Abstract: The Crime Stoppers Program is a profoundly visible program for crime solving in the U.S. This report will explain and evaluate what crime stoppers responsibilities are as well as its effectiveness. The evaluation of this program involves two studies that have been conducted of Crime Stoppers programs, a review of any type of Crime Stoppers programs on other crime prevention websites, the existence of this program in the city of Rochester, NY as well as other communities, and the types of crime this program is intended to reduce. Furthermore, I will conclude the findings of the program and give some of my own recommendations.

1. Describe the Program or Strategy.

Crime stoppers program is a non-profit program relying on cooperation among the Board of Directors, the Police Department, news media, and citizens of the community. Crime stoppers program is designed to involve citizens within the community to participate in fighting against serious crimes. Community members are able to call a tips hotline and provide information about the identity of suspects, which can lead to an arrest. The goal of the crime stopper program is to help get neighborhoods safer by obtaining tips from community members and reward them with an amount of money if the tips lead the law enforcement to an arrest.

The program publishes what they call the “Fugitive Flyer” in newspapers so law enforcement can get the faces of criminals out to community members. The program is a non-profit organization, which relies heavily on private donations. This program relies on the tips of community members, but they also rely on the cooperation and concerted efforts of the media, representatives of the community, and the police departments. The program has become so developed that community members can now give their tips through crime stoppers websites and through texting as well. Overall, this program offers anonymity to community members who come forth with information.

2. Is the program or something similar reviewed on Crime Solutions( http://www.crimesolutions.gov/) or Blueprints for Violence Prevention (http://www.colorado.edu/cspv/blueprints/)?

Crime stoppers program or other similar to this program are not reviewed on www.crimesolutions.gov or http://www.colorado.edu/cspv/blueprints/. I was able to find an article on http://www.colorado.edu/cspv/blueprints/ about crime stoppers school-based program
in Colorado. Below is the PDF file of the article that was published through Colorado blueprints:

Establishment of Colorado Crime Stoppers for Safe Schools ... This program is similar to Crime Stoppers community-based programs.

The only difference is that students are the ones who are encouraged to participate in fighting against crime within their school and around their schools. The school-based Crime Stopper program also offers rewards and anonymity to students who report tips.

3. What types of crime is it intended to prevent or reduce?

Crime stoppers are intended to stop wanted criminals from committing other crimes. The crime stoppers force is to capture criminals who have committed a felony crime. Some of these are personal crimes, violent crimes, property crimes, and narcotics crimes. Here are some of the types of serious felony crimes that are solved by Crime Stoppers programs.

- Murders
- Robberies
- Forgery and Counterfeiting
- Assault 1st degree
- Burglary
- Rape

Crime Stoppers deal with all types of serious crimes that are committed by offenders who are wanted by law enforcement. By obtaining the information from community members through crime stoppers, officers are able to arrest and stop these criminals before they can commit another crime. This helps reduce other crimes that could have been committed by these offenders.

4. Is there a clear theoretical foundation?

There is not a clear theoretical foundation in this program, because the program is designed to capture wanted offenders and not really to prevent crime. If there is a theoretical foundation it will have to be explained in the following way: Tips provided by community members about crime activity will help officers obtain criminal offenders before they commit a serious crime.
5. Is there a direct, indirect or no clear link to Crime reduction?

This program has a direct link to crime reduction. Crime stoppers programs are intended to reduce crime by getting community members to participate in fighting against serious crimes. By getting the communities involved in fighting against crime police officers are able to get criminals off the community streets and deter criminals from committing other crimes. By getting wanted offenders off the streets can aid to the reduction of crime levels.

6. Describe the logic model. Diagram it. How is it intended to reduce crime?

The logic model of crime stoppers is as followed: By having community members participate in fighting against serious crimes police officers have a better chance in solving crimes. Community members are able to call law enforcement and provide information about the identity of suspects, which can lead to an arrest. By releasing information to media outlets crime stoppers have the ability to notify community members of the criminals that are wanted and the rewards that are being offered for their capture.

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Crime Stoppers : The board of directors

Use of media outlets to release information of wanted offenders and information of rewards to the public for the capture of offenders.

