Youth Violence in Kingston Jamaica
Institute of Medicine April 2011
Dr. Elizabeth Ward
Violence Prevention Alliance - Jamaica
Institute of Criminal Justice and Security
University of the West Indies
Issues

Education

Macro economics

Leadership

Sub culture of violence

Family

Unemployment
Exposure to violence

- 5 out of every 10 adolescents (47.6%) had seen a dead body other than at a funeral. 39% reported the cause of death to be “shot and killed”.
- 1 in 5 (18%) of Jamaicans witnessed physical abuse between their parents and two thirds (60%) experienced parental physical abuse.
- Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) with 1 in 5 (17%) of women reported as being victims of IPV, 15% verbal abuse, 7% physical violence, 3% forced sex with IP.
- Corporal punishment continues to be the dominant form of discipline in homes.
Age of School Children Carrying Weapons

Carry a weapon by age of child

JAMAICAN YOUTH RISK and RESILIENCY BEHAVIOR SURVEY 2005
School-based Survey of 10-15 year olds 2005 Kristin Fox; Georgiana Gordon-Strachan
The Education System Output

9th Graders in Jamaica (N=56,725)
2006/7 - 2008/9

- Passed 4+ exams (14,736) - 26%
- Passed 2-3 exams (7,013) - 13%
- Passed 1 exam (5,558) - 10%
- Passed no exams (5,261) - 9%
- Failure to progress Dropouts (15,477) - 27%
- Sat no exams (8,680) - 15%

MOE, 2008/9
Effects of Violence

Security  Health  Finance  Tourism  Infrastructure

231M  88M  1.1B Dist & Manu 900m Productivity  20B  1B Transport 870M

Violence + Social Unrest
May 2010  $J 23B
Unattached Youth (127,000)

- Illiterate or Functionally
- Child abuse
- Unskilled/Unemployed
- Lack self esteem
- Lack purpose

- Child, sexual abuse
- Intimate partner violence
- Unemployed
- Dependant on Males
- Teenage Pregnancy

Family & community violence
Social Disintegration
Inequality
Poor quality education

Youth Violence

Fox, Strachan, 2005
Moser, 1999
Empowered Youth

- Positive Parenting
- Supportive Individuals
- Literacy
- Life Skills
- Structured Activities

- Illiterate or Functionally
- Child abuse
- Unskilled/Unemployed
- Lack self esteem
- Lack purpose
- Child, sexual abuse
- Intimate partner violence
- Unemployed
- Dependant on Males
- Teenage Pregnancy

Wilks et al, 2006; Fox, Strachan, 2005; Moser, 1999
A Firm Foundation for Youth Development

Early Childhood Programmes
- Home visiting
- Parenting
- Violence free communities

- Comprehensive Integrated School Programmes
- Violence free communities
Programmes

High Risk Youth Transition programmes

Gang members seeking an alternative to crime and violence

- Lifestyle Therapeutic Workshops
- Literacy Training
- Internship as Peace Facilitators
- Life skills*
- Empowerment programme
- Job placement / training
- Case tracking programme

*Conflict mgt, setting goals, self esteem, handling differences
## Youth Transition Model

### High Risk Unattached Youth
- non-regularized
- shifting, scarce basic needs families
- corner youth, easily recruited to violence
- life skills (conflict management, setting goals, self-esteem, handling differences)
- literacy
- mentorship (home visits, parenting, family planning)

### Unattached Youth
- low income, scarce basic needs families
- low employability: 60% illiterate, drop-out, high teenage pregnancy
- work skills and employment

### Attached Youth
- single parents
- 15% illiterate
- life skills (conflict management, setting goals, self-esteem, handling differences)
- literacy
- mentorship (home visits, parenting, family planning)
- work skills and employment

### Work skills and employment

### Structured activity & support for unattached / attached youth

### Sustained Case Management
Consolidate All Youth Oriented Programmes

- National Center for Youth Development
- National Youth Service / Career Advancement Programme CAP
- National Youth Clubs Movement
- Young Entrepreneurs Programme (YEP)
- Special Youth Employment and Training (SYEAT)
- Youth Empowerment Strategy (YES)
- Build Youth for National Development (BYND)

Youth Empowerment Unit
Programmes
Youth Empowerment Officers

- Youth Database
  - Dropouts
  - Pregnant teenagers
  - Unemployed
  - Skills Bank

Community based serving to link youth to programmes
Programmes

Mentorship programmes

Focus on:

- Conflict Resolution
- Building Quality Relationships
- Leadership
- Career/Entrepreneurship
- Promote Healthy Lifestyle
Programmes
Youth Engagement Activities

National Youth Club Movement

- Educational Activities
- Parenting
- Life Skills
- Sports Activities
- Cultural Activities

Strengthened and Expanded Youth Clubs
- Targeting unattached youth
Programmes
Youth Engagement Activities

- Sports for All
  - Discipline
- Cultural Activities
  - Talents, discipline
- Uniformed Groups
  - Discipline
- Safe, clean, green spaces for activities
  - Healthy Lifestyle, Relaxation
Youth Development

- Youth Transformation Programme
- Youth Engagement Activities

Attached
- Literacy Programmes
- Skills to Work
- HEART
- Micro Enterprise
- Youth Engagement Activities

Unattached

High Risk
- Parenting Programmes
- Structured School Interventions
- Mentorship

Foundation
## Comparing the Costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Factor</th>
<th>Cost/yr</th>
<th>Crime Intervention</th>
<th>Cost/yr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>45,000</td>
<td>Gun Shot Rx</td>
<td>240- 500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Mentors</td>
<td>11,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Structured Activity</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>Children’s Home</td>
<td>648- 1,100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weak Social support</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>Prison Stay</td>
<td>830,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illiteracy</td>
<td>28,000-35,000</td>
<td>Economy</td>
<td>5 % GDP 2% GDP May 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No skills***</td>
<td>36,000-86,000</td>
<td>Health Sector</td>
<td>2 B 88M May 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teen Pregnancy</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>Tourism Sector</td>
<td>20B May 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parenting</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>Productivity, Distribution and Manufacturing Sector</td>
<td>1B May 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>US:JA $1:85</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Security Sector</td>
<td>321M May 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Infrastructure</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1B May 2011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Youth Development in the Context of Community Safety

- Hi Risk Youth Transition Programme
- Foundation (Parenting, Life skills, Literacy, Relevant Education)
- National Youth Club Movement
- Consolidated Youth Programmes
- Youth Empowerment Officers (Community Based)
- Mentorship
- Youth Employment
- Budget
- The WILL to bridge the gap