"We Have Failed Our Children"

Prepared to Provide our Children with the Wisdom to Win

“PRISON CULTURE” IS NOW THE NORM BECAUSE THE ENTIRE VILLAGE HAS FAILED AND GENERATION “Y” DESERVES TO KNOW WHY!
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*Hip-Hop Summit Youth Council*
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**NOTE:** After reading thousands of articles over the last several years, those selected for this report provide the “**Best Information**” for our children, youth and young adults to read on issues they need to “**Better Understand**” in order to become productive, tax-paying, law-abiding citizens.

*Articles have been reproduced “AS IS” and some are excerpts too long to print in full.*
“We Have Failed Our Children”

OPENING MESSAGE TO OUR CHILDREN

Our Back to School “State of the Decade” (2001-2010) Children’s Report entitled: “We Have Failed Our Children” was created to give the

WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN & WHY Facts to Young Citizens

so they can Better Understand how an Entire Generation Has Been Lost.

Statistics don’t lie and after reading our report we hope that you will become inspired to join our movement for Political, Economic and Social Change.

It is our intent to provide young citizens with the Information and Resources to address Poverty, Economic & Academic failure, Substance Abuse, HIV/AIDS, Healthcare, and Gun & Gang Violence so they can use their Wisdom to become Global Leaders and “Make this a Better World.”
“We Have Failed Our Children”

About the Hip-Hop Summit Youth Council (HHSYC):

The HHSYC was founded by Charles Fisher in July of 2001. Fisher is the former manager of LL Cool J, the Lost Boyz, and is the man who co-discovered R. Kelly. HHSYC was created to help implement the commitments, guidelines and policies made by record companies, artists, community leaders and elected officials at the 2001 Hip-Hop Summit held in New York City. After attending the historic event, Fisher felt a need to establish an advocacy group that would work towards meeting Hip-Hop’s most important challenges, which are to unify and improve the image of the Hip-Hop community and show participants how to constructively use their time, talents and the Hip-Hop culture to improve social, political and economic conditions in their schools, homes and communities. In addition, HHSYC teaches participants how to use Hip-Hop and Spiritual Enlightenment to control their emotions, practice self-respect, put an end to violence and achieve their goals. Randy Fisher has served as the Executive Director since 2002 and has provided a ‘hands on’ approach to the needs and aspirations of youth and young adults while working to improve communications between young citizens, their parents, adults, political, business, and community leaders. For additional information, please visit www.hhsyc.org.

WHO DO WE REPRESENT?

- Incarcerated Youth & Young Adults
- Formerly Incarcerated Youth & Young Adults
- Youth & Young Adult Gang Members
- At-Risk Youth & Young Adults
- Disconnected Youth & Young Adults
- Young Adults (18-26)
- Students (K-12)
- Children (Home & Childcare Centers)
- Hip-Hop Community

“As long as our Nation Continues to Lag the Pants on our Children will Drag & Sag”

To make real and everlasting changes, we have to rescue our children, youth and young adults from Parents, Religious, Business, Community and Political Leaders who have failed them for over 3 decades. Like the “SAGGING PANTS” on our Children, we are “DRAGGING & SAGGING” as a nation and the end results are: War; Crime; Record Incarceration Rates; Gun and Gang Violence; Poverty; Unemployment; An annual Decrease of Summer Jobs for Youth; The lack of a Quality Education and After-School Programs; HIV/AIDS; Substance Abuse and Poor Healthcare; Home Foreclosures; a Slumping Housing Market; a Depressed Economy and Failing Financial Institutions. These are the hard signs that tell us the “American Dream is Falling Fast,” just like the “Sagging Pants” on our Children, with no relief in sight. Make no mistake about it, as we “Fail & Fall” so do our Children’s Pants, Morals, Principles, Values, Quality of Life, and Future Development because they are a reflection of our actions. To get back on top we must stop blaming our children for the chaos we created and address the “Root Causes” which are destroying our country. Through this report and your support we can accomplish that task.

Hip-Hop Summit Youth Council
INTRODUCTION

As we celebrate a decade of service the question we are asking citizens worldwide is very simple: Are We Failing Our Children? After a decade of research and development and looking at the “Cold Hard Facts” we have concluded that the answer is definitely YES. The findings are outlined in our Back to School “State of the Decade” Children’s report entitled “We Have Failed Our Children.” This document covers several issues that have led to the demise of our children such as: Poverty; Substance Abuse; Education; Healthcare; Childcare; Criminal Justice; War; Unemployment; HIV/AIDS; Child Mortality; and Gun & Gang Violence.

Segments of this “Historic World Report” have been submitted to thousands of youth worldwide, including the 600 students who attended the 7th and 9th Annual Youth Assembly at the United Nations in August 2010 and 2011. The event was sponsored by the Friendship Ambassadors Foundation with support from the Permanent Mission of Finland, the International Youth Council and the Hip-Hop Summit Youth Council, to name a few. During a week of events, “Assembly Delegates” approved the report for submission to “193 World Leaders” that meet annually at the United Nations General Assembly in September to discuss important world issues.

We released the report the month after the General Assembly because we wanted to start a new trend that would have governments and parents focusing more on “Child Rights and Issues.” It’s time for young citizens to have a “Voice” in policy and decision-making. In addition, last year at the United Nations was special because, for the first time, the General Assembly held a MDGs (Millennium Development Goals) Summit to gauge the progress of the MDGs and how world leaders will achieve the goals by the 2015 deadline.

In the report you will read about the United Nations “Convention on the Rights of the Child,” adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution 44/25 on November 20, 1989, and entered into force September 2, 1990 in accordance with article 49. We recommend that parents and youth download the PDF file and read the Convention on the Rights of the Child so that you will have a guide of the “Global Responsibility of Parents” which we have highlighted in Article 18 below:

Article 18 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

1. States Parties shall use their best efforts to ensure recognition of the principle that both parents have common responsibilities for the upbringing and development of the child. Parents or, as the case may be, legal guardians, have the primary responsibility for the upbringing and development of the child. The best interests of the child will be their basic concern.

2. For the purpose of guaranteeing and promoting the rights set forth in the present Convention, States Parties shall render appropriate assistance to parents and legal guardians in the performance of their child-rearing responsibilities and shall ensure the development of institutions, facilities and services for the care of children.

3. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that children of working parents have the right to benefit from child-care services and facilities for which they are eligible.

America is the greatest country on earth and leader of the free world, but with that title we have a “Moral Obligation” to set the tone for “Peace, Prosperity and Social Justice.” Every citizen on this planet is a stakeholder with a vested interest in a new global movement to save Generations X, Y and Z and it starts with you and this report.
Since 1978, when we launched the first of several initiatives to address the problems of our children in poor and minority communities, conditions have gotten even worse. We knew that drastic measures had to be taken immediately to save the next generation from the “War on our Children.” It has been said that “It Takes an Entire Village to Raise a Child” and through our assessment we felt that in order for real changes to be made we would have to show how “Parents and the Entire Village” have failed our children “big time” for over 3 decades.

After 22 years, the second phase of our journey began at the turn of the century around the same time the United Nations (UN) launched a new initiative to help the poor and the children. Former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan led the effort to create the UN’s Millennium Declaration and the MDGs. The MDGs were considered a landmark in the UN’s history and outlined a blueprint agreed to in September 2000 by 189 member Countries to meet the needs of the world’s poorest countries by 2015. Leaders committed to a grand vision led by ethics, values, compassion, and equal human rights where young people would play a significant role in helping to meet the target date. The eight guiding principles of the MDGs are as follows: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger; Achieve Universal Primary Education; Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women; Reduce Child Mortality; Improve Maternal Health; Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria, and other Diseases; Ensure Environmental Sustainability; and Create a Global Partnership for Development. To help implement the MDGs Kofi created the Millennium Campaign in 2002. The UN agency’s mission is to mobilize citizens around the world to pressure their governments to support and partner with civil society projects advancing the MDGs in order to help achieve the goals by the 2015 deadline.

As the UN implemented their global plan we began to meet with groups in the U.S. to discuss how we could save the children as well. In our minds enough was enough, and after 22 years it was imperative to start the “New Millennium” with a new vision for “Justice, Equality and Social Change.” We approached Russell Simmons, who we had worked with on various projects for over 20 years. We told him about our vision to “Reunite the Entire Village” to save the children. Russell informed us of a few projects in development and stated that when they were complete he would give us a call. We met again in 2001 and were told about a Summit he was planning entitled “Hip-Hop at the Hilton.” The event would be attended by a host of “Movers & Shakers” to discuss how to use the positive influence of Hip-Hop to “Take Back Responsibility” in our communities. After hearing Russell’s grand plan, we knew this was our calling and we had to be a part of this historic event. In our minds, this was the best idea we had heard in decades to save our children.

Just as Russell promised, on June 12-13, 2001 the “Who’s Who” in Hip-Hop, representing artists, managers, producers, and industry executives, attended the Summit. They were joined by celebrities, clergy, political, business and community leaders all coming together to take Hip-Hop to a new level of “Social Responsibility” never explored by any other genre of music before. Using the art for the “Social, Political and Spiritual” empowerment of young people would make Hip-Hop a rare jewel and unique within its scope. These three elements represented the “Final Frontier” for Hip-Hop because the doors for economic empowerment were already open and Hip-Hop was now a multi-billion dollar industry. No longer were artists performing because they simply enjoyed the art, they could also become very rich. Charles Fisher was selected as a panelist for the Summit’s much talked about “Youth Forum,” where ideas and proposals were discussed to help save the next generation. About three weeks after the two-day groundbreaking event, the Hip-Hop Summit Youth Council (HHSYC) was born.

For nearly ten years the HHSYC has created programs that make a difference in the lives of our participants. Over the last six years we have worked with several Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and the United Nations so we could use the largest government in the world as a platform to present our projects to children worldwide, as well as voice our concerns about their future. Through this unique partnership, our programs and products are being used globally to help children achieve their personal, academic and business goals.
“We Have Failed Our Children”

Our new innovative movement targets the “Root Causes” behind the destruction of our children, which are “Poverty and Illiteracy.” Through our contract with the United Nations Millennium Campaign and partnership with the UN Youth Assembly we have been able to create a host of initiatives and alliances to address global poverty and education through our Hip-Hop Economic Empowerment Program (HEEP) and Read 2 Succeed Through Hip-Hop Project. “Knowledge is King” and if our children have the right resources and a quality education they will unlock the mysteries that will allow us to cure cancer, HIV and other diseases, travel to different planets, find clean and affordable energy, establish world peace and make this a better world.

We know that regardless of how a child may behave, the parent must be held accountable. Parents, we are truly sorry and know you are doing your best under very tough circumstances, but the buck stops with you. The intent of this report is not to HATE on parents because we have nothing but love and respect for them, nor do we want to start the famous “Finger Pointing Game.” Its purpose is for each of us to follow Michael Jackson’s lead and “Look at the Man in the Mirror.” Parents, it’s your turn to take a “Time Out” because each of us needs to take “Personal Blame” for failing this generation because, according to the facts in our report, we are losing the “War on our Children.”

I’m proud to be an American representing the greatest country on earth, but it’s sad that we live in a culture that glorifies sex, drugs, guns and violence. Each has contributed to the decay of our children here in the U.S. and abroad. America represents 5% of the global population but consumes 67% of the world’s illegal drugs. We incarcerate more than any industrialized nation with 2.3 million in prison and over 7.3 million under some form of criminal justice supervision. As the leader of the free world we should set the tone for “Moral Leadership and Human Rights” using our strength to be “Mediators of Conflict and Creators of Economic Empowerment” to end “Global Poverty.” When over 2 billion people, about 1/3 of the world’s population, live on less than $2.50 a day we have to be concerned about their future and wellbeing. When young people who represent half of the world’s population have nothing to live for they are ripe for recruitment by our enemies who have a sworn duty to put an end to democracy. It’s sad when young males start making plans to blow themselves up to meet 72 virgins in the hear-after but “when you have lost everything, you have nothing to lose.”

Let’s think about the argument our enemies are making to recruit children to destroy America. First of all we are the richest nation on earth with citizens so wealthy they could not spend it all in ten lifetimes. When you compare the poor living on the streets in the U.S. with the life of the average citizen living in some third world countries it is like night and day.

For instance, the homeless in America which represent our worst have access to food, water, healthcare, sanitation, clothing and a place to sleep via soup kitchens, shelters, churches, government agencies and caring citizens. By having access to these basic resources they live a far better life than the average third world country citizen where, in contrast, children go to bed hungry or make meals out of “Dirt Cookies.” Citizens have no sanitation, clean water or safe place to sleep due to the threat of conflict, kidnapping, sexual abuse, malaria, etc. We are not here to knock the wealthy, you are entitled to enjoy your life, but we do want you to see how this may be perceived in the minds of those that despise us for our success and will try to use our good fortune to fuel their “Hate America Agenda.” When the “Rich & Famous” are portrayed as heartless citizens only caring about themselves “Living Lavish Lives” with no real concern for children in the U.S. or abroad, it’s time to rebuild our image like British Petroleum (BP) because the world is watching and “To he whom much is given, much is required” (Luke 12:48).

There was much internal debate about whether we should include the next four paragraphs in our report, but we felt that it was important for Hip-Hop to show our children some of the “Guiding Principles” created by the “Founding Fathers” that made this a great democracy.

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Hip-Hop Summit Youth Council
Back in the early 70’s, Hip-Hop was created as an alternative to gangs, crime, drugs, unemployment and other social problems that were destroying urban communities. As the civil rights movement of the 60’s ended, our children were left very confused about their future. Dr. King, Malcolm X, John and Bobby Kennedy were all assassinated, causing unrest and riots in urban communities. The Vietnam War and racial inequality in the South had divided the nation, just as it did during the Civil War. Our youth were starving for some kind of “Moral Direction and Spiritual Food” just as they are today.

Today’s children lack the Morals, Values & Principles (MVP) that are taught by parents and learned through “Spiritual Enlightenment” in houses of worship. “Spiritual Illiteracy” is a global curse that handicaps children and adults every day without them even knowing it. Hip-Hop will now be creatively used as a vehicle to deliver that “Life Saving Wisdom” to our children. Through our assessment of the world today we can all agree that it will take nothing short of a miracle to stop the suffering that plagues this planet. Due to tradition, women are being sentenced to “Death by Stoning” in the 21st century. Children are being killed, bitten and beaten for punishment and sport by abusive, alcoholic and drug addicted parents; female children are being murdered and/or aborted only because they are considered the weaker gender; children are sold or given away into a life of prostitution, hard labor or slavery; genocide and a host of “Human Rights Violations” are common occurrences in countries throughout the world. Children of the world have no voice to speak out on their behalf, but Hip-Hop has now accepted the challenge.

We are convinced that only the “Higher Power” that blessed America and made us so great can save the world from “Self-Destruction.” When America, the “Leader & Role Model” for the world, is accused of violating “Human and Civil Rights” other countries feel we have no say in their government’s human rights policy. Believe it or not, we are playing a dangerous game with the “Master Upstairs” because as the world’s leader we are responsible for its behavior. It is time that we stopped acting like children and lived up to the responsibility we are blessed with. “If we don’t use it, we’ll lose it.” To protect the children, all disagreements need to be resolved through mediation before they lead to violence because that is what we teach them as parents. The tragedy of 9/11 will be like a “Tick on an Elephant” if we don’t clean up our act and take charge of this chaotic world where just about anything goes. Some of you probably feel that none of this applies to you. On the contrary, neither did the people of Egypt during the period of Moses. As the people sat idly by, the entire country was devastated by one “Plague after Another.” Only the Children of Israel were “Passed Over by the Angels of Death” who took the “First Born” Egyptian Child. We can’t let this happen to us—or is it happening already and we don’t even know it?

This year marks the 10-year anniversary of 9/11 and we have dodged a few bullets since the tragedy, but the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan cannot be the only proactive approach we take to protect this country, especially with the “Arab Spring” uprising. Wars are fought on many levels and “Killing our Enemies with Love and Kindness” must be an option.

Recently, Bill Gates and Warren Buffet launched a project called the “Giving Pledge” which follows the biblical laws of Luke chapter 12:47-48 and represents the “Long Lost Spirit” that made us so great. It is our hope that others will follow their lead, not only in the interest of “National Security,” but more importantly because it is the right thing for a country with real “MVP” to do. Both Gates and Buffet, who are the Most Valuable Players in the game of life, are to be commended, along with other Billionaires who are taking a proactive approach by using their wealth to make this a safer country and a better world. There are a lot of Most Valuable Players in America and it is time for all of you to fulfill your obligation to a nation that helped you achieve your success. Not to be outdone by the men, “Giving Back” is a newly released film documentary accompanied by a CD, Book and Foundation launched by businesswoman, humanitarian and philanthropist Meera Gandhi.
“We Have Failed Our Children”

It represents an innovative global movement to help the poor and save our children by inspiring them to be great and teaching them the science of “Giving Back.” Yes, “Giving Back” is a science and the spiritual laws are simple: “You Reap What You Sow” and “The More You Give, The More You will Receive.”

We are a “God Fearing” nation and through our belief we have become the “Greatest Country on Earth.” This achievement did not happen by accident. Law, Order and Capitalism are the tools that helped shape this great democracy. In our courts you will see the words “In God We Trust” and they are also written on all our currency. We use the “Holy Bible” to swear in our President, elected officials, judges, witnesses and for marriage, one of America’s most sacred institutions. The “Pledge of Allegiance” states that we are “One Nation Under God.” We pray to God for relief and thank God for our victories. Make no doubt about it America is a “God Fearing Country.” Even if most don’t go to a place of worship every week, we were still brought up to believe that there is a God or something greater than man. We are a nation of many religions but the laws and government of the United States are built on “Biblical Principles” and to that we attribute our great success.

Now, if the success of this nation is guided by God, then it would be “Spiritual Suicide” for America and its leaders to act contrary to the laws and principles of the Almighty. It has been said that Jesus looked after the poor, fed the masses and forgave the sinner, even though they did not believe in his teachings. So even though there are those in our county and the rest of the world that do not share our “Spiritual Vision,” it is still up to us to show them what the love, compassion and mercy of our God is all about. Guiding new recruits to the “Kingdom of Heaven” as opposed to the life of a suicide bomber is another way to bring peace to America and this planet. Whether we know it or not, we are all “Fishers of Men” and have an obligation to spread the word of the Creator. In addition, we can show God that making us #1 was an excellent choice.

Poor people around the world are puzzled and asking how can citizens representing the “Greatest Country on Earth” who claim to be “One Nation Under God” let children go to bed hungry with no solution in sight. 1.3 billion people live on less than a $1.25 a day or $9.25 a week, while there are U.S. citizens who spend more each week feeding their pet. A week’s supply of the cheapest pet food costs more than $9.75, which means that your pet is living better than billions in third world countries where 50,000 people die from starvation every day. Even if your pet is eating the scraps from the table, they are better off than those who have no food and may have to settle for a “Dirt Cookie” with water to wash it down that could kill them.

We have nothing against animals, and applaud the activists that work to protect their rights, but over the last few years we have noticed more spots are airing on TV about animal rights than “Children and Human Rights.” Have we become a country where we put the needs and rights of animals before our children?

It is unfortunate, but this behavior is being used against us to sell the “Hate America” rhetoric to young people around the world who are being told that some animals in America get better treatment than the children. Our enemies don’t have to do a lot because we are doing all the work for them.

If you think about the advances we have made over the last century you would have to believe that there is nothing our scholars, scientists, inventors and leaders can’t accomplish. We have sent men to the moon and have built spaceships that visit other planets. We have space stations and satellites orbiting the planet with the ability to see the license plate on your car. We enjoy high-speed trains and electric cars. We have cured small pox, measles, chicken pox, TB, malaria and other life threatening diseases as well as some forms of cancer and heart disease. We have skilled surgeons who can perform transplants, reattach severed limbs, and operate on almost any organ of the human body to prolong our life. We have films, televisions, radios, computers, the Internet, cell phones, video conferencing, copy machines, scanners, iPods and all kinds of gadgets that make our lives easy and enjoyable every day.
“We Have Failed Our Children”

We can build skyscrapers and bridges that span for miles between two cities. We can put houses up in day and predict the next storm. With all these amazing accomplishments you would think that a technically advanced civilized society like ours would be able to come up with a plan to save our children. History tells us that each generation is supposed to be better than the last but we are embarrassed to say that according to our report our children may be the “First to go in Reverse.” As parents we are losers and definitely “Not on our Grind.” If most of us had to meet our maker tomorrow we would have no excuse for the “Moral Crime” of failing our children and ignoring the poor.

You know something is wrong in a society when the adults allow the children to walk around with their pants “Sagging Down” and “Underwear Showing” in public. We are confused and in absolute fear of this “Prison Culture Attire” that started when correction officers would take the belts away from new inmates that were being processed so they would not hang themselves. With no belt, inmates would walk with their pants “Sagging” until they were fitted in a prison uniform. We are so afraid of our children’s unpredictable behavior that we dare not defend our own moral standards. By acting like the “Three Blind Mice” we subject our younger children to these dehumanizing values, leading them to believe that this lifestyle is cool. As adults we are responsible for our children’s anti-social behavior and we know they are the end product of our very own creation.

How can our kids “Pull up their Pants” or “Pull themselves up by the Boot Straps” if we can’t provide them with Boots, Belts, Decent Clothing, Good Schools, Safety and Jobs? Their “sagging style of dress” is a statement of rebellion and a symptom of a bigger problem. In stark contrast, decades ago the Rap Group NWA (Niggas With an Attitude) rebelled against “Police Corruption” in Los Angeles when they released the song “Niggas With an Attitude,” which started the era of “Gangster Rap.” When young people feel they are being mistreated or disrespected they find a way to make a statement of their own to bring attention to the issue. As sad as it is to say you have to admit this is “Madison Avenue Marketing” at its best.

Our children are “On top of their Game” trying to shake some sense into adults about what is really going on in this world. Yes, it is easy to blame the kids, but society and parents have to be held accountable at the end of the day. Their anti-social behavior is like a baby’s cry in the middle of the night and in their own way they are asking for our help. They are also challenging us to a mental sparring match, knowing in their own minds that we are hypocrites who are just as confused as they are about how to solve the problems of the world.

When you ask a person to clean up their act you have to bring more than just talk to the table because kids today know that “Talk is Cheap.” They feel that most adults have no right to tell them how to live because they don’t “Practice what they Preach.” Our children are “Brilliant and Resilient” and it’s not easy for adults to earn their trust and respect. They listen to all the lies and scandals on the news, which are a reflection of our adult behavior. They proceed to get on their cell phones, text their friends about the daily circus of events that the “Adults” represent and leave a “LOL” (laugh out loud) message at the end. In their minds they are smarter than most adults, but in their heart, they are asking parents the million-dollar question: if you are so smart, why can’t you fix the suffering children experience every day?

Thanks to videogames, music, films, TV shows, and the media our children are desensitized to violence. Murder and mayhem are common occurrences in their minds making some feel that death, blood and violence are the norm. Corporations know children don’t stand a chance against their marketing experts who are paid top dollar to influence children to buy their deadly products. Thanks to these companies, which quite a few of you own stock in, some youth today are so out of touch that they sometimes confuse the “Art of Entertainment, with the Realities of Life.”

*Hip-Hop Summit Youth Council*
Our poor children are used and abused as pawns by companies to buy their violent and unhealthy products. There are “Kidnappers” for sex slaves and child labor, “War Lords” for military operations, “Drug Dealers and Gang Leaders” to sell drugs, guns and commit crimes. Our children are screwed up because of adults that have no values and who believe “Greed is Good” at any price, including the children.

Right now the village is so divided that we no longer practice the biblical commandment of “Love Thy Neighbor” nor do we care about being “Our Brother’s Keeper.” Back in the days the “Entire Village Raised the Child” and citizens spoke out if they saw something wrong. There was a code of conduct guided by the Morals, Values & Principals and we had an obligation to point every child in the right direction. The child knew that the “Village Cared,” but now it seems the love and concern we once had is no longer there, so they join gangs and terrorist groups to get the missing support. We have to learn how to talk to our children and not down at them because they know the difference. If you approach the worst kid you know with some love, respect and an open mind he will show you the same in return. He may not pull his pants up or take your advice at that moment, but you will have planted a positive seed in his mind that now has a chance to grow. More importantly, the individual now knows that someone cares because he received the attention and respect he was looking for from the “Village Mentor” and that’s a Win/Win for both parties. Yes, there is a science to communicating with our children and when it comes to their future most adults don’t “Plan to Fail,” but according to the data in our report, they do “Fail to Plan.”

