

WINNIPEG

**COMMUNITY
CRIME
Prevention
MANUAL**

Table of Contents

I	Introduction	1
II	A Planned Approach to Community Crime Prevention	1
	A. Identify the Community's Problems	2
	B. Consult the Community and Select Priorities.....	2
	C. Problem Analysis	3
	D. Mobilize the Community	4
	E. Brainstorm for Prevention Ideas and Strategy Options.....	5
	F. Design and Implement Your Strategy	6
	G. Maintain Your Strategy	7
	H. Evaluation.....	8
III	In Investment in Communities	9
IV	Notes	10
	Reference Sources	11
	Appendix	
	Sample Safety Survey (West Broadway Community, 1994)	12

I Introduction

Crime problems affect people's lives, their families and the whole community. Preventing crime and reducing the fear of crime represents a challenge for any community, and requires coordinated action by community members.

Strategies or plans for dealing with crime problems are best undertaken at the local community level. There are major benefits of addressing crime problems through a community-based crime prevention strategy/plan:

- brings people together and helps develop important networks and partnerships between community stakeholders;
- promotes a sense of ownership and responsibility for making improvements to the neighbourhood;
- supports local leadership and management of a problem and its solution and;
- leads to a greater impact on crime problems than individuals working alone; and contributes to healthier communities.

By putting crime prevention into action, you are helping to contribute to your peace of mind and your enjoyment of the community.^[1]

This booklet describes eight steps to follow to prepare a community crime prevention strategy to prevent crime and to solve neighbourhood crime-related problems. It gives citizens and organizations another tool to use in building safer neighbourhoods.

II A Planned Approach to Community Crime Prevention

Crime prevention is an on-going process, and requires research, planning and the participation of community members. The goal is to identify and analyze local crime problems to come up with suitable solutions. Crime prevention activities will depend on available neighbourhood resources, but must be made to fit your community's needs and specific conditions. The process may be led by an existing group, a partnership of individuals and/or organizations working together, or by a new group created to improve community safety and help stop crime.

A successful crime prevention strategy involves the identification of problems; community consultation and the selection of priorities; problem analysis; community mobilization; discussion of options; the implementation of a suitable response to the problem; and the evaluation and maintenance of your efforts. These steps are described in the following pages. For further information on these steps, consult the resources listed at the end of this booklet.



A. Identify the Community's Problems

Before a crime problem can be addressed, it must be first identified and defined.

State the problem - it may be something that has happened in your neighbourhood or it can be something you are worried may happen unless conditions change. Then consider the following questions: Can the problem be called a crime problem? What are the signs or evidence that this problem exists or is a threat in your neighbourhood? Where is the problem located in the neighbourhood? Is this an isolated incident or part of a growing trend or pattern? Can you make a link between this problem and other problems causing concern in the neighbourhood?

There are a variety of sources of information available that can help you in identifying and understanding crime problems. Consult these sources to obtain information about local problems, neighbourhood problem-solving, and confirm your perceptions or feelings about crime in your community. Sources include:

- Community Police Officers or Neighbourhood Foot Patrol Officers;
- Winnipeg Police Service statistical data;
- Crime prevention organizations such as Neighbourhood Watch, Block Parent and Citizens For Crime Awareness and;
- City of Winnipeg departments and staff.

Other community-based sources of information that are not listed here may also be useful in identifying the problems facing your neighbourhood and should not be overlooked. Use only reliable sources of data and be aware that different groups may define neighbourhood boundaries in different ways.

B. Consult the Community and Select Priorities

You are probably not alone in your concern about safety and crime problems in your neighbourhood. Other members of the community may share the same concerns and want to see something done. Discussing these concerns with others is an important step in dealing with crime and planning crime prevention activities.

Consulting the community may be accomplished in a number of ways including a community survey (see example in Appendix), a public meeting, community round tables, or a larger forum such as a "Community Conversation" which features presentations and small group discussions.^[2] Whatever method you choose, community members must have an opportunity to say how they feel about crime problems and the impact on neighbourhood safety and their well being.

