# Youth Trends and Challenges in the Caribbean

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Youth in the Caribbean

- Over 60% of the Caribbean population under 30

- School completion rates 20% higher in Caribbean compared to LAC region, yet few complete tertiary programmes

- Highest rates of HIV/AIDS after Africa

- One of the highest levels of violence worldwide, directly impacting youth

- High rates of unattached youth (no work, no study) and youth unemployment (nearly three times the rate of adult unemployment)

- Even those students who have gone through skills training are not always well prepared to enter the work force
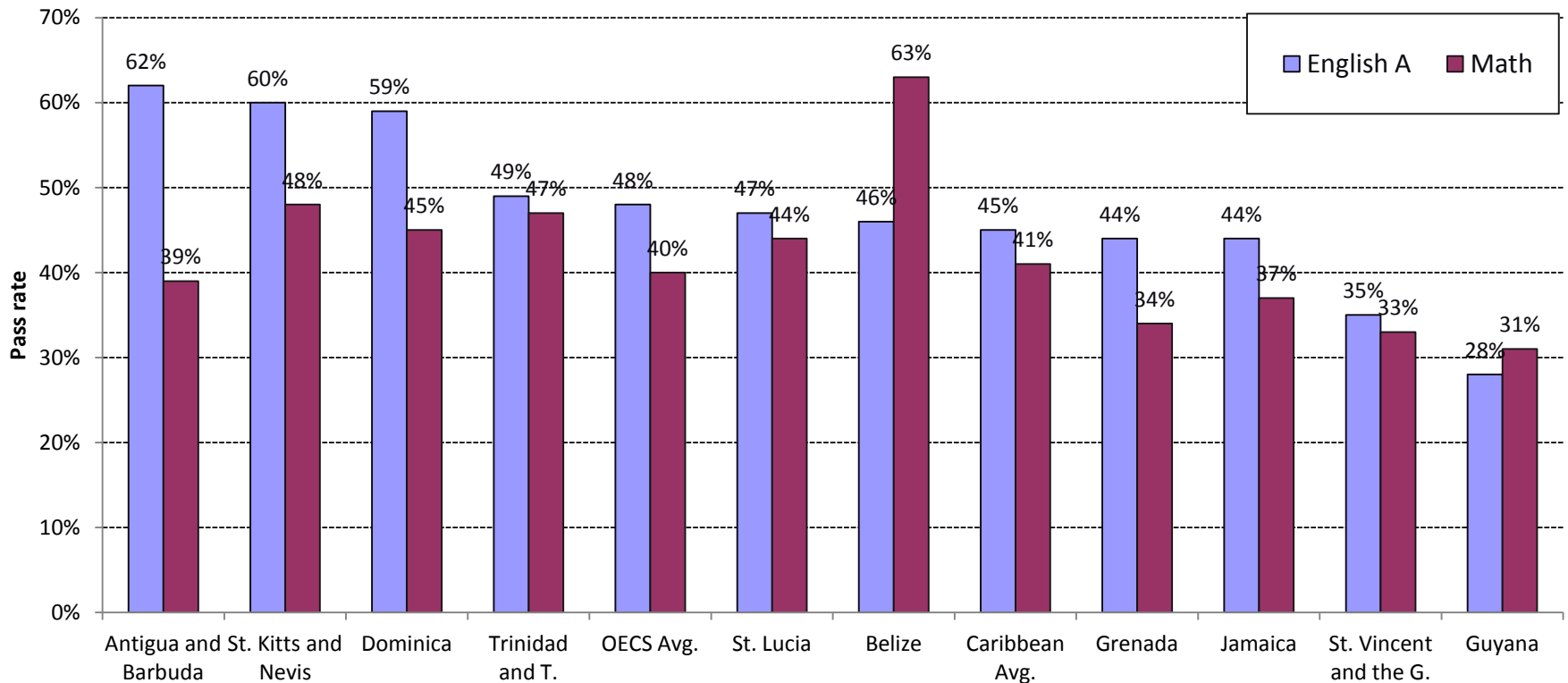
New service jobs demand skilled workers

