



Crime Prevention in Canada: Implementation Challenges and Strategies to Overcome Them

Public Safety Canada's National Crime Prevention Strategy provides national leadership on effective and cost-efficient ways to prevent and reduce crime by addressing known risk factors in high risk populations and places. It does this through two key activities: supporting targeted interventions and building and sharing practical knowledge with policy makers and practitioners.

Crime prevention practitioners increasingly face a common challenge: the successful, effective implementation of evidence-based crime prevention practices. An effective program, combined with a high-quality implementation, increases the likelihood of achieving positive results among the clients served.

The *Crime Prevention in Canada: Implementation Challenges and Strategies to Overcome Them* study reviewed, documented and compared common implementation challenges and strategies used to address them from seventy-one crime prevention projects funded by Public Safety Canada's National Crime Prevention Strategy. The result is some concrete and practical knowledge that can be used by anyone providing prevention services and interventions.

Challenges	Strategies
Data management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simplification / reduction of forms; • Assistance from staff from sponsoring organization or from the evaluator
Recruitment and referral of participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More promotion / outreach; • Opened up criteria; • Built in cultural activities; opened up eligibility
Partnership building and maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved, regular communication and networking with partners

***Authored by Public Safety Canada Staff*



Outreach - Contribution - Mobilization Commitment to Community Voices

Crime Prevention Week - November 1st to 7th, 2016

Crime Prevention is Everyone's Responsibility



Challenges	Strategies
Management and admin staffing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hired staff to fill gaps, realigned responsibilities of existing staff
Program content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added elements to program to meet specific needs - i.e.: employment preparation course for youth; Made cultural program adaptations
Staff turnover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replaced staff, changed roles in organization
Participant engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Made programs more flexible, focused on interests, identified participants early so they were not put in to another type of program and could be engaged quickly and appropriately
Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slowed pace of admissions to create more planning time, changed length of sessions at schools, regular staff meetings
Complex lives of participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very focused interventions, more one to one counseling, referrals to intensive services, lower ratio of staff to client
Parent engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outreach in homes, allowed parents to attend activities with children, build empathy and trust relationships with staff, add new activities that interest parents

Building on this information will assist crime prevention practitioners in their understanding of common challenges associated with implementing crime prevention programs. The *Guide on the Implementation of Evidence-Based Programs: What Do We Know So Far?* on Public Safety Canada's web site provides further information, checklists and other practical advice on best practices for implementing successful crime prevention programs.

To read the full report *Crime Prevention in Canada: Implementation Challenges and Strategies to Overcome Them*, please visit <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsrsc/pblctns/2015-r005/index-en.aspx>

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