We can’t count on the police to solve this massive problem. Some citizens have been led to believe that suppression is the only answer, but that strategy has failed because the jails are full. The Prison Industrial Complex is out of control forcing state budgets to cut needed services. The death penalty and long prison sentences are no deterrent, the numbers in our report are proof of that. If you are not aware, “Recidivism is Running Rampant” when nearly 7 out of 10 released from prison return again. To add fuel to the fire we have to look at the racial sentencing inequities in our courts, “Stop & Frisk” policies in poor communities and the way the juvenile justice system treats our children. Make no mistake about it, the system is failing and like the “Financial Industry on Wall Street” it needs to be restructured. If the Department of Corrections (DOC) was a for profit business, the CEO would have been fired by the Board long ago. In this case the people are the Board but have become “part of the problem” as we passively sit by blaming children and criminals. You can’t blame a child for setting the house on fire while you go to the store and leave them home alone with the matches.

The DOC is supposed to use our tax dollars to “CORRECT” and properly prepare inmates to become productive members of society. If they are not properly prepared on the inside and we don’t have the resources to help them succeed on the outside why are we releasing them from prison? It costs $240,000 a year to incarcerate a juvenile in NYC. You can graduate a student from grades 1-12 for about $158,000.

When 8 out of 10 inmates are High School Dropouts there is definitely a “Correlation Between Education and Incarceration.” The experts know that if you can’t read by the 4th grade chances are you will wind up on welfare, obtain a low-paying job, or become a product of the Criminal Justice System.

We don’t wish death or prison upon any one, but at the same time this process is compromising public safety and our children. The irony of the situation is how we can in good conscience blame inmates who commit crimes after they are released when we knowingly let them out totally unprepared in the first place? If we care about our children’s future and the integrity of our “Justice System” we must address this “Recipe for Disaster.”

The best-kept secret is who benefits from this chaotic “Revolving Door.” Can we buy stock in the companies benefiting from these policies because, according to the data, this has to be one of the best investments in town! The system is growing so fast that prisons are now being privatized.

*Hip-Hop Summit Youth Council*
We know that for any “Private Business” to make money it needs customers. So the question is, who and where will they come from? Is the “So Called Failure” of our Justice System a cold, calculated, well thought out plan that is working to perfection for a few groups that are earning huge profits thanks to the ignorance of the people? Or is this a draconian system that needs to be overhauled? Whatever the case may be, the patient is definitely in “Cardiac Arrest” and has been for decades. Does anyone really care about the waste of tax dollars, loss of life and property damage that is a result of these dangerous policies? Well, young people, it’s up to you to find the answer to these elusive questions because the adults have failed you again. They have no clue about how their money is being spent or the human suffering experienced by the families of those in prison. Not to mention the loss of tax revenue from formerly incarcerated citizens that have been “Declared Disabled” by the state because they can’t find work or suffered some kind of illness or injury while incarcerated and now must seek public assistance. Don’t you think it’s time for the community to rescue the DOC? Or should we keep blaming those sophisticated children and criminals for a broken system where justice is blind?

For decades our children have heard a lot of promises from elected officials and parents, but what they have received in return is educational and after school program budget cuts, closings of youth centers and libraries, harsh drug laws, a failing juvenile justice and school system, a rise in HIV/AIDS, child obesity, poverty and absent parents. We leave them “home alone” with easy access to any type of information they want by way of the Internet. From this “Ticking Time Bomb” our children can find out just about anything they want from research work for school projects, to sex, drugs and how to blow up a school. This technology can be viewed as a gift or a curse. They are growing up twice as fast as we did thanks in part to new technologies and the Internet. In addition, there are sexual predators walking the streets and surfing the web looking for ways to take advantage of our children when parents are in the next room or working 60-80 hours a week. “While the cat’s away the mice will play.”

Some of our kids are so smart they have even figured out a way to miraculously survive in a home with no real parental supervision and a community infested with drugs, crime, molesters, poverty, decaying schools, record youth unemployment, global job competition, guns and gang violence. Not to make excuses for our children, but before you come down on them too hard, ask yourself how would you have held up under these conditions.

Generations X, Y and Z are the greatest to ever come along because living in their time period is dangerous, stressful and very demanding. The bar to succeed has been set much higher for them than it was for us. With technology available, children are told that they have no excuse for failure because anything they need to know can be acquired with a push of a button.

Every day, unlike when we were growing up, they face death before, during and after school. Parents are in fear for their children’s safety and with these obstacles in their path we need to rally behind them even more and stop playing “Child Roulette” with their lives.

To show you how bad things are and just how “Low we can go” for the dollar, at one time cursing was not allowed on network TV. We all remember those days. Now, the words “Bitch, Ass and Damn” are part of the network’s “Standard Vocabulary” and is accepted by us all as the new norm. Even if you don’t let your child watch the programs that use the language, unless you wrote a protest letter to all your elected officials and the network, I’m sorry to inform you but once again you are “part of the problem.” The situation is even worse on cable TV, which just about every child has access to at home or through a friend. You can hear every curse word “known and unknown” to man and watch tons of violence and pornography. As the networks push the envelope to improve their ratings, our children are the victims of corporate greed and our “Low Moral Standards.” You can bet that it will only get worse because we have compromised our Morals, Values & Principals and will soon answer to a “Higher Authority.”

Hip-Hop Summit Youth Council
For years Rap Music has been the scapegoat, but in all reality Cable TV, Hollywood Films, Videogames and the Internet also play a contributing role towards the development of their abusive and bloodthirsty behavior. Technology is taking over their minds while we put our heads in the sand, walk around high as a kite, or chase the almighty dollar. You can blame Rap all you want, but that’s one finger out of five on the hand. If you are truly concerned about the moral conduct of your child, don’t give the other four fingers a pass.

Talk is cheap, that is why we spent a decade on research and development to show just how we have all failed our children and what we need to do to get back on the right track. If we let this generation continue on its present course, the world should prepare for an escalation of war, murder and violence of epic proportions never witnessed on this planet before. You see, when U.S. gangs on the streets and in prison partner with international terrorists, we should prepare for “World War 3.” The government knows this “Marriage is in the Making” so don’t be surprised when you hear about it on the news. Statistics don’t lie and the “Entire Village is at Fault.” Each and every one of us has to look at the “Man in the Mirror” because when it comes to saving our children there’s no room for “Hypocrisy in our Great Democracy.”

Just as we believe that it is “Sad and Backwards” for our children to walk around with their “Underwear Showing,” so it is when a society pays their “Teachers and Preachers” less than celebrities, athletes, lawyers, doctors and other professionals. Our children are our most precious resource and the people that shape their “Academic and Moral Skills” should be well respected and compensated. When it comes to learning, “Teachers and Preachers” are next in line to the parents. We entrust teachers with our children almost a third of the day. Some teachers are with students more than the parents. When building a house don’t you want the best builders to ensure a sound structure? So why not the same for our children? Why are we cheating the children out of the best, but yet demand they be the best? What hypocrites we are and they know it, that’s why they exhibit the anti-social behavior. The fact that we are having this discussion shows that when it comes to taking care of the educational needs of our children we are no different than a “Drug Dealer or Gang Leader” on the corner. We are supposed to operate at a “Higher Moral Standard,” but yet this is proof again that “We have Failed our Children.”

Hip-Hop is a multi-billion dollar industry and the greatest international cultural phenomenon ever created. It transcends racial, religious, cultural and ethnic backgrounds. It is the absolute lifestyle of choice for millions of youth worldwide. We need your support to finish a movement that started more than three decades ago that has been guided since 2001 by the Hip-Hop Culture. If the reader, especially our children, walk away learning something to avoid the pits of hell and better their life, then we have done our job. You may not agree with everything we’ve written and that’s ok. As long as we can agree to respectfully disagree, and that our children are desperately in need of help, then we can work together to save this generation. “Rome was not Built in a Day,” but with all the “Trauma and Drama” around our children, we must treat them like “Emergency Room Patients” to prevent them from expiring at a very young age.

By working together we can protect our children from becoming “Casualties of War in the War on our Children” and encourage them to graduate from school, improve their character, respect their parents, peers, seniors and themselves, obtain employment, pursue their entrepreneurial goals, fulfill their civic duty, seek some form of spiritual enlightenment, and avoid the criminal justice system. As the "Raptivism Movement" grows stronger worldwide we will continue to use Hip-Hop and the UN as a vehicle to help young people. By supporting our “Pledge 4 Peace and Prosperity” initiative we can work as a team to “Rebuild the Village” and make this a safer and better world for our children, who are our future leaders and most precious resource. From Wall Street to the Middle East, the Light of Justice can be seen at the end of the tunnel as the “Meek Make Moves” to inherit the earth. As “Watchmen and Fishers of Men” we are in the “Soul Saving & Decency Business” and through your support; the power of the book of Luke chapter 12:47-48; and Ezekiel 3:16-20 we will accomplish our task.
HERE’S a topic that we are sure confuses you as much as it confuses us. What are all those "generation" labels about and what exactly do they mean? In the press or on TV, experts blithely talk about "Gen X", "Gen Y", "Gen Z" as if we automatically know what they mean. In fact no-one has an exact definition, but this is close because in order to know where you’re going you have to know your history and your X, Y, Zs.

"Builders" or the "Silent Generation" or the "War Babies". Let's start with the great-grandparents. They came from the Depression and World War II and are labeled the "Builders" or the "Silent Generation" or the "War Babies". They grew up at a time when unemployment meant hunger and work in a bank was a job for life. In marketing terms they are seen as conservative and security-conscious. Their numbers are dwindling.

1946-64 the Baby Boomers. Brash, confident, the product of a prosperous society when youth was discovering its wings for the first time. From free love to freedom rides, they forced their social and political values onto society. Today they're the managers, the politicians - your boss. From the marketing standpoint they still follow their teenage values and can be brand-switchers, argumentative, know-alls. They are doers, communicators, achievers. But don't expect them to retire at 65 - they figure that so long as they can think and talk, they can do the job better than anyone.

1965-79 Generation X. Brought up by a bunch of would-be hippies, they swung the other way and tended to a more detached view of the world. Their influences were MTV, small families, AIDS and higher education than their parents. Sex had been liberated by the sexual revolution and they were not inclined to commitment. So only now are we seeing them start to marry, in their 30s and far later than any generation before them. Many have only recently left home.

1980-97 Generation Y. These are today's teens and 20s. Among them is a recklessness that has caused all the King Street and 2am lock-out troubles. If you think they come from another planet, you're right. Computers were mother's milk, the internet opened up the world, mobile phones and SMS can pull them into temporary groups. So a few text messages can cause a rave party of thousands to mushroom - or a riot to ignite. It can also cause viral marketing to blaze around the world in hours. Look at the Barak Obama campaign - built on the power of Internet communications and small online donations by millions. Living at home, Gen Y'ers get to keep any money they make and spend it on what they want. In any case the housing market is so tight that what's the point of even looking? The empty-nest syndrome is starting to dwindle.

Generation Z - our rug-rats born since 1998. They have entered a world of information overload, bombarded day and night. You'd better believe that their filters are hepa-fine, allowing only very well-targeted messages to pass through. Family is a loose definition to them - so many of their school friends come from single or same-sex families. The parents are older and comfortably affluent, but with big financial commitments. Everybody rushes to work and school in the morning and home at night. Junior has more time to study consumerism than the parents, so their influence in buying decisions is powerful. The family works as a unit and relates on an adult level. It's like no one has time or space for a childhood. Marketers have to communicate to these very different groups. And the one message or medium can rarely cover them all.

At the Hip-Hop Summit Youth Council we know that the “Builders” and the “Baby Boomers” have failed Generations X, Y and Z; now what are we going to do to make things right?

Hip-Hop Summit Youth Council
“We Have Failed Our Children”

SECTION 2

KNOW YOUR GLOBAL RIGHTS

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child defines a child as a human being below the age of 18 years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier. Biologically, a child is anyone in the developmental stage of childhood, between infancy and adulthood. Within the category of "youth", it is also important to distinguish between teenagers (13-19) and young adults (20-24), since the sociological, psychological and health problems they face may differ.

Committee on the Rights of the Child

Monitoring children's rights

The Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is the body of independent experts that monitors implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by its State parties. It also monitors implementation of two optional protocols to the Convention, on involvement of children in armed conflict and on sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

All States parties are obliged to submit regular reports to the Committee on how the rights are being implemented. States must report initially two years after acceding to the Convention and then every five years. The Committee examines each report and addresses its concerns and recommendations to the State party in the form of “concluding observations”.

The Committee reviews additional reports which must be submitted by States who have acceded to the two Optional Protocols to the Convention.

The Committee cannot consider individual complaints, although child rights may be raised before other committees with competence to consider individual complaints.

The Committee meets in Geneva and normally holds three sessions per year consisting of a three-week plenary and a one-week pre-sessional working group. In 2010, the Committee considered reports in two parallel chambers of 9 members each, "as an exceptional and temporary measure", in order to clear the backlog of reports.

The Committee also publishes its interpretation of the content of human rights provisions, known as general comments on thematic issues and organizes days of general discussion.

For more information about the work of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, click here or visit www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/FactSheet10Rev.1en.pdf.
Rights under the Convention on the Rights of the Child

A man embraces his young grandson in Togo, a State party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child was the first instrument to incorporate the complete range of international human rights— including civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights as well as aspects of humanitarian law.

The articles of the Convention may be grouped into four categories of rights and a set of guiding principles. By clicking on any of the categories below, you can link to a plain-language explanation of the applicable articles in the Convention. Additional provisions of the Convention (articles 43 to 54) discuss implementation measures for the Convention, explaining how governments and international organizations like UNICEF will work to ensure children are protected in their rights. You can see the full text of the Convention by clicking on the link in the box on the right.

Guiding principles (www.unicef.org/crc/files/Guiding_Principles.pdf): The guiding principles of the Convention include non-discrimination; adherence to the best interests of the child; the right to life, survival and development; and the right to participate. They represent the underlying requirements for any and all rights to be realized.

Survival and development rights (www.unicef.org/crc/files/Survival_Development.pdf): These are rights to the resources, skills and contributions necessary for the survival and full development of the child.

They include rights to adequate food, shelter, clean water, formal education, primary health care, leisure and recreation, cultural activities and information about their rights. These rights require not only the existence of the means to fulfill the rights but also access to them. Specific articles address the needs of child refugees, children with disabilities and children of minority or indigenous groups.

Protection rights (www.unicef.org/crc/files/Protection_list.pdf): These rights include protection from all forms of child abuse, neglect, exploitation and cruelty, including the right to special protection in times of war and protection from abuse in the criminal justice system.

Participation rights (www.unicef.org/crc/files/Participation.pdf): Children are entitled to the freedom to express opinions and to have a say in matters affecting their social, economic, religious, cultural and political life. Participation rights include the right to express opinions and be heard, the right to information and freedom of association. Engaging these rights as they mature helps children bring about the realization of all their rights and prepares them for an active role in society.

The equality and interconnection of rights are stressed in the Convention. In addition to governments’ obligations, children and parents are responsible for respecting the rights of others—particularly each other. Children’s understanding of rights will vary depending on age and parents in particular should tailor the issues they discuss, the way in which they answer questions and discipline methods to the age and maturity of the individual child.


“We Have Failed Our Children”

SECTION 3

CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989. Entry into force 2 September 1990, in accordance with article 49.

Preamble

The States Parties to the present Convention,

Considering that, in accordance with the principles proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations, recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

Bearing in mind that the peoples of the United Nations have, in the Charter, reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights and in the dignity and worth of the human person, and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Recognizing that the United Nations has, in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenants on Human Rights, proclaimed and agreed that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth therein, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status,

Recalling that, in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations has proclaimed that childhood is entitled to special care and assistance,

Convinced that the family, as the fundamental group of society and the natural environment for the growth and well-being of all its members and particularly children, should be afforded the necessary protection and assistance so that it can fully assume its responsibilities within the community,

Recognizing that the child, for the full and harmonious development of his or her personality, should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding,

Considering that the child should be fully prepared to live an individual life in society, and brought up in the spirit of the ideals proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations, and in particular in the spirit of peace, dignity, tolerance, freedom, equality and solidarity,

Bearing in mind that the need to extend particular care to the child has been stated in the Geneva Declaration of the Rights of the Child of 1924 and in the Declaration of the Rights of the Child adopted by the General Assembly on 20 November 1959 and recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (in particular in articles 23 and 24), in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (in particular in article 10) and in the statutes and relevant instruments of specialized agencies and international organizations concerned with the welfare of children,

Bearing in mind that, as indicated in the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, "the child, by reason of his physical and mental immaturity, needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth","
Recalling the provisions of the Declaration on Social and Legal Principles relating to the Protection and Welfare of Children, with Special Reference to Foster Placement and Adoption Nationally and Internationally; the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (The Beijing Rules); and the Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict, Recognizing that, in all countries in the world, there are children living in exceptionally difficult conditions, and that such children need special consideration,

Taking due account of the importance of the traditions and cultural values of each people for the protection and harmonious development of the child, Recognizing the importance of international co-operation for improving the living conditions of children in every country, in particular in the developing countries,

Have agreed as follows:

PART I

Article 1
For the purposes of the present Convention, a child means every human being below the age of eighteen years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier.

Article 2
1. States Parties shall respect and ensure the rights set forth in the present Convention to each child within their jurisdiction without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of the child's or his or her parent's or legal guardian's race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status.

2. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that the child is protected against all forms of discrimination or punishment on the basis of the status, activities, expressed opinions, or beliefs of the child's parents, legal guardians, or family members.

Article 3
1. In all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.

2. States Parties undertake to ensure the child such protection and care as is necessary for his or her well-being, taking into account the rights and duties of his or her parents, legal guardians, or other individuals legally responsible for him or her, and, to this end, shall take all appropriate legislative and administrative measures.

3. States Parties shall ensure that the institutions, services and facilities responsible for the care or protection of children shall conform to the standards established by competent authorities, particularly in the areas of safety, health, in the number and suitability of their staff, as well as competent supervision.

Article 4
States Parties shall undertake all appropriate legislative, administrative, and other measures for the implementation of the rights recognized in the present Convention. With regard to economic, social and cultural rights, States Parties shall undertake such measures to the maximum extent of their available resources and, where needed, within the framework of international co-operation.
“We Have Failed Our Children”

Article 5
States Parties shall respect the responsibilities, rights and duties of parents or, where applicable, the members of the extended family or community as provided for by local custom, legal guardians or other persons legally responsible for the child, to provide, in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the child, appropriate direction and guidance in the exercise by the child of the rights recognized in the present Convention.

Article 6
1. States Parties recognize that every child has the inherent right to life.

2. States Parties shall ensure to the maximum extent possible the survival and development of the child.

Article 7
1. The child shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have the right from birth to a name, the right to acquire a nationality and as far as possible, the right to know and be cared for by his or her parents.

2. States Parties shall ensure the implementation of these rights in accordance with their national law and their obligations under the relevant international instruments in this field, in particular where the child would otherwise be stateless.

Article 8
1. States Parties undertake to respect the right of the child to preserve his or her identity, including nationality, name and family relations as recognized by law without unlawful interference.

2. Where a child is illegally deprived of some or all of the elements of his or her identity, States Parties shall provide appropriate assistance and protection, with a view to re-establishing speedily his or her identity.

Article 9
1. States Parties shall ensure that a child shall not be separated from his or her parents against their will, except when competent authorities subject to judicial review determine, in accordance with applicable law and procedures, that such separation is necessary for the best interests of the child. Such determination may be necessary in a particular case such as one involving abuse or neglect of the child by the parents, or one where the parents are living separately and a decision must be made as to the child's place of residence.

2. In any proceedings pursuant to paragraph 1 of the present article, all interested parties shall be given an opportunity to participate in the proceedings and make their views known.

3. States Parties shall respect the right of the child who is separated from one or both parents to maintain personal relations and direct contact with both parents on a regular basis, except if it is contrary to the child's best interests.

4. Where such separation results from any action initiated by a State Party, such as the detention, imprisonment, exile, deportation or death (including death arising from any cause while the person is in the custody of the State) of one or both parents or of the child, that State Party shall, upon request, provide the parents, the child or, if appropriate, another member of the family with the essential information concerning the whereabouts of the absent member(s) of the family unless the provision of the information would be detrimental to the well-being of the child. States Parties shall further ensure that the submission of such a request shall of itself entail no adverse consequences for the person(s) concerned.
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Article 10
1. In accordance with the obligation of States Parties under article 9, paragraph 1, applications by a child or his or her parents to enter or leave a State Party for the purpose of family reunification shall be dealt with by States Parties in a positive, humane and expeditious manner. States Parties shall further ensure that the submission of such a request shall entail no adverse consequences for the applicants and for the members of their family.

2. A child whose parents reside in different States shall have the right to maintain on a regular basis, save in exceptional circumstances personal relations and direct contacts with both parents. Towards that end and in accordance with the obligation of States Parties under article 9, paragraph 1, States Parties shall respect the right of the child and his or her parents to leave any country, including their own, and to enter their own country. The right to leave any country shall be subject only to such restrictions as are prescribed by law and which are necessary to protect the national security, public order (ordre public), public health or morals or the rights and freedoms of others and are consistent with the other rights recognized in the present Convention.

Article 11
1. States Parties shall take measures to combat the illicit transfer and non-return of children abroad.

2. To this end, States Parties shall promote the conclusion of bilateral or multilateral agreements or accession to existing agreements.

Article 12
1. States Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child.

2. For this purpose, the child shall in particular be provided the opportunity to be heard in any judicial and administrative proceedings affecting the child, either directly, or through a representative or an appropriate body, in a manner consistent with the procedural rules of national law.

Article 13
1. The child shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of the child's choice.

2. The exercise of this right may be subject to certain restrictions, but these shall only be such as are provided by law and are necessary:
   (a) For respect of the rights or reputations of others; or
   (b) For the protection of national security or of public order (order public), or of public health or morals.

Article 14
1. States Parties shall respect the right of the child to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

2. States Parties shall respect the rights and duties of the parents and, when applicable, legal guardians, to provide direction to the child in the exercise of his or her right in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the child.

3. Freedom to manifest one's religion or beliefs may be subject only to such limitations as are prescribed by law and are necessary to protect public safety, order, health or morals, or the fundamental rights and freedoms of others.

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**Article 15**
1. States Parties recognize the rights of the child to freedom of association and to freedom of peaceful assembly.

2. No restrictions may be placed on the exercise of these rights other than those imposed in conformity with the law and which are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security or public safety, public order (ordre public), the protection of public health or morals or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.

**Article 16**
1. No child shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his or her privacy, family, or correspondence, nor to unlawful attacks on his or her honor and reputation.

2. The child has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

**Article 17**
States Parties recognize the important function performed by the mass media and shall ensure that the child has access to information and material from a diversity of national and international sources, especially those aimed at the promotion of his or her social, spiritual and moral well-being and physical and mental health.

**To this end, States Parties shall:**

(a) Encourage the mass media to disseminate information and material of social and cultural benefit to the child and in accordance with the spirit of article 29;

(b) Encourage international co-operation in the production, exchange and dissemination of such information and material from a diversity of cultural, national and international sources;

(c) Encourage the production and dissemination of children's books;

(d) Encourage the mass media to have particular regard to the linguistic needs of the child who belongs to a minority group or who is indigenous;

(e) Encourage the development of appropriate guidelines for the protection of the child from information and material injurious to his or her well-being, bearing in mind the provisions of articles 13 and 18.

**Article 18**
1. States Parties shall use their best efforts to ensure recognition of the principle that both parents have common responsibilities for the upbringing and development of the child. Parents or, as the case may be, legal guardians, have the primary responsibility for the upbringing and development of the child. The best interests of the child will be their basic concern.

2. For the purpose of guaranteeing and promoting the rights set forth in the present Convention, States Parties shall render appropriate assistance to parents and legal guardians in the performance of their child-rearing responsibilities and shall ensure the development of institutions, facilities and services for the care of children.

3. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that children of working parents have the right to benefit from child-care services and facilities for which they are eligible.
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Article 19
1. States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child.

2. Such protective measures should, as appropriate, include effective procedures for the establishment of social programmes to provide necessary support for the child and for those who have the care of the child, as well as for other forms of prevention and for identification, reporting, referral, investigation, treatment and follow-up of instances of child maltreatment described heretofore, and, as appropriate, for judicial involvement.

Article 20
1. A child temporarily or permanently deprived of his or her family environment, or in whose own best interests cannot be allowed to remain in that environment, shall be entitled to special protection and assistance provided by the State.

2. States Parties shall in accordance with their national laws ensure alternative care for such a child.

3. Such care could include, inter alia, foster placement, kafalah of Islamic law, adoption or if necessary placement in suitable institutions for the care of children. When considering solutions, due regard shall be paid to the desirability of continuity in a child's upbringing and to the child's ethnic, religious, cultural and linguistic background.

Article 21
States Parties that recognize and/or permit the system of adoption shall ensure that the best interests of the child shall be the paramount consideration and they shall:

(a) Ensure that the adoption of a child is authorized only by competent authorities who determine, in accordance with applicable law and procedures and on the basis of all pertinent and reliable information, that the adoption is permissible in view of the child's status concerning parents, relatives and legal guardians and that, if required, the persons concerned have given their informed consent to the adoption on the basis of such counselling as may be necessary;

(b) Recognize that inter-country adoption may be considered as an alternative means of child's care, if the child cannot be placed in a foster or an adoptive family or cannot in any suitable manner be cared for in the child's country of origin;

(c) Ensure that the child concerned by inter-country adoption enjoys safeguards and standards equivalent to those existing in the case of national adoption;

(d) Take all appropriate measures to ensure that, in inter-country adoption, the placement does not result in improper financial gain for those involved in it;

(e) Promote, where appropriate, the objectives of the present article by concluding bilateral or multilateral arrangements or agreements, and endeavor, within this framework, to ensure that the placement of the child in another country is carried out by competent authorities or organs.

