

DISPATCHES SURVEY INTO YOUTH ON YOUTH SERIOUS VIOLENCE

100 YOUTHS IN SOUTH LONDON

Dispatches surveyed 100 male youths between the ages of 11 and 18 in face to face street interviews in two South London boroughs – Southwark and Lambeth in January 2008. Both boroughs are known hotspots for youth on youth violence.

Of the 100 youths surveyed, **33** of those told us they were current or former gang members and/or had committed serious violence against other youths

SCALE OF SERIOUS VIOLENCE BY OTHER YOUTHS

Number suffered serious violence: **48**
Of these 48, those that reported any of it to police: **9 (19%)**

TYPES OF VIOLENCE SUFFERED AT HANDS OF OTHER YOUTHS

We asked what types of serious violence the respondent had ever suffered by another youth or youths, who were not family members. Of those 48 suffering serious violence, types suffered were:

| TYPE OF VIOLENCE SUFFERED | No |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Badly beaten up | 9 |
| Threatened with knife | 25 |
| Threatened with gun | 7 |
| Knocked unconscious | 5 |
| Hit with hard/blunt object | 18 |
| Cut/stabbed with sharp object | 14 |
| Shot at | 6 |

Of those 48 suffering serious violence (some on more than one occasion), reasons given for that serious violence were:

| TRIGGERS FOR SERIOUS VIOLENCE | No | % (of 48) |
|---|-----------|------------------|
| Robbery – money/possessions | 27 | 56% |
| Youths were members of a rival crew | 12 | 25% |
| Argument – money /possessions or something else | 11 | 23% |
| Disrespect | 10 | 21% |
| Going into someone else's territory | 7 | 15% |
| Revenge for violence to them | 4 | 8% |
| Reputation | 2 | 4% |

90% of the youths had suffered the serious violence in the previous 12 months

SOLUTIONS TO VIOLENCE – GANG MEMBERS AND THOSE WHO’D COMMITTED SERIOUS VIOLENCE

33 youths admitted that they were member of a gang or had committed serious violence on other youths

They were asked what would most help to stop or reduce serious youth on youth violence

| SOLUTION | No | % |
|---|-----------|----------|
| More job opportunities for youths | 17 | 51% |
| More & better youth clubs & sports facilities | 15 | 45% |
| Parents need to control/ discipline their children better | 9 | 27% |
| More police on the streets - & more stop & search | 8 | 24% |
| Too late – nothing can make a difference | 7 | 21% |
| More CCTV cameras | 6 | 18% |
| Longer sentences for people caught carrying knives & guns | 4 | 12% |
| More help for gang members to leave their violent lifestyle | 3 | 9% |
| Help in leaving the area – to somewhere safer | 2 | 6% |

SOLUTIONS TO YOUTH ON YOUTH VIOLENCE (All – n=100)

They were asked what would most help to stop or reduce serious youth on youth violence

| SOLUTION | | |
|---|----|-----|
| More police on the streets - & more stop & search | 38 | 38% |
| More & better youth clubs & sports facilities | 37 | 37% |
| Parents need to control/ discipline their children better | 35 | 35% |
| More job opportunities for youths | 30 | 30% |
| More CCTV cameras | 26 | 26% |
| Too late – nothing can make a difference | 14 | 14% |
| More help for gang members to leave their violent lifestyle | 12 | 12% |
| Longer sentences for people caught carrying knives & guns | 11 | 11% |
| Help in leaving the area – to somewhere safer | 2 | 2% |

DISPATCHES SURVEY INTO YOUTH ON YOUTH SERIOUS VIOLENCE

100 YOUTHS IN GLASGOW

100 male youths were surveyed in face to face street interviews between December 2007 and January 2008

Survey Area: Greater Easterhouse, Maryhill, Ruchill / Possil, Springburn, Royston and Balornock

Age range: 11-17

Those who admitted to a violent lifestyle (ie. current/previous gang member or who had used serious violence against other youth(s): 51

Number who suffered serious violence by another youth: 64

The vast majority of serious violence suffered (91%) happened in the last 12 months

Of these 64 who suffered serious violence, 54 (84%) did not report it to the police

TYPES OF VIOLENCE SUFFERED AT HANDS OF OTHER YOUTHS

We wanted to know if the respondent had ever suffered serious violence by another youth or youths, who were not family members:

Of those 64 suffering serious violence, the types suffered were:

| TYPE OF VIOLENCE SUFFERED | No | % |
|----------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Hit with hard/blunt object | 43 | 67% |
| Badly beaten up | 35 | 55% |
| Threatened with knife | 27 | 42% |
| Knocked unconscious | 8 | 12% |
| Cut/stabbed with sharp object | 4 | 6% |
| Shot at | 3 | 5% |
| Threatened with gun | 2 | 3% |

Of those 64 youths who have been victims of serious violence, 52 of them had been attacked by a group of 2 or more people at one time (81%)

Of the 64 youths who had been victims of serious violence, 29 were members of a gang (45%)

Of those 64 suffering serious violence, the main triggers for serious violence were:

| TRIGGERS FOR SERIOUS VIOLENCE | No | % (of 64) |
|--|-----------|------------------|
| Disrespect/ Argument – led to violence | 47 | 73% |
| Going into someone else's territory | 41 | 64% |
| Youths were members of a rival crew | 31 | 48% |
| Revenge for violence to them | 21 | 33% |

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---|----|
| Robbery – money/possessions | 2 | 3% |
|-----------------------------|---|----|

VIEWS ON SOLUTIONS TO SERIOUS YOUTH ON YOUTH VIOLENCE

GANG MEMBERS AND THOSE WHO'D COMMITTED SERIOUS VIOLENCE

55 youths admitted that they were member of a gang or had committed serious violence on other youths

| SOLUTION | No | % (55) |
|---|-----------|---------------|
| More & better youth clubs & sports facilities | 37 | 67% |
| Too late – nothing can make a difference | 23 | 42% |
| More police on the streets - & more stop & search | 8 | 15% |
| More police on the streets - & more stop & search | 8 | 15% |
| More help for gang members to leave their violent lifestyle | 7 | 13% |
| Parents need to control/ discipline their children better | 5 | 9% |
| More CCTV cameras | 3 | 5% |
| Help in leaving the area – to somewhere safer | 1 | 2% |
| Longer sentences for people caught carrying knives & guns | 0 | 0% |

SOLUTIONS TO YOUTH ON YOUTH VIOLENCE (All – n=100)

They were asked what would most help to stop or reduce serious youth on youth violence

| SOLUTION | No | % (all) |
|---|-----------|----------------|
| More & better youth clubs & sports facilities | 74 | 74 |
| More police on the streets - & more stop & search | 42 | 42 |
| Too late – nothing can make a difference | 26 | 26 |
| Parents need to control/ discipline their children better | 19 | 19 |
| More CCTV cameras | 19 | 19 |
| More job opportunities for youths | 13 | 13 |
| More help for gang members to leave their violent lifestyle | 11 | 11 |
| Longer sentences for people caught carrying knives & guns | 0 | 0 |
| Help in leaving the area – to somewhere safer | 0 | 0 |