Community members should select one or several priority problems to target. Priorities may be areas of the most concern, but other criteria can be used to assist in the decision-making process such as the incidence/rate, the risk factor, rate of change, cost or the problem with the highest potential for reduction.^[3] Whenever possible, priorities should be based on community consensus.

C. Problem Analysis

This step can be mistakenly overlooked in the process of dealing with crime problems, yet it is an absolutely essential one in order to decide on an appropriate response. You can't come up with a crime prevention strategy if you don't know what you are trying to prevent.^[4]

Simply put, crime problem analysis involves research and increasing your understanding of crime and safety problems in your community. It means going beyond just identifying the problem to drawing a true picture of the problem and learning why it is happening. Knowledge is a powerful tool in crime prevention. Look closely at your neighbourhood, and diagnose the problem and those conditions that have caused or contributed to the problem.

You can start to analyze your crime problem by asking who, what, when, where, how, why and why not.^[5] Are there any patterns evident? For example, break-ins may be occurring in neighbourhood garages close to busy intersections but only during the day when residents are at work.

Information about your neighbourhood and crime problems can be collected in a number of different ways and from a variety of sources. Official crime statistics published annually by the Winnipeg Police Service are an obvious source of data about crime, but there are other information resources and methods useful in crime prevention.

- Statistics Canada reports;
- City of Winnipeg neighbourhood profiles;
- Information/data from other City departments (e.g., building code violations, building permits, recreation programs and services, etc.);
- Conversations with Community Police Officer or Neighbourhood Foot Patrol Officer;
- Safety audits;
- Environmental scans;
- "Hot spot" analysis or crime mapping;
- Citizens For Crime Awareness (CFCA) newsletters [for members only];
- Personal observation.

This information can help you to understand the nature of the problem in your community and may add to what you already know about the neighbourhood. If possible, check the Internet to see what information is accessible for public use. However, always exercise caution in interpreting data and seek assistance from the data source if you have questions or need further clarification about its meaning.

D. Mobilize the Community

Following an analysis of crime in your neighbourhood, you are ready to discuss planning and implementing your crime prevention strategy. There is strength in numbers, so you should try to encourage many different people and groups to get involved in the process.

Crime problems can bring different people and groups together, and lead to building new linkages, relationships and partnerships between community members. By working together, you can use the skills and experience of participants to come up with strategies that are right for your neighbourhood, and have a greater impact on crime problems than individuals working alone. A broad range of community involvement also helps to increase support for action to make your neighbourhood more secure and contributes to the process of community building.

Participation in planning and implementing a crime prevention strategy will vary between communities and depending on the crime problem.^[6] Involving other members of the community is essential to your crime prevention efforts. Encourage groups to which you belong to help solve community crime problems. You should try to mobilize individuals and organizations who are committed to improving the neighbourhood including:

- Residents;
- Local business and property owners;
- Tenants or residents groups;
- Members of social, religious or recreational organizations;
- Neighbourhood Watch members, Block Parents and members of Citizens For Crime Awareness;
- Educational institutions and parent council representatives;
- Students and youth groups;
- Local women's groups;
- Senior citizens' associations;
- Community Police Officer or Neighbourhood Foot Patrol Officer;
- Your City Councillor, Member of Legislative Assembly and Member of Parliament;
- City of Winnipeg staff and;
- Media representatives.

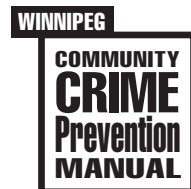
E. Brainstorm for Prevention Ideas and Strategy Options

Once you have identified your participants, the next important step in the planning process is to share ideas and ways to address the crime problem in your community.

Begin by organizing a meeting of all participants to gather their suggestions about what actions they think are necessary to deal with the crime problem and improve safety. Use their experiences and knowledge about the neighbourhood, local crime problems, community resources for crime prevention, and what has worked elsewhere to come up with creative solutions that are tailored to your community's specific problem and conditions.

The Department of Justice Canada suggests looking at five different categories of responses to community problems when considering suitable crime prevention strategies.^[7] Using these categories will help participants to discuss a broad range of solutions to the crime problem and safety concerns, including both long and short-term solutions.