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Article 22
1. States Parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure that a child who is seeking refugee status or who is considered a refugee in accordance with applicable international or domestic law and procedures shall, whether unaccompanied or accompanied by his or her parents or by any other person, receive appropriate protection and humanitarian assistance in the enjoyment of applicable rights set forth in the present Convention and in other international human rights or humanitarian instruments to which the said States are Parties.

2. For this purpose, States Parties shall provide, as they consider appropriate, co-operation in any efforts by the United Nations and other competent intergovernmental organizations or non-governmental organizations co-operating with the United Nations to protect and assist such a child and to trace the parents or other members of the family of any refugee child in order to obtain information necessary for reunification with his or her family. In cases where no parents or other members of the family can be found, the child shall be accorded the same protection as any other child permanently or temporarily deprived of his or her family environment for any reason, as set forth in the present Convention.

Article 23
1. States Parties recognize that a mentally or physically disabled child should enjoy a full and decent life, in conditions which ensure dignity, promote self-reliance and facilitate the child's active participation in the community.

2. States Parties recognize the right of the disabled child to special care and shall encourage and ensure the extension, subject to available resources, to the eligible child and those responsible for his or her care, of assistance for which application is made and which is appropriate to the child's condition and to the circumstances of the parents or others caring for the child.

3. Recognizing the special needs of a disabled child, assistance extended in accordance with paragraph 2 of the present article shall be provided free of charge, whenever possible, taking into account the financial resources of the parents or others caring for the child, and shall be designed to ensure that the disabled child has effective access to and receives education, training, health care services, rehabilitation services, preparation for employment and recreation opportunities in a manner conducive to the child's achieving the fullest possible social integration and individual development, including his or her cultural and spiritual development.

4. States Parties shall promote, in the spirit of international cooperation, the exchange of appropriate information in the field of preventive health care and of medical, psychological and functional treatment of disabled children, including dissemination of and access to information concerning methods of rehabilitation, education and vocational services, with the aim of enabling States Parties to improve their capabilities and skills and to widen their experience in these areas. In this regard, particular account shall be taken of the needs of developing countries.

Article 24
1. States Parties recognize the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of health. States Parties shall strive to ensure that no child is deprived of his or her right of access to such health care services.

2. States Parties shall pursue full implementation of this right and, in particular, shall take appropriate measures:

(a) To diminish infant and child mortality;

(b) To ensure the provision of necessary medical assistance and health care to all children with emphasis on the development of primary health care;

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(c) To combat disease and malnutrition, including within the framework of primary health care, through, inter\nalia, the application of readily available technology and through the provision of adequate nutritious foods and\nclean drinking-water, taking into consideration the dangers and risks of environmental pollution;

(d) To ensure appropriate pre-natal and post-natal health care for mothers;

(e) To ensure that all segments of society, in particular parents and children, are informed, have access to\neducation and are supported in the use of basic knowledge of child health and nutrition, the advantages of\nbreastfeeding, hygiene and environmental sanitation and the prevention of accidents;

(f) To develop preventive health care, guidance for parents and family planning education and services.

3. States Parties shall take all effective and appropriate measures with a view to abolishing traditional practices\nprejudicial to the health of children.

4. States Parties undertake to promote and encourage international cooperation with a view to achieving\nprogressively the full realization of the right recognized in the present article. In this regard, particular account\shall be taken of the needs of developing countries.

**Article 25**

States Parties recognize the right of a child who has been placed by the competent authorities for the purposes of\ncare, protection or treatment of his or her physical or mental health, to a periodic review of the treatment provided\nto the child and all other circumstances relevant to his or her placement.

**Article 26**

1. States Parties shall recognize for every child the right to benefit from social security, including social\ninsurance, and shall take the necessary measures to achieve the full realization of this right in accordance with\ntheir national law.

2. The benefits should, where appropriate, be granted, taking into account the resources and the circumstances of\nthe child and persons having responsibility for the maintenance of the child, as well as any other consideration\nrelevant to an application for benefits made by or on behalf of the child.

**Article 27**

1. States Parties recognize the right of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child's physical,\nmental, spiritual, moral and social development.

2. The parent(s) or others responsible for the child have the primary responsibility to secure, within their abilities\nand financial capacities, the conditions of living necessary for the child's development.

3. States Parties, in accordance with national conditions and within their means, shall take appropriate measures\nto assist parents and others responsible for the child to implement this right and shall in case of need provide\nmaterial assistance and support programmes, particularly with regard to nutrition, clothing and housing.

4. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to secure the recovery of maintenance for the child from the\nparents or other persons having financial responsibility for the child, both within the State Party and from abroad.

In particular, where the person having financial responsibility for the child lives in a State different from that of\nthe child, States Parties shall promote the accession to international agreements or the conclusion of such\nagreements, as well as the making of other appropriate arrangements.

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**Article 28**  
1. States Parties recognize the right of the child to education and with a view to achieving this right progressively and on the basis of equal opportunity, they shall, in particular:

(a) Make primary education compulsory and available free to all;

(b) Encourage the development of different forms of secondary education, including general and vocational education, make them available and accessible to every child, and take appropriate measures such as the introduction of free education and offering financial assistance in case of need;

(c) Make higher education accessible to all on the basis of capacity by every appropriate means;

(d) Make educational and vocational information and guidance available and accessible to all children;

(e) Take measures to encourage regular attendance at schools and the reduction of drop-out rates.

2. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that school discipline is administered in a manner consistent with the child's human dignity and in conformity with the present Convention.

3. States Parties shall promote and encourage international cooperation in matters relating to education, in particular with a view to contributing to the elimination of ignorance and illiteracy throughout the world and facilitating access to scientific and technical knowledge and modern teaching methods. In this regard, particular account shall be taken of the needs of developing countries.

**Article 29**  
1. States Parties agree that the education of the child shall be directed to:

(a) The development of the child's personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to their fullest potential;

(b) The development of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and for the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations;

(c) The development of respect for the child's parents, his or her own cultural identity, language and values, for the national values of the country in which the child is living, the country from which he or she may originate, and for civilizations different from his or her own;

(d) The preparation of the child for responsible life in a free society, in the spirit of understanding, peace, tolerance, equality of sexes, and friendship among all peoples, ethnic, national and religious groups and persons of indigenous origin;

(e) The development of respect for the natural environment.

2. No part of the present article or article 28 shall be construed so as to interfere with the liberty of individuals and bodies to establish and direct educational institutions, subject always to the observance of the principle set forth in paragraph 1 of the present article and to the requirements that the education given in such institutions shall conform to such minimum standards as may be laid down by the State.
Article 30
In those States in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities or persons of indigenous origin exist, a child belonging to such a minority or who is indigenous shall not be denied the right, in community with other members of his or her group, to enjoy his or her own culture, to profess and practice his or her own religion, or to use his or her own language.

Article 31
1. States Parties recognize the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.

2. States Parties shall respect and promote the right of the child to participate fully in cultural and artistic life and shall encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activity.

Article 32
1. States Parties recognize the right of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development.

2. States Parties shall take legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to ensure the implementation of the present article. To this end, and having regard to the relevant provisions of other international instruments, States Parties shall in particular:

   (a) Provide for a minimum age or minimum ages for admission to employment;

   (b) Provide for appropriate regulation of the hours and conditions of employment;

   (c) Provide for appropriate penalties or other sanctions to ensure the effective enforcement of the present article.

Article 33
States Parties shall take all appropriate measures, including legislative, administrative, social and educational measures, to protect children from the illicit use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as defined in the relevant international treaties, and to prevent the use of children in the illicit production and trafficking of such substances.

Article 34
States Parties undertake to protect the child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. For these purposes, States Parties shall in particular take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures to prevent:

   (a) The inducement or coercion of a child to engage in any unlawful sexual activity;

   (b) The exploitative use of children in prostitution or other unlawful sexual practices;

   (c) The exploitative use of children in pornographic performances and materials.

Article 35
States Parties shall take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures to prevent the abduction of, the sale of or traffic in children for any purpose or in any form.
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**Article 36**
States Parties shall protect the child against all other forms of exploitation prejudicial to any aspects of the child's welfare.

**Article 37**
States Parties shall ensure that:

(a) No child shall be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Neither capital punishment nor life imprisonment without possibility of release shall be imposed for offences committed by persons below eighteen years of age;

(b) No child shall be deprived of his or her liberty unlawfully or arbitrarily. The arrest, detention or imprisonment of a child shall be in conformity with the law and shall be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time;

(c) Every child deprived of liberty shall be treated with humanity and respect for the inherent dignity of the human person, and in a manner which takes into account the needs of persons of his or her age. In particular, every child deprived of liberty shall be separated from adults unless it is considered in the child's best interest not to do so and shall have the right to maintain contact with his or her family through correspondence and visits, save in exceptional circumstances;

(d) Every child deprived of his or her liberty shall have the right to prompt access to legal and other appropriate assistance, as well as the right to challenge the legality of the deprivation of his or her liberty before a court or other competent, independent and impartial authority, and to a prompt decision on any such action.

**Article 38**
1. States Parties undertake to respect and to ensure respect for rules of international humanitarian law applicable to them in armed conflicts which are relevant to the child.

2. States Parties shall take all feasible measures to ensure that persons who have not attained the age of fifteen years do not take a direct part in hostilities.

3. States Parties shall refrain from recruiting any person who has not attained the age of fifteen years into their armed forces. In recruiting among those persons who have attained the age of fifteen years but who have not attained the age of eighteen years, States Parties shall endeavor to give priority to those who are oldest.

4. In accordance with their obligations under international humanitarian law to protect the civilian population in armed conflicts, States Parties shall take all feasible measures to ensure protection and care of children who are affected by an armed conflict.

**Article 39**
States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to promote physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of a child victim of: any form of neglect, exploitation, or abuse; torture or any other form of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; or armed conflicts. Such recovery and reintegration shall take place in an environment which fosters the health, self-respect and dignity of the child.

**Article 40**
1. States Parties recognize the right of every child alleged as, accused of, or recognized as having infringed the penal law to be treated in a manner consistent with the promotion of the child's sense of dignity and worth, which reinforces the child's respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of others and which takes into account the child's age and the desirability of promoting the child's reintegration and the child's assuming a constructive role in society.
2. To this end, and having regard to the relevant provisions of international instruments, States Parties shall, in particular, ensure that:

(a) No child shall be alleged as, be accused of, or recognized as having infringed the penal law by reason of acts or omissions that were not prohibited by national or international law at the time they were committed;

(b) Every child alleged as or accused of having infringed the penal law has at least the following guarantees:

(i) To be presumed innocent until proven guilty according to law;

(ii) To be informed promptly and directly of the charges against him or her, and, if appropriate, through his or her parents or legal guardians, and to have legal or other appropriate assistance in the preparation and presentation of his or her defense;

(iii) To have the matter determined without delay by a competent, independent and impartial authority or judicial body in a fair hearing according to law, in the presence of legal or other appropriate assistance and, unless it is considered not to be in the best interest of the child, in particular, taking into account his or her age or situation, his or her parents or legal guardians;

(iv) Not to be compelled to give testimony or to confess guilt; to examine or have examined adverse witnesses and to obtain the participation and examination of witnesses on his or her behalf under conditions of equality;

(v) If considered to have infringed the penal law, to have this decision and any measures imposed in consequence thereof reviewed by a higher competent, independent and impartial authority or judicial body according to law;

(vi) To have the free assistance of an interpreter if the child cannot understand or speak the language used;

(vii) To have his or her privacy fully respected at all stages of the proceedings.

3. States Parties shall seek to promote the establishment of laws, procedures, authorities and institutions specifically applicable to children alleged as, accused of, or recognized as having infringed the penal law, and, in particular:

(a) The establishment of a minimum age below which children shall be presumed not to have the capacity to infringe the penal law;

(b) Whenever appropriate and desirable, measures for dealing with such children without resorting to judicial proceedings, providing that human rights and legal safeguards are fully respected.

4. A variety of dispositions, such as care, guidance and supervision orders; counselling; probation; foster care; education and vocational training programmes and other alternatives to institutional care shall be available to ensure that children are dealt with in a manner appropriate to their well-being and proportionate both to their circumstances and the offence.

**Article 41**
Nothing in the present Convention shall affect any provisions which are more conducive to the realization of the rights of the child and which may be contained in:

(a) The law of a State party; or

(b) International law in force for that State.
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PART II

Article 42
States Parties undertake to make the principles and provisions of the Convention widely known, by appropriate and active means, to adults and children alike.

Article 43
1. For the purpose of examining the progress made by States Parties in achieving the realization of the obligations undertaken in the present Convention, there shall be established a Committee on the Rights of the Child, which shall carry out the functions hereinafter provided.

2. The Committee shall consist of eighteen experts of high moral standing and recognized competence in the field covered by this Convention. The members of the Committee shall be elected by States Parties from among their nationals and shall serve in their personal capacity, consideration being given to equitable geographical distribution, as well as to the principal legal systems.

3. The members of the Committee shall be elected by secret ballot from a list of persons nominated by States Parties. Each State Party may nominate one person from among its own nationals.

4. The initial election to the Committee shall be held no later than six months after the date of the entry into force of the present Convention and thereafter every second year. At least four months before the date of each election, the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall address a letter to States Parties inviting them to submit their nominations within two months. The Secretary-General shall subsequently prepare a list in alphabetical order of all persons thus nominated, indicating States Parties which have nominated them, and shall submit it to the States Parties to the present Convention.

5. The elections shall be held at meetings of States Parties convened by the Secretary-General at United Nations Headquarters. At those meetings, for which two thirds of States Parties shall constitute a quorum, the persons elected to the Committee shall be those who obtain the largest number of votes and an absolute majority of the votes of the representatives of States Parties present and voting.

6. The members of the Committee shall be elected for a term of four years. They shall be eligible for re-election if renominated. The term of five of the members elected at the first election shall expire at the end of two years; immediately after the first election, the names of these five members shall be chosen by lot by the Chairman of the meeting.

7. If a member of the Committee dies or resigns or declares that for any other cause he or she can no longer perform the duties of the Committee, the State Party which nominated the member shall appoint another expert from among its nationals to serve for the remainder of the term, subject to the approval of the Committee.

8. The Committee shall establish its own rules of procedure.

9. The Committee shall elect its officers for a period of two years.

10. The meetings of the Committee shall normally be held at United Nations Headquarters or at any other convenient place as determined by the Committee. The Committee shall normally meet annually. The duration of the meetings of the Committee shall be determined, and reviewed, if necessary, by a meeting of the States Parties to the present Convention, subject to the approval of the General Assembly.
11. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall provide the necessary staff and facilities for the effective performance of the functions of the Committee under the present Convention.

12. With the approval of the General Assembly, the members of the Committee established under the present Convention shall receive emoluments from United Nations resources on such terms and conditions as the Assembly may decide.

**Article 44**

1. States Parties undertake to submit to the Committee, through the Secretary-General of the United Nations, reports on the measures they have adopted which give effect to the rights recognized herein and on the progress made on the enjoyment of those rights.

(a) Within two years of the entry into force of the Convention for the State Party concerned;

(b) Thereafter every five years.

2. Reports made under the present article shall indicate factors and difficulties, if any, affecting the degree of fulfillment of the obligations under the present Convention. Reports shall also contain sufficient information to provide the Committee with a comprehensive understanding of the implementation of the Convention in the country concerned.

3. A State Party which has submitted a comprehensive initial report to the Committee need not, in its subsequent reports submitted in accordance with paragraph 1 (b) of the present article, repeat basic information previously provided.

4. The Committee may request from States Parties further information relevant to the implementation of the Convention.

5. The Committee shall submit to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, every two years, reports on its activities.

6. States Parties shall make their reports widely available to the public in their own countries.

**Article 45**

In order to foster the effective implementation of the Convention and to encourage international co-operation in the field covered by the Convention:

(a) The specialized agencies, the United Nations Children's Fund, and other United Nations organs shall be entitled to be represented at the consideration of the implementation of such provisions of the present Convention as fall within the scope of their mandate. The Committee may invite the specialized agencies, the United Nations Children's Fund and other competent bodies as it may consider appropriate to provide expert advice on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their respective mandates. The Committee may invite the specialized agencies, the United Nations Children's Fund, and other United Nations organs to submit reports on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities;

(b) The Committee shall transmit, as it may consider appropriate, to the specialized agencies, the United Nations Children's Fund and other competent bodies, any reports from States Parties that contain a request, or indicate a need, for technical advice or assistance, along with the Committee's observations and suggestions, if any, on these requests or indications;

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(c) The Committee may recommend to the General Assembly to request the Secretary-General to undertake on its behalf studies on specific issues relating to the rights of the child;

(d) The Committee may make suggestions and general recommendations based on information received pursuant to articles 44 and 45 of the present Convention. Such suggestions and general recommendations shall be transmitted to any State Party concerned and reported to the General Assembly, together with comments, if any, from States Parties.

PART III

Article 46
The present Convention shall be open for signature by all States.

Article 47
The present Convention is subject to ratification. Instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Article 48
The present Convention shall remain open for accession by any State. The instruments of accession shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Article 49
1. The present Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day following the date of deposit with the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the twentieth instrument of ratification or accession.

2. For each State ratifying or acceding to the Convention after the deposit of the twentieth instrument of ratification or accession, the Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the deposit by such State of its instrument of ratification or accession.

Article 50
1. Any State Party may propose an amendment and file it with the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Secretary-General shall thereupon communicate the proposed amendment to States Parties, with a request that they indicate whether they favor a conference of States Parties for the purpose of considering and voting upon the proposals. In the event that, within four months from the date of such communication, at least one third of the States Parties favor such a conference, the Secretary-General shall convene the conference under the auspices of the United Nations. Any amendment adopted by a majority of States Parties present and voting at the conference shall be submitted to the General Assembly for approval.

2. An amendment adopted in accordance with paragraph 1 of the present article shall enter into force when it has been approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations and accepted by a two-thirds majority of States Parties.

3. When an amendment enters into force, it shall be binding on those States Parties which have accepted it, other States Parties still being bound by the provisions of the present Convention and any earlier amendments which they have accepted.

Article 51
1. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall receive and circulate to all States the text of reservations made by States at the time of ratification or accession.
2. A reservation incompatible with the object and purpose of the present Convention shall not be permitted.

3. Reservations may be withdrawn at any time by notification to that effect addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who shall then inform all States. Such notification shall take effect on the date on which it is received by the Secretary-General.

**Article 52**
A State Party may denounce the present Convention by written notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Denunciation becomes effective one year after the date of receipt of the notification by the Secretary-General.

**Article 53**
The Secretary-General of the United Nations is designated as the depositary of the present Convention.

**Article 54**
The original of the present Convention, of which the Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts are equally authentic, shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations. In witness thereof the undersigned plenipotentiaries, being duly authorized thereto by their respective Governments, have signed the present Convention.

1) The General Assembly, in its resolution 50/155 of 21 December 1995, approved the amendment to article 43, paragraph 2, of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, replacing the word “ten” with the word “eighteen”. The amendment entered into force on 18 November 2002 when it had been accepted by a two-thirds majority of the States parties (128 out of 191).

**SECTION 3-A**

**15 YOUTH ISSUES AT THE UNITED NATIONS**

Q - What does the UN identify as priority youth issues?
1. Education
2. Employment
3. Hunger and poverty
4. Health
5. Environment
6. Drug abuse
7. Juvenile delinquency
8. Leisure-time activities
9. Girls and young women
10. Full and effective participation of youth in the life of society and in decision making
11. Globalization
12. Information and Communication Technologies
13. HIV/AIDS
14. Youth and Conflict
15. Intergenerational Relations
In October the world’s population is expected to exceed 7 billion. While many people are living longer and healthier lives, this simple fact underscores the critical importance of addressing poverty, inequality, lack of education, and poor healthcare that still impact billions of people. Programs that promote increased access to reproductive health care for women and girls in particular can lead the way to a healthier future for all. Investing in women and girls is cost-effective and essential to solving the world’s problems.

With half of the world’s population under the age of 25, we must also harness the positive force of the world’s youth to meet the needs of 7 billion people. When young people claim their right to education and health — including sexual and reproductive health — they increase their opportunities to become a powerful force for economic development and positive change.

On this World Population Day we must redouble our efforts for the health and well-being of women and families around the world. The United States is committed to working with other governments across the globe and with our international and non-governmental partners to meet the opportunities and challenges of population growth, because the decisions we make today will determine how we live together in the years to come.

The world's youth population is the world's greatest natural resource.

The world's most abundant natural resource in the world is youth. Approximately one quarter of the world's population is between the ages of 15 and 24. If the world's innovation leaders were to work with this natural resource as a proxy for global engagement and social innovation, the task force put to work be sufficient to tackle any goal. Empowering the world's youth is a gateway for global innovation.

The “Arab Spring” uprising and the “Occupy Wall Street” movements have been led by young citizens who are ready to take control of their destiny because “We Have Failed our Children.” Young Citizens, there is “Strength in Numbers” and you have the Digits to take control of the world. The question is: “What are you going to do with all that POWER?”

"Your Voice is Stronger than Their Vote"
**MOMENTS IN AMERICA FOR CHILDREN (December 2009)**

- Every second a public school student is suspended.*
- Every 11 seconds a high school student drops out.*
- Every 19 seconds a child is arrested.
- Every 19 seconds a baby is born to an unmarried mother.
- Every 20 seconds a public school student is corporally punished.*
- Every 32 seconds a baby is born into poverty.
- Every 41 seconds a child is confirmed as abused or neglected.
- Every 42 seconds a baby is born without health insurance.
- Every minute a baby is born to a teen mother.
- Every minute a baby is born at low birth weight.
- Every 4 minutes a child is arrested for a drug offense.
- Every 7 minutes a child is arrested for a violent crime.
- Every 18 minutes a baby dies before his or her first birthday.
- Every 45 minutes a child or teen dies from an accident.
- Every 3 hours a child or teen is killed by a firearm.
- Every 5 hours a child or teen commits suicide.
- Every 6 hours a child is killed by abuse or neglect.
- Every 15 hours a woman dies from complications of childbirth or pregnancy.

**SECTION 4-A**

**EACH DAY IN AMERICA (December 2009)**

- 2 mothers die in childbirth.
- 4 children are killed by abuse or neglect.
- 5 children or teens commit suicide.
- 9 children or teens are killed by firearms.
- 32 children or teens die from accidents.
- 78 babies die before their first birthdays.
- 202 children are arrested for violent crimes.
- 377 children are arrested for drug crimes.
- 964 babies are born at low birth weight.
- 1,210 babies are born to teen mothers.
- 1,240 public school students are corporally punished.*
- 2,175 children are confirmed as abused or neglected.
- 2,222 high school students drop out.*
- 2,060 babies are born without health insurance.
- 2,692 babies are born into poverty.
- 4,435 children are arrested.
- 4,498 babies are born to unmarried mothers.
- 18,493 public school students are suspended.

Children’s Defense Fund *Based on calculations per school day (180 days of seven hours each)
 SECTION 5

HOW IS GANG LIFE DESTROYING OUR CHILDREN?

What is a Gang? A group of three or more people who, through the organization, formation, and establishment of an assemblage, share a common identity. The word gang often carries a negative connotation; however, within a gang which defines itself in opposition to mainstream norms, members may adopt the phrase as a statement of identity or defiance. Reports of gang-related homicides are concentrated mostly in the largest cities in the United States, where there are long-standing and persistent gang problems and a greater number of documented gang members—most of whom are identified by law enforcement.

Street gangs in the United States have a long and complex history dating to the early 1800s. The most publicized street gangs in the U.S. are African-American; black gangs were not recognized as a social problem until after the great migration of the 1910s. An exception was noted in 1853 Philadelphia. Some argue that increasing gang activity is related to decreases in adult mentors, school failures, decreases in after-school programs and similar failures by the adults in the lives of children. While affluent kids may turn to less dangerous alternatives, children from poorer neighborhoods often turn to gangs both as protection and a place to find love and understanding.

There were at least 30,000 gangs and 1,000,000 gang members active across the USA in 2008, up from 731,500 in 2002 and 750,000 in 2004. By 1999, Hispanics accounted for 47% of all gang members, Blacks 34%, Whites 13%, and Asians 7%. A new wave of urban street gangs were formed in the American urban ghettos in the late 1960's, while the United States attempted to fight both the Vietnam War and the war on poverty at home. Limited funding, incoherent local and national plans to combat inner-city poverty, and escalated police and military violence against blacks and immigrants all aided towards the conditions which would eventually give birth to gangs across the United States, including the infamous Bloods and Crips of Los Angeles, California.

