# Center for Communities Empowering Youth

KNOXVILLE **LEADERSHIP** FOUNDATION

Weaving the fabric of a strong community

# Community Assessment 2007

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Finally, KLF is grateful to the Federal Government for funding this important endeavor.

# Introduction

Knoxville has been cited by a number of trade and national magazines as one of the best places to live in America. *Forbes* named Knoxville fifth in Best Places for Business and Careers, *Expansion Management* named Knoxville ninth in America's 50 Hottest Cities, *Sperling* ranked Knoxville eighth in the Best Places for Affordable Living, *Money* magazine and *Inc*. have noted Knoxville as a top desirable, livable mid-sized city.

So the future, according to all the experts, looks extremely bright. At the junction of two major Interstate Highways and on the banks of the Tennessee River, Knoxville is a transportation hub. As home to the University of Tennessee and with close proximity to Oak Ridge National Laboratories, our position in the technology corridor is well solidified. Tucked into the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains, Knoxville is also one of the more beautiful places to live with mountains, lakes, streams, rolling hillsides and wildlife all around us.

Being a great city, however, is more than plentiful jobs, a reasonable cost of living and beautiful surroundings. The future of our area can never be great without the people of our area thriving — they are the most important component of this picture. Most would agree that our real future resides in our children, but unfortunately our children are at risk.

Too many of them don't feel safe in their own neighborhoods. They feel disrespected, ignored and misunderstood by adults, and generally don't trust the adults in their lives with what is really going on in their hearts. With the proliferation of child abuse, neglect, youth violence and gang activities, this can be a precursor to disaster. Or it can be a wake up call, a signal for help that is focused and purposeful for our youth.

The purpose of this Community Youth Assessment is to check in with our youth regarding their feelings, attitudes and experiences of child abuse, neglect, violence and gang activities, as well as anything else that is on their minds. The motivation now is to use what we learned to make Knoxville a better place to live, for our youth, for our future and for all of us.

# Executive Summary

This Community Assessment has been commissioned as part of the Compassion Capital Fund Communities Empowering Youth Program grant, intended to assist Knoxville Leadership Foundation in building the organizational capacity of faith- and community-based youth-serving organizations (called FBCOs, or Faith-Based Community Organizations). The three-year grant is focused on the youth challenges and solutions surrounding the issues of 1) gang activity, 2) youth violence and 3) child abuse and neglect.

As this assessment will show, these issues are not the only problems facing youth today, but they form a unique cluster that has a significant impact on the future of our youth, and the quality of life in our community. In an area where one of the issues exists, typically the others will or have already followed.

Through a combination of surveys, personal interviews, existing program evaluation, expert opinions and tabulation of publicly available secondary research and statistics, we have taken an in-depth look at these issues and their collective impact on our community at large and youth in particular. There is reason for hope and optimism in that our youth seem to have confidence in themselves and their abilities to take care of themselves. Also, we have a number of committed and caring organizations and services focused on the youth in our community. However, as we look a bit deeper, some of the findings are quite disturbing as indicators of present and future unaddressed problems.

There is currently little collaboration or cooperation among the youth-serving organizations in the area. Many of our existing programs and resources are not focused on solving any of the problems youth face. As a consequence, among other things, youth feel distrustful of adults in their lives, and feel adults lack concern or understanding of the problems they face. Youth are largely disinterested in the programs and services currently offered, and there is a significant lack of funding for youth services in general. Youth identify violence and drug and alcohol abuse (both large components of gang activity) as major unaddressed issues in their communities, and a significant number of youth feel unsafe in their own neighborhoods.

The findings clearly point to the need for cooperation among youth-serving organizations, capacity-building so that these organizations can better serve youth with greater efficiency and relevancy, and increased community involvement. Simple awareness of the other youth-serving organizations' capacities will enhance cooperation among services, as well as more formal information and project sharing. Capacity-building needs include leadership, long range planning, administrative, HR policy and Board development skills as well as the ability to develop, articulate and measure program outcomes and goals. Community involvement and engagement needs include better public relations, branding, marketing, fund raising and communication skills and the ability to attract, train and develop volunteers and mentors.

There is much work to be done. This report serves not only to comply with the CCF/CEY grant requirements, but also as a tool to empower youth-serving organizations to improve their

effectiveness and focus.  It also serves as a tool for the communities at large to use as a benchmark by measuring circumstances and solutions again to insure that we are all working together to address the critical issues and improve the future of our youth.

## Section 1: History of Knoxville Leadership Foundation (KLF)

### Programs of KLF

Knoxville Leadership Foundation (KLF) was created as a faith-based nonprofit in 1994. Since our creation, we have been walking out our mission in the community by *"connecting communities of resource with communities of need"* through the accomplishments achieved by our programs. The following is background on the programs we are currently operating:

A.  <u>Amachi Knoxville</u> is a volunteer-led mentoring program for children of prisoners (ages 4-14). "Amachi" is a Nigerian word meaning "Who knows but what God has brought us through this child?" The Amachi program seeks to intervene in the lives of these children, enabling them to fulfill their potential rather than become victims of their family circumstances. Without intervention, these children of incarcerated parents are *seven times* more likely to become incarcerated themselves than children without a parent in prison. To address the issue, a partnership was developed with Knoxville Leadership Foundation, ten local congregations, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Tennessee Valley, Project GRAD Knoxville, and The University of Tennessee College of Social Work. Currently, there are over 800 children in Knox County who have a parent in prison. Most live in the city center, within a five-mile radius of the Interstate 40/75 intersection.

The program's goal is to locate caring adult volunteers and children in need and successfully place them into a mutually beneficial mentoring relationship. We have been serving the community for three years now and have had 159 total matches overall by using church and civic group members to meet this need.

B.  <u>Abstinence Education:</u> Three programs give teenagers a challenge to remain sexually pure until marriage. The programs' mission is to saturate the region with a generation of young people who have embraced the concept of sexual abstinence until marriage. This saturation will create a "reverse peer pressure" and sexual abstinence will become the norm instead of the exception. The programs will achieve this by: 1) promoting abstinence as an achievable and desirable lifestyle, and 2) by receiving supportive positive help as the best way to live a fulfilling and sexually pure life. We currently have three programs that address this need. They are described below.

1. *Church-Based Program*: Following a dynamic, faith-based, multi-media presentation, students participating in the Silver Ring Thing are challenged to make the right choice, to sign a sexual abstinence pledge and to wear the Silver Ring as a symbol of their commitment. The Silver Ring Thing is a national and international success. Launched locally in 2003, Knoxville's Silver Ring Thing has had 13 shows in four years, which are usually conducted in churches, but are open to the community. The results demonstrate the need for this program:

    • 12,319 youth and parents have attended the Silver Ring Thing events

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- Approximately 6,270 teens pledged themselves to sexual purity until marriage.
- Over 650 churches have been actively involved.
- Over 1,600 volunteers have given of their time to make this show possible.

This program is privately funded and no federal dollars are used.

2. *School-Based Program*: The School Assembly Program message of sexual abstinence is presented in schools through a dynamic multi-media presentation and materials. During an hour-long school assembly, our team of students and staff deliver the message of sexual abstinence using fun, music, relevant videos, teen led skits and a strong, personal message by experienced speakers. Students are challenged to consider their choices with regard to the opposite sex as they learn the risk associated with not choosing abstinence. In six months, we spoke to over 4,200 middle and high schoolers with 46 percent who were committed to abstinence before we spoke to them and 54 percent afterwards, reflecting an increase of eight percent commitment to abstinence until marriage.

3. *The Crew*: Students in 6$^{th}$-12$^{th}$ grades help deliver the message of sexual abstinence by joining The Crew, our performance team. This group of youth receives both informational and technical training to deliver the message of sexual abstinence to their peers in a high-energy stage show. Once trained, they may choose to play a role on stage or behind the scenes. In addition to the bi-monthly training meetings, The Crew meets quarterly for fun Saturday activities and attends a summer camp. The Crew is responsible for learning how to communicate the message of abstinence to their peers and they are expected to serve as leaders and role models in promoting the message of sexual abstinence to the community. We currently have over 80 active Crew enrolled, with over half who attended the mentoring sessions each week.

Combined, these three abstinence programs will affect the lives of approximately 6,000-8,000 teens per year.

C. Through the Neighborhood Housing Program, Knoxville Leadership Foundation changes lives through financial assistance, education and mentoring programs that focus on making home ownership achievable for low- and low middle-income families. This gives a sense of permanency, pride of ownership and security to a family. It instills hope and gives a sense of safety to those who thought that homeownership was simply beyond their reach. If home ownership can become a reality, who knows what else might be possible?

D. Operation Backyard is a cooperative program among area churches to help those who have seen their homes fall into disrepair. Teams of teens with adult supervision spend a week in the summer helping elderly and low-income families with needed home repairs. Whole neighborhoods can be revitalized or restored, providing safety, pride and becoming a catalyst for renewed community life. It brings new life and perspective to both homeowners who had seen their dreams slipping away, and those who participate as they learn the joy of helping others. Together, the Neighborhood Housing Program and Operation Backyard change lives.

E. Center for Communities: This is a "hands-on" technical assistance program for smaller, local nonprofits and community-based organizations that are looking to build their organizational

capacity and "take it to the next level." Since its inception in 2003, we have provided training to 37 organizations. The "next level" for most of these organizations includes securing diverse and stable funding, development of a board of directors that understands its responsibilities and is able to implement strategic plans, the ability to evaluate programs, and/or the ability to communicate mission and services to the broader community. The CFC program gives these groups an opportunity to increase the effectiveness of their time, money and management of their organization, free of charge. In turn, the organizations serve their constituents more effectively and efficiently by using less money and resources. As a result of the last three years, 80 percent of the groups reported an increase in the number of people served. The average increase was by 191 individuals. Also 73 percent of the organization reported an increase in their budget size by an average of $13,805, with a high of $108,000 and a low of $320.