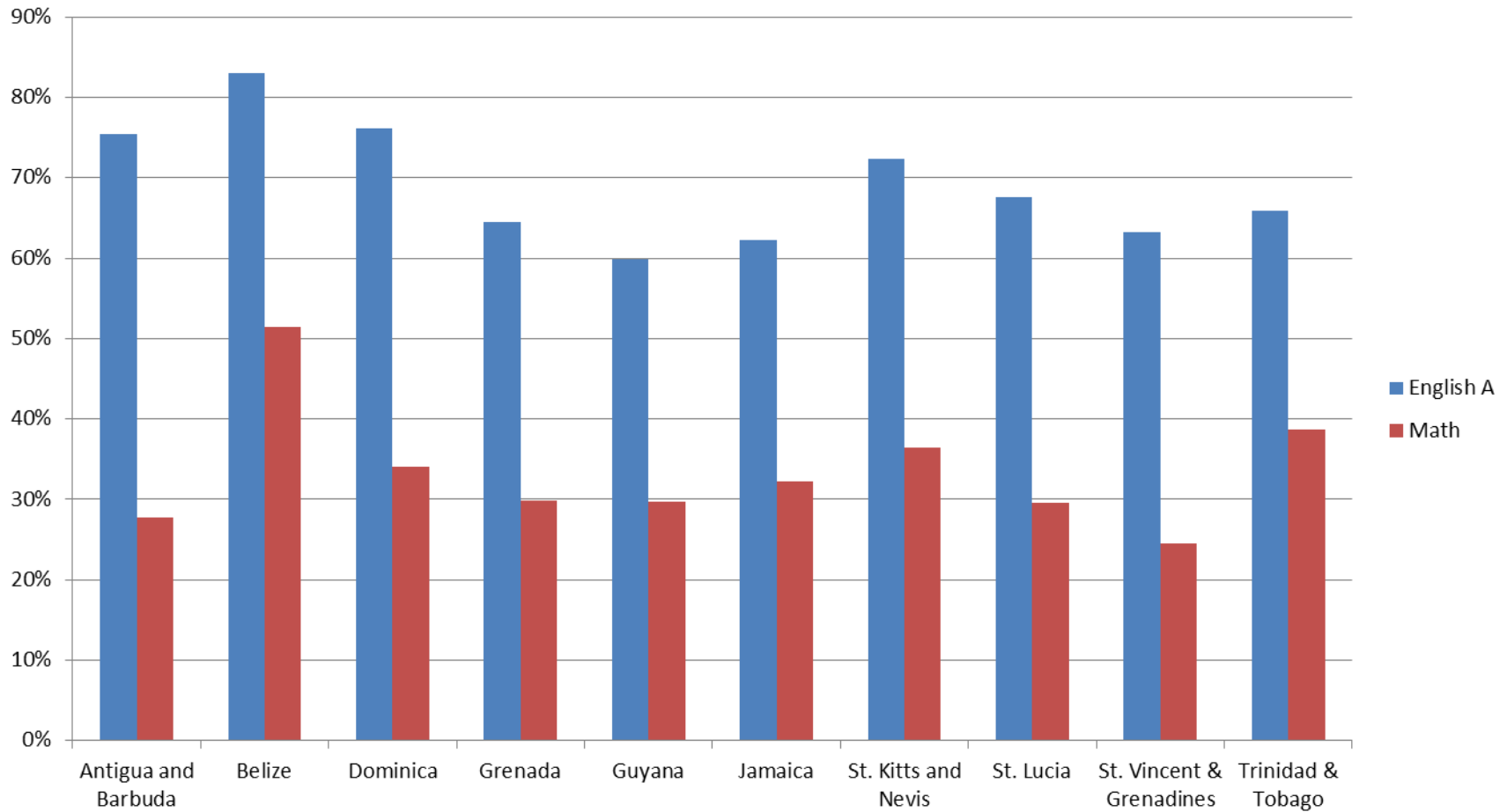## Workers by education level per economic sector (Caribbean)