The Crips were founded in 1969 by Raymond Washington, loosely acting as a community organization which aimed to help disenfranchised African-American communities of L.A. The Bloods quickly followed, with a mandate to protect the community from external violence. As job cuts continued to rise and employers began to hire from the cheaper labor pool of the expanding Latino immigrant community, unemployment rates of African-American men reached as high as 50% in several areas of South Central Los Angeles, opening up large recruitment markets for the burgeoning gangs. The increasing social isolation felt by African-American communities across the nation continued unabated in the 1980's and 90's, leading to higher rates of social pathologies, including violence.

As gangs continued to grow, the introduction of crack cocaine (cheap and highly addictive) to American cities would prove fatal. Crack money now could be used to purchase unprecedented amounts of weaponry, and as newly armed gang members began to fight over 'turf', to run their lucrative drug-trades, violence soared, as the FBI's national data of gang-related homicides show: From 288 in 1985 up to 1362 in 1993. As gang-violence accelerated, so too did police violence against African-American communities, which culminated in the arrest of Rodney King which sparked the 1992 Los Angeles riots. In the aftermath of the riots, leaders of the Bloods and the Crips announced a truce (spearheaded by Compton's then mayor Walter R. Tucker, Jr.), and in May 1992, 1600 rival gang members converged on Imperial Courts, a main housing project of Watts, Los Angeles, to demonstrate their new-found companionship. But after a few months of relative harmony, tensions between Los Angeles County's more than 100,000 gang members began to raise the murder rates, rising to previous levels. Many cities across America are still experiencing the effects of gangs on their streets, such as Baltimore, Maryland, whose gang problem is a major theme of HBO's critically acclaimed series The Wire.
Organized gangs

Hallsworth and Young (2005) describe an organized gang as a group of individuals for whom involvement in crime is for personal gain (mostly financial, though could be otherwise, sexual gratification as with pedophile rings). For most, crime is their 'occupation'. These groups operate almost exclusively in the grey and illegal marketplace where market transactions are unregulated by the law.

Transnational organized crime groups may be involved in crimes ranging from drug trafficking, Arms trafficking, Human trafficking, Contract killing, piracy, Counterfeiting, money laundering, extortion, and illegal gambling, to acts of terrorism, to political assassination. The complexity and seriousness of the crimes committed by global crime groups pose a threat not only to law enforcement but to democracy and legitimate economic development as well. Organized crime groups are not homogeneous. Some will be amateur affairs operated and managed by incompetent people. Others will demonstrate more market acumen and more ruthlessness. These individuals may be difficult to trace because they will be more competent at hiding their activities. They may also have the financial muscle to acquire considerable legal protection through well paid lawyers and accountants.

There are numerous organized crime groups and they can be found in the majority of small to medium sized cities at varying degrees of size and organization. All large cities will house some kind of organized crime group. A further distinction could be made with what are often termed organized crime syndicates. There are a number of widely known crime organizations as such whose operations span the world. Perhaps the most famous are the American Mafia (often portrayed in New York mob movies), the Irish Mob, the Chinese Triad Society, the Japanese Yakuza, and the Russian Mafia. Other large cities also play host to unique types of organized criminals. For example, London's East End is home to a number of traditional crime families, and was the home of the infamous Kray Twins, and Boston's Irish Mob was portrayed in the Martin Scorsese film "The Departed". Recently, Chicago's Folk Nation has broken out from a street gang into international business and is thought by many to be the newest entity of the organized crime world.

Prison gangs

A prison gang is a gang that is started in a prison. Prison gangs, like most street gangs, are formed for protection against other gangs. The goal of many street gang members is to gain the respect that comes from being in a prison gang. Prison gangs use street gangs’ members as their power base for which they recruit new members. For many members reaching prison gang status shows the ultimate commitment to the gang (Valdez, A, "Gangs Across America" 2007). Some prison gangs are transplanted from the street, and in some occasions, prison gangs "outgrow" the penitentiary and engage in criminal activities on the outside. Many prison gangs are racially oriented. Gang umbrella organizations like the Folk Nation and People Nation have originated in prisons. One prominent example of a prison gang is the Aryan Brotherhood, an organization known for its violence and calls for white supremacy. On July 28, 2006, after a six year federal investigation, four leaders of the gang were convicted of racketeering, murder, and conspiracy charges. Founded in the mid 1960's, the gang, known as the 'Brand' or the 'Rock' in the federal and state prison systems, is famous for being affiliated with the white; supremacist paramilitary hate group the Aryan Nations, with the Nazi Low Riders prison gang acting as the Aryan Brotherhood's foot soldiers. Besides fostering pseudo-theological hate, racism, sexism, violence, and intimidation, the Aryan Brotherhood is involved in drug trafficking, extortion, illegal gambling, protection rackets, and murder inside and outside of prisons.

In the mid-1980s, the Aryan League, an alliance between the Aryan Brotherhood and Public Enemy No.1, formed. The sub-gangs (in collaboration with their wives and girlfriends who take jobs at banks, mortgage companies, and motor vehicle departments) work together in identity theft schemes.
Money from the identity theft operations is used to fund the gangs’ methamphetamine business. A gang hit list discovered in the Buena Park investigation has police worried that the gangs are using stolen credit information to learn the addresses of police and their families. Once out of prison, gang members tend to regroup on the outside and often cross gang lines to further their criminal careers. One example of this is David Lind, an Aryan Brotherhood member, who joined the Wonderland Gang with several non-AB fellow prison inmates in 1981. Post prison gang activities can be brutal, as evidenced by the ruthless quadruple murder of the Wonderland gang (see "Wonderland Murders") which Lind narrowly escaped.

There has been a long running racial tension between African American and Mexican American prison gangs and significant race riots in California prisons where Mexican inmates and African Americans have targeted each other particularly, based on racial reasons. According to gang experts and law enforcement agents, a longstanding race war between the Mexican Mafia and the Black Guerilla family, a rival African American prison gang, has generated such intense racial hatred among Mexican Mafia leaders, or shot callers, that they have issued a "green light" on all blacks. A sort of gang-life fatwa, this amounts to a standing authorization for Latino gang members to prove their mettle by terrorizing or even murdering any blacks sighted in a neighborhood claimed by a gang loyal to the Mexican Mafia.

SECTION 5-A

11 FACTS ABOUT GANGS

1. Today’s gangs are very sophisticated, crossing state lines to establish groups and recruit members as young as 10 years old in communities across the country.
2. Gangs use children because they know that anything a child under thirteen does, he or she cannot go to jail.
3. Violent street gangs are active in 94% of all medium and large sized cities in America.
4. To gangs graffiti is a marking of territorial boundaries and serves as a warning or challenge to rival gangs.
5. Many kids join gangs because they do not receive adequate family attention. The gang provides love, identity and status; in turn they develop loyalty to the gang.
6. Many different ethnic, racial and socioeconomic groups make up gangs.
7. A number of well-known gangs such as the Crips, the Bloods and 18th Street originated in L.A.
8. Gangs remain the primary distributors of drugs throughout the U.S.
9. Gangs are associating with organized crime entities, such as Mexican drug organizations, Asian criminal groups and Russian organized crime groups.
10. The Department of Justice estimates there are approximately 30,000 gangs, with 800,000 members, impacting 2,500 communities across the United States.
11. Incarceration of gang members often does little to disrupt their activities since high-ranking gang members are often able to exert their power on the street from within prison.
Drug Trafficking by Criminal Gangs

There are nearly 1 million active gang members in the U.S. and their involvement in drug trafficking is becoming increasingly complex. Since 2001, many gangs have advanced beyond their traditional role as local retail drug distributors in large cities to become more organized, adaptable, deliberate, and influential in large-scale drug trafficking. Much of their growing influence has come at the expense of local independent dealers and small local criminal groups who cannot compete with gangs that establish control in smaller drug markets.

The influence of Hispanic and African American street gangs is expanding as these gangs gain greater control over drug distribution in rural and suburban areas and acquire drugs directly from Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs) in Mexico or along the Southwest Border. To increase their control over drug trafficking in smaller markets, street gangs have been increasingly acquiring larger wholesale quantities of drugs at lower prices directly from DTOs in Mexico and along the Southwest Border. Several Southwest Border street gangs, such as Shelltown 38th Street, Tri-City Bombers, and Vallucos, smuggle wholesale quantities of drugs obtained in Mexico into the United States. By purchasing directly from Mexican wholesale sources in Mexico or along the Southwest Border, gangs throughout the country realize cost savings that enable them to sell drugs at lower prices than local independent dealers in small communities, driving these dealers out of business.

For example, members of the Chicago-based Latin Kings street gang who operate in Midland, Texas, purchase cocaine from Mexican traffickers in south Texas for $16,000 to $18,000 per kilogram, compared with $25,000 to $35,000 per kilogram from wholesale traffickers in Chicago. With this savings, the gang undersells other local dealers who do not have the capacity to buy large wholesale quantities directly from Mexican DTOs in Mexico or along the Southwest Border.

Hispanic prison gangs, primarily in Southwest Border states, are gaining strength by working directly with Mexican DTOs to acquire wholesale quantities of drugs and by controlling most street gangs in areas along the Southwest Border. Prison gangs are active in all 50 states and are increasing their influence over drug trafficking in areas along the Southwest Border. Prior to 2001, the criminal influence of prison gangs was limited primarily to retail-level drug distribution. However, since that time, Hispanic prison gangs have become increasingly involved in the transportation and wholesale distribution of drugs.

Hispanic prison gangs such as Hermanos de Pistoleros Latinos (HPL) and Raza Unida operating in Southwest Border states have increased their involvement in wholesale drug distribution activities through cooperative relationships with Mexican DTOs. Through these relationships, Hispanic prison gangs are able to gain access to wholesale quantities of drugs. For example, in September 2009, 21 members of HPL were convicted in the Southern District of Texas (Houston) of conspiring to distribute more than 150 kilograms of cocaine and laundering millions of dollars in drug proceeds. In April 2009, 15 members and associates of the Raza Unida prison gang were indicted for trafficking multikilogram quantities of cocaine and methamphetamine weekly in McAllen and Houston, Texas. To ensure a consistent profit stream from the wholesale drugs that they purchase from Mexican DTOs, Hispanic prison gangs distribute drugs through street gangs that they largely, if not entirely, control. Through force or intimidation, Hispanic prison gangs exercise significant control over local gangs that distribute their drugs in the Southwest Border region. For example, Barrio Azteca prison gang members operating in El Paso, Texas, collect drug payments and taxes from 47 street-level gangs and independent drug dealers trafficking drugs in El Paso.
“We Have Failed Our Children”

SECTION 5-C

Innocent Children Pulled Into Violent Gangs

Stephanie Aloth

Advocates for Children, College Park Scholars University of Maryland at College Park

18,059 violent felonies, 690 deaths, and 13,000 hard-core killers. What is the horrible cause of these striking statistics? Gangs. Gangs are a problem in nearly every state and 83% of the largest cities in the United States. The problem of gangs and their negative impact on the communities they exist in continues to grow and nothing seems to be able to stop this powerful growth. Gangs not only exist in just inner cities anymore, but in towns and suburban communities as well. Gangs are affecting more and more children everyday, and this problem needs to be stopped.

No one knows exactly how many children and youth nationwide are gang members or join a gang in an average day, but the numbers are astonishing and increasing. What is it about a gang that is so appealing to children? Gangs offer identity which a child may not have felt he or she had before. Gangs also offer belonging, protection, money, sex, and status. The majority of the children who become involved in such groups as gangs usually don't have a sense family or belonging to anyone, are lonely, and are looking for friends. Some may think that gangs are actually a good thing in that they offer so many positive things to a child's life. That is where some go wrong, and make the biggest mistake of their lives.

Gangs are responsible for 10 to 20% of the criminal activity in the United States, which estimates to an approximate thirty to 60 billion dollars of taxpayers' money a year. Gangs are often associated with the use of drugs, including heroine and marijuana. Gangs also are connected to the illegal use of many weapons and as a result, many bloody murders. So, it is obvious that even though gangs may offer a sense of security to many children, the negative aspects definitely outweigh the positive aspects. The stereotypical child pulled into a gang might fit this picture: lives in the projects, either African-American or Hispanic-American, no father or any type of positive male role model, and has a large family who is on welfare. Although a few may fit some of these characteristics, if not all, the gangster world is changing day by day. Gangs are no longer limited to African and Hispanic minorities only, but include Asians and Caucasians as well. Gangs have slowly progressed from inner city to suburbia, they have overtaken high schools, and in some cases, even middle and elementary schools.

Once a child is pulled into a gang, it seems almost as if he has signed his life away. Some consider joining a gang similar to a death sentence. Gangs can affect a child's life in numerous aspects. Once a child has joined a gang, they might stop going to school, start doing or dealing drugs, fighting others whenever they felt necessary. Children may feel withdrawn from others, and will only hang out with others members of their gang. Children who may have been looking for a sense of security which they felt they lacked before probably found it temporarily, only to learn that they would soon be fighting for their life every day for as long as they were a member.

Although many ideas to rid of gangs have been thrown about in the government system, nothing real concrete has ever been stated. Some solutions are to make membership in a gang illegal; this would inhibit some children to join a gang just because they would be breaking the law. Another solution, make any violent crime (above simple assault) committed by a gang member punishable by execution. This would frighten a lot of gang members from committing any crimes because they no longer would just be sent to juvenile court for a couple of days or weeks, they might encounter the death penalty.
“We Have Failed Our Children”

Also there are organizations such as TAG (Teens Against Gangs), MAG (Mothers Against Gangs), and the Omega Boys Club which have the sole purpose to save the lives of youth, lost to gangs, drugs and crime. The Omega Boys Club not only showed troubled children who had been pulled into gangs that there were alternatives to crime, but financed their college education and invested in their futures. The Omega Boys Club is made up of three components: the youth which were confronted with violence, crime, and drugs; the dedicated, caring staff who function as parents, teachers, and mentors; and finally the funders, volunteers, and friends who support the values of the Omega Boys Club and the process of change.

Thus there are solutions to this growing problem. If action were taken immediately and more seriously, then gangs might not be as prominent as they are today. In large, dominant cities of the United States such as Los Angeles, New York, and Chicago gangs are especially prevalent and spread to areas in all directions. If there were more programs in schools, where kids hadn't really been exposed to gangs yet, to de-glamorize the gang lifestyle and provide realistic alternatives and support, then this also would help children to stay away from gangs. For example, there was an anti-gang curricula, which began in 1982 at the Paramount California Schools. Before the showing of the program, about 50% of students were undecided about joining; after the curriculum, ninety to 90-80% indicated unwillingness to have anything to do with a gang. Children today shouldn't have to live every day wondering if they will make it to the next day. Children today shouldn't have to worry that while sitting in their living room watching T.V., a stray bullet could pierce through the window and hit them. Children today shouldn't have to worry that by crossing the street, wearing the wrong color, or even just playing outside could get them killed. Children living in a gang populated area usually grow up three times as fast as the average child. A child in a gang populated area has witnessed things that even some police officers in major cities haven't, namely death. Children begin to lose hope if all they see is people fighting other people. Children begin to think that there is nothing else out there, no opportunity or adventure, only death and mourning. If gangs and the violence that comes with it were abolished in the United States then a lot more children would live to see a very bright future.

SECTION 5-D

New Study - Almost Seven out of Ten Americans Agree:
Gang Violence Among Youth Increasing Because of Current Economy

By World Vision staff

As gang numbers rise and more young people die in gang-related shootings, most Americans agree that youth violence is increasing because of the recession. Almost seven out of ten U.S. adults (67%) say that gang violence among youth is on the rise due to the current economic crisis, says a new World Vision survey. The poll, conducted by Harris Interactive*, also shows that 46% of adults believe that the main cause for gang violence among youth is “a lack of adult supervision”. That number is up from 41% in 2009.

According to the study, a large majority of adults say prevention is more effective than law enforcement at addressing the problem of gang violence among youth in America today. This year, 78% said prevention was more effective than law enforcement (16%) in addressing the problem of gang violence among youth in America. Last year, 73% favored prevention over law enforcement (20%). According to the U.S. Justice Department, in 2008, there were more than one million "criminaly active" gang members in the United States. Between 2004 and 2008, state, local and federal law enforcement reported a 13% increase in gang activity (drug and weapon trafficking, assault, identity theft, auto theft and murder). According to the 2002 National Youth Gang Survey (US Dept of Justice), there were 731,500 gang members nationally. In 2008’s survey, there were 774,000 gang members representing a 42,500 jump in only six years. In the Chicago area, gang activity was up 10%, in Los Angeles up 8% (Data released March, 2010).
Gangland violence once thought to be restricted to the inner cities has spread into the suburbs, countryside and gone international. For those who think that gangs are nothing more than kids with guns shooting each other, a rude awakening is in store for them. They are organized, motivated and highly dangerous. Here are 10 examples.

10. Texas Syndicate
Born out of necessity in the California prison system, the Texas Syndicate- or Texas 7 is a group of Mexican immigrant gangsters bent on protecting themselves that evolved into extortion, prostitution, drugs and murder for hire outside. With a purported membership of around 2,000 in the U.S. they are fiercely loyal to one another and their gang code.

9. Black Guerrilla Family
Established in the late 1960’s in California, this is another prison gang born out of poor conditions. In order to be a member of this gang you have to be black and much like the Freemasons, nominated in and sponsored. At one point it is said that there were 50,000 members to this gang. Internal issues are one of the reason the gang has not seen the prolific success others have seen in recent years.
8. Los Zetas
Formed by deserting Mexican Army personnel, this gang specialized in taking over drug cartel territory and making it their own. Later they participated in international trafficking and now are reported to being involved in everything from prostitution to pipeline oil theft to even having their own brand of brandy. What exactly does the Mexican government teach their soldiers?

7. Aryan Brotherhood
Though they make up less than 2% of the prison population they account for nearly 30% of all prison murders in the US. The reason for this is a highly organized in-prison leadership that practices prison prostitution, murder for hire and extortion. This is a small, but very active prison gang and not one that is readily infiltrated by other gangs due to its race-based criteria.
6. Mexican Mafia
Another known prison gang, these guys aren’t really known for being a danger to the public in general; just to other gangs. They specialize in forming alliances with other gangs and then contracting out to kill rival gang members. They are also fairly well organized and retain members even after prison release.

5. Kenyan Mafia
This group of non-prison gang members makes the Top 10 out of sheer violence alone. They believe in the mutilation of female genitalia, beheading and random killings to extort and maintain control of the general populace. Though not found anywhere outside of Kenya, their violent ways have forced me to reconsider my vacation plans several times over.

4. Latin Kings
This gang is a bit of an oxymoron in a way. While extremely violent and engaged in criminal activities, they also can serve as contributors and advocates to the various communities they are involved in. This Chicago gang has spread throughout Illinois as well as New York and New Jersey. Their biggest failing is their social interaction with non-gang members. By trying to “give back” their leadership is easily identified.
3. The Crips
One of the more well known gangs in the country, this gang has franchised themselves across the country as a very prolific distributor of drugs and violence.

2. The Bloods
Known as the rival gang of the Crips this gang more or less mirrored growth and operations of their rival gang. Or maybe it was the other way around? Who cares? Both are extremely dangerous, though not as erratic as some of the other gangs on this list.

1. MS 13
International, organized and very dangerous. This gang spans something like 33 US States and at least 6 countries. From people trafficking to drugs to protection rackets, this gang does it all. Their membership ranks in the tens of thousands and that’s not even an accurate count.
No.10 Area Boys

**Territory:** Lagos, Nigeria  
**Criminal activities:** Drug trafficking, extortion, murder, inciting riots  
**Number of members:** 35,000

Over the past three decades, Nigeria’s Area Boys have gone from young kids committing crimes of opportunity to a massive if still largely unorganized street gang responsible for acts of extortion and murder. Local authorities, who have made a number of failed humanitarian attempts to eliminate the gang, tie the rising level of violence to a depressed economy, high unemployment and the increasing prevalence of drug addiction among the gang’s members.

No.9 Jamaican Posse

**Territory:** Jamaica, Eastern United States, UK (known as “Yardies”)  
**Criminal activities:** Drug and gun trafficking, witness intimidation, murder  
**Number of members:** 13,000 to 20,000

Known for their use of extreme violence and preference for high-powered weapons of war, like the MAC-10, the Jamaican Posse has strong affiliations with the two major political parties in Jamaica, the People's National Party (PNP) and the Jamaican Labour Party (JLP), as well as the island’s police force and the military.

Authorities have identified dozens of individual posses within the wider gang. The two most often cited are the Spangler Posse, aligned with the PNP, and the Shower Posse, aligned with the JLP. The Shower Posse reportedly takes its name from the “shower of bullets” it dispenses on its enemies.

No.8 Wah Ching

**Territory:** Hong Kong, San Francisco, Los Angeles  
**Criminal activities:** Drug and gun trafficking, extortion, murder, software piracy, burglary, gambling, prostitution, loan sharking  
**Number of members:** 7,000-plus

By some accounts, the origins of Wah Ching go back 300 years, while others date them to the mid-1960s. Whatever the case, their criminal activities are highly diversified, making them extraordinarily good at one thing in particular: making money. The Wah Ching are also violent and sophisticated, as evidenced by two 1995 raids in Los Angeles that uncovered an underground factory run by the Wah Ching featuring $18 million in counterfeit Microsoft products. The raid also found weapons and explosives, namely TNT and C-4.

No.7 Primeiro Comando da Capital (PCC)

**Territory:** Brazilian prison system  
**Criminal activities:** Drug and gun trafficking, murder, extortion, prison riots, prison breaks, kidnapping  
**Number of members:** 6,000-plus
Formed in 1993, at Sao Paulo’s Taubate prison, PCC is unlike many gangs in that they have a political agenda, namely to fight the oppressive conditions of the overcrowded prisons. Members are required to take an oath and pay monthly fees that vary depending on whether one is in prison or not. Although most members are incarcerated, they are well-organized, operating with a network of loyalists in and out of prison. In 2006, they flexed their considerable muscle by orchestrating synchronized, simultaneous rebellions in 79 state prisons while inciting violence and anarchy in the city of Sao Paulo.

**No.6 Aryan Brotherhood (AB)**  
**Territory:** U.S. federal and state prison systems  
**Criminal activities:** Drug trafficking, conspiracy, murder, racketeering, contract killing  
**Number of members:** 15,000-plus

Dating back to 1964, the Aryan Brotherhood has a huge presence in the U.S. federal prison system, particularly in California. They are well-organized, well-connected in and out of prison, and they lack the one card authorities could play against them: fear of punishment. What more can you do to a guy on a life sentence with no parole? Not even the death penalty carries any weight. Consequently, the AB have become extraordinary killers. According to the FBI, members make up about one-tenth of 1% of the entire U.S. prison population, but they’re responsible for 18% of all prison murders.

**No.5 Bloods**  
**Territory:** Los Angeles  
**Criminal activities:** Murder, drug trafficking, robbery, extortion  
**Number of members:** 15,000 to 30,000

In L.A., experts estimate that there are about 75 Bloods gangs (compare that to over 200 Crips gangs). They have traditionally been understood chiefly through their rivalry with the Crips. During the 1980s, for example, one of the bloodiest rivalries in the history of Los Angeles gangs took place between the Bounty Hunters, one of the area’s largest Bloods gangs, and the Grape Street Crips.

Bloods gangs were originally just “anti-Crips” gangs, formed in neighborhoods alarmed by the rapid spread of Crips gangs. By the mid-1970s, they unified under the name “Bloods” (a move that contributes to their reputation as being better organized than the Crips), and the wider rivalry between the two gangs began to take shape.

**No.4 18th Street Gang**  
**Territory:** Los Angeles, Western and Southern U.S., Central America  
**Criminal activities:** Drug and gun trafficking, robbery, extortion, murder, contract killing, prostitution  
**Number of members:** 65,000

With 50,000 members in Central America, tens of thousands in the U.S., and believed by some to be operating in 37 states and 10 foreign countries, the 18th Street Gang is organized, disciplined and sophisticated, and depending on which expert you believe, it is even better organized than its primary rival, MS-13.

Arguably, the 18th Street Gang is the largest gang in Los Angeles County, even though the estimated 15,000 L.A.-area members are spread out into some two dozen individual gangs held together by label only. Furthermore, some experts dispute the perception that gangs like 18th Street Gang have any true connection with the Central American gangs under the same name, like Mara 18.
No.3 The Mungiki
Territory: Nairobi, Kenya
Criminal activities: Murder, racketeering, extortion, mutilation, intimidation
Number of members: 100,000 to 500,000

In the Gikuyu language spoken in Kenya, the word "mungiki" means “multitude,” a fitting name for this massive ethnic gang that has developed a reputation for severe brutality -- which they often dole out by way of machete -- and whose calling card in the recent past was nothing short of a severed human head on a stick. They operate in Nairobi’s larger slums, such as Mathare, targeting other ethnic groups and exerting tremendous political clout. Despite their enormous size, little is known or fully understood about the Mungiki -- a trait that contributes to the terror they inspire.

