

(e.g., teachers), social service agencies (e.g., mental health agencies), and other components germane to the community (e.g., churches) to participate in activities that focus on the family, supervision, and creating opportunities. On a more macro (national) level, policymakers and administrators must make decisions that provide leadership and place prevention before reaction. Policies must be adopted and administered that provide some degree of hope for at-risk youths.

We also reviewed some programs that theoretically targeted gang prevention, such as the G.R.E.A.T. program and L.A. Bridges. As we noted, these are among many illustrations of programs that failed despite the expenditures of millions of dollars.

Many of the programs reviewed here have demonstrated some effectiveness in the containment of gang activities and delinquency in general (e.g., DDAP). Such programs, however, have limitations. They cannot do much in regard to the social and economic environments from which most gangs are spawned. Thus, a more concerted national program is needed to correct slum injustices that plague our inner cities. Obviously, we must first discover a way in which such a program can be less political and more humanistic.

NOTES

1. For an excellent discussion of this subject, see Sternheimer (2006).
2. Bureau of Justice Statistics: <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/glance/tables/exptytab.cfm>.
3. From the Homeland Security Web site: http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/budget_bib_fy2011.pdf.
4. Hollin (1993: 72) defines *meta-analysis* (quoting from Izzo and Ross 1990: 135) as "a technique that enables a reviewer to objectively and statistically analyze the findings of each study as data points ... The procedure of meta-analysis involves collecting summary statistics, using the summary statistics from each study as units of analysis, and then analyzing the aggregated data in a quantitative manner using statistical tests."
5. Each of the authors of this book has had a similar experience, as have many other academic people we know.
6. For a more detailed discussion of L.A. Bridges, see Klein and Maxson (2006: Ch. 3).
7. Much of this information is taken from their Web site: <http://www.homeboy-industries.org/>.
8. <http://www.delanceystreetfoundation.org/>
9. The ability of case advocacy and case management to promote detention alternatives was demonstrated by the National Center on Institutions and Alternatives (NCIA). Under contract with New York City's Spofford Detention Center, NCIA significantly augmented the efforts of that city's Department of Juvenile Justice to reduce the number of youths in detention and expand the range of alternative options (Jefferson and Associates, 1987; this is also documented in Krisberg and Austin, 1993: 178–181).

- If many sources of delinquency are to be found in communities, families, and schools, why do probation strategies often target only the individual offender?
- If youth justice professionals are experts in delinquent behavior, why are youth justice agencies so often viewed by policymakers as an all-purpose "dumping ground" for troubled youth rather than a resource for resolving problems in schools and communities? (Butts et al., 2010: 15)

Addressing the Problem of Social Inequality

As noted in Chapter 8, the problem of gangs is strongly related to social inequality. Social inequality in America has reached its highest point since the start of the Great Depression. Yet, most commentary in recent years has focused almost exclusively on the impact the current economic crisis has had on the "middle class," while ignoring the poor and especially the growing marginality of the urban underclass, which has been ever more devastating (simply put, they are already experiencing a "depression"). One important function of the punishment business is processing this underclass into the prison system. Indeed, as a study by Bruce Western clearly shows, there is, as noted in Chapter 9, a kind of "pipeline" from the inner-city black underclass to the prison system. The prison system has become, in short, little more than a dumping ground for this class of people (2006).

To break this "pipeline," we might very well need something like what Paul Krugman has called a "New, New Deal" (Krugman, 2007; see also Dodd, 2008). He suggests starting with universal health care and continuing onto job creation and other reform measures, just like FDR did with the original "New Deal." Perhaps a kind of public works program like the WPA in the 1930s would be required. Some have suggested instituting a kind of "Marshall Plan" for the inner cities (McGreevy, 2007).¹⁰ Doing this requires reversing the trends begun during the Reagan years, which means reversing the tax cuts that have lined the pockets of the super-rich (Kamin and Shapiro, 2004). As one recent study concluded, the "broken economy" has been a case of "failure by design" by those who run the economy and political system (Bivens, 2012). As of this writing (February 2012), the "stimulus package" that rivaled the one put together during the 1930s is more than two years old, so it is still too soon to tell what overall impact it might have. Despite this stimulus, the national unemployment rate remains at just over 8 percent.¹¹ In September 2011, a new jobs stimulus plan (costing about \$447 billion) was proposed by the Obama administration (Dorning, 2011).

SUMMARY

Throughout this chapter, the focus has been on intervention strategies for the gang problem at the community and societal levels. These strategies solicit mobilization of community members (e.g., parents and concerned citizens), schools