Legend:
- ■ Professionals
- ▨ Skilled Workers
- □ Unskilled Workers
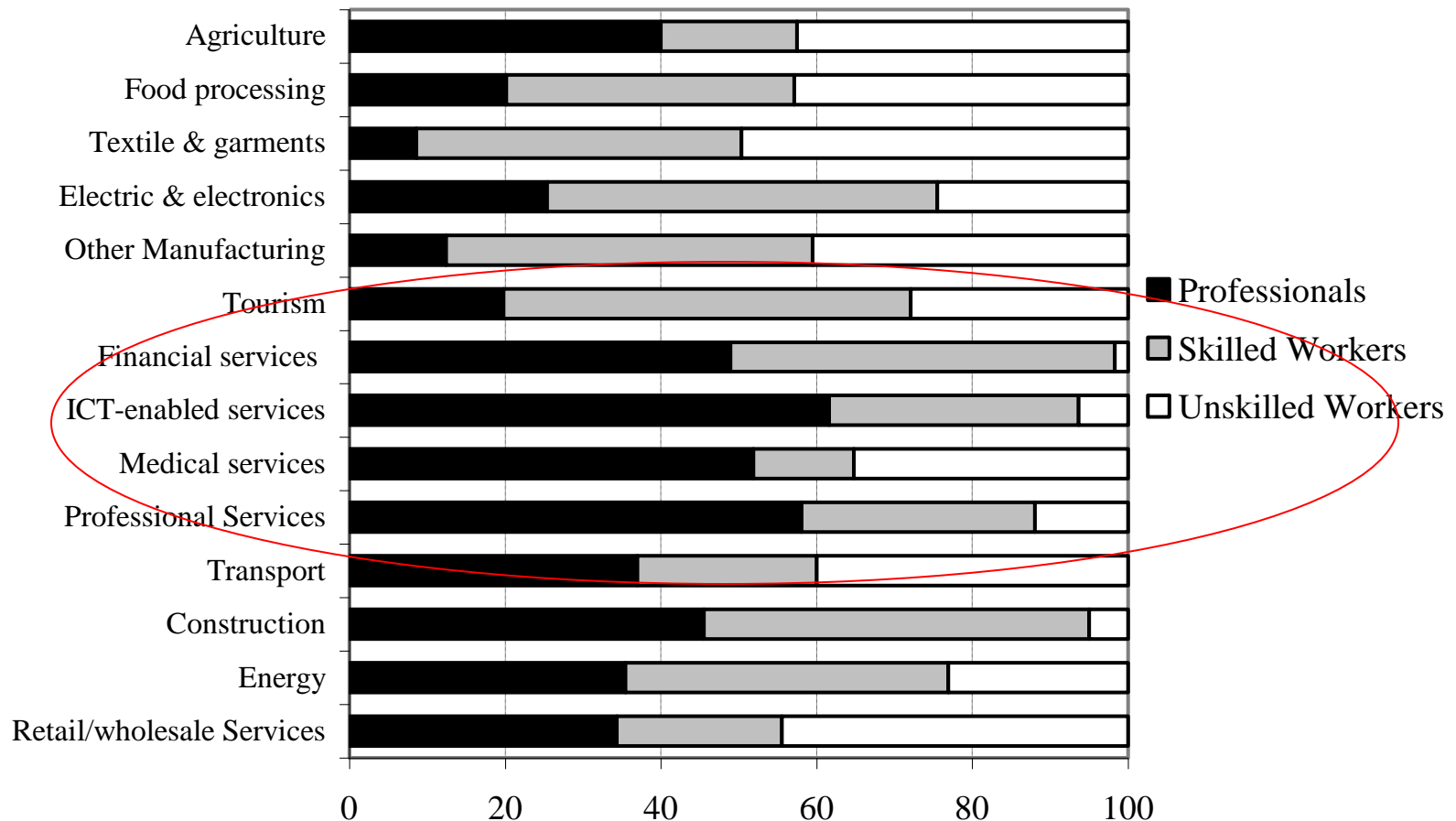
Proficiency in literacy and numeracy skills is key

CXC General Proficiency Test Pass Rates, 2008

2011 CSEC Exam Results

Life skills for jobs

Caribbean: Employers' assessment of most desired skill set

Skill	Percentage
Honesty/integrity	86%
Work ethic	86%
Problem solving / efficiency	82%
Communication skills	79%
The ability to work well on teams	77%
Taking individual responsibility	68%
Dependability	47%
Computer skills	45%

