

## Delinquency best treatments: How do we divert youth

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Youth development and violence prevention are two sides of the same public policy. The focus of much theoretical and empirical effort is identifying delinquency risks and intervening. Given the great costs of homicide and the historically high nationwide prison population, new policies must address increasing violence and rising expenses. Treatments of prenatal care, home visitation, bullying prevention, alcohol-substance abuse education, alternative thinking promotion, mentoring, life skills training, rewards for graduation and employment, functional family and multi-systemic therapy, and multi-dimensional foster care are effective, because they ameliorate age-specific risks for delinquency. At present, these interventions only yield a 10 to 40 percent diversion from crime however. Returns on investment (ROI) vary from \$1 to \$98. Targeting empirical treatments to those determined to be most-at-risk, based on statistical models or actuarial testing, and using electronic surveillance for nonviolent prisoners significantly diverted youth from violence, improving ROI, while simultaneously saving costs.

### Biography

Robert John Zagar, Ph.D., M.P.H., is an outstanding Researcher, Statistician, Distinguished Professor, & Businessman. He is an expert in research design & statistics. With robust math & experimental design, he extended the measurement of homicide in both males & females from infancy to adulthood with unprecedented sensitivity & specificity at the 90+% level. He has cost beneficial efficient approaches: (a) of targeting interventions to prevent violence at the macro level in communities; & (b) actuarial assessment at the micro level in school-university, workplace, & place of worship organizations, i.e., military, nonprofit-religious, airline, nuclear power, police-fire, prisons, volatile trucking, power grid, worker's compensation, & personal injury.

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