

Preventing Youth Violence

Building Safe Homes, Safe Schools, and Safe Communities

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Most measures related to violence indicate that violence in our nation is decreasing. Yet, violence by and against youth remains at unacceptably high levels throughout our country.ⁱ Teenagers are ten times more likely than their grandparents to be victims of violence, yet they are regarded more as sources of trouble than as community assets. Youth outbursts of violence have led to harsh sanctions, adult status for many offenses, and prison rather than rehabilitation in our nation's efforts to reduce the plague of crime-related death and injury among our young.ⁱⁱ

To confront this reality, the National Crime Prevention Council has proposed a youth violence prevention strategy to reduce increasing fears about youth violence and the growing perception that America's schools and communities are unsafe. Creating a policy and program synergy among the three principal environments or domains of young people - home, school, and community - provides the most effective framework for creating lasting change. This specific strategy seeks to operationalize program, policy, and practice in the area of youth violence prevention, recognizing that the strategy demands collaboration between the public and private sector.

Understanding the context for program and policy change

The three principal environments or domains of youth activity are in the home, school, and community. Lisbeth B. Schorr in her work, *Common Purpose: Strengthening Families and Neighborhoods to Rebuild America*, has challenged the prevention community to understand children in the context of their families, and families in the context of their neighborhoods. Policies and programs aimed at preventing youth violence must be formulated in the context of their principal domains and create a synergy or coordination that reinforces prevention activities. Community norms must be reinforced in the home and school; school norms must be reinforced in the community and home; and norms established in the home must be reinforced in the community and school.

Critical to the wellness and security of America's children is their need to feel and be safe and secure in their environment. The trauma and anxiety that violence begets in our children interferes with a child's ability to learn and develop socially, a teacher's ability to teach, a parent's ability to parent, and a community's ability to provide safe and nurturing environments. Within each of the three domains our communities must build and support programs and policies that seek to promote positive youth development and create environments free of guns, alcohol, and drugs. The program and policy synergy for this initiative can be summarized in the following work categories: 1) Naming and reclaiming our children; 2) Preventing youth access to guns, alcohol, and drugs; and 3) Creating safe and nurturing environments.

This vision suggests policy and program actions to reach these goals. The responses are *only suggestions* and will require coordination and planning with other public and private organizations in order to maximize efforts and to prevent duplication or program gaps.

NCPC's current efforts

The NCPC mission for its youth work is to empower individuals (including teens), organizations, and communities to build environments for youth that are free from crime, drugs, and violence. Emphasis is placed on policy and program change. After years of work in the youth field, the staff of NCPC believes that the core elements of effective youth programming include the following seven components:

- Youth Voice
- Youth/Adult Partnerships
- Civic Engagement/Community Service
- Public Policy
- Curricula
- Information/Skills Transfer
- Public Education

These components emphasize collaboration with and among youth. NCPC currently has a broad range of youth related efforts that target children from early childhood to late teens. They consist of the following: Youth As Resources, Children's Media Campaign, Teens, Crime, and the Community, Youth Vision, National Youth Network, Youth Safety Corps, and the National Youth Crime Prevention Conference. Each of these areas uses the seven core components as the foundation around which youth work is accomplished.

The Structure of This Testimony

This document seeks to frame NCPC's approach to youth violence prevention and reduction. It outlines the kind of work that should be done under such an initiative, and highlights ways in which this effort links with, supports, and is supported by other NCPC activities. The references cited in the "New Developments" section substantiate the trends and circumstances described. The "What Needs To Happen?" section follows from these developments. "The Work To Be Done" is based on the trends and developments cited (and their references) and combines these with NCPC's capacities and experience. The "Specific Program and Policy" section offers

examples of both programs and policies that could be championed by this initiative. The document combines these to shape an agenda for the organization in reducing and preventing youth violence.

I. New Developments Frame New Approach

At least six major developments shape our approach to reducing youth violence. These relatively recent and somewhat independent events form a foundation for a focused youth violence prevention framework in which collaboration is the cornerstone of its success.

