



State Crime Prevention Programs in America

A Snapshot -- Summer 2004

Executive Summary: Potentials, Challenges, and Next Steps

In late July and early August 2004, the National Crime Prevention Council surveyed state crime prevention programs to gain an overview of their composition, services to state organizations, resources and needs. This survey drew from the Crime Prevention Coalition of America's list of state members indicated as crime prevention programs. Nineteen state programs (representing 18 states) responded by completing the survey form (a copy of which is attached to this report). The total analysis of state replies and non-responses is provided at the end of this executive summary.

Potentials

These findings present many opportunities for strengthening crime prevention across the nation. Chief among them is the opportunity to strengthen existing state crime prevention programs and build new ones. This will require development of case statements that demonstrate the benefits of such programs and the engagement of state and national leaders who can testify to those benefits. This work can help to rally people behind the prevention concept nationwide.

The opportunity to support states in meeting their communities' crime prevention needs, both in topical and procedural areas, provides the bonus of being able to develop closer liaisons with these leaders and to be better able to meet emerging needs in the future. Analysis of these needs and strengthening of needs assessments will provide the opportunity to improve the flow of information to and from the field to the national crime prevention structure.

State financial support for crime prevention is somewhat limited in scope, based on this survey's findings. Programs headed by career employees rather than appointees show wider scope of funding, but this may be a coincidence rather than an inevitability. It is clear that funding can be expanded, but it is necessary to understand the constraints (both legal and practical) on states and how to help the states work within these in improving the diversity and the amounts of funding for state crime prevention work.

The opportunity to broker and build working relationships -- partnerships -- between state crime prevention programs and many state-level groups with whom they are not now working offers the chance to improve services, strengthen assets, and develop wider distribution for crime prevention messages and skills. At present, with the exception of interaction with universities and colleges, these programs work chiefly with criminal justice-related groups.

Challenges

A major challenge that emerged from conducting and analyzing the data from this survey was how "state crime prevention program" is or should be defined. The Eleven Principles of Crime Prevention stipulate that "Crime prevention is everyone's business." But the positioning for a variety of crime prevention agencies is unclear -- for example, domestic violence prevention, gang prevention, drug prevention and similar programs. What delineates a "state crime prevention program," and should those organizations hold special status in the crime prevention movement? This is a major positioning decision that requires thoughtful, well-considered assessment.

Another opportunity is to help state programs clarify and mobilize their bases of support. Each of these programs reports serving multiple audiences ranging from community groups to prosecutors. Identifying ways to bring these groups together at the state level to provide mutual support in their prevention work offers extraordinary potential for improving the work of all.

Identifying and meeting the needs of state programs in both process and content areas -- from program development to identity theft prevention to preventing crimes against seniors to linking crime prevention and homeland security -- will present a challenge along with an opportunity to spread needed prevention messages.

A fourth challenge is helping state governments understand the benefits of having statewide crime prevention programs or centers. This work can be used not only to support current programs but to encourage creation (or re-creation of programs in states that do not currently have them.

State programs also face the challenge of moving forward with improved communications with programs and practitioners in their states. Such services as list serves and newsletters can increase the reach of these programs and build an even stronger network, but relatively few states have them. Providing training, examples, and supporting materials are ways the national crime prevention community can help.

State crime prevention programs work with relatively few organizations, compared with the opportunities they have to do so. A challenge to be met is identifying barriers to such cooperative relationships and helping state organizations overcome those barriers while documenting the benefits of the relationships that have been and will be formed.

Next Steps

This report will be shared with the staff of the National Crime Prevention Council, with the Crime Prevention Coalition of America Executive Committee, and with the State Leaders' Forums at the Eastern and Western Regional Conferences in Fall 2005, as well as with all respondents. The comments of the Bureau of Justice Assistance will also be sought.

Opportunities and challenges will be reviewed and augmented or amended as appropriate based on the input of these groups.