Source: Caribbean Knowledge and Learning Network: Labor Market Survey, 2006
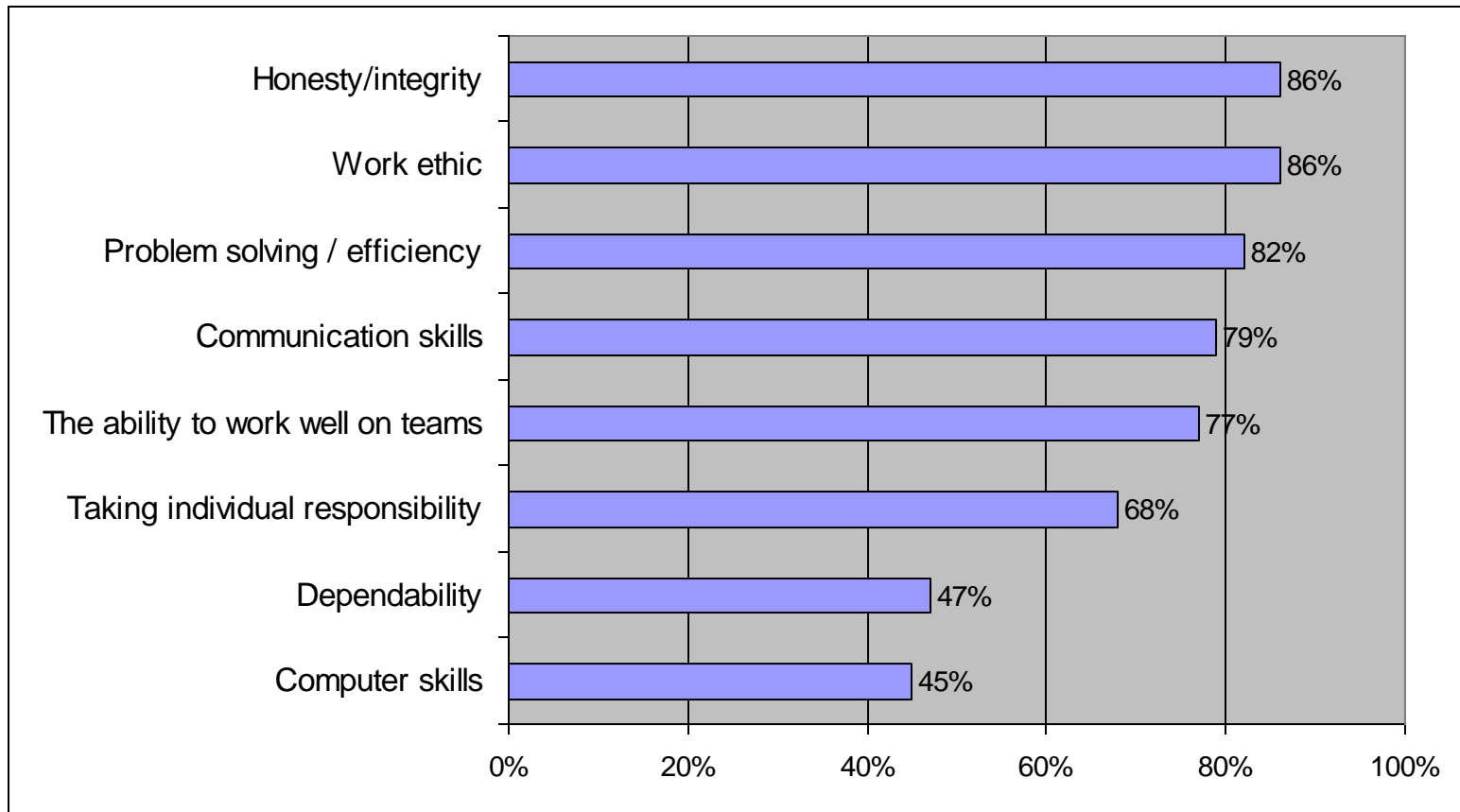
21st Century Skills

Ways of Thinking

- Creativity and innovation

- Critical thinking, problem solving, decision making

- Learning to learn, metacognition

Ways of Working

- Communication

- Collaboration (teamwork)

Tools for Working

- Information literacy (includes research on sources, evidence, biases, etc.)

