



**A BASELINE STUDY
ON
ATTITUDES OF YOUTH
TOWARDS
TV VIOLENCE**

April 2011

Women's Media Watch

Jamaica



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Women's Media Watch, Jamaica

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Introduction

The Jamaican media has been strongly critiqued for inundating media channels with violent news and entertainment content which often glamorize violence. The incidence of crime and violence in Jamaica is increasing and regional and international data suggest a strong relationship between exposure to violent media content and chronic levels of violence in societies. This baseline study among Jamaican youth was conducted to increase our understanding of youth's feelings about and attitudes towards TV violence.

Due to the precarious intersection of youth vulnerability and personal autonomy in their media consumption, the baseline study sought to explore the following areas;

- Youth awareness of and exposure to violence
- Youth television viewing habits including favourite shows
- The presence of violence and sexual abuse in their favorites shows
- Feelings about seeing violence and sexual abuse in these shows
- Youth perception about the effect of TV violence on them and those around them
- The use of violence, particularly that seen on TV as a tool for conflict resolution

The report is organized into four main sections. The first section explains the approach used in data collection and the difficulties that were encountered in the process. The second section provides a summary and analysis of data gathered through secondary sources such as newspaper articles, project reports and books written on the subject. The third section presents the findings of the study and the fourth section discusses and provides context to the main findings and presents conclusions.

1.1 Methodology

This baseline study combined two methods. The first method entailed a review of secondary sources and previous literature that addressed violence and the role of the media. The second method involved conducting a small survey among 152 youth across three high schools in Jamaica. Both methods provide contextual and historical perspective of youth and violence as well as current data.

Reviewing secondary sources

The secondary sources which were reviewed included; newspaper articles, research reports, and books. These were collected from internet and library searches, and the Women's Media Watch's resource room.

The sources reviewed were not exclusive to Jamaica, and included North American research in light of the pervasiveness of North American content in mainstream Jamaican media. We reviewed the literature to identify perspectives on crime and violence and the role of the media and to identify previous work or theories on the impact of TV violence on youth.

The Survey & Survey Sample

A 30 item questionnaire was used to collect data from 152 adolescents aged 13-17 years old over a period of two months in three high schools in Jamaica. The sample of 152 youth represented students selected by the school administration across the three high schools. Each school selected students from Grades 7-11.

The Schools

The schools involved were selected to achieve urban/rural representation. Three schools were chosen two from Kingston; one traditional urban well-reputed high school with students from mixed socio-economic backgrounds and the other high school is part of the Jamaican Government's Safe Schools Programme; located in a volatile community with many of the students from lower income homes. The rural junior high school is located in a bauxite town in Southern Jamaica with students of varying socio-economic backgrounds.

Questionnaires

The students were given questionnaires from which they were required to tick responses which applied to them, or with which they agreed. The questionnaire contained 30 questions.

At each school the research team ensured that the students understood the questionnaire by clarifying questions while on site. The questionnaires were completed by all students in the presence of the research team.

Analyzing and presenting the findings

All collected data was organized and entered using Microsoft Excel. This approach was chosen for ease of examination and analysis. Tables were created that showed the number of responses and the corresponding percentage of responses for each question.

In presenting the findings of the study narrative and graphical summaries are used with pie and bar charts. Questions were examined separately as well as cross-referenced to achieve deeper analysis of some of the areas we explored.

Challenges and limitations of the study

A baseline study is meant to provide a snapshot of a given situation so as to present a partial picture from which further research and interventions can be designed.

This baseline study was limited by two critical factors. Firstly, budgetary constraints prevented the survey of more adolescents and the use of additional research methods such as focus groups. However, the total of 152 students represented a number that was manageable and affordable for the study based on the available budget and time.

Secondly, the literacy levels among students in two of the schools posed a challenge in the completion of the questionnaire. It was difficult to complete questionnaires where reading and comprehension problems were experienced, but the research team attempted to explain questions to students in order for each student to complete the questionnaire to the best of their ability.

Additionally, the questionnaire could not be designed to incorporate more detailed sex disaggregated data to further provide insight to the students' responses.

9. Findings

2.1 Perspectives on Crime, Violence and Youth in Jamaica

Smith and Green (2007) note that in 2000, Jamaica ranked third in the world in murders per capita. By the end of 2005, police crime data indicated a record number of annual homicides (63.0 per 100,000 inhabitants), a rate greater than three times the global average of 19.4 per 100 000.

These statistics are in addition to the high rates of rape, stab wounds and other injuries, and assaults. Consistent with global trends, young males from 15–29 years of age are disproportionately represented, both as victims and perpetrators of violence. In 2002, this demographic group was responsible for 80% of violent crimes, 75% of murders, and 98% of all major crimes committed in Jamaica. Also in 2002, 55% of those arrested were males under 25 years of age. (Smith and Green, 2007; 417)

According to Smith and Green (2007; 418) violence is the leading cause of death in young Jamaican males and the fifth leading cause of death for people of all ages. An increasing number of women and children are also victims of violent criminal activity.

Several reports have been produced which address the causes and effects of crime and violence in Jamaica. To date major reports include;

- The Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) Violent Crime and Murder Reduction in Kingston, January 2001
- Strategic Issues Emanating from the PERF Report (with reference to Hirst, 1991 and Wolfe, 1992 reports)
- Social Conflict and Reform Project (SCLR) Jamaica - Detailed Project Design Report, June 2000
- Jamaica Citizen Security and Justice Programme Project Report (IDB), May 30, 2001
- Report of the National Task Force on Crime (Wolfe Report), April 1993
- Project Memorandum Jamaica Constabulary Reform Modernisation Project (DFID)
- Report of the Technical Team to the Bipartisan Team to Seek Solutions to the 7 Problems Within the Police Service, Trinidad and Tobago (November, 2000)
- Report of the National Committee on Political Tribalism (July 23, 1997)

Jones (2003; 7) indicates that successive reports on crime and violence in Jamaica have shown that there are several factors contributing to high levels of crime and violence. Among them are the following;

- Destabilized family structure (including poor parenting)

- Decline in values and attitudes across the society
- Urban drift
- Economic instability (including high unemployment)
- Inequality in income distribution
- Drug culture
- High Level of illiteracy
- Political tribalism
- Emergence of non-traditional/parallel leadership within communities
- Ineffectual, citizen-unfriendly policing
- Negative perceptions re: access to security and Justice (particularly in poor communities)
- Ineffectiveness of channels of communication between the community and the police
- High availability of firearms and other weapons
- Lack of community empowerment (to address/ameliorate problems before they escalate)
- Weak financial status of civil society organizations which limits pre-emptive and response capability
- Corruption

In 2010, The CARICOM Commission on Youth Development (CCYD) identified crime and violence among youth and adolescents as a major concern and challenge for development in the Caribbean (CCYD, 2010). The report also noted that constant exposure to crime and violence leads to emotional blunting, high stress, grief and loss (CCYD, 2010, 69)

Smith and Green (2007, 419) have found that Jamaica has one of the highest youth-perpetrated violence rates in the world. Despite this there is still not enough research on the “high incidence of aggression and violence among Jamaican children and youth”.

Guerra, Williams, Meeks-Gardner, et al (2009; 5) support this point and suggest that there is little “empirical research on the causes of violence among Jamaican youth”. They suggest that there is a pressing need for systematic research on program impact for these types of intensive efforts on youth violence prevention in Jamaica and throughout the developing world; because not only will this research help inform policy and practice regionally and globally, it also can add to our understanding of the learning and prevention of aggression under conditions of extreme and concentrated community disadvantage. (Guerra, Williams, Meeks-Gardner, et al, 2009; 5)

In identifying one of the many social and cultural factors which contribute to high levels of aggression among youth in Jamaica; Guerra, Williams, Meeks-Gardner, et al, (2009) point to the fact that discipline in homes and schools often include violent acts such as “striking children with hands, sticks, belts, switches, wood, wire or other objects, or sitting in uncomfortable positions for extended lengths of time”.

