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A review of major violent incidents in Jamaican schools from media reports

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For the award of the degree of

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BY

Jason Solomon

September, 2024

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A Thesis Presented to the Faculty

Of

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Approval Page

CERTIFICATION OF APPROVAL

A REVIEW OF MAJOR VIOLENT INCIDENTS IN JAMAICA SCHOOLS

FROM MEDIA REPORTS

By

Robert Cole

DEDICATION

I am dedicating this thesis to my God (Jesus Christ), father (Uriah Solomon), deceased mother (Sherron Williams), and siblings.

The Lord and Savior Jesus Christ has constantly provided, comforted, guided, strengthened, and protected me to be able to complete this thesis. He also inspired me and gave me the patience to find the information necessary to write the thesis. My father, Uriah Solomon, reaffirms the reason why it's important to focus on Jesus Christ and to be diligent in everything so that I may prosper. Sherron Williams, my deceased mother, would not be pleased if I did not seek to keep bettering myself and to live a God-fearing life. My siblings, Vincent Solomon, Jerone Solomon, and Newton Solomon. They help to reaffirm the importance of being independent and not naïve because there are too many people constantly seeking to take advantage of others.

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ABSTRACT

The high level of crime and violence incidents occurring in Jamaican high schools is a major concern for educators and the wider society. The qualitative study using document analysis reviewed violent incidents in Jamaica high schools using media reports, specifically newspaper reports. Twenty-six violent incidents that occurred between 2010 and 2024 were reviewed using the READ procedure for document analysis. The study examines the causes, outcomes, and responses to the violent incidents. The causes of the incident include feud, dispute and altercation, unprovoked attacks, lover's triangle, gang feud, and disobedience. The incidents mainly result from disputes and altercations. The outcomes of the incidents are some kind of injury (bruises, swelling, stab wounds, and gunshot wound) and several fatal stabbings. Seven (7) of the 26 incident outcomes were fatal stabbings. In fact, stabbing was the cause of all the fatal incidents. Therefore, the 'Dull It' campaign was proposed to address the problem of students access to sharp edges or pointed items in school. The police were overtly involved in 21 of the 26 incidents because those incidents were major violent incidents. The responses to the incidents include counseling, police involvement, arrest, pressing of charge, suspension, teacher sit-in, court proceedings, and even imprisonment. The researcher postulates an approach to address deviant behavior and called approach 'background cancellation

and engagement for behavior management. This approach seeks to develop good habits in adolescents and to create a dislike for deviant behavior.

CHAPTER I

Introduction of the Study

Background

Jamaica is an island country found in the West Indies. The island is the third largest island situated in the Caribbean Sea, and the country's capital is Kingston. Jamaica is a beautiful tropical country that has struggled with crime and violence. This has caused several travel advisories from countries such as the United States and Canada to be issued against Jamaica. The most recent was issued on January 23, 2024 by the U.S. Department of State, advising citizens to reconsider traveling to Jamaica due to crime and insufficient medical services. Jamaica recorded a 7.8% decline in murders in 2023 compared to 2022, according to a report from the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) (Williams, 2024). Therefore, 1,393 people were murdered in 2023. There was a 17.5% and 15.3% decline in rape and robberies, respectively, in 2023 compared to 2022. This is signaling hope that the Jamaica crime and violence problem can be addressed with commitment from stakeholders and the provision of adequate resources. Jamaica is ranked 11th in the world in 2024 for level of crime (crime index) committed per

100,000 of the population (World Population Review, n.d.). The World Population Review gave Jamaica a crime index of 67.50.

Statement of the Problem

The high level of crime and violence incidents occurring in Jamaican high schools is a major concern for educators and the wider society. This research seeks to highlight the causes of the incidents, the outcome, and the response by the relevant stakeholders, such as teachers and school administrators.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this qualitative study is to investigate incidents of crime and violence at high schools in Jamaica using media reports, specifically newspaper reports, by summarizing the articles, identifying the causes and outcomes of the incidents, and the responses of the relevant stakeholders to the incidents.

CHAPTER II

Review of the Literature

Factors influencing crime and violence

Crime is an act or offense that is punishable by the law of the state with the intention of maintaining public order and societal stability. While violence involves the use of physical force where the intention is to cause hurt, damage, or kill someone or even something. Crime is regarded as anything that is punishable by law, such as murder, bribe, tax evasion, and rape. Crimes such as rape, murder, and assault are referred to as being violent or acts of violence. Those crimes generally involved the use of force to cause harm.

There are several factors that influence crime and violence, respectively. These are some of the fundamental realities that influence crimes: age and gender, criminal careers, biological factors, family factors, school performance and intelligence, truancy, the influence of delinquent peers, poverty and unemployment, substance abuse, public tolerance of crime, and crime-prone places (Weatherburn, 2001).

Age and Gender

Crime is considered an inclination of the young regardless of gender (male or female) (Weatherburn, 2001). Many studies have shown the age range for criminal involvement is between 12 and 16 years, and it is possible for criminal involvement to occur at a younger age. It is highlighted that the prevalence of participation in crime arises during late adolescence and reaches a peak in the late teenage years, and criminal involvement starts to decline after the late teenage years. The FBI's Uniform Crime Report (UCR) arrest data from 1935 to 1997 shows a relationship between crime and age. The relationship was especially pronounced for the Crime Index arrest data relating to homicide, robbery, rape, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, and theft. The data show a trend of younger criminal offenders during modern times. The FBI's UCR data shows that the peak age for criminal involvement is younger than twenty-five (25) years for the crimes mentioned (homicide, etc.) except for gambling. A decline in the rate of crime participation is observed for the majority of crimes mentioned in the late teenage years supporting Weatherburn (2001). The age-crime relationship is considered one of the strongest factors influencing criminal behavior and that the age-relationship is determined biologically.

The general strain theory (GST) was applied to two questions regarding gender and crime to explain males higher rate of criminal involvement compared to women (Broidy and Agnew, 1997). The general

strain theory states that crime and delinquency result from negative emotions such as fear, disappointment, depression, anger, and frustration caused by an array of strains (Barbieri et al., 2019). The theory proposed three types of strain: inability to achieve desire goals (goal blockage), the removal or threat to remove positively valued stimuli, and the presence or threat to introduce unpleasant and harmful stimuli. Broidy and Agnew (1997) mention that the GST links criminal behavior and strains to negative emotions individuals experience, for instance, depression and anger. The GST explains the crime gender gap between male and female by proposing that females are more inclined to respond to strains through developing depression instead of anger. On the other hand, males are inclined to respond to strain with anger, and this is more favorable to influencing criminal behavior. Therefore, the difference in response between males and females towards strains is one factor responsible for the more men compared to women participating in crime.

Criminal careers

Recidivism is referred to as the relapse of a person into criminal behavior after previous interaction with the justice system, such as being arrested, convicted, or completing a sentence (Decarcerating correctional facilities during COVID-19: Advancing Health, Equity, and safety, 2020). Basically, recidivism speaks to the tendency of a person with a criminal history to reoffend. Research conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) involving 15 state prisons in 1994 from two recidivism projects. The

study explores the inmates reoffending history using records from the releasing state and records of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (the III database). The study uncovered that within three (3) years of release, about seventy percent (70%) of the inmates were rearrested; approximately 47% were convicted of a new crime, and 25% returned to prison due to a new conviction. Another study found that evaluated reoffending history using data from 30 state prison systems over a 5-year and 9-year period. The analysis of the data revealed a significant portion of the inmates were rearrested because about 67% are arrested within 3 years, 75% in 5 years, and 83% in 9 years. In the 5-year period about 28% of the inmates return to prison due to a new conviction, while 51% return because of a new offense or parole violations. Recidivism can be viewed as an indicator of criminal career, but criminal career should not be considered the sole factor influencing recidivism.

The reoffending rate in England and Wales, according to the Ministry of Justice, was between 24.7% and 31.8% since 2008 to 2020, with the average rate being 29.8% (Taylor, 2022). The data show that the reoffending rate for April to June 2020 was 29%, and the lowest reoffending rates were observed during the coronavirus pandemic. The reoffending rate for adults and juveniles was 29% and 33%, respectively. Reoffending means that a person who has committed a crime in the past has once again committed another crime. This can be viewed as an indicator of a criminal career, but

other issues, such as mental health can be causing people to reoffend or have a criminal career. The government of England and Wales suggests these factors as influencing the reoffending rate: drug, mental health, employment, and housing needs. Approximately half of all acquisitive crime or crimes committed to gain valuable material, such as shoplifting, theft, and robbery are linked to drug use. Also, those offenders are impacted by other factors that influence their criminal behavior, namely substance misuse, housing, employment, and mental health. Additionally, these career criminals or persistent offenders reoffending behavior is linked to drug use, housing problems, employment, and mental health issues from their youth.

Biological factors

The Government of New Zealand, Ministry of Justice, outlines three sets of biological factors influencing involvement in crime: genetics, neurotransmitters, and neuro-biology (Biological Risk Factors for Involvement in Crime, 2009). Research suggests that genetics can contribute to anti-social or criminal behavior. There is some evidence linking reoffending with genetic particularly property crime. However, there is little evidence linking genetics and violent crime. Neurotransmitter hormones such as serotonin, norepinephrine, and dopamine are hormones that have been studied to determine how they influence criminal behavior. Research has found that there is a strong link between low levels of serotonin and anti-social behavior, moderate for norepinephrine, and none for dopamine. Numerous studies

have found that a low serotonin level is linked to childhood conduct disorders, antisocial personality disorders, and criminal behavior, especially crime committed without thinking about one's actions (impulsivity).