- ICT literacy

Living in the World

- Citizenship – local and global

- Life and career

- Personal & social responsibility – including cultural awareness and competence

Reference: Assessment and Teaching of 21st Century Skills (www.atc21s.org)

On-the-job training

Low training of work force

% of firms training workers
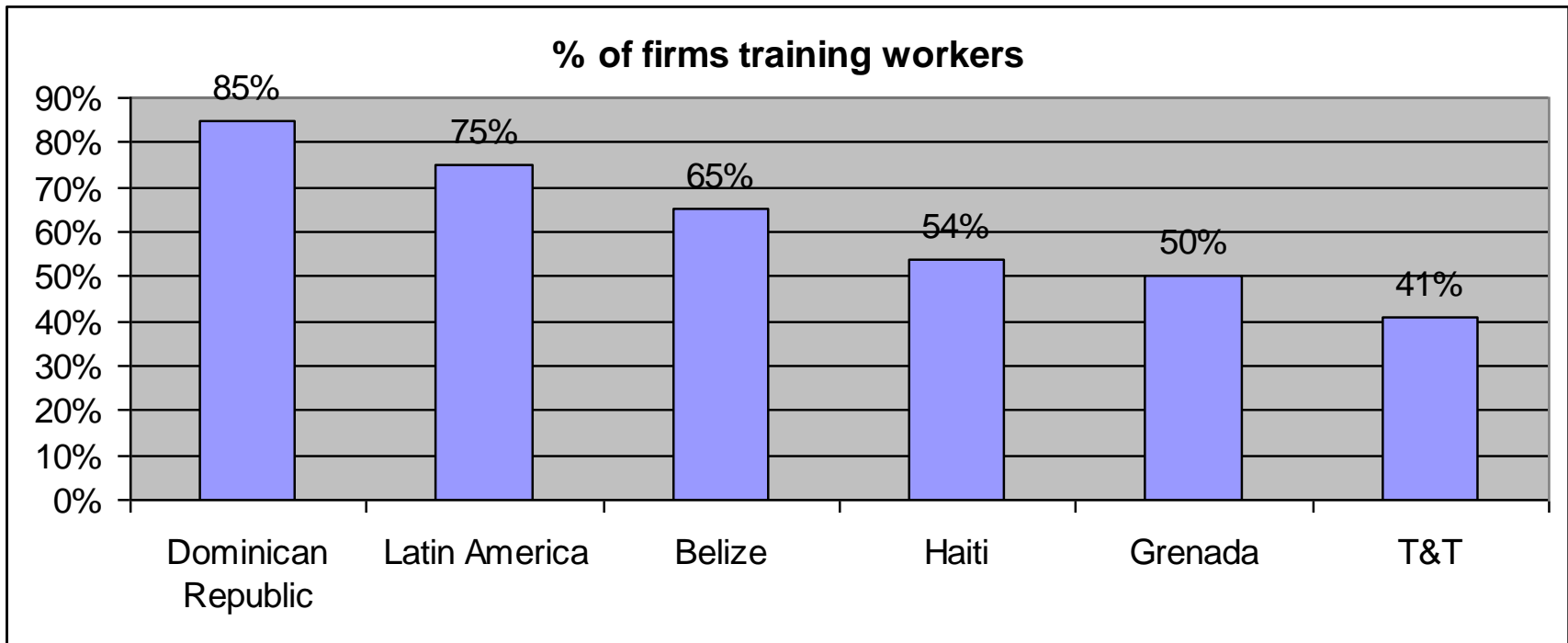
Source: Caribbean Investment Climate Assessment, World Bank (2005)

How to Empower Young People

- Socio-emotional and 21st century skills are as important as cognitive/academic skills

- Informal networks are important in the job search

- Internships are important to connect youth to the labour market, and mentors are important to help at-risk youth sustain employment

- Changing skills required by the labour market demand adaptability to different kinds of jobs and life long learning opportunities

THANK YOU!!