At the community level, high rates of neighborhood violence virtually guarantee that most youth will be exposed to some type of violence before they reach adulthood.

Further, children growing up in these communities often struggle to feel respected and included in the social order, with secondary schools unable to accommodate all youth, few job training or employment opportunities, and a general marginalization of ghetto residents within the larger Jamaican society.

This problem is particularly acute for inner-city male teenagers who are overrepresented among perpetrators of serious criminal violence in Jamaica (consistent with patterns in most developing and developed countries). These youth often are struggling to establish their identity in the face of limited legitimate social and economic opportunities. Violence can become a self-help strategy for gaining respect and accessing economic and social resources—adolescent males are overrepresented among perpetrators of serious criminal violence in Jamaica.

Violent images are reinforced through popular youth culture, including venues such as dancehall reggae that often condone violence or incite conflict between groups loyal to different artists (Guerra, Williams, Meeks-Gardner, et al (2009;8).

2.2 Media Violence and Youth in Jamaica—Background & Context

Media violence is portrayed through acts or threats of violence against and among characters. We tend to think of it as fighting or shooting, yet violence in the media can be verbal, psychological, sexual as well as physical.

The Jamaica Broadcasting Commission defines “Mild Violence” in its Children’s Code for Programming as follows:

- A) The programming contains a small number of portrayals, descriptions, or discussions of violence and use of violent gestures involving actual persons or other representations of characters or personalities e.g. puppets or alien beings.
- B) There is no express or implied encouragement of violent activity against persons according to demographic characteristics e.g. gender, or race.
- C) The violent content is confined to low-intensity actions e.g. slapping.
- D) The physical consequences of the violence to characters are limited in quality and duration e.g. bruises.

Using “Mild Violence” as a starting point, the Code goes on to describe, “Medium-Level”, “Graphic” and “Excessive” Violence.

Media violence is not unique to Jamaica it is an issue throughout the world. The television is filled with violent acts, from the news to cartoons. Though there have been attempts by the Broadcasting Commission to regulate what is shown, a discrepancy lies between the Children's Code for Programming and what is televised. Some may suggest that Jamaica's high crime indicates the violence is societal not as a result of our media. Our society is a whole and is affected by much of what goes on, media violence being one of them.

Women's Media Watch - Jamaica's (WMW) research shows an increase in television sets in Jamaicans households from 95.4% in a study done by Maureen Samms-Vaughan, chairperson of the Early Childhood Commission (ECC) in 2007 of primary-school age (10-12) in Jamaica to 97.4% in 2010. Based on television programming this showed there is extremely high exposure to media with potentially harmful content.

Jamaica has two main television channels and a number of local cable channels being facilitated by communication companies locally, but there has been a much wider reach to foreign cable channels, especially American programming over the last thirty (30 years). Supporting this is Marcia A. Forbes' in ***Music, Media and Adolescent Sexuality***, identifying that 62.4% of students from her study watched music videos mainly through cable TV and predominantly via foreign channels (47.4%).

A study, led by Professor Douglas Gentile at Iowa State University and published in the Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology stated that high levels of violence in cartoons such as Scooby-Doo can make children more aggressive. They found that animated shows aimed at youngsters often have more brutality than programmes broadcast for general audiences. They recorded 26 acts of aggression an hour compared with just five in shows aimed at general audiences and nine in programmes deemed unsuitable for children under 14. The study also said children copied and identified with fantasy characters just as much as they would with screen actors.

Psychological research in the US reveals that the electronic media including the television play an important role in the development of attitude, emotion, social behaviour and intellectual functioning of children and youth.

It is primarily presented in a rewarding context: perpetrators go unpunished in 73% of all violent scenes, and therefore suggesting that violence is an effective means of resolving conflict. It goes on to further suggest that only 16% of all programmes portrayed negative psychological or financial effects, yet such visual depictions of pain and suffering can actually inhibit aggressive behaviour in viewers.

Two of the most recent works investigating the impact of the media on adolescents in the Jamaican context are ***"Media Violence in Jamaica"*** edited by Marjan de Bruin and Claude Robinson and ***"Music Media and Adolescent Sexuality in Jamaica"*** by Marcia Forbes.

De Bruin (2009) does much to review previous research on the effect of violence in the media and adolescents. She argues that the work in this area has been enormous over the last 50 years however the main questions raised by studies have been; when do we define something

in the media as “violent” content? When do we speak of aggressive or violent behavior? When is it justified to assume an influence or effect of what we watch on screen and how do we behave after viewing? De Bruin (2009) suggests that although there has been a significant body of work addressing each of these questions very little of the research has been done in the Caribbean.

In international research, there are many studies that confirm in one way or another, a correlation between watching violence and violent behavior. At the same time, however we are dealing with an extremely complex issue in which several factors may determine the size and nature and effect.

It is impossible to discuss in general terms what may be the relationship between the portrayal of violence on the screen and violent behavior of those who watch. Audiences are not uniform they are made up of several different individuals who have several different ways of responding to media. They will interpret messages on TV including violence in different ways. Their interpretation will depend on their age, sex, family background, personality, life experience, peer group influences, community mores, and in the case of children, the attitudes of their parents among other things (de Bruin, 2009; 80).

Despite de Bruin’s (2009) critique between 2000 and 2003 Gloria Royale Davis (2009) conducted a study “to examine the role of television in the lives of delinquents incarcerated for committing acts of violence, and to explore whether there is a relation between televised portrayals of violence and acts of violence for which they were incarcerated”.

Her research found that essentially television is an intrinsic part of the lives of the overwhelming majority of Jamaica’s children, preadolescent and adolescent. The majority especially those from the lower socioeconomic stratum of Kingston’s inner-city communities, are particularly attuned to televised portrayals of violence. Excessive and unsupervised television watching by children can lead to the acquisition of a world-view that is inimical to the proper intellectual and social development of the child (Davis 2009, in de Bruin and Robinson, 2009; 74)

Forbes’ (2010) research on music, media and adolescent sexuality in Jamaica also supports the significant impact the media can have on adolescents. The findings from her study point to links between heavy consumption of music videos, particularly the dancehall genre, and risky sexual attitudes and behaviours among adolescents in general, but especially early adolescent boys Forbes (2010; 189).

3. Findings from the Field & Questionnaire Responses

Summary of youth surveyed

A total of 152 youth were surveyed, 85 males and 67 females. Their ages ranged from 13-17 years old. Almost half the respondents were 13 yrs old.