Community members are more active in participating in fighting against crime. (Calling in Tips)

Police officers have a better chance in solving crimes. (Capturing offenders).
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“Crime Stoppers” programs are intended to reduce crime by getting wanted offenders off the street before they can commit other crimes.
7. Does this program or strategy exist in this community? If yes, what agency is it run through? How long has it been in existence here? How is it funded?

Yes, this program does exist in the City of Rochester. Crime Stoppers is governed and administered by a volunteer Board of Directors. According to Henry L. Jesserer from Rochester, crime stoppers program started in The City of Rochester around 30 years ago. The funding for Crime Stoppers is mostly private donations from the Monroe County area. They do obtain a grant from the City Of Rochester or the State of New York every now and then, but those grants are not consistent according to Henry L. Jesserer. They also conduct a golf tournament, and explore any other idea anyone has that can help with funding the program. In our current economic environment it is very difficult looking for funding (Henry L. Jesserer, 2012). For additional information on Crime Stoppers in Rochester or to donate to the program please visit: www.roccrimestoppers.com or http://www.cityofrochester.gov/article.aspx?id=8589936501.

8. Does it exist in other communities? If yes, where?

Yes, According to Dennis Challinger (2004), 1,000 Crime Stoppers program are operating around the world (p.6). Here are the cities in New York State that have “Crime Stoppers” programs in place for crime fighting.

- Rochester
- Bronx
- Long Island
- Buffalo
- Queens
- Binghamton
- New York City
- Manhattan
- Albany
- Brooklyn
- Harlem

Overall, Crime Stoppers programs are throughout the United States.


Yes, crime stoppers programs are effective in capturing wanted offenders that are on the run. Rosenbaum, Paul, and Lavrakas (1989) found, that crime stoppers programs can cite impressive numbers of felony arrests, the number of persons convicted, and the amount of stolen property and narcotics recovered (p.418). Crime stoppers also have an impact on solving crimes that are
considered to be dead-end cases. With the partnership between police departments, community members, board of directors, and media outlets Crime Stoppers can be very effective for the community and in solving crime.


10. Provide a review of the research.

a. What was the research design?

Dennis P. Rosenbaum, Arthur J. Lurigio, and Pual J. Lavrakas conducted a study on a national evaluation of Crime Stoppers programs. The researcher’s primary interest in evaluation Crime Stoppers was the notion that this program helps to solve crimes by involving community members in crime reporting activities. The researcher’s felt that there were unanswered questions, because Crime Stoppers programs were not formally evaluated or researched (Rosenbaum et al., 1989). They wanted to answer some basic questions which were proposed as a guiding framework for their national evaluation of Crime Stoppers programs. Here are the questions that were formulated by the researchers:

1. How does Crime Stoppers work in both theory and practice?
2. What are the advantages and disadvantages of Crime Stoppers programs to law enforcement agencies and the community?
3. Is there any evidence of effectiveness in stimulating citizen participation, solving felony crime, and/or lowering community crime rates?
4. How important are monetary rewards in gaining citizen participation, and is the size of the reward a big factor in caller satisfaction?
5. What are the legal and social ramifications of pursuing this type of crime control strategy?
6. What are the policy implications of this research for existing or new programs?
7. What factors limit or facilitate program productivity?
According to Rosenbaum, Lurigio, and Lavrakas, these questions were important in the evaluation of Crime Stoppers programs. To conduct this research on national Crime Stoppers programs the researchers use telephone surveys, mailed questionnaires, and used case studies.

Randy Lippert conducted a study titled “Policing Property and Moral Risk through Promotions, Anonymization and Rewards: Crime Stoppers Revisited”. This study focused on 10 Crime Stoppers programs and the goal for the study is to obtain any information on how Crime Stoppers has developed and works. This study took place in Canada and to obtain the information that was needed in this study the researcher conducted interviews and analyzed other research on Crime stoppers programs. The researcher conducted 10 interviews with Four Crime Stopper coordinators, one which was from outside the region. He also interviewed two representatives, one board member from each of the local regions, and the international level of Crime Stoppers. The study looked at Crime Stoppers websites, newspapers and articles pertaining to Crime stoppers, legal decisions, Crime Stoppers press releases, newsletters, training video, international operations manuals, and crime of the week promotions were all examined in this study.

b. Describe the data.

