

Comprehensive Strategy Responds to Youth Violence

In 1993, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) published its *Comprehensive Strategy for Serious, Violent, and Chronic Juvenile Offenders* to provide communities with a strategic yet practical response to juvenile delinquency and to help prevent juveniles from becoming serious, violent, and chronic juvenile offenders.

The Comprehensive Strategy provides a research-based framework of strategic responses—from early prevention to a range of appropriate and graduated sanctions—to support States and local jurisdictions in their effort to reduce juvenile crime and delinquency. It is a balanced approach to juvenile justice—that is, it focuses on intervention but calls for strong, immediate, and well-planned responses to delinquent acts.

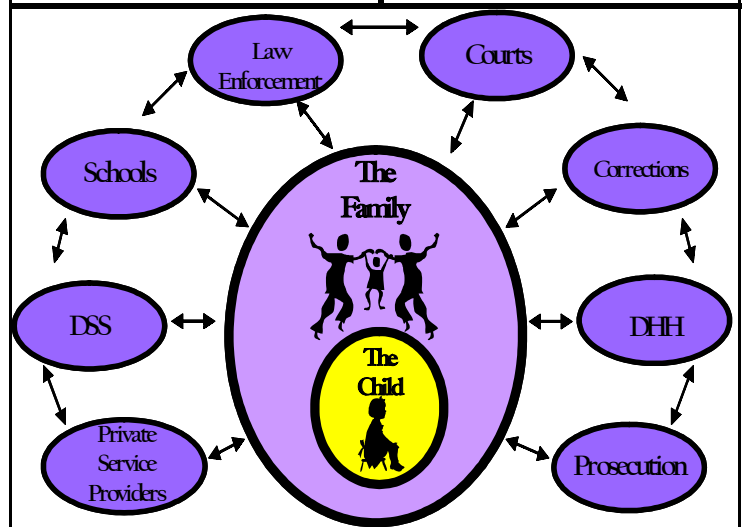
The Strategy also works to strengthen families and support core social institutions. By implementing the Comprehensive Strategy, communities have been able to prevent and reduce delinquency, provide necessary treatment and services, hold offenders accountable, offer a range of graduated sanctions, and keep the public safe. The Comprehensive Strategy incorporated the philosophy of Balanced and Restorative Justice.

Components of a Comprehensive System

Problem Behavior → Non-criminal Misbehavior → Delinquency → Serious, Violent, & Chronic Offending

Prevention
Target Population: At-Risk Youth

Graduated Sanctions
Target Population: Delinquent Youth



Louisiana Legislature Taking the Initiative

The Louisiana Legislature came together to create the Joint Legislative Juvenile Justice Commission, whose purpose is to study and make recommendations regarding reforming and restructuring the juvenile justice system in Louisiana, incorporating principles of a comprehensive strategy. The Legislature recognizes the need to work together to gather information to create a system of outcome-based services and to link these services with the specific needs of the children and families in Louisiana. Based on current research, this initiative can position our State to address risk factors for delinquency and develop an approach to address them that takes into account community strengths and public safety.

The Office of Social Service Research and Development (OSSRD) is a key player in this initiative, providing research and support to the Committee for use in strategic planning and fund development. For further information regarding the Comprehensive Strategy initiative, contact OSSRD.

Critical Factors for Success

- ✓ **Leadership**—strategy teams led by dynamic, influential, and respected community leaders committed to change
- ✓ **Agency and community support**—sufficient and dedicated staff support and resources to carry out development of strategic action plan
- ✓ **Maximize existing resources and systems**—incorporate existing state and local organizations and programmatic resources into planning process to avoid duplication and maximize participants' contribution and time
- ✓ **Marketing**—engage media to promote public awareness of positive youth issues and generate community support for the planning process
- ✓ **Training and technical assistance**—provide opportunities for stakeholders to have access with up-to-date information on strategic planning and implementation methods

Three Comprehensive Strategy Pilot Sites Overview and Outcomes

San Diego, California

In one of the largest and most culturally diverse counties in the country, local leaders and members of the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council spearheaded a plan using state appropriated funds and developed a shares vision for children in the community, defined as caring, literate, educated, and responsible children (CLEAR). In 1998, a five year strategic action plan was developed.



Lee County, Florida

County officials, responding to several high profile juvenile crimes, initiated the adoption of a comprehensive approach. State and local stake holders committed to work together to identify and address risk factors. To facilitate this, specific objectives were developed and participants divided into the prevention committee and the graduated sanctions committee. Youth groups were included in the planning process. This five-year plan is in the final stages of implementation.

Outcomes of Pilot Sites

- ⇒ Enhanced community wide understanding of prevention services and sanction options for juveniles.
- ⇒ Expanded networking capacity and better coordination among service providers.
- ⇒ Institution of performance measures.
- ⇒ Hiring of staff to spearhead comprehensive planning and implementation.
- ⇒ Development of comprehensive five-year strategic action plan.

Duval County, Florida

In June of 1996, the county, working together with the State attorney, the sheriff and the mayor of Jacksonville, and key community leaders, came together to plan a juvenile strategy. Committee recommendations were incorporated into Duval County's five-year Comprehensive Strategic Plan completed in 1998 and whose provisions are now being implemented.

The Comprehensive Strategy engages the community and uses research-based information to create a continuum of services to meet the dual objectives of promoting healthy development of children and youth and ensuring the safety of the community.

