

Violence Forum from the college:

1. **What would you say is the most significant factor driving crime?** Drugs, alcohol, peer pressure. Gangs and unemployment. Guns and people from other cities who are on the run bringing problems here. Poverty, with the absence of a father and still being around people that are criminals. Not enough programs available. Texting, speeding, drunk driving. Gun violence and people going at things the wrong way. People at rock bottom that do not care. Money and testosterone. Lack of stability in lives. Citizens not reporting crimes. Low rent, lower quality easier to live when escaping crimes in Chicago. The process of being a criminal seems to be more accepted in certain lower poverty areas and the process repeats itself. Boredom, stress, kids allowed bad behavior in school and home. Unresolved mental issues.
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?** Lack of athleticism within the police department. The police are changing to accommodate crime: hence new drugs and unpredictability. The internet crimes. Police spend too much time with traffic and not real crimes. Laws do not fit the era we live in. So many that do not respect the laws or the police. Officers that abuse their titles. Texting, phones when driving. Police not being in the actual criminal areas. Social media intensifies the atmosphere around a crime. The continual news coverage is not flattering to law enforcement. Police think they are God. The police force is not large enough or informed. Racist officers: they need to go to schools and get to know people. Law enforcement get a lot of stress and people need to understand them more.
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)** Stiffer prison sentences, more education: not education that spreads falsehoods and statistics. Family dynamics and how children are raised. Early police interaction in grade schools teaching of crime. Bring back the death penalty. More security in tougher areas. More funding for law enforcement, recovery programs, giving gang members a way out. Legalizing marijuana. Better educational programs other than expulsion and suspension that pushes kids to the streets. Psychological training for officers. Lots more youth activities. Youth centers and education at an early age is the only real effective way to change from the beginning.
4. **What can the citizens do to help reduce and prevent crime?** More accountability for yourself. Teach that actions have consequences, through education. Take responsibility for your property, locking doors, being more aware. More eye witness reporting, volunteering, and being communicative with your neighbors. It takes a village to raise a child, create that village. Making the crime stopper number as easy to remember as 911. Carry a weapon. Harsher penalties. Under the Broken windows theory, a cleaner town has less crime. Stop closing down mental institutions. Do not be in the wrong place when you know it is a bad neighborhood. More centers for at risks kids.
5. **What is your plan to do something positive for the community?** Become teachers. Strive for better education. Overall, be positive. Stay inside. Participate in the community. Avoid illegal activity. Donate time, money. Clean up trash. Report crimes, call police. Create a Gang task force. Volunteer. Police more involved with community. Food pantries, a youth center in troubled areas. Sports, volleyball, anything to volunteer and keep kids off the streets. There is a club called community for justice, try to get more to join. Be positive role models. Become a police officer or federal agent. Being on the community watch.