No.2 Crips
Territory: Los Angeles
Criminal activities: Drug trafficking, robbery, murder, extortion, ID theft
Number of members: 50,000

The Crips are among the oldest and most notorious street gangs. Their origins go back to a teenager named Raymond Washington who, the legend says, advocated fists, not guns. From its earliest days, one characteristic of the Crips has remained consistent: an inability to develop a single, centralized power structure.

Like many other street gangs, the Crips are actually a loose confederation of hundreds of localized “sets” across the U.S. In fact, despite their well-known rivalry with the Bloods, a Crip is three times more likely to kill another Crip than he is to kill a Blood. The long, violent rivalry between two Crips gangs, the Eight Tray Gangsters and the Rollin’ 60 Crips, illustrates the point.

No.1 Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13)
Territory: Central America, the United States
Criminal activities: Drugs, guns and human trafficking, murder, contract killing, extortion, kidnapping
Number of members: 70,000

Right now, the street gang getting the most attention around the world is MS-13. The gang is a product of the Cold War, born of refugees from the 1980s Salvadoran Civil War who landed in Los Angeles. For a street gang, MS-13 operates with extreme organizational efficiency. In fact, they carry out investigations as well as hold local and regional meetings. The recent FBI crackdown on the group (which included the FBI’s declaration that MS-13 is America’s “most violent gang”) will likely not scare them -- this is a gang who kidnapped and killed the son of a Honduran president. They have inspired legislation in Honduras and El Salvador that so harshly targets gang members that even human rights organizations are crying foul.
Mexican Drug Cartels operating in the U.S. through Street Gangs

Illicit cash provides operating capital for terrorist Osama Bin Laden and others

By Michael Webster: Syndicated Investigative Reporter -- July 27, 2010

Mexican Drug Cartels have reached across the international border into the United States to kill people including Americans and their reach extends North, East and West across our nation. MDC's have ordered the killings of drug dealers, American gang members, U.S. Consulate employees, a Detention Officer with the El Paso County Sheriff's Office, DEA agent, ICE informant and U.S. Military personal. MDC's are also responsible for many kidnapping's of Americans on American soil and have taken Americans to Mexico to be tortured, maimed and murdered, with very little or no retaliation from the U.S. Government.

Many street gangs in the larger cities are now directly connected to the Mexican Drug Cartels (MDC's). They smuggle drugs and humans into the U.S. via known and un-known smuggling corridors throughout the Southwestern United States. Law enforcement indicates that they work for and do the dirty work for the cartels in return for drugs. This dirty work includes murder, drug distribution, and collection of debts owed to the MDC's by other gangs and drug traffickers nationwide.

Federal authorities point to the Mexican drug cartels that are ultimately responsible for border violence on both sides of the U.S. Mexican border and beyond, by having cemented ties to U.S. Street and prison gangs all across America. Many of these gangs operate in cities like El Paso, Tucson, San Diego and Los Angeles some like Barrio Azteca from El Paso who operate on both sides. Azteca and other U.S. gangs retail drugs that they get often fronted from Mexican drug cartels and Mexican drug cartel gangs. Mexican gangs run their own distribution networks in the United States, and they produce most of the methamphetamine used north of the border. They have even bypassed the Colombians several times to buy cocaine directly from producers in Bolivia, Peru and even heroin from Afghanistan. These gangs provide distribution and enforcement for the long reach of the cartels.

According to L.A. Weekly reporter Christine Pelisek writes about FBI's 10 Most Wanted fugitive Jose Saenz who is from L.A., who raped and executed his former girlfriend, mother of his two-year-old baby girl, and, horribly, left her ravaged body sprawled in his grandmother's bedroom. That was just one of his many crimes. Watch the accompanying surveillance video to view the horrific execution of his buddy Oscar Torres by L.A. gang member and MDC's hit man Saenz at a home in a suburb of Los Angeles.

Barrio Azteca according to law enforcement has provided the Juarez cartel with street enforcers to carry out hits and kidnappings on both sides of the border. In exchange, Barrio Azteca gets drugs from the cartel at wholesale prices or fronted and handle street-level drug sales. These same gangs often work as cartel surrogates or enforcers on the U.S. side of the border. Intelligence suggests Los Zetas They’re known as "Los Zetas have hired members of various gangs at different times including, El Paso gang Barrio Azteca, Mexican Mafia, Texas Syndicate, MS-13, Harrmanos Pistoleros Latinos and many others to further their criminal endeavors. Dangerous Mexican Cartel Gangs.

A Mexican Army Officer, who insists on remaining un-named, claims that Barrio Azteca is now also operating with and in conjunction with Los Zetas, along the Mexican border with Arizona. Mexican authorities said U.S. intelligence pointed toward involvement in the slayings by the Aztecas, of Consulate employee Lesley A. Enriquez and her husband, Arthur H. Redelfs, whom were killed in Juarez when gunmen opened fire on their sport utility vehicle after they left a birthday party.
Jorge Alberto Salcido, the husband of a Mexican employee of the consulate, also was killed by gunmen after leaving the same event in a separate vehicle. The governor of Chihuahua State in northern Mexico, where Ciudad Juarez is located, said recently that Mexican authorities are studying the possibility that Redelfs may have been targeted because of his job as a detention officer at the El Paso County Jail. "Until we get other information, this is a line of investigation we want to follow up," Gov. Jose Reyes Baeza said. "In the course of the investigation, other evidence is going to come up that we can share with the U.S. government to clear up the motive in this lamentable crime."

Gen. Germán Redondo Azuara says he believes many of the drugs raised in Afghanistan, finds its way via smuggling routes into markets in both Europe and the United States where they are peddled by gang members. In turn millions of dollars and Eros are used to fund terrorist and their terror activities not only in Afghanistan but around the world. Most of these same terrorist drug organizations that fuel the terror network also help to fund the Taliban attacks in Afghanistan. Part of this illicit cash provides operating capital for international terrorist Obama Bin Laden and others. The Columbian and Mexican drug cartels now believed to be working with international terrorist is the most pervasive organizational threat to the United States according to one D.E.A. agent. Murder money & Mexico: Tijuana cartel.

These new combined international drug trafficking organizations are complex organizations with highly defined command-and-control structures that produce, transport, and/or distribute large quantities of Afghanistan illicit drugs. Global Terrorist and Drug Trafficking Cartel. A high ranking ICE official claims the Mexican Drug Cartels (MDC's) are perfect for the terrorist because they are active in every region of the country and dominate the illicit drug trade in every area in both Mexico and the United States. Because of this new alliance Mexican MDCs are expanding their operations dramatically in order to gain a larger share of the drug market. Colombian MDC's are dominant cocaine and heroin traffickers, particularly in the Northeast; however, they are increasingly relinquishing control to Mexican MDCs in order to shield themselves from law enforcement detection. The Mexican Drug Cartels are already major transporters and distributors of cocaine and South American heroin into the U.S. They also distribute cocaine and other drugs to numerous other Mexican Drug Cartels, their gangs and criminal groups that are also active in the United States, the world's largest users of cocaine and heroin.

Other reasons the terrorist have chosen the Mexican Drug Cartels is they control the transportation and wholesale distribution of most illicit drugs in every area of the western hemisphere, exerting unrivaled control over transportation and wholesale distribution of cocaine, Mexican heroin, Mexican marijuana, and ice methamphetamine. They are now believed to use the same gangs to smuggle terrorist into the U.S. via these same smuggling corridors. Their established overland transportation routes and entrenched distribution networks enable them to supply primary and secondary drug markets throughout these regions. MDCs are further expanding their influence worldwide.

Police say the Aztecas work for or are allied with the La Linea enforcement gang, which in turn works for the Juarez drug cartel led by the Carrillo Fuentes clan. FBI agent Samantha Mikeska, who has been investigating the Barrio Azteca for more than eight years from the bureau's El Paso office, said that four of the gang's five capos are in prison. The exception is Ravelo. Ravelo is suspected of running the Aztecas operations in Juarez and maintaining contact with top-level members of the Juarez cartel, Mikeska said.

According to a DEA report the Barrio Azteca was organized in the El Paso, Texas, County Jail in 1987 from where it moved to the streets and the Texas Department of Criminal Justice prison system. The Barrio Azteca prison gang – which has chapters in El Paso, Texas, and Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico – has historically been linked to the Juarez Cartel. Barrio Azteca membership is estimated at 3,500 inside and outside of the prison system.
Members have been reported in Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Nevada, Arizona, California, Oklahoma, Idaho, Washington, Kansas, Illinois, South Carolina, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York and Utah. They participate in enforcing the rules of the Juarez Cartel in El Paso, Texas, and southern New Mexico. The El Paso Barrio Azteca accepts narcotics shipments in the U.S., stashes it and transports it (normally in secret compartments) to destination cities in the U.S. In some instances, they have also been involved in smuggling bulk currency to Mexico, where it is subsequently laundered. Barrio Azteca has also been involved in supporting alien smuggling groups when they operate in the U.S. The Barrio Azteca allegiance to a cartel facilitates its access to narcotics, finances, and protection from Mexican LEAs.
“We Have Failed Our Children”

SECTION 5-H

The Counterproductive War on Gangs

By Salim Muwakkil

The report, “Gang Wars: The Failure of Enforcement Tactics and the Need for Effective Public Safety Strategies,” persuasively argues that punitive policies of policing that specifically target gangs increase rather than decrease gang violence. When it comes to America’s criminal justice policy, the cure is often worse than the crime. Nowhere is this fact more apparent than in the war on drugs, which has inflicted more social damage than drugs themselves. So too with the war on gangs, according to a report by the Justice Policy Institute, released this July. The 108-page report by Judith Greene and Kevin Pranis, argues that punitive policies of policing that specifically target gangs increase rather than decrease gang violence. “The current preoccupation with gangs is a distraction from real problems of crime and violence that afflict too many communities,” Pranis said in a press release announcing the study. “Gangs do not drive crime rates, and aggressive suppression tactics simply make the situation worse by alienating local residents and trapping youth in the criminal justice system.”

More police, prisons and punitive measures have not stopped gang violence. The study compares gang suppression efforts in N.Y., Chicago and L.A. and found gangs are worse in L.A. and Chicago, where stricter enforcement tactics are used. The authors conclude there is “no evidence that gang enforcement strategies achieved meaningful reduction in violence.” L.A. is cited as a graphic example of the failure in the war on gangs. For at least 20 years, the nation’s second largest city has used gang injunctions, special task forces, and databases and enhanced prison sentences to specifically target gangs. But L.A. now has six times as many gangs as it did 20 years ago and twice the number of gang members. The authors conclude unequivocally, “L.A. is losing the war on gangs. The study also reveals that Chicago’s attempts to stem gang violence have had the opposite effect, noting, “a cycle of police suppression and incarceration, and a legacy of segregation, have helped to sustain unacceptably high levels of gang violence.”

N.Y.C. employs a different strategy. Rather than trying to eliminate gangs, the city focuses on reducing gang violence. Its approach stresses community policing and gang intervention programs that provide jobs, counseling and prevention activities. Gang crimes in the nation’s largest city have decreased dramatically. The report also examined efforts in Boston, Dallas, Detroit, Indianapolis, Las Vegas, St. Louis and North Carolina. It found no evidence that increased enforcement efforts “had a positive impact on target neighborhoods.”

The authors criticize politicians who overstate the threat of gang crimes and urge tougher sentences to bolster their tough-on-crime image. Such political posturing is egregious, considering the perverse social effects of punitive police policies. But pushing tough enforcement is politically popular among constituents inundated by crime-soaked media coverage, and politicians gain little from resisting that push. The media abets punitive policing by inflaming the public’s fear of crime. One example is in Chicago, where the media has feasted on the fact that 32 school-aged children where killed so far this year. National news shops came to “investigate” what they characterized as an epidemic of youth violence. CNN’s Anderson Cooper, for instance, spent a few days in the city to document and dramatize the damaging effects of this “growing culture of violence.”

Predictably, most of the stories focused on “new” reasons kids are killing kids, focusing especially on the spread of gangs, the availability of guns, fractured families and a violent media culture of video games and rap music. However, in reality, Chicago’s youth are safer from murder today than at any time in at least 40 years, according to figures from the Centers for Disease Control. In 1968, there were 50 murders of youth ages 5-17 in Chicago. In 1994—the peak year of urban violence in Chicago—the number of murdered school-aged youth was 15.

Hip-Hop Summit Youth Council
New York feds have more than doubled the time spent breaking up the growing network between local gangs and Mexican drug cartels. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents went from spending 13,472 hours in 2009 to more than 30,000 hours last year looking into street criminals-turned-lackeys of Mexican drug rings, officials said.

ICE also added three agents in the past few years to fight the drug gangs’ escalating presence. The shift in manpower and time was based on intelligence showing local gangs’ illicit activities had evolved into more sophisticated and businesslike enterprises. ICE agents also have seen a rise in dirty money and weapons confiscated in the New York area. Last year, the feds seized more than $35 million and 57 firearms, a record number in New York, according to ICE figures.

“We spent these hours investigating violent, transnational street gang members who are now working closely with sophisticated drug-trafficking organizations,” said James Hayes, special agent in charge of Homeland Security investigations in New York.

“We see more and more a correlation between Mexican drug organizations and gangs here in New York,” Hayes added.

“New York is a big market for drugs. Mexican cartels want to increase their presence here.”

For decades, New York was a Colombian drug playground. But when federal agents caught on to their Caribbean corridor, Colombian drug cartels had to rethink smuggling routes and enlisted their Mexican counterparts, who had access to porous border towns, officials said. Mexican kingpins established roots in the city by recruiting local gangs – like MS 13 and the Latin Kings – with the promise of hefty paydays, feds say. “Mexican cartels went from being relatively small players to playing a much larger role in the transportation of drugs into the country,” said Michael Sanders of the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Some former drug gang members said the money pushes many idle youth into working for gangs hired by Mexican cartels. “These kids have no future. The promise of money seems like a good way out, and next thing you know you’re involved in a dangerous drug world,” said Frank Hernandez, 53, of the Bronx, who spent several years in prison for selling drugs. Paco, a former gang member who won’t use his real name for fear of rival drug gangs, said New York’s appetite for drugs kept him hooked.

“It’s hard to stay clean and away from the gangs and the easy money,” Paco said.

“The drugs come from Mexico, and we sell them here. It never ends.”
How Does Youth Unemployment Affect Our Youth?


January 26, 2010

Geneva (ILO News) - The number of jobless worldwide reached nearly 212 million in 2009 following an unprecedented increase of 34 million compared to 2007, on the eve of the global crisis, the International Labour Office (ILO) said in its annual Global Employment Trends report. Based on IMF economic forecasts, the ILO estimates that global unemployment is likely to remain high through 2010. In the Developed Economies and European Union unemployment is projected to increase by an additional 3 million people in 2010, while it will stabilize at present levels, or decline only slightly, in other regions.

The ILO also said the number of unemployed youth worldwide increased by 10.2 million in 2009 compared to 2007, the largest hike since 1991. At the same time, the ILO report shows wide variations in the employment impact of the crisis between regions and countries as well as in labour market recovery prospects.

Mr. Somavia added: “With 45 million young women and men entering the global labour market every year, recovery measures must target job creation for our young people.” According to the ILO, the share of workers in vulnerable employment worldwide is estimated to reach over 1.5 billion, equivalent to over half (50.6 per cent) of the world’s labor force. The number of women and men in vulnerable employment is estimated to have increased in 2009, by as much as 110 million compared to 2008. The report also says that 633 million workers and their families were living on less than USD 1.25 per day in 2008, with as many as 215 million additional workers living on the margin and at risk of falling into poverty in 2009. The ILO report says that it is urgent to establish wide coverage of basic social protection schemes to cushion the poor against the devastating effects of sharp fluctuations in economic activity.

Other key findings:

- The global unemployment rate rose to 6.6% in 2009, an increase of 0.9 percentage points over 2007. However it varied widely by region, ranging from 4.4 per cent in East Asia to more than 10 per cent in Central and South-Eastern Europe (non-EU) and Commonwealth of Independent States (CSEE & CIS) as well as in North Africa.
- The global youth unemployment rate rose by 1.6 percentage points to reach 13.4 per cent in 2009 relative to 2007. This represents the largest increase since at least 1991, the earliest year for which global estimates are available.
- The overall impact of the economic crisis on women and men is far more important than the differences in impact between these groups.
- Preliminary estimates of growth in labour productivity, measured as output per worker, indicate that productivity levels fell in all regions except East Asia, South Asia and North Africa. The largest decline in output per worker occurred in Central and South-Eastern Europe (non- EU) & CIS, - 4.7 per cent, thus reversing part of the gains that were made in the first half of the decade.
- As a result of declining output per worker, working conditions are deteriorating especially in regions where labour productivity was already low preceding the economic crisis, such as in Sub-Saharan Africa.
“We Have Failed Our Children”

SECTION 6-A

U.S. Youth Unemployment Soars

By Nancy Hanover—8 February 2010

Even prior to the current economic crisis, today’s young adults were on average poorer and more in debt than their parents. Since the economic meltdown began in 2008, however, conditions facing young people have taken a sharp turn for the worse. Teenage employment (16 to 19 years old) is officially 26.4% as of January, but the actual unemployment rate is much higher. More than half of young people aged 16-24—52.2%—do not have jobs, the highest since World War II. This includes those who are not looking for work, and are therefore not categorized as officially unemployed.

It is estimated that 6.9 million jobs for young workers have been erased during the current downturn. This crushing unemployment for American youth is worst among black males between the ages of 16 and 19, with an unemployment rate of 50%. However, according to a report on National Public Radio’s “All Things Considered,” fewer than 14 in 100 young black men actually have jobs. A major factor in the dramatic rise of youth unemployment is competition with older workers, who are themselves facing a jobs crisis. More people 55 and older are now working than before the recession. As a result of the decline in wages, spouse’s unemployment and declining home valuations, older workers are not retiring. If they are laid off, they often seek entry-level positions that previously went to the young. At the same time, incomes are plummeting for those just starting out. In 1969, only 10% of men in their early 30s were classified as low earners (less than the federal poverty rate). By 2004, it was 23%, and it has continued to grow.

A January 2010 report by the Kaiser Foundation highlighted one of the consequences of the systematic impoverishment of the youth. Young adults are the least likely to have access to health insurance of any group in the US, with an estimated 29.3% of the 19-29 age group lacking coverage. Young adults who are working are less likely to have employer-sponsored health insurance and often cannot afford the cost of individual plans. According to the Kaiser study, of the young workers who have no coverage, more than half live in households with incomes below 150% of the federal poverty level. “Without insurance coverage, these young adults risk both their physical health and their financial security,” Kaiser concluded, pointing out that young adults are in a critical developmental period in which many long term conditions and risks should be addressed.

In addition to the employment and cost factors, young people have been victimized by insurance companies that are enabled by state law to drop the children of covered adults once they turn 18 (23 for full time students). Meanwhile, under the impact of enormous budget deficits, many states are eliminating low-income health services or insurance subsidies that had helped fill in the gap for young workers. For example, Tennessee subsidized the insurance costs for certain categories of workers in small businesses, but the state has now halted new enrollment. Washington’s Basic Health plan, the first state-subsidized program when it began, will end by July unless it receives $160 million in new revenue. About 300 people a day are added to the waiting list, according to the Kaiser Foundation. Connecticut offers health insurance on an income-based sliding scale, but the state will freeze enrollment this year. A similar Pennsylvanian program’s wait list more than doubled in 2009.

Declining incomes and rising costs, especially for education, have led to a dramatic rise in debt for young Americans. A 2008 survey by Demos, “The Plastic Safety Net,” found young people under 35 had an average of $9,111 in credit card debt. More than half used their credit cards to pay for basic living expenses. Overall, 2009 credit card debt in the US increased by 18%, with consumers in many of the hardest-hit states piling up more than a 30% increase in revolving debt during the year. These states include Indiana, Michigan, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania and Tennessee. Contributing to the debt of young adults is the increasing burden of education costs. From 1982 to 2007, college tuition and fees increased by over 400%, even as financial aid shifted from grant-based aid to loans.
“We Have Failed Our Children”

SECTION 6-B

America’s youth unemployment rate tops 50%
How’s that hope and change working for you, kids?

January 6, 2010

Are America’s youth suffering buyer’s remorse yet? New stats from the Bureau of Labor Statistics tell the grim tale: “The unemployment rate for young Americans has exploded to 52.2% -- a post-World War II high, according to the Labor Dept. - meaning millions of Americans are staring at the likelihood that their lifetime earning potential will be diminished and, combined with the predicted slow economic recovery, their transition into productive members of society could be put on hold for an extended period.” “The number represents the flip-side to the Labor Dept.’s report that the employment rate of 16-to-24 year olds has eroded to 46.6% -- the lowest for working young Americans in that age group, including all but those in the military, since WWII.”

SECTION 6-C

Youth Unemployment: Mideast ‘ticking time bomb’

By John Defterios, CNN---March 12, 2010

Manama, Bahrain (CNN) -- It is without a doubt one of the most pressing issues for the Middle East region today, described by Queen Rania of Jordan as a "ticking time bomb." The region has the largest proven oil reserves -- and therefore bankable wealth -- in the world. But it cannot diversify fast enough to generate employment to keep pace with some of the highest birth rates in the world. Some of the numbers are quite staggering. A report from the United Nations Development Program a few years ago put youth unemployment at 25%, with rates much higher in places like Yemen, Algeria and the Palestinian Territories. But official, current numbers and analysis are hard to come by. For example, there is a meeting of labor ministers here in Manama under the umbrella of the Arab Labor Organization. After four attempts at trying to confirm the latest figures and secure their latest report, one throws in the towel. Let's hope that a similar approach is not taken for those who are frustrated trying to find a job.

A survey this week of 2,000 young Arabs by public relations firm ASDA'A Burson-Marsteller showed that unemployment ranked in the top three biggest concerns for the region's future generation, alongside quality education and the cost of living. The first two concerns are closely linked. While governments of the Middle East -- the Gulf States in particular -- invest millions of dollars into higher education by often partnering with Western institutions, primary and secondary schools remain in need of modernization. Business leaders from the Arab world are encouraging governments to do more at a faster clip so that there is a match between what is being taught and what is needed on the job. The Arab Business Council released a study indicating that the region needs to create 100 million new jobs in the next decade for the unemployment rate to stay at the same level. That figure has government leaders investing rapidly to deal with the challenge. Here in Bahrain, the government is coming up with new approaches to re-train their workforce.

One program is earmarking money paid by employers for foreign worker permits into a fund for skills training. One thing that certainly stands out here is the willingness by Bahrainis to work at all levels of society -- hotel clerks, taxi drivers and other service jobs are being filled by locals as well as the higher paying white collar jobs, which help build a middle class. That approach is unusual in the Middle East. Often underreported in the Middle Eastern statistics is the level of underemployment. According to the ASDA'A Burson-Marsteller survey, there are four million college graduates each year in the region, but the job market can only absorb 10% of them. Either they choose to take non-skilled employment or they go outside the region and often never come back. Neither prospect helps support long term development or future job creation.
Unemployment among young people in the Caribbean Community is higher than in a large number of developed and developing countries, according to stark statistics in a new study that links investment in youth with economic growth. The “youth unemployment” rate in the region is an average 23%, compared with 75 developed and developing countries that average 17% and according to the report of the 15-member Caricom Commission on Youth Development (CCYD), it is one of the issues affecting young people that require strategic interventions by policymakers. In addition to unemployment, crime and violence committed by young people, teen pregnancy, school dropouts and HIV infections, were found to be among the social phenomena costing the region billions.

The findings of the report, “Eye on the Future: Invest in YOUTH NOW for the Community Tomorrow,” have been released ahead of a Special Summit of Caricom Heads of Government on Youth Development, which will be held in Suriname this week-end, under the theme “YOUTH NOW for the Community Tomorrow.” The study represents three years of research by the CCYD, in keeping with its mandate to analyze the situation of Caribbean youth and recommend policy interventions to empower them and improve their well-being. The CCYD consulted with more than 6,000 young people across the region on a range of issues surrounding ten strategic strands: education and training; youth unemployment; health, sexual reproductive lifestyles and practices; crime and violence; migration; Caribbean identity and the CSME; external challenges to cultural values; governance; politics; and youth participation and youth risks and vulnerability.

The report is accompanied by a cost/benefit analysis, “Costs and Benefits from Investing in Youth in the Caricom Member States: A Quantitative Assessment of the Youth Development Strategy,” conducted by former World Bank Economist Jad Chaaban, who says that by quantifying the economic impacts of young people’s socio-economic challenges, there could be a correction of the systematic underinvestment in youth development programmes in the region. Chaaban, Caricom said, points to estimates that indicate that if youth unemployment were to be reduced to the level of that of adult unemployment (i.e. on average for the Caribbean a reduction from 23% to 8%), the Caribbean economy as a whole would benefit from an average increase of 1% in GDP.

