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An Analysis of the Effectiveness  
Of Teen Curfews

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An Administrative Research Paper  
Submitted in Partial Fulfillment  
Of the Requirements for Graduation from the  
Leadership Command College

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## **Abstract**

The topic of this research deals with the effectiveness of teen curfews. The importance of this research is not only for the city of Converse (Texas), but for all law enforcement agencies that have a curfew or are thinking about implementing one. This is a topic of interest to many because the use of teen curfews has become so widespread in the United States. There are two very strong opposing views. There are those that favor a curfew and feel that it helps reduce crimes committed by and against teens. However, there are those that feel that they are ineffective and that they are a violation of a teen's constitutional rights. Therefore, they also feel that the extra costs that police departments encounter when enforcing the curfew is not warranted. The purpose of this research was to find out just how effective teen curfews are in preventing crimes. The methods used in developing this research included reviewing the current literature, studies and surveys that dealt with the use of teen curfews. In the conclusion of this research, it was found that curfews have been effective in reducing crimes in some cities. However, the teen curfew is only one approach. It has been more successful in cities that used it in cooperation with other programs such as community policing and teen recreational centers with extended hours of operation. In this research, it was also evident that it is important for cities to make sure that their curfew ordinance does not violate the constitutional rights of their teenagers.

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## Introduction

Many of the large cities in the State of Texas have teen curfew ordinances with small cities following suite. Several of the nation's largest cities have also enacted restrictions on their teenagers. The city of El Paso was noted as being a trendsetter in Texas. They were the first of the states major cities to establish a curfew in 1943 (Youth Curfews Keep...,1999). The ordinance now requires minors to be off the streets between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m., seven days a week. In 1991, the City of Dallas (Texas) enacted a teen curfew, which has survived court challenges. Therefore, other cities now use the Dallas ordinance as a model for their own. Most teen curfews make exceptions for minors who are accompanied by an adult or are involved in a religious, educational or business activity (e.g. going to and from work). They are designed to reduce juvenile crime and to keep innocent teenagers out of harms way, but these ordinances have been challenged in court by organizations such as the The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) claiming that it infringes on young people's liberties. This was seen in the 1994 case of Qutb v.

Strauss.

This research paper will address the question- "Is a teen curfew an effective tool in reducing juvenile crime and if so, what proof do we have?" This paper will look at the court challenges that this type of ordinance has faced, the court decisions, and the effectiveness of this ordinance in cities that have already enacted a curfew.

The method of inquiry will be to review surveys and studies that have been conducted with cities that have enacted a teen curfew to find out how effective the ordinance has been in reducing juvenile crime. This project will review articles written

on the subject of teen curfew and information provided by the cities participating in teen curfew surveys. Court cases dealing with the juvenile teen curfew ordinances will also be taken into consideration.

The intended finding of this research will be to determine whether or not the juvenile teen curfew ordinance is an effective tool in reducing juvenile crime. The implications of this research will benefit the law enforcement agencies that are looking at enacting a juvenile teen curfew ordinance of their own. This research will also benefit law enforcement agencies that have already enacted an ordinance. They will be able to review their ordinance and see how it complies with some of the court decisions that have been made dealing with teen curfews. They will then be able to make any changes that may be needed. Cities will also be able to evaluate if it is worthwhile to continue enacting a teen curfew.

## **Review of Literature**

Teen Curfews are not something new to our society. They date back as far as the nineteenth century. The first juvenile ordinance was enacted in Omaha, Nebraska in 1880 (Schwartz, as cited by Hemmens and Bennett, 1999) and by 1900 there were more than 3,000 cities that had a teen curfew (Mooney, as cited by Hemmens and Bennet, 1999). However, during the 1990's there seemed to be an explosion of the number of cities enacting the teen ordinances. According to The Wilson Quarterly (2000), in 1990 less than half of America's largest cities had a curfew, but by 1999 more than 80 percent had one in place. Many of Texas cities such as Houston, Dallas, Fort Worth, Corpus Christi, San Antonio, and Austin have also implemented a curfew for their youth. Dallas' teen

curfew is used as a model by other cities when they develop their curfew because it has been able to be upheld in court when contested by the American Civil Liberties Union. They accused it of infringing on the young's liberties. However, the 5<sup>th</sup> U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals found that the curfew was "narrow" enough to help protect the city's teens against crimes and at the same time continue their constitutional rights. The court also found that it did not interfere with a parent's rights to raise their children without "undue" interference from the government. The Supreme Court refused to hear the case. However, Robert Meining (1978), a legal consultant for the Municipal Research and Services Center, still recommends that cities consult their attorney concerning the impact of the court decision to make sure that their city has legal justification to implement a curfew and that their curfew complies with the limitations set forth in the constitution. With so much interest in curfews, it is no wonder that it has become a topic of many debates.