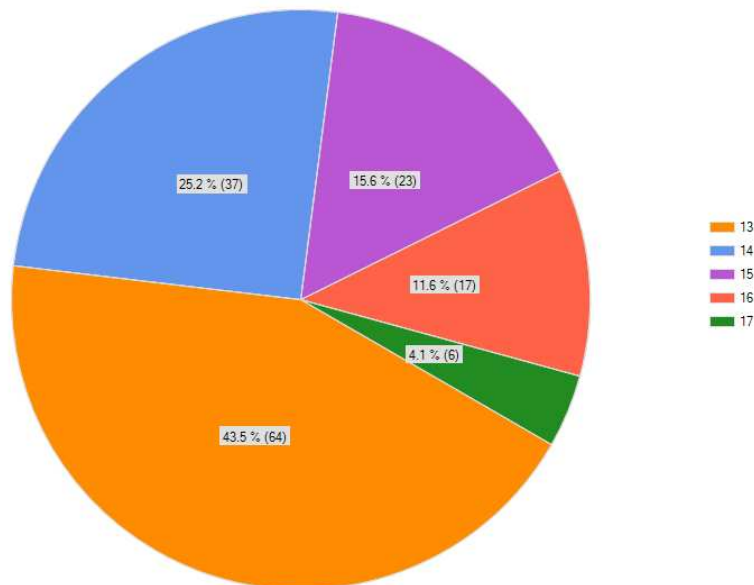
Table 1: RESPONDENTS--GENDER

Sex	Number of Respondents
Males	85
Females	67

Table 2: RESPONDENTS AGE GROUP

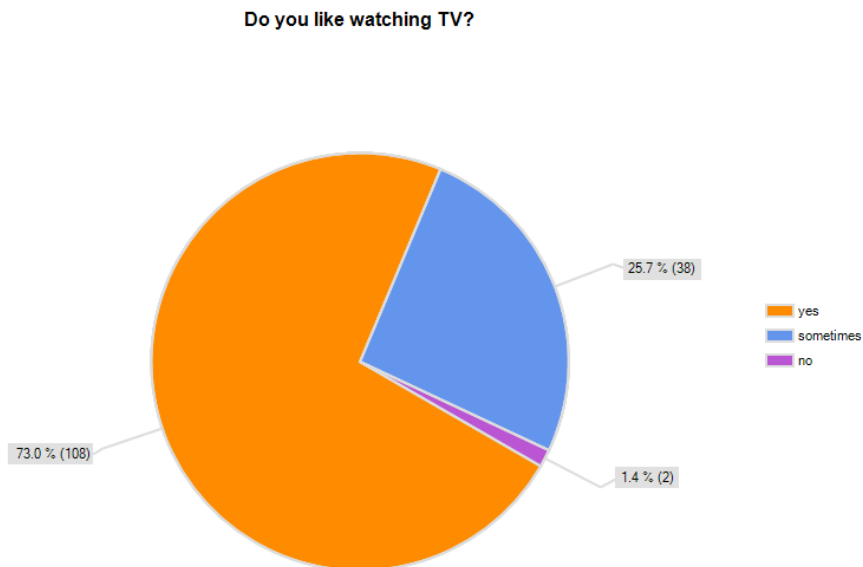
Age group	Number of Respondents
13	64
14	37
15	23
16	17
17	6

How old are you?



Exposure to TV

147 (97.4%) of 151 respondents had a TV at home while only 4 did not. 108 of those who had a TV indicated that they liked to watch TV while 38 indicated that they only liked to watch TV sometimes. Only 2 respondents said they did not like to watch TV.



Hours of TV watched

The amount of exposure to TV was measured between weekdays and weekends. The lowest consumption of TV occurred on weekdays with 35.5% of the respondents watching 1-3 hours, nevertheless 25.8% watched 4-6 hours and 21% of respondents said they watched 10-12 hours.

Responses about the consumption of TV on weekends varied very little. 22 respondents said they watched 1-3 hours, 4-6 hours and 7-9 hours on weekends. Only 31 respondents indicated watching 10-12 hours of TV on a weekend. All together most respondents watched TV for 1-3 hours. When we look at the results there is a slight variation in the other number of hours indicated. 57 respondents were watching TV for 10-12 hours and 54 respondents watched 4-6 hours of TV while 44 watched 7-9 hours of TV.

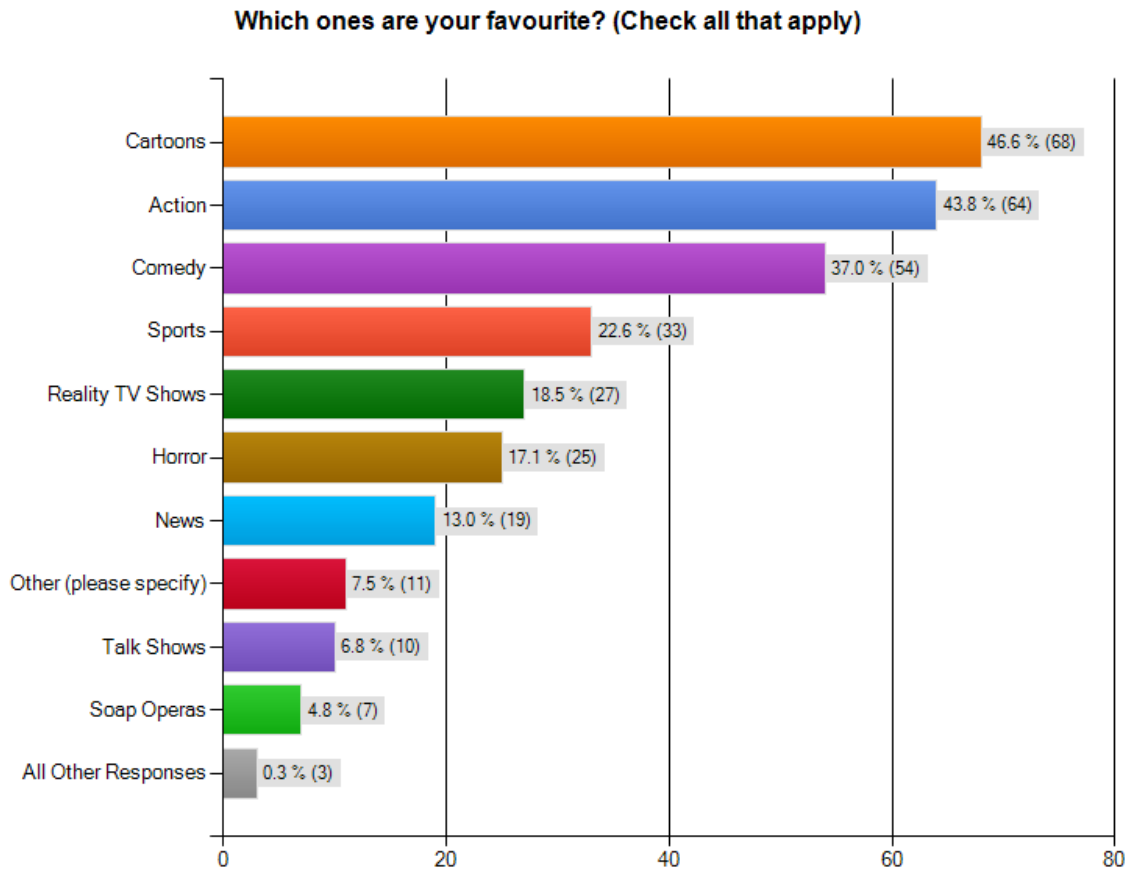
Table 3-Hours of TV watched

Number of Hours	1-3	4-6	7-9	10-12
Weekdays	44	32	22	26
Weekends	22	22	22	31
Total Respondents	66	54	44	57

Favourite TV Shows

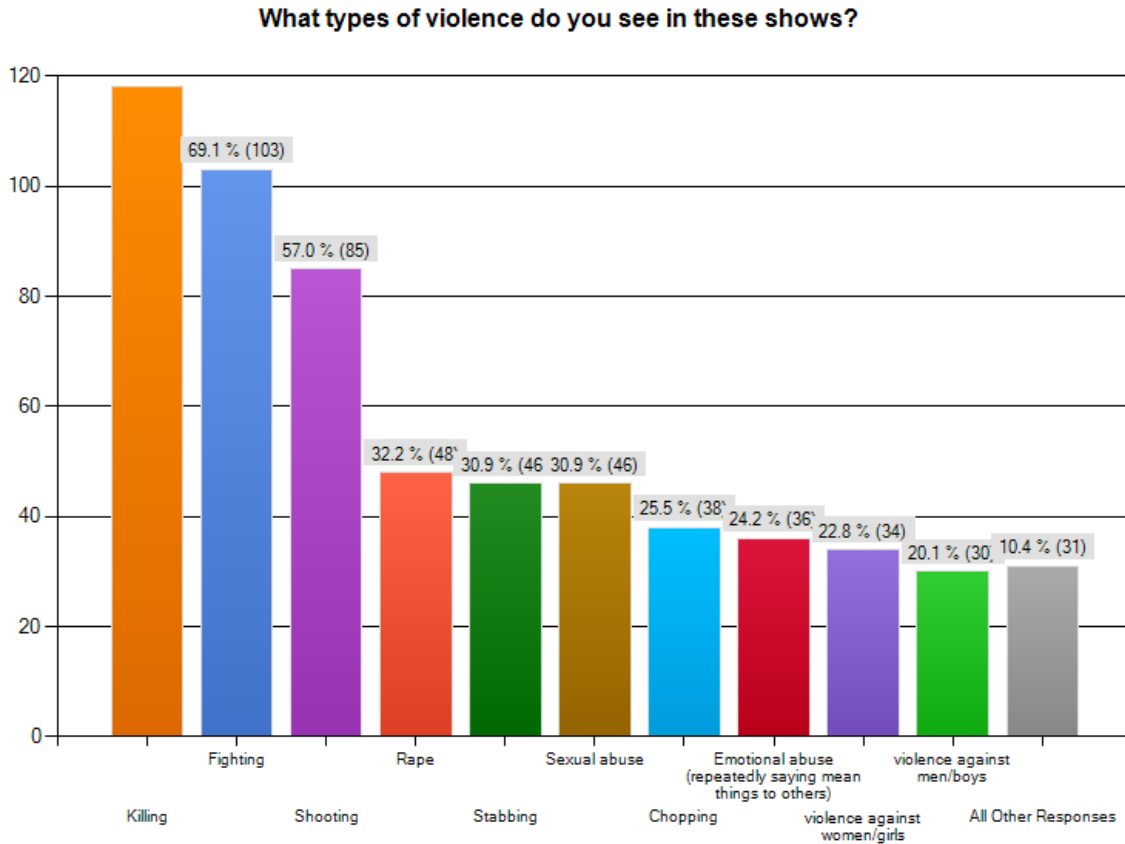
Respondents were given 9 categories of programming and asked to choose which they enjoyed watching most. The categories were Cartoons, Action, Comedy, Reality TV Shows, Sports, Horror, News, Talk Shows, and Soap Operas. Of the 9 categories given there was a preference for watching Cartoons, Action shows, and Comedy.