The findings of this study will be combined with the findings of similar studies of state associations and state Byrne Block Grant administering agencies; the groups reviewing this report will also have the recommendations that emerge from this comparative analysis for their review.

Presumably, the concerned parties will establish priorities and set up an action plan to deal with key issues.

It is recommended that this study be repeated in two to three years.

Survey Methodology and Respondents

This survey was conducted chiefly by e-mail and fax to state crime prevention programs known to the National Crime Prevention Council and the Crime Prevention Coalition of America.

The state crime prevention programs survey list was drawn from a list maintained by the Crime Prevention Coalition of America. All 50 states are accounted for in the inventory below, though not all appear on the Coalition list as having crime prevention programs.

States Responding and Reporting State Crime Prevention Programs (18 states, 19 programs): Alabama, California, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Missouri, Montana, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, West Virginia, Wisconsin (2)

States Responding, Reporting No Crime Prevention Program (10 states, 11 programs): California (2), Indiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Texas, Vermont, Washington

States Not Responding (4 states): Kansas, Nevada, New Jersey, New York

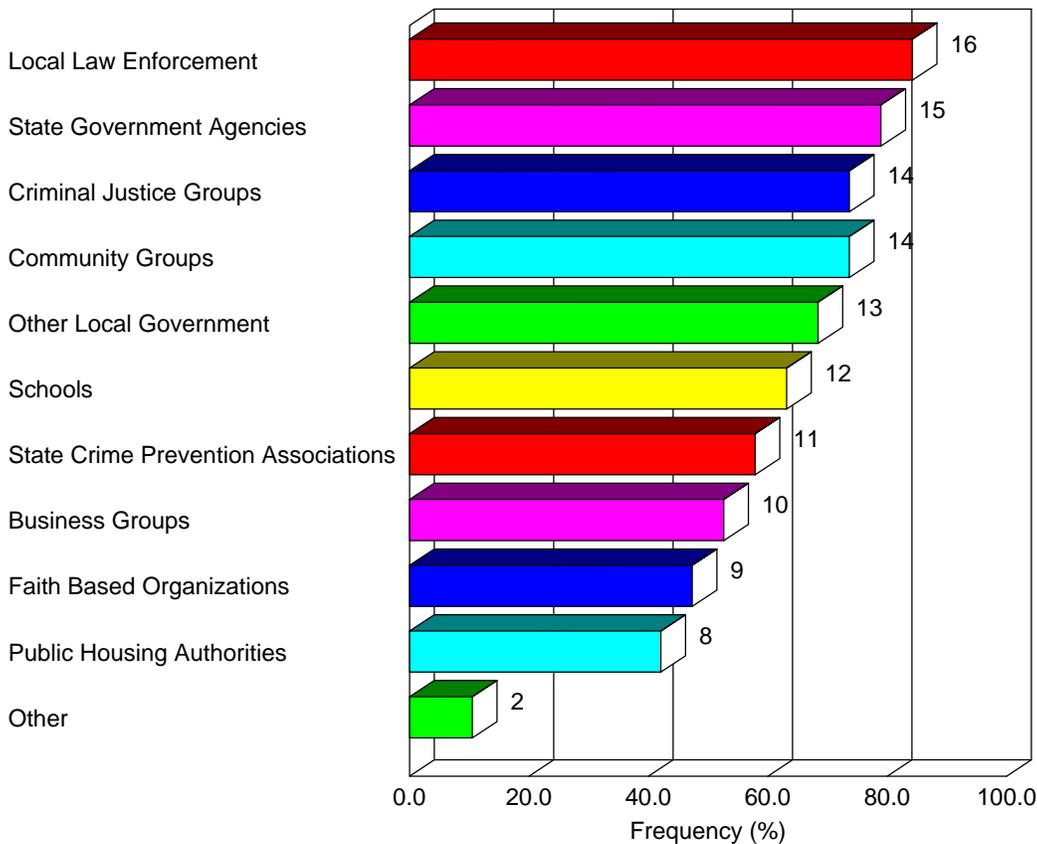
States in Transition (no response) (2 states): Massachusetts (program under reassignment to other state agency); Virginia (state director transferred out, no replacement yet)

States Not Contacted (no program currently on record) (15 states): Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Michigan, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Wyoming

(Note: In Kentucky and Utah, state crime prevention coalitions share characteristics of both associations and programs. For survey purposes, they have been tallied with state associations, as neither is a state agency.)

