Speech presented by Adam Graycar, Director, Australian Institute of Criminology:

"Crime prevention: what the evidence reveals"

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- Types of crime – means different things to different people –

- Different ways of measuring – if we can’t measure well we can’t say if we’re reducing it.

- Large body of evidence, but it doesn’t hang together – hard to gather and to communicate

- Harmsworth says that showing graphs won’t inform this audience

- Crime follows opportunity
  - what creates opportunity
    - technology
    - demographic changes
    - urban design
    - desirable goods
    - mobile lifestyle
  etc

- How to limit opportunities
  - reduce supply of offenders
  - make crime harder to commit

- Crime is prevented by
  - instilling respect
  - regulating behaviour
  - protecting people and property by precautions and security measures

- Social structure frames crime

- Issues of domain – many domains
  - no or little intersection of domains
    - criminal justice domain
    - education domain
    - urban planning domain
    - health domain
    - sports domain
    - family domain
  - blend of all of this with opportunities, technology and demography
  - Demographic slides and risk factors here

- In health care we have
  - primary health care
  - secondary health care
  - tertiary health care
• In crime prevention we have
  o primary
  o secondary
  o tertiary

• Can we learn lessons across the domains?

• Policy Makers and Practitioners need different things

• Risk factors and protective factors across domains

• The more protective factors the better – what public policy to enhance and distribute protective factors?

• Risk factors : Protective factors
  Childhood factors
  Family factors
  School factors
  Life factors
  Community & cultural factors
  o what domains ?
  o what evidence?

• It’s all about partnerships
  o Crime prevention
    ▪ Enforcement
    ▪ Protection
  o Criminality prevention –
    ▪ Community enhancement and development
    ▪ Rehabilitation

Then

3 Tangible examples –
  • reducing alcohol related crime (Geelong)
  • early interventions – preventing violence in schools (Q’ld)
  • housebreaking reduction – (NSW)

Websites – give lots of examples of things that work
  • 100 programs that work (Montreal)
  • crime reduction toolkits – UK Home Office
  • Promise of Crime Prevention (AIC)
  • what works, what doesn’t, what’s promising (USA)
  • Campbell Collaboration

Evaluation imperfect