There must be a full range of graduated sanctions designed to meet the needs of each juvenile in the juvenile justice system. We have learned that immediate intervention programs, based on a proper assessment, are a critical need the first time a juvenile commits an offense. A variety of innovative early intervention programs for first-time, nonviolent offenders have been implemented successfully. They include neighborhood resource teams, informal probation, peer mediation, community service, victim awareness programs, restitution, day treatment, alternative education, and outpatient alcohol and drug abuse treatment. These types of programs need to be replicated across America.

We must ensure that appropriate sanctions are available for more serious offenders and for offenders who have failed to benefit from the early interventions described above. Such sanctions include drug testing, weekend detention, intensive supervision for probationers, inpatient drug and alcohol abuse treatment, electronic monitoring, community-based residential programs and boot camps.

Secure facilities are needed for serious, violent, and chronic offenders who require a structured treatment environment or who threaten community safety. If a review of the nature of the offense, the offender's amenability to treatment, and the offender's record indicate that the juvenile justice system cannot provide appropriate services and adequately protect the community, the prosecution of such offenders in the criminal courts is both appropriate and necessary.

Finally, aftercare, or "community care," must be more than an afterthought. Such services must be an integral aspect of all dispositions involving residential placement and include the active involvement of the child's family. It makes little sense to intervene in a significant way in children's lives only to send those children back into the same environment without a support system for the family and child. OJJDP's intensive aftercare program is developing both the programmatic and policy underpinnings for enhancing our efforts in this vital area.

Existing research points to the efficacy of a community-wide, comprehensive, multi-dimensional approach. This approach should include family support, prevention programs, immediate and intermediate sanctions, small secure facilities for the most serious offenders, and sound re-entry and aftercare services. As a result of research and evaluation, we can now

point to a variety of program models proven to reduce delinquency and control youth violence. In these times of limited resources, program development should be predicated on this knowledge and innovative demonstration programs should be evaluated to measure their impact. Information, technical assistance, and training on the most promising programs should be provided as quickly and broadly as possible.

Protecting our communities and protecting our children: this two-part strategy lies at the heart of OJJDP's leadership of the Nation's efforts to prevent and combat delinquency and of the programs proposed in this plan. Community-based, collaborative efforts that involve comprehensive strategies aimed at reducing delinquency and youth violence will be critical to our success. Federal departments whose programs affect youth must work in an interdisciplinary manner, adopting this approach. With the tools now at hand including enhanced communityoriented policing, delinquency prevention and intervention programs, and new correctional programs and facilities—we have an opportunity to build prevention and intervention strategies that can be implemented to reduce juvenile delinquency and violence across America.

OJJDP's Comprehensive Response

The Justice Department has called for an unprecedented national commitment of public and private resources to reverse the rising trend of juvenile violence and victimization. OJJDP's Comprehensive Strategy for Serious, Violent, and Chronic Juvenile Offenders, which outlines the two principal components of prevention and intervention, is the centerpiece of this call for action.

The prevention component of the Strategy calls for establishing community-based planning teams and collaborative efforts between the juvenile justice system and other service systems, including mental health, health, child welfare, and education. To be effective, delinquency prevention programs should be based on a risk-focused approach in which communities systematically assess their delinquency problem in relation to known risk factors and implement programs to counteract them.

A key strategy to counter risk factors for delinquency in young people's lives is to enhance protective factors that fall into three basic categories: (1) Individual characteristics (having a resilient temperament or a positive orientation), (2) bonding (positive relationships with adult role models),

and (3) healthy beliefs and clear standards.

The intervention component of the Comprehensive Strategy is based on a model for the treatment and rehabilitation of delinquent offenders that combines accountability and sanctions with increasingly intensive treatment and rehabilitation. Families must be integrated into treatment and rehabilitative efforts at each stage of this continuum. Aftercare must be a formal component of all residential placements, actively involving the family and the community in supporting and reintegrating the juvenile into the community.

The intervention component also calls for a range of graduated sanctions to provide both immediate interventions and intermediate sanctions, including extensive use of nonresidential community-based programs. Many serious, violent, and chronic offenders will require the use of secure detention to protect the community and provide a structured treatment environment.

To expand implementation of the Comprehensive Strategy, OJJDP will fund several key initiatives in fiscal year 1995 designed to assist both urban and rural communities to address youth violence.

The National Council on Crime and Delinquency and Developmental Research and Programs have identified the most effective, promising programs for use in implementing the Comprehensive Strategy. Reports will be published on:

- Effective prevention strategies from birth to age six.
- Selected prevention strategies for early childhood and adolescence.
- Effective and promising graduated sanctions programs for serious, violent, and chronic juvenile offenders.
- Use of risk assessment and classification instruments.

These reports will be combined with an operations manual, which communities can use as a blueprint to assess their efforts in the areas of prevention and graduated sanctions to design and implement improvements that respond to community-identified needs.

Extensive efforts to coordinate and develop solutions to youth violence are ongoing at the Federal level. For example, a national conference, Solving Youth Violence: Partnerships that Work, was held in 1994. OJJDP is providing extensive technical assistance and training to four pilot jurisdictions in an interdepartmental initiative called Project PACT (Pulling America's Communities Together). The Denver metropolitan area, the District of