



Youth violence: The “warning sign” for our society

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ABSTRACT

Headlines proclaim that the epidemic of youth violence that began in the early 1980s is over, but the reality behind this seemingly good news is far more complex and unsettling. Public health studies show that youth violence is an ongoing, startlingly pervasive problem. Violence prevention and intervention efforts hinge on identifying risk and protective factors and determining when in the course of development they emerge. To be effective, such efforts must be appropriate to a youth's stage of development. Parents remain busy in their professional life, and do not know what their child is doing in school. In school the effects of joining the wrong group is obvious on their child. There have been many cases in which a high scoring student has ended up with below average grades with a mean temperament and foul language. Keeping all these factors in mind this chapter describes the magnitude of and trends in violent crime by young people.