Violence & Behavioral Health Interventions: Children & Adolescents

PANEL–

- Rahn Bailey, MD
- Darrin McCall, LCSW
- Jeana Bracey, PhD
- Stephen Phillippi, PhD

General Outline

- 2:00- Brief introductions of the panel (Phillippi)
- 2:05- Basic data about youth exposed to violence and the cycle of future perpetration of violence in many cases (Phillippi)
- Trauma and violence from a forensic psychiatrist's point of view on interventions and knowledge about the current gun epidemic (Bailey)
- 2:40- Trauma and violence from a community perspective regarding youth in the YEP program, the experience of staff, the attempts to intervene (McCall)
- 3:05- Brief facilitated dialog with audience (All)
- 3:15- BREAK
- 330- Welcome back - How Mobile Crisis and School Based Diversion are responding to trauma and interrupting violence (to self and others) in Connecticut (Bracey)
- 3:55- EBPs and court related programs interrupting violence (Phillippi)
- 4:20- Facilitated dialog with audience (All)
- 4:30- Our panel is officially done but the overall afternoon dialog with the audience continues between 430 and 5:00.

Victims & Offenders: Violence, Trauma and Child Welfare & Justice Populations

Stephen Phillippi, PhD, LCSW
LSU Health Sciences Center- School of Public Health

National Dialogs on Behavioral Health
2023
New Orleans, LA

Presentation materials adapted from the
MacArthur Foundation's National Resource Bank;
Child Welfare League of America;
and the LSUHSC School of Public Health

We will never incarcerate our way out of social problems

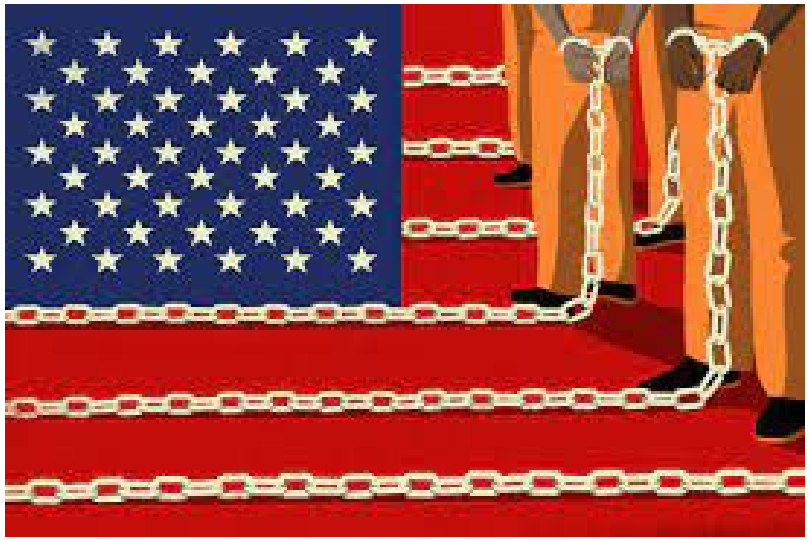


Image: The New Yorker

violence …. is multifactorial, socially determined, and is related to issues of territories, government policies, economy, morality/ethics, group relationships, and institutions

(Bloem and Salemi, 2021; Minayo, 1994; Sharma and Borah, 2022).

Image: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

to prevent it, mutual actions, synergistic and sustained efforts from governments, communities, and individuals are necessary–

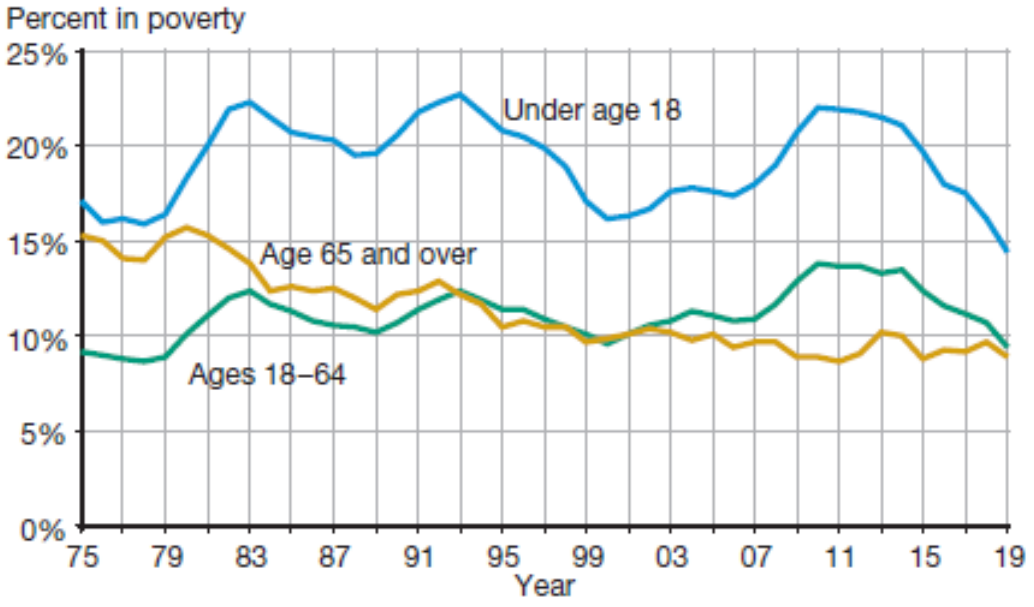
PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH

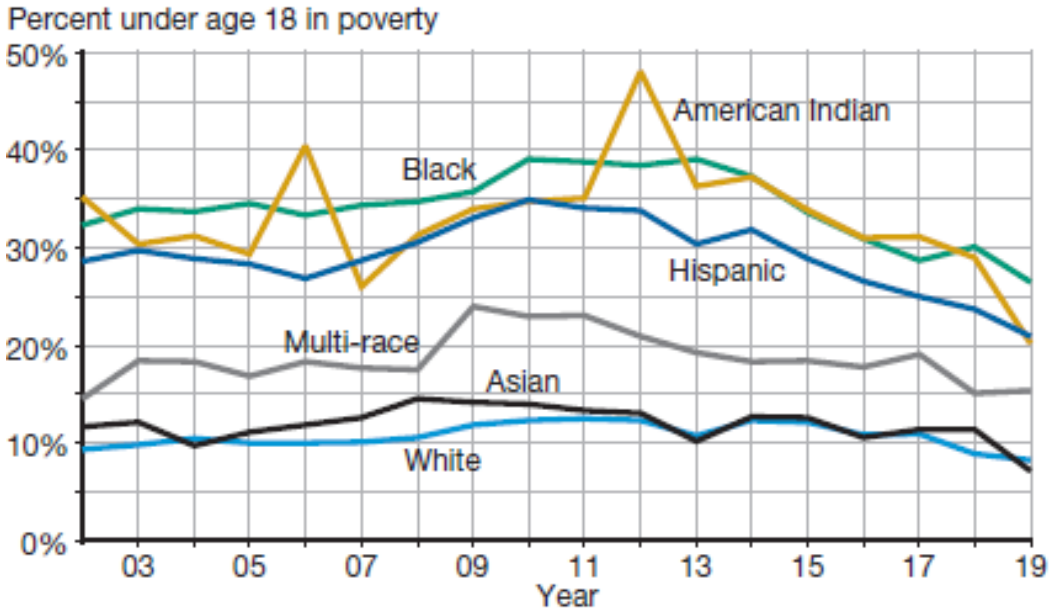
(Bloem and Salemi, 2021; Minayo, 1994; Sharma and Borah, 2022).

#s vs. perception

NCJJ 2022 Nat'l Report

- 22% of the US population is under 18
  - 52% White, 15% Black, 1% American Indian, 6% Asian, 25% Hispanic
- Proportion of children living in poverty at its lowest since 1975.