State Programs Serve Diverse Audiences

What kinds of groups does your program serve? (Check all that apply.)



* Note: Multiple answer percentage-count totals not meaningful.

Local law enforcement, state agencies, and community groups were most frequently named as being served by the responding crime prevention programs. It is important to note, though, that local governments (non-law enforcement) and criminal justice and crime prevention groups were also mentioned at high rates. One area of concern is how state programs can be helped to meet more effectively the needs of these varied groups. This is one situation in which peer-to-peer consultation may provide important insights.

States Draw Funds From Four Sources

What sources of funding does your program draw upon?

(Please check all that apply)

Other Federal funds	50.0%	9
State government (Edward Byrne Block Grant funds)	44.4%	8
Other state government funds	38.9%	7
Training fees	22.2%	4
Attorney General's Office	5.6%	1
Donations	5.6%	1
General Budget	5.6%	1
State Patrol Budget	5.6%	1
Other	11.1%	2
Totals	*	*

* Note: Multiple answer percentage-count totals not meaningful.

State crime prevention programs predominantly obtain funds from Edward Byrne block grant federal funds, from other federal funds, and from state funds. One in five respondents receives funding from training fees. A useful line of assistance could be to identify the variety of funding options currently used, to explore others, and to help states engage them.

Most Programs Headed by Careerists

Is the head of the program an appointed or a career person?			
	Counts	Percents	Percents
			0 100
Appointed	5	26.3%	
Career	14	73.7%	
Totals	19	100.0%	

More than 70 percent of state crime prevention programs are headed by careerists, rather than appointees. Careerists need to be cultivated as trusted veterans of state government who can be powerful allies in increasing attention to prevention.

Just over a quarter of the programs are headed by appointees. These appointees are usually selected by the state's governor, which generally means they have some direct access to the state's top political leaders. They are in positions to make prevention a higher priority, if they are persuaded of the need for and benefits of it.

Both types of leaders offer major opportunities for promoting and sustaining crime prevention.

Careerist-Headed Programs Show Greater Funding Range

	Is the head of the program an appointed or a career person?	
	Appointed 26.3%, 5	Career 73.7%, 14
What sources of funding does your program draw upon? (Please check all that apply)		
State government (Edward Byrne Block Grant funds)	60.0% 3	38.5% 5
Other state government funds	80.0% 4	23.1% 3
Other Federal funds	80.0% 4	38.5% 5
Training fees	0.0% 0	30.8% 4
Attorney General's Office	0.0% 0	7.7% 1
Donations	0.0% 0	7.7% 1
General Budget	0.0% 0	7.7% 1
State Patrol Budget	0.0% 0	7.7% 1
Other	20.0% 1	7.7% 1
Totals	* *	* *

* Note: Multiple answer percentage-count totals not meaningful.

Programs headed by appointees show over all a more limited range of funding sources than do those headed by career employees. It is possible that career employees are better able to recognize and take the time to form and solidify funding partnerships than appointees are, given that their terms are relatively brief. However, it may be possible to transfer to appointees knowledge of funding relationships that will short-cut their learning curve and help their programs draw from more varied funding streams.

