Causes of Increased Youth Crime in the Society
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Introduction

- Youth violence is defined as extreme aggression by individuals between 16 and 30 years of age

- To prevent youth violence, parents need to know the causes of violence behavior among the youth

Causes of Youth Violence
1. Media

- Media is defined as any content the youth are exposed to, including the Internet, TV programs, video games and movies

- Exposure to violent media could cause the youth to act aggressively

- As such, it is important for the youth to be media literate

2. Youth and Violence

- Youth who experience violence at home are prone to become violent

- The Youth learn their violent behavior firsthand from the violent parent and it is probable that they could treat the victim parent in the same manner
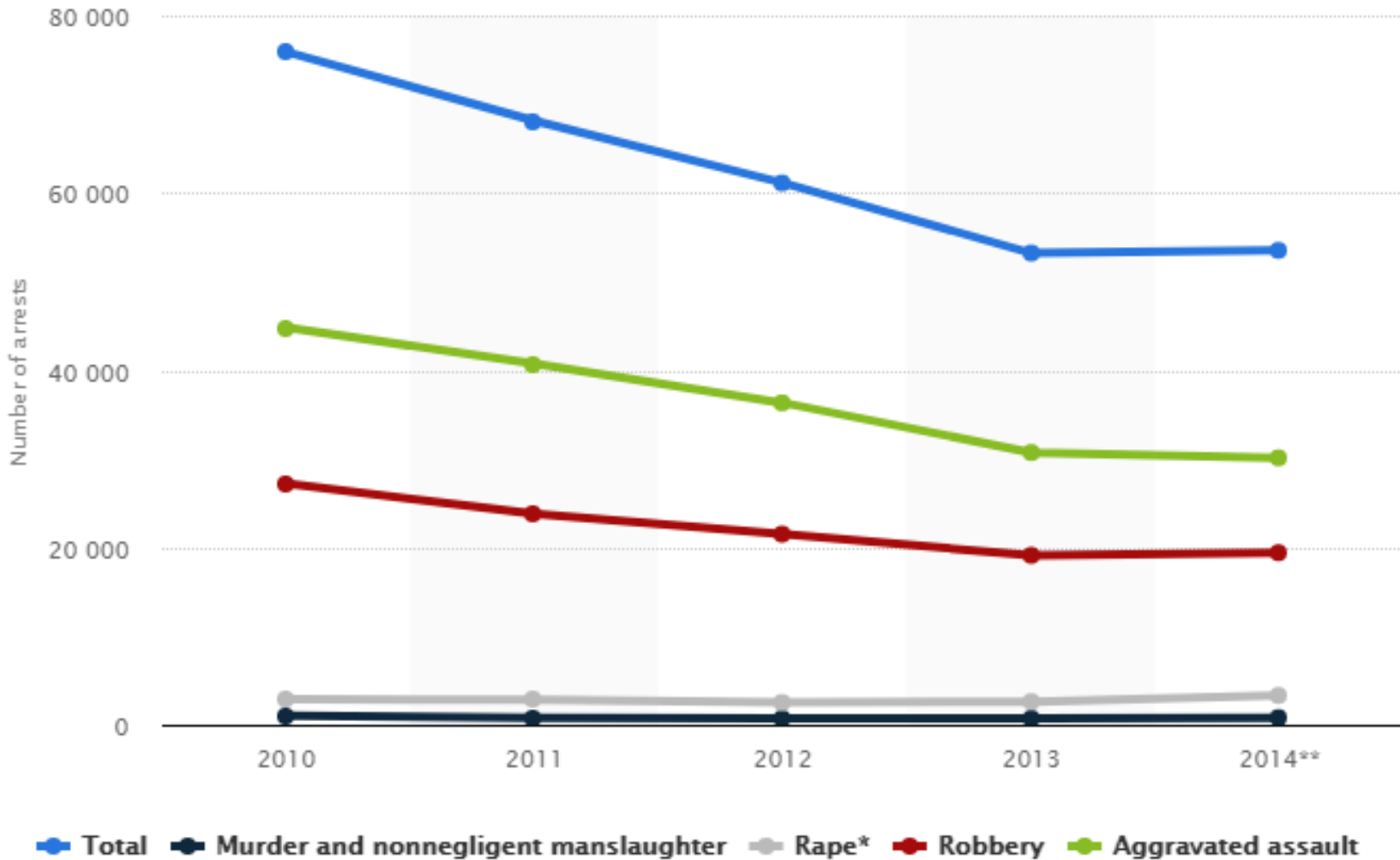
3. Peer Pressure

