

An Integrated Approach to Crime Prevention

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You can help to prevent crime. Whether you are a business owner, a community leader or a resident you can prevent crime. The following are some ways that you can get involved.

Identify Strengths - when we talk about crime, we frequently think of all of the negatives of an area. There are many strengths in any area that should be acknowledged and built upon.

Promote Success - there are numerous success stories that never get told. Promoting the positive outcomes can help reduce people's fear of crime and show what is being done to prevent crime.

Take Responsibility - there are many things that you can actively do to prevent crime. Secure your premises; know your neighbours; contribute to joint prevention programs; etc.

Enforce the Law - report crimes to police so they can do something about it. This will help them to effectively enforce the law and to apprehend offenders.

Support Victims - victims of crime benefit from local support. This can include providing immediate assistance (first aid, emotional support), helping them avoid becoming a repeat victim (mutually watching out for each other) or by helping with advice on security measures.

Rehabilitate Offenders - punishment alone does little to prevent offending. Helping offenders to understand the impact of their crimes and providing them with the skills to cease offending is effective in preventing crime. Participating in conferences (through the criminal justice system) with offenders and having offenders on supervised community orders working in the area are practical ways to assist the rehabilitation of offenders.

Harden Targets - targets can be hardened against crime. Murals on walls reduce opportunities for graffiti; engraving valuables reduces rewards of theft; time-lock safes reduce returns from robbery; car alarms and central locking reduce motor vehicle theft; etc.

Make Places Work - environments can increase/decrease opportunities for crime. Poorly lit, poorly maintained areas with few people can promote fear and result in crime. Making places work brings people out, promotes surveillance and prevents crime.

Care for People - caring communities provide opportunities for all people to prosper. Loving families, community cohesion and access to education and employment help prevent crime.

You can do something about crime in your area.