# THE ISSUE: Quality of Life Problems

Quality of life related issues were among the top 10 public safety problems identified by recipients of the 2011 COPS Hiring Program.

When identifying a public safety problem it is important to think about the nature of similar incidents in specific terms (e.g., abandoned vehicles, pan handling, fear of crime, homelessness). While doing this, it can be helpful to consider all aspects of the problem, including the likely offenders, the suitable targets/victims, and how they all come together to create the situation.

An important component in achieving the COPS Office's mission is to provide quality (relevant) knowledge resources that address key public safety issues. Featured here is a sample of resources that can be used to directly support your efforts—they can be shared with staff, your community, or used for training purposes. Please visit the COPS Office website to order and download a complete listing of our knowledge resources.

### **Knowledge Resources**



#### Street Prostitution (2006)

This guide offers information regarding female prostitutes, their clients, pimps, and panderers, as well as explaining the transaction, the environment associated with the problem, and describes the linkage between prostitution and drugs. The guide provides questions to ask when dealing with the problem of prostitution, identifies potential responses to the problem, and proposes measures to assess the effectiveness of responses (2nd Edition).



#### Homeless Encampments (2010)

Homeless encampments are growing in number across the nation as our economy continues to struggle to recover. This publication reviews the factors and the responses to the problem and what is known about them from evaluative research and police practice.



## Improving Street Lighting to Reduce Crime in Residential Areas (2008)

It has been proven many times that the use of street lighting helps reduce crime in residential areas. This publication examines this problem-solving technique and recommends steps to take when implementing a street lighting improvement plan.



#### Loud Car Stereos (2002)

Police are concerned about loud car stereos for two main reasons: 1) they can be a public disturbance, and 2) they inhibit drivers' ability to hear emergency signals on the road. This guide will help law enforcement analyze their local problem and reviews responses to the problem and what is known about these from evaluative research and police practice.



#### People with Mental Illness (2006)

Law enforcement officers encounter people with mental illness in many different types of situations. This guide is an essential tool for local law enforcement to analyze and address this concern and develop effective ways to respond.



#### Panhandling (2003)

This guide for police addresses the problem of panhandling. It also covers nearly equivalent conduct in which, in exchange for donations, people perform nominal labor such as cleaning the windshields of cars stopped in traffic, guarding parked cars, and carrying luggage or groceries. This guide will help law enforcement understand the factors that contribute to their local panhandling problems and develop effective responses.



#### Disorder at Day Laborer Sites (2007)

Disorder at day laborer sites is but one aspect of the larger set of problems related to both public disorder and to illegal immigration. This guide will help law enforcement understand the factors that contribute to their local problem in order to frame analysis questions, identify valid effectiveness measures, determine important intervention points, and select an appropriate set of responses for their specific problem.



#### Abandoned Vehicles (2008)

This guide begins by describing the problem of abandoned vehicles and reviewing factors that increase its risks. It then identifies a series of questions to help you analyze your local abandoned-vehicle problem. Finally, it reviews responses to the problem, and what is known about them from evaluative research and police practice

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES RELEVANT TO QUALITY OF LIFE: Juvenille Runaways (2010) Graffiti (2009)

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Outline or order more FREE resources relevant to QUALITY OF LIFE PROBLEMS at www.cops.usdoj.gov or call 1.800.421.6770.