

## STATS & FACTS FROM THE VPA - 2008

- More than 1,200 people have been murdered in Jamaica every year for the past three (3) years.
- Violence costs the country 3.7% of GDP every year (UWI)
- \$4Billion lost in productivity due to violence.
  - 51% report increased cost of security.
  - 39% have postponed business expansion.
  - 22% have negative impact on worker product.
  - 18% have increased cost of services purchased. (UWI)
- Without violence, GDP would accrue by an additional 25% every year (World Bank).
- Violence happens in the home, on the street and in the communities. 73% of hospital-referred injuries are caused by a simple fight/argument (MOH)
- Every year, violence costs the Ministry of Health \$ 2.2 Billion (40% of the recurrent hospital budget of the Ministry of Health with one in three elective surgeries being cancelled at the Kingston Public Hospital (KPH), Jamaica's major trauma hospital).
- Violence has a devastating impact on boys, girls, men and women (JCF report). With a homicide rate of 54 per 100,000, Jamaica is one of the most violent countries in the World.
- Children and women are disproportionately affected by domestic violence with 13% of adolescents reported as being victims of physical abuse. (UWI /MOH study)
- Children who have a supportive environment of family, school and church and who participate in structured after school activities, have less delinquent/ aggressive behaviours .
- Children who have no goals and are failing in school have more aggressive /delinquent behaviours. (UWI studies)

## STATISTICS ON VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

- **2006:** Of the 1,340 persons murdered a total of 175 were children (149 boys and 26 girls), up from 91 in 2005.<sup>1</sup>
- **2006:** Over 1,700 children were victims of major crimes including murder, rape, robbery and break-ins.<sup>2</sup>
- Of 1,509 patients referred to health facilities due to sexual assaults in 2006, 78% were children and adolescents (6% boys, 94% girls) aged 0-19 years.
- Young girls are overwhelmingly the victims. Seventy six (76) children (14.5% boys; 85.5% girls) aged 0-4 and 170 children (16.5% boys; 83.5% girls) aged 5-9 years were sexually abused in 2006, representing 21.3% of the total number of sexual offences committed against persons in 2006. <sup>3</sup>
- **2006:** Boys were five times more likely to be treated for gun shot wounds than girls. <sup>4</sup>
- Corporal punishment continues to be the dominant form of discipline in homes and schools. A 2005 survey revealed that only 11% of parents resorted to positive forms of discipline.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Jamaica Constabulary Force

<sup>2</sup> Child Development Agency

<sup>3</sup> Data collected from the Ministry of Health's Emergency Departments and Public Hospitals, as reported in the Economic and Social Survey 2006, published by the Planning Institute of Jamaica, April 2007

<sup>4</sup> Ibid

<sup>5</sup> 2005 Planning Institute of Jamaica Survey on Parenting Practices