The approaches that work, that have proved themselves in structured evaluations, have this in common: They reject a one-dimensional view of the causes of youth violence and recognize the multiple environments and interrelationships that are at the core of causing violence. The fact that we acknowledge that youth violence arises from multiple causes and requires multiple solutions has dramatically altered prevention and intervention strategies. Strategies based on this approach have met with much success.ⁱⁱⁱ The Multi-systemic Therapy program and the Functional Family Therapy program, both highly successful in reducing recidivism among deeply troubled youth, are based on the idea that young people cannot or will not change unless the change affects the multiple environments in which they live, learn, and play.^{iv} This same fact of multiple causes has also emphasized the value of operational, multidisciplinary partnerships. After school programs and national initiatives like Boys and Girls Clubs are now emphasizing comprehensive environmental change strategies. These efforts have strong evaluations and have demonstrated success when implemented through comprehensive community-team efforts.

A second major evolution in reducing juvenile crime has been the development of the idea of risk and protective factors, borrowed from concepts in public health. These factors, sometimes called liabilities and assets, represent indicators that young people may be facing a real risk of personal trouble as victims or victimizers.^v

These risk and protective factors generally include individual, family, situational, and environmental influences that can increase or decrease the individual's chance of becoming involved in various socially unacceptable behaviors ranging from violence to substance abuse to early onset of sexual activity. This approach offers a means of examining community strengths and weaknesses in helping youth and their families. Protective factors in the risk and protective factor model examines indicators that enable children (whatever their circumstances) to demonstrate resilience and overcome defects in their environments. These include such things as the involvement of a caring adult, development of a skill that is recognized and valued, and possession of a sense of humor.^{vi}

A third major change has been that we can now identify initiatives that clearly have a science base and have been significantly evaluated. Detailed, thoughtful research designs have provided increasingly rigorous assessments of many programs to help youth avoid or reverse the use of violence. The Blueprints for Action Initiative has identified ten programs that are effective and has prepared materials to enable communities to replicate such programs.^{vii} The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's long-term studies of youth in three major cities (Denver, Rochester, and Pittsburgh) have shed a whole new light on development of

delinquency, the relationship between vulnerability to crime and development of delinquent behaviors, and the persistence and pervasiveness of delinquency.^{viii}

In a fourth trend, there is greater recognition throughout our communities that character does count, and that core values like truth, kindness, honor, courage, empathy, and respect are vital to the health of both our children and our communities. Character Counts training, for example, has become a major force in a number of elementary schools, where teachers and administrators work with parents and students to identify and practice these values.^{ix}

A fifth major development has been the national acknowledgment that the issue of instrumentality — the availability of guns — was the major factor in the dramatic and distressing increase in juvenile homicides between the early 1980s and the mid-1990s. That youth assault each other without handguns has never been disputed, but the statistics made an irrefutable case that handguns in particular played an almost exclusive role in the obscene levels of violent death our nation lived through during the late 1980s and 1990s. The fact is clear that almost all of the dramatic rise between 1982 and 1994 in violence was due to firearms, particularly hand weapons.^x

A sixth major shift has been our understanding of the depth and pervasiveness of the links, among both juveniles and adults, between substance abuse (including alcohol abuse) and crime. More than \$68 billion in annual costs of alcohol abuse is generated by alcohol-involved crimes, for example. Federal research on juvenile and adult arrestees documents that a sizable majority of those arrested have used alcohol or other drugs a short time before committing their crimes. Such community-based programs as the Community Partnership of South Central Los Angeles and the Community Trials Project of South Carolina have restricted alcohol access by youth and have been rewarded with substantial decreases in alcohol use and alcohol-linked crimes among young people.^{xi}

II. What Needs To Happen?

From these facts, a picture begins to emerge of what we must do as a nation to reduce youth violence. The following paints a landscape for specific work and action. It is clear, based on new developments and new approaches, that the work needs to be focused and directed toward the environments that shape and define youth - home, school, and community.

- We must identify interrelated situational and environmental conditions that contribute to crime and find ways to reduce or redirect their impact.
- We must insist on testing approaches to help young people reduce violence to themselves and others.
- We must help our nation's communities understand the interconnections that underlie crime's causes and to develop similar interconnections — partnerships and comprehensive strategies — to address and eliminate these causes. Communities need to recognize that how a community acts may help or hurt a family, which in turn may harm or support a child, and they need to understand how to take helpful, comprehensive approaches to reducing the multiple causes of violence.

