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BUILDING A **SAFE AND RESILIENT CANADA**



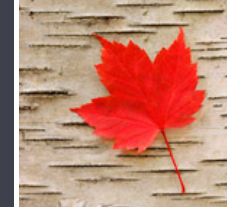
Evidence-based Crime Prevention - Moving from Information to Practical Knowledge

**Atlantic Crime Prevention Conference,
Moncton, NB**

DATE: June 6, 2014

RDIMS # 1093366

Presentation Overview



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- Public Safety Canada, National Crime Prevention Strategy
- Evidence-based crime prevention
- Common implementation challenges
- What we know about sustainability
- Moving information to knowledge





- Name
- Occupation / field of work / organization
- One question that, if you could get it answered, would make your work so much better

The National Crime Prevention Centre Mission and Activities



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Mission: to provide national leadership in crime prevention by developing and disseminating practice-oriented knowledge on effective and cost-effective practices that address known risk factors in high risk populations and places.

Core activities:
Support targeted interventions

Build and share practical knowledge with policy makers and practitioners



Crime Prevention – what to do??



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De-mystifying Evidence-based crime prevention



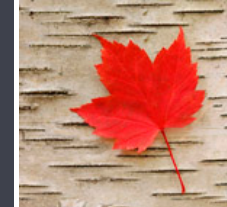
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A commonly agreed definition of evidence-based crime prevention is: “*(it) ensures that the best available evidence is considered in the decision to implement a program designed to prevent crime*” (Welsh, Evidence-Based Crime Prevention, 2007: 6).

EBCP includes:

- Understanding the issues and community factors
- Choosing effective crime prevention practices
- Successful implementation / Fidelity
- Measuring performance and evaluation
- Sustaining positive outcomes
- Building the Canadian body of evidence





- **Goal:** To help people make informed decisions about effective use of resources in crime prevention.
- **Objectives:**
 - Increase Canadian body of knowledge of *what* works, *how* it works and at *what cost*, in crime prevention
 - Disseminate crime prevention knowledge in a deliberate and focused manner to meet the needs of crime prevention stakeholders.

NCPS Knowledge Activities



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- Develop knowledge through:
 - Carefully and strategically selected, evidence-informed community-based projects
 - Continuous sharing of practice-based lessons through networks and events
 - Project-based evaluation and reporting
 - Research on delinquency-related risk and protective factors among Canadians and beyond
- Disseminate knowledge through:
 - Conferences / symposia presentations
 - Networks / communities of practice – inc. webinars
 - Federal/provincial/territorial fora
 - Publications – peer review journals
 - Via NCPC website
 - Ad hoc requests





**It isn't the mountain ahead that wears you out, it's the
grain of sand in your shoe.**

Robert Service

Common Implementation Challenges



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- Finding and engaging the right youth participants
- Assessing the needs of participants and matching them to interventions
- Engaging hard to reach parents and caregivers
- Building meaningful partnerships beyond endorsement
- Barriers to information sharing
- Staff – recruitment, training, retention
- Understanding and integrating local / cultural adaptations
- Engaging and meeting the needs of youth who have mental illness and/or learning disabilities
- Measuring results and impacts
- Sustainability/integration into existing programs and systems



Connecting knowledge and sustainability of crime prevention



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- We try new ways of doing things when the current ways are not giving us the results we want
- If new ways of doing things give us better results, we need to work to move from trying new ways to embedding and expanding the new ways
- How we build and share the knowledge about what we are doing that works better is critical to embedding and expanding
- Pilot projects to test out new ways of doing things – time flies and a lot of hard work
- What can be done all along the way to help sustain the successful work?
- If work needs to be ended, how can we ensure responsible exit strategies are in place?





- ***Vision*** – clear articulation of what needs to be sustained and why it is important for the community.
- ***Results orientation*** – clear definition of what success looks like and how it will be measured and reported.
- ***Strategic financing orientation*** – estimating what will be required for sustaining the desired elements and concentrated effort on developing financing strategies.
- ***Broad-based community support*** – continually gauging and communicating how the efforts will change something the community wants to change is critical to sustainability.



- **Key champions** – the more people with influence who believe and speak up, the more likely an initiative will become part of the ongoing fabric of the community.
- **Adaptability to changing conditions** – keeping current on emerging economic, social, political and other relevant trends and adapting to them.
- **Strong internal systems** – for fiscal management, information management, outreach, staffing and volunteer management, performance measurement and evaluation.
- **Sustainability planning** – written plan documenting these factors and the details on what will be done to accomplish and monitor them.

How to transform the information into knowledge?



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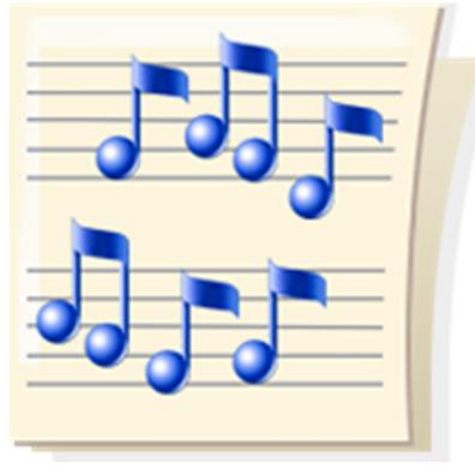
- How could this information on sustainability be used by people making decisions about policies on crime prevention or designing funding programs?
- How could it be used by people working in communities with youth and families?
- What formats would be useful?
- How can it be at people's fingertips when they need it?



Information to Knowledge – the Magic in the Middle



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Applying crime prevention knowledge



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- Situate and Identify the task / need / problem
- Assess available information (SWOT, knowledge gaps)
- Research and assess potential strategies / programs
 - How can I use this information?
 - Application to currently operating programs/practices
- Implement and evaluate



Marketing principles and knowledge application (5 P's)



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1. Product – Relevance, value added, utility of the knowledge product.
2. Price – Learning curve, time, new ways of doing business, letting go of old thinking
3. Promotion – How to influence people so they appreciate the knowledge product enough to want to use it?
4. Place (packaging) – Is the knowledge accessible, understandable, usable?
5. People – Key people understand how to use the knowledge



EBCP – What information is really needed and how does it get transformed to knowledge?



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- Information on identifying crime prevention needs
- Information on effective crime prevention programs
- Information on implementation of programs – finding youth, assessing risk, keeping youth engaged, working with parents and families, hiring and supporting staff, partnerships, monitoring progress and making adaptations, evaluation
- Information on sustaining good crime prevention outcomes
- Information on a specific issue – youth gangs, substance abuse, mental health
- Other?



Where do you go to find crime prevention information? Check all that apply



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- Google
- Public Safety Canada (NCPC site)
- Provincial websites
- Police services websites
- Library resources
- Conferences / presentations
- Networks – formal and or informal
- Experts / academics
- Other – please specify
- Blueprints for Healthy Youth Development (blueprintsprograms.com)
- National Registry of Evidence-base programs / practices (<http://www.nrepp.samhsa.gov/>)
- Office of Justice Programs (crimesolutions.gov)
- Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention - Model Programs Guide (www.ojjdp.gov/MPG)



How did we do?

Purposes of the Session



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This presentation and discussion will provide participants the opportunity to learn and share their experiences about:

- Common crime prevention project implementation challenges and how these have been addressed by practitioners.
- Key elements related to sustainability of crime prevention programs in communities.
- How to apply practical sources of knowledge that will help design and implement successful crime prevention programs.



Thank You



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