

Safe Neighborhoods Newsletter

Issue: May 2024

Making Neighborhoods Safer for Kids & Families!

Safe Kids Now Network (www.safekidsnow.com) shares information to empower and keep children, families, and neighbors safe. We provide steps to make neighborhoods, communities and cities safe, healthy places to work and live.



Children are God's love gift; they are Heaven's generous reward - Psalm 127:3

NEIGHBORHOOD BREAKING NEWS!

Each month, Neighborhood Breaking News will feature important information for our network members and readers. If you have any important or relevant news you want to share, please email to safeneighborhoods@gmail.com and mention NBN in the subject line.

- ✓ **Safe Kids Now Network LLC** was formed this month, strengthening the programs, books and consulting available through the newly and continuing update website: www.safekidsnow.com.
- ✓ **Through our new website, Safe Kids Now Network is rolling out a campaign to create stronger neighborhoods through our free download. We hope you will visit our home page and get your free download. Safe neighborhoods have always been a way for families to protect their children. Our goal is to see our outreach to 1 billion people all over the globe. The download is a 10-step blueprint to create safer neighborhoods for families. It is our request that you will spread the word about this free download so Safe Kids Now continues to promote the power of safer cities for families. If we want a strong democracy, "we the people" must help bring about change.**
- ✓ Safe Neighborhoods Newsletter will have a new look starting this summer. New video programs, partnerships and information will be featured throughout the summer. It is exciting to share with you our new focus on educational programs and topic content.

New Partnership Formed with HOA.com

Safe Kids Now Network LLC is thrilled to announce a new partnership with HOA.com, a leading innovator in creating connections in disconnected communities. Their mission is to bring together homeowners by tapping into local resources provided by their community and for the support, care, and safety of children and families. SKNN looks forward to building a better future with HOA.com. We hope you are excited about what lies ahead.



The Rise of Hate and Violence in America

By Stephanie Mann

Peaceful demonstrations are not a problem. They only become a problem when they turn violent. VIOLENT BEHAVIOR DEMONSTRATES A LACK OF SPIRITUAL SELF-AWARENESS, which has many consequences for individuals and society.

Most non-religious people follow the Golden Rule, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." They may or may not have had a stable family, but they are self-aware to know right from wrong.

- Jewish people are strong and have resilient families. They bond together as they prepare children for their Bar Mitzvahs at age 13, a religious coming-of-age celebration. In addition to school, children study the Torah. Strong families teach children to stay spiritually centered to develop courage, character, and a self-protective conscience.
- Palestinian children are controlled by Hamas and told what to think. Hamas teaches children to hate their Jewish neighbors because their rulers want power and control over Israel. The next target for Hamas is the free world. They see America as weakened, as many young Americans have little or no moral teachings and can be easily controlled.
- Catholic children are taught Catechisms at an early age. Different religions have different celebrations that help instill moral values and reduce social isolation as they create a community to support families and give them the emotional tools to make good life choices.

Do you notice how quickly violence and hate of Jews and hate of America spread from one campus to another? We, the people, must wake up and do a better job of giving children a moral foundation with values and an understanding of what it means to live in a free country. When violent students try to hurt others, they ultimately hurt themselves. Anger, hate, and violent behavior keep young people from progressing and give them a false sense of power, which becomes self-destructive. Violent behavior disrupts the human spirit and makes people vulnerable to drugs and other distractions, which allows them to escape from themselves.

You can determine how dysfunctional a society has become by the number of people who are violent at home, those who join gangs for power, and the many homeless drug addicts living on our streets. Drugs and sex take over lives, which becomes a problem for society. The government cannot fix us. Together, we can solve these problems when Americans know the root of the problem is spiritual ignorance, which has created today's crisis. Through taking a positive ACTION of peace, we can make a difference.

How can solve many of today's problems? By returning to our roots.

- ✓ "Love thy Neighbor" - Love can stop social isolation and mental health problems and create solid and supportive family communities.
- ✓ "In God We Trust" - God can build trust and create strong, resilient families.

The question you need to ask yourself is, "Will we continue down this self-destructive path, or will we look to God to help us heal as "we the people" discover the power within that creates a free society?" You decide! For more information on how to empower youth which can keep them safe so they make good choices, go to www.safekidsnow.com.