#s vs. perception

NCJJ 2022 Nat'l Report

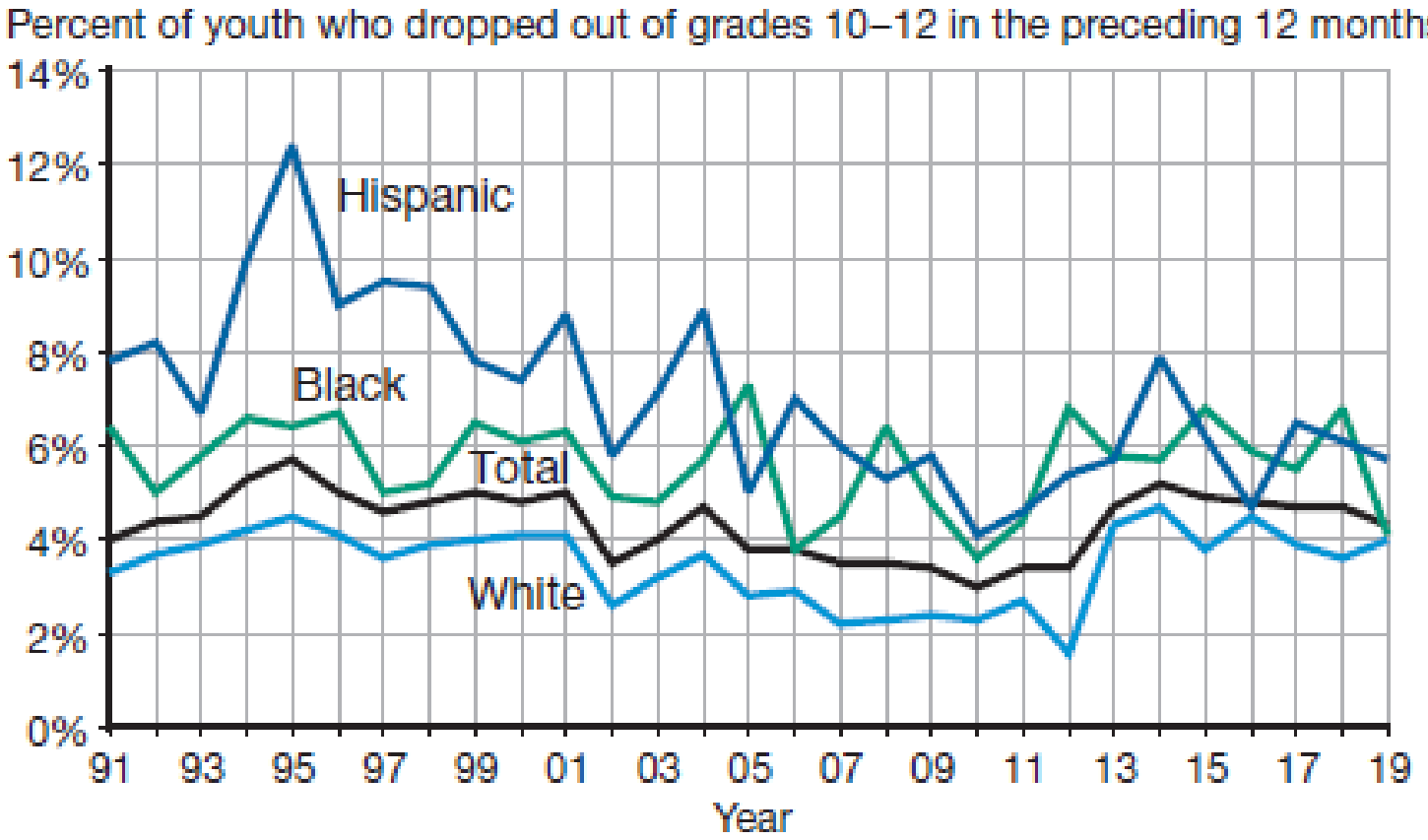
3.8 million youth 12-17 reported major depressive episode (43% received Tx)

Demographic	Percentage of youth (ages 12–17) reporting occurrence in the last 12 months		
	Major depressive episode (MDE)	MDE with severe impairment	MDE and received treatment
Total	16%	11%	43%
Age			
Ages 12–13	11	7	38
Ages 14–15	16	12	44
Ages 16–17	20	15	46
Gender			
Male	9	6	37
Female	23	17	46
Race/ethnicity			
White, non-Hispanic	16	11	50
Black, non-Hispanic	11	8	36
Hispanic	17	12	37
American Indian	12	12	NA
Asian	15	11	NA
Two or more races	21	15	NA

#s vs. perception

NCJJ 2022 Nat'l Report

High school dropout rate declined in the last 5 years yet 470,000 left in 2019

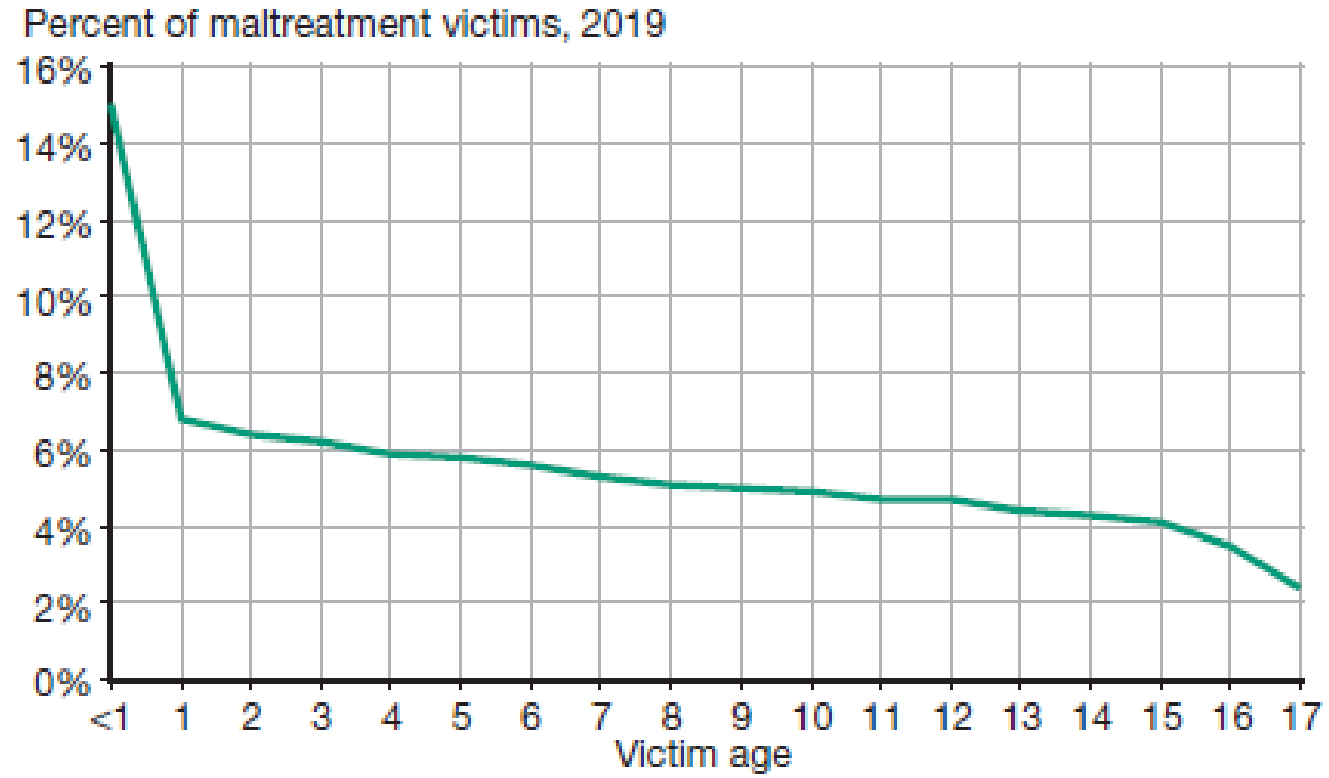


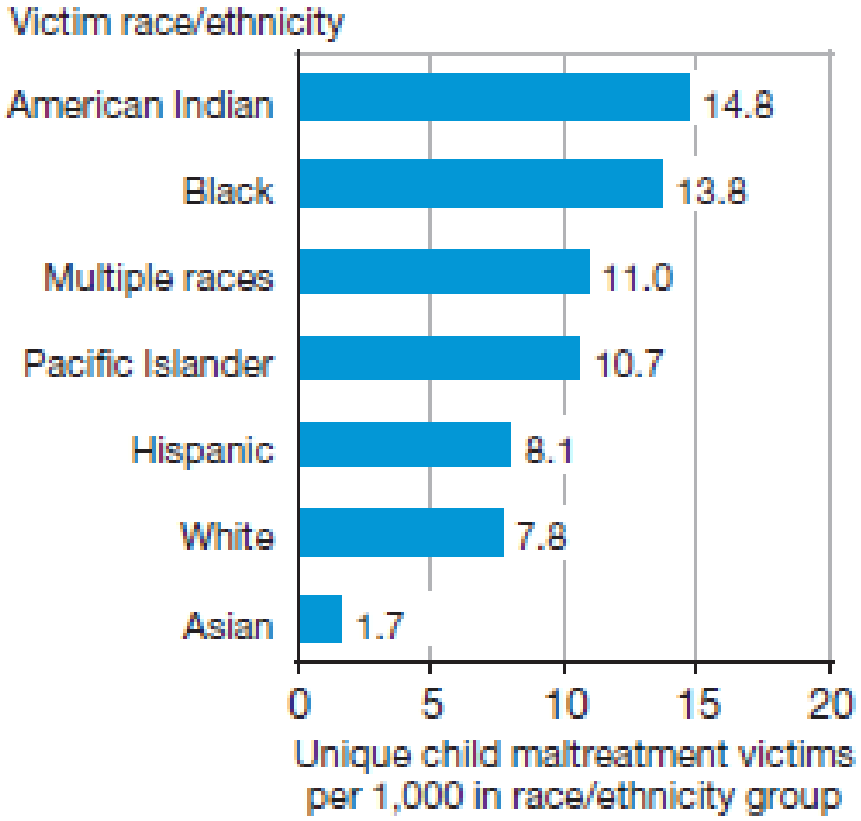
#s vs. perception

NCJJ 2022 Nat'l Report

Child protective services received about 84,600 referrals each week

- Most are girls, are younger then 4 and most are American Indian
- Most perpetrators are parents of victims