Some Texas cities have had positive results with their curfews. The Fort Worth Police reported that the number of juveniles arrested after the curfew went into effect in 1994 fell by 30 percent. They also reported that the number of teens killed had fallen by 60 percent (Youth Curfew Keep...,1999). In February of 1995, Dallas' City Council Public Safety Committee reported that number of juveniles that had been taken into custody had dropped during curfew and non-curfew times. The Dallas Police Department also showed a decrease in crimes committed by and against teens during curfew times from 1993 to 1995 (See Table 1). However, some people caution that the drop in crime may not be just a result of the curfew. Other police and community

initiatives such as community policing have to also be taken into account. Corpus Christi credits the teen ordinance as being a big part of their anti-gang program (Rylander, 1999).

**(Table I)**

Influence of a Curfew on Juvenile Crimes in Dallas, Texas (1993-1995)

Juveniles taken into Custody (All Times)	Juveniles taken into Custody During Curfew Times	Crimes committed against youths since the implementation of the curfew	Crimes committed by juveniles during curfew times
-25%	-42%	-31%	-23%

(Source: Rylander, C.)

In support of curfews is the 1998 case of *Schleifer v. City of Charlottesville, VA* (Municipal Research & Services Center, 2001). Parents sued on the grounds that it violated their rights as parents. "They said it deprived them of their historically fundamental right to direct the rearing of their children, and unjustifiably discriminates against minors in matter of fundamental freedoms" (Carelli, 1999). In this case, the Federal Court of Appeals found that the city was "constitutionally justified" in their beliefs that the curfew would assist in reducing juvenile crime and help protect children. The U.S Supreme Court refused to review the decision of a Fourth Circuit Courts of Appeals that up held the teen curfew. Lisa Robertson Kelley, the Assistant City Attorney of Charlottesville, stated that their city was finding lots of kids that were in need of assistance. In some cases, the parent did not know where their kids were and were glad that the police department helped located them. She also reported that the curfew had locate runaways and children that had been reported missing (Age of Majority... 2001).

In May of 1996, President Clinton spoke to a church about the importance of curfews. He endorsed The Justice Department's recommendation for a curfew for children under the age of seventeen. He stated that he felt that they needed to be off the streets after 8:00 p.m. on school nights, and 9:00 p.m. in the summer. On weekends, teens should also be home by 11:00 p.m. The Justice Department's study looked at seven cities in the U.S.: New Orleans, Jacksonville (Florida), Chicago, Denver, Phoenix, Dallas, and North Little rock (Arkansas) (Clinton to plug..., 1996). Clinton used New Orleans "Dusk to Dawn" ordinance as an example. It is credited with reducing crime committed by juveniles by 27 percent and lowering auto thefts by 42 percent. He sees the curfew as a national attempt to save our children; however, he stated that this should not be done through a federal curfew (Clinton endorses... 1996). The Justice Department recommends that the curfew programs fulfill the following points:

- Provide a curfew center to receive violators.
- Staff the centers with volunteers and social service professionals.
- Offer counseling or other referral for families.
- Set up fines of Community service sentences for repeated offenders.
- Provide recreation or jobs programs.
- Offer anti-drug and ant-gang programs.
- Establish hotline for follow-up service.

(Clinton to plug...1996).

With the curfew recommendations set forth by the Justice Department, additional funding will be needed to implement these curfew guidelines. However, opponents of the curfew feel that these are funds that the police departments should not spend because



curfews are not effective in reducing crimes committed by or against juveniles.

According to the ACLU, a drop in teen-crime rate in cities that impose a curfew does not justify the effectiveness of the curfew because the rate of overall crime in the United States is decreasing, juvenile crime included. They also contend that teen curfews discriminate against a group of people based on their age and punish all teenagers, even though it is only a minority of the youth committing these crimes (Do curfews punish...,1998). Opponents of the curfew say that the curfew allows police officers to hassle and fine teens for doing just peaceful assembling (Town Curfews, 1998). Another concern raised by some parents is that criminals can prey upon their children by pretending to be police officers taking them in for violating the curfew. The ACLU contends that curfews are just "tough-sounding anti-crime strategies" and are not the solution to juvenile crime. They just "divert the public attention from real crime prevention programs and mask the underlying causes of crime." (Liz, 2001).

James Fox, a Criminologist from Northeastern University warns, "Curfews are a quick solution that don't do much. They take up a lot of resources for very little return" (National Center for Policy Analysis, 1997). Vincent Schiraldi, an Executive Director of the Center of Juvenile and Criminal Justice, also believes that curfews are catching on across the nation, but its not because there is significant evidence that they actually work. He states that a "survey of crime statistics in cities where curfews have been tried suggest that they fall short of expectations." (Schiraldi, 1996).

Schiraldi presented the following examples that suggest curfews are not always effective:

- In Detroit, the police increase its manpower and offer free cable television on Halloween; however, the number of arsons committed during this time still rose from 223 in 1989 to 441 in 1994.
- When San Francisco rolled back its curfew law in 1990, the number of teen arrest actually fell by 16 percent.
- California found that it was not cost effective to enforce a curfew because the majority of their juvenile crime occurred during the times that were unaffected by the curfew ordinance. They also concluded that the streets were sometimes a safer place for teens than their homes because "homicides at home are among the top five causes of death for children" (Schiraldi, 1996).
- In Phoenix, Arizona when the recreational center hours were extended and the number of crimes committed by juveniles fell by 55 percent. When the hours were cut back, the number of crimes increased.

