

Crime Prevention Through Social Development

John Howard
THE JOHN HOWARD SOCIETY OF ALBERTA

Introductions

▶ Current

- ▶ Executive Director - The John Howard Society of Alberta Provincial Office
- ▶ Instructor - MacEwan University, Portage College, University of Alberta, Justice Institute, Athabasca University, Norquest College

▶ Historical

- ▶ Probation Officer
- ▶ Supervisor - Criminal Intelligence Analysis Unit EPS
- ▶ Tactical Advisor to the Minister of National Security and TTPS - Trinidad and Tobago
- ▶ Tactical Crime Analysis Advisor to 11 Police Services USA

Lets Get on the Same Page - Hands up

- ▶ Who commits the most crime in Canada? Male or Female?
Percentages?
- ▶ What is the average age of an offender in Canada?
- ▶ Which of the following has the lowest relationship to criminal activity?
Age, sex, or race
- ▶ Has the crime rate been **increasing, decreasing, or staying about the same** over the past 25 years? What is the driving force behind this?
(YOA connected to WWII)
- ▶ Does increasing punishment (e.g., mandatory minimum sentences) **reduce crime, keep the crime rate level, or increase criminal activity?** In other words, what is the hope of mandatory minimums?
- ▶ What is our current criminal justice system based on? That is, at the most fundamental level, what does the system try to achieve through what method?
- ▶ So, if the current system is based on punishment for deterrence, what are the issues with Deterrence theory?

The Current (Traditional System)

	Edmonton 2018	London 18 th Century
Certainty of Punishment	No	No
Swiftness of Punishment	No	Yes
Severe Enough Punishment	Yes	No

To Summarize.....Our Current System is focussed on:

- ▶ The offender (while ignoring the victim, the community etc)
- ▶ The past (when it should be forwarding looking)
- ▶ Retribution (when it should be trying to fix a problem rather than just an eye for an eye)
- ▶ Deterrence (which we know is great in theory but horrible in practice)

CPSD - Basic Principles

- ▶ Crime Prevention Through Social Development
 - ▶ Crime is complex
 - ▶ Crime is linked to social, economic, and cultural factors
 - e.g., the risk factors associated with delinquency and adult criminality
 - ▶ A CPSD program is designed to work within the justice system rather than in isolation from it
- ▶ CPSD is NOT
 - ▶ A scared straight program
 - ▶ A boot camp

CPSD - Strategies

1. Individual Strategy

- Client at the center of the intervention
- Wrap around services (e.g., WrapED with REACH, EJHS, EPS, Africa Centre, Native Counselling Services, YOUCAN Youth Services)

2. Family Strategy

- Parental support and training to create healthy environments and families

3. Community Strategy

- Strengthen local capacity to prevent crime (e.g., youth mentoring, peer support, cultural programs)

CPSD - Characteristics

1. **Orientation** - Focus is on specific causal risk factors
2. **Design** - CPSD programs define the crime problem and lay out clear goals. CPSD programs are about people and their communities.
3. **Integrity** - Detailed policies are developed and accountability and evaluation are components of CPSD.
4. **Environment** - CPSD programs are structured to have a positive influence on the community (e.g., coordinated with other supports and services).
5. **Resources** - Ensure that we have qualified, trained staff who's attitudes and style are in line with program goals.
6. **Research and Evaluation** - Programs goals and objectives are driven by research and are evidence based. Seek to have short term and long term independent evaluation.
7. **Sustainable** - CPSD aims to create sustainable strategies that build on existing strengths in people and communities.

Source: Public Safety Canada

CPSD - Risk Factors

- ▶ Risk Factors - A closer look
 - ▶ Unhealthy/dysfunctional families
 - ▶ Ineffective parenting
 - ▶ Unemployment
 - ▶ Inadequate housing
 - ▶ Poverty
 - ▶ Poor school performance
 - ▶ Family violence
 - ▶ Substance abuse

Family - abuse, neglect, authoritarian etc.

Community - Disorganization, poor living conditions etc.
(Shay and Mackay)

Individual - low social skills, drug use etc.

School - Lack of or poor school performance

Peers - Gang involvement, delinquent friends etc.
(Sutherland)

Essentially, risk factors can be broken down into 5 categories

Why Should we Invest in CPSD?

- ▶ Economically responsible. Cost effective over the long term. Average of \$100,000 per year per person incarcerated. Cost of community programs average \$12,000 to \$25,000 per year.
 - ▶ \$1 investment in quality preschool care services saves \$7 down the road in policing, courts, corrections, social services (Government of Canada, 2006).
 - ▶ \$5000 investment in early childhood education saves society \$28,000 later (National Crime Prevention Council, 2002).

Why Should we Invest in CPSD Cont?

- ▶ “2 of every 3 Canadians prefer crime prevention through education and jobs rather than prisons. And believe their Provincial Government should place crime prevention as one of its top 5 priorities” (Institute for the Prevention of Crime, 2006) (when educated on the topic however)
- ▶ Will actually focus on the factors that create crime
- ▶ Will have a positive impact on other societal structures (e.g., health care, education etc.)
- ▶ Will legitimately reduce victimization (less recidivism)
- ▶ Similarly to Restorative Justice, CPSD is NOT a bleeding heart strategy and therefore can be paired with the current system.
- ▶ Socially responsible - It's just the right thing to do!

But we have many challenges implementing CPSD

- ▶ So why do we struggle implementing CPSD?
 - ▶ Not politically sexy
 - ▶ Apparently not responsive enough
 - ▶ Benefits may not be seen for some time (e.g. FASD)
 - ▶ Time consuming and emotionally taxing
 - ▶ Can be difficult to integrate into a system that is focussed on the past and retribution. Current laws (e.g., Bill C-10 leads us in the opposite direction)
 - ▶ Rarely is enough funding available
 - ▶ Maybe this appears too daunting to some (e.g., too many risk factors to deal with)

But we have challenges even though most of us have been on the same page for decades/centuries.

1. 1938 - Royal Commission on the Penal System in Canada
2. 1956 - Department of Justice Canada
3. 1976 - Law Reform Commission of Canada
4. 1988 - Standing Committee Review of Sentencing