While murder rates in the Caribbean—at 30 per 100,000 annually—are higher than any other region of the world, youth are the primary perpetrators as well as the victims of crime and violence, according to the study. It also revealed that the economic costs of youth crime include the direct financial costs related to public expenditure on security, policing, judicial processing, and incarceration as well as indirect costs, linked to the foregone earnings of the criminal and to the losses in tourism revenues linked to youth crimes. Lost tourist revenues as a result of crime had reached in excess of US$200 million per year for the Caricom region, and overall youth crime was costing at least 7% of the region’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Caricom noted last week, referring to the study’s findings. In addition to unemployment and crime statistics, it was also found that teenage pregnancy is costing Caricom governments an average US$2,000 per year for every young pregnant mother. These mothers are also losing potential earnings they could have achieved, if they had been able to delay their motherhood and continue to higher educational levels, according to the analysis of the results.

Further, the primary education dropout rate was also found to be “at a staggering height” as is the situation at the tertiary level. To illustrate the impact of this situation, it was noted that a young Jamaican with primary education earns 20% more in his/her lifetime over someone with no education. Similarly, continuing to secondary education ensures a 16% increase in lifetime income over primary education, while a tertiary degree provides a 20% premium over secondary level related lifetime earnings.
In the area of HIV/AIDS, Caricom countries are spending US$17 million per year on HIV treatment, with an average cost of antiretroviral therapy estimated at US$641 per person. The incidence of HIV in the Caribbean is the highest in the world outside of Africa. It is estimated that about one third of the new infections are contracted by youth aged 15-24. Interventions and programmes aimed at addressing these situations could all result in great benefits for the region, Chaaban is quoted as saying, noting that they “materialize in the form of reduced economic costs and impacts of these negative youth behaviors, reaching into billions of dollars; and gains in productivity and GDP growth as young people become more industrious and empowered.”

**Recession leaves almost half of all young black people out of work**

*Randeep Ramesh, Social affairs editor—Friday 22 January 2010*

Unemployment among young black people is running at almost half, figures show. The recession has left almost one in two young black people without a job, appearing to contradict claims by the government that it would shield the most vulnerable from the effects of the downturn. The left-leaning Institute for Public Policy Research said 48% of black people aged 16 to 24 reported that they were out of work, compared with 20% of white people of the same age. Not only had the absolute level of unemployment risen for young black people, but as a group they suffered the sharpest leap in joblessness: black unemployment has jumped 13% since March 2008, compared with 8% among white people and 6% among Asians.

The think-tank looked at data from the Labour Force Survey, a quarterly sample of about 60,000 households. Within that, the institute said it looked at the responses of 16- to 24-year-olds, a total of 7,200 people, in November 2009. The figures appear to fly in the face of assurances by ministers that class rather than race is a greater factor in holding people back and come at a time when there are concerns about rising poverty levels in a time of penury. However in a number of interviews with young black unemployed people many refused to accept that race discrimination was solely behind the joblessness – saying instead simply that "society was unfair".

Godfrey Kingsley, a 17-year-old who has been unemployed since September, and is now on a programme run by Tomorrow's People, a charity helping the unemployed back into work, said: "I am not saying there is no racism but you cannot hold a grudge against the system. How many black people are selling cars in Jaguar showrooms or clothes in D&G? Not that many. "But the point is that you need to be the best and that means not accepting that mindset of 'it's because I am black'. My problem was that my college was closed down by Ofsted and the teachers were sacked. That left a hole in my CV. No fault of my own." The government defended measures it had taken to protect the most vulnerable of the population during the recession. Jim Knight, the employment minister, said the problem was partly that there were more young people in the ethnic minority population and the recession had "hit young people harder than most". Academics said the reasons for the rise in youth unemployment among black youths were manifold: underachievement in the classroom, a disadvantage when it came to friends and family connections helping them find jobs, and the disappearance of the traditional blue-collar jobs. "One in two young black people being unemployed is quite a shocking figure," said Steve Strand, associate professor at Warwick University's institute of education.

"If you think that education is a gatekeeper to a future there are gaps between black and white performance. But that is not big enough to account for the differences in employment." Others point out that even in good times a third of young black people are out of a job, a "scarring effect" that meant there was a persistent loss of skills, and a longer and harder road back into the workforce.
"We Have Failed Our Children"

"What's of concern is that you have especially young Afro Caribbean people who are out of work for long periods of time," said Prof Richard Berthoud, of Essex University. "That means you have a group who are not so embedded in the workforce. So when the economy recovers and they try and find a job they continually have to answer employers who say 'what's wrong with you?'" The possibility that the recession could permanently damage prospects for young black people echoes the experience of African-Americans in the US, who have fared much worse than those in the white population during the recession. Data last month showed that among young black American men without a high-school diploma, nearly half did not have a job. Feature films such as Precious, which is released later this month in Britain and explores the grim but ultimately triumphant life in inner city New York of a young Afro American woman, have been criticized by some for sending out a negative message.

However, Femi Oyeniran, the 23-year-old actor who made his name in the 2006 film Kidulthood and in its 2008 sequel, Adulthood, said that his movies had been criticized at the time for "casting black people in a negative light". He said: "But it was fiction not reality. The recession means that we have to look at a lot of factors and some of them are down to black people themselves."

**SECTION 6-F**

**Congresswoman Lee Statement on June Jobs Report—Congressional Black Caucus**

WASHINGTON, D.C. July 2, 2010— Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-CA), Chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus, released the following statement today after the Bureau of Labor Statistics issued the June jobs report showing that unemployment is down to 9.5%: “Today’s unemployment number continues to show signs that the economy is improving, however, the pace of our nation’s economic recovery is further evidence that government action to stimulate the economy and create jobs must remain a top priority. “The unemployment rate for African Americans remains unacceptably high at 15.4%. Likewise, African American and Latino teens are unemployed at 46.4 and 35.7% respectively, compared to an overall teen unemployment rate of 29%. “These gross disparities continue to underscore the urgent need for Congress to enact measures targeting communities that have been disproportionately hit by the economic slowdown and lag behind in the recovery [emphasis mine]. No specific measures are mentioned in the statement so I have to wonder whether people have just run out of ideas. The more time passes, the problem worsens and hope dwindles, which causes some hopes to dwindle. It’s a vicious cycle. I really do not like or intend to comment regarding politicians but I believe it’s our duty to discuss policies that have disparate impact on law abiding, tax-paying ‘minority’ Americans.

“Last night, the House of Representatives approved a supplemental appropriations request that included $1 billion for youth employment programs, which will create 350,000 jobs for young people ages 14 to 24. I urge the U.S. Senate to swiftly approve this measure when they return to Washington D.C. after July 4th holiday. “Earlier this year, the Congressional Black Caucus criticized the President for not taking enough measures for economic issues affecting the black community. However, the President doesn’t have total control of what’s happening in Congress and to a significant degree it’s Congress’ fault for not being able to reconcile certain differences while children are literally living on the street with parents and families continue to face foreclosures.

I find it ironic that one party states that the unemployment measure was not passed because it would add to the deficit. So does supporting big corporations, with exorbitant tax breaks and the TARP bill bailout, who are the major market participants laying off employees contributing to the increase unemployment, no one wants to discussed how much that added to the national deficit. It’s o.k. to help corporate America, just not American citizens. Anyway, many believe the President does not address these issues that affect the broader American people and more specifically Black Americans, from the Halls of Congress, to the Black suburbanites, the criticism is voiced.
"We Have Failed Our Children"

SECTION 6-G

CONGRESSMAN BOBBY L. RUSH INTRODUCES $8 BILLION LEGISLATION FOR YOUTH JOBS

Thursday, April 01, 2010

Jobs 4 Youth! (4blackyouth.com) Young people. On March 30, 2010, Congressman Bobby Rush introduced massive legislation to reduce youth unemployment. Read it below, it is a focused and comprehensive effort to increase job and employment opportunities. Congressman Rush has been a freedom fighter working for you for 30+ years; however his efforts need your support. 4blackyouth is not a political organization; we are a business that tries to aggregate everything that we can to make youth successful. So students, parents, teachers and everyone else join our effort to make this bill happen. It's much easier than marching, just voice your support in an email and we'll forward them to Congressman Rush. He hasn't asked us to do this, but like all legislation, increased community support increases the likelihood of passage. This is about you. Your message can be as simple as "I support you." Click on the email address or cut and past it. Forward this to your friends. Now it's on you! We need jobs, don't we? BobbyRushJobs@4blackyouth.com.

SECTION 6-H

H.R. 4920 "Employing Youth for the American Dream Act of 2010" offers tax incentives to employers for hiring young workers, 16 – 24

WASHINGTON, D.C. - With nearly 5 million youth between the ages of 16 to 24 being unemployed, today, Congressman Bobby L. Rush (D-IL01) took a significant step toward eradicating youth unemployment by introducing a $8 billion bill that aims to alleviate chronic unemployment, reduce the national drop-out rate, decrease youth violence, and provide a pathways of opportunity for young people and at-risk youth.

H.R. 4920 the "Employing Youth for the American Dream Act" (EYADA) is a combination of training dollars, apprenticeship programs, employer grants for on-the-job-training, tax incentives, and preferences for youth hiring and opportunities for at-risk teenagers. The bill also creates a federally funded public service employment program that focuses on year-round jobs in parks, education, and infrastructure for young people. "We all know the unemployment rate for adults is staggering but rarely do we discuss just how bad it is for our most vulnerable citizens--young people," Rep. Rush said. "More than 60% of our eligible youth workers cannot find employment and nearly half of all African American youth are unemployed. Our youth need work and opportunity now; otherwise we condemn an entire generation to the pitfalls of poverty and despair."

"We neglect these young people, especially those who are no longer in school, unable to find jobs, and are not being trained to be productive citizens," Rep. Rush continued, "but then we’re left to wonder and pontificate on why a large percentage of unemployed and troubled youth resort to antisocial or violent behavior. There are few afterschool programs and no jobs. EYADA seeks to address that." From April to July 2009, the number of employed youth 16 to 24 years old increased by 1.6 million to 19.3 million, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported in August. The youth unemployment rate is the highest rate on record since 1948.

Highlights of H.R. 4920 Employing Youth Jobs for the American Dream Act of 2010

1. Infrastructure Training Set-Asides & Apprenticeship Priority - Authorizes a priority set aside program for all infrastructure, transportation or green energy job creation projects created in fiscal year 2011 to be targeted to support training and placement for disconnected youth. Provide preference with these job creation funds to contractors that create apprenticeships targeting youth from communities with "high unemployment," as determined by the Secretary of Labor.

Hip-Hop Summit Youth Council
2. **Summer Youth Jobs Initiatives** - Authorizes $2 billion to the Workforce Investment Act for the expansion of the Summer Jobs for Youth enrolled in the WIA system through age 24.

3. **On-the-Job Training Tax Incentives** - Increase the WIA funding available to $750 million for OJT for businesses to train and hire disconnected youth (out-of-school, out of work youth through age 24). Each contract under OJT can now receive subsidy for up to $4000 upon youth employment. Allows providers to include faith based and public sector organizations, in addition to private employers.

4. **Public Service Employment** - Creates a federal public service employment program, authorized at $5 billion to support a national public service initiative that puts people to work in local parks, roads, schools and after school programs. Establishes priority for jobs to the long-term unemployed, low-income individuals, and disconnected youth (out-of-school, out of work youth through age 24).

**SECTION 6-I**

**Detroit Diary: Don’t Leave Young Workers Behind**

*March 12th, 2010 ---- By Desiree Cooper - BBC correspondent and novelist.*

At a Detroit conference in March, 20-year-old Marvin Ligon had the status of a rock star. Why? Because he was a troubled kid who got a summer job—and kept it. Shuttled between media interviews and flocks of young people seeking his advice, Ligon paused to participate in a panel entitled “Employing Youth in Detroit: Prospects and Challenges.” “A lot of us are being left behind,” said Ligon, whose tangles with the law left him without hope of being gainfully employed. “At the end of the day, we want to be successful. There are a lot of dreamers out there.” Ligon’s dreams were answered last summer by President Barack Obama’s stimulus package, which pumped extra dollars into urban youth employment programs nationwide. New York City received $29 million and employed more than 17,000 youth in 2009. Chicago received $17 million to put youth to work last summer. Detroit’s annual summer youth employment program, which generally employs about 2,500 young people, received an extra $7 million. As a result, a record-setting 7,000 young people between the ages of 14 and 24 got jobs last year. Ligon was placed in a downtown law firm, where he found not only work and respect, but a mentor. Ligon is now in college and still holding down a job at the firm. He was so grateful, he penned a thank you letter to President Obama.

It’s never been easy for young people to compete with adults in the job market, and in this economy, it’s downright brutal. Unemployment rates for young people ages 16 -19 hover around 25%. Among black youth in Detroit, its well above 60%, compared to 27.6 nationally. Chronic youth employment has serious long-term effects. Studies show that when workers do not enter the job market as teenagers, it often takes decades for them to catch up. They are not only deprived of that critical “previous experience” that employers demand, but they also miss out on the “invisible curriculum” that comes with learning how to report to work on time, how to respect a supervisor and how to work as part of a team, according to Kristen Lopez Eastlick, senior economic analyst of the Employment Policies Institute.

A recent study from the Northeastern University Center for Labor Market Studies, *The Lost Decade For Teen and Young Adult Employment in Illinois: The Current Depression in the Labor Market For 16-24 Year Olds in the Nation and State* (PDF), reports that “Each major demographic and educational group of teens … in the nation experienced very large drops in their employment rates between 2000 and 2009.
“We Have Failed Our Children”

Teen males were more adversely affected than their female counterparts, with a 20 percentage point decline in the male teen employment rate over this nine-year period.” That’s why the Detroit Youth Employment Consortium held a summit on March 1 to urge employers to continue to support youth employment, even if help doesn’t come from Washington this year. “The fact is that we have to not only address cyclical unemployment in Detroit, but also generational unemployment as well,” said Dr. Geneva J. Williams, CEO of City Connect Detroit, the agency that coordinated the youth employment summit. “We’re talking about the workforce of the future.”

Susan Curnan of Brandeis University also participated in the March 1 summit. A professor of Social Policy and Management at the Heller School, she has been retained by the Department of Labor to evaluate last summer’s youth employment programs that received stimulus money, including Chicago and Detroit. “Last summer, Detroit faced a number of challenges, including an overwhelming number of youth, very little planning time, huge expectations and a huge payroll to manage,” said Curnan. “But in Detroit we found highly dedicated people. They realized that for youth, this was not just another job.” The stakes are indeed high. More than one-third of the Detroit youth who got summer jobs last year said that all or a portion of their earnings went to support their families, and 92% would not have been working but for the summer program, according to the University of Michigan. It is not clear whether additional federal funds will be available to boost youth employment this summer. But Ligon hopes that others will get the chance that he had. “I thought I was lost, but someone found me,” said Ligon, who is considering a law career. “All we want is a chance.”

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**Youth unemployment**

Unemployment rates for 16- to 19-year-olds by ethnicity, Q3, 2009

- Black or Black British: 48%
- Asian or Asian British: 31%
- White: 20%

Average percentage of workers, ages 16 to 24, who had jobs from June to August each year.

Source: Department of Labor.
“We Have Failed Our Children”

SECTION 6-J

Youth joblessness surging, OECD warns
Group calls for policies to prevent a ‘lost youth generation’

_Tavia Grant—Wednesday, Apr. 21, 2010_

Youth joblessness has surged across the industrialized world, and is likely to stay high for the next two years, the OECD has warned. Young people were hit especially hard through the global economic crisis, with the jobless rate among OECD countries jumping to almost 19 per cent last year, from around 13 per cent before the recession.

Nearly 15 million youth, those between 15 and 24, are now unemployed across the area. In countries like France and Italy, one in four are jobless. In Spain, it’s 40 per cent. Even Canada - which saw a milder recession than elsewhere - youth jobless levels have shot up to 15.6%, and actually crept higher last month. And it’s not going to improve any time soon, the report said. “The short-term prospects for youth unemployment in the OECD countries remain rather gloomy,” the 34-page report said. Youth were “among the first to lose their jobs and are finding it particularly difficult to get another one.”

While most economies are mending, recoveries are expected to be rather “shallow” this year. Given the large amount of slack in many economies, job creation will lag. Against this backdrop, the youth unemployment rate “is expected to stay at a high level over the next two years and many unemployed youth are likely to experience a prolonged period of joblessness.”

That’s troubling on a number of fronts. For disadvantaged youth who lack basic education, failing to find work can have long-term consequences on their careers - a term known as “scarring.” Other long-term effects of prolonged joblessness include impacts on happiness, job satisfaction and health in the ensuing years. “Policies to prevent a ‘lost youth generation’ are a must,” said Angel Gurría, OECD Secretary-General, in a meeting in Washington Tuesday.

SECTION 6-K

Global Entrepreneurship Week

Global Entrepreneurship Week, November 15 to 21, 2010, is an initiative to foster the next generation of entrepreneurs. For one week, millions of people around the world join a growing movement of entrepreneurial individuals, to generate new ideas and to seek better ways of doing things. Countries across six continents come together to celebrate the Week. To inspire young people to embrace innovation, imagination and creativity. To think big. To turn their ideas into reality. To make their mark. Through this initiative, the next generation of entrepreneurs is inspired and can emerge. In doing so, they will begin to acquire the knowledge, skills and networks needed to grow innovative, sustainable enterprises that have a positive impact on their lives, their families and communities. To learn more about the Week and what is planned for your country to go www.unleashingidea.org. GEW and Making Cents International are pleased to collaborate to jointly support efforts world-wide that increase and improve economic opportunities for young people.

Contact Info—Whitney Harrelson—Email: whitney@makingcents.com--Skype address: whitney.b.harrelson

_Hip-Hop Summit Youth Council_
The Youth Unemployment Bomb

From Cairo to London to Brooklyn, too many young people are jobless and disaffected.

Inside the global effort to put the next generation to work. In Tunisia, the young people who helped bring down a dictator are called hittistes—French-Arabic slang for those who lean against the wall. Their counterparts in Egypt, who on Feb. 1 forced President Hosni Mubarak to say he won't seek reelection, are the shabab atileen, unemployed youths. The hittistes and shabab have brothers and sisters across the globe. In Britain, they are NEETs—"not in education, employment, or training." In Japan, they are freeters: an amalgam of the English word freelance and the German word Arbeiter, or worker. Spaniards call them mileuristas, meaning they earn no more than 1,000 euros a month. In the U.S., they're "boomerang" kids who move back home after college because they can't find work. Even fast-growing China, where labor shortages are more common than surpluses, has its "ant tribe"—recent college graduates who crowd together in cheap flats on the fringes of big cities because they can't find well-paying work.

In each of these nations, an economy that can't generate enough jobs to absorb its young people has created a lost generation of the disaffected, unemployed, or underemployed—including growing numbers of recent college graduates for whom the post-crash economy has little to offer. Tunisia's Jasmine Revolution was not the first time these alienated men and women have made themselves heard. Last year, British students outraged by proposed tuition increases—at a moment when a college education is no guarantee of prosperity—attacked the Conservative Party's headquarters in London and pummeled a limousine carrying Prince Charles and his wife, Camilla Bowles. Scuffles with police have repeatedly broken out at student demonstrations across Continental Europe. And last March in Oakland, Calif., students protesting tuition hikes walked onto Interstate 880, shutting it down for an hour in both directions.

More common is the quiet desperation of a generation in "waithood," suspended short of fully employed adulthood. At 26, Sandy Brown of Brooklyn, N.Y., is a college graduate and a mother of two who hasn't worked in seven months. "I used to be a manager at a Duane Reade [drugstore] in Manhattan, but they laid me off. I've looked for work everywhere and I can't find nothing," she says. "It's like I got my diploma for nothing."

While the details differ from one nation to the next, the common element is failure—not just of young people to find a place in society, but of society itself to harness the energy, intelligence, and enthusiasm of the next generation. Here's what makes it extra-worrisome: The world is aging. In many countries the young are being crushed by a gerontocracy of older workers who appear determined to cling to the better jobs as long as possible and then, when they do retire, demand impossibly rich private and public pensions that the younger generation will be forced to shoulder.
In short, the fissure between young and old is deepening. "The older generations have eaten the future of the younger ones," former Italian Prime Minister Giuliano Amato told Corriere della Sera. In Britain, Employment Minister Chris Grayling has called chronic unemployment a "ticking time bomb." Jeffrey A. Joerres, chief executive officer of Manpower (MAN), a temporary-services firm with offices in 82 countries and territories, adds, "Youth unemployment will clearly be the epidemic of this next decade unless we get on it right away. You can't throw in the towel on this."

The highest rates of youth unemployment are found in the Middle East and North Africa, at roughly 24 percent each, according to the International Labor Organization. Most of the rest of the world is in the high teens—except for South and East Asia, the only regions with single-digit youth unemployment. Young people are nearly three times as likely as adults to be unemployed.

Last year the ILO caught a glimmer of hope. Poring over the data from 56 countries, researchers estimated that the number of unemployed 15- to 24-year-olds in those nations fell in 2010 by about 2 million, to just under 78 million. "At first we thought this was a good thing," says Steven Kapsos, an ILO economist. "It looked like youth were faring better in the labor market. But then what we started to realize was that labor force participation rates were plunging. Young people were just dropping out."

Youth unemployment is tempting to dismiss. The young tend to have fewer obligations, after all, and plenty of time to save for retirement. They have the health and strength to enjoy their leisure. "I spend many hours a day playing soccer with my friends," says Musa Salhi, an 18-year-old Madrid resident who studied to be an electrician but hasn't worked in over a year. Even as fighters on horses and camels galloped through Cairo's Liberation Square on Feb. 2 and the U.N. estimated that 300 people had died in a week of clashes, the world's investors continued to perceive the consequences as largely local. The Standard & Poor's 500-stock index rose 1 percent in the week following the first mass protests on Jan. 25. Crude oil prices rose less than 4 percent over the period.

But the failure to launch has serious consequences for society—as Egypt's Mubarak and Tunisia's overthrown President, Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali, discovered. So did Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who in 2009 dispatched baton-wielding police against youths protesting his disputed reelection. "Educated youth have been in the vanguard of rebellions against authority certainly since the French Revolution and in some cases even earlier," says Jack A. Goldstone, a sociologist at George Mason University School of Public Policy. In December the French government released a report on the nation's Sensitive Urban Zones, also known as banlieues, which said that the young men in the neighborhoods find it "extremely difficult" to integrate into the economic mainstream. The heavily Muslim banlieues exploded into rioting in 2005; last year a series of violent attacks there brought police face to face with youths brandishing AK-47s.

A demographic bulge is contributing to the tensions in North Africa and the Middle East, where people aged 15-29 make up the largest share of the population ever, according to multiple demographic sources. The Egyptian pyramid that matters now is the one representing the population's age structure—wide at the young bottom, narrow at the old top. Fifteen- to 29-year-olds account for 34 percent of the population in Iran, 30 percent in Jordan, and 29 percent in Egypt and Morocco. (The U.S. figure is 21 percent.) That share will shrink because the baby boom of two decades ago was followed by a baby bust. For now, though, it's corrosive.

In a nation with a healthy economy, a burst of new talent on the scene spurs growth. But the sclerotic and autocratic states of the Middle East are ill-equipped to take advantage of this demographic dividend. Sitting at the fringes of a protest in Cairo's Liberation Square on Jan. 29 and wearing a bright yellow head scarf, Soad Mohammed Ali says she hasn't found work since graduating from Cairo University with a law degree—nearly 10 years ago. She says the only offer of government work she has received is cleaning jobs at $40 a month.
"We Have Failed Our Children"

At age 30, Ali says, "I am old now." 15 jobs in the past three weeks and heard nothing back. "I would consider emigrating, but I don't even have the money to do that. It is so demoralizing."

For decades, Mubarak coped with Egypt's youth unemployment problem by expanding college enrollments. That strategy couldn't last forever. This past March, scholars Ragui Assaad and Samantha Constant of the Middle East Youth Initiative, a venture of Brookings Institution and the Dubai School of Government, put it bluntly: "In Egypt, educated young people who spend years searching for formal employment, mostly in the public sector, are now forgoing this prospect as the supply of government jobs dries up. Formal private sector employment—quite limited in the first place—is not growing fast enough. … Hence, young people are left with either precarious informal wage employment or expected to simply create a job for themselves in Egypt's vast informal economy."

Mubarak gave no sign of knowing how explosive the situation was, but his ministers did state repeatedly that Egypt needed rapid growth to soak up new job-seekers. The country started getting some things right in 2004, when Mubarak appointed a business-minded government under Prime Minister Ahmed Nazif. The nation lowered corporate taxes and import tariffs, privatized telecom, and expanded exports. The economy grew 7 percent annually from 2006 through 2008, dipped below 5 percent in 2009, and was on track for over 5 percent growth this past year, according to the International Monetary Fund.