This is just some evidence that curfews are not the only solution to help cut the number of crimes being committed by or against America's youth. It needs to be taken into account that the number of reported crimes committed by juveniles had actually decreased since 1992. (Davidson, 1999). That is why cities such as Abilene, Texas have found no need for a curfew. Police Chief Melvin Martin acknowledges that their youth are not perfect, but at this time they have no need for a teen curfew. He also feels that the curfews encourage parents to rely on the city even more to take care of their children.

Martin expressed his opinion that curfews have mixed results and can be "... effective in decreasing the number of teen victims, combating gangs and controlling problematic "hot spots", but they rarely result in less juvenile crime and more arrests." (Wilson, 1996)

Those that oppose teen curfews look to the study done by the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice in the state of California (1978 to 1996) for support. This was the first comprehensive study to be done on this issue. Most of the other studies have been

based on the city official's opinion on how effective their curfew has been. Dan Maccallair and Mike Males, the authors of the California report, concluded that curfews do not reduce youth crime as supporters claimed. They found it to be "more of a public relation tool than a crime fighting tool" (LaMotte & Reuters, 1998). The report showed that youth crimes jumped by 53 percent during the school year even though the curfew was enacted. It then dropped 12 percent during the summer when the curfew was suspended. Dan Macallair felt that the reason for the decrease in crime during the summer was because Monrovia, California provides free recreations programs for their youth. They are more extensive than those provided in other cities of California. Therefore, it was this "positive intervention" that deserved the credit for reducing teen crimes not the curfew. The study also found that the curfew is a negative approach, particularly toward non-white youth (Center on Juvenile...,2001).

## **Methodology**

This paper will focus on answering the question-"Is a teen curfew an effective tool in reducing juvenile crimes and is so what proof do we have? Since the use of curfews has become so widespread, it was hypothesized at the beginning of this research that they would be found to be effective. Evidence from articles, court decisions and studies on teen curfews will be taken into account to answer this question. The instrument of measurement also used for this research is a 1995 survey conducted by the U.S. Conference of Mayors. For this survey, 1,010 cities with populations of 30,000 or more, were invited to participate in the study. One-third (347) of them responded and out of them, 272 cities reported having some type of nighttime curfew in place.

According to "A Status Report on Youth Curfew in America's Cities (1997), the cities were asked information about the following:

- the use of both daytime and nighttime curfew,
- perceptions of whether curfew enforcement is a good use of police officers time
- perceptions of whether curfew make streets safer at night, cut down on daytime truancy
- effectiveness of curfew in crime rates since curfew have been in effect
- police department costs associated with curfew enforcement
- problems encountered in implementing curfew and
- constitutional challenges to curfew

The city's responses to these questions were then analyzed to find out how effective the teen curfews have been throughout the United States.

## Findings

After reviewing articles, surveys and studies on the issue of teen curfews. It is easy to see that there are two strong opposing views to the question-Is a teen curfew an effective tool in reducing juvenile crime? Many debates are being centered on this topic since so many cities are now implementing curfews. In 1999 more than 80 percent of America's largest cities had a curfew in place. Supporters of the curfew cite cases where the curfew has actually decreased the number of juvenile crimes. One example is the positive curfew results that have been experienced in Dallas, Texas. Dallas' City Councils Public Safety Committee reported that the number of

crimes committed by and against youths had fallen in their city. The number of juveniles arrested had also decreased when the curfew was enacted between 1993 and 1995 (Refer to table I). These percentages show that curfews have been effective in reducing crime committed by and against juveniles. These numbers are impressive especially since this is a city that other cities use as an example when designing their own curfew. Dallas' curfew has also been able to up held when contested in court. This was seen in the case of *Qutb v. Strass* (1994), the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) protested the curfew saying that it discriminated against teens because of their age and was in violation of the juvenile's constitutional rights. The court found in favor of the city.

The survey by the U.S. Conference of Mayors was used as the instrument of measurement for this research. Mayors or other city officials were asked to answer some questions about the effectiveness of their city's teen ordinance. (Refer to Appendix 1 for the list of cities surveyed and their responses.) It was found that the use of curfews was up 10 percent from 1995 (National Center for Policy Analysis, 1997). Twenty-six cities that had nighttime curfews were able to provide data that showed an average of 21 percent decrease in juvenile crime (See Table II). However, six cities actually reported an increase in juvenile crime after their curfew was introduced. It went up an average of 14.5 percent. Many of these cities reported that when they began implementing the curfew, the number of crimes increased for a period of six months to one year. However, following this time, they found a significant decline in juvenile crime (The United States Conference of Mayors, 1997).

See Table III for additional survey responses. The survey concluded that the curfews had been effective in reducing crimes committed by teens.

