School-Based Violence and Interruption

Contagion of Violence Workshop

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“Violence is a multi-faceted problem with physical, social, psychological and environmental roots. To put an end to violence we must look at it from multiple levels and from different sectors of society” (Hammed 2007)
Public perception are fuelled by media reports of stabbings, shootings and murders. These are isolated, high profile and sensationalized incidents, and are not where the problem lies.

The real problem lies in the apparently minor, but repetitive acts of violence. It is these acts which lead to the most frequent consequences of violence in schools: drop-out, truancy, school phobia, depression and lack of self-confidence amongst students (Debarbieaux)
CHILDREN, WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GROW UP?

ALIVE!
In total, 15.3% of all learners, translating to 1,821,054 children have experienced some form of violence while at school.
An EMBEDDED Whole School Approach

- Rationale of a whole school approach is developmental, premised on the intersection of all components of the school system: children, parents, educators, principals, school governing bodies, school management teams
- Embedded in and interact with broader environment of families and homes, and communities → multi-systemic approach
School Management System

Help the school to understand and identify security issues and threats

Guide schools to respond effectively to security issues and threats

Provide mechanisms to prevent, report and manage incidents appropriately

Diagnostic

Plan

Response/action

Monitor schools progress over time
Assumptions and Challenges

- Resilience and protective factors/mitigating risk
- Ownership (dynamic)
- Accountability
- Legitimacy
- Safety needs versus core business within constraints
- The blame game
- Shared vision
- Institutional memory
CRIMINALITY IN THE FAMILY

- Family member ever been in jail: 16%
- Done things that could have gotten them in trouble with the police: 6.8%
- Used any drugs: 3.8%
- Dealt or sold any drugs: 1.6%
Family & Community Violence
Exposure (Secondary schools)

Ever seen somebody being intentionally hurt outside of the home

67.9

Almost three fifths (59%) of the victims were known to the child

Almost three fifths (59%) of these incidents involved the use of a weapon, most commonly knives (43.9%) and sticks (35.6%). 5% involved guns

Two out of three cases were serious enough to warrant medical attention

More than half (51.3%) of all these incidents were serious enough to warrant medical attention

Seven out of ten of these incidents occurred in the street, while another tenth happened at shopping malls

Burton, 2009

Ever seen household members intentionally hurting one another

11.4
THANK YOU

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