

A TRAUMATOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE FROM THE LENS OF A JUVENILE

DARIUS CAMPINHA-BACOTE, PSYD

LICENSED CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST/FFT PROGRAM MANAGER

DALLAS COUNTY JUVENILE DEPARTMENT

OBJECTIVES

- How is trauma formed?
- Trauma and suicide
- How does family impact trauma and violence?
- Benefits of Gangs

FORMATION OF TRAUMA

- An event which an individual codes as being impactful in psychological, emotional, and/or physical ways
 - Disrupts activities of daily living
 - Is everyone traumatized by the same events?
- Sexual trauma and reclaiming control
 - Client who took money from “John’s”
- Do clients need therapy if they are traumatized?
 - Shotgun story

TRAUMA AND SUICIDE

- What is the appropriate term for suicide?
- Three reasons why people die from suicide
 - Psychological autopsy

FAMILY IMPACT ON TRAUMA

- Acquisition of values which support the use of violence
 - How are youth taught?
 - Right and wrong is taught by who?
 - Parents, friends, others?
 - Does trust play a factor?
- Reinforcement of violence in the home
 - How may this be acted out w/ peers at school?
- Ineffective parental supervision
 - Not the same as non-existent

FAMILY IMPACT ON TRAUMA CONT.

- Weak family bonding
 - Does a family have time to bond if the parent has three (3) jobs?
 - How does your SES possibly determine the level of family bonding?
- EPPP question
 - Youth are more likely to listen to parents who "practice what they preach," while the next category are same-aged peers
- "at least steal a flat screen TV."
- "Misery loves company"
 - How does this apply w/ associating w/ negative peers?
 - "I'm not an angel, and neither are my friends."

FAMILY FACTORS

- Poor supervision of children by parents
- Harsh physical punishment to discipline children
- Parental conflict in early childhood
- Low level of attachment between parents and children
- A mother who had her first child at an early age
- Experiencing parental separation or divorce at a young age
- Low level of family cohesion
- Low socioeconomic status of the family.
 - WHO

FACTORS LEADING TO TRAUMA IN CHILDREN

- Numerous research studies have concluded that a complex interaction or combination of factors leads to an increased risk of violent behavior in children and adolescents. These factors include:
 - Previous aggressive or violent behavior
 - Being the victim of physical abuse and/or sexual abuse
 - Exposure to violence in the home and/or community
 - Genetic (family heredity) factors
 - Exposure to violence in media (TV, movies, etc.)
 - Use of drugs and/or alcohol
 - Presence of firearms in home
 - Combination of stressful family socioeconomic factors (poverty, severe deprivation, marital breakup, single parenting, unemployment, loss of support from extended family)
 - Brain damage from head injury
 - American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP)

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

- Gangs and a local supply of guns and drugs are a potent mixture, increasing the likelihood of youth violence.
- Low levels of social cohesion within a community have been linked to higher rates of youth violence.
- The quality of a country's governance – its laws and the extent to which they are enforced, as well as policies for social protection – has an important effect on violence.
- Factors such as income inequality, rapid demographic changes in the youth population, and urbanization have all been positively linked with youth violence.
- Cultures that do not provide non-violent alternatives for resolving conflicts appear to have higher rates of youth violence.
 - WHO

GANGS

- What is a gang?
- Why were gangs created?
- Dissertation chair and advisor spent time w/ a gang
- As always, what are the pros and cons?

QUESTIONS?