**Table II**

**Percentage of Crime Reduction in Cities with a Curfew**

City	Percentage
Charlotte	2%
Waterloo	3%
Bloomington, IL	5%
Fort Worth	5%
Killeen, TX	7%
Inglewood	40%
Idaho Falls	40%
San Jose	42%
Orlando	50%

(Source: The United States Conference of Mayors)

**Table III**

**Responses to the U.S. Conference of Mayors' Survey Regarding Teen Curfews**

Cities with Nighttime Curfews	80%
Effective Use of Police Officer's Time	90%
Ineffective Use of Police Officer's Time	10%
Useful Tool for Police Officer's	93%
Makes Streets Safer for Residents	86%
No Impact on Street Safety	12%
Helped Curb Gang Violence	83%
No Impact on Gang Activities	17%
Increase in Costs	23%
Problems in Implementing Curfew	23%
Faced Constitutional Challenges	5%

(Source: The United States Conference of Mayors)

Statistics from police departments across the nation are defending the use of teen curfews; however, there are still those that oppose curfews and feel that they do nothing but punish the "...99.5% of teenagers that are law abiding" (Carr, 1997). If asked if the

teen curfew is an effective tool in reducing crimes, they would respond "NO". They are seen as no more than a "...public relation tool than a crime fighting tool" (LaMotte, 1998). The ACLU contends that they are not the solution to reducing teen crimes. In a 1978 study done by the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice in the state of California, it found that the curfew was not effective in reducing crime committed by teens. It actually showed how youth crimes increased during the school year even though the curfew was being enforced. But during the summer, when there were activities provided by recreational centers such as the one in Monrovia California, the number of crimes actually decreased (See Table IV). The authors of the study, Macallair and Males state that this "positive intervention" is what helped decrease the number of crimes committed by the teens, not the curfew. But critics of the report say that it is not a good study to focus on because it looked at only the number of arrests that were made. It also failed to take into account that the number of reported crimes by juveniles has actually been decreasing in the nation since 1992 (Davidson, 1999).

**Table IV**

**Monrovia, California's Juvenile Crime Rate with a Curfew Enacted**

During the School Year	During the Summer
+53%	-12%

(Source: Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice)

**Conclusion**

The purpose of this research has been to answer the question-"Is a teen curfew an effective tool I reducing crime? This is a topic of much interest since the use of



curfews has become so widespread. Since the use of curfew has been so popular, it was hypothesized at the beginning of this project that curfews would be found to be effective in reducing the number of crimes committed by and against teens. This is information that law enforcement agencies across America will be able to use. They will be able to use it to help design, or revise their current teen ordinance. They will also be able to make sure that their ordinance does not violate the constitutional rights of teenagers.

When examining the literature on the use of teen curfews it is very evident that there are two strong opposing views. Those in favor of curfews feel that they have had a positive impact in helping reduce the number of crimes committed by and against teens. Teen curfews have even been praised for helping recover runaways, missing children and helping identify children in homes that need assistance. However, those that oppose the use of teen curfews argue that they are not successful in helping reduce crimes and that they are a violation of teen rights. The AFLU supports this idea by saying that the curfew discriminates against teens based on their age. Some parents have also accused the curfew of violating their right as parents to take care of their teens. They have also expressed concern that the curfew may actually subject their teens to criminals pretending to be police officers enforcing the curfew.

When studies and surveys were done on the effectiveness of teen curfew, there was a mixture of results. Some sources found curfews to be effective. This is true of the survey done by the U.S. Conference of Mayors. It was used as the instrument of measurement for this research. In this survey, it found curfews to be very effective in reducing crimes such as gang activities, destruction of property and cruising. However,



critics of the survey say that the results are not accurate. They feel that it was based upon city official's opinions, which are biased. Only twenty-six cities were actually able to provide statistics that supported their claims that a curfew had been effective in their city. Those opposing the curfew feel that this is true of most of the information that is available about teen curfews. At the present, there are only four or five studies that consist of "statistical analysis". It also needs to be noted that researchers such as Mike Males and Dan Macallair have concluded that curfews are the not sole purpose for success in some cities. There are other factors (i.e., recreational center, community policing) that can not be factored out. It also needs to be noted that crimes committed by teen have been decreasing.

So, "Is the teen curfew an effective tool in reducing crime?" With all of the mixed results in the literature, it is evident that this is a topic that needs further exploring and that future research needs to be based upon measurable evidence. However, there is no denying that some cities have seen remarkable results from their curfews and in some cases the curfew ordinance actually became obsolete over time. This helps prove that teen curfews can be effective in reducing the number of crimes committed by or against teens. However, they are only one tool in preventing crime. Curfews have been seen to be more successful in cities where there are programs such as teen recreational center and/ or community policing in place.

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## Appendix 1

# A Status Report on Youth Curfews in America's Cities

## A 347-City Survey

Many cities have imposed youth curfews in recent years. A 1995 survey by The U.S. Conference of Mayors found that 272 cities, 70 percent of those surveyed, had a nighttime curfew. Fifty-seven percent of these cities considered their curfew effective.

