”

Police officers know the likely trouble spots in their beats and are often very sensitive to signs of potential crime. *Police Enforcement Strategies to Prevent Crime in Hot Spot Areas* studies the effects of hot spot policing programs on crime and disorder. This report, the second in the COPS Office’s Crime Prevention Research Reviews series, summarizes the findings of studies that investigated whether focused police efforts in targeted areas control crime or merely relocate it, and concludes that police focus on high-crime areas can lower crime. Online at www.cops.usdoj.gov/RIC/ResourceDetail.aspx?RID=456.

Enhancing Crime Analysis

How do police reduce the harm caused by specific crime and disorder problems? *Enhancing the Problem-Solving Capacity of Crime Analysis Units*, a new guide in the Problem-Solving Tools Series of the Problem-Oriented Guides for Police (POP Guides), helps police managers ensure that their crime analysts are properly inducted into the police environment and that their analytical work is fully integrated into departmental operations. The guide is organized around nine fundamental concerns that must be addressed when developing a problem-solving capacity within a crime analysis unit. Following each of the nine concerns, posed as questions, the author offers recommendations for consideration by skilled problem-solving crime analysts. Online at www.cops.usdoj.gov/RIC/ResourceDetail.aspx?RID=454.

The Police, Featuring Sting

Sting operations have been part of the modern police response to crime for more than 40 years, although artful deceptions and undercover operations have been part of police techniques for as long as policing has existed. *Sting Operations*, a new guide in the Police Response Guides Series of the POP Guides, takes a broad approach to include a wide range of crime types and the different sting operations that target them. The guide helps law enforcement officials decide whether sting operations would be right for them by reviewing both their benefits and negative consequences. Online at www.cops.usdoj.gov/RIC/ResourceDetail.aspx?RID=443.

Two new publications will be available from the COPS Office later this year at www.cops.usdoj.gov.

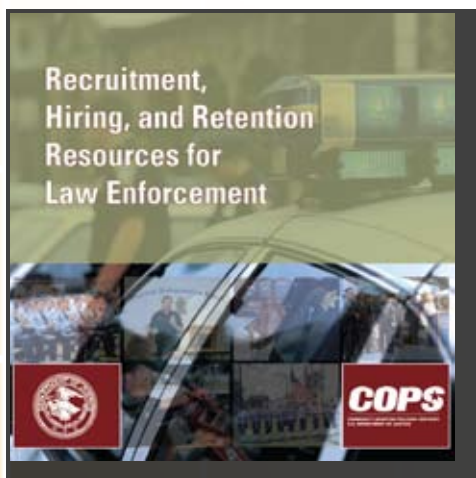
Strategies to Address Gang Crime: A Guidebook for Local Law Enforcement

is based on the premise that gang problems are local and solutions must be based on improving understanding of the nature of the problems and the immediate underlying conditions that give rise to them. The author provides practical guidance on using the SARA problem-solving model process (scanning, analysis, response, and assessment) to help law enforcement agencies develop useful and effective measures, recognize key intervention points, and select appropriate responses.

Policing Terrorism: A Police Chief’s Guide contains 50 lessons that summarize writings on and clearly articulate the essential components of a counterterrorism plan. Although applicable to law enforcement agencies of any size, it will be of particular relevance to small- and mid-size police departments that have limited resources to devote to terrorism prevention and response.

Hiring and Retaining Officers

Nationwide, it is increasingly difficult to find and retain talented police officers. The *Recruitment, Hiring, and Retention Resources for Law Enforcement* CD-ROM from the COPS Office contains more than 50 documents from an assortment of useful justice sources and is designed to assist law enforcement management in finding, training, and retaining qualified staff. Areas covered are grouped into the categories of recruitment and hiring, retention and training, ethics and integrity, early intervention, and stress management. Online at www.cops.usdoj.gov/RIC/ResourceDetail.aspx?RID=450.



Looking Out for Pedestrians

In 2003, approximately 4,700 pedestrians were killed and another 70,000 injured due to pedestrian-vehicle crashes. One pedestrian is killed in a traffic collision every 113 minutes and one is injured every 8 minutes. *Pedestrian Injuries and Fatalities*, a POP Guide, examines the problem of pedestrian-vehicle crashes that result in these statistics. It provides a series of questions and assessment tools to help law enforcement analyze their local pedestrian injury and fatality problems. Finally, it reviews responses to the problem and what is known about them from evaluative research and police practice. Online at www.cops.usdoj.gov/RIC/ResourceDetail.aspx?RID=444.