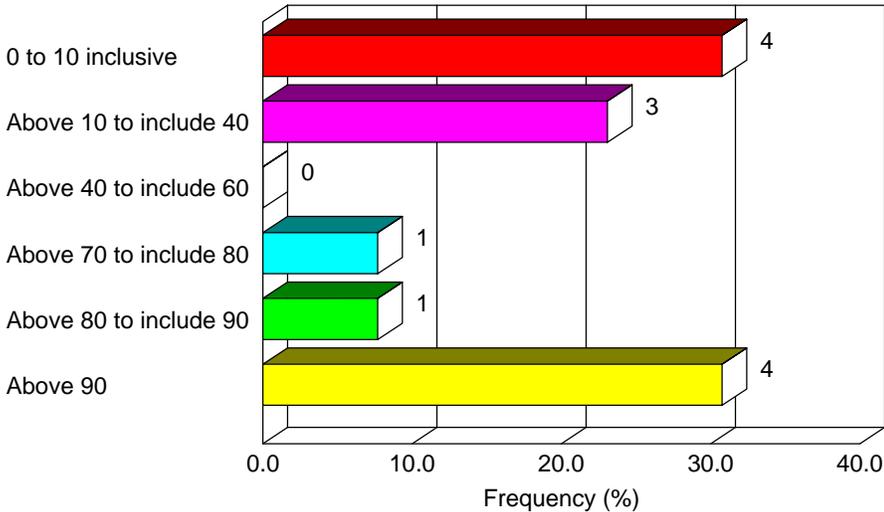
Staff Expertise Is Limited in Quantity

How many staff members have crime prevention expertise? (Please estimate as full-time equivalent)			
	Counts	Percents	Percents
			0 100
Three or fewer	13	76.5%	
Four to nine	2	11.8%	
Ten or more	2	11.8%	
Totals	17	100.0%	

A substantial majority of programs have three or fewer staff persons with crime prevention expertise. This number seems uncomfortably low given the potential demands on state programs. It may well overload staff in trying to meet the needs of the state for crime prevention services. This situation needs further assessment in terms of the skill base that programs need in order to be effective and the ways in which national groups might support the states' capacities to develop and sustain local crime prevention efforts.

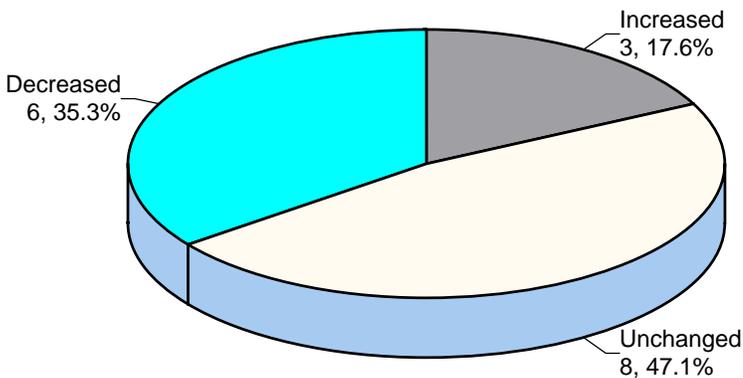
Crime Prevention Funding Share Not Always Dominant in Agency Budget

What percentage of your program's budget is allocated for crime prevention work? (Please estimate.)



Though these programs are described as crime prevention, only 6 of 13 respondents see more than 60 percent of the agency budget spent that way. Four of the 13 respondents report less than 10 percent