- We must help parents with the ever-more challenging task of bringing their children up to be productive and involved citizens of the next millennium, by providing information, skills, and support in both the community and work environment.
- We must reduce the availability to the facilitators of violence — guns and alcohol and other drugs.
- We must continue and redouble our efforts to help young people and their caregivers understand that values do matter, and help them convey and acquire appropriate values.
- We must persist with even greater vigor in teaching young people and adults basic crime prevention strategies.
- We must help communities develop prevention-focused, anti-crime strategies built on government-grassroots partnerships and comprehensive strategies.
- We must develop, test and promulgate ways to involve young people in their own and their communities' safety and improvement.

III. The Work To Be Done and Its Policy Context

The work will be complex and challenging. It requires us to think about policies and programs that impact home, school, and community. This work cannot, and should not be done alone.

The research and policy context for this work will be as follows:

- Identify conditions that contribute to crime and find ways to reduce or redirect their impact.
 - Nationally, NCPC and its partner organizations will support and where appropriate spearhead policy and program initiatives that help to strengthen families and their ability to raise emotionally, intellectually, and physically healthy children. Families must be understood in the context of their homes, schools, and communities. Therefore our work and the work of our partners will be to build safer and more caring homes, schools, and communities that help young people emerge from childhood into productive adulthood by providing opportunities for positive youth development and youth/adult interaction.
 - Regionally and locally, NCPC and its partners will help develop educational materials, training, and other tools that enable families, schools, and communities to take leadership in developing effective programs and policies that build family capacity, increase opportunities for positive youth development and effective supports for youth who are troubled.
- Insist on testing new approaches to helping young people reduce violence to themselves and others
 - NCPC will continue to assist national, state, and local government and nongovernment agencies to find out about effective (and ineffective) approaches to preventing and reducing youth violence. It will encourage and support valid evaluations of state, regional, and local programs in order to increase our understanding of what works and what does not work. In addition, NCPC will help prevention advocates to promote legislative and other policy support for use of effective programs and evaluations to help identify such programs and to create movements that support prevention-focused strategies.

- Help parents with the ever-more challenging task of bringing their children up to be productive and involved citizens of the next millennium.
 - Nationally, it is vital that we form partnerships with organizations that can and do reach parents to highlight and promote effective strategies for parents to use in all stages of their children's development to reduce their children's risks of becoming victims or victimizers.
 - We must help communities identify appropriate and supportive ways that they can build family strengths, help parents develop and strengthen their skills in child-rearing, and provide effective, timely support for families facing stress.

- Reduce access to the facilitators of violence — guns, alcohol, and other drugs — and decrease their lethality.
 - We must continue to focus on the effects of gun-related violence on children; we must strengthen our efforts to identify and publicize successful programs and policies that reduce access of children and other inappropriate persons to firearms (both within the home and through other channels). In addition, we must identify and support policies and programs that reduce access to and demand for alcohol and other drugs, given their overwhelming contributions to crime and violence.
 - Policy and program experts must help states and local communities identify and adopt measures that reduce access to firearms and other instruments of violence especially by children and other unauthorized persons. It is essential that government help communities identify and implement ways to reduce demand for and access to alcohol and other drugs, especially among youth.

- Help young people acquire and help their families and communities reinforce appropriate values, such as responsibility, accountability, compassion, empathy, and concern for others.
 - We must seek opportunities and partnerships with other organizations to promote initiatives for parents, children, and community members that teach and support values that reduce violence, drug use, and other crime and help young people develop into healthy, productive citizens.
 - Regionally and locally, the public and private sectors must make available to communities and their organizations, including schools, youth groups, and faith institutions, information on effective strategies and initiatives to promote violence-reducing values; local, regional, and state-level partnerships to promote and convey such values; and national initiatives in which communities can take part.

- Help communities develop effective, comprehensive anti-crime, violence, and drug strategies built on government-grassroots partnerships and community commitment. To further assist communities in their efforts to recognize the multiple and interrelated causes of crime, especially violence, and shape their prevention efforts to take these many causes into account as they develop their comprehensive plans.
 - We should continue to provide appropriate support of U.S. Department of Justice and other funded efforts to promote government-grassroots partnerships for effective anti-violence and other anti-crime planning and action. The public and private sectors must develop partnerships with other national organizations to help educate their members on

the value of participation through local affiliates in such partnerships. NCPC will continue to analyze its experiences in this area and to share lessons learned with national, regional, and local partners. This will include training, technical assistance, and materials made available to all participating organizations.