In the fourth year, KLF has goals to continue the amazing progress it has made in the community by adding an additional 36 faith-based and community organizations. Sixteen of these are targeting disadvantaged youth to help them overcome the obstacles of youth violence, child abuse and gang activity.

F.  Overall, KLF has been working diligently to serve the Knoxville area for the last 13 years. The scope of our work over the years shows that we have clearly made an impact. The following outcomes briefly tell the story of our staff's hard work and mission to make a difference in Knoxville, especially in the lives of youth and their families:

- ✓ Directly served over 31,857 individuals by mobilizing over 10,000 church volunteers.
- ✓ Worked in partnership with 204 organizations, serving an additional 255,983 individuals in the Knoxville area.
- ✓ Started and facilitated 19 initiatives, many in collaboration with other agencies while promoting efficiency of resources.

## Center for Communities Empowering Youth

In 2006, the Knoxville Leadership Foundation received a three-year grant of $750,000 ($250,000 per year) from the **Compassion Capital Fund Communities Empowering Youth Program**, to expand the *CENTER FOR COMMUNITIES* by 16 faith-based and community organizations serving at-risk youth in disadvantaged communities in Knoxville, Tennessee. Through this project, KLF is assisting partner organizations by providing technical assistance and training in four CEY critical areas: (1) leadership development, (2) organizational development, (3) program development, and (4) community engagement. This project takes advantage of KLF's thirteen years of experience organizing and managing youth and – through the CCF-funded *Four-City Demonstration Project* – establishing the *CENTER FOR COMMUNITIES* to provide capacity building assistance to small organizations.

With the ever-emerging issues that youth are facing, it is necessary for organizations to be equipped to meet the increasing demand for services. The **purpose of the CEY Grant** is to build the organizational capacity of faith- and community-based youth serving organizations so

that they can better meet the needs of those who are or could be affected by gang activity, youth violence and child abuse and neglect.

As a component of the CEY grant, recipients are required to complete a **Community Assessment of Youth-Serving Organizations** centered on youth violence, gang activity, and child abuse and neglect. In addition to being a federal requirement, this assessment will serve to equip local organizations to better meet the needs of youth who are or could be affected by these issues. Through the community assessment, local youth-serving organizations have been identified and will be provided with insight into the assets and gaps that exist in current youth services. Specifically, KLF will work with its 15 CEY partner organizations to ensure that the gaps are eliminated in service to youth in Knox County. Finally, this assessment will serve as a tool to promote future collaboration of youth-serving organizations within the Knox County area.

## Section 2: Methodologies and Purpose of Community Assessment

### Purpose of Community Assessment:

To build the organizational capacity of faith- and community-based youth serving organizations (FBCOs) so that they can better meet the needs of disadvantaged youth by better understanding the needs of this select community. Additional reasons for this process include:

- To meet the needs of youth who are or could be affected by youth violence, gang activity, child abuse and neglect
- Identify youth-serving organizations in Knox County
- To identify both the *assets* and *gaps* of current youth services
- To promote future collaboration of youth serving agencies

### Community Assessment Methods:

The process of accurately assessing the Knoxville area community needs and resources was complex and comprehensive. There are a number of programs devoted to youth, with varying degrees of success or even measurable outcomes. We made every effort to validate the needs through public records, statistics and other forms of secondary research. Specific local quantifications were not readily available. We turned to experts in the field of youth counseling and empowerment, and to youth themselves with primary research as to their felt needs, perceptions and concerns. The findings were both enlightening and alarming.

To summarize, our assessment methodology included:

- Formation of an Advisory Panel to guide us through the process
- Compilation of previous data from US Census Bureau, DHS, Juvenile Courts, and other needs assessments
- Survey of a random sample of 30 local youth-serving organizations
- Administration of youth surveys to 92 youth, ages 12-21
- In-depth personal interviews with 9 youth
- Solicitation of feedback from Advisory Panel members to:
  - Gain awareness of services you know of to youth in the community
  - Plan the response to identified assets and gaps

All of the **CEY FBCO Partners** serve youth in some capacity centering on child abuse and neglect, gang activity, and youth violence.

| Partner Organization | Services to high risk youth: gang activity, youth violence, and child abuse | Ages Served |
|---|---|---|
| Centro de Hispano | Operates and is developing programs that combat youth violence, child abuse and gang activity; teaches parenting classes, tutoring, mentoring, and education services | 14+ |
| Community Mediation Center | Operates peer mediation program for youth in hopes of combating youth violence and gang activity; first offender mediation program for | All ages |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | juveniles; truancy mediation | |
| Emerald Avenue UMC | Inner-city after-school and summer programs; alternative activities to youth violence and gang activities; performing arts program; JustLead™ site | |
| Focus Prison Ministries | Offers Lock-Down Inside events for disadvantaged youth at risk for incarceration because of youth violence and gang activity; leadership training | 9-17 yrs |
| Greater Warner Tabernacle | Provides youth violence and gang activity deterrence through mentoring and after school activities; parenting education to prevent child abuse; JustLead™ site | |
| House of Courage | Provides housing for teen mothers ages 12-25 and their babies; parenting classes in hopes of preventing child abuse and giving these youth a future | 14+ |
| Joy of Music School | Provides an alternate route to youth violence and gang activity through mentoring-based arts enrichment activities and summer camps | Elementary |
| Lennon-Sweeney UMC | Offers after school activities for youth at-risk for youth violence in low income, inner-city community; JustLead™ site | |
| Mt. Olive Acad. Music School | Provides alternate route to youth violence and gang activity through mentoring-based arts enrichment activities | Elementary |
| Mount Zion Baptist Church | Offers alternative after school activities for youth at-risk for youth violence in low income, inner-city community; JustLead™ site | |
| New Friendship Miss. Baptist Ch. | Provides alternative after school activities for youth at-risk for youth violence, gang activity, child abuse; new JustLead™ site; adjacent to city housing development | |
| New Hope Missionary Baptist Church | Alternative after school activities for youth at-risk for youth violence in low income, inner-city community; JustLead™ site | |
| Tribe One | Operates employment program for gang affiliated youth; relationship building for street youth | 14+ |
| Urban Family Outreach | Provides after school tutoring and recreation; mentoring children of prisoners; summer enrichment to combat youth involvement in gang activity and violence | Elementary |

**Other Organizations** completed the survey and revealed their current areas of service regarding child abuse and neglect, gang activity, and youth violence.

| Name | Target Ages Served | Child Abuse & Neglect | Gang Activity | Youth Violence |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| CASA | All ages | X | | |
| Family Security, Inc. | All ages | X | X | X |
| Interfaith Hospitality Network | All ages | X | | |
| WAVE Support Outreach | 7+ | | X | X |
| Metropolitan Drug Commission | All ages | | | X |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Helen Ross McNabb Center | All ages | X | X | X |
| Knox County Juvenile Court | All ages | | | X |
| Department of Children's Services | All ages | X | | |
| People Empowering People Project (PEPP) | All ages | | | X |
| The Florence Crittenden Agency, Inc. | 13+ | X | | |

## Youth Survey Methods

The Youth Survey was given to 92 youth from the Greater Knoxville Area between the ages of 12-19. Ninety percent of these youth received the survey at the Knoxville Youth Summit; an event put on by the United Way Youth Action Council. This event was designed to draw youth from all over Knox County in hopes of addressing community problems. Participation in both the Youth Summit and the survey was voluntary. Another eight youth were randomly selected by the Emerald Youth Foundation to take the survey as well as engage in a brief personal interview. The final participant was referred by one of KLF's CEY FBCO partner organizations for an interview.

The following are demographics about the youth who participated in the survey:
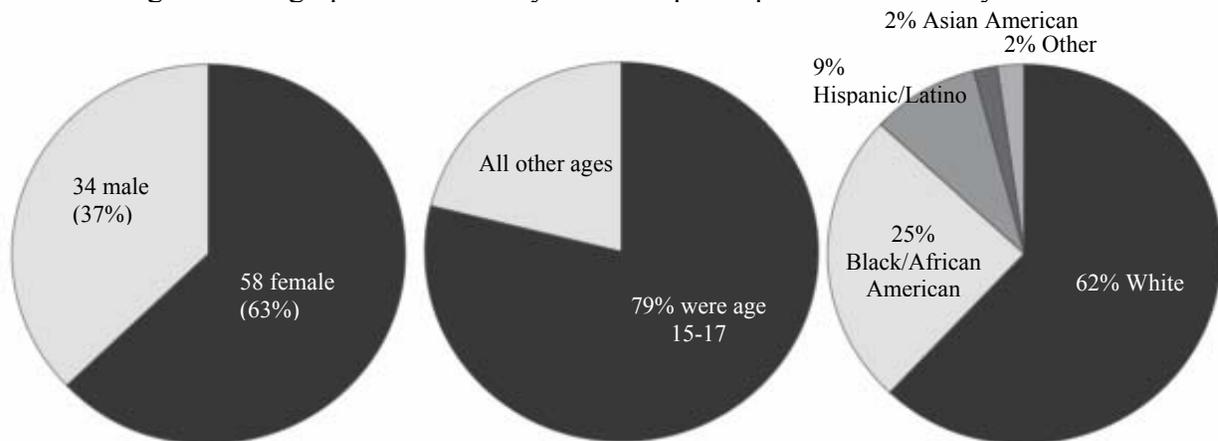


**Demographic Breakdown among Survey Participants**

Participants were asked to report whether or not they were enrolled in a youth program within Knox County. Of the respondents, 40% stated that they were enrolled in a youth program. The

most commonly named program (32%) was Pre-College Upward Bound; a program designed to help students reach their educational goals.