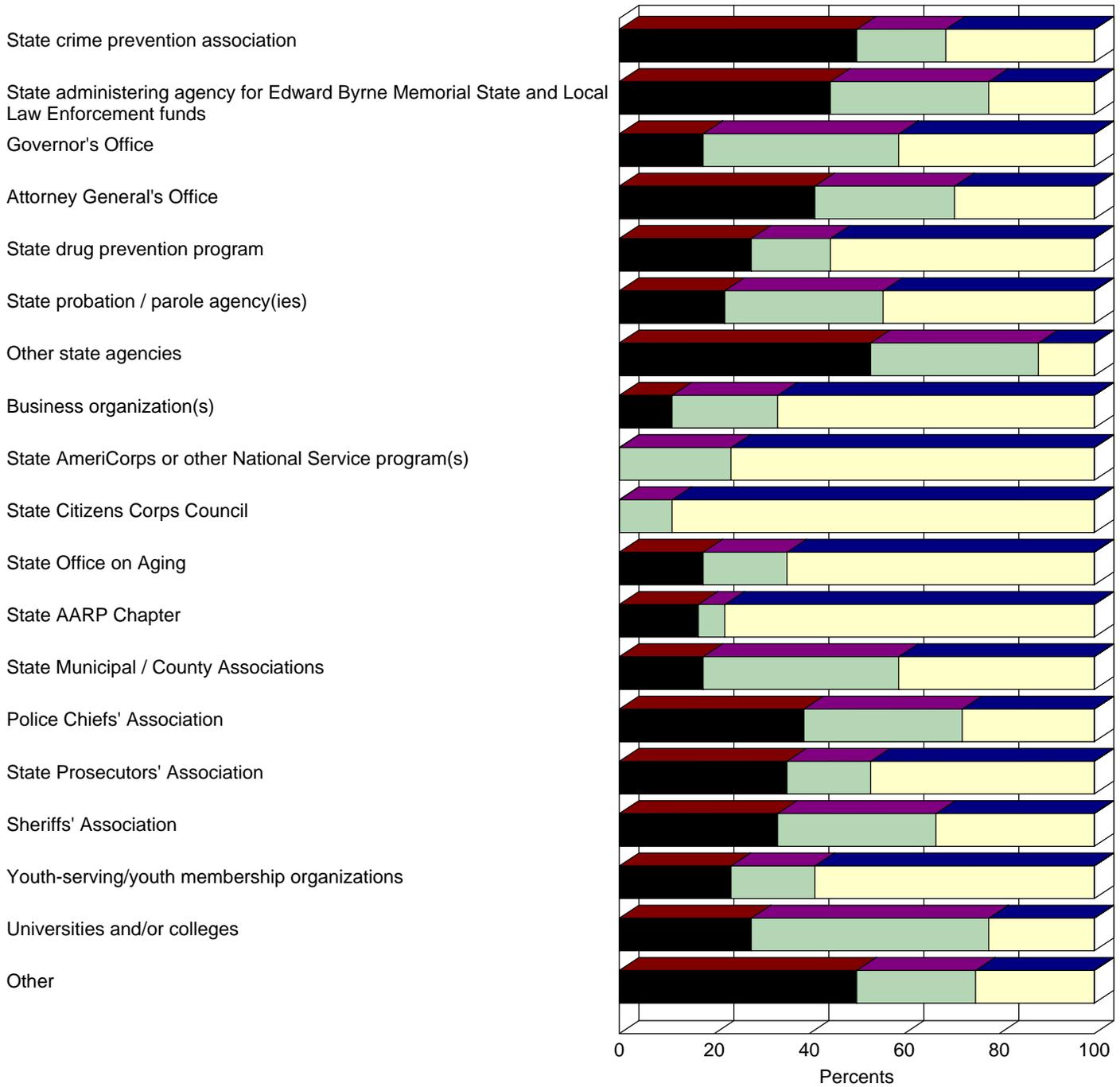
Crime Prevention Funding Relatively Stable; Ups and Downs Even



Funding (from state level) for crime prevention

State funding for crime prevention has remained relatively unchanged for about half the states. Slightly over a third of respondents, however, report decreased funding over the past three years. Fewer than 20 percent report increased funding. Cross-tabulation demonstrates no significant relationship between budget share for crime prevention and direction of funding.

State Programs Partner Chiefly With Four Kinds of Groups



Frequently
 Sometimes
 Rarely/Not at All

State crime prevention programs form working relationships chiefly with others in the criminal justice ambit -- state crime prevention associations; state Byrne Fund administering agencies; other states agencies.