- We need to provide training, technical assistance, and materials to help states and local communities form and sustain such partnerships and to ensure that effective partnerships and other strategies are available to these communities and their partnerships.
- Develop, test and promulgate programs that involve young people in their own and their communities' safety.
 - Nationally, NCPC will continue to promote and facilitate access to Teens, Crime, and the Community and its community-based companion, Community Works!, to school, juvenile justice, and community settings as a proven tool for involving young people in addressing their and their communities' crime problems. NCPC will also promote the Youth as Resources concept to communities as a more broad-based community service initiative that encompasses community well being and safety issues. NCPC will incorporate this work in its National Youth Safety Corps initiative and its collaboration around efforts to support Youth Vision. NCPC will also continue to develop and share information on a variety of youth-led crime prevention strategies ranging from peer mentoring to teen courts to using the arts for prevention. In addition, NCPC will seek violence prevention partnerships with national organizations that can involve their local affiliates.
 - Regionally and locally, NCPC will provide training, technical assistance, and materials to enable communities to initiate a variety of youth-led crime prevention efforts and to integrate these efforts with other community crime prevention initiatives.

IV. Specific Program and Policy Ramifications

Having established the policy and program context for NCPC's new initiative on youth violence prevention, and outlined the various components of NCPC's work, and the potential work of partners and policy makers, the following examples of policy and program initiatives could form the basis of a national youth violence prevention platform. The following are **EXAMPLES** of the *types* of issues and programs NCPC, partners, and policy makers may engage to promote activities around naming and reclaiming our children; reducing access to alcohol, guns, and drugs; and creating safe environments.

I. Safe Homes

1. Naming and reclaiming our children

Policy and Program implications:

Support public policies and programs that promote the involvement of parents in the lives of their children through the following policy strategies:

- Adult family leave policies
- Adult parenting classes
- Preventative health care
- Mentoring opportunities

2. Reducing access to alcohol, guns, and drugs

Policy and Program Implications:

Promote public policies that reduce youth access to guns in the home by supporting the following strategies:

- Safe gun storage practices
- Waiting period for the purchase of a gun
- Enforcement strategies related to underage drinking
- Enforcement strategies related to parental liability for youth gun violence.
- Alcohol density in communities disproportionately affected by drug abuse, violence, and crime.
- Reducing access to guns through Child Access Protection (CAP) laws in the states

Promote public policies and programs that reduce youth access to alcohol in the home by supporting the following strategies:

- Civil liability based on the failure to adequately secure alcohol within the home and increasing civil liability when alcohol is acquired in the home and the young person commits a crime or is involved in a traffic accident
- Treatment slots for young people
- Teen AA programs in schools and communities.

3. Creating safe, nurturing environments for youth

Policy and Program implications:

Promote policies that encourage parental supervision and accountability by encouraging the following strategies:

- Full and accountable child support until the age of 18.
- Preventative health care for all children under the age of 18.
- Tax incentives for child care

II. Safe Schools

1. Naming and claiming our children

Policy and Program implications:

Support school-based policies and programs that encourage youth participation in creating safe and caring environments. NCPC and its partners will encourage a wide range of youth led and youth service programs. Policies and programs should encourage youth-adult partnerships, youth advocacy, youth voice, public awareness, and ownership of programs by participating young people.

- Policies that support alternative programs for disruptive youth.
- Policies that require dispute and conflict resolution as part of a school district's discipline and suspension strategies.
- Policies that support or require community service.
- Policies that promote access to in-school preventative health care.

2. Reducing access to guns, drugs, and alcohol

Policy and Program implications:

Support policies and programs that promote the following strategies:

- Youth/law enforcement collaboration on the implementation of school safety audits.
- “No tolerance” as opposed to “zero tolerance” policies related to the possession of guns, illicit drugs, or alcohol. (No tolerance is a strategy that permits alternatives to suspension or expulsion for possession. Zero tolerance usually requires automatic suspension or expulsion without alternatives.)
- Zero tolerance for the sale and distribution of illicit drugs and guns
- Policies and guidelines related to the distance gun stores and alcohol outlets can be located from school property.