## Youth's Perception of Their Community

Within the survey, youth were asked questions that provided insight into their perceptions of their own behavior and actions as well as their perceptions of the communities and neighborhoods in which they live. While these perceptions may or may not reflect current realities, they are an extremely important factor in predicting future behavior and personal outlook.

Most of the positive responses related to the individuals themselves, how they feel about themselves and their perceptions of their own attitudes and behaviors:

- 76% believe they have control over most things that happen to them.
- 85% are optimistic about their future.
- 83% resist negative peer pressure
- 86% feel safe with their friends.
- 84% avoid dangerous situations.
- 87% belong to an organized club or after school program.

However, there were also some startlingly negative responses regarding their perceptions of their immediate surroundings, including their community environment and adult role models responsible for them:

- 28% do not feel safe in their own neighborhood.
- 50% do not believe they have neighbors that keep an eye out for them.
- 40% do not feel that adults in their community value them.
- 36% do not feel comfortable telling their parent(s) or guardian(s) what is going on in their life.
- 28% resolve conflict in a violent manner.
- 30% feel youth violence is a major problem in their community.
- 44% feel drug and alcohol abuse is a major problem in their community.

It is interesting to note that the same percentage (28%) of youth that reported not feeling safe in their own neighborhoods also report resolving conflict in a violent manner themselves. Somewhat higher percentages (30% and 44% respectively) reported youth violence and drug or alcohol abuse being major problems in their communities.

Perhaps more disturbing is that up to half of the youth surveyed do not feel valued by or trust adults to look out for them or be a trusted confidant when problems arise in their lives. This situation can lead to serious consequences in that when temptations and circumstances arise that necessitate wise decision-making; youth by their own admission have no one to turn to.

## Section 3: Demographics of Youth Population

According to the 2005 U.S. Census Bureau, the total population of Knox County is approximately 392,382.  Youth between the ages of 10-24 making up 19.8% of the total population.  The majority of the population is White (88%), with African Americans comprising the next largest portion of the population with only 8%.
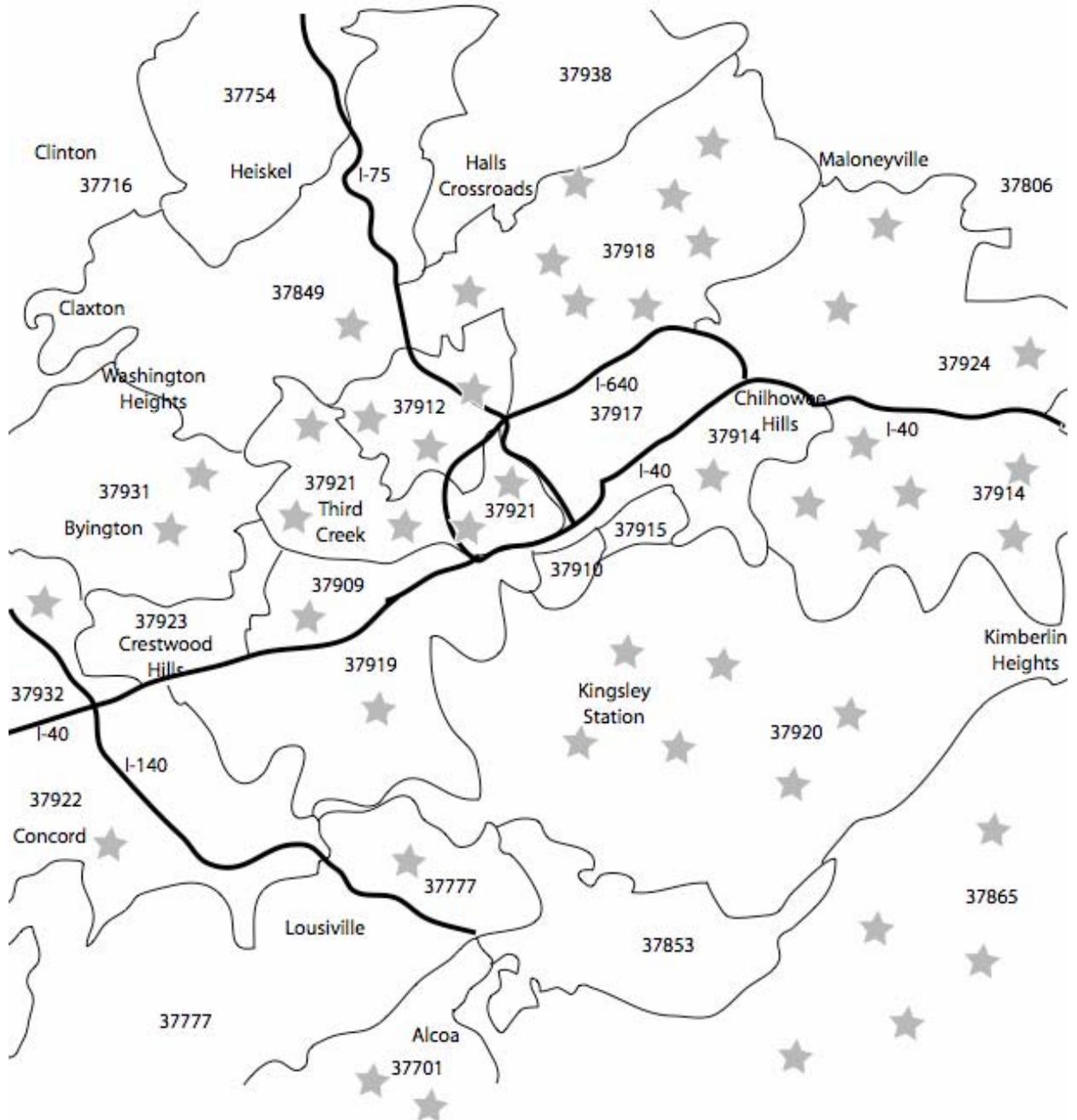
### Ethnic breakdown (by %)

| | |
|---|---|
| **White** | **88%** |
| **African American** | **8%** |
| **Hispanic** | **1.5%** |
| **Asian** | **.3%** |
| **Native American** | **.4%** |
| **Other Race** | **.4%** |
| **Two or more races** | **1.7%** |

When comparing the ethnic breakdown of Knox County as a whole to the youth participating in our assessment survey, it should be noted that whites are somewhat under represented proportionately, and minorities somewhat over represented.  However the proportionate mix is close to the population as a whole.

The map on the following page shows the zip codes of the youth who completed the Youth Survey, and are represented by stars.  Note that the geographical distribution is widespread, giving a good representation of the entire region.  In regards to some of the more negative findings, it shows that these issues of child abuse, neglect, youth violence and gang activity are not confined to the stereotypical inner-city core, but instead, cross all socio-economic boundaries.

# Zip Codes of Youth who Completed the Youth Survey

37938

37754

Clinton
37716

Heiskel

I-75

Halls
Crossroads

Maloneyville

37806

37918

37849

Claxton

Washington
Heights

37912

I-640

37917

Chilhowee
Hills

37914

I-40

37924

37931

37921
Third
Creek

37921

I-40

37915

37914

Byington

37909

37910

37923
Crestwood
Hills

37919

Kingsley
Station

37920

Kimberlin
Heights

37932

I-40

I-140

37922

Concord

37777

Lousiville

37853

37865

37777

Alcoa
37701

## Child Abuse and Neglect Definitions:

Child abuse consists of any act of commission or omission that endangers or impairs a child's physical or emotional health and development. Child abuse includes any damage done to a child which cannot be reasonably explained and which is often represented by an injury or series of injuries appearing to be non-accidental in nature.

Another useful definition for the purposes of this report (and according to Tennessee law) is that a dependent and neglected child is one who is without parent, guardian, or legal custodian or whose parent, guardian or person with whom the child lives is unable to properly care for the child, or neglects or refuses to protect the child. (TCA 37-1-102(b) (12)).

## Major Forms of Child Abuse

*Physical abuse* - Any non-accidental injury to a child. This includes hitting, kicking, slapping, shaking, burning, pinching, hair pulling, biting, choking, throwing, shoving, whipping, and paddling.

*Sexual abuse* - Any sexual act between an adult and child. This includes fondling, penetration, intercourse, exploitation, pornography, exhibitionism, child prostitution, group sex, oral sex, or forced observation of sexual acts.

*Neglect* - Failure to provide for a child's physical needs. This includes lack of supervision, inappropriate housing or shelter, inadequate provision of food, inappropriate clothing for season or weather, abandonment, denial of medical care, and inadequate hygiene.

*Emotional abuse* - Any attitude or behavior which interferes with a child's mental health or social development. This includes yelling, screaming, name-calling, shaming, negative comparisons to others, telling them they are "bad, no good, worthless" or "a mistake". It also includes the failure to provide the affection and support necessary for the development of a child's emotional, social, physical and intellectual well-being. This includes ignoring, lack of appropriate physical affection (hugs), not saying "I love you", withdrawal of attention, lack of praise, and lack of positive reinforcement.

## Child Abuse in America

Children are suffering from a hidden epidemic of child abuse and neglect. While 3 million reports of child abuse are made every year in the United States, experts estimate that the actual number of incidents of abuse and neglect is 3 times greater than reported. Some graph of the number of deaths per day of children is given below that illustrates this point:
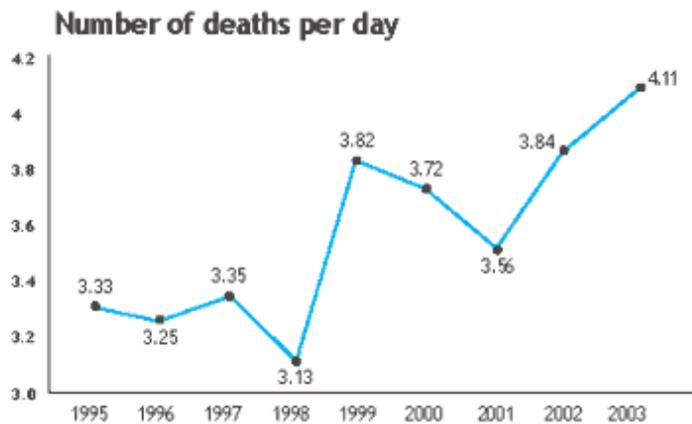


## Child Abuse Statistics in the USA[1]

In America, 4 children die every day as a result of child abuse and neglect, and three out of four (75%) of these victims are under the age of 4.