Neuro-biology looks at the structure and function of the brain. There is increasing evidence suggesting that neurological damage is a critical factor influencing offending (Biological Risk Factors for Involvement in Crime, 2009). Damage to the prefrontal cortex is worth noting due to its link to antisocial behavior. The prefrontal cortex can become damaged from head injury, birth complications, disease and environmental toxin, for instance, from alcohol and other drugs. Damage sustained to the prefrontal cortex can limit one's ability to control impulsive behavior, aggression, enhance risk taking, encourage rule breaking, emotion outbursts, and diminish intellectual capacity such as reasoning ability and problem solving which negatively impact academic performance. Mental health can have a biological (e.g., genetics) and social (e.g., trauma) cause. Criminal behavior has been directly and indirectly linked to mental health, with studies showing that the age group in the community accounts for the significant portion of violent incidents, a significant amount of those individuals suffers from mental health disorders.

Family factors

The factors relating to inadequate parenting are some of the most prominent predictors of juvenile involvement in crime (Weatherburn, 2001). This is further strengthened by crime prevention research, which highlights

that certain kinds of parenting or family environments increase the risks of juvenile involvement in crime. There have been experiments conducted to determine if improving parenting would decrease the risk of juvenile involvement in crime, and the experiments were successful. Therefore, improving parenting skills is an effective way to reduce juvenile involvement in crime. The parenting factors that are connected to juvenile delinquency are grouped into four categories (Weatherburn, 2001):

1. Parental neglect factors

- Large family size
- Poor parental supervision
- Inadequate parent-child interaction

2. Parent conflict and discipline factors

- Abuse or nagging
- Harsh
- Erratic or inconsistent discipline

3. Deviant (parental) behaviors and attitudes factors

- Parental criminality
- Parental violence or tolerance of violence

4. Family disruption factors

- Chronic spousal conflict or marriage break-up

School performance and intelligence

Criminal offenders on average are less intelligent than non-offenders (Weatherburn, 2001). There are experts that argue that a low intelligence quotient (IQ) directly increases the likelihood of criminal behavior because the person is less able to comprehend the consequences of their actions. On the other hand, others argue that the association between low IQ and crime arises from the fact that individuals with low IQ oftentimes perform more poorly in school. Also, poor school performance is a strong indicator that a person might get involved in criminal activities.

The main findings of a population-based longitudinal study conducted in Brazil to evaluate the relationship between school performance and young adult crime found that repeating school grades in adolescence increases the likelihood for crime involvement in early adulthood (Martins et al., 2022). Grade repetition (repeating grades) can arise from poor school performance such as failing to meet the school exam criteria or doing poorly on school examinations. The mediation analysis shows that the direct effects were far more significant compared to others, such as substance use and youth income. However, managing to successfully complete school by the expected age despite the risks associated with repeating grades is a major preventive factor against crime involvement. Youths who completed school had a lower risk of being involved in violent and non-violent crime. Therefore, it can be

concluded that education support and interventions in school are likely important strategies for crime prevention.

There is an association with violence and intelligence because people with low intelligence may possess low level skills in solving complex problems (Savage et al., 2017). This can make it difficult to not resort to violence when faced with difficult situations involving others. Additionally, some researchers have reported a correlation between intelligence and cognitive empathy. Empathy speaks to a person's ability to understand and relate to other people, such as their feelings, recognize boundaries in relationships, and comforting others.

Truancy

Truancy refers to students being absent from school without permission. Truancy or school absenteeism is known to negatively impact learning, academic achievement, and educational outcomes (Keppens & Spruyt, 2020). The adolescent who practices truancy often do poorly at school (Weatherburn, 2001). Those students would have spent less time in the classroom or received less hours of instructions, and might result in poor exam performance. Truancy is considered one of the factors that influence adolescents' involvement in crime because being absent from school exposed them to more opportunities to participate in crime. Those adolescents would be under supervision and monitored at their school compared to roaming unsupervised. The causes, effects, and remedies of truancy were proposed

by Bajon (2022) using a descriptive design study and a randomly selected sample size of 250 SS II students from 10 different senior secondary schools. A self-designed questionnaire was used to perform data collection. The causes of truancy were suggested to be physical and mental health illness, broken home, drug abuse, harsh disciplinary practices, lack of parental supervision, poor academic performance, poor (low) parent income, an unconducive school environment, bullying, and wrong teaching methods (Bajon, 2022). The effects of truancy were stated to be school dropout, poor academic performance, engagement in crime, violence, drug abuse, family instability, and poor self-esteem. Disciplinary policies, supervision and monitoring by parents of their children's academic activities, provision of adequate facilities at school, educating students about the dangers of drug abuse, and providing care to students suffering from physical and mental health illnesses are all remedies for truancy.

The influence of delinquent peers

The differential association theory is used to explain the influence of delinquent friends on their peer involvement in criminal activities (Rokven, Boer, Tolsma and Ruiters, 2017). The theory states that friends help to develop a person into the individual who they are through the transmission of friend values, behavioral models, and social reinforcement. It is further stated that individuals learn behavior from others by observing and imitating the behavior of others, and individuals become participants in crime from social

interaction with others that are already engaging in criminal activities. This finding is supported by the findings of other research conducted using adolescents, which show that involvement with delinquent peers increases the risk of participating in crime. The extent to which delinquent peers influence their counterparts is stronger the earlier the peers become involved or associated, the frequency of their association and the closeness of their association. There are studies that have shown that peer delinquency is connected with victimization because adolescents who have delinquent friends are at a higher risk of victimization. Lifestyle and routine activity theories are often used to explain the risk of victimization. Those theories essentially state that crime occurs when motivated criminal offenders come across suitable targets that lack capable guardianship. Research has constantly found that the behavior of people is amazingly similar to that of their friends. It is important to note that most studies assessing the influence of peers on criminal behavior use samples consisting of adolescents only. Rokven, Boer, Tolsma and Ruiters (2017) tested the hypothesis of the study. The study examines the effect that friends' involvement in crime has on influencing others involvement in crime. The study tested the hypothesis using the four waves of CrimeNL, a longitudinal study of offending, victimization, and friendship networks in the Netherlands. The study results support the common view of the public that delinquent friend associations

increase the risk of others offending or participating in crime, but only when the friends live near each other.

According to Gifford-Smith, Dodge, Dishion, and McCord (2005), it is becoming more noticeable that unrestricted interaction of deviant youths with other deviant youths is one way deviant behavior worsens. Also, the treatment of deviant youths often involves placing them in settings with other deviant youths. However, there is concern that such segregation or isolation may have adverse effects. The level of delinquency has been showing to vary based on sociological studies that have shown the concentration of deviant behavior in certain adolescent groups such as gangs, cliques, and peer groups. Longitudinal studies such as the Seattle Development Youth Study, Denver Youth Study, and Rochester Youth Development Study have found that gangs accounted for the vast majority of the criminal behavior and constitute only a small portion of the samples used. Surprisingly, studies have suggested that girls are more likely to be influenced by delinquent peers compared to boys. Other research highlighted that males are more influenced by other males and females are more influenced by their male friends.

Poverty and unemployment

Ecological fallacy is often committed when looking at poverty and unemployment effects on crime by drawing conclusions from the characteristics of crime-prone places (Weatherburn, 2001). This is because research often fails to state whether if it is the poor or unemployed committing

crime. Longitudinal studies have shown that both low socioeconomic status and unemployment make individuals more likely to commit crime. Poverty and unemployment are viewed as motivating factors pushing people to commit crime in an attempt to overcome their adverse effect on their lives. Parents facing economic or social stress are at greater risk of inadequate parenting practices, which increase the risk of juvenile involvement in crime.

Septriani (2024) evaluated the impact of economic conditions on criminality in Indonesia. The research used secondary data from the Central Bureau of Statistics, with crime rate being the dependent variable and unemployment rate and poverty rate being the independent variables. The result of the t-test showed that the poverty rate partially has a positive and significant effect on crime in Indonesia (Septriani, 2024). Therefore, this means when poverty increases, crime increases, and when poverty decreases, crime decreases. The findings agree with social disorganization theory, which states social and economic environmental factors influence the crime rate in an area. Also, other theories supported the results such as the theory presented by Becker that states poverty can motivate and increase the probability of individuals to commit criminal acts. Poverty can be a factor that motivates criminal activities in order for people to meet their daily demands to sustain life, such as food. The t-test results for the unemployment effect on crime rate showed a partially and significant effect in Indonesia (Septriani, 2024). This means that when the unemployment rate increases, then the

crime rate will increase, and if the unemployment rate decreases, then the crime rate will decrease. This finding is also in agreement with social disorganization theory. The strain theory can be applied to finding because it states that unemployment can cause economic and social pressures on individuals, pushing them to commit crime to meet their needs such as food.

Substance abuse

Substance abuse is one of the largest causes of violence in adults and adolescents, but there are other factors that influence violent behavior (Martens and Generes, 2024). A combination of those factors tends to motivate aggressive behavior. These factors are discussed in this section, such as age and gender, biological factors, poverty and unemployment, crime-prone places, etc. Alcohol usage is more closely related to violent behavior compared to other substances or drugs. Excessive alcohol consumption by the perpetrator, victim, or both parties features in approximately fifty percent (50%) of violent crimes and sexual assaults. The state of being intoxicated by itself does not cause violence, but it may increase the probability for the manifestation of violent behavior in some people. There are few theories proposed to explain the effect of alcohol usage on violence. These theories are the disinhibition hypothesis, alcohol myopia, cognitive function impairment, and the consideration of future consequences (Martens and Generes, 2024).

1. The disinhibition hypothesis: alcohol will cause people to engage in behaviors that they would normally resist. Alcohol disrupts normal brain function and unfortunately weakens the area of the brain that controls impulses and urges.
2. Alcohol myopia: An intoxicated person's focus narrows, resulting in misconceptions. For instance, an innocent bump at the bar might be mistaken for an act of aggression.
3. Cognitive function impairment: cognitive processing is adversely disrupted by alcohol, making it difficult to problem-solve, control anger, and make good decisions. Cognitive processing influences how people respond to situations.
4. The consideration of future consequences: alcohol intoxication makes individuals who do not focus on the future but only on here and now more aggressive.