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YOUTH TRENDS & CHALLENGES IN THE CARIBBEAN

CITIZEN SECUIRTY: YOUTH CRIME & VIOLENCE
Findings from the UNDP Human Development Report (2012)

Mary Wilfred
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Saint Lucia
June 25, 2013

SOME OBSERVATIONS

- Increased youth involvement in violence has contributed to popular perceptions of growing insecurity

- Crime and violence among Caribbean youth have become linked to other developmental issues, including high levels of youth unemployment, poor educational opportunities, and feelings of voicelessness and exclusion from national and regional governance processes

- The feelings of insecurity among Caribbean citizens on account of youth violence have stemmed from inadequate attention to youth development and youth empowerment, which has increased the risk of youth offences and victimization

SIX PATTERNS OF YOUTH CRIME

- Youth violence has a gender dimension.

- Violence among pre-adolescents is a growing concern among citizens.

- School violence has escalated

SIX PATTERNS OF YOUTH CRIME

- Youth violence is often a response to the victimization

- Youth violence is closely associated with community violence

- Youth victimization by peers and adults creates an environment for more violence

ANNUAL COST OF YOUTH CRIME ($US)

- GUYANA: 70, 672, 498,   GDP 2.29

- JAMAICA: 624,485,815   GDP: 3.21

- SAINT LUCIA: 62,521, 557 GDP: 4.01

- SURINAME: 655,190, 853   GDP: 2.88

CATEGORY	RISK ANTECENDENTS & RISK MARKERS
SOCIETAL	• Limited socio-economic opportunities • Increased criminal activity and access to drugs and firearms • Tolerance of violence
COMMUNITY, INTERPERSONAL	• Community and gang volatility • Exploitation and abuse by adults in the home and at school • Loss of social cohesion because of distrust and lack of support among neighbours
INDIVIDUAL	• Poor health status, early sexual initiation, drug abuse and mental health problems • Inherent youthful desire to take risks with personal security and safety

REDUCING RISK & ENHANCING RESILIENCE

Contextualization *of programmes:*

The principle of inclusivity *should* be applied in age- and gender-targeted interventions.

Integrated planning and programmes

REDUCING RISK & ENHANCING RESILIENCE

Coordination and partnership among Government, NGOs , CBOs & FBOs

Strengthened police-youth relations

Provision of specific alternatives *for*

offenders and second-chance programmes for school drop-outs

How should one resist violence in communities?
Youth View

PASSIVE	ACTIVE-DESTRUCTIVE	ACTIVE CONSTRUCTIVE
Isolate oneself and stay Indoors Try to stay neutral and do not take sides in any conflict Be polite to everyone	Form gangs to protect each other Face risk directly and defend oneself using violence	Report violence to the police (notwithstanding some distrust of police in Jamaica and in Trinidad and Tobago) Go to church and pray Focus on productive work, a job, or other activity Go to parties to relieve stress

FACTORS

- Family:

- Peer Support Groups

- The Community

- State Institutions

FACTORS

- A Promising Family Programme: Parental Education, Suriname

- A Promising Peer Programme: Peace Ambassadors, Barbados

- A Promising State-Community Programme: The Peace Management Initiative Jamaica

SUPPORTING RISK REDUCTION & ENHANCING RESILEINCE

Analysis of the Context of Youth Violence in the Caribbean

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
A. The majority of youth are not violent B. Some youth are already contributing to violence reduction and human development C. Several promising programmes have been implemented to reduce risk and build youth resilience; these now require evaluation, assessment and replication as appropriate	A. Youth are stigmatized as violent B. Youth offenders do not receive adequate rehabilitation and reintegration support C. Lack of appropriate data to support planning and programmes
OPPORTUNITIES A. Youth are open to new experiences and pursuits, and, so, change is not as threatening to them B. Youth generally feel respected in their communities, which provides a foundation for building youth-adult partnerships c. Youth have strong feelings about participation and are willing to contribute to violence prevention d. Most youth believe that the police deserve their support	**THREATS** A. High levels of youth unemployment and inadequate educational opportunities B. Parents neglect and abuse their children C. Societal tolerance of violence threatens to erode progress in non-violent socialization among youth at home and school and in communities