- If friends of your youth child are violent, it is prone that your child we become violent

- In the event a child starts showing juvenile delinquent behaviors, it is probable that they will become violent

4. Drug Abuse

- Addiction and teen drug abuse could lead to violent child behavior

- Drug abuse brings with it anger, frustration and depression

- These characteristics could lead to aggression and violent behavior

A graph showing the **number of arrests of the youth for violent offenses** in the **United States** from **2010 to 2014**

Quotations

- "The CDC states that "homicide disproportionately affects persons aged 10-24 years in the United States and consistently ranks in the top three leading causes of death in this age group" – *CDC*

- *"*The adverse outcomes that are hypothesized in the conceptual model to be associated with youth's exposure to chronic community violence include internalizing symptoms, externalizing behaviors, academic difficulties, and substance use. - Cooley-Strickland Michele

Personal Connection

- I chose this topic because the number of youth I've heard commit suicide has been increasing in my society

- As such, I sort to find out the cause of this problem in the society and I realized our generation is brought up with the mentality that mostly if not only my parent can provide oversight and guidance when I'm going through the motions of life

- Today, most families in my neighborhood do not consider it in good faith when a neighbor tries to correct their children and this makes it harder to reduce the youth violence in my neighborhood. During summer holidays, I've interned at WHO and worked with colleagues there on programs that sensitive parents on youth violence

Conclusion

- Youth violence comes as a result of different causes

- Some of these causes are family-based while others are society-based

- In both cases, the family and societal settings should take the responsibility of solving this problem

Summary

- Youth violence has been attributed by different primary factors which act as inducers to such action. As such, it is important to consider the cause of these primary factors in order to curb the increasing youth crime in the society (Cooley-Strickland et al 140). There are four primary factors that have been termed as the cause of youth violence, namely the media, child and domestic abuse, peer pressure and drug abuse.

- The youth is highly exposed to media content, and considering Internet services are cheaper than they have ever been, it has become easier to get content one needs without having to go through a program (Keirns 151). For instance, people no longer have to follow TV guides for them to watch their favorite TV programs. As such, exposure to violent media has aggressively made it look "normal" for the youth to engage in similar activities hence the increase in violence. Secondly, children who have grown up in domestic and child abuse environment see it as a norm to be violent. As such, these children end up becoming violent when they are exposed to aggressive or intense environments.

- Besides drawing the problem of violence from the family level, the youth interact amongst each other quite often. Considering all these individuals are from different backgrounds, if one of them comes from a place of violence, it is possible that those who are exposed to such a youth would ultimately become violent. Lastly, exposure to drugs brings with it depression, anger and frustration. As such, youth who use these drugs end up violent as a way of responding to these conditions.

- In a nutshell, the increase in youth violence is attributed by both societal- and family-based problems that could be solved if both entities to the initiative of guiding the youth in the right direction. The primary reason I chose this topic was because the number of youth committing suicide has been significantly increasing in my society. Therefore, I felt compelled to find out where the problem was and realized our society only considers our parents as our main if not only source of guidance and oversight in life yet they are not always present. This meant that my neighbor who has seen me grow still does not see it in good faith if he corrects me without going through my parents. This leads to children and youth that become violent without an accountable system that works well. I joined a youth program sponsored by the WHO during my summer holidays and we sensitive parents regarding youth violence and how to curb the problem.

References

- Keirns, Nathan J., et al. *Introduction to Sociology 2e*. OpenStax College, Rice University, 2015.

- Cooley-Strickland, Michele et al. "Community Violence and Youth: Affect, Behavior, Substance Use, and Academics." *Clinical Child and Family Psychology Review* 12.2 (2009): 127–156. *PMC*. Web. 30 Mar. 2018.