several programs that aggressively address these issues.

The limited resources of the juvenile justice system must continue to target the most difficult and intractable problems of juvenile crime. Strengthening the system requires support of all parts of the justice system, including law enforcement, prosecutors and the courts, as well as detention and corrections, including alternative residential placements and aftercare. A sound policy includes the assessment of each offender's needs and risks to the community, and concentrates the more formal, expensive, and restrictive options of the juvenile justice system in two areas:

■ Youth behavior that is most serious and least amenable to preventive measures and community responses.

■ Problems of youth and their families that exceed community resources and require more stringent legal resolution. This approach should promote accountability on the part of individual juvenile offenders to their victims.

# Public Safety and Law Enforcement

The epidemic of youth violence is striking fear in communities across the Nation. While violent crime statistics are generally down, violent criminal activity is increasing among the young. Juvenile arrests for violent crime increased 57% between 1983 and 1992. The nearly 54,200 juvenile weapons arrests in 1992 accounted for nearly 1 of 4 weapons arrests. Violent youth gangs, often associated with large urban areas, are emerging in smaller cities.

While ultimately the reduction in youth violence depends on overcoming or changing those societal factors that propel troubled youth toward violent behavior, immediate public safety issues require the justice system to incapacitate the small number of serious, violent and chronic offenders responsible for the majority of juvenile violence. However, a sound policy for combating juvenile crime must not indiscriminately treat children as small versions of adults. Law enforcement training on how to deal with juvenile offenders and victims and how to address the problems of youth gangs and the increasing use of guns by juveniles is an integral part of a comprehensive response to the escalating violence.

## Delinquency Prevention and Intervention

By the year 2005, the total population of youths from 15 to 19 years old will grow by an estimated 23 percent. Research has shown that the peak age of arrest for serious violent crime is 18 years. It has also shown that we must focus on addressing the root causes of delinquency as well as the symptoms. OJJDP programs encourage a riskfocused approach based on public health and social development models.

Communities cannot afford to place responsibility for juvenile crime entirely on the juvenile justice system. We must maximize the use of a community's less formal, less expensive, and less alienating responses to youthful misbehavior, while at the same time maintaining the safety of the public. The science of prevention has taught us that a sound policy for juvenile delinquency prevention must strengthen the most powerful contributing factor to good behavior: A productive place for young people in a law-abiding society. This type of preventive measure can operate on a large scale, providing gains in youth development while reducing juvenile delinquency.

## Missing, Exploited and Abused Children

The Missing Children's Assistance Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 5771–5780, Title IV of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, as amended) established OJJDP as the lead federal agency in matters pertaining to missing and exploited children. The fiscal year 1995 Competitive Discretionary Grant Programs for Title IV Missing and Exploited Children's Program and Application Kit Notice was published in the **Federal Register** on January 5, 1995.

## Fiscal Year 1995 Programs

Brief summaries of each of OJJDP's new and continuation programs for fiscal year 1995 are provided below. The programs are organized according to the four areas that constitute the major elements of OJJDP's comprehensive approach to preventing juvenile justice and improving public safety.

A number of programs have been identified for funding by Congress with regard to the grantee(s), the amount of funds, or both. Such programs are indicated by an asterisk (\*). The 1995 Appropriations Act Conference Report for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Programs identified 13 programs for OJJDP to examine and fund if warranted. Three of the programs are included in this Plan for continuation funding. Nine of the remaining ten have been reviewed and will receive consideration for funding in fiscal year 1995 at the levels indicated in the Final Plan.

OJJDP's new overarching demonstration program, SafeFutures:

Partnerships to Reduce Youth Violence and Delinquency Program, is presented first since it addresses the major elements that must be present in an effective strategy to prevent and control delinquency and provide the juvenile justice system with the program resources needed to do its job effectively. This new program focuses on a variety of services and funding resources. Other overarching programs are then presented, followed by programs that seek to strengthen juvenile justice, enhance public safety and law enforcement, prevent delinquency, and address the problem of missing, exploited and abused children.

#### Fiscal Year 1995 Program Listing

## **Overarching Programs**

## New Programs

- SafeFutures: Partnerships to Reduce Youth Violence and Delinquency— \$7,200,000
- Information and Statistics Projects— 525,000
- OJJDP Management Evaluation Contract—360,000
- Technical Assistance For State Legislatures—262,500
- Contra Costa County, California: Continuum of Care Program\*— 247,000
- Evaluation of SafeFutures: Partnerships to Reduce Youth Violence and Delinquency Program—150,000

## **Overarching Programs**

### **Continuation Programs**

- Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse— \$1,031,167
- Coalition for Juvenile Justice\*-700,000
- OJJDP Technical Assistance Support Contract: Juvenile Justice Resource Center—650,000
- National Juvenile Court Data Archive\*-611,000
- Juvenile Justice Statistics and Systems Development—550,000
- Insular Area Support\*-511,000
- Development of OJJDP's Comprehensive Strategy for Serious, Violent, and Chronic Juvenile Offenders—500,058
- Research Program on Juveniles Taken Into Custody-NCCD—450,000
- Children in Custody-Census-450,000
- Contract for the Evaluation of OJJDP Programs—290,000
- Pulling America's Communities Together (PACT) Program Development—261,000

Juveniles Taken Into Custody (JTIC): Interagency Agreement—200,000 Juvenile Justice Data Resources—25,000