

# **The psychological effects of crime & violence on teenagers from an inner city community**



# Statement of the Problem

- Jamaica is plagued by urban violence which typically dominates the press.
- Since the decade of 1970's Jamaica has experienced high and increasing rates of violent crime. Between 1997 and 2000 the rate of violent crimes has increased from a rate of 254.6 incidents per 100,000 citizens to 633.4 per cent per 100,000 citizen Harriott (2004).
- The murder rate moved from 19.2 per 100,000 to 39 per 100,000 citizens. Harriott (2004).
- During the period 1970 to 2000 14,512 murders were reported in Jamaica

# Review of Literature

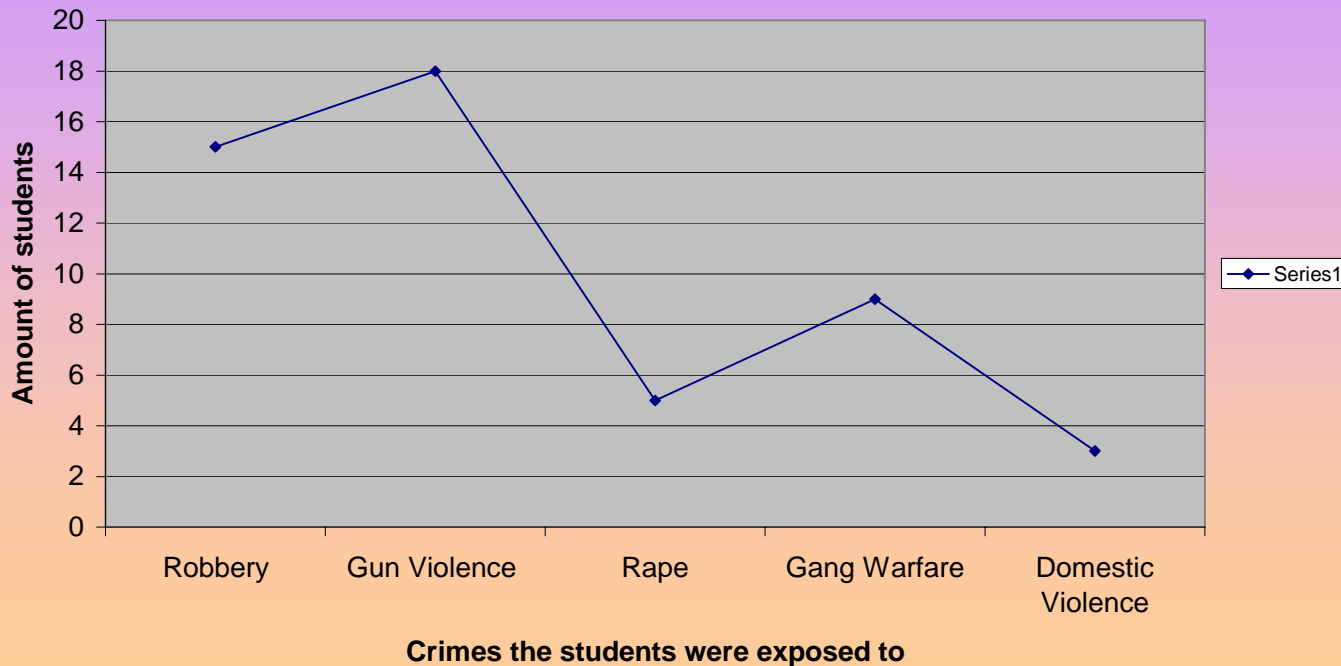
- Fear of Crime and violence is a widespread phenomena.
- Manifest itself in teenagers in the form of fear leading to increased anxiety, worry and stress.
- Poor socio economic conditions as well as general lack of opportunity in Jamaica leads to increases in crime and violence.
- Exposure to crime and violence as victims or witness can cause children to engage in risky behavior.
- Boys consistently exposed to crime may become more aggressive, defensive and territorial.
- After seeing a violent act a child may decide the world is dangerous and unpredictable leading to increased fear.