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Social Development | Youth activities
School programs
Parenting skills
Healing circles
Literacy programs |
| Community Action | Neighbourhood Watch
Citizen patrols
Crime reporting |
| Police Action | Community-based policing
Community involvement
Security education |
| City Administration | Planning/coordination
Public improvements
By-laws/ordinances
Zoning |
| Physical Design | Design modification
Street layout
Target hardening
Lighting |



Be aware that there are additional sources you can turn to in order to learn more about prevention ideas and strategy options for your neighbourhood. These include the Winnipeg Police Service Crime Prevention Unit, local university-based researchers, the Internet, organizations in other neighbourhoods and other crime prevention organizations such as the National Crime Prevention Centre (NCPC). Contact the Winnipeg Committee For Safety about these and other sources of information for your crime prevention efforts.

F. Design and Implement Your Strategy

An effective crime prevention strategy reflects a variety of ideas and opinions, responds to the concerns of the community, and targets the opportunities to commit crime as well as the causes of crime.^[8]

There may be a number of potential responses to your community's crime problem, but only a few viable options in terms of the existing support for action, available resources, expected benefits/success and your timeframe for responding to the problem. A neighbourhood clean-up, for example, can be a short-term solution to improve the perception of safety in the community, while revising the existing city by-law or code on housing and community health standards may be a long-term solution to address community safety concerns. Deciding on the best strategy to pursue for your neighbourhood involves consideration of all these factors by participants.

Once you have reached a consensus on what action to take, you need to define the specific objectives of the strategy, the roles and responsibilities of those involved, additional resources needed and an implementation schedule for all necessary tasks. Select objectives that clearly state what you want to achieve, but do not have too many objectives which can cause your efforts and resources to be stretched too widely to achieve any visible results. Objectives should also be measurable for evaluation purposes.

Be realistic in setting out your resource needs to carry out your crime prevention strategy. Whether your strategy involves one crime prevention activity or several related activities, you should make the most efficient use of existing services and community resources including volunteers and support from local businesses, organizations, schools or municipal sources.

It is also important to coordinate your strategy with the work of existing groups in the community to avoid unnecessary duplication or overlap, and to eliminate moving crime around to other neighbourhoods where possible. This is true whether you plan to work in partnership with another group or create a new group to address crime concerns.

On-going communication about your strategy and its progress is essential within the neighbourhood and with other community stakeholders. Use the local media, community newspapers, local newsletters, flyers and posters to get the word out that positive things are happening, and to announce other opportunities for people to get involved and help to improve the neighbourhood.

G. Maintain Your Strategy

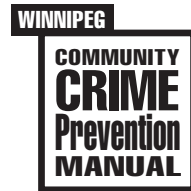
To ensure that you can sustain your crime prevention activities, you need to plan for on-going participation and support from the community.

Personal involvement of community members and/or other types of support (e.g., financial, equipment, data, etc.) is vital to your crime prevention strategy whether you are planning short or long-term activities. Again, communication is key! Keeping people informed can help to motivate them to learn more about what is happening in their neighbourhood and to become part of the solution.

Ensure that there are ample opportunities for people and organizations to get involved, stay involved and to contribute to community crime prevention. It may also be necessary to do some research on funding options that can provide partial or ongoing support for your activities, especially if you have created a new group or are planning new crime prevention initiatives.

Everyone gains by working together within communities to prevent crime. Through volunteering in crime prevention activities, participants can use their skills, abilities and resources to help improve the neighbourhood. But it can also lead to learning new skills and foster a larger sense of neighbourliness which benefits all members of the community.

Maintaining the momentum in any activity is a challenge. Remember to always acknowledge the role of volunteers and community partners in crime prevention activities. Take time to recognize their hard work and commitment to building a better neighbourhood through gestures or events such as a neighbourhood barbecue, block party, or a "word of thanks" at a community meeting or in a local newsletter.



H. Evaluation

Evaluation must be an integral part of your crime prevention strategy. An evaluation provides valuable feedback on your success in meeting your objectives and the impact on the crime problem and community safety.