OJP Financial Guide for Grantees Available

The Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO) at the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) has developed the *OJP Financial Guide* to assist award recipients in fulfilling their fiduciary responsibility to safeguard grant funds and to ensure that funds are used for the purposes for which they were awarded. The Guide is a day-to-day management tool for OJP award recipients and may also be used by subrecipients in administering their grant programs. The provisions of the Guide apply to all grantor agency awards. The Guide is available online at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/financialguide/index.htm. Grantees may call OCFO's Customer Service Center at 800-458-0786 or e-mail at ask.ocfo@usdoj.gov with any financial management questions or suggested revisions.



offering training about how the Neighborhood Watch program can benefit communities.

Registered Celebrate Safe Communities initiatives will be invited to participate in free webinars designed to help communities organize and promote local activities. Materials, including a media outreach toolkit and guides detailing how to recruit volunteers, will be available for download. In addition, registered initiatives are eligible to apply for the annual award recognizing outstanding efforts.

Find Out More

Visit www.celebratesafecommunities.org to learn more about this initiative, to get help planning an event, and to register local initiatives.



STAY CONNECTED

.....Fall Training Opportunities for Victim Service Providers.....

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) is offering five training workshops this fall to help victim service providers enhance their capacity to serve crime victims and increase their professional skills.

Sept. 16–18: Providing Culturally Competent Services to Victims of Crime (Lincoln, Nebraska)

Oct. 8–9: Identity Theft (San Diego, California)

Oct. 15–16: Sexual Assault Advocate/Counselor Training (Portland, Maine)

NEW! Oct. 29–30: Enforcing Victims' Rights (Charleston, South Carolina)

NEW! Dec. 10–11: Supporting Children Living With Grief and Trauma: A Multidisciplinary Approach (Los Angeles, California)

Check the OVC TTAC Web site (www.ovcttac.gov/trainingcenter/index.cfm) for more information about these workshops and to register.

.....NCVRW 2009.....

Each April since 1981, OVC has helped lead communities in their observances of National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW). Rallies, candlelight vigils, and a host of commemorative activities are held each year to promote victims' rights and to honor crime victims and those who advocate on their behalf. Important dates follow:

Online awards nomination deadline is October 10, 2008

National Observance and Candlelight Ceremony is April 23, 2009

National Crime Victims' Service Awards Ceremony is April 24, 2009

2009 National Crime Victims' Rights Week is April 26–May 2, 2009

Visit OVC's Web site at www.ovc.gov/ncvrw/welcome.html for more information about NCVRW 2009.

.....Fifth National SART Training Conference Announced.....

The fifth national Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Training Conference will be held May 2009, in Seattle, Washington. It will focus on expanding the capacity of SARTs to promote health and healing of sexual assault victims, hold sex offenders accountable, and help prevent further sexual violence. The 2009 conference includes an interactive scenario track that allows a limited number of SARTs to work as teams, collecting evidence at the scene of a crime through to testifying at the trial. Registration opens on November 1, 2008.

Visit the SANE-SART Web site at www.sane-sart.com for more information.



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NCJRS: Connecting You to Justice Information

Additional information on the topics and issues featured in *Justice Resource Update* is available from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS). NCJRS is a federally funded resource offering justice and substance abuse information to researchers, policymakers, and others worldwide. Access reference and referral services and one of the largest justice-focused libraries and abstract databases. Learn more about the range of services available and about NCJRS's sponsoring agencies at www.ncjrs.gov. Click on "Subscribe/Register" and follow a few easy steps to join thousands of your colleagues who stay informed through *Justice Resource Update*, JUSTINFO (a biweekly electronic newsletter), and periodic e-mail notices on subjects of interest.

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Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring,
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www.ojp.usdoj.gov/smart

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www.usdoj.gov/ovw

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www.nicic.org

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Services (COPS)
www.cops.usdoj.gov

Office of National Drug Control
Policy (ONDCP)
www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov

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