Boys preferred to watch Action, Cartoons and Sports TV shows while girls showed a preference for Comedy and Cartoons.



VIOLENCE ON TV

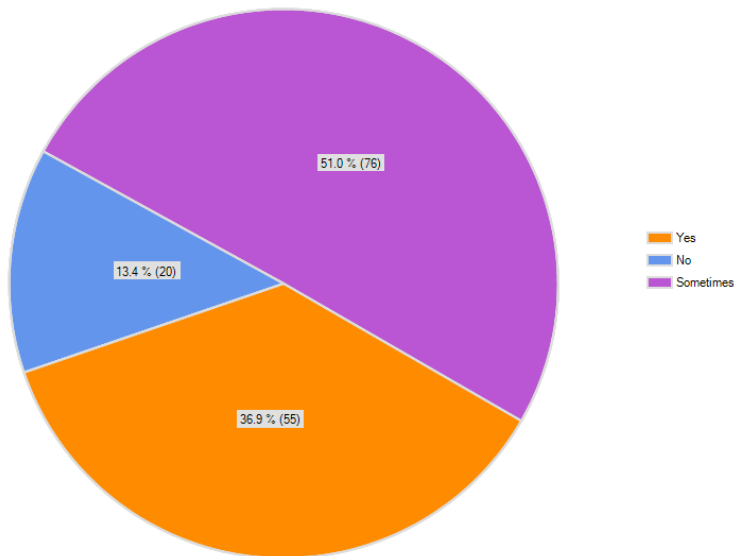
Respondents chose from 9 categories of violence to describe the types of violence they saw in the shows they liked to watch. “Killing”, “fighting” and “shooting” were reported as most seen in programmes that they liked to watch. As much as 1/3 of respondents said that rape, sexual abuse and stabbing were in the TV shows they like to watch.



TV Show Preferences & Violence

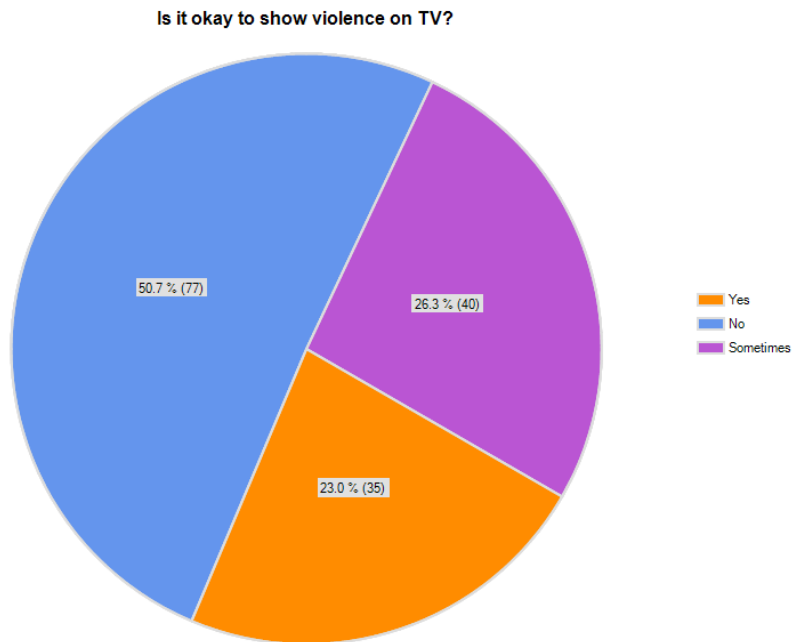
76 of 149(51%) respondents felt that only “sometimes” the shows that they liked to watch contained violence. 64.8% of boys agreed that the shows that they liked to watch had violence in them while a similar percentage of girls, 65% did not like to watch TV shows with violence in them. 35% of girls said they liked to watch TV shows with violence in them while 35% of boys said they did not.

Do the shows you like to watch have violence in them?



Suitability of Violence for TV

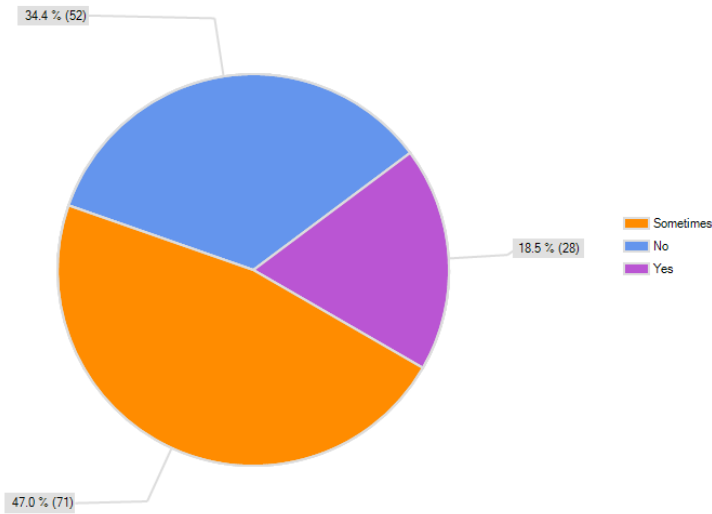
77 of 152 (50.7%) respondents thought that it was “not okay” to show violence on TV while 35 thought it was “okay” and 40 thought it was okay “sometimes” to show violence on TV.



Sexual abuse on TV

A similar number of respondents, 71 of 151 (47%) respondents felt that the shows that they liked to watch had sexual abuse in them “sometimes.”

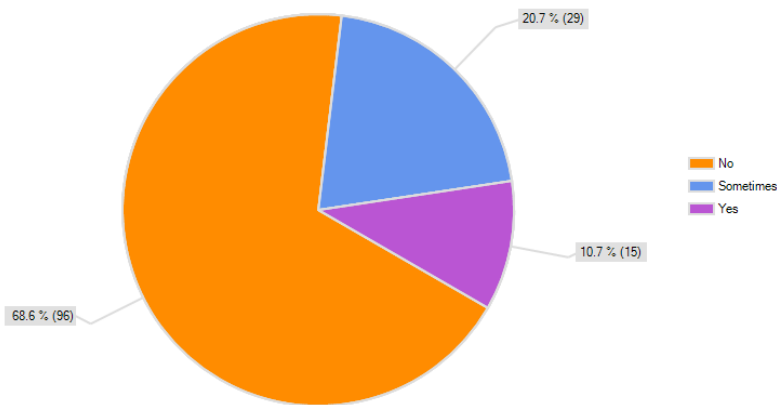
Do the shows you like to watch have sexual abuse in them?