Detail of State Program Working Relationships With Other Groups

	State level groups associations work with							
	State crime prevention association		State administering agency for Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement funds		Governor's Office		Attorney General's Office	
Frequencies:								
Frequently	50.0%	8.0	44.4%	8.0	17.6%	3.0	41.2%	7.0
Sometimes	18.8%	3.0	33.3%	6.0	41.2%	7.0	29.4%	5.0
Rarely/Not at All	31.3%	5.0	22.2%	4.0	41.2%	7.0	29.4%	5.0
Totals	100.0%	16.0	100.0%	18.0	100.0%	17.0	100.0%	17.0

	State level groups associations work with							
	State drug prevention program		State probation / parole agency(ies)		Other state agencies		Business organization(s)	
Frequencies:								
Frequently	27.8%	5.0	22.2%	4.0	52.9%	9.0	11.1%	2.0
Sometimes	16.7%	3.0	33.3%	6.0	35.3%	6.0	22.2%	4.0
Rarely/Not at All	55.6%	10.0	44.4%	8.0	11.8%	2.0	66.7%	12.0
Totals	100.0%	18.0	100.0%	18.0	100.0%	17.0	100.0%	18.0

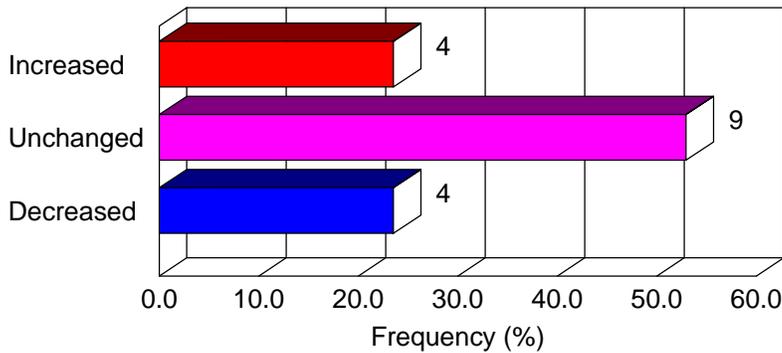
	State level groups associations work with							
	State AmeriCorps or other National Service program(s)		State Citizens Corps Council		State Office on Aging		State AARP Chapter	
Frequencies:								
Frequently	0.0%	0.0	0.0%	0.0	17.6%	3.0	16.7%	3.0
Sometimes	23.5%	4.0	11.1%	2.0	17.6%	3.0	5.6%	1.0
Rarely/Not at All	76.5%	13.0	88.9%	16.0	64.7%	11.0	77.8%	14.0
Totals	100.0%	17.0	100.0%	18.0	100.0%	17.0	100.0%	18.0

	State level groups associations work with							
	State Municipal / County Associations		Police Chiefs' Association		State Prosecutors' Association		Sheriffs' Association	
Frequencies:								
Frequently	17.6%	3.0	38.9%	7.0	35.3%	6.0	33.3%	6.0
Sometimes	41.2%	7.0	33.3%	6.0	17.6%	3.0	33.3%	6.0
Rarely/Not at All	41.2%	7.0	27.8%	5.0	47.1%	8.0	33.3%	6.0
Totals	100.0%	17.0	100.0%	18.0	100.0%	17.0	100.0%	18.0

	State level groups associations work with					
	Youth-serving/youth membership organizations		Universities and/or colleges		Other	
Frequencies:						
Frequently	23.5%	4.0	27.8%	5.0	50.0%	2.0
Sometimes	17.6%	3.0	50.0%	9.0	25.0%	1.0
Rarely/Not at All	58.8%	10.0	22.2%	4.0	25.0%	1.0
Totals	100.0%	17.0	100.0%	18.0	100.0%	4.0