# Collection Of Data

- Survey Method.
- 20 Participants randomly selected from a group of students who resides in a known volatile area in Kingston.

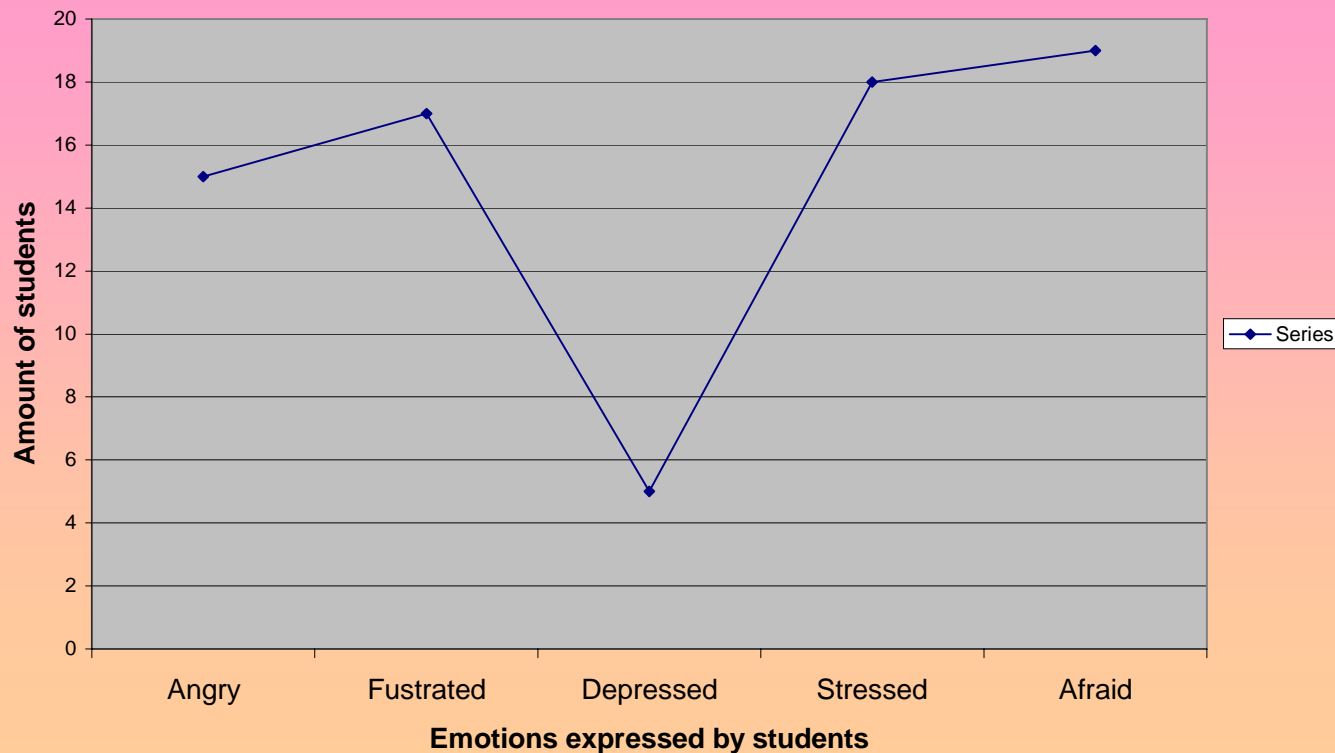
# Types of crimes that teenagers have been exposed to

Line graph showing: The results for question 2  
'What kinds of acts of Crime and Violence have you been exposed to?'



