

# **Student Essay on The Benefits of Teenage Curfew Laws**

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# Essay

Over the past several years, concerns about juvenile crime and teenager safety have led to many American Cities to enact teenager curfew laws. I agree with the enacting of these laws.

One reason I believe that teenager curfew laws should be effective in many communities is because of the high rate of juvenile crime. If there are fewer teens in the street there will be fewer crimes will be committed by and against juveniles. Although a nationwide study has never been conducted on curfews' effectiveness in reducing juvenile crime, cities that enforced them have reported a decline in the rate of juvenile crime rates. In Dallas, Texas where a curfew for youths under age 17 took effect in May 1994, police reports show violent crime by juveniles has decreased by 30.3% and overall juvenile crime has decreased by 20.7% (Teen Curfews). In December of 1997, according to the time line Milestones in teen curfews in the United States, the National Council of Mayors concluded that cities that impose youth curfews experienced a significant decrease in juvenile crimes.

Another reason I believe it will be beneficial to have a curfew is because these curfews provide an opportunity for teens who are at risk for becoming delinquents to get needed help. Gregory Bodenhamer says curfew laws are "one of the most dependable, least intrusive methods to identify and help children neglectful and chaotic families that produce most of the nation's young criminals." Law-enforcement officials say this about curfew laws; they are a straight forward practice and enforceable way to fight juvenile crime. They also say that any infringements on juvenile liberty will be outweighed by the safety benefits of curfews will bring.

These are just several reasons I believe enacting a curfew will be very beneficial for youth Americans. We can use cities such as Dallas, Texas as a example of how when a youth curfew is applied, it can decrease the juvenile crime rate and make better communities all across America.