Suitability of Sexual Abuse for TV

Only 15 of 140 persons (10.7%) thought it was okay to show sexual abuse on TV and 29 thought it was okay “sometimes.” 96 respondents (68.6%) however did not agree with showing sexual violence on TV.

Is it okay to show sexual abuse on TV?

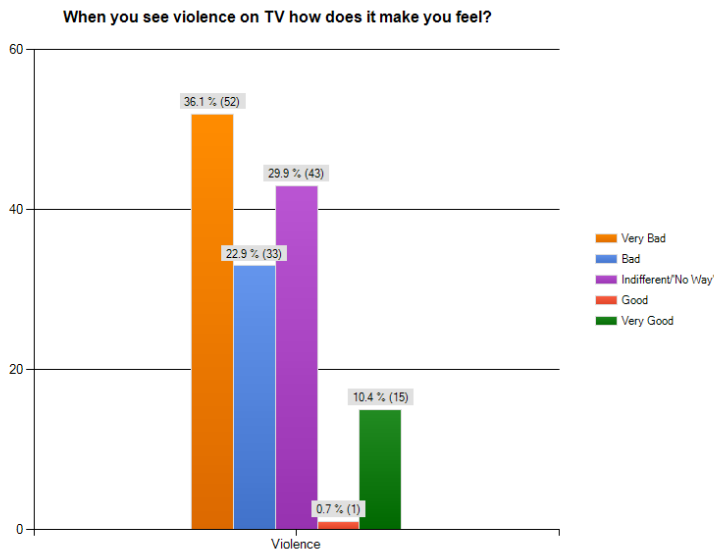


Feelings about seeing violence on TV

16 of 144 persons (11.1%) had a positive reaction to seeing violence on TV. 1 person indicated that they felt “good” about seeing violence on TV and 15 persons indicated that they felt “very

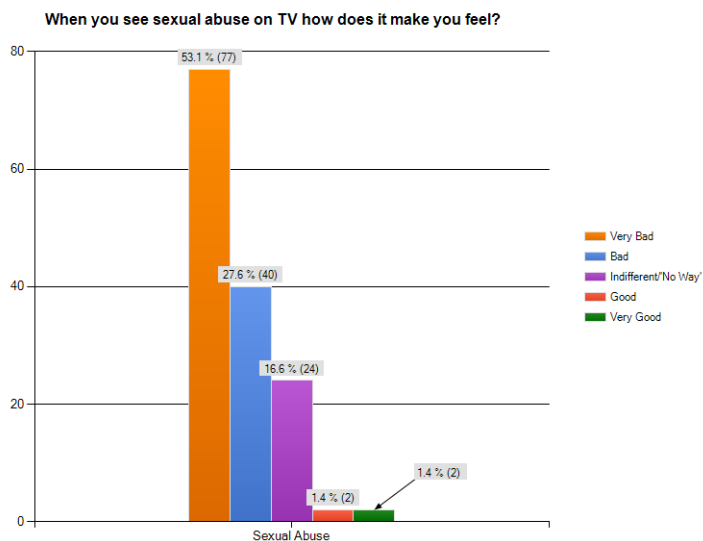
good". A total of 85 respondents (59%) had a negative reaction to violence on TV while 43 persons (29.9%) were "indifferent or felt no way" when they saw violence on TV.

65.6% of males felt that violence on TV did not affect them while a slightly smaller percentage 50.8% felt that it did. 53.6% of girls felt that violence on TV affected them only "sometimes" while 49.2 % felt that it did affect them.



Feelings about seeing sexual abuse on TV

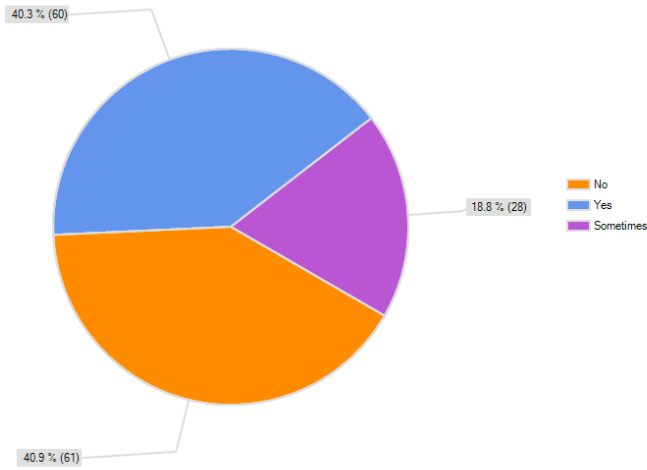
68.6% or 96 of 140 respondents felt it was **NOT OKAY** to show sexual abuse. 20.7 % agreed that it was okay to show sexual abuse **SOMETIMES**, while 10.7% said **YES** it was okay to show sexual abuse on TV. 117 of 145 (80.7%) persons had **negative feelings** about seeing sexual abuse violence on TV, 16.6% described their feelings as **indifferent**, while 4 persons felt **good or very good** with seeing sexual abuse on TV. 57.9% of males felt that it was “**NOT OKAY**”



Do you think the violence and sexual abuse you see on TV affects you?

60 of 149 respondents (40.3%) thought the violence and sexual abuse on TV affected them while 61 persons thought it did not. Only 28 persons (18.8%) thought the violence affected them “sometimes”.

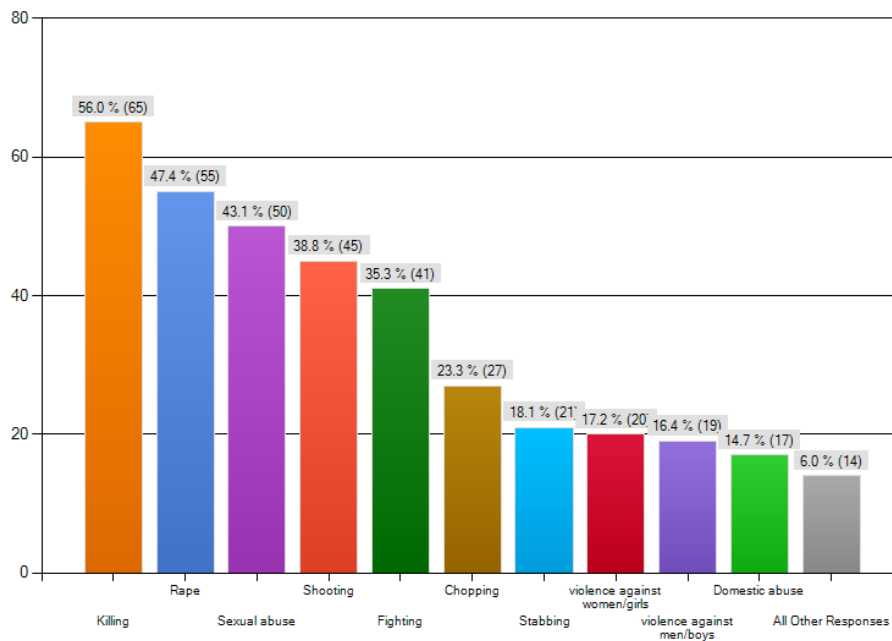
Do you think the violence and sexual abuse you see on TV affects you?



Which types of violence affect you the most?

When asked what type of violence affected them most they indicated that “killing”, “rape” and “sexual abuse” where the three main types of violence that affect

If yes for question 14, which types of violence on TV affect you the most?