3. Creating safe, nurturing environments for youth

Policy and Program implications:

Support policies and programs that promote the following strategies:

- Development and expansion of after-school programs for elementary and middle school children
- Promotion of adult/youth relationships via intergenerational tutoring and mentoring initiatives
- Equitable access to **all** programs within schools.

III. Safe Communities

1. Naming and reclaiming our children

Policy and Program implications:

Support programs and policies that encourage community involvement in the lives of families and schools. Communities must build on inclusivity and promote diversity.

- Early childhood education programs
- Family courts that promote restorative justice strategies
- Community (tax) incentives for corporations that implement family support policies

2. Reducing access to guns, drugs, and alcohol

Policy and Policy Implications

NCPC, partners, and policy makers focus their activities to engage the community in the following public policy areas that reduce youth access to guns in the communities:

- Youth access to gun shows and establishments where guns are sold,
- Waiting period legislation to allow a cooling off period before the purchase of a gun,
- Criminal and civil sanctions when a gun is used in the commission of crime where a child is the victim,
- Time-limiting gun purchases
- Assault weapons and high caliber rifles,
- Enforcement strategies using existing laws,

Promote public policies that reduce youth access to alcohol in communities by examining the following strategies:

- Alcohol outlet density in neighborhoods disproportionately affected by crime, drugs and violence,

- Youth targeted alcohol advertising and its placement in communities,
- Keg registration legislation,
- Alcohol compliance checks and link the implementation to federal funding for treatment, (SYNAR –alcohol),

3. Creating safe, nurturing environments for youth

Policy and Program Implications:

Work with national organizations and local community-based organizations that create safe nurturing environments by examining and promoting the following strategies:

- Community-based safe-houses for children in neighborhoods disproportionately affected by guns, excessive proliferation of alcohol outlets, and illicit drugs.
- Community service opportunities for young people.
- Community-based health care services
- Community recreation and mentoring
- Coordinated juvenile services to intervene and treat troubled youth
- Juvenile offender re-integration programs for juvenile probationers.
- Community restorative justice programs

V. Conclusion

The Youth Violence Prevention Initiative offers a program and policy rationale for preventing youth violence by mobilizing youth, adults, and policy makers in the work of creating safe homes, schools, and communities. We do this work by naming and reclaiming our children, reducing access to alcohol, guns, and drugs, and finally, creating safe and nurturing environments. **No single organization can do this work alone.** Critical to the success of this effort will be for national, state, and local partners from the youth development field, the substance abuse field, and parent organizations to think collectively about building collaboration to enhance the social capital necessary to prevent youth violence. Our success will ultimately be measured by our national capacity to transform current fears into policies and programs that engender hope.

Endnotes

ⁱ Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Crime Victimization Survey 1998: Changes 1997-98 with Trends 1993-98*: Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, 1999. In 1998, those 12 to 15 were victimized by violence at a rate of 82.4 per 1,000. The rate for those 16 to 19 was 91.1 per thousand. The rate for those 65 and older was 2.8 per thousand.

ⁱⁱ Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, *Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 1999 National Report*, Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, 1999. Chapter 6 details the current processing of juveniles and a number of the significant changes in the past five to ten years. Also, Mark H. Moore and Michael Tonry, editors. *Youth Violence in America*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1998, provides a thoughtful and well-researched discussion of both the evolution of juvenile violence and new findings on prevention and intervention.

ⁱⁱⁱ A. Reiss and J. Roth, editors, *Understanding and Preventing Violence*. Washington, DC: National Research Council, National Academy of Sciences Press, 1993. Particularly informative is the matrix on page 20 (Table S-1), which categorizes causes of violence by individual (biological/psychosocial) and social (microsocial/macrosocial) on one axis and predisposing, situational, and activating on the other. With each cell of the matrix is a listing of two to three examples. *Preventing Crime: What Works, What Doesn't What's Promising* (Lawrence E. Sherman, editor;

Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice, U.S. Department of Justice, 1997) acknowledges coordinated, multifaceted, community-based strategies as among the most promising of prevention strategies.

^{iv} Scott W. Henggeler, *Treating Serious Anti-Social Behavior in Youth: The MST Approach*. Washington, DC: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice, 1997, outlines this cost-effective and flexible strategy that integrates all the systems in which youth must function in its treatment approach. Lynn McDonald and Heather E. Frey, *Families and Schools Together: Building Relationships*, Washington, DC: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice, 1999 describes a multifaceted treatment for preventing youth violence that strengthens parenting skills and builds partnerships with parents and schools.

