

Kashani, J.H., Jones, M.R., Bumby, K.N., & Thomas, L.A. (1999). Youth violence: Psychosocial risk factors, treatment, prevention, and recommendations. Journal of Emotional and Behavioral Disorders, 7(4), 200-210.

Purpose:

- Examine risk factors, prevention strategies, and successful treatment approaches that deal with youth violence.
- Test whether violent behavior in youth is linked with just one psychosocial factor or whether there are more psychosocial factors.

Literature Review: PsycINFO and Medline databases provided studies on the psychosocial risk factors, successful treatment approaches, and ways to prevent youth violence. U.S. Department of Justice in the Violent Crime Index included robbery, forcible rape, aggravated assault, and murder and non-negligent manslaughter as types of violent crime.

Methods:

- Sample: Children 8 to 17 years of age.
- Variables: Psychosocial risk factors: individual variables, family variables, school variables, peer variables, and community and cultural variables.
- Procedure: Research was gathered and studied from PsychINFO, Medline, and other research resources in order to find recent information on youth violence and its connection with psychosocial risk factors. After gathering that information, the researchers began to find treatments, prevention methods, and suggested some recommendations to yield youth violence.

Results/Conclusions:

- Youth violence is linked closely with many psychosocial factors, not just one main factor.
- Recommendations on reducing youth violence: reduce media violence, involve the schools, limit youth access to firearms, drugs, and alcohol, promote healthy family functioning, and ensure community persistence.
- Ideas of promoting healthy family functioning: 1) establish positive atmosphere in the home and model positive values such as cooperation and respect, 2) set limits for children's behavior, 3) reward and discipline children's behavior based on their developmental level, 4) demonstrate prosocial behavior in the home by getting involved with recreational activities instead of gangs, 5) be a role model for positive attitudes toward authority figures, 6) steer away from stressful family situations, and finally, 7) extend the supportiveness in the family to extended family and close friends.