About the Writer: STEPHANIE L. MANN Author, Crime and Violence Prevention Consultant, Founder, Safe Kids Now National Network, is the author of "Empowerment Parenting: How to raise resilient children." In 1975, Stephanie co-authored, "Alternative to Fear: Guidelines to Safer Neighborhoods." With the help of California's first lady, Nancy Reagan, the California Youth Authority funded the guide and sold thousands nationwide to police departments, police training centers, state and government agencies including the FBI. "Alternative to Fear" helped educate police about the potential of involved citizens and popularized the "Neighborhood Watch" Programs. Mann is the author of six books on home, family, neighborhood, and city safety For more information, visit www.safekidsnow.com

NATIONAL PRESS RELEASE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

About 2% of Adult U.S. Residents Under Correctional Supervision in 2022

WASHINGTON, DC — An estimated 5,407,300 persons were under the supervision of adult correctional systems in the United States at year-end 2022, and 3,668,800 of those were under community supervision, according to *Correctional Populations in the United States, 2022 – Statistical Tables and Probation and Parole in the United States, 2022*, two reports released today by the Bureau of Justice Statistics. The adult correctional system is responsible for all correctional supervision in the United States, including both persons incarcerated in prisons and jails and persons supervised in the community on probation and parole.

About 1 in 48 adult U.S. residents (2%) were under some form of correctional supervision at the end of 2022. More than two-thirds of persons under correctional supervision were supervised in the community on probation or parole (3,668,800), while almost one-third (1,827,600) were incarcerated in state or federal prisons or local jails. The total adult correctional supervision population decreased about 1% from year-end 2021 to year-end 2022, while the incarcerated population increased 3%. The total adult community supervision population has decreased 23% since 2012.

For the 15th straight year, the adult correctional supervision rate declined in 2022, from a peak of 3,210 under supervision per 100,000 adult U.S. residents in 2007 to 2,060 per 100,000 in 2022. The incarceration rate, 700 per 100,000 adult U.S. residents, increased in 2022 (up from 680 per 100,000 in 2021 and 660 per 100,000 in 2020).

“While the incarceration rate increased in 2022 for the second consecutive year, it was still lower at year-end than the prepandemic rate,” said Kevin M. Scott, Ph.D., BJS Acting Director.

In 2022, the number of persons under community supervision in the United States decreased 1%, from 3,705,500 on January 1 to 3,668,800 on December 31. The probation population remained relatively stable (from 2,981,500 to 2,990,900; remaining under 3 million for the second consecutive year), while the number of persons on parole fell from 745,300 to 698,800 (down 6.2%) during 2022.

The parole population decreased in 36 states and the District of Columbia during 2022. The 2022 decrease in parole population followed a 7.1% decline in 2021, the two largest decreases since BJS began collecting probation and parole information on a yearly basis in 1980.

“The continued decline in persons on parole contributed to the lowest rate of adults on community supervision in 36 years,” Dr. Scott said.

In 2022, the rate of individuals under community supervision fell to 1,401 per 100,000 adult U.S. residents, the lowest recorded rate since 1986 (1,358 per 100,000). The parole rate declined from 309 to 267 per 100,000 adult U.S. residents, while the probation rate increased slightly from 1,140 to 1,142 per 100,000. Entries to probation increased 10.7%, from 1,419,300 in 2021 to 1,571,500 in 2022.

Correctional Populations in the United States, 2022 – Statistical Tables was written by BJS Statisticians Emily D. Buehler, Ph.D., and Rich Kluckow, DSW. Findings are from BJS’s Annual Probation Survey, Annual Parole Survey, National Prisoner Statistics program, Annual Survey of Jails and Census of Jails.

Probation and Parole in the United States, 2022 was written by BJS Statistician Danielle Kaebler. Findings are from BJS’s Annual Probation Survey, Annual Parole Survey and Federal Justice Statistics Program, which are the only national data collections that cover community corrections in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. federal system. These reports, related documents and additional information about BJS’s statistical publications and programs are available on the BJS website at bjs.ojp.gov.