Since that survey was done the trend toward establishing curfews—both nighttime and daytime—has continued and more is known about their impact. This report updates the 1995 survey and provides additional information on the effectiveness of those curfews.

The 1997 survey gathered information from 347 cities with a population over 30,000. Mayors and city officials were asked for information on:

1. the use of both daytime and nighttime curfews,
2. perceptions of whether curfew enforcement is a good use of police officers' time,
3. perceptions of whether curfews make streets safer at night, cut down on daytime truancy,
4. effectiveness of curfew enforcement in curbing gang violence or gang activities,
5. increases or decreases in crime rates since curfews have been in effect,
6. police department costs associated with curfew enforcement,
7. problems encountered in implementing curfews and
8. constitutional challenges to curfews.

Among the findings of the survey:

- **Four out of five of the survey cities (276) have a nighttime youth curfew. Of these cities, 26 percent (76) also have a daytime curfew.** Click [here](#) for a list of cities which have curfews.

- **Nine out of 10 of the cities (247) said that enforcing a curfew is a good use of a police officer's time.** Many respondents felt that curfews represented a proactive way to combat youth violence. They saw curfews as a way to involve parents, as a deterrent to future crime, and as a way to keep juveniles from being victimized. In addition, they commented that a curfew gives the police probable cause to stop someone they think is suspicious. Examples of city comments:

- **Tulsa:** There is generally no useful purpose for a juvenile to be out late at night. Enforcement of curfews serves to protect them from being victimized by the criminal element.
- **Charlotte:** This is a good tool to protect children. Most parents didn't even know their children were outside the home.
- **Jacksonville (NC):** It provides officers with "probable cause" to stop the youth.
- **Claremont:** It frees up officers' time during the curfew hours to do other police work. Kids don't go out because they know they will get in trouble.
- **Anchorage:** Parents are contacted each time a juvenile is picked up, often eliminating repeat occurrences.
- **St. Peters (MO):** It assists in providing a method of controlling juveniles when adult supervision is lacking. Less time is spent by officers in getting them off the street than responding to problems they create.
- **Toledo:** It provides officers an opportunity to intervene with potential issues before problems develop. Periodic sweeps remind the public about the law officer. Curfew enforcement has, in large part, become a part of routine enforcement.

Twenty-six cities (10 percent) did not feel that curfew enforcement is a good use of a police officer's time. They commented that police have higher priorities than chasing curfew breakers, and that there is too much paperwork involved, tying up a police officer's time when he or she should be using that time to pursue more serious offenders. Some suggested that random sweeps seem to be more effective in keeping offenders off balance, as they are never sure when the police will be around. Finally, several commented that there is nowhere to take the young people when they are picked up because many parents aren't home. Examples of city comments:

- **San Francisco:** Offenses occur before curfew hours. Therefore, the curfew is ineffective.

- **Billings:** There is no place to take the kids. Often the parents are not home.
- **Roanoke:** There is no punishment for the law. The law is on the books but there is no punishment.
- **Freeport (IL):** It ties up the police and keeps them "babysitting" all day long.
- **Richmond (CA):** Curfews treat all youth as violators. It turns off good kids and is unfair to them.
- **Ninety-three percent of the survey cities (257) said that a nighttime curfew is a useful tool for police officers.** The city officials commented that curfews help to reduce the incidence of juveniles becoming victims by preventing "gathering," which also means more calls for the police. They said that a curfew compels parents to be more responsible and gives them a specific reason to tell their children they cannot be out after a certain time, and they said that curfews are a good prevention tool, keeping the good kids good and keeping the at-risk kids from becoming victims or victimizers. Examples of city comments:
  - **Orlando:** Since we have had the curfew we have seen dramatic declines in youth-related crimes.
  - **Murray (UT):** Prevention is nine-tenths of the cure.
  - **Fresno:** Because of the curfew there is less gathering. Less gathering means fewer calls for police.
  - **South Bend:** Few first time violators are repeat offenders.
  - **Maui:** It compels parents to be responsible.

**Nineteen cities said that a nighttime curfew was not a useful tool,** explaining that it removes parental control as the city, in effect, becomes the parent. They also commented that more crime happens during non-curfew hours due to curfew enforcement. Examples of city comments:

- **Kauai:** It causes more crime during non-curfew hours.
- **Richland (WA):** All youth, not just delinquents, are affected by a curfew.
- **Wausau:** We need to avoid harassment and need to avoid focussing on minorities or specific neighborhoods.
- **All of the 72 cities which have a daytime curfew report that it has cut down on truancy.** They said that it reduces daytime burglary, holds parents accountable and keeps kids in school. Examples of city comments:
  - **Columbus (OH):** Seventeen hundred truants have been processed, less than seven percent have been re-fined (as repeat offenders).
  - **Allentown:** Since the inception of our daytime curfew, students know there are consequences to their actions. It has had a favorable impact on school attendance.
  - **Torrance:** It discourages truants' trips en masse to "hang-outs." With this curfew, students must stay at home or risk detention.
  - **Philadelphia:** Daytime curfew enforcement causes the minor to attend school, which can only benefit the minor.
  - **Roswell:** It cuts down on graffiti, vandalism and truancy. It keeps kids at home or in school where they are safe.
- **Eighty-eight percent (236) of the cities said that curfew enforcement helps to make streets safer for residents.** The officials commented that there is less traffic late at night; residents feel safer; it is easier to find runaways; it is harder for criminals to hide from the police during curfew hours because there are fewer people to blend in with; graffiti and vandalism are reduced; and parents are helped to feel responsible. Examples of city comments:
  - **Canton:** Police find more runaways and missing juveniles, reducing the number of delinquencies.
  - **Tulsa:** The criminal element has to work harder to "hide" from cops.
  - **Inglewood:** It does, in fact, make it safer. There is less traffic at night.
  - **Corpus Christi:** The daytime curfew has cut down on the truancy problem considerably simply because school-aged kids observed wandering the streets or in locations away from school are easily detected, and they have come to know that.

**Thirty-three cities (12 percent) said that curfews have no impact on street safety,** commenting that it is people over 17 who create the more serious crimes, and that they do not always enforce the curfew due to lack of funds or lack of interest. Examples of city comments:

- **Memphis:** Most evening crimes are committed by adults.
- **Chillicothe (MO):** Those over 17 are still out causing most of the trouble.
- **Tallahassee:** Several studies have indicated that curfews displace crime to other times of the day without having any real impact over the long run.



- **Eighty-three percent (222) of the cities said that a curfew helps to curb gang violence.** City officials believe it is a tool to reach "wanna-be" gang members and keep recruitment to a minimum; it prevents gang members from gathering; it gives the police a legal reason to contact individuals or the group; it tells kids their movements are being monitored and lessens gang activities during curfew hours. They also said that curfews help the police to identify gang members and come in contact with them at an earlier stage, help to curb young peoples' activities before they become more violent, and help the police to seize the guns and drugs of gang members, thus impairing their ability to fight. Finally, the curfew helps to educate parents to the signs of gang membership and activity. Examples of city comments:
  - **Moline (IL):** Gang activity stops after curfew hours begin.
  - **Dearborn:** It curbs activities before they get to a more violent level.
  - **Shaker Heights:** If you address inappropriate behavior, you will minimize the opportunity for it to escalate into violence. In other words, if you catch youths early it is more likely they can become valuable members of society.
  - **Napa:** I have never seen a gang member who wasn't a truant first. Curbing truancy curbs gang violence.
  - **Houston:** We have had an increase in drug and weapons seizures from gangs. Seizing these things lowers gangs' ability to fight.

**Seventeen percent (46) of the cities said that curfews had no impact on gang-related activities.** These cities said that most hardcore gang member do not pay attention to curfews; most gang activities occur before curfews go into effect; and gangs are not afraid of curfew laws because they know there will be no punishment. Examples of city comments:

- **Ogden:** Curfews do little to curb activities of hardcore gang members.
  - **Rochester (MN):** Gangs aren't afraid of curfews because the punishment is little or nothing.
  - **Memphis:** Most gang activities happen before curfew hours.
- **Fifty-six percent (154) of the survey cities have had a youth curfew in effect for 10 years or less.** Officials in 53 percent of these cities have had a decrease in juvenile crime which they attribute to the curfew. Eleven percent have seen the number of juvenile crimes stay the same; 10 percent have had an increase in juvenile-related crimes. Because most of the remaining cities have had curfews in effect for a short time, no data on the impact on juvenile crime was available.
 

Twenty-six cities with a nighttime curfew only were able to provide data on the percent reduction in juvenile crime. Juvenile crime was reduced by an average of 21 percent in these cities, ranging from a two percent decrease in Charlotte, three percent in Waterloo, five percent in Bloomington (IL) and Fort Worth and seven percent in Killeen (TX) to a 40 percent reduction in Inglewood and Idaho Falls, 42 percent in San Jose and 50 percent in Orlando.

Twenty-two cities with both a nighttime and daytime curfew were able to provide data on the percent reduction in juvenile crime, which was reduced by an average of 21 percent in these cities. The percent reduction ranged from two percent in Richmond (GA), five percent in Lombard (IL) and eight percent in Fairfield (CA) to 50 percent in Hayward and 70 percent in Charleston (SC).

Six cities reported that juvenile crime increased after their curfew was introduced, by an average of 14.5 percent across these cities. The increases ranged from three percent in Billings and Tulsa and 10 percent in St. Charles to 25 percent in Grand Forks and 26 percent in Fargo. It should be noted that many cities reported that when they initially implemented the curfew or began to rigorously enforce an existing curfew, the number of crimes increased for a period of six months to a year. Following this, however, they saw a significant decline in juvenile crime.
- **Twenty-three percent (61) of the cities said there were increased costs related to curfew enforcement.** These costs related primarily to increased police officer time and detention centers. Examples of city comments:

- **Chandler (AZ):** There was an increase in costs in paperwork, court appearances and fees and officers' time spent processing and convicting the youth.
  - **San Jose:** We had to add \$1 million in new police payroll to enforce our curfew.
  - **Shreveport:** We received a grant from the federal government to help defray the costs of a detention center, but the federal funds decrease each year, and after four years the city will have to pay all of the costs.
  - **Upland (CA):** Our gang task force has caused an increase in costs.