Alcohol featured in about 90,000 domestic violence deaths worldwide in 2016 (Martens and Generes, 2024). And alcohol and drugs play a role in 40-60% of domestic abuse situations and 32% of all murders in the United States.

Drugs show numerous connections to crime with the most apparent being that it is a criminal offense or crime to use, possess, make, or distribute drugs classified as having abuse potential (Craddock et al., 1994). Some examples of those drugs are cocaine, heroin, marijuana, and amphetamines. Drugs and crime are connected through the effect of drugs on the user's

behavior and the generation of violence. Also, there are numerous illegal activities associated with the distribution of drugs. Drugs are considered to be a major contributor to the United States crime problem.

Public tolerance of crime

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) recorded three consecutive years from 2016-2019 of decline in violent crime (Nubani, Fierke-Gmazel, Madill, and De Biasi, 2023). However, an increase in violent crime was recorded in 2020. The highest percentage of criminal activity took place on residential property (51%) and parks or playgrounds (1%) accounted for the lowest level of criminal activity. The implementation of numerous Crime Prevention Through Environment Design (CPTED) strategies results in the overall reduction of crime in an area. The Clean and Green program is an example of a CPTED-based initiative that resulted in a 40% reduction in violent crimes over a five-year timeframe. Community engagement is a good approach to addressing crime but does not address all the challenges experienced when bringing the community together.

The *Barcelona Salut als Barris* (BSaB), which means “Barcelona Health in the Neighborhoods” was implemented in some of the city of Barcelona most disadvantaged neighborhoods to reduce existing disparities (Domínguez and Montolio, 2021). Reduction observed in criminal actions can be credited to the implementation of BSaB. For instance, the offending rate among young offenders dropped in neighborhoods where BSaB was

implemented. The initiative reduces crime committed against others and intimate crimes. Intimate crimes involve the offender and victim sharing a close association. The result of BSaB is not attributed to improved health or unemployment in the neighborhoods. The success was credited to the development of a more robust social fabric. BSaB involved the participation of the local health center (program manager), local social agents, and the community.

Crime-prone places

There is data showing that in every city most of the serious crime is generated by a few blocks (MacDonald, 2024). For instance, 6-13% of street addresses in Chicago, Los Angeles, and New York accounted for 50% of all reported crime. The hyper-concentration of crime is a common occurrence worldwide and is referred to as the 'law of crime concentration'. Those are areas called crime 'hot spots' by Cambridge University criminologist Lawrence Sherman. The crime hot spots are usually featured from year to year on the crime statistics. Research assessing the rise in shootings in 2020-2021 uncovers that 47% of the increase in New York and 55% in Los Angeles was due to 10% of the crime-prone blocks. Those blocks are crime-prone due to certain features, such as commercial and residential targets, which attract local and outside criminals (Weatherburn, 2001). For instance, studies have shown that the more accessible an area or place is then the more crime will occur in the area or place.

The effect of gambling in Atlantic City on the small town along the route to the resort in the city resulted in an increase in those towns compared to those towns not along the route (Eck and Weisburd, 1995). Additionally, drug dealing locations may attract predatory offenders seeking to purchase drugs. Those predatory offenders may then commit crimes in the areas surrounding the drug dealing locations. Physical disorder in an area in the form of dilapidated homes, poor street lighting, vacant lots, and trash-filled streets is shown to be areas where crime is more concentrated. These are some factors affecting crime-prone places, such as inequality, poverty, and unemployment; criminal opportunity; weak informal social controls; gangs and organized crime; and lax or insufficient law enforcement (Weatherburn, 2001). Weak informal social controls refer to a neighborhood's inability to police itself in order to reduce criminal opportunity.

Crime-prone times

There are factors that influence crime levels over the short term and long term (Weatherburn, 2001). The factors that influence crime in the short term are less understood compared to the long term. It has been highlighted by law enforcement officers that the release of crime-prone offenders from prison or the unwillingness of the court to deny bail impact crime in the short term. Additionally, research findings have shown variation in the rates of assault and homicide based on the time of the day, day of the week, and month of the year. The change in the opportunity to commit the crime or

pattern of interaction between potential victims and offenders was mentioned as a possible cause of the variations. Research evidence suggests that increases in unemployment temporarily increase the crime rate (Weatherburn, 2001). Also, unemployment seems to increase homicide rates with the frustration that it causes suggested as the reason. The weather is suggested to impact assault rate based on the daily temperature. This might be due to the fact that hot weather makes it easier for a person to become frustrated or it brings the potential offender and victim into more frequent contact with each other, such as outdoor social events.

There is evidence that suggests that the demands or supply of material influence crime over the long term (Weatherburn, 2001). Most crimes involved the theft of material goods. Drug use is another factor frequently mentioned as influencing crime trends. However, evidence is suggesting it's the dependency on drugs that increases the rate of individuals committing crime. Other suggested factors that impact long-term crime trends includes; increased access to firearms, an increase in families separating, an increase in the ratio of children to adults, greater geographic mobility, and an increase in the number of females in the labor force.

Factors influencing violence and crime in Jamaica

There are numerous factors that are interrelated that influence crime and violence in Jamaica (Hope, 2020). Those factors can be categorized as political, social, economic, ideological, psychological, cultural, and

administrative. The various factors create an environment for crime and violence ranging from passive, social acceptance of minor cheating and tricky or deceptive practices, reckless driving, white-collar crimes, and the more serious acts of murder, rape, robbery, and a breakdown of civil order on the other end of the continuum. Crime is defined as deviant behavior and the behavior is subject to social sanctions.

Violent crime in Jamaica is driven by organized crime, gang activities, access to guns, and other factors (Harriott and Jones, 2016). There are international efforts to control the flow of firearms into Jamaica, but this has not significantly reduced the availability of guns. In 2013, gang activities motivated 79% of the homicides, according to data from the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF). The main victims and perpetrators of violent crimes are youths between the ages of 16 and 24. Sexual crimes are mainly committed against women and girls. The JCF and the Office of the Children's Registry provided data that shows high rates of sexual victimization. Crime in the past was concentrated in the Kingston metropolitan area, but the JCF division crime data is showing a spread over a large geographical area, especially sub-urban area. Crime is concentrated in certain areas in Jamaica referred to as hot spots. Those crime hot spots differ in population, core functions, and activities, but they are mainly hot spots vulnerable to crime risk factors such as drugs, guns, gangs, and high level of youth unemployment. In any society marginalized males between ages 15 and 25 accounted for the

largest proportion of perpetrators of violent crime (Harriott and Jones, 2016). The JCF data supports that generalization through highlighting violent crimes is concentrated in communities experiencing social exclusion. Those communities are often referred to as inner-city or informal settlements and youth men between the ages of 16 and 30 are responsible for committing those violent crimes.

The increase in organized crime reflects the maturation of criminal and street gangs in Jamaica that existed from earlier times (Harriott and Jones, 2016). These once ordinary street gangs have mutated into complex organized criminal organizations. Unfortunately, some of these gangs have turned transnational and participate in the drug trade in several countries. Also, they are able to enable corruption within the Jamaican government to exploit the resources of the country. The cases of USA v. Samuel Knowles and USA v. Christopher 'Dudus' Coke show the transnational nature of crime in Jamaica and highlight the strong correlation between gangs, illicit drug trade, and illegal arms trade. These are some of the factors influencing the development of organized crime in Jamaica: consistent demand for illegal goods and services such as illegal drugs, easy access to major drug markets, source of provision for political patronage, the continuous privatization of protection, and the weakening of the criminal justice system. The weak border security of Jamaica and the country being a prominent transshipment point contribute to organized crime as stated by other studies.

The high-rate violent crime in Jamaica impacts economic development through adverse effects such as creating a negative investment climate, gradual breakdown of existing developments, and impeding the development of human and social capital (Harriott and Jones, 2016). The assessment of businesses in Jamaica found high levels of victimization because 65% of all businesses reported one or more forms of criminal victimization. Crime cost Jamaica about 3.7% of gross domestic product (GDP) or Jamaican dollar (JMD) 12.4 billion in 2001. However, a newspaper article in 2017 cited the World Bank as saying crime is eroding about 5% of the country's GDP, or JMD 68 billion per year (Clarke, 2017).

Violent crimes in Jamaica have a health care cost of JMD 1.3 billion divided between the public health system (JMD 995.7 million) and private health system (JMD 254.5 million) (Harriott and Jones, 2016). Other areas of cost due to violent crime include lost production (JMD 500 million), losses due to mortality (JMD 194.1 million), and injuries (JMD 337.2 million). It cost approximately JMD 10.5 billion in public expenditures on security, and for injuries due to interpersonal and self-directed violence, JMD 2.1 billion. The indirect medical costs accumulated due to interpersonal violence in 2006 were JMD 27.5 billion. Other costs arise from violent incidents preventing health care practitioners from going to work or disrupting hospitals and clinic operations. The burdensome cost of violent crime on the Jamaican economy is suggested to negatively impact the competitiveness of Jamaica's exports.

The World Bank found that countries affected by violence had a poverty gap of 21% compared to countries not affected by violence. Jamaica compared to other Caribbean countries, struggles with economic growth but ranks high on the human development ranking. The country's debt to GDP ratio exceeded 140% in 2003, making it one of the most indebted countries in the world.

Women and children are mostly the victims of crime that occurred in the home (Harriott and Jones, 2016). The risk factors for child and youth victimization fit into four categories: family, community, schools, and individuals. The categories are stated to overlap with each other. Youths' potential to exhibit violent behavior is influenced by these factors: biological, psychological, behavioral factors, and family and peers' influences. Hyperactivity, impulsiveness, poor behavioral control, and attention problems are psychological and behavioral characteristics that indicate the potential for youth violence. The potential for a youth to develop violent tendencies is influenced by parental behavior, level of monitoring at home and supervision by adults, the employment of physical punishments, low socio-economic status, and the type of peer group to which the youth belong. The type of peer group speaks to exposure to delinquency, such as gangs. The transmission of violent tendencies can result from parenting style because it affects psychosocial outcomes.

