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CAUSES OF YOUTH VIOLENCE

Youth violence can be defined as any intentional act using physical force against another person or group with the consequence of injury, mental harm, or death, committed by a person between the ages of 10 and 24. There can be varying degrees of youth violence; some acts, such as bullying or pushing, may result in more mental than physical pain, while acts like assault or robbery can lead to serious injury or even death. Youth violence can have very severe consequences for children and adolescents. In fact, youth violence is the 'third leading cause of death for people between the ages of 15 and 24,' according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. **Types of Violence** Youth violence can range in severity from hitting and pushing to actual physical or sexual assault. The following are all considered examples of youth violence, listed in order of seriousness: pushing, slapping/ hitting, kicking, physical assault (with or without a weapon), robbery, sexual assault and homicide.[1] There are main causes of youth violence:

Teen Communities and Neighbourhoods

Where teens live can also have an impact on them and lead them to act more aggressively. In fact, a study points to several community risk factors for youth violence including diminished economic opportunities, high levels of crime, and socially-disorganized neighborhoods. Additionally, the study found that youth violence can become a form of "street justice" in response to the lack of police protection or patrols in poorer neighborhoods. When this happens, teens may attempt to secure the neighborhood by using violence as a way of bringing order to the area. As a result, youth violence often manifests as gang violence, turf wars, gun wars, and other types of violence. When teens live in socioeconomically-challenged neighborhoods, they may feel like their only option for survival is to join a gang or to engage in violence. When this line of thinking is the norm, teens are likely to act aggressively and participate in violent behaviors.[2] The Youth Gang Prevention Fund (YGPF) provides time-limited funding for initiatives in communities that prevent at-risk youth from joining gangs, provides exit strategies for youth who belong to gangs, and offers support to youth so they do not re-join gangs, in communities where youth gangs are an existing or emerging threat.[7] A neighborhood watch is an organized group of civilians devoted to crime and vandalism

prevention within a neighborhood. The aim of neighborhood watch includes educating residents of a community on security and safety and achieving safe and secure neighborhoods. However, when a criminal activity is suspected, members are encouraged to report to authorities, and not to intervene. The Town Watch program is similar to that of the neighborhood watch, the major difference is that the Town Watch tend to actively patrol in pseudo-uniforms, i.e. marked vests or jackets and caps, and is equipped with two way radios to directly contact the local police. The Town Watch serves as an auxiliary to the police which provides weapons (if any), equipment, and training. The town watch usually returns their gear at the end of their duty. [5]

Domestic Violence and Child Abuse

Over five million children are witness to acts of domestic violence every year. Whether this is between parents, siblings or other members of the household, exposure to violence at a young age can have myriad negative consequences. Youth who witness domestic violence are more likely to commit violent crimes against others, and have a greater chance of involvement in a violent partnership as an adult - either as a perpetrator or as a victim. Violence between intimate partners - often parents or caretakers - increases the likelihood that a child will also be abused or neglected, and as a result, children in households with domestic violence struggle with post-traumatic stress disorder, behavioral problems, substance abuse and mental health issues at higher rates than those who do not. In fact, youth who witness domestic violence often suffer similar social and emotional consequences as youth who are direct victims of violence in the home. This is why domestic abuse often occurs cyclically, with children growing up in abusive homes more likely to become members of an abusive partnership during adulthood. Research shows that parents exposed to abuse - even before having children - are at a greater risk of maladaptive parenting, and their children experience higher levels of behavioral problems.[3] Factors that may protect some youth from violence include: connectedness to family or other adults; ability to discuss problems with parents; the perception that parental expectations for school performance are high; frequent shared activities with parents; youth involvement in social activities; commitment to school; and the consistent presence of parent during at least one of the following: when awakening, when arriving home from school, during evening mealtimes, and when going to bed. A number of measures may indirectly affect the factors that contribute to youth violence. Programs that address community deterioration (improving areas for children to play and providing supervised activities); alcohol abuse; gun safety; non violence coping skills; and economic issues can also help to prevent youth violence.

Domestic violence and child abuse often occur in the same family. Children who witness violence between parents are at risk of serious mental health and other problems. Domestic violence prevention and abuse services can help break the cycle of violence for children.[4]

Insufficient Parental Supervision

Teens who receive insufficient supervision from their parents are prone to engage in aggressive behaviors or criminal activity. Without adequate adult supervision, they do not have the resources needed to make good choices or to recognize risks. Consequently, these teens tend to make friends with the wrong people, take unnecessary risks, and experiment with things an involved parent would never allow. What's more, when parents are permissive, their kids often have no motivation to do well in school and may even stop caring about their future. As a whole, teenagers need fair and firm discipline and consistent interaction with and direction from their parents. When parents take an active role in their teens' lives, it reduces the likelihood of teen violence.[2] The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency (OJJDP) supports local and state efforts to prevent delinquency and improve the juvenile justice system. It works to prevent and control juvenile delinquency, improve the juvenile justice system, and protect children. The Office accomplishes its mission by supporting states, local communities, and tribal jurisdictions in their efforts to develop and implement effective programs for juveniles. It strives to strengthen the juvenile justice system's efforts to protect public safety, hold justice-involved youth appropriately accountable, and provide services that address the needs of youth and their families. Through its divisions, OJJDP sponsors research, program, and training initiatives; develops priorities and goals and sets policies to guide federal juvenile justice issues; disseminates information about juvenile justice issues; and awards funds to states to support local programming.[6]

Список використаних джерел

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COMBATING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME

Organized crime (OC) is a criminal organization with a well-defined hierarchy that plans and commits serious or particularly grave crimes.

Transnational organized crime (TOC) groups are self-perpetuating associations of individuals who operate, wholly or in part, by illegal means and irrespective of geography. With a few exceptions, the main goal of TOC groups is economic benefits, and they will use a variety of legal and illegal schemes to profit. Example of crimes that are key stones in TOC enterprises:

- drug trafficking;
- migrant smuggling;
- human trafficking;
- money laundering;
- firearms trafficking;
- illegal gambling;
- extortion;
- counterfeit goods;
- wildlife and cultural smuggling;
- cybercrime.

Countering Transnational Organized Crime

Success in reducing the threat posed by TOC can be expressed under four imperatives:

1. Understand the problem in order to adequately protect societies from these threats, we have to first measure the ability of transnational