

Some African tribes use mediation to solve arguments, conflicts, and crimes. The mediator is called a *ntumbu*, a word that means "needle." This means the mediator's job is to "sew up" what is torn, not tear people or communities apart with anger about the crime.

be solved by mediation. If the victim knows a mediation center, she can go to it. At the mediation center, there are people called mediators. Their job is to listen to both sides of the argument. The mediator tries to "sew up" the tear in the community that results from the anger about the crime that has torn it apart.

Here is an example of a situation that was solved outside of court. Rosie M. liked to listen to very loud music. Her neighbor, Kathy, worked at night and had to sleep during the day. Kathy had often asked Rosie to turn down the music. Rosie would do this for a day or two, but then forget and turn it back up.

Rosie and Kathy started to argue. Kathy was so upset that she damaged Rosie's tape player. Rosie decided to go to a mediation center. The mediator listened to both sides. They agreed that Kathy would buy Rosie another tape deck to pay back her loss. They also agreed that Rosie would buy earphones to use during the hours that Kathy needs quiet. This would pay Kathy back for the sleep she had lost.

The problem has worked out between the two people without the need and cost of a court. Programs like these do not have due-process rules. This is because most of them do not deal with serious felonies. But the results are still fair, and everyone is happy with them. The crime that took place stopped happening.

When the crimes people report happen to be felonies, mediation programs take care of these crimes more quickly than courts. They also do not cost the suspect any money. Of course, really serious crimes *must* be handled by the courts.

The Community

How can community groups stop crime? A community is a large group of people living in one area. People working in a community can stop crime. For example, there are the citizen patrols and auxiliary police who watch out for crimes. There is also a neighborhood watch program. This means that all the people in the neighborhood watch for crimes. People might see from their windows criminal activity down in the street. If they see something happening, they call the police.

Community Policing

What is community policing? These days, people are talking a lot about community policing. Here, the police work with the community in a way that respects the problems and the rights of every individual as well as of the community as a whole. This includes building a greater understanding between the people and the police—building a partnership. The police cannot do everything that is needed to prevent crime and build a safe society by themselves.

Think back to the start of this chapter to the example of the successful plan to rid a neighborhood of drug dealers. The following are the steps in that plan:

1. Stop the buying and selling of drugs. Most of the users were people



DID YOU KNOW? The focus of community policing is for officers to take an active role in becoming acquainted with the residents, their opinions and concerns. Officers are being trained in how to have better communication with all groups. They are trained to respect people as individuals.

EYE OPENER In a recent survey, 43 percent of state prisoners were found for the most part to have grown up in single-parent or guardian households. A two-guardian household helps a young person say no to crime. Strong family structures make for safer streets.

from the suburbs on their way home from work. The community group felt sure that these buyers would fear losing their job or going to jail.

2. Put up signs saying that the police will arrest all drug buyers in the area. People who lived in the area got stickers to put on their cars that gave the same warning. Others who came into the neighborhood were questioned politely by the police.

3. Have the lawyers find out who owns the empty buildings. The lawyers can then have the owners either make their buildings safe or tear them down. Many owners chose to tear down their buildings, so the drug dealers had no place to hide!

As a result of these three steps, very few drug buyers came into the area. Drug selling was greatly reduced, and the police did not have to make many arrests. The community group's plan helps to keep crime down both in the present and in the future.

The police and the community also cleaned up the area. In one day, ten trailer-sized garbage trucks of dirt and garbage were filled.

How did the community win in this situation? Calls for police help went down by 44 percent. This means that crime went down by one third. Also, people got to know the police better and vice versa. A sense of trust in the community had been achieved.

Today, many police departments are trying to recruit more people from neighborhoods to become police officers. They believe that if there are more police officers of both sexes and from all backgrounds. There will be more trust between the police and the communities they serve.

What else can communities do? Every summer, there is a special night all across the country called, "America's National Night Out." On this night, everyone's job is to watch out for crime. Your local police station has information on how you can help next year. Of course, watching out for crime to help stop crime even before it happens is what everyone should do each day of the year.

Mediation Programs


What can schools do to prevent crime? Many schools have antiviolence programs and mediation programs. These programs help students learn work out problems between each other before they become serious or physically violent.

For example, a student named Tara had a boyfriend who started to date another girl. Tara heard that they were saying mean things about her. She became angry and made the mistake of bringing a knife to school. She was ready to hurt the other girl. However, the school had a mediation program.