Childhood is a dangerous period for children in Jamaica because they are increasingly making contact with the criminal justice system and health

institutions as both victims and perpetrators of violence (Harriott and Jones, 2016). Based on statistics from the institutions that collect data on crime and violence in Jamaica; children experience a high level of sexual, verbal, emotional, physical, and psychological abuse in all institutions. A general decline of major crimes in Jamaica occurred between 2009 and 2013. But the Office of the Children's Registry (OCR) data shows a 26% increase in all categories of child victimization in 2013 compared to 2012. Individuals up to the age of 18 are considered children. The percent of the children victimization cases are as follows: 57% involved females, 41% males, and 2% unknown. The increase observed for specific abuses ranges from 20 to 53%. These specific abuses showed the highest increase: child neglect (48%), children in need of care and protection (39%), and sexual abuse (31%). Carnal abuse accounted for 56% of the sexual abuse reported. Based on the data, the OCR in 2013 received report that showed 11 out of every 1000 children in Jamaica experience child abuse. Jamaican children and youths are overly exposed to violence. They experience and witness violence in major institutions such as families, communities, schools, work situations, and the media. Children in state institutions experience institution violence.

Factors influencing Youth Crime and Violence

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) defined youth violence as the intentional use of force or power to threaten or harm other young people between the ages of 10 and 24 (About Youth Violence, 2024).

Youth violence includes acts such as fighting, bullying, threats with weapons, and gang-related violence. The youth can either be the victim, offender, or witness of youth violence. Youth violence occurred daily and adversely impacted youth from urban, suburban, rural, and tribal communities, according to data collected in the United States. Homicide is the third leading cause of death for youths between age 10 and 24 and the leading cause of death for non-Hispanic Black or African American youth. In the United States, emergency departments treat in excess of 800 youths daily due to physical assault-related injuries sustained. There is a high price tag on youth violence in the United States, where in 2020 youth homicides and non-fatal physical assault-related injuries cost approximately USD 122 billion per year. Globally, over 176,000 homicides occur among youths between the ages of 15 and 29, and this accounts for 37% of all homicides worldwide (Youth violence, 2023). The World Health Organization (WHO) stated that homicides are the third leading cause of death among youths between 15 and 29 years of age. Youth violence occurred mainly outside the homes of the youths affected. It can result in deaths, injuries, disability, and long-term health issues such as mental illness and increase risky health-related behaviors that can result in chronic illness. Youth violence is also associated with a higher level of school dropouts, an adverse effect on cognitive development, and the possibility to contribute to their community development.

The risk factors for youth violence are more detailedly outlined in five domains: individuals, family, school, peer-related, and community and neighborhood factors (Hawkins et al., 2000).

Individual risk factors:

1. Complications related to pregnancy and delivery
2. Low resting heart rate
3. Internalize disorder which means emotional distress.
4. Hyperactivity, problem concentrating, restlessness and engaging in risk taking
5. Aggressiveness
6. Early initiation to violent behavior
7. Involvement in other forms of anti-social behavior
8. Beliefs and attitudes favorable to deviant or antisocial behavior

Complication related to pregnancy and delivery: 80% of violent offenders were associated with delivery complications compared to 30% property offenders and 47% non-offenders. Research has shown that a healthy home environment protects against prenatal trauma (Hawkins et al., 2000). A low resting heart rate is regarded as an indicator of a fearless temperament or underarousal, suggesting the person is more prone to aggression and violence. Internalize order refers to nervousness or withdrawal, worrying, and anxiety. Hyperactivity, problem concentrating, restlessness and engaging in risk taking, studies suggest a correlation

between these factors and later violent behavior. In Sweden, a longitudinal study involving 15% of boys suffering from restlessness and concentration difficulties were arrested for violence by the age of 26. The boys with restlessness and concentration difficulties were five times more likely to be arrested for violence than boys without issues.

Aggressive behavior assessed in children from ages 6 to 13 has consistently predicted later involvement in violence among males (Hawkins et al., 2000). The findings are less consistent. Early initiation to violent behavior and delinquency is associated with more serious and chronic violence. For instance, one-half of adjudicated delinquents for a violent offense between the ages of 10 and 16 were later convicted by age 24, compared to 8% of juveniles between the ages of 10 and 16 not adjudicated delinquents for a violent crime. Involvement in other forms of antisocial behavior such as stealing, destruction of property, self-reported delinquency, smoking, early sexual intercourse, and drug selling are associated with a greater risk of violent behavior among males. Beliefs and attitudes favorable to deviant or antisocial behavior include dishonesty, antisocial beliefs and attitudes, attitudes conducive to violence, and hostility toward police are predictive of later violence among males. Less consistency is shown among females.

Family risk factors

1. Parental criminality
2. Child maltreatment

3. Poor family management practices
4. Low levels of parental involvement
5. Poor family bonding and family conflict
6. Parental attitudes favorable to substance use and violence
7. Parent-child separation

Parent criminality in the form of a criminal father was found to make it 3.8 times more likely for males age 18–23 to commit violent criminal acts compared to those without a criminal father (Hawkins et al., 2000). Diana et al. (2023) analyzed data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health found that males with criminal fathers are associated with an increased risk of being arrested, convicted, and incarcerated even after controlling for low self-control, self-reported delinquency, exposure to delinquent peers, and parental socialization. It was found that females with a criminal mother and a criminal father have an increased risk of being arrested, convicted, and incarcerated. The effects of three forms of child maltreatment were evaluated by studies: physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect. The evidence suggests that children who experience physical abuse or neglect are more likely to commit violent crimes later in life (Hawkins et al., 2000). Additionally, studies have shown childhood abuse increases the risk of adulthood crime through promoting antisocial behavior during the period of childhood and adolescence (Pathways between child maltreatment and adult criminal involvement, 2017). Also, having relationships with antisocial

romantic partners and peers in adulthood increases the risk of adulthood crime but is less compared to childhood abuse. Poor family management practices such as failure to set clear expectations for children's behavior, poor monitoring and supervision, and severe and inconsistent discipline consistently indicate the onset of delinquency and substance abuse later in life (Hawkins et al., 2000). The strong presence of parents in their children's lives is a protective factor or mitigate against them getting involved in violence (Hawkins et al., 2000). Therefore, highlighting why low levels of parental involvement is bad.

Family conflict is linked to a range of internalized problems in children such as depression, anxiety, global distress, and suicide (Morelli, 2023). Children who experience family conflicts are at risk of violence because family conflict is a risk factor for more severe problems such as children victimization. Children exposed to high levels of marital (marriage) and family conflict increases the risk of violence in the future (Hawkins et al., 2000). There is research showing that parents with a tolerant attitude towards behavior such as alcohol consumption is a predictor of alcohol and drug use by youths (Hawkins et al., 2000). In the United States, a longitudinal survey found that if an adolescent has a friend with an authoritative mother, then that adolescent is 40% less likely consume alcohol to point the of getting drunk, 38% less likely to engage in binge drinking, 39% less likely to use cigarettes, and 43% less likely to use marijuana compared to adolescent having friends

with neglectful mothers (Shakya, Christakis, and Fowler, 2012). The study controls for parenting style of the adolescent mother, school level fixed effects, and demographics. There is evidence that suggest that disruption of parent-child relations is a predictor of later violent behavior in children (Hawkins et al., 2000). Separating parents and children before age 10 predicts future violent behavior. A fairly recent study shows separation of children from their parents' during childhood was associated with increased risk of subsequent violent offending when compared to those children who lived continuously with both parents (Mok, 2018).

School risk factors

1. Academic failure
2. Low bonding to school
3. Truancy and dropping out of school
4. Frequent school transitions

The correlation between poor academic achievement and later violent behavior has been determined to be stronger for females compared to males (Hawkins et al., 2000). The evaluation of data from the 2015 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) found that students with higher academic grades are less likely to experience some forms of violence, such as fighting compared to their peers with lower grades (Making the Connection: Youth Violence and Academic Grades, 2015). The opinion that bonding to school mitigates against involvement in crime is usually supported by research

(Hawkins et al., 2000). High truancy rates between ages 12 and 14 increase the likelihood of involvement in violence as adolescents and adults. There is research that shows youths who change schools often at ages 14 and 16 are more violent at age 18 compared to those who have not changed school.

Peer-related risk factors

1. Delinquent siblings
2. Delinquent peers
3. Gang membership

Sibling delinquency may be a risk factor for criminal offending in adolescents that were reevaluated later on approaching adulthood but not in children who were later reevaluated in adolescence (Walters, 2017). This suggests sibling delinquency can act as a risk factor for future criminal offending. There is research showing that exposure to deviant peers is connected with an increase in numerous forms of delinquent behavior such as drug use, covert antisocial behavior, violent offenses, and early and high-risk sexual behavior (Gifford-Smith, Dodge, Dishion, and McCord, 2005). Also, deviant peer association is a much stronger predictor of delinquent behavior compared to other variables such as family, school, and community characteristics. Another form of peer-related risk factor is gang membership. Gang membership is a predictor of involvement in youth violence because it promotes youth violent offending and victimization (Leverso and O'Neill, 2022). Examples of youth violent offending and victimization are bullying,

fighting, brandishing weapons, and on the extreme end, murder. Those behaviors are naturally characteristics of street gang culture and membership.

