



## ARCHIVED - Archiving Content

### Archived Content

Information identified as archived is provided for reference, research or recordkeeping purposes. It is not subject to the Government of Canada Web Standards and has not been altered or updated since it was archived. Please contact us to request a format other than those available.

## ARCHIVÉE - Contenu archivé

### Contenu archivé

L'information dont il est indiqué qu'elle est archivée est fournie à des fins de référence, de recherche ou de tenue de documents. Elle n'est pas assujettie aux normes Web du gouvernement du Canada et elle n'a pas été modifiée ou mise à jour depuis son archivage. Pour obtenir cette information dans un autre format, veuillez communiquer avec nous.

This document is archival in nature and is intended for those who wish to consult archival documents made available from the collection of Public Safety Canada.

Some of these documents are available in only one official language. Translation, to be provided by Public Safety Canada, is available upon request.

Le présent document a une valeur archivistique et fait partie des documents d'archives rendus disponibles par Sécurité publique Canada à ceux qui souhaitent consulter ces documents issus de sa collection.

Certains de ces documents ne sont disponibles que dans une langue officielle. Sécurité publique Canada fournira une traduction sur demande.

# Tyler's Troubled Career

Research Division

Public Safety Canada - Ottawa, Canada

## INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

Studies have shown that the majority of Canadians engage in some form of delinquent behaviour during adolescence. Most people eventually outgrow these behaviours and go on to become responsible, productive members of society. However, a small portion of the population continues to commit crimes into adulthood.

Research tells us that certain characteristics, called risk factors, increase a person's likelihood of becoming entrenched in crime. Researchers have identified a number of these risk factors in predicting criminal offending later in life, such as early behavioural problems and family conflict. Not all individuals exposed to these factors become involved in crime. However, the more risk factors an individual presents, the greater the probability that he or she will do so.

The identification of risk factors related to criminal offending allows us to develop effective interventions that target those risk factors and reduce an individual's overall risk of becoming involved in crime.

## STUDY AIMS

Tyler is a fictional character based on the prototypical chronic young offender in Canada. The story of Tyler is intended to illustrate the risk factors associated with a criminal career through a lifetime, the high costs associated with chronic offending and how those costs can be avoided if proper interventions are in place.