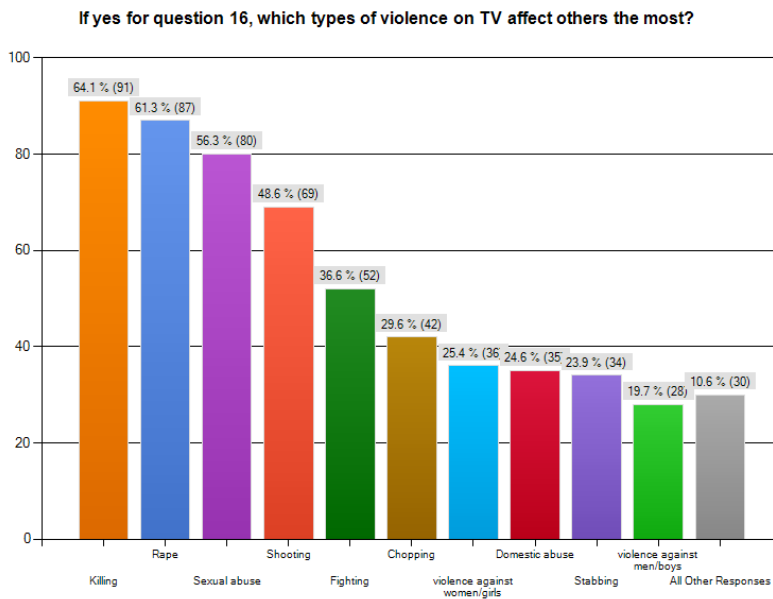


them.

Types of violence on TV that affect OTHERS the most

Again “killing”, “rape” and “sexual abuse” were seen as the types of TV violence which also affected **OTHERS** the most.

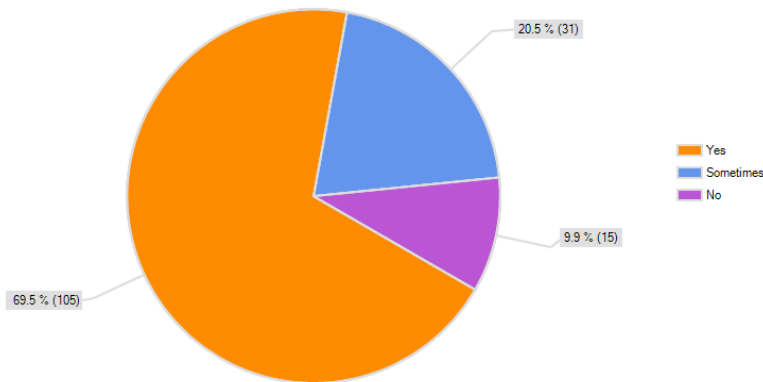
60% of girls reported to be most affected by sexual abuse while 56.1% of boys reported being most affected by Fighting.



Does violence and sexual abuse on TV affect other people?

Only 15 of 151 respondents (9.9%) thought that violence and sexual abuse did not affect other people. 105 respondents (69.5%) thought that it did. 31 respondents (20.5%) thought that sexual abuse and violence on TV only affected people sometimes.

Do you think the violence and sexual abuse on TV affect other people?

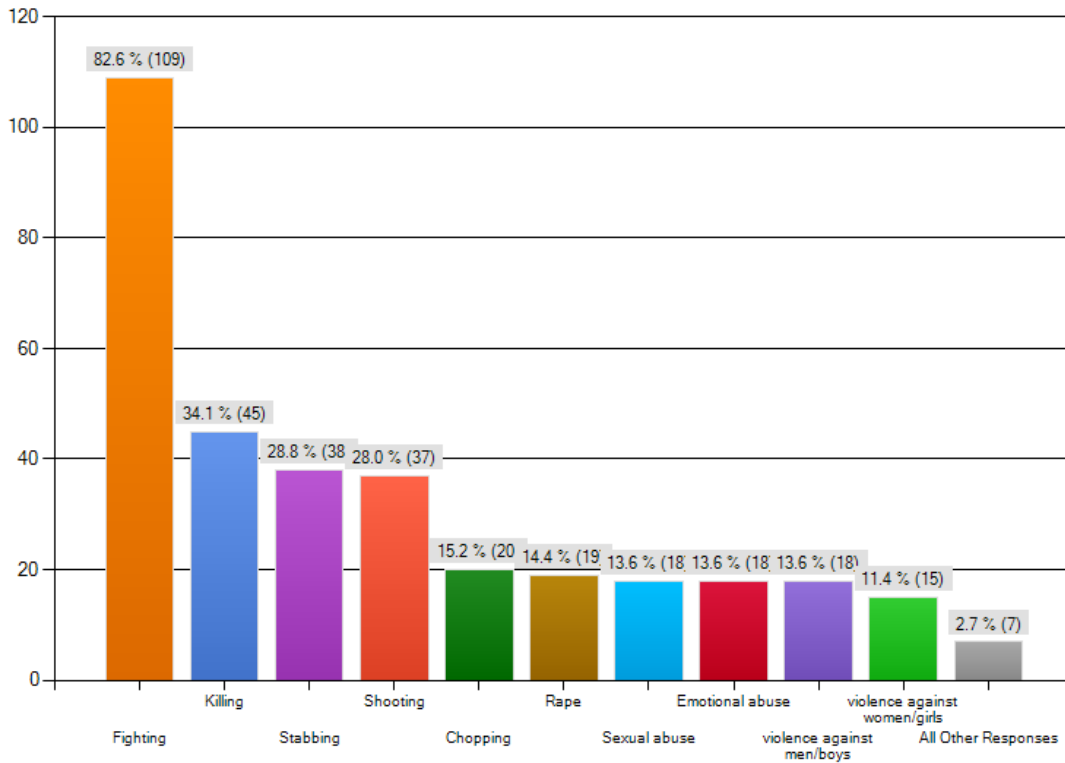


Types of violence experienced

Respondents were asked to indicate any type of violence they had experienced. The categories given were; Fighting, Shooting, Chopping, Stabbing, Killing, Rape, Sexual abuse, Domestic abuse, and Emotional abuse. 109 of 132 respondents (82.6%) described "fighting" as the type of violence they had experienced most. Stabbing and killing each came after with approximately 30-35 % of respondents saying they had experienced those forms of violence.

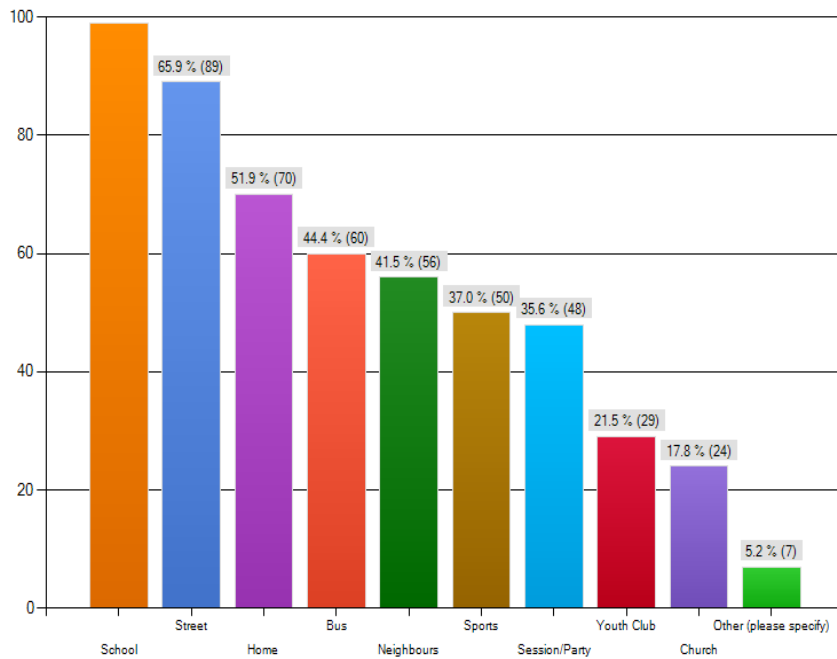
In contrast, the question which sought to find out where sexual abuse had been experienced was the most avoided question with 71 participants skipping the question altogether. Of the 81 respondents, 45 persons (55.6%) said the home, which was closely followed by the school with 54.3%.

What types of violence have you experienced?