Program Emphasis Mostly Stable, Some Increases and Decreases

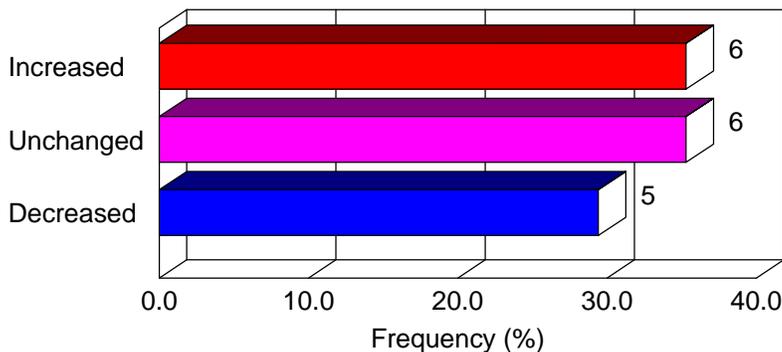
Program emphasis on crime prevention in your state



In contrast to funding, emphasis on crime prevention programming remained largely unchanged. Increases and decreases in program emphasis were equal at four each. Further investigation of the changes may help reveal areas of special relevance in terms of what subjects or program areas were more likely to be cut or increased and what competing priorities caused or contributed to reduced funding.

Policy Emphasis Unchanged or Up by Slight Margin

Policy emphasis on crime prevention in your state



Crime prevention policy emphasis at the state level was unchanged over the last three years for six states, but six states saw increased emphasis in this area. Five states saw decreased policy emphasis on crime prevention. It may well be worthwhile to explore the subject areas in which policy emphasis increased and decreased.

Many States Offer Varied Services

State crime prevention programs offer a wide array of services to their diverse audiences. The percentage of programs offering each service is listed below.

- Annual Conference** -- 37 Percent
- Web site** -- 79 Percent
- Help to other states' programs** -- 32 Percent
- Trainings** -- 63 Percent
- Newsletter** -- 16 Percent
- List serve** -- 21 Percent
- Peer-peer assistance** -- 37 Percent
- Network of programs in state** -- 63 Percent
- Videos** -- 63 Percent
- Printed consumer material** -- 74 Percent
- Reports** -- 42 Percent

The most prevalent forms of help are in-state links (Web sites, training, networks) and consumer education information (videos, printed materials). A secondary study of how and why states have chosen specific forms of assistance could provide important information about ways to strengthen the communications links that these programs provide. There may be ways in which technical assistance or other help from the national level could increase the use of such tools as newsletters and list serves, for example.