- 36.7% of all women and 14.4% of all men in prison were abused as children.
- Children who have been sexually abused are 2.5 times more likely to abuse alcohol and 3.8 times more likely to become addicted to drugs.
- A report of child abuse is made every 10 seconds.
- Of reported rapes of children under 12 years old, 90% of the victims knew the perpetrator.
- Child abuse occurs at every socio-economic level, across ethnic and cultural lines, within all religions and at all levels of education.

Additional Child Abuse and Neglect data is included in the appendix.

From these national statistics, we can extrapolate approximate numbers for Tennessee. Most disturbing is the fact that abuse is a growing problem in the Knoxville area and around the

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[1] Prevent Child Abuse America: Current Trends in Child Abuse Reporting & Fatalities: The 2000 Fifty State Survey

country.  Looking to the future, we know that without intervention, abuse victims tend to grow up to become abusers, as well as to exhibit other forms of destructive and/or anti-social behavior.

## Area Information and Survey Results

There are over 37,000 reports of child abuse and neglect each year in Tennessee.  Every day, more than 100 children are reported abused or neglected across the state.  The Children's Protective Services division strives to protect children whose lives or health are seriously jeopardized because of abusive acts or negligence.  In the year ending June 30, 2006, there were 59,796 investigations of suspected child abuse or neglect.  Of these, 12,877, or 21.5% were found to indicate abuse or neglect.

- In 2006, there were 3,559 reported child abuse cases in Knox County; 560 were substantiated.
- Additionally, in the greater East Tennessee Area there were 8,722 more cases of reported child abuse and neglect; of those, 1,970 were substantiated.[2] In 2004, children were being abused at a rate of 5.9 per 1000. [3]
- Knox County Juvenile Justice Court Annual Report for 2006 shows that there has been a 13.7% increase in dependency and neglect instruments filed between 2004 and 2006.
- In 2006 there were 362 emergency removals of children from their custodian and placed with DCS Social Services or other placements. [4]

The majority of children, 89%, who entered Tennessee state custody, entered the Child Protective Services system as dependent and neglected children.  These are children without a parent, guardian, or legal custodian or whose parent, guardian, or person with whom the child lives, is unable to properly care for the child, or neglects or refuses to protect the child. [5]

## Youth in the Foster Care System

- There were 287,000 children nation wide in the foster care system in 2005.[6]
- In October of 2005, the Knoxville and Knox County Ten-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness determined that of the homeless individuals interviewed 17% were in foster care as a child.[7]

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[2]  Source: http://state.tn.us/youth/dcsguide/AnnualReport06.pdf
[3] Kids Count, CLIKS: Raw Data Community-Level Information on Kids.  http://www.kidscount.org/cgi-bin/cliks.cgi?action=rawdata_results&subset=TN, retrieved 4/19/2007
[4] Knox County Juvenile Court Annual Report 2006
[5]Tennessee Department of Children's Services, Annual Report FY 2006, http://www.state.tn.us/youth; Retrieved April 4, 2007.

[6]U.*S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau Report,* Preliminary FY 2005 Estimates as of October 2006 *http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/stats_research/afcars/tar/report13.htm*

[7] *The Knoxville and Knox County Ten-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness, Prepared by the Ten-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness Task Force, R. Nooe, Chairman & M. Dunthorn, Vice-Chairman.*

- As of June 30, 2006, there were 552 children in state custody in Knox County. [8]
- Of the children entering state custody or foster care by adjudication in 2006,
  - 60 (10.8%) children were delinquent
  - 486 (88%) were dependent/neglected
  - 2 (0%) were unruly
- The majority (44.5%) of the children entering state custody or foster care are between the ages of 13 – 18.

Within the survey, youth were asked whether or not they knew any child abuse victims.  Of the participants, 36% stated that they knew victims of child abuse.  When asked to list the number of known victims, *the average number of victims was three*.

These numbers take on additional significance when paired with earlier findings that a substantial number of youth feel nearby adults are not looking out for them, do not value them, and do not feel comfortable confiding in adults regarding what is happening in their lives.  This points to the possibility that many of our communities are an ideal environment in which abuse can take place unnoticed and uninterrupted.

*http://www.ich.gov/slocal/plans/knoxville.pdf*

[8] *Tennessee Department of Children's Services, Annual Report FY 2006, http://www.state.tn.us/youth; Retrieved April 4, 2007; US Census Bureau, 2005 Census, Data FactFinder http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ACSSAFFFacts?_event=Search&geo_id=&_geoContext=&_street=&_county= Knox+County&_cityTown=Knox+County&_state=04000US47&_zip=&_lang=en&_sse=on&pctxt=fph&pgsl=010*

## Section 5: Youth Violence and Juvenile Crime



## Definition and Characteristics of Youth Violence and Juvenile Crime

The State of Tennessee Department of Children's Services (DCS) defines juvenile delinquency as an act designated a crime under the law, including local ordinances of this state, or of another state if the act occurred in that state, or under federal law; excluding traffic offenses other than those classified as a felony (i.e., failure to stop when involved in an accident, driving under the influence, vehicular homicide, etc.). (TCA 37-1-102)

## Tennessee Statistics on Youth Violence and Juvenile Crime

In 2005, there were 36,919 juvenile arrests reported statewide by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation. These included 36 murders, 13 kidnappings, 59 rapes, 164 sexually related charges other than rape, 6,904 incidents of simple or aggravated assault, 1,417 burglaries, 460 robberies, 3,899 incidents of theft, 3,718 drug related offenses, and 794 weapons violations.[9]

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[9] Source:
http://www.tbi.state.tn.us/Info%20Systems%20Div/TIBRS_unit/Publications/2006%20All%20Agencies%20Combined.pdf

## Area Information and Survey Results

In 2004 Knox County had the third highest number of juvenile referrals (4692) in the entire state of Tennessee.  This is an increase of 1,310 referrals from 2003.

- Delinquent referrals to the Court in 2006 represented a 14.1% increase over the 2005 referrals.

- Between 2004 and 2006 there was a 42.4% increase in the number of juvenile delinquent instruments filed (petitions, citations, motions), in the Knox County Juvenile Court.

- 98% of delinquent referrals were between the ages of 12 and 18 years old.

- The charges, petitions, and motions filed in 2005 against juvenile offenders include:

  - o Murder, attempted and first degree
  - o Rape
  - o Robbery
  - o Kidnapping
  - o Sexual battery
  - o Assault, attempted assault
  - o Vehicular homicide

  - o Use of a deadly weapon
  - o Use or sale of black market drugs
  - o Drug manufacture delivery or sale
  - o Unlawful drug paraphernalia uses and activities, theft, and vandalism.

- Additionally there are a number of juveniles charged with weapon-related offenses including[10]:

  ° Carrying a weapon on school property; unlawful carrying or possession of a weapon in a public place with people present; and resisting stop, frisk, halt, or arrest with a weapon.

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[10] *Knox County Juvenile Court Annual Report 2006*

# Section 6: Gang Activity



## Definition and Characteristics of Gang Activity:

Tennessee Code 40-35-121 defines "Criminal gang" as a formal or informal ongoing organization, association, or group consisting of three (3) or more persons that has:

    A) As one (1) of its activities the commission of criminal acts; and

    B) Two (2) or more members who, individually or collectively, engage in or have engaged in a pattern of criminal gang activity.

A "Criminal gang member" is a person who is a member of a criminal gang and meets two (2) or more of the following criteria:

- Admits to criminal gang involvement
- Is identified as a criminal gang member by a parent or guardian
- Is identified as a criminal gang member by a documented reliable informant
- Resides in or frequents a particular criminal gang's area, adopts their style or dress, their use of hand signs or their tattoos, and associates with known criminal gang members
- Is identified as a criminal gang member by an informant of previously untested reliability and such identification is corroborated by independent information
- Has been arrested more than once in the company of identified criminal gang members for offenses which are consistent with usual criminal gang activity
- Is identified as a criminal gang member by physical evidence such as photographs or other documentation

Tennessee law 49-6-4215 also empowers local boards of education to prohibit students in grades 6-12 from wearing gang-related clothing, apparel or accessories for any gang associated with criminal activities, and for the sheriff or other local law enforcement agency to keep the board apprised of gangs which are associated with criminal activities.

Further, Tennessee law 37-1-134 enables juveniles found to be delinquent to be transferred to criminal court and tried as adults if they are involved in gang activity and are either over 16 or the offense is serious enough (murder, rape, kidnapping, robbery, etc.).

## Tennessee Statistics on Gang Activity

Gang activity and gang violence are growth industries across the country and Tennessee is no exception. From 1996-1998, just 1% of the 556,838 arrests statewide involved juveniles. [11] While more updated figures were not available, and not all juvenile crime is gang related, one Tennessee Police Chief estimates that approximately 15% of crime is now gang related activity.[12]

According to surveys conducted by the Institute for Intergovernmental Research, 99% of law enforcement agencies serving cities with populations of 100,000 or more have reported multiple years of gang related activity.[13]

## Area Information and Survey Results

### Youth Violence and Gang Activity

Here in the Knoxville area, the results of the youth survey portray **youth violence** as a significant issue within their community and neighborhoods. While not all the activities rise to the level of criminal behavior (i.e., bullying), the results point to local violence perpetrated by youth on youth as a significant issue in the lives of our young people, as seen by the chart below.