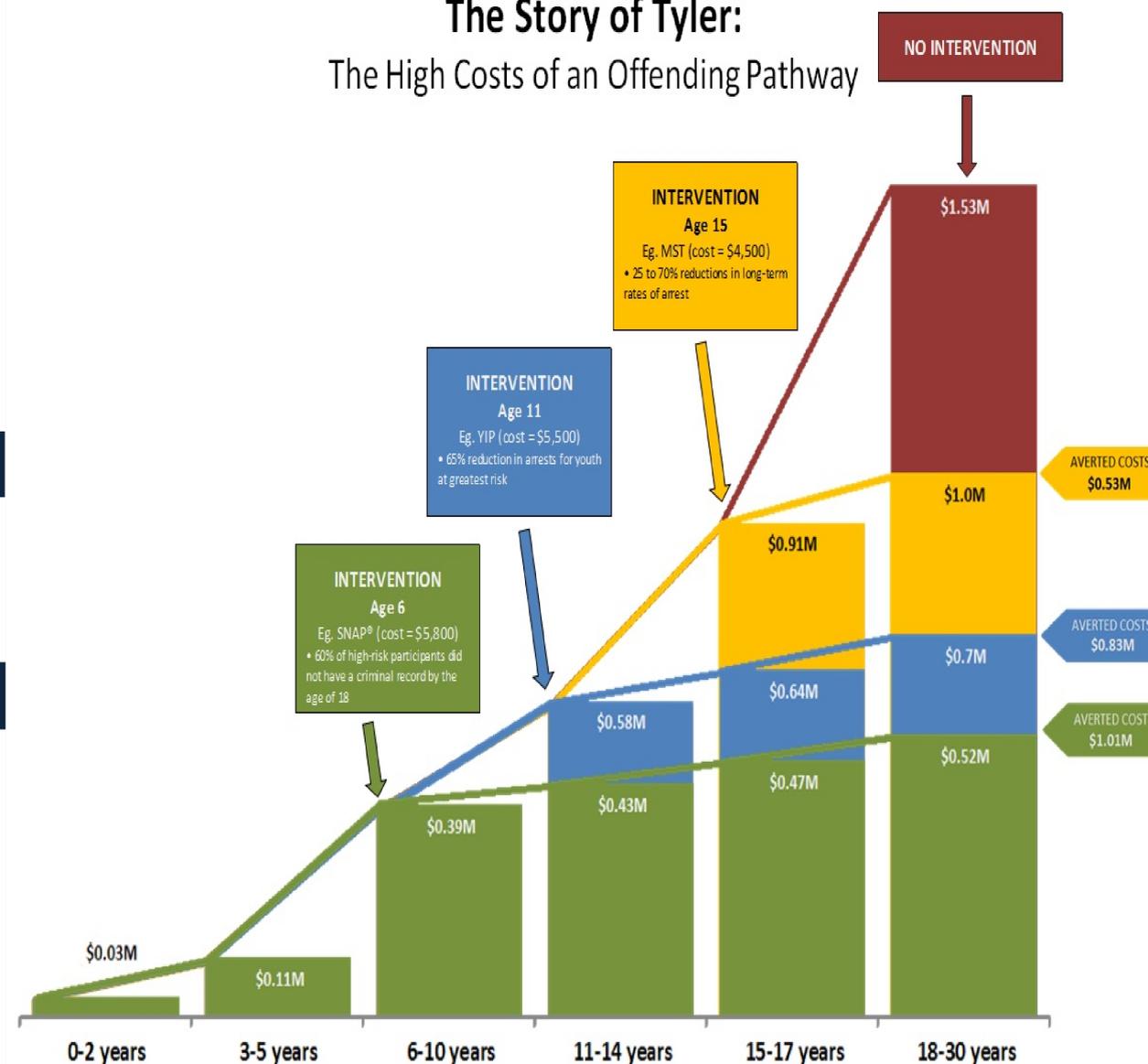
## METHODS

The story of Tyler represents a similar life trajectory of many troubled or vulnerable young persons and includes many known risk factors such as family conflicts, negative peer associations, exhibiting early conduct problems and so forth.

Tyler's encounters with the criminal justice system are affixed an average cost and tallied for a grand total costs of his crimes. The costs associated with Tyler's life of crime range from emergency room visits with an approximate cost of \$271 to a 5-year federal prison sentence at a total cost of \$550,000. All costs were listed in 2010-11 Canadian dollars.

The cost estimates considered in Tyler's story include only the tangible (direct) costs of crime, including criminal justice costs, health care costs and social services costs. The intangible (indirect) costs due to pain and suffering, decreased quality of life and psychological distress are not included in the estimates due to a lack of available data.

## The Story of Tyler: The High Costs of an Offending Pathway



## RESULTS / OUTCOMES

Experiencing troubles at home, in school, and social situations, at the age of 30, Tyler will have already spent more than 10 years of his life in custody. The direct costs of his crimes total \$1,526,241.22.

Tyler could have benefitted from targeted, evidence-based interventions at numerous points in his life.

*Possible interventions for Tyler:*

1. Stop Now And Plan (SNAP®) program for ages 6-10 years  
Potential cost savings = \$1,137,804.38
2. Youth Inclusion Programs (YIPs) for ages 11-14 years  
Potential cost savings = \$946,485.61
3. Multisystemic Therapy (MST) for ages 15-17  
Potential cost savings = \$618,908.30

## CONCLUSIONS

Intervening early and often in the life of disadvantaged or at-risk youth significantly disrupts one's criminal career path and proves a sound investment over the long-term. This is especially true in the case of Tyler whose crimes are likely undervalued as they only include tangible costs, underestimating the true societal impact of crime (McCollister, French & Fang, 2010).

## REFERENCES

McCollister, K.E., French, M.T., & Fang, H. (2010). The cost of crime to society: New crime-specific estimates for policy and program evaluation. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, 108,98-109.

National Crime Prevention Centre. (2011). *Promising and Model Crime Prevention Programs*. Ottawa, ON: Public Safety Canada.

## CONTACT

Research Division, Public Safety Canada  
269 Laurier Ave West  
Ottawa, Ontario Canada  
K1A0P8  
PS.CSCCBResearch-RechercheSSRC.SP@ps-sp.gc.ca