Dennis P. Rosenbaum, Arthur J. Lurigio, and Pual J. Lavrakas used telephone screening surveys, Police coordinator surveys, board of director surveys, media executive surveys, and case studies. The telephone survey interviews were conducted with 602 locations to identify and characterize all known Crime Stoppers programs (Rosenbaum et al., 1989). They wanted to acknowledge the number of the population that was being served, the current status, and the types of program between the city and country.

The police coordinator surveys were conducted with police coordinators from operational programs. According to the researchers, the survey was designed to yield information about the police coordinator (Rosenbaum et al., 1989 p.405). The coordinators were mailed a 42-page questionnaire, which covered the law enforcement, media, and community aspects of the program. Between the United States and Canada 443 operational programs were mailed the questionnaire and only 203 were completed and returned. A questionnaire representing 123 separate programs was also mailed to the board of directors and only 37% of those questionnaires were completed. Theses questionnaires examined the functions and responsibilities of the board of directors. The researchers mailed a national survey to 235 media
outlets. This survey was conducted to gather information about the media’s perception and involvement with Crime Stoppers programs. The surveys were mailed out to two types of samples, the first was a sample of media organization listed by Crime Stoppers, with a total of 136 surveys mailed out and only 25% were completed and returned. The second was a random sample of media outlets that were listed in the annual industry year book listing operating media organizations in the US (Rosenbaum et al., 1989). A total of 99 surveys were mailed and only 13% were completed and returned.

The case studies that were examined in this study were conducted of day-to-day operations and processes of Crime Stoppers programs. The methodology that was used in the study included in-person interviews, observations, and reviews of program records and documents. There were two case studies that were conducted in this study, one was an impact case study and the other was a Reward experiment case study.

Now Randy Lippert data shows the results of the crime of the week which indicates the types of crime, the amount of crimes, and the percentage of crime. The Crime Stoppers websites that were reviewed by the researcher obtain information of the kinds of partnership Crime Stoppers programs had with other corporations. The board members that were interviewed in this study informed the researcher about anonymity and how important it is to the callers who participate with the program (Community Members). The evaluation of risk, rewards, and tippers as well as interviews, provides the researcher with the knowledge about how callers are rewarded and the consequences of how the rewards are disputed.

**c. Summarize the findings.**

Overall, the studies on Crime Stoppers show that all Crime Stoppers programs are made up of the same key participants. All Crime stoppers programs also offer rewards and anonymity to all the community members who do participate. The studies also demonstrate how reward amounts vary from program to program. The rewards also depend on how large the program is and the amount of individuals in the community it serves. The use of media outlets also depend on the size of the Crime Stoppers program. For example, a lager program will utilize television as one of the media outlets. Thus, the Crime Stoppers program is effective in capturing wanted offenders, but there is not enough evidence to show if it’s effective in preventing crime, but the findings in the studies do indicate that Crime Stoppers program have an involvement in crime control.
11. How would you rate this program or strategy?

   d. Generally recognized as effective
   e. Good likelihood that it is effective
   f. Inconclusive
   g. Probably not effective
   h. Generally recognized as not effective
   i. Harmful or likely to be harmful

12. Explain your rating.

   I feel that Crime Stoppers programs are effective, because research shows that community members do get involved in fighting against crime. It also shows that police officers are able to capture wanted offenders and get them off the streets. Overall, Crime Stoppers programs are meeting their mission. There has not been much research done on its effectiveness in preventing crime, but if we take into count that police officers are getting offenders off the street we can conclude that Crime Stoppers programs can be effective in preventing crime as well. Meaning that, wanted offenders are limited the chance to commit another crime.

13. Finally, provide a one paragraph summary of the program, the findings and your recommendation.

   Crime Stoppers program is designed to encourage community members to get involved in fighting against crime in their communities. They also rely on the cooperation and concerted efforts of the media, representatives of the community, and the police departments. By releasing information to media outlets, Crime Stoppers programs are about to inform community members of wanted offenders and the rewards for their capture. The findings of Crime Stoppers programs indicate that their strategies in capturing wanted offenders are effective. My recommendation for the Crime Stopper program is that they should obtain a researcher within the program to evaluate their success in crime control so that they can show that they do not only capture offenders, but that they also reduce crime within a community.