Community and neighborhood risk factors

1. Poverty
2. Community disorganization
3. Availability of drugs and firearms
4. Neighborhood adults involved in crime
5. Exposure to violence and racial prejudice

Growing up in poverty has been found to increase the likelihood of participation in crime and violence (Hawkins et al., 2000). There is a connection between neighborhood disadvantage and youth violence, which is partially explained by members of disadvantaged community (Ohmer, 2016). Residents of those communities witnessed violence at the community level, lack of positive relationships among community members, and the opinion that violence is acceptable. The access to guns and drugs among youths in a community is a predictor of more diverse violent behavior at the age of 18 (Hawkins et al., 2000). Children who are exposed to many adults' who are criminal offenders are more likely to engage in violent behavior by the age of 18 (Hawkins et al., 2000). The exposure of children to violence during childhood and adolescence as victims and witnesses to violent acts increases the risk for numerous adverse health and behavioral outcomes (Seal, Nguyen, and Beyer, 2014). Depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress

disorder, aggressive behavior, suicide ideation, and erosion in school achievements and erosion in high school completion are examples of adverse outcomes. Community violence disproportionately affects black youths (Wilson, 2023). The experience of racism and being in discriminatory places affects youths' symptoms of depression, post-traumatic stress (PTS), and how safe they feel. Black youths living in disadvantaged communities are unfortunately vastly more exposed to community violence.

Crime and violence prevalence globally compared against Jamaica

There are several factors that influence crime rates such as poverty, unemployment, and law enforcement strictness (Crime rate by country 2024, n.d). The crime rate is calculated by dividing the total number of reported crimes by the population of the country, then multiplying by 100,000. The crime rate varies from country to country due to the kinds of factors that might influence the crime rate. For example, Venezuela, Papua New Guinea, and South Africa experience high crime rates due to corruption, economic changes, and social challenges. While countries such as Switzerland and Japan credit their effective law enforcement and to some extent, their restrictive gun laws for the low crime rates observed in those countries.

Currently, Venezuela has the highest crime rate in the world with a crime index of 83.76 (Crime rate by country 2024, n.d). Papua New Guinea's crime index is 80.79, making it the country with the second highest crime rate globally. And, the country having the third highest crime index worldwide is

Afghanistan. Afghanistan crime index is 78.4. Qatar recorded the lowest crime rate worldwide of 14.3 measured per 100,000 citizens. Jamaica is currently ranked 11th on the crime index with an index value of 67.5. There was a 7.8% decline in murders in Jamaica in the year 2023, and the total number of murders was 1,393 compared to 1,511 murders committed in 2022 (Williams, 2024). The number of shootings across the police division in Jamaica and injuries decline. There was a 17.5% decline in the number of rapes and a 15.3% decline in robberies (780). The homicide rate of Jamaica in 2023 was 60.9 homicides per 100,000 citizens (Statista, 2024).

The number of youth arrest and conviction rates has declined worldwide in the past two decades, but some countries still recorded high rates of youth violence annually (Gogineni, Qari and Sharma, 2023). The United States reported that juveniles accounted for 16% of arrest or about 86,000. The WHO reported in 2015 that youth homicides number was about 200,000 for youths between 10 and 29 years old. The main perpetrator of those homicides were also youths. It is important to note that the delinquency youth population globally has increased from 18 million to 250 million between the years of 1992 and 2007. There is a strong connection between mental health problems and delinquency because 70% of the youths in the system suffer from mental disorder. Also, 1 in 5 of those youths suffered from severe mental illness which impaired their ability to function properly and develop into reasonable adult. In 2005, Jamaica recorded a homicide rate of

63.0 per 100,000 citizens which was three times greater than the global average of 19.4 per 100,000 (Smith and Green, 2007). Jamaica exhibited trend seen worldwide where young males between 15-29 years of age are mainly the victims and perpetrators of violent crimes. Youths between age 15-29 in 2002 were responsible for 80% of the violent crime, 75% of murder, and 98% of all major crimes. Also, guns were used in 68%-76% of the homicides. There were 875 major crimes committed by youths age 15-17 between 2019 to 2022 (Thomas, 2022a). The JCF highlight the type of crime and number of incidents; 256 breaches of the Firearms Act, 79 murders, 66 shootings, 175 rapes, 89 robberies and 65 cases of aggravated assaults.

Crime and violence within High Schools in Jamaica

The level of violence in Jamaican high schools was characterized as 'school violence epidemic'. It was revealed at a post-cabinet press briefing at Jamaica House that the government was seeking to reduce school violence by 50% by November 2023 (Hall, 2022). The importance of everyone participating to achieve that goal was emphasized. The task would involve guidance counselor(s), deans of discipline, and school resources officer (police officer). The campaign to reduce school violence is called Just Medz It. The briefing highlighted that students are turning up at school being psychologically and physically abused as well as witnessing violent crimes. Based on the situation being witnessed it was deemed necessary to address the problem and to provide psychosocial support for the children especially,

the 300,000 who experience abuse. Therefore, the Just Medz It campaign was launched. The campaign includes; the Safety and Security in Schools Unit, the Guidance Counseling Unit, the Health and Family Life Education programme, the Character Education programme, the Child Protection and Family Services Agency (CPFSA), and the National Parenting Support Commission (NPSC). The campaign will utilize a multifaceted approach, namely enhancing physical infrastructure, teaching conflict resolution and providing incentives, and enabling access to psychosocial support for students and parents. The campaign purpose is to counter the culture of violent confrontations among children and equip them with the necessary skills to resolve conflicts.

The Ministry of Education, Jamaica received 55 critical incident reports over a 12-month period from January 2022 to January 2023 (More Than 50 Violence-related Incidents in Schools Reported to Education Ministry Over 12 Months — Williams, 2024). The schools are required to file reports relating to critical incidents within 24 hours. The 55 critical incidents occurred at 50 different schools; 15 primary schools and 35 high schools. It was highlighted that 5 of the schools had 2 critical incidents each. Fifty (50) schools represent about 5% of the total number of primary and secondary schools in the education sector. Examples of the critical incidents include gang violence, physical assault, robbery, break-ins at schools, school bus incidents, alleged sexual grooming, drowning, vandalism, stabbing, attempted abduction,

brawls, and physical altercations. These factors were highlighted as influencing school violence; very loud music and selectors because the selectors make excessive noise negatively affecting children sleep and rest, exposure to lewd lyrics in public passenger vehicles making the students arriving at school sexual aroused and hyped-up, access to guns and drugs, and witnessing violent acts at home and in their communities. It was stated that school violence disrupts learning and adversely impacts students.

Some of the prevention measures that have been implemented to address school violence in Jamaica schools are outlined below (More Than 50 Violence-related Incidents in Schools Reported to Education Ministry Over 12 Months — Williams, 2024).

- The safety and security policy that outlines how to implement physical security measures such as conducting searches of students' school bags. Also, executing training programs to teach school personnel to recognize warning signs and how to intervene effectively, counseling students at risk of school violence, and developing crisis and emergency plans. Another aspect of policy is assigning roles for students, parents and the community, and dealing with conflicts in a healthy manner.
- The school resource officers (SROs) who can be requested to conduct searches, when necessary, perform regular visits and motorized patrols in the school environs before and after school hours. Also, the

patrolling of town centers to ensure students do not loiter during school hours.

The National Security Minister, Dr. Horace Chang, in speaking to the Gleaner addressed the problem of school violence and scamming among schoolchildren (Chang highlights school violence and scamming, 2024). The minister states that the Police Youth Clubs are still active and expanding, but school violence is a specialized issue. The purpose of the Police Youth Club is to bridge the gap that exists between the police and youths, and to collaborate to create a safer community and country overall (Spence, 2023). Dr. Chang laments the rise of lottery scamming among students who are digitally literate and highlights how lottery scamming is fostering violence and eroding the educational setting (Chang highlights school violence and scamming, 2024). The U.S. Embassy in Jamaica, American Citizen Services section in Kingston received many inquiries from American citizens who have been defrauded or scammed of hundreds or even thousands of dollars in fees paid to scammers (U.S. Embassy in Kingston, 2022). Oftentimes, scammers deceive their targets to believe they have won the lottery or a drawing, then they tell the target to pay money in advance to cover taxes or fees before their winnings or prizes can be released to them.

Effect of crime and violence on Education

The National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES) states that there were approximately 1.2 million victims of non-fatal crimes on school grounds

in 2008 (Rohm and Mok, 2014). And 629,800 of those incidents include simple assaults, rape, robbery, and other types of violent and non-violent crimes. The researcher examines the relationship between crime and students' achievement, especially students who score in the bottom 15% of standardized test scores. The researcher found that violent crimes have a significant negative effect on student achievement. Non-violent crimes were found to have a statistically insignificant relationship with student achievement. Therefore, funding should be focused on preventing violent crimes due to their negative effect on students' achievement. According to Perkins and Graham-Bermann (2012), students who are exposed to violence are at an increased risk of developing school-related problems such as mental health problems, learning disabilities, language impairments, and other neurocognitive problems. Usually, mental health problems and academic problems develop at the same time.

The connection between crime and education is very significant. For instance, in the United States, 75% of state and 59% of federal prison inmates in 1997 never obtained a high school diploma (Lochner, 2020). This pattern has been documented in other time periods and countries worldwide. Education is known to reduce crime and several reasons are given for this effect. Firstly, education improves human capital by increasing the number of legitimate work opportunities. Additionally, being patient is a characteristic individuals may acquire from becoming educated. This makes people more

forward thinking by looking at the punishment associated with criminal activities, and this helps to discourage participation in crime. Education helps people to become more risk averse discouraging crime which is generally risky. Also, being educated tends to change the crowd people interact with on a daily basis. People who are educated tend to interact more with educated people and establish relationships, such as marriage.

CHAPTER III

Methodology

Definition of Terms

Adolescent: a person between the phases of childhood and adulthood and between the ages of 10 and 19.

Children: A young person below the age of 18.

Crime: an act or offense which is punishable by the law of the state with the intention of maintaining public order and societal stability

Juvenile: a young person accused of committing a criminal or delinquent act that is addressed through the juvenile justice system.

Media reports: a medium of communication that reaches a large number of people, such as newspapers, television, and radio.