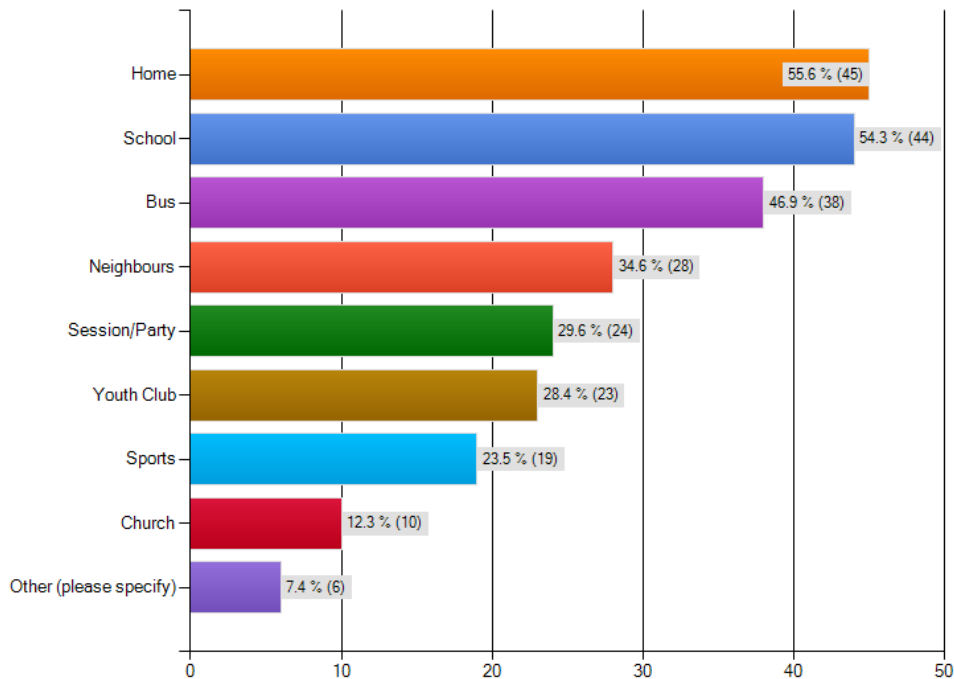


Places where violence & sexual abuse were experienced

Have you experienced violence in any of these places? Please choose all that apply.



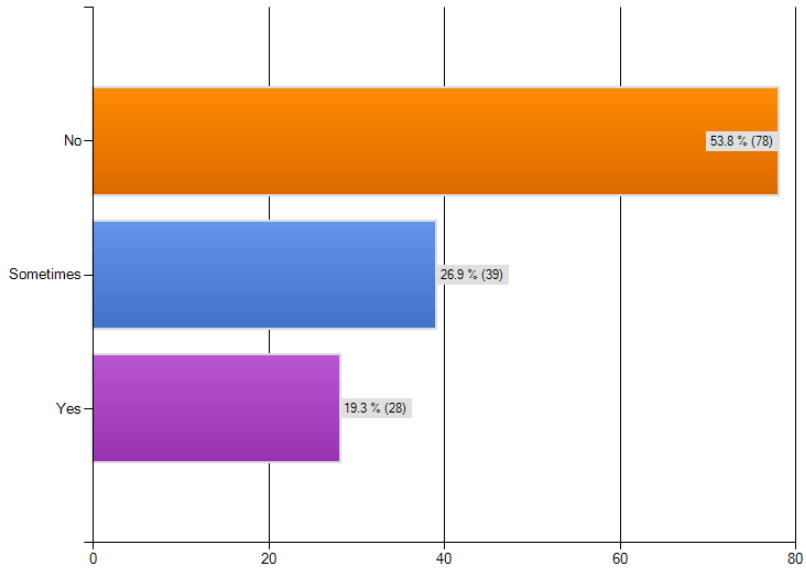
Have you experienced sexual abuse in any of these places? Please choose all that apply.



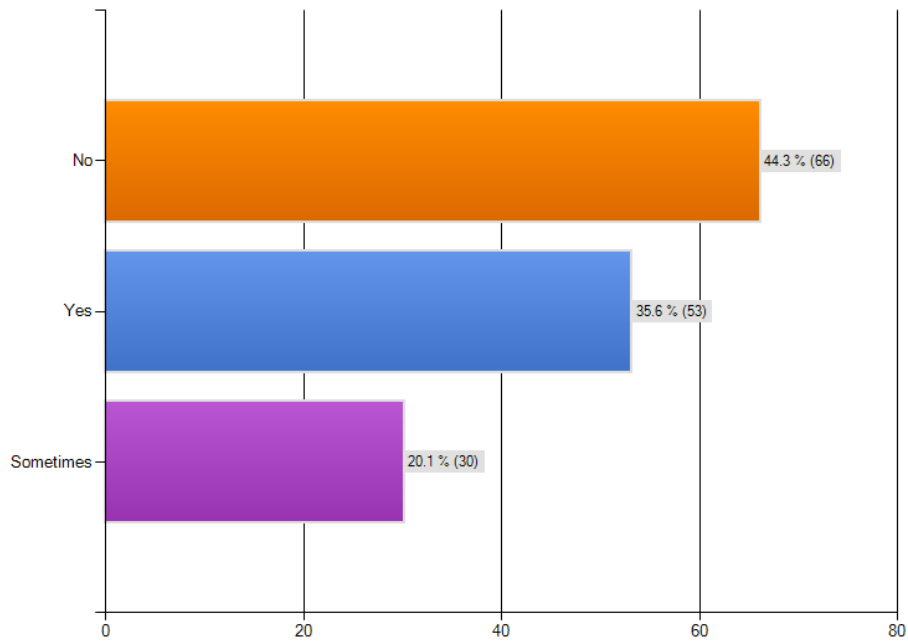
Using violence to solve conflict

Though TV violence was in principle not considered a desirable way to solve disputes or conflicts, 78 of 145 respondents said NO, yet most persons agreed that they had used or sometimes used **acts of violence learned from TV** to resolve conflict. The forms of violence indicated as being most used by the 107 respondents were fighting, killing and shooting. While the accuracy of these responses seem unlikely, the forms of violence most indicated are clearly considered somewhat legitimate by the respondents.

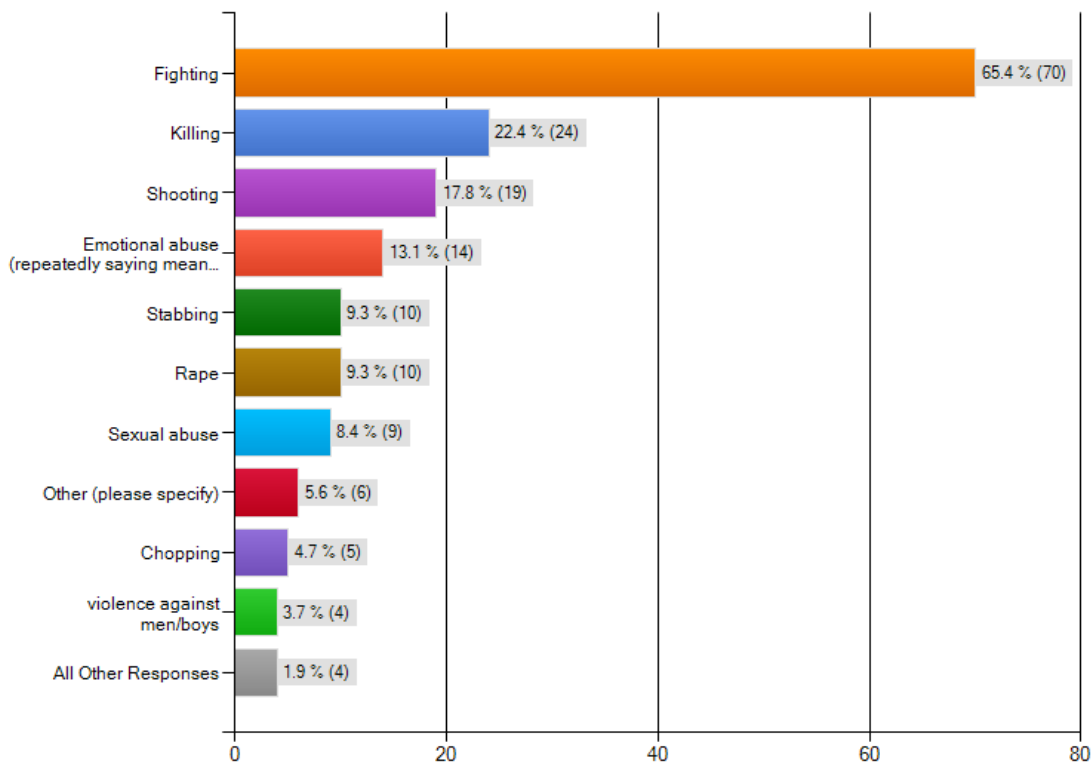
Should any type of violence on TV be used to solve dispute or conflict?