- **New Orleans:** There have been cost increases associated with overtime for police in order to enforce the curfew properly.
- **Cleveland:** The increase in enforcement of the curfew has caused more costs for police to appear in court.
- **Twenty-three percent (62) also reported problems in implementing their curfew.** These problems include concerns about violating young peoples' rights or targeting minorities, parental opposition, and officials within the criminal justice system not taking the curfew seriously. Examples of city comments:
  - **Denver:** In one of our middle class neighborhoods it was proposed that we put up a detention center, and this met with strenuous opposition.
  - **Los Angeles:** The problem is convincing liberal politicians that it doesn't violate kids' rights and convincing police officers that it is productive.
  - **Chicago:** The problem is getting judges to take curfew cases seriously.
  - **Cincinnati:** The curfew laws need to be monitored to make sure that African-Americans aren't targeted. You have to make sure you are trying to keep it fair and legal.
  - **Plano:** A small segment of our population feel it is the parents' responsibility to say when a child should be indoors.
  - **Buena Park:** Several home schooling groups challenged it as being unfair to their children.
- **Five percent (14) of the cities said there have been constitutional challenges either to the curfew itself or to its wording.** Those cities with a challenge are Allentown, Bellingham, Dallas, El Cajon, Escondido, Lompoc, North Miami Beach, Orlando, Philadelphia, Poway (CA), Santa Ana, Tulsa, Wenatchee (WA) and West Covina. In two additional cities—Fort Lauderdale and Rio Rancho (NM)—a challenge to the curfew has been threatened.
- **For the 276 cities with curfews:**
  - Five percent have had the curfew for less than one year.
  - Eight percent have had the curfew for one year.
  - Eleven percent have had the curfew for two years.
  - Eleven percent have had the curfew for three years.
  - Four percent have had the curfew for four years.
  - Eight percent have had the curfew for five years.
  - Nine percent have had the curfew for six to 10 years.
  - Forty-four percent have had the curfew for more than 10 years.

### Survey Cities Which Have A Curfew

The 276 survey cities with a curfew are listed below. Those with an \* have both a daytime and a nighttime curfew; the rest have a nighttime curfew only.

<b>ALABAMA</b>	Birmingham *	Gadsden	
<b>ALASKA</b>	Anchorage		
	Chandler	Phoenix	
<b>ARIZONA</b>	Gilbert	Surprise	Tucson
	Glendale	Tempe	Yuma
<b>ARKANSAS</b>	Fort Smith	North Little Rock *	Pine Bluff *
	Anaheim	Gardena *	Poway *
	Antioch	Hayward *	Riverside *
	Bakersfield	Inglewood	San Clemente
	Brea	La Habra *	San Francisco
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>	Buena Park *	Lancaster *	San Jose *
	Burbank *	Lodi	San Ramon
	Claremont *	Lompoc *	Santa Ana
	Colton *	Long Beach *	Santa Barbara *
	Concord	Los Angeles	Santa Cruz

	Covina *	Manhattan Beach *	Santa Rosa
	Culver City	Modesto	Stockton *
	El Cajon *	Montebello *	Thousand Oaks
	Escondido *	Monterey *	Torrance *
	Fairfield *	Napa *	Tulare
	Fontana *	Newark	Upland *
	Fountain Valley	Oxnard *	West Covina *
	Fresno	Pittsburg	
<b>COLORADO</b>	Aurora	Loveland	Thornton
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>	Denver	Pueblo	Westminster
	New Britain	West Haven	
<b>FLORIDA</b>	Fort Lauderdale *	Miami Beach	Pembroke Pines
	Garden Grove	North Miami	Port Orange
	Jacksonville	Orlando	
<b>GEORGIA</b>	Augusta *	Macon	Roswell
<b>HAWAII</b>	East Point *		
<b>IDAHO</b>	Honolulu	Kaua'i	Wailuku Maui
<b>IOWA</b>	Boise	Idaho Falls	
	Cedar Rapids	Waterloo	
	Arlington Heights	Elk Grove *	Normal
	Aurora	Evanston	Palatine
	Bartlett	Freeport	Paris
	Bloomington	Glencoe	Park Ridge *
<b>ILLINOIS</b>	Bolingbrook *	Highland Park	Pekin *
	Buffalo Grove	Lansing *	Rockford
	Carbondale	Lombard *	Schaumburg
	Champaign	Moline	Waukegan *
	Chicago	Mount Prospect	Wheeling
	Decatur	Naperville	
<b>INDIANA</b>	Carmel	Fort Wayne	New Albany
	Columbia City	Marion	South Bend
<b>KANSAS</b>	Elkhart	Michigan City	
<b>KENTUCKY</b>	Hutchinson	Olathe	Wichita *
	Frankfort	Lexington	Louisville
<b>LOUISIANA</b>	Houma	New Orleans *	Shreveport
<b>MAINE</b>	Lake Charles		
	Augusta		
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>	Chicopee	Lynn	Methuen
	Lowell	Malden	Revere
<b>MARYLAND</b>	Hagerstown		
	Allen Park	East Point	Livonia
	Battle Creek	Farmington Hills	Midland
<b>MICHIGAN</b>	Dearborn	Holland	Muskegon
	Dearborn Heights	Jackson	St. Claire Shores
	Detroit *	Lansing	Wyoming
	Blaine	Maplewood	Minnetonka
<b>MINNESOTA</b>	Brooklyn Park	Minneapolis *	Rochester
	Burnsville		
<b>MISSISSIPPI</b>	Biloxi *	Natchez *	Tupelo *
	Greenville *		
	Chesterfield	St. Charles	St. Peters
<b>MISSOURI</b>	Chillicothe	St. Joseph	University City
	Kansas City		
<b>MONTANA</b>	Billings	Great Falls	
<b>NEBRASKA</b>	Bellevue		