^v Elissa Rumey, Charlotte A. Kerr, and Barbara Allen-Hagen, *Serious and Violence Juvenile Offenders*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, 1998. See especially "Predictors of Serious and Violent Juvenile Offending" and "Interventions to Prevent Juvenile Offending." Also see J. David Hawkins, Richard Catalano, and D.D. Brewer, "Prevention Serious, Violent, and Chronic Juvenile Offending: Effective Strategies From Conception to Age 6," in J. C. Howell, B. Krisberg, J. D. Hawkins, and J. J. Wilson, eds., *Sourcebook on Serious, Violent, and Chronic Juvenile Offenders*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 1995. *The Guide for Implementing the Comprehensive Strategy for Serious, Violent, and Chronic Juvenile Offenders* (J. C. Howell, et al., Washington, DC: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice, 1993) outlines both preventive and intervention strategies for dealing with youth violence based on the risk and protective factors approach.

^{vi} See for example Suzanne Stutman, International Mental Health Institute, Washington, DC, and The Search Institute, Minneapolis, MN: www.searchinstitute.org.

^{vii} Delbert Elliott, et al. *Blueprints for Action*. Washington, DC: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, 1998.

^{viii} See *Report to Congress on Juvenile Violence Research*, Washington, DC: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, 1999, which provides a concise review of several dozen studies of causes of juvenile violence and effective interventions. See also Lawrence W. Sherman, editor, *Preventing Violence: What Works, What Doesn't, What's Promising*, Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice, U.S. Department of Justice, 1997, which reviews effective school, home, community, situational, and other preventive strategies. Chapter 5 in particular examines the risk and protective factors approach. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention has published three recent reports on the Denver, Pittsburgh, and Rochester Youth Development Studies: Highlights of Findings from the Denver Youth Study (April 1999), Highlights of Findings from the Pittsburgh Youth Study (February 1999), and Highlights of Findings from the Rochester Youth Development Study (April 1999).

^{ix} Most research on character education has been conducted in the education community, given that the greatest press has been to encourage schools to inculcate these values. Note, however, that literature on community service (Dan Hedin and Carol Hedin in 1984-1987 and others, and the National Outcomes Study on Social Responsibility for Teens, Crime, and the Community (National Crime Prevention Council November 1998, as well as the Public/Private Ventures evaluation of Big Brothers Big Sisters (Philadelphia, PA: 1995) and studies of Boys & Girls Clubs in public housing have documented the capacity of nonschool institutions to convey these values. Beyond these studies, the faith community and such youth groups as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Camp Fire Boys and Girls have a long history of character education. Some of the more recent examinations of school-based character education include Charles E. Greenawalt, *Character Education in America*, Harrisburg, PA: Commonwealth Foundation for Public Policy Alternatives, 1996; Karen E. Bohlen, *Building Character in Schools: Practical Ways to Bring Moral Instruction to Life*, San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1999; Alfie Kohn, "How Not To Teach Values: A Critical Look at Character Education," *Phi Delta Kappan*, Vol. 78, No. 6, February 1997; (no author cited) *Schools of Character: Reclaiming America's Values for Tomorrow's Workforce: The Ninth Annual Business Week Awards for Instructional Innovation*, New York: McGraw-Hill, 1998.

^x *Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 1999 National Report* (see note 2) details the role of guns as well as alcohol and other drugs in Chapters 2 and 3). *Report to Congress on Juvenile Violence Research* (see note 7) specifically notes "The studies in this report overwhelmingly confirm that firearms play a large role in juvenile violence that is serious enough to come to police attention. Firearms were involved in 80% or more of the violent incidents in each of the studies reporting on this topic." (page x). The most recent report of the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Monitoring Project (ADAM) of the National Institute of Justice (1998 Report, released April 1999) notes that in 14 sites around the nation, between 35% and 67% of juvenile arrestees tested positive for drug use. The 1999 Monitoring the Future Survey, conducted by the University of Michigan, noted that alcohol use among teens has been fairly stable over the past several years, as measured by the proportion reporting any alcohol consumption in the month prior to the survey. These rates stand at 24 percent, 40 percent, and 51 percent in grades eight, 10, and 12, respectively." (press release December 17, 1999).

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