Understanding Teen Victimization

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Community Youth Development

1. Youth serve as resources to the community.

2. Youth have real decision-making power.

3. Youth work in partnership with adults.
Victim Assistance and Advocacy

1. Victims and survivors part of the solution.

2. Victims and survivors regain control by making their own decisions.

3. Victims and survivors work in partnership with criminal justice and advocates.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONCEPT</th>
<th>YOUTH DEVELOPMENT APPROACH</th>
<th>VICTIMS’ RIGHTS APPROACH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADVOCACY</td>
<td>Youth as resources.</td>
<td>Survivor’s strengths integral to solutions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DECISION MAKING</td>
<td>Youth have decision-making power.</td>
<td>Survivor regains control by making decisions: options counseling, self-advocacy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PARTNERSHIP</td>
<td>Youth &amp; adults work in partnership.</td>
<td>Survivors &amp; helpers work in partnership.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Who advocates for children?
Violence in Teens’ Lives

A violent event is an action initiated by a human being that makes a child feel

-- threatened

-- unsafe

-- results in harm to another being
The Scope of Victimization Against Children & Youth

Comprehensive National Survey by David Finkelhor, et al., 2005

http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/CV74.pdf
• 71% were victimized in the 12 month period

• Average victimized child, victimized three times

• Only 29% denied victimization
Who abuses children & teens?

- People known and trusted by parents.
- People known and trusted by children.
- People who are supposed to love and protect children.
Why are teens vulnerable?
Exercise: Building the Wheels

Abuse of Power and Control in Teens’ Lives
Domestic Abuse Intervention Project

http://www.duluth-model.org
Examples of individual tactics used

• Telling children separation is Mom’s fault
In Children and Teens’ Lives

Abuse of Power
Types of abuse of power over youth
In Children and Teens’ Lives

Abuse of Power

- Emotional
- Adultism
- Sexual
- Resources
- Isolation
- Heterosexism
- Physical
- Spiritual
PHYSICAL ABUSE
EMOTIONAL ABUSE
SEXUAL ABUSE
SPIRITUAL ABUSE
HETEROSEXISM
RIGID GENDER ROLE STEREOTYPES
CONTROLLING RESOURCES
ADULTISM:
USING ADULT PRIVILEGE
Domestic Abuse Intervention Project

http://www.duluth-model.org
## Additional Struggles for Marginalized Youth

| • Runaway, thrown away and homeless youth | • Teens living in poverty |
| • Out-of-home placement | • Isolated rural areas |
| • Youth of Color | • Addicted teens |
| • Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender youth | • Youth with disabilities |
| • Teens with prior victimization | • Pregnant and parenting teens |
| | • Immigrant youth |
| | • Teens who drop out or are pushed out of school |
Scope of Victimization Against Youth

• Youth ages 12 – 19 had the second highest rate of violent victimization in 2005.

• 1.5 million crimes against teens in 2005
  – 175,392 robberies
  – 73,354 rapes and sexual assaults
Teens accounted for 12% of murder victims in 2005.
Child Sexual Victimization

• 1 in 6 boys is sexually abused by age 18
• 1 in 3 girls is sexually abused by age 18
• 75% of teen girls who experienced sexual intercourse before age 14 were forced (raped)
• 60% of teen girls who experienced intercourse before 15 were forced (raped)
Child Sexual Exploitation

50% of babies born to teen mothers were fathered by *adult* men.
Domestic Violence

- Fatal & serious assault
- Threats, physical & sexual assaults
- Highly controlling behavior & destructiveness: 60-80% exposed
- Non-abusive conflict: arguments and yelling
People are most likely to victimize teens between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.
53% of reported victimizations of youth ages 12-14 occurred at school.
### Percent of Victimizations Reported to the Police by Age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>% Reported</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12-19</td>
<td>36.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-34</td>
<td>47.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-49</td>
<td>58.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-64</td>
<td>49.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+</td>
<td>66.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What do teen victims need?
Exercise: Building the Wheels

Shared Power & Control in Teens’ Lives
In Children and Teens’ Lives

Shared Power
• Adult Protection / Safety
• Legal Rights
• Basic needs met
• Safe places & services
• Information
• Vocabulary
• To be heard / advocacy
• Accountability
• Parental warmth, involvement
• Empathy
• Resilience and hope

We not only believe you, we believe *in* you.*

• Early, strong, interpersonal relationships
• Freedom to develop as a whole person
• Cultural education about gender roles
• Psycho–ed support for exposure to violence
• Media literacy
What do teen victims need from me -- in my role?
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1-800-FYI-CALL

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