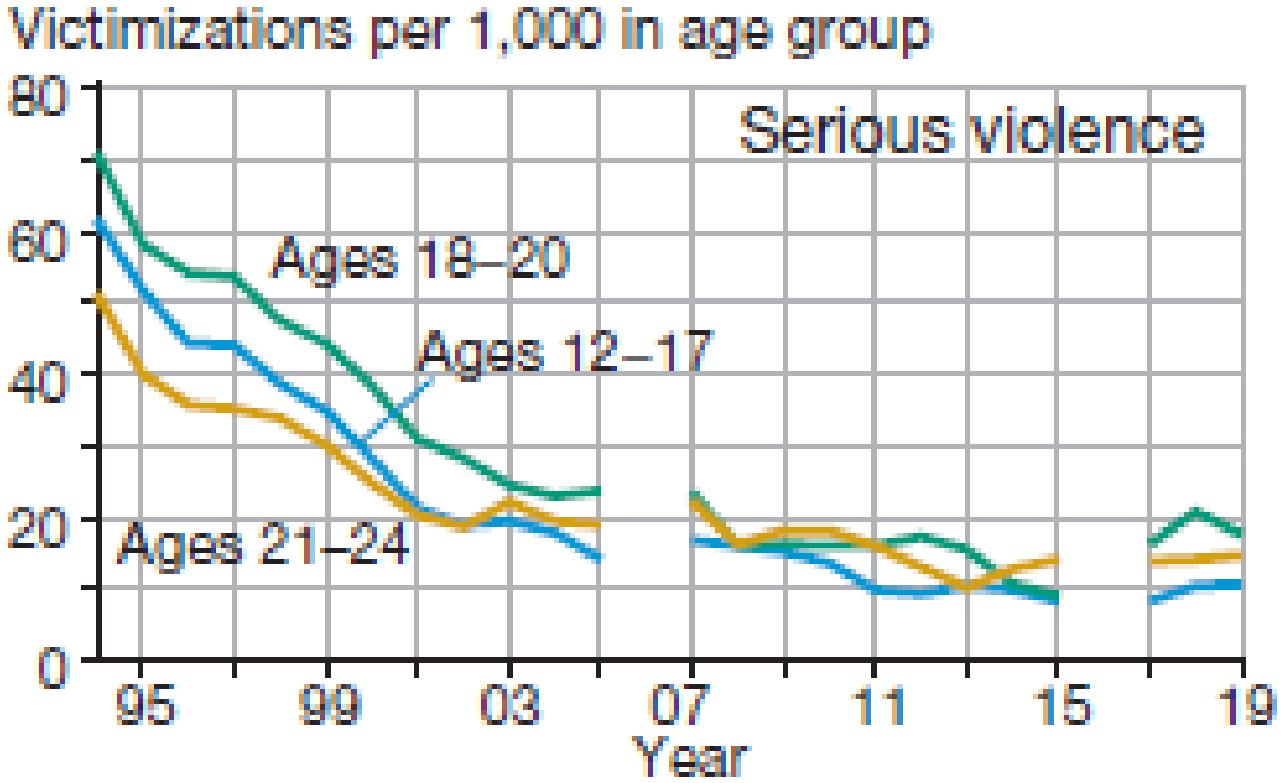




#s vs. perception

NCJJ 2022 Nat'l Report

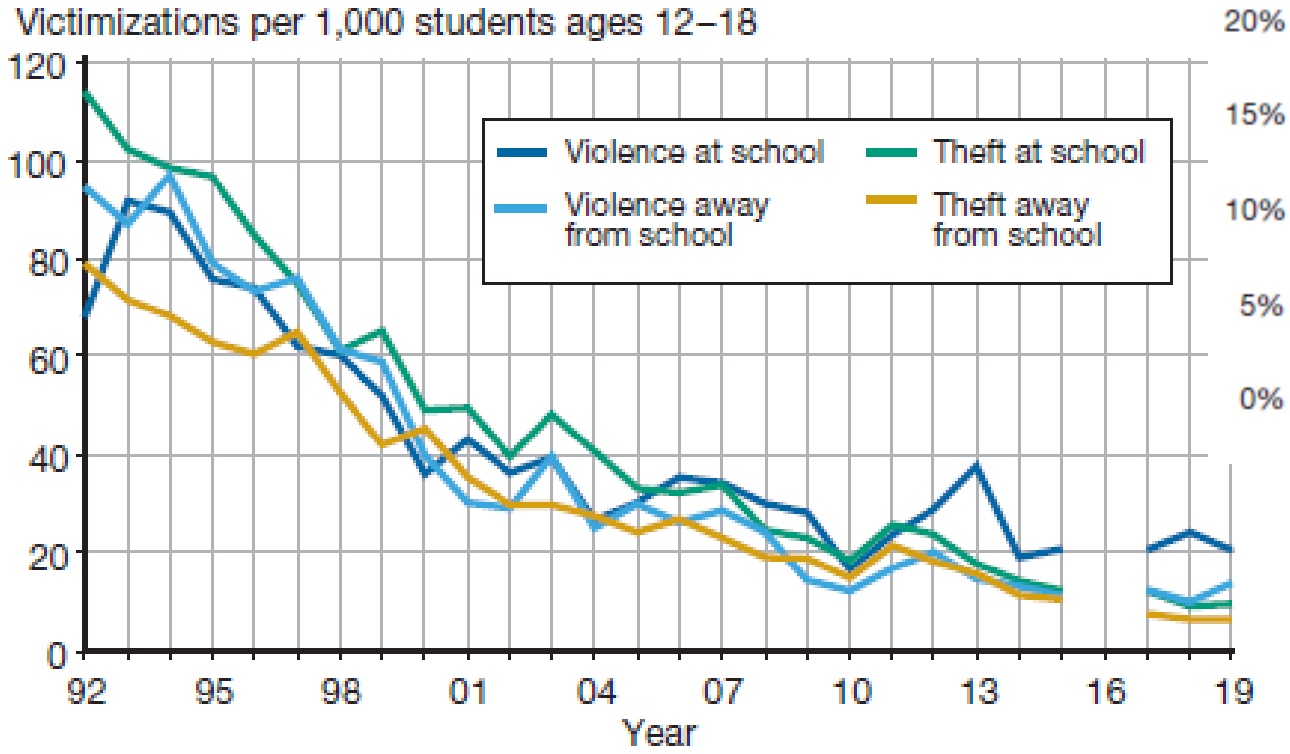
- The serious violent victimization rate of youth ages 12-17 is 83% less than in 1994
- Young adults still have highest rates of victimization

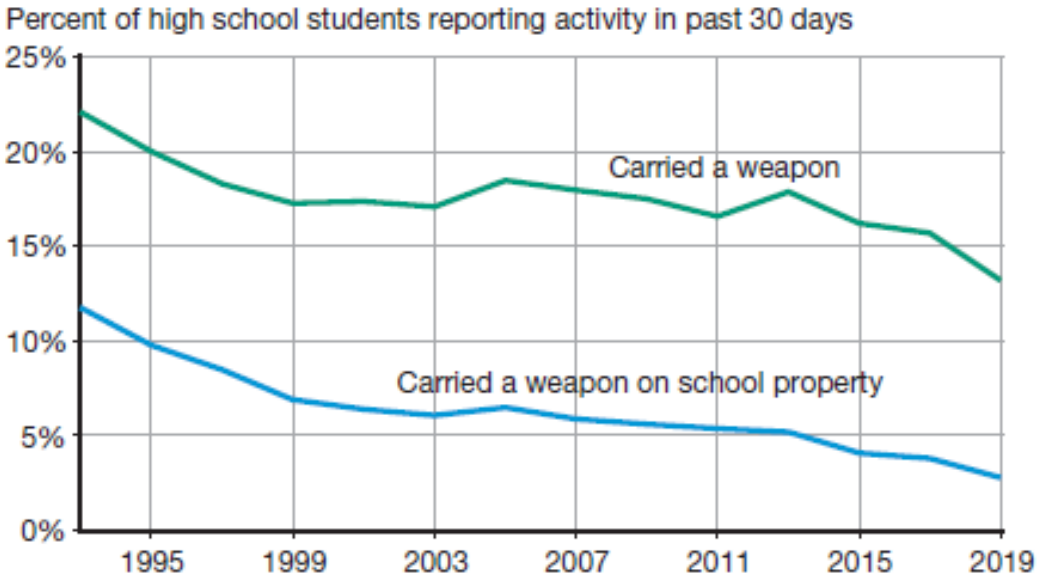


#s vs. perception

NCJJ 2022 Nat'l Report

- Violence remains a top threat in our schools
- Nearly 1 in 5 students report being bullied