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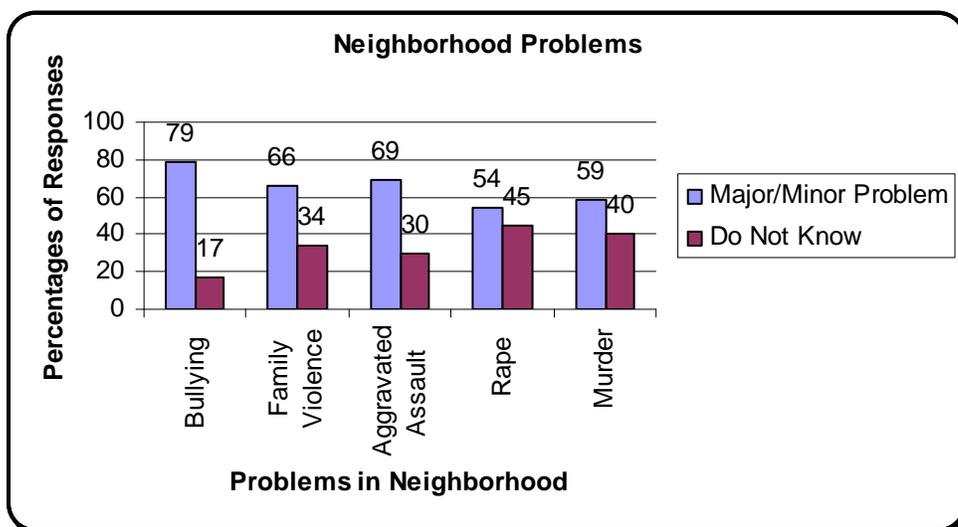
[11] http://www.tbi.state.tn.us/Info%20Systems%20Div/TIBRS_unit/Publications/CCH.PDF
[12] http://www.tn-gia.org/comment.php?comment.news.35
[13] http://www.iir.com/nygc/nygsa/prevalence_of_youth_gang_problems.htm

The survey asked youth to respond to list of things that either they or someone they knew had done. The following represents their responses about themselves or someone they know, and their behavior in the last 3 months:

**Youth behavior in last 3 months**
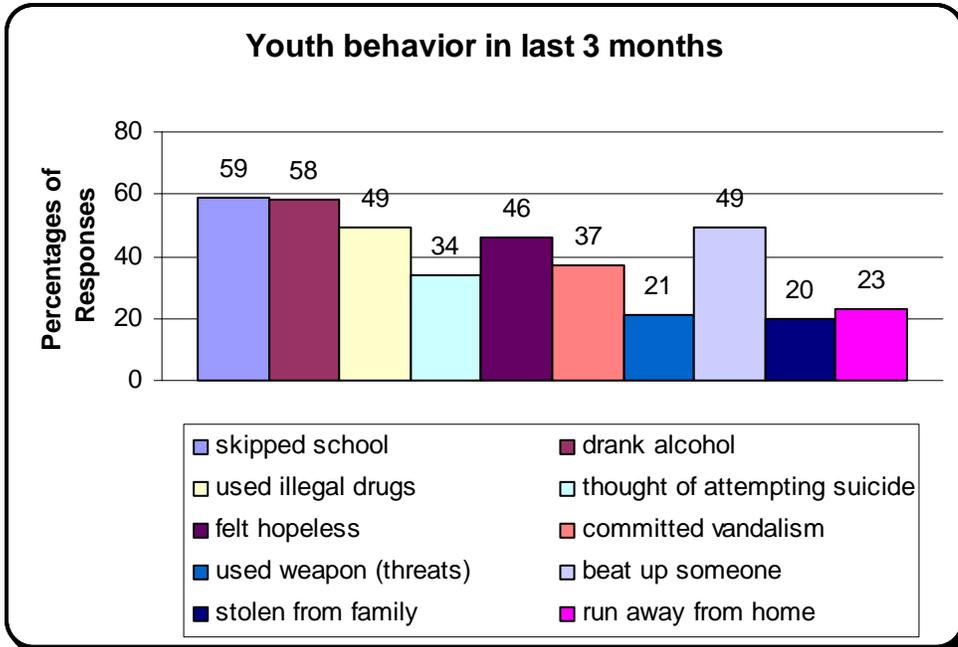


In addition to youth violence responses, results of the youth survey showed that **gang activity** has increasing influence in the communities of the Knoxville Area. Youth were asked to fill out a section of the survey where they assessed gang activity in the community where they live and go to school. The table on the top of the next page directly relates to their responses to those questions.

**Gang Activity in the Community**
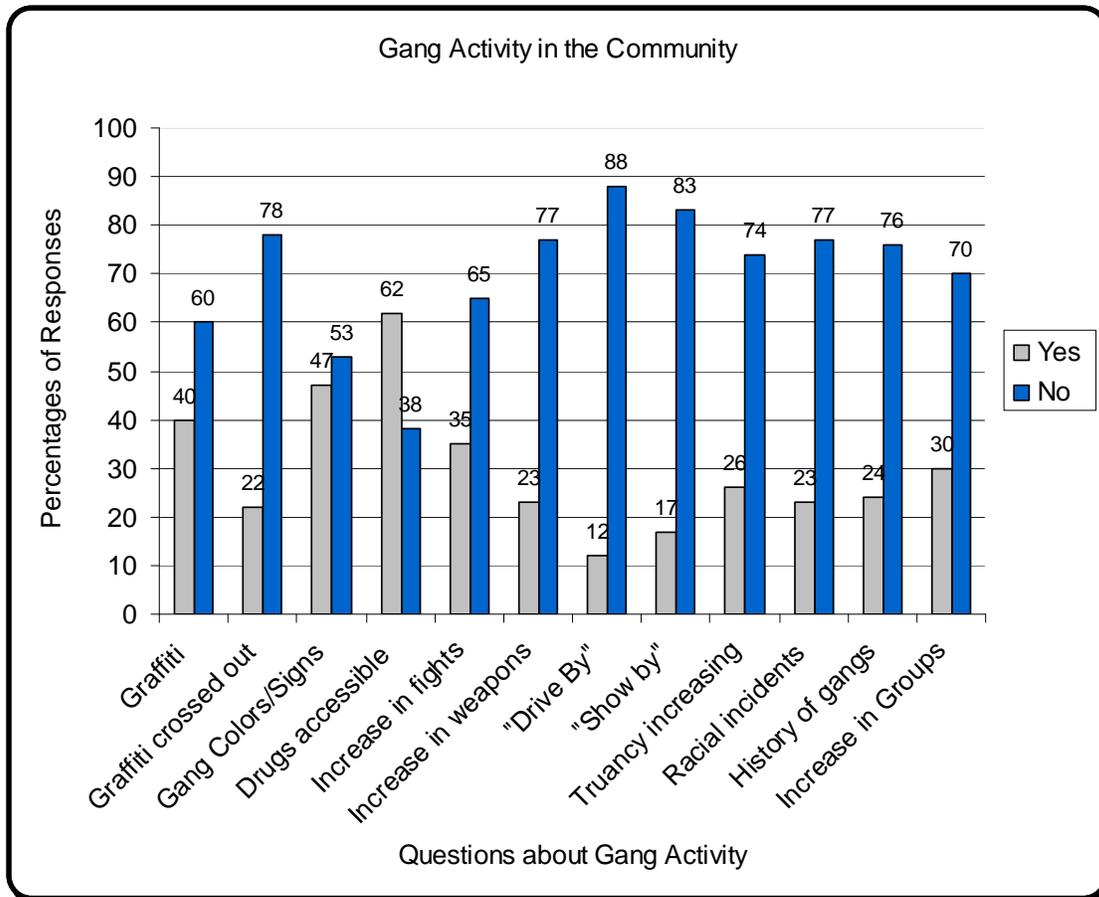


When youth were asked about existing problems in the community, several students mentioned that not only gang activity, but also that the appeal of gangs was a significant problem. During a personal interview, a 17-year-old young man stated, "Everyone sees movies about gangs and they look at people from a distance and think it is really cool. They don't realize how dangerous it is."

According to the US Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, gang membership is a complex concept. A gang must have more than two members. From what is known about juvenile offenses associated with youth violence and gang violence, most offenses are committed in groups of two or more. Through knowledge that has been acquired by studying gangs, a gang very rarely consists of only two members. Typically, gang members will be between the ages of 12 to 24 years of age, but there are incidents of gang members as young as 9. Historically, gangs have also been associated with a particular geographical area or turf. Members share a sense of identity. This is displayed outwardly through symbols or colors. Commonly used symbols to display gang affiliation are hand signs, graffiti, certain clothing styles, bandanas, and hats.

Additionally, gangs also establish a sense of identity through naming themselves. Gangs require some sense of permanency from their members and can be differentiated from temporary youth groups by lasting over a year. Criminal activity is a central element of gangs and also separates

gangs from non-criminal youth groups such as school and church clubs, which can also meet the aforementioned criteria[14].

Gangs often have copious amounts of drugs and weapons available, and engage in violence with other gangs. Additionally, homes of gang members are often targeted for violence such as drive by shootings, and gangs are anti-school which can lead to a poor academic record, limiting a young person's future opportunities.

Some of the common denominators among those who join gangs are that they: have low self-esteem, feel unloved at home, do poorly in school, and have a hard time making decisions and communicating with others. Often they come from single-parent homes; most are boys, but 10% are girls and their numbers are increasing.

