

High School Responses (124)  
Community Violence Survey Responses

1. What would you say is the most significant factor driving crime? Speeding, Drugs, Doing things that are illegal. Gun violence. People just doing dumb stuff. For or about money. Not having enough available resources in your life. People not taking care of debts, which forces them to criminal acts. Hatred and racial tension. It becomes an easy way out of problems that they have. Boredom, which opens up the opportunity to be in the wrong place. Trauma or home problems. Gangs and violence within the gang. How small the city really is, as it is easy to know everybody. Angry people and not being able to handle their own emotions. People moving in from Chicago. The growing amount of guns in the community. People not respecting authority. Physical fights over relationships. How they were brought up and the amount of peer pressure. It is generational; they knew family members that did it. Mental health issues not being treated. Social media and texting. Trump, nobody wanted Trump to be president because of his hatred of immigrants.
2. To be effective, law enforcement agencies must constantly adapt to the changing nature of crime and the way criminals behave. In your opinion, what is the biggest issue facing law enforcement today? More police cars out. Racist police. Different laws against crime. Banning assault rifles. People do not respect the law. Racism. To think like a criminal so that you can catch them easier. People are finding new ways to hide things. More officers hired with better equipment available. Our present environment have made people meaner. People do not agree with the way the system works. Law enforcement falsely arresting people. Growing guns and technology. People from Chicago and identifying them. Finding them, they go to different cities after the crime. Some people just do not care. Over population of the jail. It is harder for police to do their jobs because of the internet and unknown factors. The amount of Gang violence. Drugs. Lack of motivation. More training for police officers.
3. What is the best way to prevent crime—educational programs, more police officers, stiffer prison sentences, youth diversion programs? (cga.ct.gov 1-3) Education and stiffer prison sentences. Youth and Adult diversion programs. Take away guns from everyone but hunters and police. The system works; we need to be effective catching criminals. Showing in school, the reality in videos of what happens when you are caught. More officers available. Better parenting or tools to be one. Removing kids from households exposed to crime. More activities for youth. It starts at school, making it be where they can see better choices for the future. More gun laws, being aware of what is around you. Offer gun buy back programs. Rewards for citizens that help the police catch criminals. No bullying. Have police patrol the known criminal areas more often. Providing the resources to the neighborhoods that are the problems. Crack down on the people that rent out the homes, and what they allow.
4. What can the citizens do to help reduce and prevent crime? Neighborhood watch, being aware and nicer to neighbors. Follow the rules or call a ride type of laws. Reporting and calling the police more often. Learn from the mistakes of the last years and be nicer to people. Communication, getting along with everyone. Become more active in the community. Reporting when you see something wrong. Support gun control. Become more involved. Know the law, and do more to educate. Several responded to carry a weapon. Punishment begins in the home, making people accountable. Better curfew laws and enforcing it. Help with released criminals to help them reenter a community. Learn to trust police officers.
5. What is your plan to do something positive for the community? (several Nothing answers) Not arm yourself. Pick up trash or clean your community. Give to the less fortunate. Interventions for those that are struggling. Become more positive towards others. Volunteer, try to stay safe. Play music for the community. Food for those that cannot afford it. More youth groups. Follow the law, and do not get in trouble. Carry a weapon. Positive signs in the community or schools. Leave the community because I am scared. Donate to charity and homeless youth. Draw in business that make citizens money, upgrade the city and drive the crime out.