School: a place where children go to be educated.

Students: a child or adolescent enrolled in a school.

Violence: violence is the use of physical force where the intention is to cause hurt, damage, or kill someone or even something.

Population and or Sample

Media reports related to violent incidents in high school published online between 2010 and 2024, and twenty-six (26) incidents were identified and the news articles relating to the incidents selected for analysis.

Treatment

The researcher selected the first twenty-six (26) incidents of school violence found online from recognized newspapers in Jamaica. The incidents occurred between 2010 and 2024. The article(s) information will be summarized, and the cause, outcome, and responses to the incidents identified.

Data Analysis Procedures

Document analysis is a systemic procedure for evaluating or reviewing information (Dalglish, Khalid, and McMahon, 2020). The READ approach was used to conduct the document analysis. The READ approach involves:

1. Ready your materials
 - Newspaper articles were gathered from online newspapers.
2. Extract data
 - The newspaper articles were summarized.
 - The causes, outcomes, and responses to the incidents were identified.
3. Analyze data

- The main cause, outcomes, and response to the incidents were identified.

4. Distil your findings

- The main cause, outcome, and response were identified.

CHAPTER IV

Results

Violent incident #1

Date of incident: May 17, 2011

The principal of Cross Keys High School commented on the killing of one of its male students on May 17, 2011 (Cross Keys Student Killed at School, 2011). He lamented that the school is violence-prone and does not have the resources to deal with indiscipline. The student was killed by one of three students who attacked and stabbed him with a knife during lunch on the school grounds. The student Haig Williams died undergoing treatment at the hospital. The boys were from the violated community of New Green, Manchester. Lucrecia Dean, the mother of deceased students, stated that her son had made significant academic improvement, moving from 49th to 5th on his last school report (Myers, 2011). The mother expressed she had planned to move her son to another school due to a violent attack on him three months earlier, but his improvement dissuaded that plan which she now regrets. She comments that the principal has no control over the indiscipline and the Ministry of Education needs to take control of the school. The mother stated information reaching her states a 'girl call over her son' and that's when the attack took place. The principal commented that two of the boys

involved in the fatal attack were taken into police custody, and the mother's negative comments made against him were influenced by grief. He said her son was part of an aggressive group of boys. Also, one of the attackers as since confessed to committing the stabbing. Cross Keys High School students are primarily low achievers. Haig had told his sister that he suspected that he was being followed by other boys.

Cause: suspected feud and altercation

Outcome: fatal stabbing

Response: Police involvement, arrest, pressing of charge, and counselling for the school.

Violent incident #2

Date of incident: April 21, 2022

The police intervention was required at another Jamaican school, Tacky High School, where three boys were involved in altercations and sustained knife wounds (Matthews, 2024). The wounds were not life-threatening and the incident is one of five clashes at schools across the island requiring police interventions. The students involved were 14 years old and the two others 16 years old. The three boys were involved in a dispute. Acting Head of the St Mary Police Division, Deputy Superintendent (DSP) Kevin Francis, encourages parents to build relationships with their children regardless of their children's current behavior. The three boys were charged

with wounding-related offenses. The incident involving the three schoolboys took place at Gayle Square after school (McGregor, 2024).

Cause: dispute and altercation

Outcome: Minor injuries-stabbing

Response: Police involvement and pressing of charge.

Violent Incident #3

Date of incident: September 29, 2022

Michion Campbell, a 16-year-old student of Kingston Technical High School, was stabbed and killed during a dispute at the school on September 29, 2022 (Richards, 2022). A 17-year-old schoolgirl was responsible for fatal stabbing. Both girls had sustained stab wounds, but Campbell's wounds were fatal and she was pronounced dead at the hospital. The other schoolgirl was taken into police custody and charged following an interview. Michion had sustained stab wounds to the left side of her neck and left side of her forehead (UPDATE: 17-y-o Girl in Police Custody After Student Killed at Kingston Technical, 2022). While the other schoolgirl sustains injuries to her left wrist. The schoolgirl charged with Michion death remained in custody even up until Christmas 2022 (Allen, 2022). The case is being pursued over at the Kingston and St. Andrew Parish Court. And the court proceedings are scheduled to continue in court on January 11, 2023.

Cause: dispute and altercation

Outcome: fatal stabbing and minor injuries

Response: police involvement, pressing of charge and counseling was provided to the school.

Violent incident #4

Date of incident: June 6, 2022

The issue of indiscipline in Jamaican schools is long-standing problem and reflects the disorder and lawlessness among the adult population (Tivoli Gardens High School incident a crucial teaching moment, 2022). Also, the availability of cheap audio-visual technologies (smartphones) are used to record incidents in school and potentially blow the situation on the ground out of context. These incidents are broadcast on social media and may make the situation seem worse and heighten the stress level of school staff and the wider community. The Tivoli Gardens High School was in the spotlight for an incident involving a teacher and student. The teacher was stated to be attempting to take control of her class when she was assaulted by a 16-year-old student who was gambling. The teacher sustained injuries and required medical attention, and the student was charged with assault. The age of the schoolboy was 16, and the female teacher was 56 years old (Baptiste, 2022). According to the police, the student entered the classroom and started to behaving boisterously. He was instructed to leave and refused to do so, leading to a physical confrontation. The teacher sustained bruises and swellings to her face, upper body, and breast. Gambling was not mentioned by Baptiste (2022).

Cause: dispute and altercation

Outcome: minor injuries

Response: police involvement and pressing of charges

Violent incident #5

Date of incident: January 31, 2019

The Haile Selassie High School was plunged into mourning after a dispute involving two male students ended with one of the schoolboys being stabbed to death (Richardson, 2019). The incident took place outside of the school compound. The deceased student was in third form. The third former was stabbed to death during the altercation and he was rushed to the Kingston Public Hospital, where he died. The schoolboy responsible for the fatal stabbing was not located to be arrested or interviewed by the police. The Ministry of Education sent counselors to the school. The principal of the school stated that safety and security procedures have improved at the school over the years. Also, improving how to identify conflicts and conflict management and addressing the many psychosocial issues as solutions to prevent such incidents.

Cause: dispute and altercation

Outcome: Fatal stabbing

Response: Police involvement and counseling

Violent incident #6

Date of incident: May 19, 2011

An information technology teacher at Cambridge High School was attacked shortly before dismissal in the school yard (Violence in the classrooms, another teacher beaten by students, 2011). Other schoolboys joined their companions in attacking the teacher, six schoolboys in total. The teacher sustained injuries such as lacerations. The teacher staged a sit-in due to the incident. A member of the ancillary staff stated that the students need to learn discipline because they are fighting and cursing teachers. There was no school resource officer at the school due to the person being transferred.

Cause: altercation

Outcome: minor injuries

Response: Sit-in by teachers

Violent incident #7

Date of incident: April 17, 2024

There was a massive brawl involving students from Calabar High, Mona High, Jamaica College, St. George's College, and Kingston College (Principals condemn Half-Way Tree brawl, investigation launched, 2024). The incident took place at the Half Way Tree Bus Park. A joint statement was issued by the school principals condemning the behavior of the students. The principal encouraged parents to have discussions with their children about the importance of good behavior and conflict resolution. The principals launched an investigation into the incident and plan to deal with the matter according to

school policies and applicable laws. The Mona High School was closed after the incidents for the rest of that school week. There have been several violent incidents at the school. The dispute resulted from a lover's triangle involving a female student from Queens High School and two schoolboys from Mona High School and Calabar High School respectively (Witter, 2024). It seems the young lady left the male student from Calabar High and got involved with the Mona High schoolboy. And the Calabar male student sent threats to Mona schoolboy to leave his girl. This eventually resulted in a physical altercation at the Half Way Tree Transport Centre.

Cause: dispute and altercation, and lover's triangle

Outcome: minor injuries

Response: police involvement and school disciplinary action such as suspension

Violent incident #8

Date of incident: November 4, 2022

The Meadowbrook High School suspended sixteen female students after a school brawl (16 students suspended after brawl at Meadowbrook High; fight reportedly caused by love triangle, 2022). The fight was caused by a lover's triangle. The brawl was diffused by staff members with the assistance of some sixth formers and parents who were present. A video of the incident shows the female students grabbing, kicking, and punching each other with numerous boys trying to stop the girls from fighting. This incident

follows other major incidents, such as the death of Michion Campbell of Kingston Technical High and the altercation between the students and teacher at Tivoli High School.

Cause: dispute and altercation, and lover's triangle

Outcome: minor injuries

Response: suspension of students involved

Violent incident #9

Date of incident: May 28, 2024

The Vere Technical High School was the scene of an altercation between a teacher and a parent supported by three students (Brown, 2024). The incident occurred in the school staffroom, and students from grades 7, 9, and 12 were involved. The teacher sustained injuries to her face and breast. The police charge both the teacher and parent with assault. The incident resulted from one of the students' using expletives against the teacher and walking out of class. And the teacher confiscated the student schoolbag and requested the student bring their parent to school in order to get back the bag. It was stated that the parent demands the bag be handed over from another teacher and try to retrieve the bag by force. The parent was blocked from retrieving the bag, resulting in the altercation. The parent's two sons and brother (sixth former), who are students assisted with attacking the teacher. The school stated that the students will be suspended.

Cause: student use of expletives and confiscation of schoolbag

Outcome: a teacher sustains injuries

Response: police involvement, pressing of charges, and suspension of students.

Violent incident #10

Date of incident: June 7, 2017

Renardo Dixon, a third-form student from Porus High School, died in a stabbing incident at the school (Richardson, 2017). There are conflicting news report surrounding Dixon's death. The two students were in grade nine students and had an argument that escalated into a fight (Porus High School student murdered on campus, 2017). The report further states that a third student attempted to diffuse the fight, and a scissor was used to stab him several times in the neck and abdomen. The injured student was rushed to Mandeville Regional Public Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Another student who was involved in the incident was treated at the hospital.