Planning for evaluation should take place early in the process of developing your crime prevention strategy to ensure that it gets done and is clearly linked to your activities. An evaluation manual and a checklist are available on the National Crime Prevention Centre Website to serve as guides in evaluating crime prevention projects.^[9] Assistance in designing and conducting an evaluation of your crime prevention activities may also be available from other community organizations and local educational institutions that have evaluation experience and research capabilities.

Evaluation can be flexible and designed to meet your needs. If you are planning a self-evaluation of your strategy, you should consider the following:

- Type and scope of your evaluation;
- Data sources to measure outcomes (short term and/or long term);
- Evaluation methods/techniques to be used (e.g., surveys, observation, interviews, workshops, census or crime data analysis);
- Time available for an evaluation;
- The timing of the evaluation;
- Personnel to conduct the evaluation and;
- Financial resources required.

A good evaluation strikes a balance between the use of quantitative (objective) and qualitative (subjective) data. For example, measuring changes in feeling and perceptions of neighbourhood residents, in addition to the number of calls for police service and actual crime rates, will provide a more complete picture of the impact of your crime prevention efforts.

Use the results of your evaluation to improve your crime prevention activities or to design new activities to address crime problems in your neighbourhood. But don't forget to share your results with the community and acknowledge your achievements! Other groups can also learn from your experiences and apply this knowledge in their own neighbourhoods to increase community safety.

III An Investment in Communities

The investment of time and effort into a crime prevention strategy can lead to large returns for communities. Involvement in crime prevention helps to create neighbourhood cohesion, increases community capacity to deal with problems, and encourages people and organizations to make a difference in their community, for the benefit of all community members.

Why invest in crime prevention strategies? Outcomes can include:^[10]

- Improved quality of life -people feel happy to live in the community;
- Increased public safety - reduced fear, safer neighbourhoods, safer children;
- Enhanced economy - healthier local economies, enhanced tax base;
- Increased overall well-being - engage in community while working together, stronger, healthier family, more stable neighbourhood and;
- Increased government capacity - more effective use of resources, better information for decision-making.

Notes

- [1] Ministry of the Solicitor General of Canada, Programs Branch. Being Good to Yourself...Being a Good Neighbour. Ottawa, 1986.
- [2] For more information about “Community Conversations,” refer to the “Community Conversations How-to Manual” published by the Winnipeg Committee For Safety (2001).
- [3] Department of Justice Canada, Building a Safer Canada: A Community-based Crime Prevention Manual. Ottawa, 1996, p.10.
- [4] Greg Saville, “Creating Safe Communities by Creating Conscious Communities.” Presentation at the University of Winnipeg, 31 May 2001.
- [5] Community Policing Consortium. “Module Three: Community Policing Problem-Solving. Taking a Problem-Solving Approach to Tackling Crime, Fear and Disorder.” <<http://www.communitypolicing.org/mod3.html>>
- [6] Department of Justice Canada, Building a Safer Canada: A Community-based Crime Prevention Manual. Ottawa, 1996, p.15.
- [7] Department of Justice Canada, pp.18-19.
- [8] There can be many different causes of crime problems in your neighbourhood; some are immediate and some are more complex. Crime Prevention through Social Development (CPSD) focuses on the root causes and risk factors associated with crime and victimization such as inadequate living conditions, family structures, deficient school environments, lack of employment or educational opportunities, etc. For more information on CPSD, refer to Crime Prevention Through Social Development published by the National Crime Prevention Centre (2000).
- [9] “Step by Step: Evaluating Your Community Crime Prevention Efforts” <<http://www.crime-prevention.org/english/publications/general/step/step.html>>; “Evaluating community-based crime prevention projects: a checklist of approaches and options” <<http://www.crime-prevention.org/english/publications/economic/list/index.html>>
- [10] Drayton Valley Community Mobilization Project, “Building Safer Communities” <http://www.sc.dv-brazeau.com/key_WhyInvest.htm>