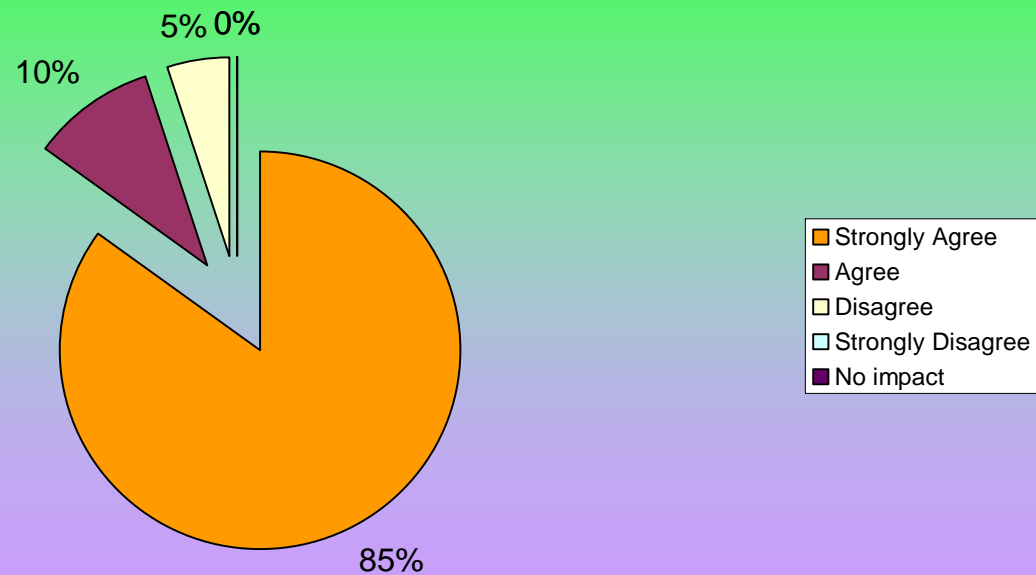
# Emotional Impact of Crime and Violence

Line Graph showing: The results for question 9  
'How does Crime and Violence make you feel?'



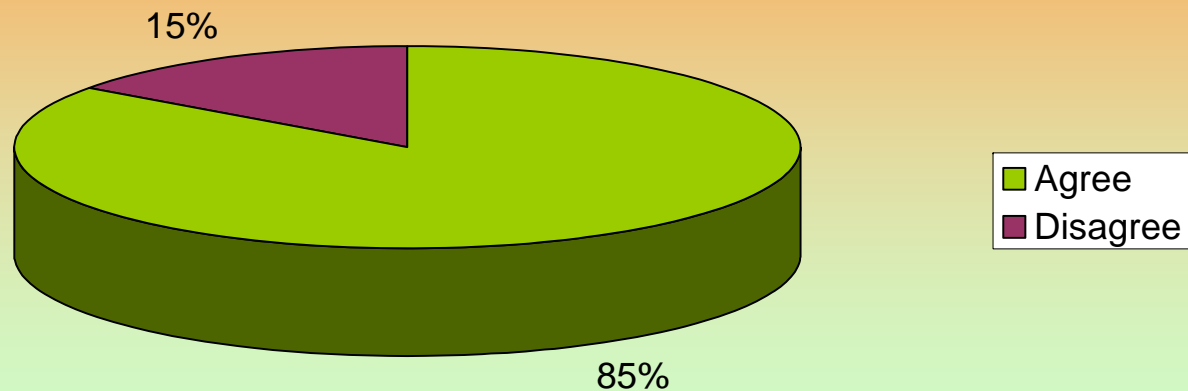
# Impact of violence on Students ability to focus on studies.

Pie Chart showing: The results for question 12  
'I often think about Crime and Violence hence it interferes with my studies.'