The incident reportedly took place in the presence of a vice-principal.

Richardson (2017) version of the incident was different. He stated two students were involved in an altercation and one was fatally stabbed. The student involved in the fatal stabbing was taken into custody for questioning (Porus High student in custody after stabbing schoolmate to death, 2017).

Cause: dispute and altercation

Outcome: fatal stabbing

Response: counseling for the school and police involvement

Violent incident #11

Date of incident: March 21, 2022

The William Knibb High School was plunged into mourning following the stabbing death of a schoolboy, Khamal Hall (Bucknor, 2022). Hall had gotten into an altercation with another male student, and a knife was used to stab him in the upper regions of his back. Hall rushed to the Falmouth Hospital, where he was declared dead and the other schoolboy taken into custody. The dispute occurred because Hall allegedly stole a guard ring (Thomas, 2022b). Guard rings are said to protect the wearers from their enemies using supernatural powers. The perpetrator pleaded guilty in the Trelawny Circuit Court on November 7, 2022 to manslaughter. He was sentenced at the St. James Circuit Court to four years and 10 months in prison.

Cause: dispute and altercation

Outcome: fatal stabbing

Response: Counseling for the school, police involvement, pressing of charges, and imprisonment

Violent incident #12

Date of incident: May 3, 2022

The police intervention was required to address a violent incident involving students (Bucknor, 2022b). Three students were injured in the brawl, but none sustained any life-threatening injuries. The altercation

occurred when another group of schoolboys who are related to a dancehall entertainer disagreed with the action of another set of schoolboys spray painting 'Sparta' on a section of the school compound. Sparta is associated with dancehall artist Tommy Lee Sparta. The schoolboys used stones and weapons during the altercation. The school was closed due to threats made by one student sparking fear. The police are investigating whether any gang activities are taking place at the school and the police will maintain a presence at the school.

Cause: dispute and altercation

Outcome: minor injuries

Response: police involvement

Violent incident #13

Date of incident: March 1, 2023

The incident at Kemps Hill High was described as unacceptable by the Minister of Education, Fayval Williams (Education minister condemns fight between teacher and student at Kemps Hill High, 2023). The incident involved a senior teacher and student engaging in physical altercation. The video of the incident went viral on social media and showed other students cheering. The minister urges teachers and students to pursue peaceful methods to resolve conflicts. And for parents to encourage students to respect their teachers. The senior teacher was assisted by the security guard to subdue the student, as seen in the video (Dunkley, 2023). The incident escalated into

a physical altercation when the student got close to the teacher and the teacher pushed the student away. The student attacks the teacher in response. The students threw punches, draped, and pulled the teacher to the ground. The security guard intervenes and stops the fight.

Cause: Dispute and altercation

Outcome: minor injuries

Response: security guard involvement

Violent incident #14

Date of incidents: February 15, 2023

The Denham Town police charged a student of Denham Town High School with assault occasioning bodily harm (Schoolboy Slapped With Assault Charge After Beating Schoolmate, 2023). The incident was captured on video and circulated on social media. The victim was forced into a classroom at the institution and assaulted by other students. The student charged with assault was scheduled to appear in family court. The police are advising parents and guardians to ensure their children do not participate in violent incidents because they are not exempt from prosecution. The schoolboys had their bail extended in court on February 27 in relation to the beating incident (Schoolboys in Viral Beating Video to Return to Court March 15, 2023). However, one of the boys remains in custody as he did not receive bail for another incident.

Cause: unprovoked attack

Outcome: injuries

Response: Police involvement, charges and court.

Violent incident #15

Date of incident: February 1, 2023

There was an altercation at the Port Antonio High School that resulted in three male students being charged with possession of offensive weapons (Three Port Antonio High Boys Charged After Altercation Involving Knives, 2023). The school principal confirmed that two schoolboys had an altercation and both had knives. Also, it seems two other schoolboys joined the fight and had knives as well. The schoolboys sustained minor injuries, and three of the boys were arrested and charged. The incident arises from one student accidentally hitting the other students with the door the day before and that resulted in an unpleasant conversation.

Cause: dispute and altercation

Outcome: Minor injuries

Response: police involvement, pressing of charges and court

Violent incident #16

Date of incident: June 27, 2023

The police from the Kingston Central Police station arrested a 17-year-old schoolboy and seize several rounds of ammunition and a firearm. The schoolboy was charged with using a firearm to commit a schedule offense, being in possession of prohibited weapon, assault occasioning bodily harm,

and assault at common law. The incident arises from the male student assaulting another student and a female student intervene to stop him. He then displayed a firearm.

Cause: Dispute and altercation

Outcome: No injuries

Response: police involvement and pressing of charges.

Violent incident #17

Date of incident:

The police fired shots at Tarrant High School in order to stop a gang fight involving students. The fight resulted in two students being rushed to the hospital with injuries; one student was stabbed in the chest and another received a cut over his eyes. The school was dismissed early because of the incident and several students were taken into police custody.

Cause: gang feud

Outcome: injuries-stab wounds

Response: police involvement and students arrested

Violent incident #18

Date of incident: September 28, 2023

Jaheim Colman, a 14-year-old student of B.B. Coke High School was beaten unconscious by another student on September 28 (B.B. Coke Student Knocked Unconscious in School Beating 'feeling Better' - Williams, 2023).

The perpetrator of the act was a 16 year old grade 11 student and was

charged with assault occasioning grievous bodily harm. The incident occurred because Jaheim stepped on another student shoe while he and other students were collecting their cellphones from the school security post. The schoolboy kicked Jaheim unconscious and further kicked him. Five of Jaheim schoolmates took him to a doctor in St. Elizabeth. The five schoolboys received gifts from Prime Minister Andrew Holness as well Jaheim. The Minister of Education, Fayval Williams visited Jaheim on October 5, 2023 update the nation that he was feeling better via X (formerly Twitter).

Further details regarding the incident are that grade 11 student assault Jaheim punching and beating him on his hand and face (UPDATE: Grade 11 BB Coke student charged with assault, 2023). The injured Jaheim was taken to the Mandeville Regional Hospital for treatment and then was transferred to the University of the West Indies for further test specifically a brain scan. The grade 11 was offered \$300,000 bail with surety (Thomas, 2023c). He was required as part of the bail condition to make schedule reports to the police and a stop order placed on him at all ports of entry.

Cause: Unprovoked attack

Outcome: major injuries

Response: police involvement, pressing of charges and court

Violent incident #19

Date of incident: February 18, 2020

The video of the incident shows a teacher retreating after failing to separate a male and female student at Pembroke Hall High School who were fighting each other (Matthew, 2020). The teacher was successful for a short moment, and then the students resumed fighting, throwing stools at each other and other students cheer them on.

Cause: Dispute and Altercation

Outcome: No stated injuries

Response: likelihood of suspension

Violent incident #20

Date of incident: February 7, 2022

The police arrested one of two female students who were involved in a fight at Muschett High School and later released her to her parents (Dunkley, 2022). The two schoolgirls were suspended, and one of them sustained a stab wound from what seemed to be a pen. There are videos of the incident with footage showing the girls exchanging punches and kicks. And other students laugh excitedly, use indecent language, cheering, and some students try to stop the fight.

Cause: Dispute and altercation

Outcome: stab wounds

Response: Police involvement and suspension

Violent incident #21

Date of incident: May 4, 2011

The teacher day celebration at Seaforth High School was disrupted due to several schoolboys attacking a male teacher (Students Beat Teacher at Seaforth High School, 2011). The male teacher was instructed by the vice principal to tell the students to return the chairs to the classroom. The students refused and tried to leave, and they were blocked by the male teacher. The teacher was jumped on and punched by one of the students, and other students joined to beat the teacher, kicking him all over the body. The teacher sustained serious injuries and had to seek medical treatment. The police took three of four students of interest into police custody. A similar incident occurred at the school on March 14 and three students suffered stab wounds in that incident.

There were eight students involved in the attack on the male teacher. And three of students accused of attacking the teacher were offered JMD \$50,000.00 bail (MOE Probing Seaforth High School After Male Teacher Was Beaten by Students, 2011). The Jamaica Teachers' Association (JTA) is not satisfied with the response of the Ministry of Education to the attacks on its members.

Cause: Disobedience and unprovoked attack

Outcome: Serious injuries

Response: Police involvement and arrest

Violent incident #22

Date of incident: February 7, 2022

The Maggotty High School will be managing a stabbing incident at the school internally (Wray, 2022). The pictures circulating on social media show a schoolboy with a pen lodged in his forehead. The incident occurred due to a confrontation between two male students. The student received medical treatment. The school started an investigation into the matter and had planned to meet with the parents and offer the boys counseling (Maggotty Student Stabbed During Fight, 2022).

Cause: dispute and altercation

Outcome: stab wound

Response: counseling

Violent incident #23

Date of incident: June 20, 2018

There was a near-fatal altercation between two schoolgirls at Eltham High School (Richardson, 2018). The incident resulted in one schoolgirl being hospitalized after her throat was slashed, and the other schoolgirl will be facing the Portmore Juvenile Court. The schoolgirls were age 17 (throat slashed) and 16 (arrested), respectively. The dispute begins on the school compound and continues to the school gate.

Cause: dispute and altercation

Outcome: serious injuries- throat slashed

Response: Police involvement, pressing of charge, and court

Violent incident #24

Date of incident: June 17, 2024

The students and teachers were left in shock after a 12-year-old female student got shot by a schoolboy on the school compound (Smikle, 2024). It was stated that the firearm accidentally discharged hitting the schoolgirl in her thigh. The girl was taken to the hospital and has since been discharged. The male student was showing the firearm to his friends when the accident occurred (Ocho Rios High Student Hospitalized Following Shooting Incident at School, 2024). The firearm was seized by the police.