From the gang members' perspective, the benefits of a gang include the boost in self-esteem and status by being a member, the love they get from other gang members, a sense of fun and excitement from breaking the law, plus the opportunity to get money, have protection, and get easy sex from female members. Some also see it as a benefit if they live in a gang-infested area or have an older sibling in the gang.[15]



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[14] *US Department of Justice. Office of Justice Programs. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Juvenile Justice Bulletin September 2000, NCJ 182210* http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/182210.pdf, *Retrieved May 1, 2007*

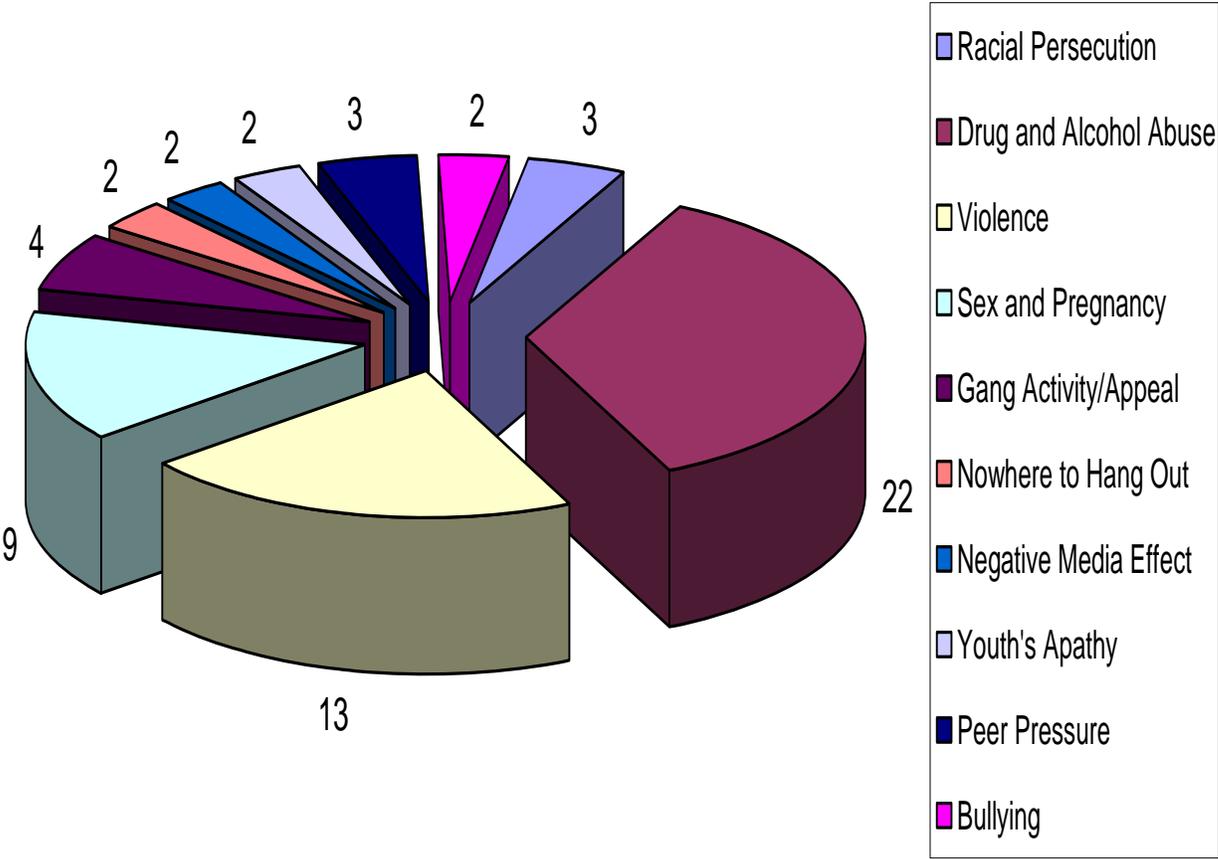[15] Source: http://www.rutherfordcounty.org/so/gang.htm

# Section 7: Other Issues Facing Youth



The last questions addressed the areas affecting youth that they felt needed the most additional services within the community.  The highest numbers of responses were for drug and alcohol abuse (22 respondents) and youth violence (13).  Some other areas youth respondents noted as needing additional services included sex and pregnancy, gang activity, peer pressure, and bullying.

Youth said that in order to change these problems that we would first have to change adults' tendency to misunderstand peers and youths' skewed perceptions of reality.  The youth suggested that the additional services that could be implemented to address the problems might include: additional youth after-school programs and clubs, positive interventions from adults (i.e. mentors), and training for parents to name a few.

# Issues Facing Youth



Legend:
- Racial Persecution
- Drug and Alcohol Abuse
- Violence
- Sex and Pregnancy
- Gang Activity/Appeal
- Nowhere to Hang Out
- Negative Media Effect
- Youth's Apathy
- Peer Pressure
- Bullying

Values shown: 2, 2, 2, 2, 4, 3, 2, 3, 22, 13, 9

## Section 8: Summary of Findings

| | Major Conclusions | Risk Factor(s) |
|---|---|---|
| **Community** | Collaborative efforts among youth-serving organizations and the wider community are not numerous enough. | Youth Violence, Gang Involvement, Child abuse and neglect |
| **Community** | The community has a significant lack of funding for youth services. | Youth Violence, Gang Involvement, Child abuse and neglect |
| **Youth** | Youth are disinterested in current programs and services. | Youth Violence, Gang Involvement, Child abuse and neglect |
| **Youth** | Youth feel misunderstood and under-supported by the older generation. | Youth Violence, Gang Involvement, Child abuse and neglect |
| **Youth** | Youth identify violence as an unaddressed issue in their communities. | Youth Violence |
| **CEY FBCO Partners** | The programs serving youth do not have a clear definition of the geographic area/community they are serving. | Youth Violence, Gang Involvement, Child abuse and neglect |

There are a number of conclusions that can be drawn from the raw data findings.  Most specifically and obviously, that even with a number of excellent programs serving youth, there are significant gaps in service, funding, program results and collaboration to the point that we as a community are failing to adequately meet the needs of our youth.  Overall, youth feel misunderstood and under-supported by adults and are disinterested in current programs and services.  This leaves them ripe for falling into patterns of youth violence, gang involvement, and child abuse and neglect.  Youth identify violence specifically as an unaddressed issue in their communities.  Programs that service youth need a more clear definition of the geographic community they are serving.

## Section 9: Planned Response

| Key Findings | Planned Capacity Building Activities | Critical Areas of Capacity Building | Indicator of Success |
|---|---|---|---|
| FBCO Partners need better leadership skills. | Provide training, coaching, and tools for FCBO Partners to develop effective leadership skills.  Monthly training topics may include, but are not limited to, leadership basics, creating effective teams, servant leadership, effective leadership techniques, and best practices.  Year 1<br><br>Address the need to incorporate youth into organization leadership, as appropriate, to build youth's values and culture into current programming.  Year 2 | Leadership Development, Community Engagement Program Development | The FBCO Partners` leaders (staff and board members) develop more effective leadership skills.<br><br>The FBCO Partners` leaders (staff and board) will be educated about the needs of youth receiving their programming by valuing the youth's feedback. The FBCO Partners` leaders (staff and board) effectively govern and help organizations grow to meet client and community needs. |
| FBCO Partners lack skills in recruiting, retaining, and evaluating the effectiveness of their board members. | Provide training to FCBO Partners in multiple board development topics including: recruitment and diversity, roles and responsibilities, retention, recognition, and evaluation.  Year 1, 2.  and 3 | Leadership Development | Partners learn the importance of effective board development and governance.<br><br>Partners educate their respective boards of directors for more effective agency governance. |
| FBCO Partners need practice in recruiting volunteers and developing effective public relations. | Provide opportunities for FCBO Partners to participate in Missions/Service Fair, for the purposes of recruiting volunteers and letting the community know about the FCBO Partners' services.  Year 1, 2, and 3 | Leadership Development, Community Engagement | Partners create PR and marketing for the event, recruit new volunteers, and raise community awareness of their agencies and services. |

| Key Findings | Planned Capacity Building Activities | Critical Areas of Capacity Building | Indicator of Success |
|---|---|---|---|
| FBCO Partners lack skills in volunteer development and lack Policies and Procedures Manuals. | Provide training to FCBO partners in volunteer development topics.  Trainings include: basic volunteer management skills and developing volunteer manuals.  Year 1, 2, and 3 | Leadership Development | Partners learn the skills to develop volunteers effectively.<br><br>Partners recruit, retain, and effectively manage volunteer resources. |
| FBCO Partners lack skills in developing strategic plans. | Provide training to Partners in creating, revising, and implementing one-year and three- year strategic plans.  Year 1<br>Provide training to Partners in creating, revising, and implementing one-year and three-year strategic plans.  Year 2 | Organizational Development | Partners learn the importance of strategic planning and develop strategic plans for their organizations. |
| FBCO Partners lack skills in identifying new and diversifying existing funding sources. | Provide training to FCBO partners in a variety of funding areas including (but not limited to): grant research, grant writing, donor bases, and corporate donations.  Year 1, 2 and 3 | Organizational Development | Partners learn importance of diversifying funding streams.<br>Partners develop more diversified funding plans that help their organizations' long-term sustainability.<br>Partners learn how to increase funding into their organization that increases their long-term stability. |
| FBCO Partners lack skills in human resources. | Provide training to FCBO Partners in human resources topics.  Year 2 and 3 | Organizational Development | Partners learn how to recruit, train and retain good staff.<br>Partners develop comprehensive human resource policies and procedures that adhere to best practices. |