Mediators persuaded Tara and the other girl to agree to mediation. By talking to the other girl, Tara found out that the girl had not said mean things about her. Tara calmed down and nobody was hurt. Violence had been successfully prevented.

Where do mediation programs start? They can start in elementary school. Many schools in New York City work with a program

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 **CRITICAL THINKING**
How can better day-care, parent training, and other social services help a community to reduce crime?

DID YOU KNOW? In the future, the president is planning to create areas in communities called empowerment zones. To empower means to give strength. The people, working together in these zones, would help young people find something to say yes to that is good for their lives, while helping them say no to drugs, crime, and violence.

EYE OPENER One-third of gang-violence victims are innocent bystanders.

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CRITICAL THINKING

There is a strong movement in the United States to refuse three-time offenders parole or subsequent freedom because they do not seem to have been rehabilitated. Do you think this a good idea?



DID YOU KNOW? Many of Eleanor M.'s family members were killed by people with guns. To fight back, she formed a group called Mothers and Men Against Gangs. The group sets a curfew for the neighborhood and gets gang members to do community work. In Eleanor M.'s neighborhood in Los Angeles, California, because of her work with gangs, drive-by shootings (shootings by criminals in moving vehicles) have been greatly reduced.

called *The Resolving Conflict Creatively Program*. This means solving arguments by thinking carefully and talking about problems. The program teaches everyone how to stop violence before it happens. Even kindergarten students can learn how to using talking to prevent fighting.

The problem of gangs or groups of young people committing crimes as a group is growing all across America. The great amount of crime that people always thought was only in big cities has spread to small cities, towns, and even farm areas. Gangs also fight with each other and cause much violence.

Schools can also plan activities that keep students busy, safe, and away from gangs. Many people belong to gangs partly because they like to do things with friends in a group. But young people can always be part of a school group.

Schools can also talk with parents about how to stop illegal gang activity. For example, there might be late-night sports programs run by people who are also trained in mediation. Of course, such a program only works if all parents attend, and especially the parents of students who are in danger of getting into trouble.

How can first offenders be stopped from becoming second offenders? Committing a crime once is a mistake. Committing a crime a second time is a serious mistake. Many people believe that preventing crime also means preventing first offenders from committing more crimes.

When inmates come out of prison after their first offense, if they cannot find jobs and they are still unhappy, they might commit more crimes. That is the time when people need to make the right choices. This can repeat over and over again until their not making the right choice becomes like a snowball rolling down a mountain.

Education is the Key

In New York, a program was started by young prisoners to fellow inmates to become educated while in prison. The program teaches inmates the skills needed to get and keep a job.

This program helps inmates be better able to get along by doing the right thing outside of prison. Inmates also know that more education means a better chance of getting a job, even in hard times. They discover that education is the key to staying out of jail.



Workbook

Self-Check p.36

Reality-Check p.37



TO LEARN MORE

The Peoples Guide to:

Drug Education, pp. 8-10, 98-99

Understanding Chapter 17

1. What are some of the causes of crime?
2. Describe what you know about community policing.
3. Explain how people can solve the legal problems of a crime out of court.

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Chapter 17. Pages: 84,85 and 86

1. What is the job of mediators? _____
2. What does the mediator try to sew up? _____

3. Why did Kathy often ask Rosie to turn down the music? _____
4. What did Kathy damage? _____
5. Mediation programs like these do not have what? _____
6. What do mediation programs take care of more quickly than courts/ _____

7. What is a community? _____
8. Community policing includes building a greater understanding between whom? _____

9. What did people in the area get to put on their cars? _____

10. What % did calls for police go down? _____
11. Every summer there is special what? _____
12. What do many schools have? _____
13. Where can mediation programs start? _____
14. Even kindergarten students can learn what? _____

15. What is growing all across America. _____

16. Gangs fighting with each other cause what? _____
17. What can schools also talk with parents about? _____

18. What is committing a crime a second time? _____
19. What could cause inmates coming out of prison commit more crimes? _____

20. What was started in New York? _____

Critical Thinking

(pages: 84,85 & 86)

1. When problems in a community arise, what might be used to bring people together not tear them apart? How?
2. How can it help if police are trained to respect people as individuals?
3. How could a strong family structure help make a community safer?
4. What services can help a community to reduce crime?

5. Why are so many innocent bystanders hurt by gang violence?

6. Is there anything schools can do to reduce crime? Why or why not?

7. Is it a good idea to not grant parole to 3 time offenders? Why?