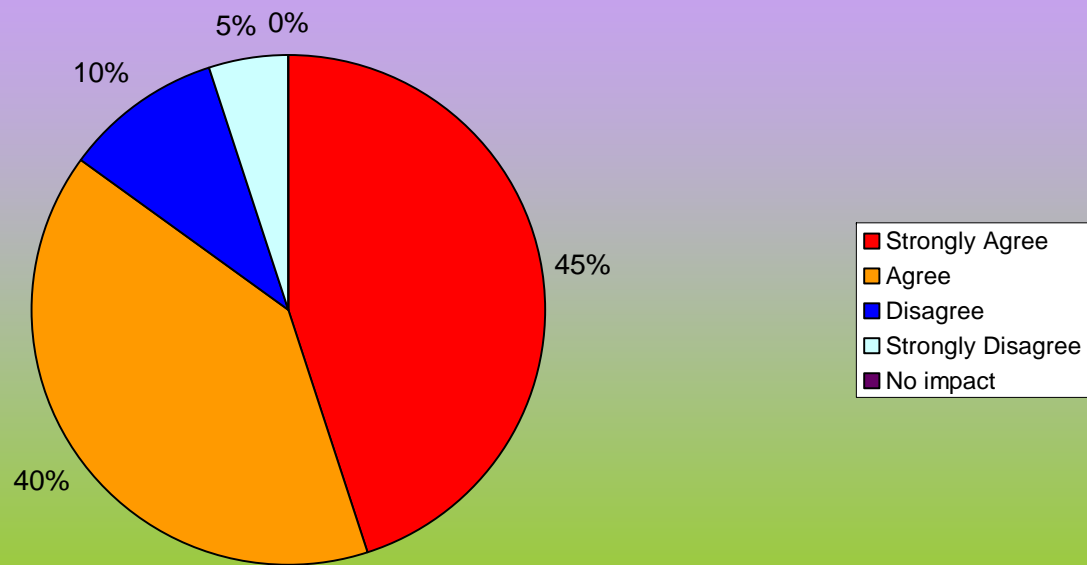
# Effects of violence on behavior

**Pie Chart showing: The Results of question 10  
' I have notice that I am an aggressive individual and becomes very defensive.'**



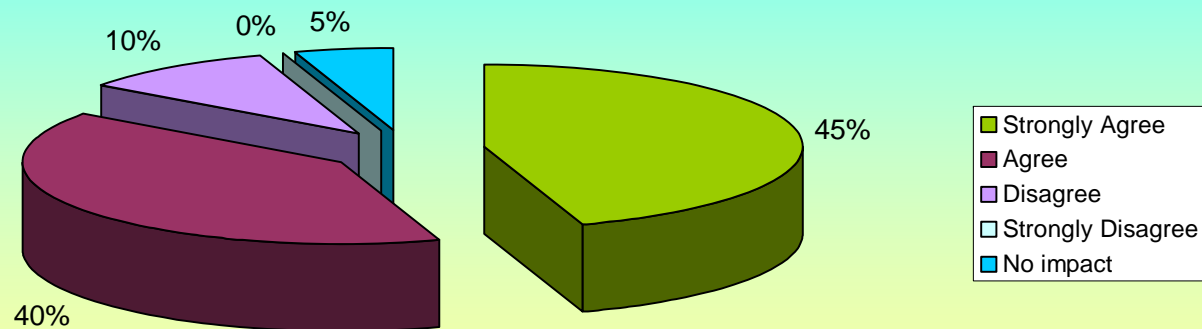
# Psychosocial Impact of Violence

Pie Chart showing: Results to question 8  
' As a result of Crime and Violence I often don't feel Safe in my own home .'



# Effects of violence on personal safety

**Pie Chart showing: Results For question 7  
' Because of the high levels of Crime and Violence I am often  
concerned about my safety.'**



# Findings

- All respondents were negatively affected emotionally; Depression
- Major impact was fear and increased anxiety.
- Increased aggression
- Teenagers felt overwhelmed cannot function normally
- Evidences of withdrawal

# Recommendations

- Improvements in the justice system
- Effective parenting and family life.
- Group counseling in schools for students affected by violence.
- Increased socio-economic opportunities for young people.
- Education and promotion of anger management and values and attitudes.

**Cry for help!!!!**

