From At-Risk to At-Promise: Developing Opportunities for Marginalized Youths

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…Two Lifetimes…

Second Chances;
The Power of Practitioners in Transforming Lives
Why?
Quality of interactions between youths and authority figures and trajectories of crime and desistance?

Oakland, CA
✓ 40 Youths “shadowed” over the course of 3 years, 72 others interviewed and observed.

“Riverland”, CA
✓ 68 Gang associated youths shadowed and observed over the course of 5 years.
Policy implication:
Let’s change our labels
“At-Risk” or “At-Promise”?
Policy implication:

Let’s implement a balanced strategy
A Balanced Strategy is a Healthy Strategy
We invest too much on punishments and not enough on purpose and rewards.
Tyrell’s Too Tall

✓ In 5th grade harassed by police for being ‘too tall’.

✓ In 6th grade teacher fears him and calls police.

✓ In 8th grade decides to sell drugs and is arrested.

✓ Mother evicted from public housing; becomes addicted to crack.

✓ I record 21 police stops in 3 years.
Police
Probation
Family
Clergy
Community
Schools

Policy implication:
Let’s Create A Continuum of Care
Policy implication:
Let’s support culturally relevant programs and evaluations
Policy Implication:
Let’s implement restorative justice across the continuum.
Policy implication:
Dignity enhancement as crime prevention.
Policy implication:
Let’s build and maintain community trust
✓ Change Labels
✓ Implement a balanced strategy
✓ Create culturally relevant programs and evaluations
✓ Dignity enhancement as crime prevention
✓ Restorative Justice
✓ Build Community Trust