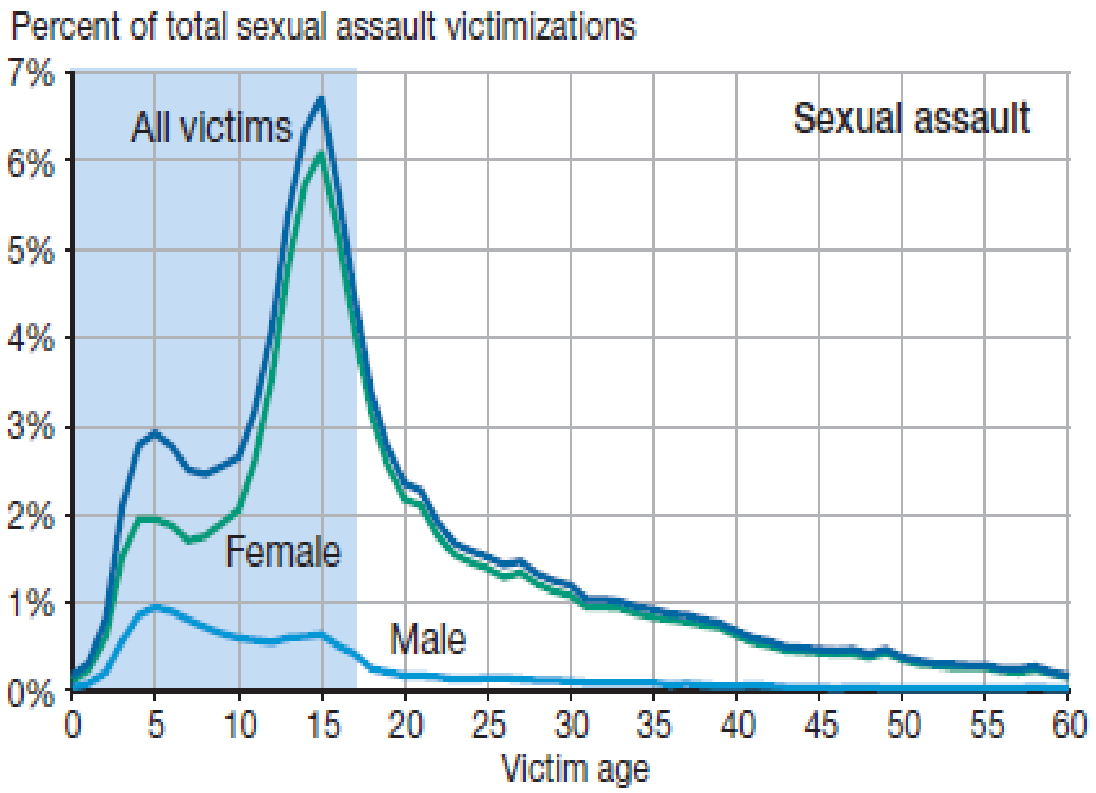


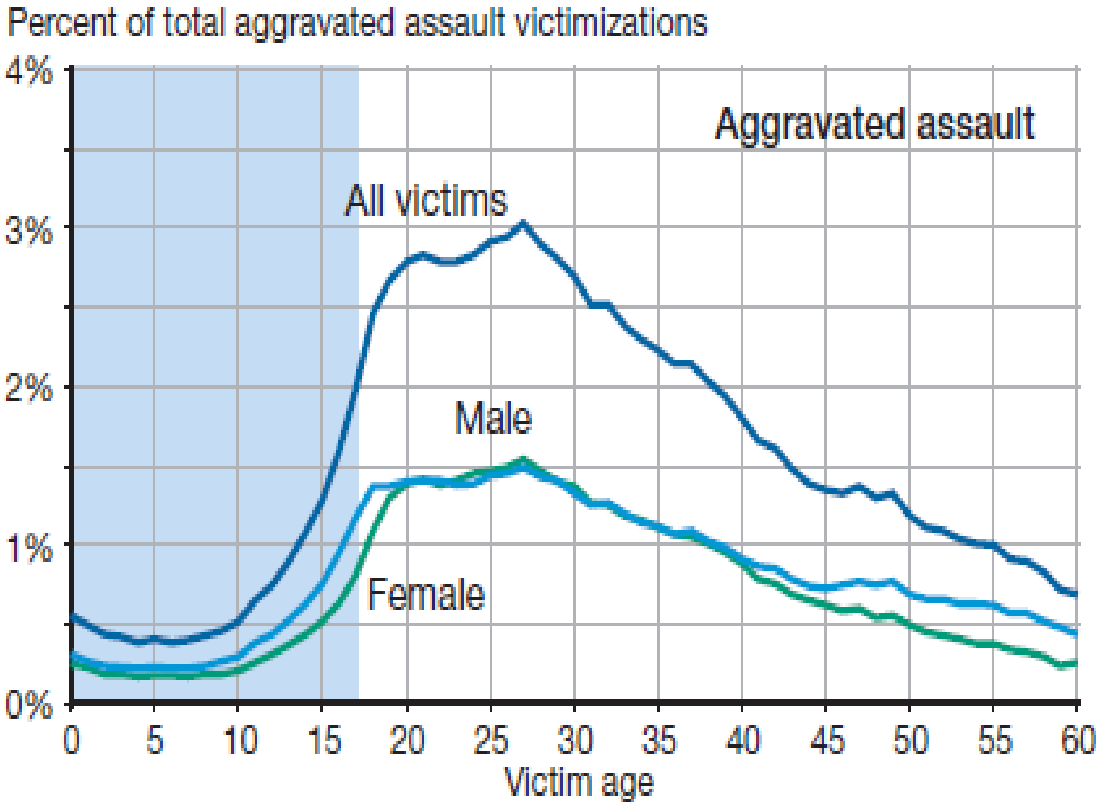


#s vs. perception

NCJJ 2022 Nat'l Report

Youth under 18 accounted for more than 1 in 5 victims of serious violent crime



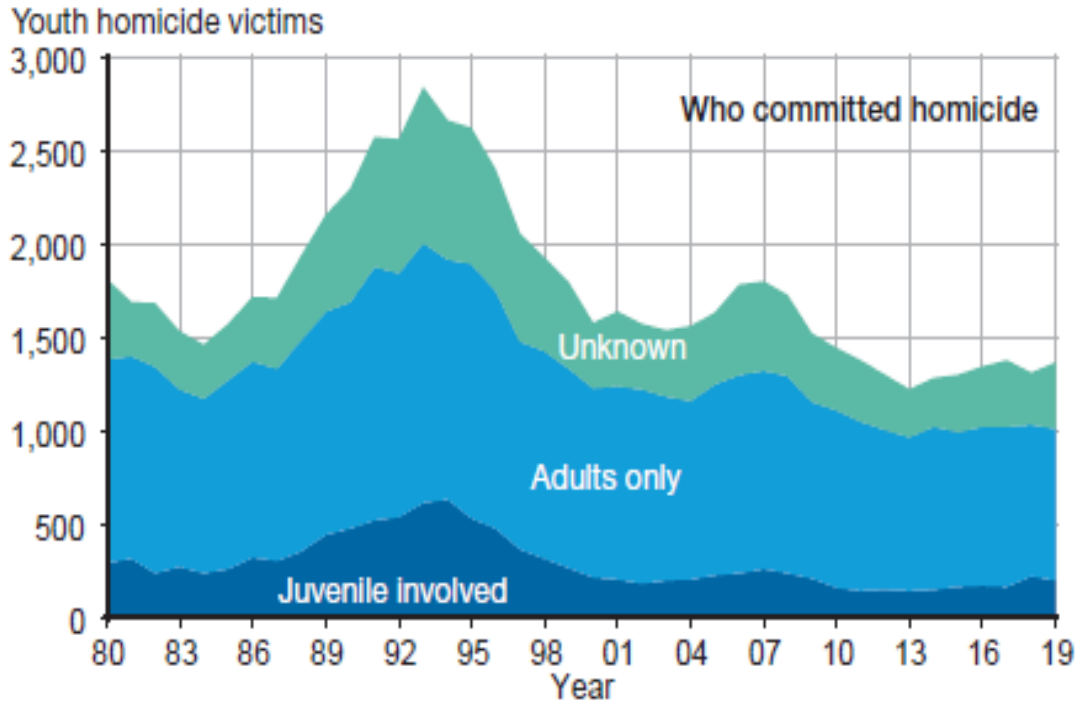


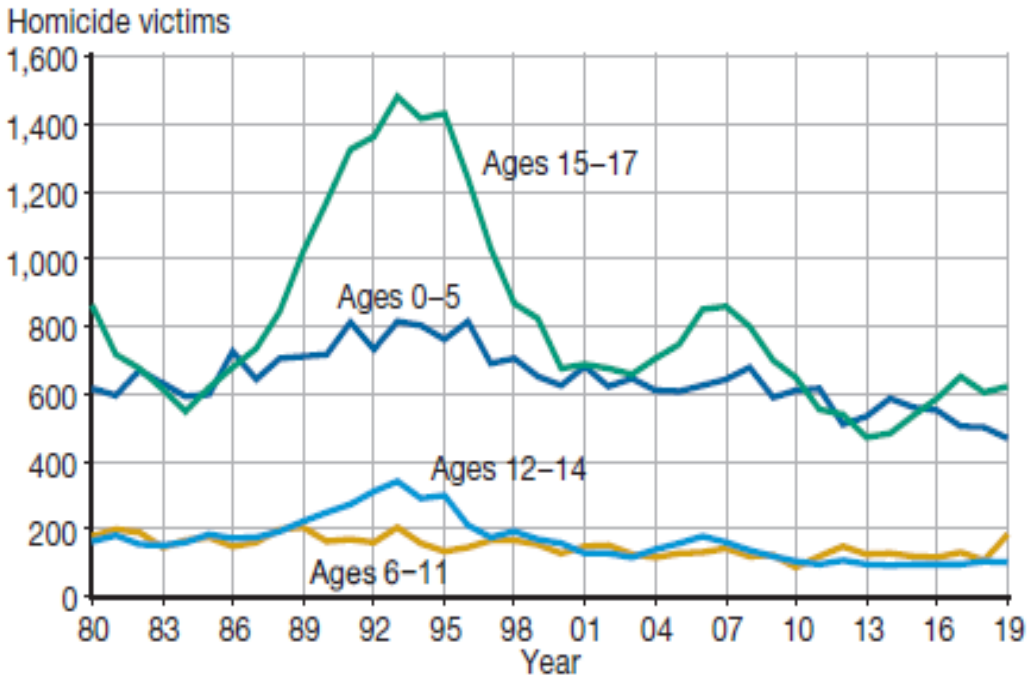
#s vs. perception

NCJJ 2022 Nat'l Report

An average of 1,334 youth under 18 are murdered each year, most involved adults