That was good and bad. While growth is essential for easing social tensions in the long term, it can exacerbate them in the short term in a country such as Egypt. That's because, former Finance Minister Youssef Boutros-Ghali told BusinessWeek several years ago, the first fruits of growth go to those who are already wealthy.

The lack of democracy in Egypt and elsewhere in the Middle East—Israel being the exception—makes matters worse. Goldstone, of George Mason, says Mubarak is running afoul of the "paradox of autocracy," a phrase coined by the late University of California at San Diego sociologist Timothy L. McDaniel. "Any authoritarian ruler who wants to modernize his country has to educate the workforce," Goldstone says. "But when you educate the workforce you also create people who are not so willing to follow authority. Thus you create this threat of rebellion and disorder." Democracies are "much better at managing large numbers of highly educated people," Goldstone notes. Spain's youth unemployment is even higher than Egypt's, but young Spaniards aren't trying to overthrow the government.

Even so, rich democracies ignore youth unemployment at their peril. In the 34 industrialized nations in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, at least 16.7 million young people are not employed, in school, or in training, and about 10 million of those aren't even looking, the OECD said in December 2010. In the most-developed nations, the job market has split between high-paying jobs that many workers aren't qualified for and low-paying jobs that they can't live on, says Harry J. Holzer, a public policy professor at Georgetown University and co-author of a new book, Where Are All the Good Jobs Going? Many of the jobs that once paid good wages to high school graduates have been automated or outsourced. The spike in youth unemployment should ease in the West as the after-effects of the 2008 financial crisis diminish. Eventually, growth will resume in the U.S., Europe, Japan, and other nations. The retirement of the baby boomers will increase demand for younger workers. "I believe the tables will turn. Employers will be lining up" for younger workers, says Philip J. Jennings, general secretary of UNI Global Union, an international federation of labor unions with 20 million members.

That's cold comfort to the young people who are out of work now. The short term has become distressingly long. Although the recession ended in the summer of 2009, youth unemployment remains near its cyclical peak. In the U.S., 18 percent of 16- to 24-year-olds were unemployed in December 2010, according to the Labor Dept., a year and a half after the recession technically ended.

*Hip-Hop Summit Youth Council*
For blacks of the same age it was 27 percent. What keeps the numbers from being even higher is that many teens have simply given up. Some are sitting on couches. Others are in school, which can be a dead end itself. The percentage of American 16- to 19-year-olds who are employed has fallen to below 26 percent, a record low.

What's more, when jobs do come back, employers might choose to reach past today's unemployed, who may appear to be damaged goods, and pick from the next crop of fresh-faced grads. Starting one's career during a recession can have long-term negative consequences. Lisa B. Kahn, an economist at the Yale School of Management, estimates that for white, male college students in the U.S., a 1 percentage point increase in the unemployment rate at the time of graduation causes an initial wage loss of 6 percent to 7 percent—and even after 15 years the recession graduates earn about 2.5 percent less than they would have if they had not come out of school during a downturn. There's a psychological impact as well. "Individuals growing up during recessions tend to believe that success in life depends more on luck than on effort, support more government redistribution, but are less confident in public institutions," conclude Paola Giuliano of UCLA's Anderson School of Management and Antonio Spilimbergo of the International Monetary Fund in a 2009 study. Downturns, the study suggests, breed self-doubting liberals.

The coincidence of protests in Egypt and record youth unemployment elsewhere has caught the attention of the world's most powerful capitalists and diplomats. At this year's World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, held while Cairo was in chaos, the hallways buzzed with can-do talk about improving employment opportunities for the young. Even before the latest whiff of grapeshot, the U.N. declared the year beginning last August as the International Year of Youth. In December the Blackstone Group (BX) and CNBC held a conference in London with top experts to discuss solutions to youth unemployment. Companies from AT&T (T) to Accenture (ACN) to Siemens (SI) are working on ways to prepare high school and college students for the working world.

The only surefire cure for youth unemployment, however, is strong, sustained economic growth that generates so much demand for labor that employers have no choice but to hire the young. Economists have been breaking their teeth on that goal for decades. "If we knew how to get growth right we'd win the Nobel Prize," says Wendy Cunningham, a specialist in youth development at the World Bank in Washington.

In the absence of a growth panacea, economists have been working on microscale solutions, such as training programs to smooth the transition from school to work. No magic bullets there yet, either. "We seem to lack a creativity about how to address the issue. I can't point any fingers because I certainly don't have the answers," says Sara Elder, an economist at the ILO in Geneva.

One reason answers are so scarce is that rigorous measurement of antipoverty programs became widespread only in the past decade, thanks in part to the influence of economists such as Esther Duflo and Abhijit Banerjee of the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab, based at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Serious analysis requires tools such as randomized trials and control groups that most bureaucrats and do-gooders don't know. And measuring long-term impact takes a decade or more.

One finding that has emerged is that more education is not always better. What matters is matching the skills of the workforce to the skills that employers demand. In Iran, where the percentage of people aged 15 and over with postsecondary degrees has soared from 2.5 percent to 10.5 percent over the past 20 years, the education system has become "a giant diploma mill," says Djavad Salehi-Isfahani, an economist at Virginia Tech. Egypt and Tunisia are headed in that direction; in 1990, only about 2 percent of their people aged 15 and over had postsecondary degrees, but by 2010 the ratios were up to 6.7 percent for Tunisia and 6 percent for Egypt, according to Harvard University's Center for International Development.
"We Have Failed Our Children"

The extra schooling didn't help. Much of the anger that boiled over in the two nations, in fact, came from college graduates who couldn't put their degrees to work. Typical is Saad Mohammed, 25, a 2010 graduate of Cairo's venerable Al-Azhar University, interviewed in Liberation Square between protests. He feels betrayed that he has been unable to find work in his chosen field, "origins of religion." Mohammed hopes that "a new government will give me a job in a religious charity." The mismatch is worst for young women in the Middle East, who are getting as much advanced education as men but have far fewer job opportunities.

China, too, has produced more college diplomas than it can make use of. The number of graduates has quintupled in the past decade, and "the Chinese economy has just not been able to create that many jobs for high-skilled labor," says Anke Schrader, a researcher in Beijing at The Conference Board's China Center for Economics and Business. Manpower says that according to its analysis of the Chinese labor market, newly minted technical-school graduates are earning as much or more than new university graduates, with monthly pay of 2,000 to 4,000 renminbi a month, and in some cases 6,000 renminbi, vs. 2,000 to 2,500 for the university grads. (Monthly pay of 2,000 renminbi equals $3,600 a year at market exchange rates.)

In the U.S. and much of Europe the problem is just the opposite of the Arab world's: not too much college education but too little. According to a study by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, less-educated youth are 4.6 times as likely to be unemployed as more-educated youth in the U.S.—a measure of the potency of knowledge in a knowledge economy. That means that the U.S. has fallen off the top of the world league table for college graduation rates at the worst possible moment. As of 2008, only 60 percent of students in American four-year schools had managed to graduate within six years, according to the National Center for Education Statistics.

Even in technologically sophisticated nations such as the U.S., college isn't for everyone. But traditional vocational programs, though popular, are not the best solution for youth unemployment, according to effectiveness research conducted by the World Bank. Cunningham, who has a PhD in labor economics and has worked in youth development at the bank since 2000, says vocational programs "often are set up without a good understanding of the demands in the labor market and become obsolete very quickly. They have staff that stay on and on. They don't have the money to update their technology."

More successful are programs that are tightly linked with employers. The Jóvenes (Spanish for youths) programs in several Latin American nations require that an employer sign a document promising to take their graduates as interns, and they teach life skills alongside technical ones. Employers range from bakeries to clothing manufacturers to computer repair shops. The question, says Cunningham, is whether the Jóvenes programs can be scaled up from hundreds of participants to hundreds of thousands.

These days there's a newfound appreciation for an ancient work arrangement, the apprenticeship, because it greases the transition from learning to doing. Germany and Austria experienced milder youth unemployment in the global downturn partly because of blue-collar apprenticeship programs, says Stefano Scarpetta, deputy director of the directorate of employment, labor, and social affairs at the OECD in Paris. Last year, the International Labor Organization says, Germany's youth unemployment rate was 13.9 percent, compared with a Europe-wide average of 21.2 percent and 21 percent in the U.S.

In an update on the apprentice idea, countries such as the Netherlands encourage university students to gain work experience while enrolled. Scarpetta says 70 percent of Dutch youth ages 20-24 are getting some work experience. By contrast in Italy and Portugal only about 10 percent work while in school. The Netherlands' youth unemployment rate is just 11.2 percent.

*Hip-Hop Summit Youth Council*
Something similar is catching on in the U.S. AT&T, with almost 270,000 employees and an annual training budget of nearly $250 million, is trying to smooth high school students' transition to work with a program called Job Shadow that exposes students to the realities of employment. Insight into the minds of American teenagers has made AT&T executives realize the magnitude of the challenge. "I had three students shadowing me a while ago—juniors in high school," says Charlene F. Lake, AT&T's chief sustainability officer. "When I asked them what they wanted to do after high school, two of them hadn't thought about it. One girl said she'd like to teach and expressed surprise that she needed more education to do that. She didn't even realize she had to go to college."

For many young people who lack work experience, structure is the key. "You need to have rules and regulations," says Executive Director Mary B. Mulvihill of the Grace Institute in New York, which offers tuition-free training in personal and office skills to help "under served" women become self-sufficient. "You need to say, 'If you do this, look how your life is going to change.' If it's more loosey-goosey, I don't think it works."

If the purpose is to create jobs, as opposed to just filling them, loosey-goosey may be exactly what's needed. Entrepreneurship—with all its guesswork and improvisation—could be the most underexploited means of reducing youth unemployment. In 2008 the University of Miami started an entrepreneurship program called Launch Pad inside its career center to send the message that starting your own company is a valid career option, not just a class to take.

Since then, University of Miami students and recent grads have launched 45 companies. Coral Morphologic collects and raises corals for sale to aquarium owners. Sinha Astronautics has conceived of a space plane for launching satellites into low-earth orbit. Audimated, a music website, allows fans to make money by promoting their favorite indie artists. The man who launched Launch Pad is William S. Green, senior vice-provost and dean of undergraduate education. "Young people are interested in managing their own lives and are a little bit cautious about big corporations," he says. "This has become the largest single student activity on campus."

After Miami's entrepreneurship initiative caught the eye of Stephen A. Schwarzman, the billionaire head of private equity firm Blackstone Group, the Blackstone Charitable Foundation last year launched a similar program in southeastern Michigan with Wayne State University and Walsh College. On Jan. 31, as President Barack Obama announced his Startup America initiative at the White House, Blackstone said it would expand what it also calls LaunchPad to five more cities, as yet unnamed, devoting $50 million over five years. Schwarzman, buttonholed at the World Economic Forum in Davos, said Blackstone "started getting focused on this area when it became clear that [government efforts] were not in our judgment going to lead to significant declines in unemployment."

To free-market economists, one solution to youth unemployment is simple: Clear away the government-imposed obstacles to hiring young people. They blame high minimum wages, for instance, for discouraging companies from hiring promising young people who haven't had a chance to accumulate the knowledge or experience to justify being paid even the minimum wage. Following that counsel, most European countries, where minimum wages are high relative to average pay, have lower minimums for young workers. (The evidence is that high minimum wages do exclude some young people, while benefiting others by raising their pay.) Likewise, too-strong protections for the permanent workforce can hurt young people because they aren't similarly protected and bear the brunt of downsizing in hard times, the ILO warned in a 2009 report.

Right or wrong, the free-market argument hasn't carried the day: Britain and New Zealand actually raised their minimum wages during the global downturn. And the argument for the negative effect of worker protections hasn't convinced Austria and Germany, which have strong employment regulation and yet have had healthier job markets in the past two years than countries such as the U.S. with fewer worker protections.
We Have Failed Our Children

Thea Lee, deputy chief of staff at the AFL-CIO, argues that unions can't be blamed for high youth unemployment: "Business likes to have workers with no power, no rights, no protections."

That's a bit harsh. After all, company executives are squeezed too, and hiring neophytes is costly. Joerres, the Manpower chief, blames the faster pace. "Businesses did more training when the life cycle of their products and employees was longer," he says. "Now if the life cycle of your product is 18 months and it takes 12 months to bring your employee up to speed, you lose."

Chronic youth unemployment may not be fixable. But there's evidence it can be reduced through the concerted efforts of government, labor, business, education, and young people themselves. Luckily the soil is fertile: All over the world, the hittistes and shabab atileen, NEETs and freeters and boomerang kids are hungry for a chance to thrive. Says John Studzinski, senior managing director at Blackstone Group: "To a certain extent, all you can do with youth employment is plant seeds."

With Stanley Reed, Carol Matlack, Dexter Roberts, Diane Brady, Caroline Winter, and bureau reports. Peter Coy is Bloomberg Businessweek's Economics editor

SECTION 6-M

Reiters--September 7, 2011--cnbc.com

Teen Joblessness This Summer Was Worst Ever in the United States

Another record. One quarter of Americans age 16 to 19 had jobs this summer. The fewest since World War II. It was the worst summer on record for U.S. teenagers seeking work, delaying millions of young Americans' entry into the labor force and creating a generation that history suggests may be scarred by the experience. Only a quarter of the 16.7 million Americans between the ages of 16 and 19 had jobs this summer, the fewest since at least World War II and compared with 45 percent in 2000.

"There's some research that links crime and unemployment. It's not a majority experience, but it's still troubling," said Katherine Newman, dean of the Johns Hopkins University School of Arts and Sciences. The numbers are especially bad for black male teens from families who earn less than $40,000 a year: only 12 percent had summer work in June and July, according to Northeastern University's Center for Labor Market Studies. No recent crime data for Newburgh was available and some signs of a recent pickup in crime in parts of New York City are as yet statistically inconclusive. But there is worrying anecdotal evidence. Philadelphia, for example, in early August ordered anyone under 18 to be off the streets by 9 p.m. on Friday and Saturday nights after flash mobs rioted and beat store owners.

"I want to work and I'm good for anything," said Ashante Coston, 16, from Newburgh, who was spending the day helping his mother look after his baby brother. Last summer, he worked at a youth center, but this year, he has had no luck finding work. The teen summer employment rate has plummeted by almost a third since 2006 before the financial crisis and recession hit, and any meager recovery for the overall jobs market appears to have left out teens altogether. The problem is not confined to the United States. With youth playing a leading role in protests across Europe and in the Middle East there have been some high-profile calls for world leaders to tackle youth unemployment. Former UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown has repeatedly called it an "epidemic" that cannot be ignored. Tim Barnicle, a former assistant secretary of labor in the Clinton administration, hopes President Barack Obama will acknowledge the problem when he lays out a new jobs policy on Thursday. "How do you ensure an experienced, disciplined workforce when you lose years of preparation?" Barnicle asked. "There's also the social aspect: You're suggesting to them they are not worth that much, when at 19 they can't even get crummy jobs." There are wider consequences too: a lack of morale may sap energy out of the generation on whose shoulders the burden of paying for the retirements of the baby boomers will lie. "In America, there's often a self-reproach: 'I didn't make it, I didn't play my cards right'," he said. "The worry there is that you have a generation that just gives up and nothing seems possible for them."
How many people around the world are living with HIV/AIDS? 
In 2008, 33.4 million people around the world were living with HIV/AIDS. More than 60 million people have been infected with HIV since the pandemic began. AIDS is the leading cause of death in Sub-Saharan Africa, and the fourth leading cause of death globally.

How many people have died of AIDS? 
Almost 5,500 people die every day due to AIDS. AIDS caused 2 million deaths in 2008 and 270,000 were children. An estimated 25 million people have died from HIV-related causes since the beginning of the pandemic over the past 27 years ago causing debilitating illness and premature death in people during their prime years of life and has devastated families and communities. Further, HIV/AIDS has complicated efforts to fight poverty, improve health, and promote the development of communities worldwide.

How many children and young people are infected with HIV? 
In 2008, around 430,000 children under 15 were newly infected with HIV, bringing the total number of children living with HIV to 2.1 million. About half of all new adult HIV infections occur among 15-24 year olds. The impact of HIV/AIDS on women and girls has been particularly devastating. Women and girls now comprise 50% of those aged 15 and older living with HIV.

How many children have been orphaned because of HIV/AIDS? 
As of 2008, approximately 15 million children had lost one or both parents due to HIV/AIDS.

How fast is the pandemic growing? 
There were 2.7 million new HIV infections in 2008, or almost 7,400 people per day and 3,300 are young people. Almost half of all new HIV infections in the world are among people under 25. Globally, 5.4 million young people are living with HIV. Young women under age 25 are at an even greater risk for HIV infection and comprise 57.4% of infected youth. Young people remain the most vulnerable to HIV infection due to many factors, including lack of information, education, societal influences, and inability to access healthcare services.

AIDS in the African-American Community 
To date, over 225,000 African-Americans have died of AIDS - nearly 40% of total deaths - and of the more than 1 million people living with HIV in the United States of America today, around half are black. And yet, as a racial group, African-Americans represent just 13% of the US population. The estimated lifetime risk of becoming infected with HIV is 1 in 16 for black males, and 1 in 30 for black females, a far higher risk than for white males (1 in 104) and white females (1 in 588). In Washington D.C, which has the nation’s highest district HIV prevalence (3%), 76 % of those infected are African-American. Why are black Americans so disproportionately affected by AIDS in America and how do black Americans themselves view the epidemic? And what is being done to limit the number of new cases of AIDS being identified in clinics across the country?
This past Tuesday, I was incredibly humbled and honored to be invited to the White House as a Champion of Change. As I toured the White House and met with administration officials I couldn’t help but think about how far we’ve come and how much more work needs to be done to end the HIV epidemic.

30 years later, we are still struggling with stigma, increased levels of miseducation and deep-rooted fear of those infected with HIV. Just this week, while drinking with friends and colleagues, I was reminded of how much more work we have to do when it comes to educating the public at large about how HIV is transmitted. We ordered a huge drink (bucket sized), one that came complete with six fun neon straws. Folks were chatting, laughing and having a grand ole time. As the evening progressed, people began to forget which straws were theirs. One person exclaimed, “It’s okay if I drink from someone else’s straw—I’m not sick, it’s not like I have AIDS or anything!” That comment struck me like a lightning bolt… and I kept thinking, “Thirty years into this epidemic, and still, there are people that think HIV can be transmitted by drinking from the same glass or straw…”

I am here to tell you that HIV can only be transmitted by specific fluids: blood, semen, vaginal secretions, and breast milk. With the help of antiretroviral therapy (ART), an HIV-positive person with a non-detectable viral load (amount of virus in one’s body fluids) has a 4% chance of passing on the virus. Antiretroviral therapy (ART) otherwise known as HIV medications, reduce the viral load in the blood, as well as in genital secretions (for both men and women). This information strongly suggests that continued use of antiretroviral therapy make HIV-infected people 96% less contagious.

HIV has changed the trajectory of so many lives. Black women have been especially hard hit by this epidemic. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, we represent the majority of new HIV infections and AIDS diagnosis among women. In 2009 Black women accounted for 64% of estimated AIDS diagnoses among women, ages 13 and older, yet we are only 12% of the U.S. population of women. We are disproportionately impacted but we are strong and resilient. I believe that we will beat this disease. But we can only do so by beginning to have conversations about HIV. We can no longer be silent when it comes to HIV policies, services and treatment that directly affect us. Our youth need us to play an active role fighting the epidemic. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that although Black teens (ages 13–19) represent only about 17% of U.S. teenagers, they accounted for 68% of new AIDS diagnoses among teens in 2009.

We cannot fight this fight without engaging our Black men. For the last 30 years we have worked feverishly to engage women while minimally engaging their male (self-identified heterosexual) partners. We have failed miserably at developing public health HIV prevention messages that resonate with the men that Black women have sex with. We need to invite our brothers to the table. They are virtually invisible, in this epidemic. Today on the 30th year of this pandemic I urge you to change the way you view HIV, I encourage you to learn all that you can about this disease, most of all I implore you join me in working to make certain that this disease is not a birth rite for our youth. We can, we will and we are meant to survive!
Diagnoses of HIV Infection

In 2009, the estimated number of diagnoses of HIV infection in the 40 states and 5 U.S. dependent areas with confidential name-based HIV infection reporting was 42,959. Of these, 42,011 were in the 40 states and 948 were in the 5 dependent areas. In the 40 states, diagnoses of HIV infection among adults and adolescents totaled 41,845 with 31,872 diagnoses in males and 9,973 diagnoses in females, among children under age 13 years; there were an estimated 166 diagnoses of HIV infection in 2009.

Diagnoses of HIV Infection by Age

Of the estimated number of diagnoses of HIV infection in the 40 states with confidential name-based HIV infection reporting in 2009, the distribution of ages at time of diagnosis was as follows:

Age (Years)—Estimated Number of Diagnoses of HIV Infection, 2009

- Under 13--------------166
- Ages 13-14----------21
- Ages 15-19----------2,036
- Ages 20-24---------6,237
- Ages 25-29---------5,951
- Ages 30-34--------5,020
- Ages 35-39--------5,232
- Ages 40-44--------5,519
- Ages 45-49--------4,865
- Ages 50-54--------3,323
- Ages 55-59--------2,004
- Ages 60-64-------900
- Ages 65 or older----736

Diagnoses of HIV Infection by Race/Ethnicity

CDC tracks diagnoses of HIV infection information on seven racial and ethnic groups: American Indian/Alaska Native; Asian; Black/African American; Hispanic/Latino; Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander; White; and Multiple Races.

In 2009, the estimated number of diagnoses of HIV infection in the 40 states with confidential name-based HIV infection reporting, by race or ethnicity was as follows:

Race or Ethnicity—Estimated Number of Diagnoses of HIV Infection, 2009

- American Indian/Alaska Native------------------------189
- Asian-----------------------------------------------470
- Black/African American---------------------------21,652
- Hispanic/Latino----------------------------------7,347
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander-------------------34
White------------------------------------------------------11,803
Multiple Races-------------------------------------------516

*a Hispanics/Latinos can be of any race.

For more details on HIV infection and race/ethnicity, see CDC’s Populations/Surveillance fact sheets.

AIDS Diagnoses

In 2009, the estimated number of persons diagnosed with AIDS in the United States and 5 U.S. dependent areas was 34,993. Of these, 34,247 were diagnosed in the 50 states and the District of Columbia and 747 were diagnosed in the dependent areas. In the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 25,587 AIDS diagnoses were among adult and adolescent males, 8,647 were among adult and adolescent females, and 13 diagnoses were among children under age 13 years.

The cumulative estimated number of AIDS diagnoses through 2009 in the United States and dependent areas was 1,142,714. Of these, 1,108,611 were diagnosed in the 50 states and the District of Columbia and 34,103 were diagnosed in the dependent areas. In the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 878,366 cumulative AIDS diagnoses were among adult and adolescent males, 220,795 were among adult and adolescent females, and 9,448 were among children under age 13 years.

AIDS Diagnoses by Age

Of the estimated number of AIDS diagnoses in the 50 states and the District of Columbia, the distribution of ages at time of diagnosis was as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Age (Years)</th>
<th>Estimated # of AIDS Diagnoses, 2009</th>
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AIDS Diagnoses by Race/Ethnicity

CDC tracks AIDS information on seven racial and ethnic groups: American Indian/Alaska Native; Asian; Black/African American; Hispanic/Latino; Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander; White and Multiple Races.

In 2009, the estimated number of AIDS diagnoses in the 50 states and the District of Columbia, by race or ethnicity was as follows:
2500 Young People Newly Infected with HIV Every Day, According to Opportunity in Crisis

Posted on 06/08/11 by Joint publication by UNICEF, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNFPA, ILO, WHO and The World Bank presents data on adolescents and HIV for the first time to Health and HIV and AIDS

Johannesburg/ New York, 1 June 2011: Every day, an estimated 2500 young people are newly infected with HIV, according to a global report on HIV prevention launched today. While HIV prevalence has declined slightly among young people, young women and adolescent girls face a disproportionately high risk of infection due to biological vulnerability, social inequality and exclusion.

For the first time, Opportunity in Crisis: Preventing HIV from early adolescence to young adulthood, presents data on HIV infections among young people and highlights the risks adolescents face as they transition to adulthood. A joint publication by UNICEF, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNFPA, ILO, WHO and The World Bank, the report identifies factors that elevate their risk of infection as well as opportunities to strengthen prevention services and challenge harmful social practices.

“For many young people HIV infection is the result of neglect, exclusion, and violations that occur with the knowledge of families, communities, social and political leaders. This report urges leaders at all levels to build a chain of prevention to keep adolescents and young people informed, protected and healthy,” said UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake. “UNICEF is committed to this cause. We must protect the second decade of life, so that the journey from childhood to adulthood is not derailed by HIV – a journey that is especially fraught for girls and young women.”

According to the report, people aged 15-24 accounted for 41 percent of new infections among adults over the age of 15 in 2009. Worldwide, an estimated 5 million (4.3 million to 5.9 million) young people in that age group were living with HIV in 2009. Among the 10 to 19 year age group, new data shows, an estimated 2 million adolescents (1.8 million to 2.4 million) are living with HIV.

