

PREFACE

As the title indicates, the main aim of this book is to advance knowledge on what works to prevent crime. It brings together leading evidence-based research on the effects on crime of a wide range of interventions that have been organized around four key domains in criminology and criminal justice: at-risk children, offenders, victims, and places. Importantly, policy implications of the effects of these different interventions are also explored. Another key aim of this book is to make the field of evidence-based crime prevention, along with the method of systematic review, known to a much wider audience. This includes students, policymakers at the local, state, and federal levels, and scholars and researchers. They all share an interest in the study of crime prevention and come from a wide range of disciplines, including criminology and criminal justice, sociology, psychology, psychiatry, public health, mental health, social work, economics, and education.

We view these aims as indispensable to get more of what works best in preventing crime into policy and practice at the local level. Indeed, it was with these aims in mind that an exciting partnership was born and this project was launched. In 2000, the newly formed Campbell Collaboration, named after the influential experimental psychologist Donald T. Campbell, established its Crime and Justice Steering Committee (CJSC) to oversee the preparation, maintenance, and dissemination of systematic reviews of the highest quality research on the effects of criminological interventions. Work began right away and within a couple of years the first wave of reviews was nearing completion. The 13 topics reported here represent only a start; reviews of many other topics are underway and planned for the future.

During this time the CJSC was fortunate to have in attendance at some of its meetings a representative of Springer Publishing. This was the beginning of a partnership between a group who wished to inform a wide audience about the importance of using scientific evidence and results about what works to inform crime policy (the CJSC) and a leading international publishing company who is also interested in contributing to more effective crime policy and has the means to reach this wider audience (Springer Publishing). The product of this happy collaboration is this book, *Preventing Crime: What Works for Children, Offenders, Victims, and Places*.

This book is organized into five sections. Preceding these sections is an introductory chapter that sets the stage for this volume, by describing evaluation research designs and summarizing different review methods for assessing the accumulated evidence of the effects of types of crime prevention programs. The first section comprises two chapters that look at what works in intervening in the

lives of children who are at-risk for delinquency and later criminal offending. The second section comprises five chapters that examine what works in preventing offenders from committing further offenses in the community. In the third section there are three chapters that address what works for victims of crime. Section four includes three chapters that describe what works in preventing crime at high-crime places or areas at high risk for criminal activity. The final section includes one chapter that summarizes the main conclusions about what works for at-risk children, offenders, victims, and places, and identifies future directions for research and policy development to advance evidence-based crime prevention and contribute to a safer society.

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Brandon C. Welsh
David P. Farrington

Preventing Crime

What Works for Children, Offenders, Victims and Places

Welsh, B.C.; Farrington, D.P. (Eds.)

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