- 9 of every 10 youth murders were by firearm

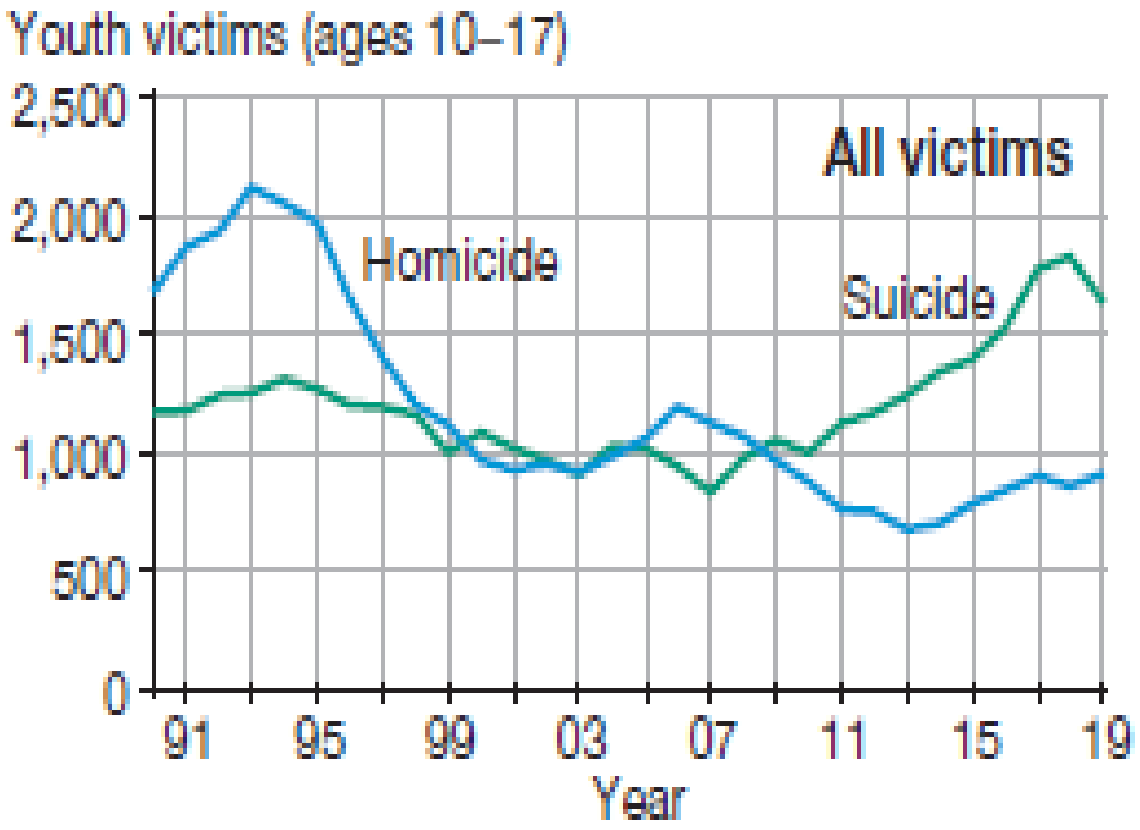


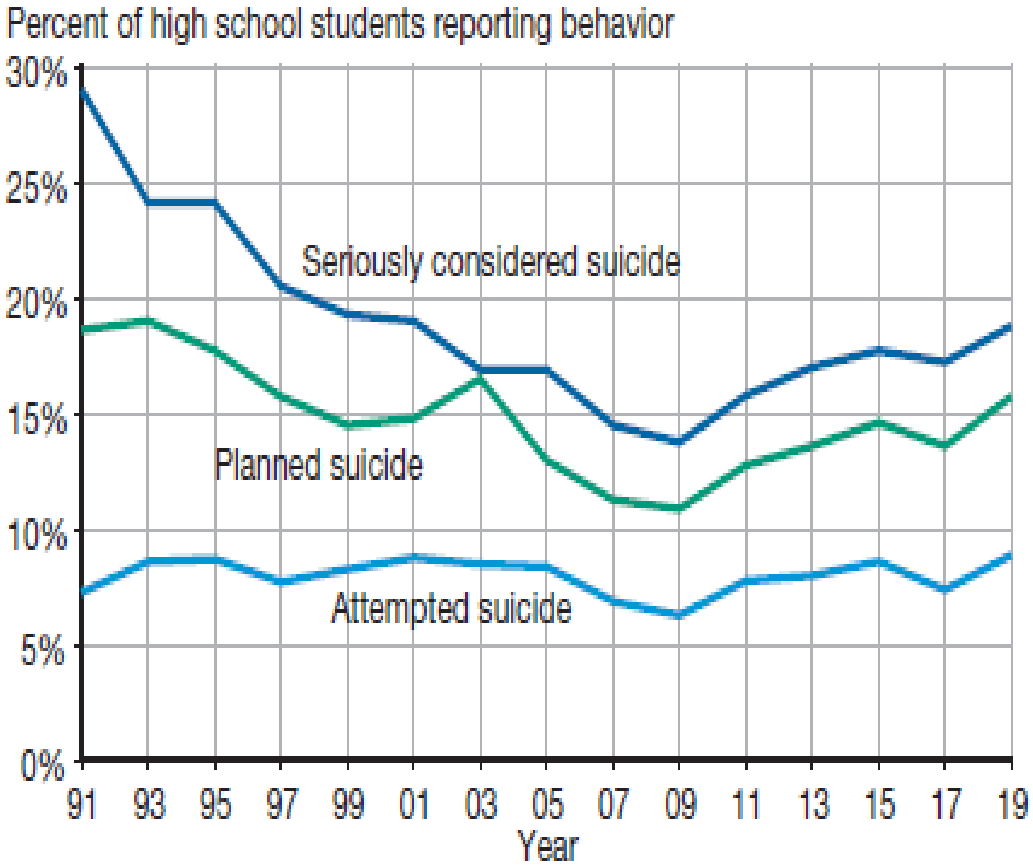


#s vs. perception

NCJJ 2022 Nat'l Report

Suicides outnumber homicides among youth





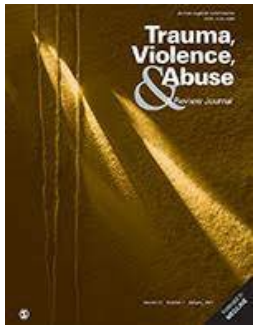
So what does this mean--- Research

Research has shown a significant link between trauma and violence in youth, but many nuances must be considered

