

Trying Hard is Not Good Enough by Mark Friedman: “Provides practical methods for taking action together that are simple and common sense that use plain language, produce minimum paper and are actually useful to managers, community members and decision-makers.” Available on [Amazon](#)

Don't Shoot: One Man, a Street Fellowship, and the End of Violence in Inner-City America by David M. Kennedy: “*Don't Shoot* tells the story of Kennedy's long journey. Riding with beat cops, hanging with gang members, and stoop-sitting with grandmothers, Kennedy found that all parties misunderstood each other, caught in a spiral of racialized anger and distrust. He envisioned an approach in which everyone—gang members, cops, and community members—comes together in what is essentially a huge intervention. Offenders are told that the violence must stop, that even the cops want them to stay alive and out of prison, and that even their families support swift law enforcement if the violence continues. In city after city, the same miracle has followed: violence plummets, drug markets dry up, and the relationship between the police and the community is reset.” Available on [Amazon](#)

Advancement Project, Los Angeles: Community Safety Scorecard: City of Los Angeles 2011: Advancement Project, in collaboration with the [Violence Prevention Coalition](#) (VPC), has developed the **Community Safety Scorecard: City of Los Angeles 2011**. You may view, download or print a copy by clicking [here](#).

The dual goal of the **Scorecard** was to:

- Develop a way to measure public safety inequity among Los Angeles' communities
- Form a tool to track the impact of ongoing violence reduction strategies over time

The Scorecard highlights where the community and the public/ private sectors need to concentrate their resources to ensure basic safety to neighborhoods that are most heavily impacted by violence

Jumped In: What Gangs Taught Me about Violence, Drugs, Love, and Redemption by Jorja Leap: “Leap brings us stories that reach behind the statistics and sensational media images to the real lives of those stuck in—and trying to escape— “*la vida loca*.” With the eye of an anthropologist and a heart full of compassion, this small, tough woman from UCLA travels some of the most violent and poverty-stricken neighborhoods, riding along in police cruisers and helicopters, and talking with murderers and drug dealers, victims and grieving mothers.” Available on [Amazon](#)

How Children Become Violent: Keeping Your Kids Out of Gangs, Terrorist Organizations, and Cults by Kathryn Seifert: “Dr. Seifert offers personal insights from her over 30 years of experience in mental health, addictions, and criminal justice work to help other therapists, victims, and parents understand not only how children become violent, but illuminate the pathway to a violence-free future.” Available on [Amazon](#)

Youth Violence. Theory, Prevention and Intervention by Kathryn Seifert: “The book is divided into sections with an overview of the problem vis a vis prevention, trends, demographics, classification issues and theories. It then shifts into a discussion of dynamics of youth – both individual and environmental, followed by a section on special issues – bullying and suicide – with a final section on assessment, prevention and intervention.” Available on [Amazon](#)

Educating Youth for a World beyond Violence: A Pedagogy for Peace (Education, Politics, and Public Life) by H. Svi Shapiro: “Shapiro has situated his vision of education in a broader quest for social and moral change. His framework is one rooted in the critical pedagogic tradition which sees education’s primary purpose as nurturing democratic values, civic involvement, and a commitment to a more just and compassionate culture.” Available on [Amazon](#)

Youth Violence: Sex and Race Differences in Offending, Victimization, and Gang Membership by Finn-Aage Esbensen, Dana Peterson, Terrance J. Taylor and Adrienne Freng: “Using the results from an inclusive study they conducted of eighth-graders in eleven American cities, the authors examine how the nature, etiology, and intersections of youth violence are structured by both sex and race/ethnicity.” Available on [Amazon](#)

Why Girls Fight: Female Youth Violence in the Inner City by Cindy D. Ness: “While most existing work on girls’ violence deals exclusively with gangs, Ness sheds new light on the everyday street fighting of urban girls, arguing that different cultural standards associated with race and class influence the relationship that girls have to physical aggression.” Available on [Amazon](#)

Wrong Place, Wrong Time: Trauma and Violence in the Lives of Young Black Men by John A. Rich: “Rich’s poignant portrait humanizes young black men and illustrates the complexity of a situation that defies easy answers and solutions.” Available on [Amazon](#)

Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice: Causes, Intervention and Treatment Programs (Social Issues, Justice and Status) by Neil A. Ramsay and Colin R. Morrison: “To address issues of juvenile delinquency, this book describes various youth and family risk and protective factors associated with delinquency and provides a description of various family-oriented treatment options for preventing and treating youth violence and aggression. The authors also examine how sociometric status influences childhood bullying, aggressive behavior and victimization. Special attention is given to the affect of sociometric neglect and rejection on child development. In addition, this book summarizes the transformation of youth gangs and violence associated with them, the basis of interventions to reduce youth gang affiliation and aggression in these different eras.” Available on [Amazon](#)

Gender, Heterosexuality, and Youth Violence: The Struggle for Recognition by James W. Messerschmitt: “Written by one of the most respected scholars on the subject of gendered crime, this book provides a fascinating account of the connections among adolescent masculinities and femininities, bullying in schools, the body, heterosexuality, and violence and nonviolence.” Available on [Amazon](#)