NEVADA	Las Vegas		
NEW HAMPSHIRE	Nashua		
NEW JERSEY	Elizabeth	Jersey City *	Newark
	Gloucester		
NEW MEXICO	Rio Rancho *	Roswell *	
NEW YORK	Buffalo	Schenectady	Troy
	Jamestown		
NORTH CAROLINA	Charlotte	Jacksonville	
NORTH DAKOTA	Fargo	Grand Forks	
	Akron *		
	Canton	Elyria	Parma *
OHIO	Chillicothe	Euclid	Shaker Heights
	Cincinnati	Fairborn	Toledo
	Cleveland *	Lima (Recently lost day)	University Heights
	Columbus *	Mansfield	Waynesville
OKLAHOMA	Lawton	Oklahoma City	Tulsa
OREGON	Beaverton		
	Allentown *	Lancaster	
PENNSYLVANIA	Erie	McKeesport	Pittsburgh *
	Harrisburg	Philadelphia *	Wilkes-Barre
PUERTO RICO	Caguas	San Juan	
RHODE ISLAND	North Providence	Pawtucket	
SOUTH CAROLINA	Charleston	Columbia	Rock Hill
SOUTH DAKOTA	Rapid City		
TENNESSEE	Chattanooga	Hendersonville	Memphis
	Germantown	Knoxville *	
	Arlington *	Houston *	San Angelo
	Austin *	Killeen	San Antonio *
TEXAS	Corpus Christi *	League City *	Temple *
	Fort Worth	Mesquite	Waco
	Galveston *	Plano	Wichita Falls
	Murray		
UTAH	Ogden	Salt Lake City	Sandy
	Cheasapeake		
VIRGINIA	Newport News	Norfolk	Roanoke
	Bellingham	Richmond *	Virginia Beach
WASHINGTON	Parkersburg	Longview	Wenatchee *
WEST VIRGINIA	Beloit *		
WISCONSIN	Brookfield	Greenfield	Sheboygan
	Green Bay	Manitowoc	West Allis
WYOMING	Casper	Cheyenne	

### Survey Cities Which Do Not Have A Curfew

The 71 survey cities listed below do not have a youth curfew.

ALABAMA	Decatur	Huntsville	Mobile
ARKANSAS	Fayetteville	Hot Springs	
	Dublin	Rancho Palos Verdes	
CALIFORNIA	Livermore	Richmond	Santa Clara
	Oakland	San Luis Obispo	Sunnyvale
COLORADO	Fort Collins	Greeley	Lakewood
CONNECTICUT	Middletown	Stamford	Wallingford
	New Haven		
FLORIDA	Boca Raton	Holy Hill	St. Petersburg
	Bradenton	Miramar	Sarasota

**ILLINOIS****IOWA****KANSAS****MASSACHUSETTS****MICHIGAN****NEBRASKA****NEW JERSEY****NEW YORK****NORTH CAROLINA****OHIO****RHODE ISLAND****TEXAS****VIRGINIA****WASHINGTON****WISCONSIN**

Clearwater

Fort Myers

Galesburg

Des Moines

Topeka

Attleboro

Boston

Port Huron

Lincoln

Bridgewater

Edison

Freeport

Mount Vernon

Greensboro

Wilmington

Centerville

Cranston

Abliene

Denton

Alexandria

Auburn

Richland

Wausau

Palm Bay

Port St. Lucie

Haverhill

Rochester Hills

Omaha

Fort Lee

New Rochelle

White Plains

Wilson

Kettering

Providence

Longview

Lynchburg

Seattle

Tallahassee

Tamarac

Salem

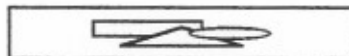
West Orange

Yonkers

Winston-Salem

Lufkin

Spokane

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