

# Models of Crime Prevention

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There are four key models of crime prevention. Each model employs different approaches to prevent crime. Some methods of crime prevention bring about quick results, while others can take many years to result in lower crime. Each model has strengths and weaknesses. Ideally, the best way to prevent crime is to use a combination of strategies from each model.

Model	Explanation	Examples
<b>Developmental</b>	Often known as early intervention, developmental crime prevention seeks to address the early causes of criminality. Reducing community and individual risk factors and increasing protective factors, help to prevent crime later in life.	The most celebrated examples of developmental crime prevention include parenting programs, school enrichment initiatives, pre-school regimes and improvements in transition to school arrangements.
<b>Social</b>	Strengthening neighbourhoods helps prevent crime. Local communities that have strong bonds and where people know each other are less prone to experience crime. Enhancing 'social capital' or the relationships between people can be beneficial in protecting people from crime.	Effective social crime prevention is difficult to achieve because it can involve so many different aspects. Community building activities, provision of welfare services and increasing community support groups all help to enhance the sense of community and prevent crime.
<b>Situational</b>	Stopping the opportunities for crime is an effective way of preventing crime. Increasing the risks of detection, reducing the rewards for offending and increasing the difficulty of offending are all ways to prevent crime.	Situational crime prevention can be as simple as installing locks and alarms, increasing surveillance through lighting and making buildings harder to enter, damage or hide near.
<b>Criminal Justice</b>	The form of crime prevention most commonly understood is associated with the criminal justice system: police, courts and prisons. Research tends to suggest that these measures are only partially successful. These measures work best when accompanied by the other models.	More police, improved arrest rates, harsher penalties and prison are some of the common strategies associated with the criminal justice system. Increasingly there is recognition that there are smarter ways to stop crime – these rely on all models of crime prevention working together.

The causes of crime are complex. Preventing crime will work best when these complex causes are understood and addressed. Using strategies from each of these models will generally be the most effective way to tackle crime, because all aspects of the particular crime will be considered.