Youth in Crisis? 'Gangs', Territoriality and Violence by Barry Goldson: “*Youth in Crisis?* provides a vital resource for researchers, educators, policy-makers and practitioners with an interest in key questions facing criminology, sociology and social policy.” Available on [Amazon](#)

Gangs in Garden City: How Immigration, Segregation, and Youth Violence are Changing America's Suburbs by Sarah Garland: “Unrelenting and original in scope, this powerful book shows how immigration raids, incarceration policies, suburban decay, and inadequate funding of our nation’s schools have aggravated an already deteriorating situation.” Available on [Amazon](#)

The Paradox of Youth Violence (Social Problems, Social Constructions) by J. William Spencer: “J. William Spencer probes our ambivalent response to youth violence to show how deeply entwined issues of crime, age, race, and class distort our understanding of an important social problem. Spencer's pointed yet nuanced analysis traces how misconceptions about youth violence, whether in the form of gangs, school violence, superpredators, or cyberbullying, take root in our national consciousness and undercut our attempts to remedy the problem.” Available on [Amazon](#)

Equipping Young People to Choose Non-Violence: A Violence Reduction Programme to Understand Violence, Its Effects, Where It Comes From and How to Prevent It by Gerry Heery: “This book is a 12-session programme for those working with young people aged 10+ whose use of violent or aggressive behavior is problematic. Designed to be used individually, the program is grounded in restorative justice principles and encourages the young person to take responsibility for their behavior. It also supports them in recognizing the effects of their actions and in identifying ways to repair the harm caused, and teaches them new skills in dealing with conflict and avoiding future violence. A theory section explains the value and evidence base and provides guidance on delivering the program. Each session is clearly laid out with identified objectives, how to begin and end the session, and photo copiable handouts are included.” Available on [Amazon](#)

Violence in Context: Current Evidence on Risk, Protection, and Prevention (Interpersonal Violence) by Todd I. Herrenkohl, Eugene Aisenberg, James Herbert Williams and Jeffrey M. Jenson: “Edited by four leading violence researchers, Violence in Context takes the more systemic view, offering a critical appraisal of research and theory that focuses on violence in youth, families, and communities. Authors investigate the ways in which violence is defined and understood, how risk and protective factors promote and inhibit violence in the groups most responsible for the socialization of youth, and how violence and related behaviors differ by gender, race, and ethnicity.” Available on [Amazon](#)

Code of the Street: Violent Youths and Gangs (Law, Crime and Law Enforcement) by William J. Mitchell: “Elijah Anderson, a professor of sociology currently at Yale University, presents a compelling argument for the high rates of violence among African-American adolescents. In his 'code of the street' thesis, Anderson argues that the economic disadvantage, social dislocation and racial discrimination encountered by some African-American adolescents foster deviant, anti-social attitudes (i.e.: a street code) and developmental pathways that are related to violent behavior. This book explores the research into the validity of the 'code of the street' theory.” Available on [Amazon](#)

From Violence to Resilience by Jo Broadwood: “This manual outlines a transformative program that helps young people at risk of violence, or already caught up in violence, change the way they think about themselves and their futures. The program supports them become young leaders who make a real contribution to their community. The approaches in this manual build on 18 years of work by Leap Confronting Conflict. It is a step by step guide to the approach used successfully by Leap to develop programs and targeted interventions with young people at risk.” Available on [Amazon](#)

Teenage Wasteland: Sex, Drugs and Violence Among Today's Youth by Dr. Garth Munding-Klow: “Dr. Garth Munding-Klow sets out to separate fact from fiction in his most recent qualitative research

study, talking to nine typical teenagers, boys and girls alike, about their views and experiences regarding that three-pronged matter: sex, drugs, violence. The sexual exploits, encounters, and crimes he discovered will shock the most jaded reader!" Available on [Amazon](#)

Criminology: The Core by Larry J. Siegel: "The text effectively uses real-world material to clarify criminology's concepts and theories. Highlighting the interdisciplinary nature of criminology, it also offers unbiased coverage of even the most controversial issues--enabling readers to form their own opinions." Available on [Amazon](#)

The Practice of Research in Criminology and Criminal Justice by Russell K. Schutt: "The Practice of Research in Criminology and Criminal Justice, 4th Edition is the most comprehensive, yet accessible and interesting research methods text available, and provides readers with real-world criminal justice examples that will capture their attention and help them to better understand contemporary research and its applications. The text covers both qualitative and quantitative methods, and provides a number of SPSS, ethics, and Internet exercises." Available on [Overstock](#)

Criminology Goes to the Movies: Crime Theory and Popular Culture by Nicole Rafter and Michelle Brown: "The first work to bring a systematic and sophisticated criminological perspective to bear on crime films, Rafter and Brown's book provides a fresh way of looking at cinema, using the concepts and analytical tools of criminology to uncover previously unnoticed meanings in film, ultimately making the study of criminological theory more engaging and effective for readers while simultaneously demonstrating how theories of crime circulate in our mass-mediated worlds." Available at [Barnes and Noble](#)