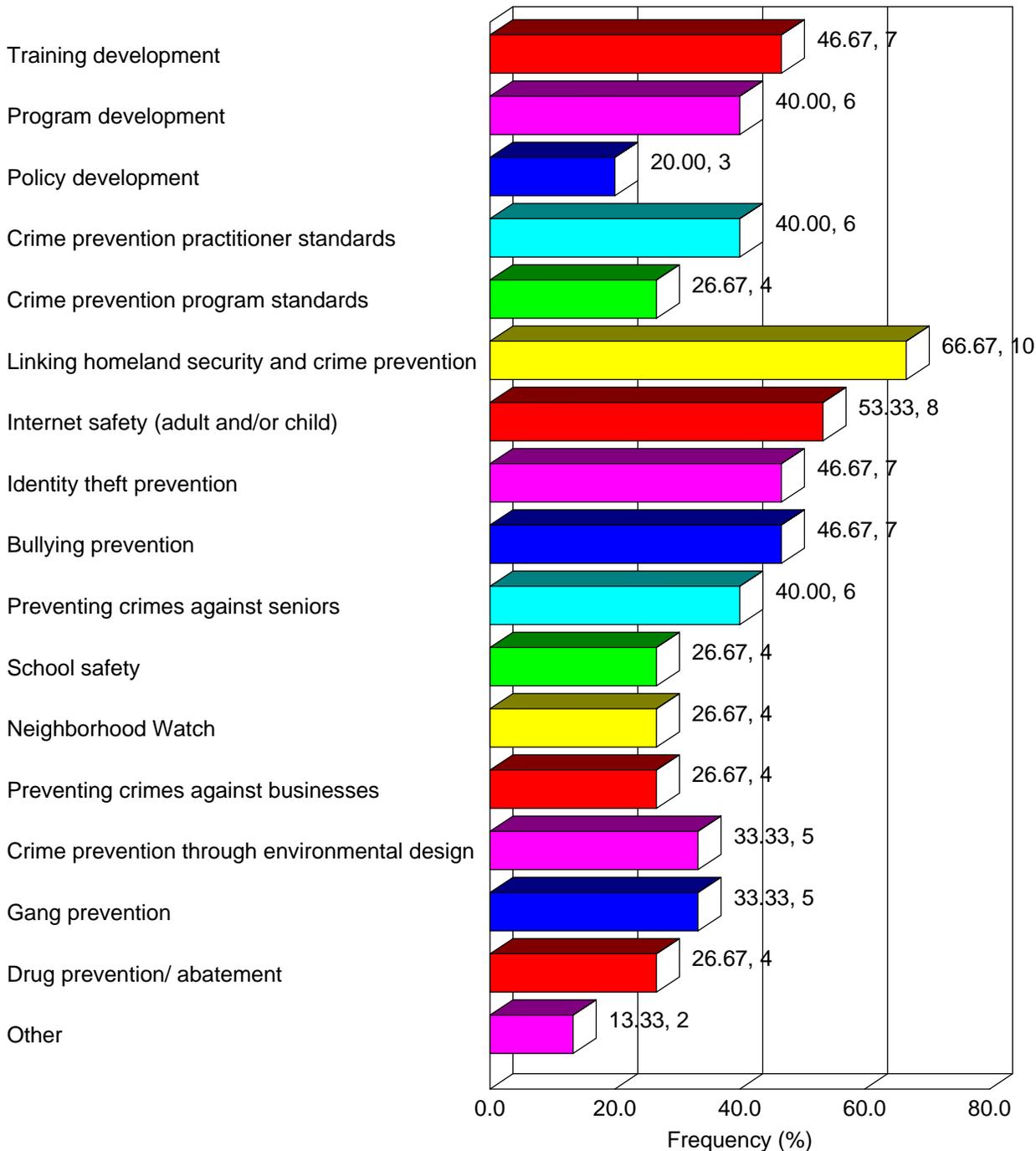
Consideration of Evidence-Based Programming

Does your state have requirements for evidence-based programming in crime prevention?				
	Counts	Percents	Percents	
			0	100
Yes or soon	5	29.4%		
Some discussion	5	29.4%		
Not at all	7	41.2%		
Totals	17	100.0%		

More than half the states responding have some awareness of growing demand for evidence-based programming. Including the "other" responses (which describe similar requirements), 10 of the 17 responding states indicate this issue is at least on their horizons. Identifying states' needs in this area and helping to ensure that they are appropriately met will be among the challenges of the next several years.

State Programs Seek Assistance in Variety of Areas

Please indicate areas in which your program would be interested in receiving help. Please check all that apply.



* Note: Multiple answer percentage-count totals not meaningful.

The highest topical demand from state programs was linking crime prevention and homeland security, followed closely by internet safety, identity theft prevention, and bullying prevention. Interest was also expressed in preventing crimes against seniors. States indicated the strongest interest among process areas in training, program development, and crime prevention practitioner standards. These areas of interest suggest fruitful fields for exploration of both the kinds of problems that states are encountering that make these subjects more or less desired and the most useful methods of providing assistance to the states.

State Programs Offer Variety of Materials, Programs, Strategies

In replying to this survey, the 19 programs (18 states) offered a wide variety of materials (ranging from print to video to public service messages) as well as programs and strategies that have helped anchor and strengthen their programs while meeting local needs.

That information is being provided to appropriate NCPC staff so that it can be incorporated in Coalition Web site materials as well as in the McGruff strategies database.

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