1. **Trauma Types**
2. **Trauma Response**
3. **Complex Trauma**
4. **Neurobiological Impact**
5. **Cycle of Violence**
6. **Mental Health Issues**
7. **Substance Abuse**
8. **SES**

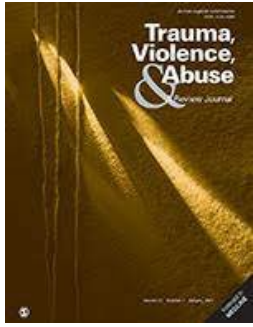
Image: Restore Psychology

Research



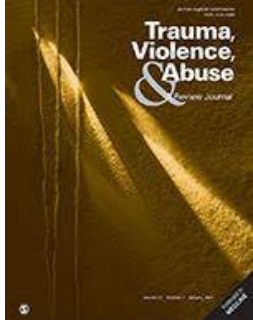
- "Though **most** people who experience abuse or neglect as children **do not go on to engage in serious delinquent behaviors**, children who experienced maltreatment are more likely than those who did not to engage in delinquent behaviors through adolescence and into adulthood." (Wilkinson et al, 2019)

- "**Neglect and emotional abuse are correlated to all types of delinquency**. Physical abuse, however, correlates only with offenses against persons and is only as strong a variable as neglect and emotional abuse when considered together with social class." (Shader, nd OJJDP)

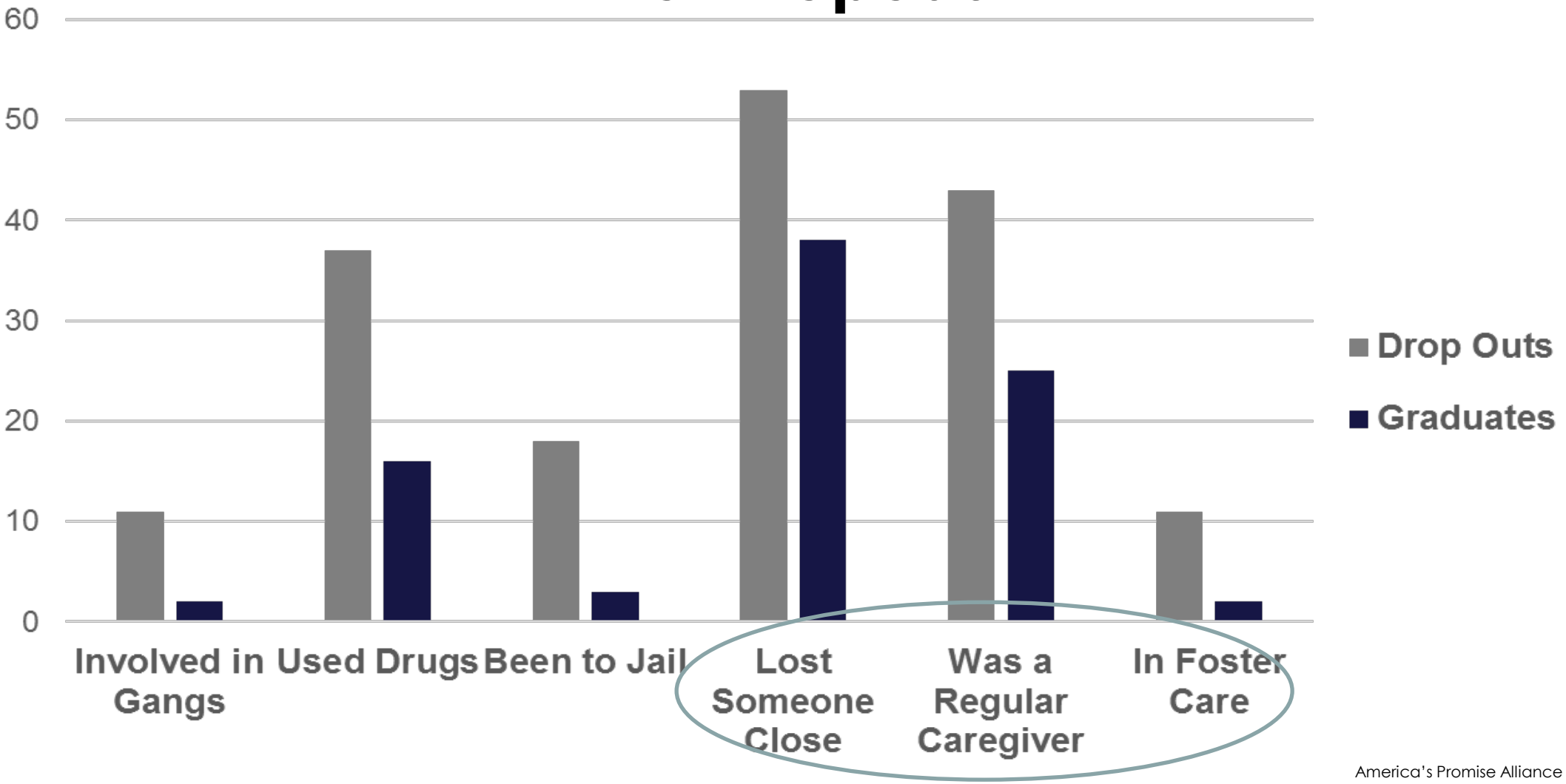


Trauma & Academics

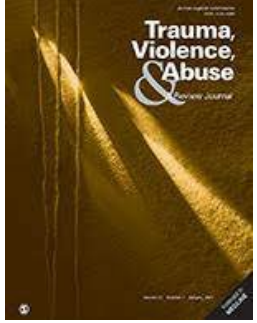
- Youth are **less ready to start school**.
- Youth **don't perform as well** in school.
- Youth who aren't performing well have more **behavioral difficulties**.
- Youth have an **increased likelihood of dropping out** of high school.



Characteristics of Students Who Dropout



America's Promise Alliance Survey

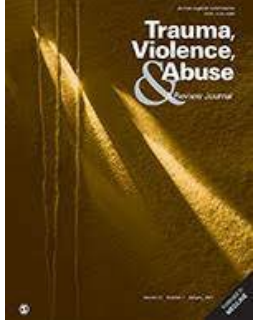


Traumatic Experiences & Youth in Juvenile Justice

- At least **75%** of children in the juvenile justice system have experienced traumatic victimization. (**Events**)

- As many as **50%** of these youth may have symptoms of trauma. (**Effects**)

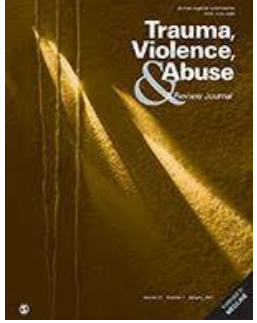
(National Child Traumatic Stress Network, 2009)



Traumatic Experiences & Youth in Juvenile Detention

- **93% of children in detention reported exposure to adverse events--** accidents and serious illnesses, physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, traumatic loss, and domestic and community violence.
- The majority of youth were exposed to **six or more events.**
- **Girls reported greater exposure** to all adverse events, except physical abuse and traumatic loss.

(Abram et al., 2004; Ford et al., 2007)



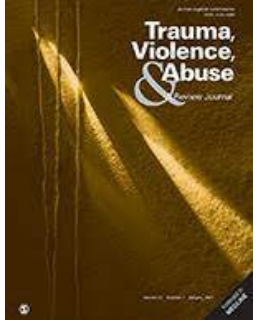
Research

Abused and neglected children age 11 and under in Midwest Court

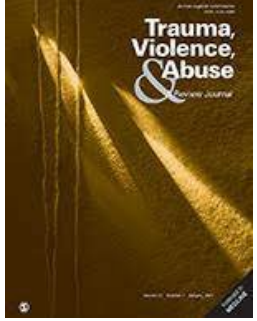
- Child abuse and neglect **increased odds of future delinquency and adult criminality by 29%** (Juvenile arrest alone by 59%)
- Maltreated children were **younger at 1st arrest**, **committed almost twice as many offences**, and **arrested more frequently**
- Neglected children are almost as likely as physically abused children to commit a violent crime.