IV Reference Sources

- Community Policing Consortium. “Module Three: Community Policing Problem-Solving. Taking a Problem-Solving Approach to Tackling Crime, Fear and Disorder.” <<http://www.communitypolicing.org/mod3.html>>
- Department of Justice Canada. Building a Safer Canada: A Community-based Crime Prevention Manual. Ottawa, 1996.
- Drayton Valley Community Mobilization Project. “Building Safer Communities.” <http://www.sc.dv-brazeau.com/key_WhyInvest.htm>
- Geason, Susan and Paul R. Wilson. Crime Prevention: Theory and Practice. Crime Prevention Series. Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology, 1988. <<http://www.aic.gov.au/publications.criprev.theory/index.html>>
- Hobson, Craig. Winnipeg Police Service, Community Services Crime Prevention Unit.
- Ministry of the Solicitor General of Canada, Programs Branch. Being Good to Yourself...Being a Good Neighbour. Ottawa, 1986.
- National Crime Prevention Council. “Training and Tools: Does Your Program Work? Seven Keys to Evaluation.” <<http://ncpc.org/4eval1dc.htm>>
- National Crime Prevention Council Canada. Evaluating Community-based Crime Prevention Projects: A Checklist of Approaches and Options, September 1996.
- Saville, Greg. “Creating Safe Communities by Creating Conscious Communities.” Presentation at the University of Winnipeg, 31 May 2001.



Appendix

Sample Safety Survey (West Broadway Community, 1994)

1. Is your home owned or rented?

- owned rented no response

2. Number of people in your household _____

3. Is your home:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> single family home | <input type="checkbox"/> apartment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> duplex | <input type="checkbox"/> other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> group home | <input type="checkbox"/> condo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> rooming house | <input type="checkbox"/> no response |

If other, please specify _____

4. Do you:

- feel part of the area feel it's only a place to live no response

5. Number of years you have lived in the neighbourhood _____

6. When you are at home, do you keep your home locked?

- always most of the time not often never no response

7. When you are NOT at home, do you keep your home locked?

- always most of the time not often never no response

8. Please check any of the following issues that are a concern to you in your neighbourhood:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> not safe at home | <input type="checkbox"/> B&E garage etc. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> B&E residence | <input type="checkbox"/> Vandalism – public |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vandalism – private | <input type="checkbox"/> Assault |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Substance abuse | <input type="checkbox"/> Nuisance calls |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disturbances | <input type="checkbox"/> Pan handlers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mugging | <input type="checkbox"/> No response |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rape | <input type="checkbox"/> murders |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not safe on street | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

If other, please specify _____

9. In the past year, do you think any specific kinds of crime have increased?

- yes no unsure no response

If yes, please specify _____

10. Do you feel safe walking in this neighbourhood?

- During the daytime: always
 most of the time
 not often
 never
 no response

- During the night: always
 most of the time
 not often
 never
 no response

11. Which of the following conditions in this area make you feel uneasy about your safety:

- poorly lit streets
 intoxicated persons
 unconcerned neighbours
 over service of alcohol at local bars and vendors
 strangers/kids hanging around
 poorly kept properties
 hearing of crime
 gay bashers
 other
 no response

If other, please specify _____



12. In general, where do you get your information about crime in your neighbourhood?

- newspaper
- radio
- television
- neighbours
- other
- no response

If other, please specify _____

13. In your neighbourhood, what are the chances of your neighbours noticing a crime being committed?

- no chance
- good chance
- poor chance
- no response
- maybe

14. Within the past year, have you taken any action to protect your property or yourself/family against crime?

- yes
- no
- no response

If yes, what actions have you taken _____

15. What area of your neighbourhood do you feel is the most unsafe?

16. Do you feel your children have safe places to play in the neighbourhood?

- yes
- no
- no response

If yes, please specify where _____

17. In the past year, have you been the victim of any type of crime?

- yes
- no
- no response

If yes, please describe type of crime _____

18. What type of crime prevention activities/programs do you think we need in this community:

Statistical Questions

Please indicate your gender:

- male
- female
- no response

Please indicate your age category:

- under 18
- 18-34
- 35-55
- 55 plus
- no response

Do you speak a language other than English:

- yes
- no
- no response

If yes, please specify _____