| Key Findings | Planned Capacity Building Activities | Critical Areas of Capacity Building | Indicator of Success |
|---|---|---|---|
| FBCO Partners lack skills in branding their organization and marketing it in their communities. | Provide training to FCBO partners in a variety of marketing topics including (but not limited to): marketing plans, basics and branding, and public relations and media relations. Year 1, 2, and 3 | Community Engagement Organizational Development | Partners learn why "branding" is important. Partners develop comprehensive marketing plans for their agencies. Partners will begin to understand what community they are serving and how their organizational brand serves that community. |
| FBCO Partners lack skills in identifying outcomes and creating evaluation plans to effectively measure those outcomes. | Provide training to FCBO partners on the importance of outcomes. Year 1 Provide training to FCBO partners on the importance of outcomes, how to create and implement an outcome evaluation plan, and how to update and revise their current plans to make them more effective. Year 2 and 3 | Program Development | Partners learn the vital importance of measuring outcomes. Partners develop an outcome evaluation plan (tracking system) for each of their organization programs. Partners' evaluation plans help maintain and build successful organization programs and sustain organization operations. |
| The six FBCO Partners assisted by Emerald Youth Foundation (EYF) need to recruit more volunteers to serve in their programs. | Identify volunteer needs. Year 1 Recruit volunteers through targeted selection and volunteer fairs held within each organization. Year 1 Train volunteers through Emerald University to effectively implement programs. Year 1 | Leadership Development | Partners will have developed a human resources map specific for each of their programs. Partners will have recruited 90% of the volunteer slots on their human resources map. Volunteers will have completed all courses, assignments, and assessments for the areas in which they have chosen to volunteer. |
| FBCO Partners assisted by EYF do not have written 3-5 year strategic plans. | Create and adopt a written strategic plan outlining where each program will be in 3-5 years. Year 2 | Organizational Development | Partners will have written plans. |

| Key Findings | Planned Capacity Building Activities | Critical Areas of Capacity Building | Indicator of Success |
|---|---|---|---|
| FBCO Partners assisted by EYF do not have detailed budgets itemizing all expenses. | Create budgets that list all expense categories. Year 1<br>Develop systems that will help manage finances more systematically and effectively. Year 1 | Organizational Development | Partners will have individualized budgets that account for their program needs.<br>Partners will have routine systems and procedures to manage their budgets. |
| FBCO Partners assisted by EYF need development in professional maturity and areas which will help them be managers. | Identify training topics.  Year 2<br>Attend training courses.  Year 2 | Leadership Development | Partners will have a list of needed training topics.<br>The staff at partner sites will complete training courses on professional maturity and management. |
| FBCO Partners lack skills in building an agency website | Provide training to FCBO Partners in Web site development.  Year 2 and 3 | Community Engagement | Partners create and maintain an active Web site for their organization. |
| FBCO Partners lack skills in community engagement topics. | Provide training to FCBO partners on the importance of community engagement. Training topics include, but are not limited to: community engagement, engaging community leaders, collaboration (partnerships), asset mapping, needs of urban communities, and engaging kids and families.  Year 1, 2 and 3 | Community Engagement | Partners learn the vital importance of actively engaging their community.<br><br>Partners develop collaborations (partnerships) that create more comprehensive and effective services for their participants.<br>Partners work on addressing identified problems in their community (i.e. youth violence, youth's perception that adults misunderstand them, etc.) through their programming. |

As you can see from the previous charts, the planned responses to the Assessment findings require a number of projects and initiatives that will work together synergistically to strengthen and focus the programs, services and resources already available in our community.  By working through these organizations and empowering their leadership development, community engagement skills, program development and organizational development, they will be stronger and better able to do their critical work on the 'front lines' with our youth.  They will be more effective and efficient, and our youth will be better served.  Our community will be more involved and aware, and Knoxville will truly be one of the best places to live in America.  It will be well worth the investment in our youth, our future.

# APPENDIX

## Drug and Alcohol Use by Youth

### Knox County

Knox County's adolescent risk factor domains are community, family, school, and peer/individual. For Knox County, these risk levels are high in comparison to other Tennessee counties. Being a metro county, Knox County is among the counties with the highest risk factors for adolescent substance abuse, and has elevated juvenile drug and property crime arrests.[16]

According to the **2005 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)**[17], 41.8% of Tennessee high school students reported using alcohol one or more times during the past 30 days before the assessment. Alarmingly, 25.1% of high school students reported having ridden with a driver who had been drinking alcohol in the past 30 days. 25% of Tennessee youth ages 12 to 17 reported having five or more drinks of an alcoholic beverage, one or more of the past 30 days. In 2005, 4.9% of Knox County's juvenile arrests were due to alcohol related violations (Drunkenness & Liquor Law Violations). In 2005, the rate of alcohol related traffic fatalities occurring in Knox County was 6.67 per 100,000 residents.

Additionally, the 2005 YRBS revealed that 19.5% of high school students had used marijuana one or more times in the past 30 days prior to the survey. In Knox County one out of five (20.7%) high school students reported using marijuana within the past 30 days. In Knox County, in 2005, 14.8% of all juvenile arrests were due to drug/narcotic violations. In 2005, the rate of drug-related fatalities was 32.3 per 100,000.

In 2005, among all Knox County residents, alcohol or drug-related arrests account for 41%. As well, in 2005, approximately one in 185 Knox County residents under the age of 18 was charged with an alcohol- or drug-related offense.

## Alcohol[18]

Underage drinking is a problem for Knox County teens. In 2004, 26.7% of Knox County high school students reported having at least one drink of alcohol in the past 30 days. In 2005, almost one

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[16] *The Tennessee Social Indicator Study County Level Risk for Adolescent Substance Abuse produced by the Bureau of Health Informatics, Tennessee Department of Health, and in collaboration with the Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services, 2003).*

[17] *Tennessee Bureau of Investigation Crime Statistics Unit, 2006; Tennessee Commission on Child Welfare 2004 – 2005 Report and the Tennessee Department of Education, in the 2005 Youth Risk Behavior Survey; Risk Behaviors Among Knox County, TN Adolescents, the 2005 Knox County Youth Risk Behavior Survey; Metropolitan Drug Commission, Community Statsbook 2007.*

[18] *2004 KTAP, Risk Behaviors Among Knox County, TN Adolescents, the 2005 Knox County Youth Risk Behavior Survey; MDC Community Statsbook, 2007*

in three Knox County high school students (34.4%) reported they used alcohol in the 30 days preceding the survey.  In 2004, 13.3% of students reported having had their first drink of alcohol, other than a few sips, when they were 13 or 14 years old.  In 2005 17.1% of reported having used alcohol (other than a few sips) before the age of 13.  67.6% of Knox County teens report having used alcohol at least once in their lifetime.

Binge drinking behavior is increasing for Knox County teens.  In 2004, 16.4% of students surveyed reported having 5 or more drinks of alcohol in a row in the past 30 days.  This percentage increased in 2005 to 22.8%.

Alcohol related risk behaviors are increasing for teens in Knox County.  In 2004, 11.6% of Knox County teens surveyed reported having ridden in a vehicle driven by a teen that had been drinking alcohol in the past 30 days.  In 2005, 22.7% of Knox County high school students reported riding with a driver who had been drinking alcohol in the past 30 days.  10% reported having driven a car or other vehicle when they had been drinking alcohol in the past 30 days.  In 2004, the mean age of first use of alcohol reported by Knox County $7^{th}$, $9^{th}$, and $11^{th}$ graders was 12.6 years.

In Knox County 15% of high school students who admitted using alcohol, reported drinking at home without their parent's permission.  17.6% drink at home with their parents' permission and 20.6% drink alcohol at their friend's homes without permission and 9.9% with friend's parental permission.  Hands down the most common place that Knox County teens drink alcohol is at parties.  25% of teens who admitted drinking alcohol reported most frequently drinking at a party.  2.4% reported school events as the most frequent place they drink.

Knox County teens report obtaining alcohol by taking it from their parents without permission, other friends, purchasing, having an older person buy it for them, or an older friend gives it to them, as well as parents giving alcohol to them.  Teens obtain alcohol most frequently through an older person.  With almost 40% of teens who reported drinking alcohol indicating that they obtain it most frequently through an older person either buying it or as a gift from someone older.

# Drugs[19]

Knox County teens engage in drug use.  The most commonly used illegal drug for Knox County teens is marijuana.  In 2004, 18% of Knox County high school students reported using marijuana in the past 30 days.  In 2005 this percentage raised to one out of five high school students (21.8%).  This is higher than Tennessee's over all percentage (19.5%) and the national percentage (20.2%).  In 2005, 9.8% of Knox County teens reported having used marijuana before the age of 13, 1.1% higher than the national percentage.  36.9% reported having used marijuana at least once in their lifetime.  In 2005, more than one in three (36.9%)  Knox County high school students reported using marijuana in their lifetime.

The most commonly used substances reported by Knox County high school students in their lifetimes are cigarettes, marijuana, inhalants, and cocaine.  In 2005, one in twelve Knox County high

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[19] *2004 KTAP, Risk Behaviors Among Knox County, TN Adolescents, the 2005 Knox County Youth Risk Behavior Survey; Metropolitan Drug Commission, Community Statsbook, 2007*

school students reported using cocaine in their lifetime.  The next most commonly used drug set by teens in Knox County is uppers or downers.  13.1% of teens reported having used uppers or downers in the past 30 days.  Other drugs teens commonly reported using over the past 30 days include: cocaine, inhalants, LSD, heroin, hallucinogens, narcotics, Club Drugs/Rave Drugs, methamphetamines, OxyContin, someone else's prescription drugs, and over the counter drugs.

## Child Abuse Definitions

Child abuse comes in many different forms such as neglect, physical abuse, fetal abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, and spiritual abuse.  The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) have these definitions:

**Child abuse and neglect** - At a minimum, any recent act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker, which results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation, or an act or failure to act which presents an imminent risk of serious harm.

**Sexual abuse** - the employment, use, persuasion, inducement, enticement, or coercion of any child to engage in, or assist any other person to engage in, any sexually explicit conduct or simulation of such conduct for the purpose of producing a visual depiction of such conduct; or the rape, and in cases of caretaker or inter-familial relationships, statutory rape, molestation, prostitution, or other form of sexual exploitation of children, or incest with children.

## Neglect

**Physical neglect –** Includes abandonment or inadequate supervision, and failure to provide for safety or physical needs.  Includes failure to thrive, malnutrition, unsanitary conditions, or injuries from lack of supervision.

