

Abstract

Knowledge, Attitudes and Experiences of Violence Among Adolescents in Secondary Schools in Jamaica

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Violence is an important public health problem in Jamaica and the world over. Adolescents are an important group with reference to victims and perpetrators of violence.

In this project report a comparison of adolescents knowledge, attitude towards and experiences with violent acts between a rural and an urban secondary school is presented. There is little or no differences between the two schools and this is consistent in all areas of the study.

A prevalence rate of 20% for violence is present among students in both schools and students have indicated that they would more frequently show violence towards friends, relatives and classmates. Students are more experienced with witnessing of fights, murders, stabbing and gun shot wounds.

Suggestions for violence prevention include; counselling, church attendance, participation in neighbourhood watch and avoidance of conflict. There is need for programmes aimed at violence prevention to be implemented and should adopt a multisectoral approach.

The family as the basic unit of society must also be given due consideration in any programme aimed at prevention of violence.