(Widom & Maxfield, 2001)

Research



- Retrospective histories of **criminal adolescents & adults** show **26% to 85% abuse rates** (Wasserman & Seracini, 2001)
- Of **50 serious, habitual offenders**, **52% had child protective service histories** (Slavin, 2001)
- **50% of juvenile offenders** served by the Dept of Youth Services had **previous** been abused or neglected children **under the care of the Dept of Social Services** (Massachusetts Citizens for Children 2001)

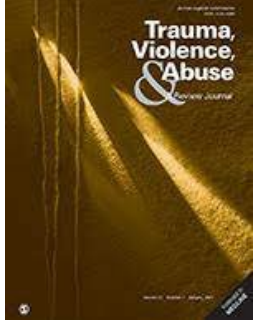


Research

- 5000 juveniles in national longitudinal study of adolescent health...
  - Year 1 **child victims of violence** significantly **more likely** than nonvictims **to commit a violent offense**
  - Year 2 **Youth who committed a violent offense** in year 1 where significantly **more likely** than nonoffenders **to commit a violent offense again in year 2 as well as be a victim of violence in year 2**

(Shaffer & Ruback 2002)

Relationship b/n child maltreatment & delinquency?



Family risk factors for delinquency and violence are also characteristics typically **present in abusive or neglectful families** (Wiebush, Freitag, & Baird, 2001, p. 3)

including

- failure to supervise and monitor children;
- excessively severe, harsh, or inconsistent punishment;
- domestic violence; and
- caregiver substance abuse (Howell, 1995, p. 20)

Justice System Interventions

Stephen Phillippi, PhD, LCSW
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Justice Interventions

- Several **interventions** shown **effective** in reducing violence and promoting positive behaviors.
- Often take **holistic** & **multidisciplinary** approach to address underlying factors contributing to violent behaviors.
- Most effective when **tailored** to needs of individuals and implemented as part of **comprehensive**, **coordinated** strategy involving **families**, **schools**, **communities**, and the **JJS**.

1. **Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy (CBT)**
2. **Trauma-Informed Care**
3. **Mentoring Programs**
4. **Family-Based Interventions**
5. **Restorative Justice Programs**
6. **Anger Management and Conflict Resolution Programs**
7. **Substance Abuse Treatment**
8. **School-Based Interventions**
9. **Youth Development Programs**
10. **Community-Based Initiatives**
11. **Mental Health Services**
12. **Juvenile Diversion Programs**

EARLY Interventions

- Child abuse prevention and early intervention programming has been effective in reducing child abuse and neglect and reducing future crime and delinquency.

- Example... child abuse prevention program ... **nurse home-visitation** program targeted to low-income, at-risk pregnant women bearing their first child.
  - 15-year follow-up - **79% fewer verified reports of child abuse and neglect** and **56% fewer arrests** on the part of the 15-year-old children in contrast to a comparison group.
  - **Success with both African American and White families in rural and urban settings**.

– (*Blueprints*, n.d.)

Critical Hope from Heroes Risking Research

FFT (Two Studies- Gottfredson et al, 2018)

- FFT in contemporary urban population that is **gang at risk or gang-involved**. **129 predominantly minority and low-income families** randomly assigned to enhanced version of FFT or alternative family therapy.
- Treatment and control subjects received a wide range of community and residential services in addition to FFT. The **cost per youth served was lower for FFT than control youth**, primarily because control youth were more often placed in residential facilities.
- **Recidivism during 18-month follow-up period was lower for FFT** than for control youth.

FFT #2 (Gan et al 2021)

FFT in a non-Western culture. **FFT** was examined in relation to youth offender rehabilitation: **(i) mental well-being, (ii) family functioning, and (iii) probation completion**

- 120 youth probationers (Mage = 16.2, SD =1.33) randomly assigned to receive either standard probation services—Treatment-As-Usual (TAU; n = 57)—or FFT in addition to TAU (FFT; n = 63).
- **FFT group improved from pre- to post-treatment**, and **gains were maintained** at follow-up-- **FFT group showed higher rates of reliable change** and **clinical recovery** on the family functioning scale. **Probation completion rates were 88.9% for FFT** and 70.2% for TAU. FFT group youth were significantly more likely to complete probation successfully.
- Results support FFT's effectiveness in Singaporean youth offenders. At a broader level, the study findings support the cross-cultural effectiveness of FFT in, and transportability to, a non-Western culture.

MST (https://info.mstservices.com/researchataglance-long)

700,000 families & 175 peer reviewed articles

- 19 studies using MST with **serious juvenile offenders**
- 19 studies using MST with adol w/ **serious conduct problems**
- 2 with **substance abusing** or dependent juvenile offenders
- 3 with juvenile **sexual offenders**
- 4 with youth presenting with **serious emotional and behavioral disturbance**

MST

Research demonstrates…

- Long-term **re-arrest rates** in studies with serious juvenile offenders **reduced by median of 42%**
- **Out-of-home placements**, across all MST studies, **reduced by a median of 54%**
- **Improved family functioning**
- **Decreased substance use** among youth
- **Fewer mental-health problems** for youth

MST

MST's positive **results are long lasting-**

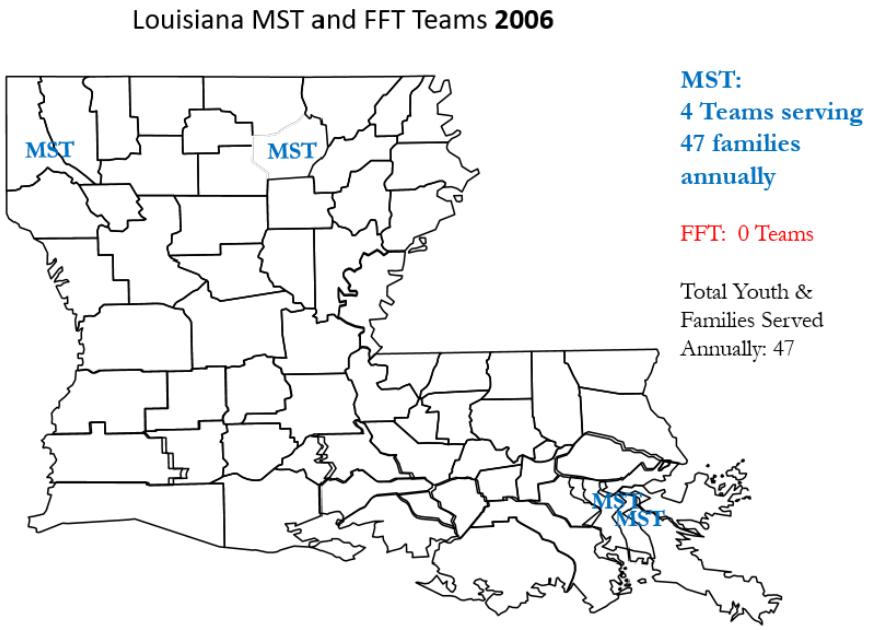
22-year follow-up by Missouri Delinquency Project showed youths who received MST had:

- **36% fewer felony arrests**
- **75% fewer violent felony arrests**
- **33% fewer days incarcerated**
- **37% fewer divorce, paternity and child support suits**
- **56% fewer felony arrests for <u>siblings</u>**

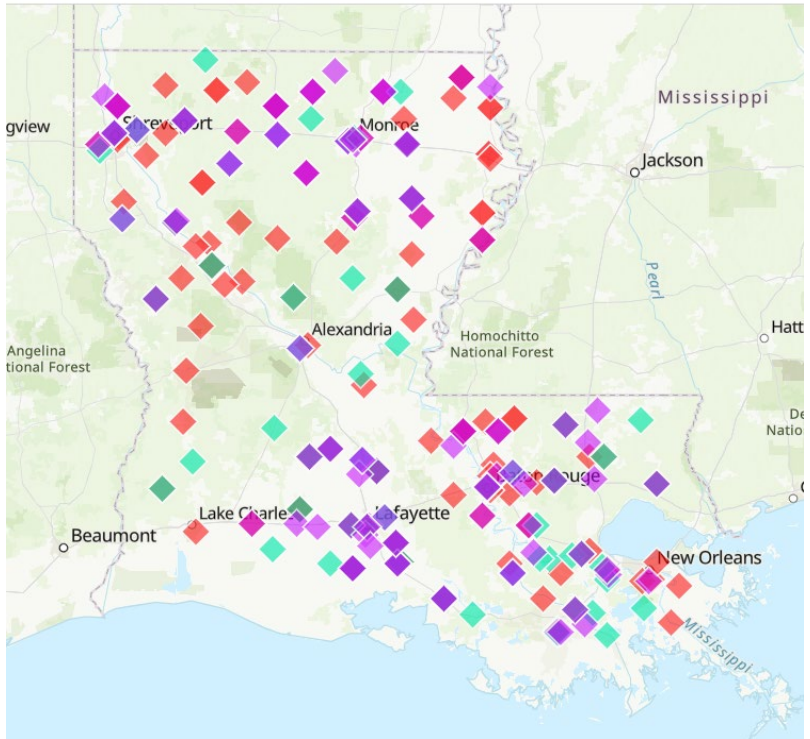
Hot off the press… State Investment Paying off

