

CRIMINAL JUSTICE and the **MEDIA:**

COMSTAT EMULATES COMPSTAT ON *THE WIRE*

The HBO television series *The Wire*, which ran from 2002 to 2008, was a crime drama that depicted the Baltimore Police Department. One element of the show was the use of ComStat, a slightly altered version of CompStat. Although the depictions of CompStat are assuredly all Hollywood, they do touch on some aspects of how CompStat has been used and some of the strategies discussed in this chapter. For instance, an episode in the third season depicted a ComStat

meeting in which a police commander describes how he dealt with street-corner drug dealers. He describes how he used elements of Ceasefire to move drug dealers off street corners and into three areas of the city where they would not be harassed for dealing drugs. The episode depicts the CompStat managerial meetings and how commanders are held responsible for the crime in their jurisdictions, albeit with a fictitious scenario.

HBO. *The Wire*. Retrieved from <http://www.hbo.com/#/the-wire/episodes>