Have you ever used an act of violence you learned from TV to resolve conflict?



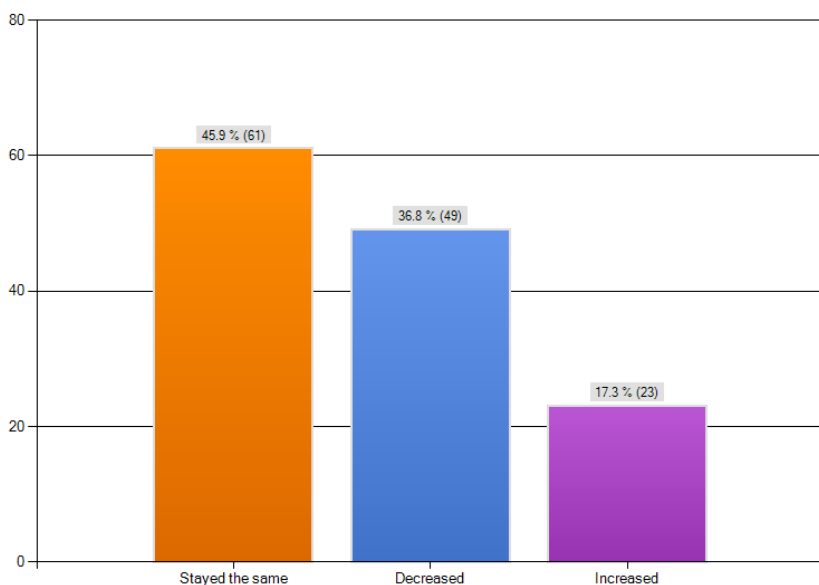
Which type of action did you use to resolve the conflict?



Desire to be violent after viewing violence on TV

After viewing violence on TV, of the 133 respondents, 61 persons said that they did not feel like being violent while 49 indicated that their desire to be violent decreased. However 23 persons (7.3%) indicated that their desire to be violent increased.

After viewing violence on TV has your desire to be violent:



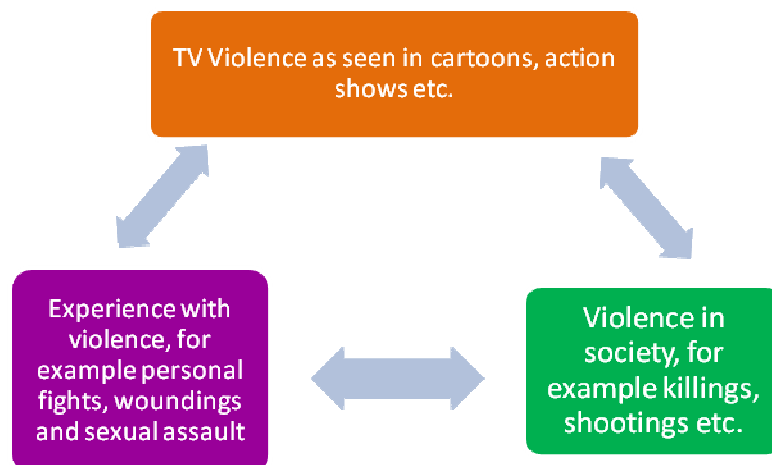
Understanding Attitudes of Youth Towards TV Violence

Discussion & Conclusions

Overstimulation and high levels of media exposure characterize the average life experience of Jamaica's youth. Previous research done by WMW (2000) and UNESCO/NORDICOM (2001, 2009) demonstrate that young persons, who are exposed through daily life to a violent or aggressive environment, are more likely to be affected by media violence. This suggests that there are high degrees of vulnerability to media violence.

It is important to note as well that there are a variety of other factors which will help in our understanding of the effects of TV violence on Youth as well as the attitudes of youth towards TV violence. This study supports de Bruin's arguments that "we are dealing with an extremely complex issue in which several factors may determine the size and nature and effect."

Essentially with the dynamic interplay of the variables below, and the distinctly high levels of violence that students seem to experience in both their home and school environments it is challenging to definitively determine the weight of TV in shaping youth attitudes and feelings towards TV violence and violence more generally.



- Television is clearly a preferred form of media with 73% of respondents saying that they **liked** watching television. Preferred programming was more than likely for their entertainment value rather than information with cartoons, action shows and comedies emerging as "favourites".

- Though the time spent watching television may not be extensive in terms of the number of hours or even if the violence was only “sometimes”, most youth were exposed to violence that far exceeded “mild” as proposed by the Jamaica Broadcasting Commission’s Children’s Code of Programming. Many of them described **killing, fighting, shooting, rape, stabbing and sexual abuse** as types of violence they could see in their programmes of choice. The shows they watched illustrate the pervasiveness of TV violence since even previously perceived innocuous genres like cartoons and comedies could expose a viewer to hardcore violent content.
- Even with half the respondents feeling it was NOT OKAY to show violence on TV, the presence of violence in programming was insufficient to dissuade most persons from watching. So though violence does not seem to be the main attraction to a programme the continued exposure seems to create a desensitizing or normalizing effect. As a consequence they become indifferent or unaware to its impact on them.
- Sex Disaggregated data reinforced some of the previous conclusions about the differences between boys and girls and their attitudes to violence on TV. Most significant was the greater preference of boys for TV shows with violence in them and the fact that girls reported that they were **most affected by sexual abuse and rape on TV**. While boys were most affected by **fighting and shooting**. There was not a significant difference in how boys and girls felt that TV violence affected them generally.
- As is consistent with other data, most respondents felt that others were **more affected** by TV violence than they were, nevertheless it was acknowledged that they were affected to some degree. Interestingly, **killing, rape and sexual abuse** were thought to affect the individual and others the most.
- Again though many respondents personally felt it NOT OKAY to show sexual abuse on TV it was clearly likely that they would be exposed in their programming of choice.
- Regardless of the number of hours of exposure most persons felt VERY BAD or BAD when exposed to violence or sexual abuse.
- **Sexual abuse represents an area of particular concern** because it yielded more emotive responses than regular violence, in terms of **how they felt** when they saw sexual abuse. In response to the question about it and where they experienced sexual abuse 71 persons simply did not respond to the question. That question was the most unanswered of the 30 questions.
- The study revealed that fighting was the type of violence that was commonly experienced by most respondents. The primary places that violence was experienced in school, on the street, at home or on a bus. With figures weighing heavily for fighting, killing, stabbing, shooting and chopping as violence that is “experienced” it suggests that

their perceptions of violence are likely shaped by what is seen around them, what they experience **AND** what they see on TV. Youth are not only victims of violence but also perpetrators of violence. Generally respondent comments reflect an acceptance that violence is undesirable; however persons either considered violence, as seen on TV to be a viable way to resolve conflict and even employed those methods in their own conflict resolution. .

- Though persons said their desire to be violent remained the same it is unclear how much violence was really considered acceptable at the individual level.

Recommendations

- While crime and violence interventions tend to weigh heavily on physical violence such as fighting, or gun related violence **as opposed to sexual violence**, the study seems to suggest that the significant exposure to and experience of sexual abuse should be as much a part of creating “safe schools” and homes across the country. Especially, with the prevalence and availability of pornography through the internet, sexual violence on television has almost been usurped. It would seem prudent to incorporate information about internet exposure when developing measures to address awareness and preventive measures against sexual violence.
- To more effectively and successfully collect data from groups of youth with lower literacy problems as was encountered over and over in the WMW study use of **focus groups** are essential.

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