

Conflict and Violence

"The ruin of a nation begins in the homes of its people."

-Ashanti Proverb

Conflict and Violence

1992-94: Violent incidents-female victims= 4.6 million annually

1994: Women 23% of all known homicide victims in U.S.

Nine out of 10 female victims were murdered by males

Bureau of Justice Statistics 12/96

Conflict and Violence

3.1 million children were reported abused and neglected in 1996

In 1996 1/3 of all victims of violent crime were ages 12-19. Almost half of all victims of violence were under age of 25

Bureau of Justice Statistics 12/96

Conflict and Violence

79% of violent children have witnessed violence between their parents

Violent juvenile delinquents are four times more likely than nonviolent juveniles to come from homes in which their fathers beat their mothers Bureau of Justice Statistics 12/96

Causes of Violence

Epidemic child and family poverty

Pervasive drug and alcohol abuse

Easy access to deadly firearms

Abused and neglected children

Poor education and lack of jobs

Media glamorization of violence

Declining public support

Risk Factors Linked to Violence

Individual Factors

Personality: low self esteem; impulsive; Risk taking temperament; Personal history: victimization, frustration, reinforcement of aggression

Individual Factors (Cont'd)

Indirect behavior models: images in television, videos, movies, music

Direct behavior models: family, peers, neighborhood

Disregard for consequences

Situational Factors

Interpersonal circumstances: weapon possession

Challenge: gang/ethnic rivalry, craving for possession, power, and control

Disinhibitor: alcohol, drugs, anger, rage

subjective imagery

Relationship Between Child Abuse and Violence

"cultural spill over theory" (Straus, 1991) children who are physically punished have higher rates of delinquency, tend to be impulsive, have difficulty expressing themselves, and acknowledging painful feelings

Risk Factors for Physical Abuse

Wolfner & Gelles (1993) High Stress Families:

Income under poverty line

Unemployed father

Caretakers in blue collar jobs

Four + children (3-6yrs, male)

Drugs

Protective Factors: Resiliency Against Abuse

- Rapid response to danger
- Precocious maturity
- Dissociation of affect
- Information seeking
- Positive anticipation
- Decisive risk taking

Protective Factors: Resiliency Against Abuse

- Conviction of being loved
- Can identify with aggressors positive traits
- Forms relationships for survival
- Reinterpreting painful experiences
- Altruism
- Optimism and hope

Domestic Violence

"Family, the group to which most people look for love and gentleness is also the most violent civilian group in our society."

Murray Straus Behind Closed Doors

Risk Factors for Battering

- Low education, income, and occupation
- Low self-esteem
- Low levels of assertiveness
- Little sense of personal efficacy
- History of sexual aggressiveness
- Witnessed violence and abuse as a child

Reasons for Remaining in Abusive Relationships

- Fear of further beatings
- Financially dependent
- Religious pressures
- Believe change is possible
- To keep the marriage together

Protective Factors

- Strong social network
- No violence in family of origin
- Available resources
- Community support
- Coping mechanisms
- No chemical dependencies
- Ability to manage unpredictable stressors

Prevention Programs: Successful Programs Teach

- Individual responsibility for actions
- anger management
- Recognition of the cycle of violence
- Early warning signs of rage
- Stress management
- Conflict resolution
- Assertiveness training

Successful Programs

- Empathy and understanding
- Communication techniques
- positive expression
- listening
- validation
- expressing feelings

expressing feelings

Impact of Violence

Conflict of feelings -- love, hate, rage, guilt, stoicism, and fear
Walls of denial, repression, and dissociation
Armor of anorexia and obesity
Retreat to the bottle, die pill, and depression

Gang Resistance Education and Training: G.R.E.A.T

Curriculum Overview
CrimeVictims and Your Rights
Cultural Sensitivity/Prejudice
Conflict Resolution
Conflict Mediation
Drugs/Neighborhoods
Responsibility
Goal Setting

Social Literacy Skill: Six Steps in Negotiating a Conflict of Interest

Describe what each person wants.
Describe how each person feels.
Exchange reasons for positions.
Understand each other's perspective
Invent options for mutual benefit
Reach a wise agreement

Emotional Literacy Skill: Perception Checking

A perception check is the best way to ensure that you understand how a person feels:

Describe what you think the other person's feelings are.

Ask whether your perception is accurate.

Refrain from expressing approval or disapproval of the feelings. "You look sad. Are you?"

Anger Replacement Training

Interpersonal skill training would center on such social skill deficits as:

Listening and maintaining a conversation
Asking for help and giving instructions
Apologizing and expressing feelings
Dealing with someone's anger
Assertiveness and keeping out of fights
Responding to persuasion. and failure
Dealing with accusations and peer pressure

APA (1993) Findings:

Prevention programs that promote social and cognitive skills seem to have the greatest impact on attitudes about violent behavior. Such skills include perspective taking, alternative solution generation, self esteem enhancement, peer negotiation skills, problem solving, anger management and the cognitive skills of thinking things through.

The Impact of Television

The average child will watch 8,000 murders on TV before finishing elementary school.

By age eighteen, the average American has seen 200,000 acts of violence on TV, including 40,000 murders.

AMA (1997)2,888 out of 3,000 studies show that TV violence is a causal factor in real- life mayhem.

Addicted to Television: Heavy TV Viewers Exhibit Six Dependency Symptoms

- (1) Using TV as a sedative;
- (2) Indiscriminate viewing;
- (3) Feeling loss of control while viewing;
- (4) Feeling angry with oneself for watching too much;
- (5) Inability to stop watching; and
- (6) Feeling miserable when kept from watching

Television's Impact on Health

- 11% of children 6-17 are severely overweight, usually watching more than 22 hours of television viewing
- 75% of American women believe they are too fat; female models and actresses are thinner than 95% percent of the female population
- African American females have less of an image problem

Intellectual, academic, psychological, and social effects

Television provides an escape from reality and daily anxiety
 There is a direct correlation between the amount of time watching TV and scores on standardized achievement tests
 Deters the development of imaginative capacity when it preempts spontaneous play

Intellectual, academic, psychological, and social effects

On prime-time TV, men outnumber women 3 to 1
 Significantly smaller proportion of young people, old people, Hispanics, and other minorities than in the U.S. population
 Crime is at least 10 times as prevalent on TV as in the real world
 TV represents violence as an appropriate way to solve interpersonal problems, avenge insults and get what you want

Intellectual, academic, psychological, and social effects

Half of North America's murders and rapes can be attributed directly or indirectly to television (Source: 7 year statistical analysis, Dr. Brandon Centerwall at the University of Washington)
 Body metabolism is lower; men who watch television 3 or more hours a day are twice as likely to be obese
 Television advertising industry = 30 billion

Tragedy at the Hands of Children

The casual attitude toward violence by youth can be linked to a popular culture saturated with violent messages in which revenge is a dominant theme
 Heavy viewers are less imaginative, more impulsive, more aggressive, and have poorer concentration

TRUCE: Teachers for Resisting Unhealthy Children's Entertainment

Viewing violence in the media teaches aggressive attitudes and behaviors, desensitizes viewers to violence, and produces fear of violence
 children become immune to the horror gradually accept violence as a way to solve problems immitate the violence they observe identify with certain characters, victims, and/or victimizers

Works Cited

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