The Day My Mindset Changed My Life

By Sher Graham

May 4, 1970. It was the day my entire concept of life and what it meant to me changed my mindset forever.

My freshman year in college. An entire 10 months on my own without the trauma drama of my family dysfunctionality! Now naïve was I! What had been doing during my high school years to make a difference? What was I doing in college to make a difference? What am I missing in my learning? Am I really that innocent in my thinking about life?

As my mind went into review mode, and as I acknowledged and saw all the achievements I had compiled in high school: coaching my local Special Olympics team the first year they were formed, learning how to navigate the Ohio Statehouse and lobby for mental retardation and mental illness, serving in state youth leadership, forming new friendships with other youth around the state who were compassionate about the same issues, and finding who I was as a writer, a speaker and a published author. I did make a difference in high school to many people. I shared my life journey with others hoping to inspire them to find something they were passionate about and volunteer their time to give back to someone else.

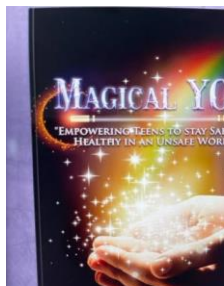
Then my memory shifted to my college years and whether or not I had made a difference. Yes, I was naïve about the world around me. Yes, I knew we were at war in Vietnam but oblivious of its impact in my life until Earth Day April 1970. It was on this day that the revolutionary power of protest impacted my life, first by my not being able to walk across campus without the threat of being surrounded by a mass crowd of people, many whom were not Kent students, or passing tanks with National Guard posted in front of our buildings with guns loaded in case of violent and aggressive actions from the crowd, and then having to ask myself how it would impact my life moving forward. Yes, I made a difference by going to class and not getting involved. Yes, I made a difference by not using my voice to protest nor stand my ground with my own opinion. Or did I?

Now, fifty years later, I walk through my memory-scape of what I have accomplished in my life journey – individuals, families, companies, nonprofits, faith-based, community events, government and community leaders, unhoused neighbors, and my personal relationships. Those accomplishments bring me joy to remember, and sometimes create trauma triggers when parts of the memory become saddened or I start to cry. In the scope of life, it is just stuff. God brought me here to live a purposeful life journey so that I can share my story, what I have learned and what principles and tactics I have applied to survive and thrive.

No matter what type of mass shooting or community crime activity you find impacts your life, you will walk through it and survive. The best way out is through. As I sit and write, my goal is to inspire you to be the best you can be and do the best you can do. Life is too short. God is in charge because I am broken today and know that my faith in God and the universe is stronger than ever, despite the emotional trauma I have faced. Give your children the inspiration to become what they dream of and to be kind to everyone, without judgement and growing to learn all they can learn and share with others. That is knowledge in action and that is powerful.

About the Writer: Sher Graham began as a community activist at age 12. Her commitment to making life better for others began with the legacy inspired from her grandmothers. As an author and speaker, she shares her personal journey of surviving parental substance abuse disorder, verbal/physical assault and being an unwanted child in her writings and speaking. She is an international best-selling anthology author of 14 mental health and business books. Her journey has led her to advocate for mental health services for everyone, bring awareness of mental illness stigmas and to guide other to create heart calm with their chaotic environments. You can reach her at slgraham4969@gmail.com or <https://www.shergraham.com>.

From the Editor: Safe Kids Now Network is on LinkedIn. If you have relevant announcements about important events aligned with our efforts to shed light on the problems that kids, their families, please email safeneighborhoods@gmail.com by the 30th of each month prior to our monthly newsletter emailed around the 15th-20th of each month.



A WONDERFUL GUIDE FOR YOUR CHILD: Stephanie Mann has written an empowerment guide that targets our preteens and teenagers on how to stay safe and healthy in an unsafe world. “**Magical You**” is a unique opportunity for parents, grandparents, what they need to do to make better choices in everyday life. This is the time to prioritize time for that conversation with them about making choices, what events are happening in today’s world, and how those events impact their lives. “Magical You” is available on Amazon. Visit www.safekidsnow.com for more information. For more information on Safe Kids Now, or to book Stephanie for keynote speech, workshop or panel, community crime prevention consultation for law enforcement, education and faith-based affiliations, email her at safeneighborhoods@gmail.com.