Louisiana Department of Health & Office of JJ made **focused investments in evidence-based community programs** that target youth and family skill development to address behavioral problems, including conduct disorder, substance abuse, and violence. In fact, Louisiana is currently leading the nation in access to Functional Family Therapy per capita

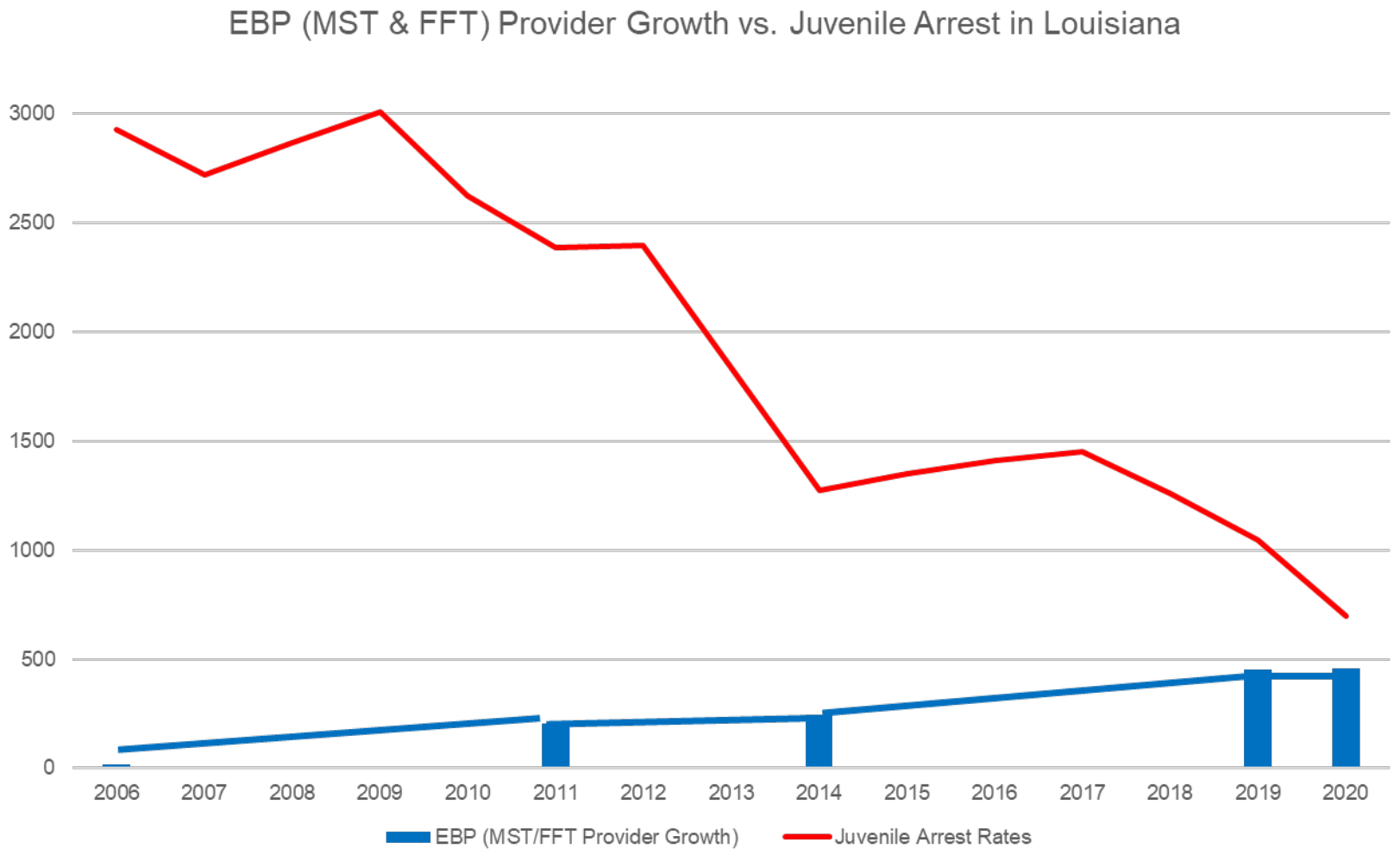
MST and FFT Accessibility 2006



MST and FFT Accessibility 2023



As Emerald would say…BAMM!

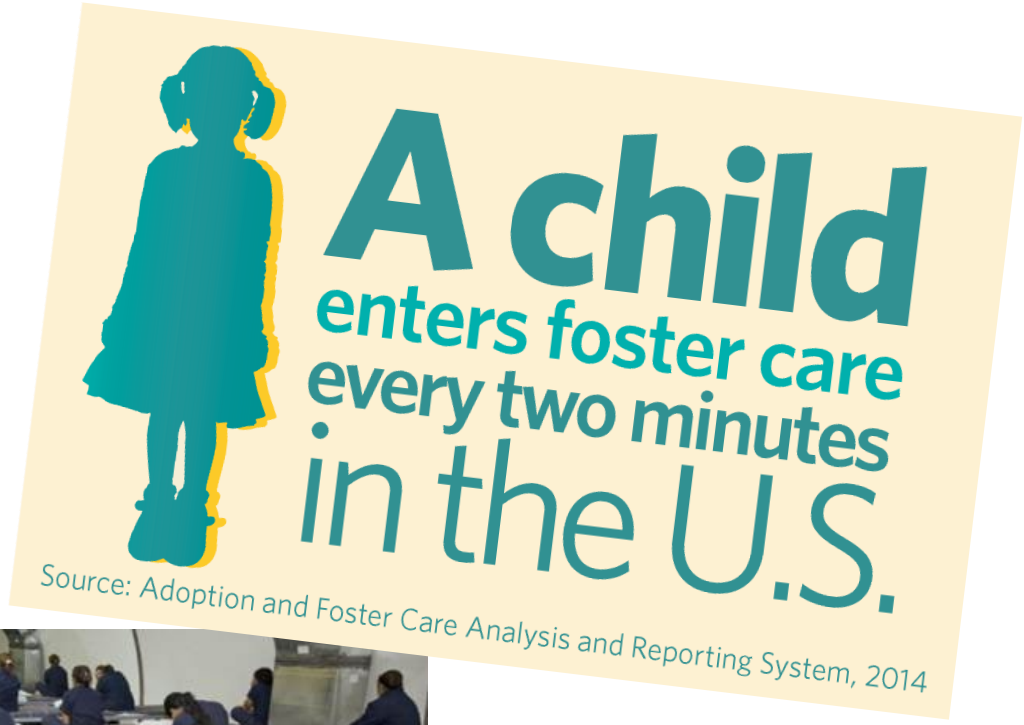


Implications….

CW and JJ systems have much in common. Often, they...

- **employ same disciplines**
- use many of the **same treatment providers** and have an **overlap or duplication of services**
- **mental health needs are critical**, and people of color are disproportionately represented
- **do not substantially emphasize prevention**
- are **without** a lot of **public support** and work with unwanted, unsupported populations with a history of systemic neglect
- **struggle** with **obtaining adequate resources** and require the involvement of multiple systems and partnerships to work well

What are we trying to change ….



SYSTEM PROSPECTIVE

Implications….

- CW studies suggest 1/2 to 2/3s entering foster care have behavior **problems warranting mental health services**, but little is known about how the CW system identifies child delinquents or potential child delinquents and refers them to mental health services (Burns et al., 2003, p. 4).

- **Critical population** for intervention because the **trauma** these children have experienced from abuse and neglect, other risk factors for future delinquency, and the children's acting-out behavior.

- "CW could serve as an **early warning system** for identifying children who demonstrate conduct problems and are at an increased risk of entering the juvenile justice system during their adolescence" (Burns et al., 2003, p. 4)

- "special attention be paid to abused and neglected children with **early behavior problems**. These children show the highest risk of later juvenile and adult arrest, as well as violent criminal behavior" (Widom & Maxfield, 2001 p. 7).

Implications…

- For the CW system,
  - question is whether we have means to identify which of the children are at high risk for future delinquency and how to provide them with supports to reduce those risk factors. This may mean assuming a broader dimension in this system beyond protection, removal, and reunification; involving more individualized assessments of children's needs; and focusing on long-term outcomes and overall child well-being.
- For the JJ system,
  - efforts could include identifying at-risk younger siblings for support and deterrence, joining the CW system to address early-onset offenders, and helping garner prevention and early intervention resources.
- Both systems could identify those cases of concurrent involvement so they can **share caseloads**, **coordinate case planning**, or take other steps to coordinate their efforts

(Wiig & Widom, 2003, pp. 28–29).