

STR8 UP: Description of Intervention Models, Literature Review, and Cost Analysis of Program Activities 2015-2019

STR8 UP is a non-profit organization in the city of Saskatoon that aims to support individuals who were gang-involved, and their families embark on a healthier path. In 2020, the Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science and Justice Studies conducted a literature review of effective gang intervention models and practices and completed a cost analysis of the services and programs provided by STR8 UP between 2015 to 2019.

Literature Review

Common practices that lead to positive outcomes included:

- Building trusting relationships through regular contacts with participants.
- Incorporating family and community supports
- Providing targeted outreach activities.
- Treating participants in their own environment.
- Addressing mental health issues.
- Offering cultural interventions.
- Using risk needs approaches.

STR8 UP Provides:

- Community Intervention and Community Outreach Models aligning with the best practices in gang intervention literature.
- Builds authentic and healthy relationships with individuals which contributes to the success of their intervention model.



Cost Analysis

- STR8 UP's cost per participant was between \$8000 to \$9000 including both paid and unpaid costs.
- Paid costs per year ranged from close to \$300,000 in 2015 to almost \$500,000 in 2018 and 2019.
- Yearly unpaid costs were \$111,000 from 2015 to 2018 and increased to over \$120,000 for 2019.

Methods

Limitations:

- No recent cost of crime estimates.
- Few Canadian studies included in the cost estimate.
- No recidivism data or comparison group.

Data Collection:

- Data was collected from STR8 UP's financial statements from 2014/2015 to 2018/2019, unpaid cost estimates from STR8 UP members, Gabor's (2015) cost of crime estimates.

Societal Cost of Crime

Gabor is a criminologist who conducted a literature review of global publications from 1988 to 2016 and computed cost estimates for various types of crime on August 1, 2014, Canadian dollars.

Societal Cost of Crime includes:

1. Criminal justice system costs
2. Victims' tangible and intangible costs
3. Criminal career costs

- Gabor found the cost of one criminal offense was \$48,081.09 for the 2015 to 2019 period.

Cost Analysis vs Societal Cost of Crime

- Assuming STR8 UP deterred each participant from one offense per year, Saskatoon and the province of Saskatchewan saved almost **\$40,000 in 2015 and 2016**, slightly over **\$41,000 in 2017**, almost **\$43,000 in 2018**, and slightly over **\$44,000 in 2019**.
- STR8 UP deterred around 20% of participants from a re-conviction within a 1-year period
- STR8 UP saved the city of Saskatoon, its residents and Saskatchewan, almost **\$500,000** in the 5-year period considered in analysis.