**Educational neglect** – Includes not enrolling child in school, or allowing child to engage in chronic truancy.

**Emotional neglect** - Includes withholding of affection or attention, failure to provide psychological care, ignoring the child's emotional needs.

**Medical neglect** – Includes delay or denial of dental or health care, or withholding medical care due to religious beliefs.  Some states will not prosecute due to withholding of health care due to religious beliefs but court orders are occasionally obtained to save a child's life.

**Neglect Indicators**
- Poor hygiene, including lice, scabies, severe or untreated diaper rash, bedsores, body odor
- Squinting
- Unsuitable clothing; missing key articles of clothing (underwear, socks, shoes); overdressed or underdressed for climate conditions
- Untreated injury or illness
- Lack of immunizations

- Indicators of prolonged exposure to elements (excessive sunburn, insect bites, colds)
- Height and weight significantly below age level

## Physical Abuse

Physical abuse is the most obvious form of abuse. It is an act that results in physical injury to a child. Punching, beating, kicking, biting, burning, breaking bones, hair pulling and shaking a baby are examples of physical abuse.

**Physical Abuse Indicators:**
_ Recurrent injuries with unexplained, guarded, implausible, or inconsistent explanations
_ Oddly shaped or patterned bruises or lacerations (from an object)
_ Uncommon locations for injury (underarms, neck, back, genitals, stomach, thighs)
_ Lacerations
_ Burns (cigarette, immersion)
_ Welts
_ Broken bones and intracranial trauma
_ Hair loss
_ Wearing long sleeve clothing out of season
_ Hesitation on showing certain body parts (not dressing out for P.E.)
_ Acts out aggression on others
_ Fear, withdrawal, depression
_ Fantasies, art work, or threats related to violence
_ Regression
_ Nightmares, insomnia

## Fetal Abuse
_ Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) – Caused from the consumption of alcohol during pregnancy.
_ Drugs – tobacco, marijuana, cocaine, methamphetamines, heroin, PCP, LSD.

**Indicators of fetal abuse due to FAS**
_ Mental retardation
_ Prenatal and postnatal growth deficiency
_ Facial malformations
_ Central nervous system dysfunction
_ Varying degrees of major organ dysfunctions
_ Developmental delays

**Indicators of fetal abuse due to drug usage**
_ Miscarriage
_ Low birth-weight
_ Premature birth
_ Developmental delays
_ Behavioral and learning problems

_ Drug dependency and subject to withdrawal (tremors, sleeplessness, muscle spasms, and difficulties feeding)
_ Susceptibility to HIV

## Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse is any misuse of a child for sexual pleasure or gratification.  It is the involvement of children in sexual activities that they do not fully comprehend, that they are unable to give informed consent to and/or that violates societal taboos.

**Non-touching sexual abuse -** Indecent exposure or exhibitionism, exposure to pornographic material or any sexual act, including masturbation.

**Touching sexual abuse –** Fondling, making a child touch an adult's or another child's sexual organs, penetration of a child's vagina or anus by an adult or an object, and any other sexual act with a child.

**Sexual exploitation -** Engaging a child for the purposes of prostitution or using a child to film or photograph pornographically.

**Sexual Abuse Indicators:**
_ Compulsive masturbation, teaching others to masturbate
_ Excessive curiosity about sex or seductiveness
_ Sexual acting out with peers, others
_ Bruises or bleeding in external genitalia or stained, torn, bloody underclothing
_ Frequent, unexplained sore throats, yeast or urinary infections.
_ Bed-wetting, soiling, playing with feces
_ Complains of pain or itching in genitalia
_ Difficulty in sitting or walking
_ Excessive bathing
_ Withdrawn or aggressive
_ Sexually transmitted diseases
_ Pregnancy, especially in early adolescence
_ Sexual inference in school artwork
_ Substance abuse
_ Legal issues
_ Overly compulsive behavior
_ Fears and phobias
_ Running away
_ Sleep problems
_ Fire starting
_ Depression
_ Somatic symptoms (stomach aches, headaches, etc.)

# Emotional Abuse

*"When it comes to damage, there is no real difference between physical, sexual and emotional abuse. All that distinguishes one from the other is the abuser's choice of weapons."* - Andrew Vachss, Child protection expert and founder of PROTECT: The National Association to Protect Children.

- Emotional abuse is a pattern of behavior that can seriously interfere with a child's positive development, psyche and self-concept.
- Emotional abuse is hard to identify due to no physical evidence.

**Rejection and Ignoring** – Telling a child in a variety of ways that he or she is unwanted, having a lack of attachment, showing no interest, not initiating or returning affection, and/or not listening to the child. Not validating feelings. Breaking promises. Cutting the child off while he or she is speaking. Pretending to hear concerns, but then disregard them.

**Shame and Humiliation** –Telling a child he or she is stupid, etc. or evoking criticism when performance is not perfect. Judging what the child does as wrong, inferior, or worthless. Using reproaches such as "You should be ashamed of yourself "or" Stop crying or I'll give you something to cry about." Pride is also a feeling that is often met with shameful condemnations, such as "Who do you think you are, Mr. Big Shot?"

**Terrorizing** – Accusing, blaming, **i**nsulting, criticizing, punishing and threatening with abandonment, physical harm, or death. Sabotaging success by making unreasonable demands or labeling the person as a loser. Taking advantage of the person's weakness or manipulating. Slandering.

**Isolating** – Not allowing the child to engage with peers or activities, keeping a child in a room or small area and not exposing the child to stimulation. Withholding information.

**Corrupting** – Engaging children to witness or participate in criminal acts such as stealing, drug dealing etc. Telling lies to avoid justifying actions or ideas.

**Emotional Abuse Indicators**
- Hiding his or her eyes
- Lowering his or her gaze
- Biting lips or tongue
- Forcing a smile
- Fidgeting
- Annoyance
- Defensiveness
- Exaggeration
- Confusion or denial
- Feeling of nakedness, defeat, alienation or lack of worth
- Regression

- Poor self-esteem
- Angry acts
- Withdrawal
- Insecurity
- Alcohol or drug abuse
- Depression
- Suicide
- Difficulty in relationships
- Eating disorders
- Sleep disorders/nightmares
- Speech disorders
- Developmental delays
- Nervous disorders or somatic symptoms

## Spiritual Abuse

- Mind control or thought reform.
- The misuse of a position of power, leadership, or influence to further the interests of someone other than the individual who needs help.
- Psychological, sexual, and/or physical abuse by members of a specific religion or cult.
- Withholding medical care in lieu of prayer.
- Using religious texts for justifications for abuse.
- Psychological, sexual, and/or physical assault committed by one or more people whose primary motive is to fulfill a prescribed ritual or satisfy the perceived needs of a deity or other being. This may include exorcisms or sacrifices.
- Satanic or Sadistic Ritual Abuse (SDA) is an organized, secret, often multi-generational group who engage in mutilation, ritual killing, cannibalism, drinking of blood, systematic torture to produce robot-like, programmed, children, etc.

## Common Characteristics of Abusive Groups

**Authoritarian –** The group claims to have been established by God and leaders in this system claim the right to command their followers.  Followers may be told that God will bless their submission even if the leadership is wrong.

**Image Conscious** –History, character flaws, etc are misrepresented or denied to validate the revered image of the group.  Irrationally high standards are placed upon followers and their failure to live up to these standards is a constant reminder of the follower's inferiority to his or her leaders.

**Suppresses Criticism –** Questions or open discussions about issues are not allowed.  The group or religion is promoted as favored by God and a person who questions becomes the problem rather than the issue he or she raised.  Questioning anything is considered a challenge to authority and doubting God.

**Spiritual/Ritual Abuse Indicators**
- Child believes he or she is evil or causes others to be evil
- Mistrust of others outside the group
- Strong fear of God
- Overly obedient or perfectionistic
- Strong feelings of shame or guilt
- Programmed statements or behaviors
- Sleep problems or nightmares


# Consequences of Child Abuse and Neglect in USA

- 80% of young adults who had been abused met the diagnostic criteria for at least 1 psychiatric disorder at the age of 21 (including depression, anxiety, eating disorders, & post-traumatic stress disorder)
- Abused children are 25% more likely to experience teen pregnancy
- Children who experience child abuse & neglect are 59% more likely to be arrested as a juvenile, 28% more likely to be arrested as an adult, and 30% more likely to commit violent crime.
- 14.4% of all men in prison in the United States were abused as children and 36.7% of all women in prison were abused as children
- Children who have been sexually abused are 2.5 times more likely to develop alcohol abuse
- Children who have been sexually abused are 3.8 times more likely to develop drug addictions
- Nearly 2/3's of the people in treatment for drug abuse reported being abused as children

**Cycle of Abuse in USA**
- 1/3 of abused and neglected children will eventually victimize their own children

**Additional Statistics on Child Abuse in USA**

- There are nearly 3 million reports of child abuse made annually.
- In 2003, there were 906,000 child abuse convictions.
- The rate of child abuse is estimated to be 3 times greater than is reported.
- The rate of victimization is 12.3 children per 1,000 children.
- Children ages 0-3 are the most likely to experience abuse.  They are victimized at a rate of 16.4 per 1,000.
- 79% of the children killed are younger than 4.
- These statistics are from the Administration for Children & Families of the US Department of Health & Human Services "Child Maltreatment Report 2003."

**Consequences of Child Abuse in the USA**

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- Abused teens are 3 times less likely to practice safe sex, putting them at greater risk for STDs.
- These statistics are from the National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse & Neglect Information. Long-term Consequences of Child Abuse & Neglect 2005.

**The Link between Abuse as a Child and Future Criminal Behavior**

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**The Link between Child Abuse and Substance Abuse**

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These statistics are compiled from the National Institute on Drug Abuse 2000 Report & Child Abuse & Neglect Study by Arthur Becker-Weidman PhD.

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**Sources:**

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