Cause: accident

Outcome: injury-gunshot wound

Response: Police involvement and firearm seizure

Violent incident #25

Date of incident: June 7, 2017

The Porus High School was the scene of fatal stabbing incident arising from a dispute between two male students (Thomas, 2017). It was reported that 17-year-old Renardo Dixon pulled a knife on a 16-year-old schoolmate and stabbed his schoolmate. The schoolmate was stated to have disarmed Renardo and proceeded to stab him in the chest. The schoolboys were taken to hospital and Renardo succumbed to his injuries, and the other was taken into police custody. The 16-year-old schoolboy appeared in the Mandeville Children's Court on June 15 and was denied bail (Richardson, 2017b). The

police stated that based on intelligence, it was best the young man remain in custody. The young man's lawyer was arguing on the ground of self-defense.

Cause: dispute and altercation

Outcome: fatal stabbing

Response: Police involvement, counseling for school, pressing of charge, and court

Violent incident #26

Date of incident: June 19, 2013

Jamella Dawkins, 13- years -old, a female student of Anchovy High School, was stabbed to death by another female student (Anchovy High School Student Charged With Murder, 2013). She was stabbed with a knife, and since the chairman of the school board, Calvin G. Brown, asked that a clinical psychologist be placed at the school to combat delinquent behavior. He stated that the guidance counselors cannot deal with the magnitude of the problem affecting students. The Ministry of Education dispatched counselors to the school (Frater, 2013). The incident was captured on a cellphone showing other students watching but not intervening.

Cause: dispute and altercation

Outcome: Fatal stabbing

Response: Police involvement and counseling for school

CHAPTER V

Discussion and Summary

Discussion

The researcher examines numerous violent incidents that occurred in Jamaican high school between 2010 and 2024. The researcher examines twenty-six (26) violent incidents having various causes, outcomes, and responses. The cause of the incident speaks to what led to the incident or what caused the incident to occur. The outcome is focused on what happened to any of the students involved, specifically injuries or death. On the other hand, the response is how school administrators and other authorities react to the incident, such as counseling, suspension, pressing of charges, and court proceedings. The date of the incidents, summary of relevant online newspaper articles, cause, outcomes, and responses are concisely presented for easy reading. The Ministry of Education generally provides counseling to schools when a fatal incident occurs.

The causes of the numerous violent incidents examined include feud, dispute and altercation, unprovoked attacks, lover's triangle, gang feud, and disobedience. The main cause of the incidents seems to be dispute, and the dispute then led to an altercation or confrontation generally between students. And less often, the altercation or confrontation involved teachers and students engaging in a physical fight, such as with the Seaforth High School incidents

that took place on May 4, 2011. Also, the researcher observes that the gender of the adolescent involved in the incidents was mainly male, which agrees with trends observed worldwide and in Jamaica, as stated in the literature review of the research. The main outcome of the incidents was some kind of injury, such as bruises, swelling, stab wounds, gunshot wound and a potential brain tumor for the incident involving the B.B. Coke High School student, Jaheim Colman and even fatal stabbings.

Firearms feature in two of the incidents, and in one of those incidents, a student was accidentally shot by a schoolmate. The cause of the fatal incidents was stabbing, highlighting the need to prevent students taking or easily accessing items having sharp edges or points. The research must declare a bias in the research, which is that fatal incidents in schools are more readily reported in the media compared to many minor incidents that occurred daily. The researcher at the point of completing this research was employed as a chemistry teacher in a Jamaican high school and personally observed numerous fights. The main incident at the researcher's place of employment involved several students attacking the dean of discipline.

Counseling, police involvement, arrest, pressing of charges, suspension, court proceedings, teacher sit-in, and even imprisonment were the responses identified from the online newspaper articles review. The Ministry of Education, Jamaica standard practices are to dispatch a team of counselors and other resources to school when a fatal incident occurs. There

were seven (7) fatal incidents reviewed and the student's death occurred as a result of stab wound sustained during the altercation. The police overtly feature in twenty-one (21) of the violent incidents reviewed. This was no surprise because those incidents are major violent incidents and would involve criminal laws being broken. Also, some of the incidents involve arrests, pressing of charges, and court proceedings technically making those students affected juveniles. Also, it can be safe to assume that the school administrators would take disciplinary action against the students for the incidents to the extent possible. However, the internal actions of the schools are not generally stated in the newspaper articles. But, based on the nature of the incidents, some internal disciplinary action, such as suspension and even expulsion would have been warranted or plainly stated as virtually unavoidable.

Dispute and altercation were highlighted as the main cause of the violent incidents. Therefore, it can be argued that conflict resolution needs to be taught to students, especially the need for them to walk away from other students once they sense hostility, an argument develops, and for any other reasons. And quickly seek the intervention of a teacher. The researcher has made some suggestions to address the behavioral issue collectively called 'Background cancellation and engagement for behavior management'. Also, given that items with sharp edges or points were used in all the fatal incidents, a campaign to keep objects of that nature out of high schools may

be necessary. Therefore, the researcher purposed and developed the 'Dull It campaign'. The placing of cameras on the perimeter walls of high schools to make it difficult for students to enter and leave without permission and to access or smuggle weapons is a component of the Dull It. The cameras will also prevent non-students from easily accessing the school grounds and aid students to perform violent acts.

The 'background cancellation and engagement for behavior management' seek to engage students facing behavior challenges intimately to identify the factors affecting them and to make them develop a sense of self-worth if lacking. The research reviews the numerous factors that influence crime and violence among adolescents, such as age and gender, hyperactivity, delinquent peers, delinquent siblings, academic failure, gang membership, child maltreatment, etc. The aim will be to remove or lessen the influence of those factors through productive activities, such as playing tennis, football, dancing, singing, and other meaningful hobbies. Therefore, the students must be exposed virtually using multimedia technology to the short-term and long-term consequences of their deviant behavior. The aim is to get them to develop a negative and distasteful attitude towards deviant behavior. The adolescent would be given the opportunity to participate in activities to develop good habits—physical and mental base habits. For instance, the adolescent would participate in a sporting activity for 30 minutes at least twice per week, as well as doing arts, writing poems and stories, and sculpturing for

30 minutes twice per week. The art works, poems, stories, and sculptures will be catalogued for the year and presented to the adolescent to create a sense of accomplishment and self-worth. It is known that people's behavior can be modified through small changes and repeating an action consistently (Gardner, Lally, and Wardle, 2012). The sporting activities are intended to make the students have a medium to release excessive energy and clear their minds. Physical activity is known to delay brain aging and degenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, and multiple sclerosis (Di Liegro, Schiera, Proia, and Di Liegro, 2019). Also, physical activity helps to improve cognitive processes and memory, and gives a sense of wellbeing.

The 'Dull It' campaign would use the current approach to security in schools, such as conducting searches and the teaching of conflict resolution, which is currently becoming more common. And to make school sharp edges and points proof. However, an approach to conflict that is easy to remember needs to be cultured in adolescents. For instance, when a person's clothing caught fire, it is good to know the phrase 'stop, drop, and roll' which is the appropriate response. Therefore, teaching students a phrase like 'walk away quickly, glance over your shoulder, save your life' may help to prevent many fights. Dull it would seek to prevent students smuggling sharp edges or pointed items on the school ground by having form teachers, dean of discipline, or other appropriate staff to visually inspect the contents of students' bags in the mornings. The school grounds must be inspected to

identify any potential objects that could be used as weapons, such as pieces of steel, zinc, big stones, electric wire, etc. Also, the monitoring of adolescents in home economics, welding, carpentry, and other classes where many objects are potentially dangerous weapons such as knives, screwdrivers, nail guns, and hammers will be emphasized. The school perimeter wall should have cameras to prevent weapon smuggling and unauthorized access. Also, installing safety nets on high-rise buildings would be recommended to prevent injuries or fatalities from falls, especially during fights.

Summary

The research reviewed 26 major violent incidents in Jamaican high schools from online newspapers using the READ procedure of document analysis. The information from the newspaper article(s) was summarized, and the causes, outcomes, and responses to the incidents were identified and highlighted. The incidents review occurred between 2010 and 2024. The causes, outcomes, and the responses to the incidents are listed below.

Causes of the incidents

- Feud
- Disputes and altercations
- Unprovoked attacks
- Lover's triangle
- Gang feud

- Disobedience

Outcomes of the incidents

- Injuries
 - Bruises
 - Swellings
 - Stab wounds
 - Gunshot wound
- Fatal stabbings
- No injuries

Responses to the incidents

- Counseling
- Police involvement
- Arrest
- Pressing of charge
- Suspension
- Teacher sit-in
- Court proceedings
- Imprisonment

The main cause of the violent incidents review was disputes and altercations, which highlights the need for greater emphasis on teaching conflict resolution in Jamaican high schools. Male students feature mainly in the incidents and males according to the subsection of this thesis titled 'age

and gender' are more likely to exhibit criminal behavior in response to strains due to anger according to the GST theory. While females are more likely to develop depression in response to strain. Also, males worldwide tend to engage more in criminal or deviant behavior compared to females. The police were involved in most of the incidents due to the fact that the incidents involved breaking numerous laws. The police were openly involved in 21 of the 26 incidents reviewed for the study. The involvement of the police in the numerous incidents, especially when arrests are made and charges were filed against the students resulted in those students becoming juveniles.

The researcher proposed the Dull It campaign to address the issue of sharp edges or pointed items in school. All the fatal incidents involved the use of knives to inflict deadly wounds. Therefore, eliminating knives, scissors, ice picks, and even combs with metal ends could prevent future fatalities. The 'background cancellation and engagement for behavior management' was postulated to address the deviant behavior. This aim of this approach is to less the influence of factors that encourage deviant behavior through productive activities. The expectation is that the adolescents will develop a sense of self-worth, especially when they can see something tangible from their efforts, such as a piece of art, poem, story, or sculpture, and participate in sporting activities to release excessive energy and improve cognitive processes and memory to create a sense of wellbeing.

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