Most of them live in sub-Saharan Africa, most are women, and most do not know their status. Globally young women make up more than 60 percent of all young people living with HIV. In sub-Saharan Africa that rate jumps to 72 percent.
"We Have Failed Our Children"

"Our success with improving access to antiretrovirals means more young people are surviving with HIV, but many are still unaware of their status," said World Health Organization Director-General, Dr. Margaret Chan. “WHO is committed to helping improve adolescents' access to HIV testing and counseling and to making sure that health services address their needs for prevention, treatment, care and support.”

Early adolescence is a window of opportunity to intervene, before most youth become sexually active and harmful gender and social norms that elevate the risk of HIV infection are established. Communities, leaders and young people all have a role to play in changing the behaviors that place young people at risk and creating an environment where they may thrive. In southern Africa, for example where HIV infections are high in older age groups, sex with multiple partners and age-disparate relationships are fuelling HIV transmission among young people, particularly young women. But progress can be made. Community-led efforts to change such norms have been effective in communities in Tanzania, where the image of men seeking relations with younger women and girls was effectively turned into an image of ridicule.

"As the report says, too many adolescent girls become pregnant before they are ready, and have children while they are still children themselves," said UNFPA Executive Director, Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin. "This puts their own health and their children’s health at risk and limits their opportunities and potential. To achieve the MDGs, it’s absolutely critical to improve access to comprehensive sexuality education and integrated reproductive health services, including family planning and male and female condoms. Evidence shows that sexual and reproductive health information and services do not lead to more frequent sexual relations or high-risk behavior, but rather to fewer unintended pregnancies, reduced HIV infections and better health."

Certain high-risk behaviors – such as early sexual debut, pregnancy and drug use – are all signs of things going wrong in the environment of the young adolescent, and may be associated with violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect. Yet social protection systems that are HIV-sensitive can contribute to the financial security of vulnerable families, improve access to health and social services and ensure that services are delivered to marginalized youths.

“The world desperately needs new HIV prevention strategies; for every two people who receive life-saving AIDS treatment, another five become newly infected, which is an impossible situation for many poor countries and their communities,” says the World Bank’s Managing Director, Dr. Mahmoud Mohieldin. “Existing prevention strategies have had limited success, so we have to look for creative new approaches to reverse the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

These must address people’s very basic needs for education, economic security, inclusion, dignity, and human rights. These issues are particularly crucial when we consider the health and well-being of adolescent girls, mothers and children, and socially marginalized groups.

Family members, teachers, community leaders have a role to play in setting norms for responsible behavior, and in advocating for the full range of services needed for young people to stay healthy. Indeed, reducing the level of HIV incidence requires not one single intervention, but a continuum of prevention that provides information, support and services throughout the life cycle. Yet many adolescents lack access to basic HIV and prevention information, commodities and testing services.

“Young people need to have access to comprehensive knowledge and services in order to make safe choices about their health and relationships”, said UNESCO Director-General, Irina Bokova. “We are fully committed to this effort, leading the evidence-based push to scale up sexuality education and supporting the different needs of young people as they transition from early adolescence to adulthood.
We must work together to ensure that all young people, especially girls and vulnerable populations, receive the education, support and protection necessary for preventing HIV and promoting their overall well-being”, she added.

Worldwide many young people driven by economic duress, exploitation, social exclusion and lack of family support turn to commercial sex and injecting drug use. They face an extremely high risk of infection as well as general stigma and discrimination for engaging in such behaviors. The very same young people most often lack access to HIV prevention and protection services. For national HIV responses to be effective, governments need to address the underlying problems of poverty, exclusion and gender inequality that threaten the health of future generations. Using equity as a guidepost helps to ensure those hardest to reach are not last in line, and that services are available to them and used by them.

“As nearly one of every two new adult HIV infections occurs among 15 to 24 year olds. The ILO Recommendation on HIV and AIDS and the World of Work calls for a special focus on young people in national policies and programmes on HIV and AIDS and highlights the role of education and training systems and youth employment programmes and services as critical channels for mainstreaming information about HIV,” said Juan Somavia, Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO). “Already young people often bear a disproportionate share of the burden of unemployment, underemployment and poverty, a situation aggravated by the global recession. We must enable young people to realize their full potential. Their strength is the strength of communities, societies and economies.”

As the report points out, there are opportunities to use proven prevention strategies in all epidemic contexts. In countries with generalized epidemics there are opportunities to encourage healthy attitudes and behaviors, ensure greater gender equality and allow protection to become the new norm. In sub-Saharan Africa, for example, the same social norms that tolerate domestic violence also prevent women from refusing unwanted sexual advances, negotiating safe sex, or criticizing a male partner’s infidelity – all of which threatens the goal of achieving an AIDS-free generation. And in countries with low-level and concentrated epidemics, where HIV infections among youth are driven by injecting drug use, sex work, or male to male sex, there are opportunities to reshape the legal and social milieu that compounds vulnerability and to empower young people with knowledge, prevention services and health care.

“Young people are not only tomorrow’s leaders, they are the leaders of today,” said Michel Sidibé, Executive Director of UNAIDS. “If young people are empowered to protect themselves against HIV, they can lead us to an HIV free generation.”
“We Have Failed Our Children”

SECTION 7-D

ABOUT THE MAGIC JOHNSON FOUNDATION

Perhaps the most famous HIV-positive black American still alive today is former basketball Star Earvin “Magic” Johnson, who announced he had HIV in 1991. Magic Johnson’s assertion that HIV “can happen to anyone” represented a greater understanding that AIDS was not just a ‘gay’ disease. Most youth people today ignore all warning signs about AIDS because they think Magic Johnson has beat the Virus and they have nothing to fear if they get infected.

OUR MISSION

The Magic Johnson Foundation, founded by Earvin “Magic” Johnson in 1991, works to develop programs and support community-based organizations that address the educational, health and social needs of ethnically diverse, urban communities. It is recognized as a nonprofit public charity under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code.

WHAT WE DO

Founder, Earvin Johnson’s motto is, “we are the communities we serve”, and his charitable activities as well as his business ventures are guided by the power and principle of continually focusing on representing and serving ethnically diverse, socio-economically challenged urban communities.

Since its inception in 1991, the Magic Johnson Foundation has had a significant, impact towards positively changing the face of urban, minority communities. Our programs and services are dedicated to harvesting an affirmative affect on community revitalization by eliminating negative cultural barriers; advancing economic and social equality by engaging minorities in every aspect of their communities; increasing academic and innovative achievement; raising AIDS/HIV awareness, treatment and prevention; the creation of positive emerging leaders; and promoting collaboration and alliance among all sectors of the community (businesses, educational institutions, legislative, community and faith-based organizations, and policymakers).

Our widespread outreach strategies and advocacy efforts are extensive in engaging countless individuals through enduring public address and national media exposure to raise civic awareness and provide solutions to pressing social issues. MJF’s integrated for and non-profit endeavors create unique and comprehensive contributions to our municipal service areas. MJF recognizes that minority leaders face special challenges in bridging the generations economic and education gaps, and traditional political factions that exist within the community. As a minority owned and operated organization, we are in the unique position of understanding these valuable communities, have long-standing relationships with them, and continue to be motivated to serve them in order to increase the quality of life for these vibrant, yet often neglected neighborhoods.

To obtain more information about our programs and upcoming events, please call 310-246-4400 or MJFPartnerships@magicjohnsoncharities.com.

Hip-Hop Summit Youth Council
Illegal drug trade
The illegal drug trade is a global black market, competing with legal drug trade, dedicated to cultivation, manufacture, distribution and sale of those substances which are subject to drug prohibition laws. Most jurisdictions prohibit trade, except under license, of many types of drugs by drug prohibition laws. A UN report said the global drug trade generated an estimated US$321.6 billion in 2003. With a world GDP of US$36 trillion in the same year, the illegal drug trade may be estimated as slightly less than 1% of total global commerce. Consumption of illegal drugs is widespread globally.

History
The illegal drugs trade has arisen as a result of drug prohibition laws. In the First Opium War the Chinese authorities had banned opium but the United Kingdom forced the country to allow British merchants to trade in opium with the general population. Smoking opium had become common in the 1800s due to increasing importation via British merchants. Trading in opium was (as it is today in the heroin trade) extremely lucrative. As a result of this illegal trade an estimated two million Chinese people became addicted to the drug. The British Crown (via the treaties of Nanking and Tianjin) took vast sums of money from the Chinese government through this illegal trade which they referred to as "reparations".

Mafia groups limited their activities to gambling and theft until 1920, when organized bootlegging manifested in response to the effect of prohibition. An example of the spectacular rise of the mafia due to Prohibition is Al Capone's syndicate that "ruled" Chicago in the 1920s. The official rise of drug trade started in 1954. The peak of drug selling was in 1979.

Effects of illegal drug trade on societies
The countries of drug production have been seen as the worst affected by global drug trade. Drugs produce long term consequences and problems in societies, such as health problems, and socio-economic and political instability. Even so, countries receiving the illegally-imported are also affected by problems stemming from drug trade. For example, Ecuador has allegedly absorbed up to 300,000 refugees from Colombia who are running from guerrillas, paramilitaries and drug lords, says Linda Helfrich. While some applied for asylum, others are still illegal, and the drugs that pass from Colombia through Ecuador to other parts of South America create economic and social problems.

Violent crime
In many countries worldwide, the illegal drug trade is thought to be directly linked to violent crimes such as murder; this is especially true in third world countries, but is also an issue for many developed countries worldwide. In the late 1990s in the United States, for example, the Federal Bureau of Investigation estimated that 5% of murders were drug-related. However, after a crackdown by U.S. and Mexican authorities in the 2000s (part of tightened borders security in the wake of the September 11 attacks), border violence inside Mexico surged, with the Mexican government estimating that 90% of the killings are drug-related.

Minors and the illegal drug trade in the U.S.
The U.S. government's most recent 2005 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) reported that nationwide over 800,000 adolescents ages 12–17 sold illegal drugs during the twelve months preceding the survey; such adolescents also admitted to know or be linked to other drug dealers across the nation.
The 2005 Youth Risk Behavior Survey by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that nationwide 25.4% of students had been offered, sold, or given an illegal drug by someone on school property. The prevalence of having been offered, sold, or given an illegal drug on school property ranged from 15.5% to 38.7% across state CDC surveys (median: 26.1%) and from 20.3% to 40.0% across local surveys (median: 29.4%).

Despite over $7 billion spent annually towards arresting and prosecuting nearly 800,000 people across the country for marijuana offenses in 2005 (FBI Uniform Crime Reports), the federally-funded Monitoring the Future Survey reports about 85% of high school seniors find marijuana “easy to obtain.” That figure has remained virtually unchanged since 1975, never dropping below 82.7% in three decades of national surveys.

In 2009, the Justice Department identified more than 200 U.S. cities in which Mexican drug cartels "maintain drug distribution networks or supply drugs to distributors" - up from 100 three years earlier.

**SECTION 8-A**

**Drug Czar Admits War on Drugs Failure**

*May 19, 2010 by Ed Brayton*

The head of the Office of National Drug Control Policy has admitted that the war on personal freedom drugs is a failure. After 40 years, the United States' war on drugs has cost $1 trillion and hundreds of thousands of lives, and for what? Drug use is rampant and violence even more brutal and widespread.

Even U.S. drug czar Gil Kerlikowske concedes the strategy hasn't worked. "In the grand scheme, it has not been successful," Kerlikowske told The Associated Press. "Forty years later, the concern about drugs and drug problems is, if anything, magnified, intensified." If anything, he understates it. It isn't just that the war on drugs has failed; it's that the war on drugs creates many, if not most, of the very problems used to justify the war in the first place.

The zealous drug warriors justify the war by pointing out the existence of violent gangs that run drugs -- but those drug gangs only exist because drugs are illegal. You don't see violent turf wars between Stolichnaya and Skyy, or between Miller and Budweiser because they compete the way all legitimate corporations do. They justify the war on drugs by pointing to the amount of crime that takes place by those who are addicted and need the money to buy drugs. But prohibition artificially inflates the price and only makes that crime more common than it otherwise would be. Drug use should be treated just like alcohol use -- regulated, taxed and restricted to adults. Drug abuse should be treated like alcohol abuse -- as a public health problem, not as a criminal problem. It's time to declare defeat and bring the troops home.
"We Have Failed Our Children"

SECTION 8-B

Teen Drugs News Release

NIDA's Monitoring the Future Survey shows increases in Ecstasy use and continued high levels of prescription drug abuse

Teen marijuana use increases, especially among eighth-graders

For Release December 14, 2010

Fueled by increases in marijuana use, the rate of 8th graders saying they have used an illicit drug in the past year jumped to 16%, up from last year's 14.5%, with daily marijuana use up in all grades surveyed, according to the 2010 Monitoring the Future Survey (MTF). For 12th-graders, declines in cigarette use accompanied by recent increases in marijuana use have put marijuana ahead of cigarette smoking by some measures.

In 2010, 21.4% of high school seniors used marijuana in the past 30 days, while 19.2% smoked cigarettes.

The survey, released today at a news conference at the National Press Club, also shows significant increases in use of Ecstasy. In addition, nonmedical use of prescription drugs remains high. MTF is an annual series of classroom surveys of 8th, 10th, and 12th-graders conducted by researchers at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, under a grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), part of the National Institutes of Health.

Most measures of marijuana use increased among 8th graders, and daily marijuana use increased significantly among all 3 grades. The 2010 use rates were 6.1% of high school seniors, 3.3% of 10th graders, and 1.2% of 8th graders compared to 2009 rates of 5.2%, 2.8%, and 1.0%, respectively.

"These high rates of marijuana use during the teen and pre-teen years, when the brain continues to develop, place our young people at particular risk," said NIDA Director Nora D. Volkow, M.D. "Not only does marijuana affect learning, judgment, and motor skills, but research tells us that about 1 in 6 people who start using it as adolescents become addicted."

"The increases in youth drug use reflected in the Monitoring the Future Study are disappointing," said Gil Kerlikowske, director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. "Mixed messages about drug legalization, particularly marijuana, may be to blame. Such messages certainly don't help parents who are trying to prevent kids from using drugs. The Obama administration is aggressively addressing the threat of drug use and its consequences through a balanced and comprehensive drug control strategy, but we need parents and other adults who influence children as full partners in teaching young people about the risks and harms associated with drug use, including marijuana."

The MTF survey also showed a significant increase in the reported use of MDMA, or Ecstasy, with 2.4% of 8th graders citing past-year use, compared to 1.3% in 2009. Similarly, past-year MDMA use among 10th graders increased from 3.7% to 4.7% in 2010.

Also of concern is that the downward trend in cigarette smoking has stalled in all 3 grades after several years of marked improvement on most measures. Greater marketing of other forms of tobacco prompted the 2010 survey to add measures for 12th graders' use of small cigars (23.1%) and of tobacco with a smoking pipe known as a hookah (17.1%).

Hip-Hop Summit Youth Council
Prescription drug abuse remains a major problem. Although Vicodin abuse decreased in 12th graders this year to 8%, down from around 9.7% the past 4 years, other indicators confirm that nonmedical use of prescription drugs remains high. For example, the use of OxyContin, another prescription opiate, stayed about the same for 12th graders at 5.1% in 2010. And 6 of the top 10 illicit drugs abused by 12th graders in the year prior to the survey were prescribed or purchased over the counter. The survey again found that teens generally get these prescription drugs from friends and family, whether given, bought, or stolen.

However, the survey says binge drinking continued its downward trend. Among high school seniors, 23.2% report having 5 or more drinks in a row during the past 2 weeks, down from 25.2% in 2009 and from the peak of 31.5% in 1998. In addition, 2010 findings showed a drop in high school seniors' past-year consumption of flavored alcoholic beverages, to 47.9% in 2010 from 53.4% in 2009. Past-year use of flavored alcohol by 8th graders was at 21.9%, down from 27.9% in 2005.

The MTF survey also measures teen attitudes about drugs, including perceived harmfulness, perceived availability, and disapproval, all of which can predict future abuse. Related to its increased use, the perception that regular marijuana smoking is harmful decreased for 10th graders (down from 59.5% in 2009 to 57.2% in 2010) and 12th graders (from 52.4% in 2009 to 46.8% in 2010). Moreover, disapproval of smoking marijuana decreased significantly among 8th graders.

"We should examine the extent to which the debate over medical marijuana and marijuana legalization for adults is affecting teens' perceptions of risk," said Dr. Volkow. "We must also find better ways to communicate to teens that marijuana use can harm their short-term performance as well as their long-term potential."

Overall, 46,482 students from 396 public and private schools participated in this year's survey. Since 1975, the MTF survey has measured drug, alcohol, and cigarette use and related attitudes in 12th graders nationwide. Eighth and 10th graders were added to the survey in 1991. Survey participants generally report their drug use behaviors across three time periods: lifetime, past year, and past month. The survey has been conducted since its inception by a team of investigators at the University of Michigan, led by NIDA grantee Dr. Lloyd Johnston. Additional information on the MTF Survey, as well as comments from Dr. Volkow can be found at http://www.drugabuse.gov/drugpages/MTF.html.

MTF is one of three major surveys sponsored by the U.S Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that provide data on substance use among youth. The others are the National Survey on Drug Use and Health and the Youth Risk Behavior Survey. The MTF Web site is: http://monitoringthefuture.org. Follow Monitoring the Future 2010 news on Twitter at @NIDANews, or join the conversation by using: #MTF2010. Additional information on MTF can be found at http://www.hhs.gov/news; or http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov.

The National Survey on Drug Use and Health, sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, is the primary source of statistical information on substance use in the U.S. population 12 years of age and older. More information is available at http://www.drugabusestatistics.samhsa.gov.

The Youth Risk Behavior Survey, part of HHS' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System, is a school-based survey that collects data from students in grades 9-12. The survey includes questions on a wide variety of health-related risk behaviors, including substance abuse.

The National Institute on Drug Abuse is a component of the National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. NIDA supports most of the world's research on the health aspects of drug abuse and addiction. The Institute carries out a large variety of programs to inform policy and improve practice.
Fact sheets on the health effects of drugs of abuse and information on NIDA research and other activities can be found on the NIDA home page at www.drugabuse.gov. To order publications in English or Spanish, call NIDA's new DrugPubs research dissemination center at 1-877-NIDA-NIH or 240-645-0228 (TDD) or fax or email requests to 240-645-0227 or drugpubs@nida.nih.gov. Online ordering is available at http://drugpubs.drugabuse.gov. NIDA's new media guide can be found at http://drugabuse.gov/mediaguide/.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) — The Nation's Medical Research Agency — includes 27 Institutes and Centers and is a component of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. It is the primary Federal agency for conducting and supporting basic, clinical and translational medical research, and it investigates the causes, treatments, and cures for both common and rare diseases. For more information about NIH and its programs, visit http://www.nih.gov.


SECTION 8-C

Study: Teen Use of Heron, Alcohol, Pot Climbing

Increase Reverses Decade-Long Decline; 39% of High School Students Drink, 25% Smoke Marijuana

(CBS/AP) Alcohol and marijuana use among teens is on the rise, ending a decade-long decline, a study being released Tuesday found.

"I'm a little worried that we may be seeing the leading edge of a trend here," said Sean Clarkin, director of strategy at The Partnership for a Drug-Free America, which was releasing the study. "Historically, you do see the increase in recreational drugs before you see increases in some of the harder drugs."

The annual survey found the number of teens in grades 9 through 12 who reported drinking alcohol in the last month rose 11% last year, with 39% — about 6.5 million teens — reporting alcohol use. That's up from 35%, or about 5.8 million teens, in 2008.

For pot, 25% of teens reported smoking marijuana in the last month, up from 19%. Until last year, those measures for pot and alcohol use had been on a steady decline since 1998, when use hovered around 50% of teens for alcohol and 27% for pot.

The study also found use of the party drug Ecstasy on the rise. Six% of teens surveyed said they used Ecstasy in the past month, compared with 4% in 2008. Her close friend from high school died in 2008 from a heroin overdose. Laskin, a psychology major at Salisbury University in Maryland, was so torn by her friend Jeremy's death that she decided to help others and is working on her second internship at a drug treatment center.

Other findings:

• Teen abuse of prescription drugs and over-the-counter cough medicine remained stable from 2008 to 2009. About 1 in 7 teens reported abusing a prescription pain reliever in the past year; and about 8% of the teens questioned reported over-the-counter cough medicine abuse in the past year.

The Partnership's "attitude tracking" study was sponsored by the MetLife Foundation. Researchers surveyed 3,287 teens in grades 9 through 12. Data were collected from questionnaires that teens filled out anonymously from March to June 2009. The study has a margin of error of plus or minus 2.3 percentage points.
At Phoenix House, we’ve seen a sharp rise in adolescent heroin use. Three years ago, we treated teens who primarily used pot, alcohol, PCP, or Ecstasy; almost none were addicted to heroin. Today, heroin is the drug of choice for 50 percent of our young clients, many who are just 13 to 15 years old.

This is evidence of a troubling trend across the nation. Although heroin use in general has declined or leveled off in many areas, the rate of heroin use among teens has increased dramatically—especially in the suburbs. And they’re not the kids you’d expect. They’re kids like Natalie Ciappa of Long Island, an honor student, cheerleader, and star of school plays. In 2008, days before graduation, her parents found her dead from a heroin overdose. That year, Natalie was one of 46 people in Nassau County to die as a result of heroin use, a 75% increase from the year before.

What’s scary is that often, the progression to heroin takes place over a short period, sometimes as little as six months. Kids typically start with pills they find in their parents’ medicine cabinets. Some participate in “pharm parties,” where each person tosses prescription drugs they’ve found into a bowl and party-goers help themselves. Some begin “doctor-shopping” or buying drugs online. At some point, teens realize that it’s easier, cheaper, and faster to get a $5- to $10-bag of heroin than $40 to $75 Oxycodone. Many start by snorting heroin and then, chasing a more intense high, they begin injecting.

This short window makes it difficult to recognize the problem before it becomes a life-changing addiction. And kids who are hooked on heroin don’t always look or act the way you’d think a drug-addicted teen would. It’s not uncommon for teens to continue doing well in school and keep up with extra-curricular activities. That’s why—even for the most involved, responsible parent—a child’s addiction may not be apparent until the tell-tale track marks appear.

When this happens, parents must recognize two hard-to-swallow truths about their teen’s substance abuse: They didn’t cause it and they can’t cure it. What they can do is to support their child’s recovery in every way possible—starting with getting them into a comprehensive treatment program. Sadly, this isn’t always easy. In many cases, families must pay out of pocket or the teen must be involved with the criminal justice system in order to receive treatment. This has led some parents—like Kelly B. whose son Kevin is now in treatment at our Long Island Academy and who recently appeared on Geraldo At Large—to turn their kids over to the authorities in order to get them help.

While we can’t fix the system, we can ensure that the kids we treat get the care they need while they’re with us. Our adolescent programs, which offer educational services, collaborative services with criminal justice, and provide support to families and siblings, are not fully covered by government grants. On Long Island, an area that has been hard-hit by the heroin epidemic, a considerable portion of our operating costs is covered by individual donations.

That’s why, each year, we host our summer party—to honor these kids and their recovery and to raise funds so that our programs can continue to help them get their lives back on track. I hope you’ll join us in supporting these young people who deserve a second chance.

Deni Carise, Ph.D.; Chief Clinical Officer, Phoenix House
Adjunct Clinical Professor, University of Pennsylvania; Senior Scientist, Treatment Research Institute

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“We Have Failed Our Children”

SECTION 8-E

Behind Bars II: Substance Abuse and America's Prison Population

NEW CASA* REPORT FINDS:

• 65% OF ALL U.S. INMATES MEET MEDICAL CRITERIA FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE ADDICTION
• ONLY 11% RECEIVE ANY TREATMENT

DRUGS, ALCOHOL IMPLICATED IN 78% OF VIOLENT CRIMES, 83% OF PROPERTY CRIMES, 77% OF WEAPON, PUBLIC ORDER, OTHER CRIMES

New York, NY, February 26, 2010 – Of the 2.3 million inmates crowding our nation's prisons and jails, 1.5 million meet the DSM IV medical criteria for substance abuse or addiction, and another 458,000, while not meeting the strict DSM IV criteria, had histories of substance abuse; were under the influence of alcohol or other drugs at the time of their crime; committed their offense to get money to buy drugs; were incarcerated for an alcohol or drug law violation; or shared some combination of these characteristics, according to Behind Bars II: Substance Abuse and America’s Prison Population. Combined these two groups constitute 85% of the U.S. prison population.

The new 144-page report released today by The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University also reveals that alcohol and other drugs are significant factors in all crime. In 2006, alcohol and other drugs were involved in these inmate offenses:

• 78% of violent crimes;
• 83% of property crimes; and
• 77% of public order, immigration or weapon offenses; and probation/parole violations.

The CASA report found that only 11% of all inmates with substance abuse and addiction disorders receive any treatment during their incarceration. The report found that if all inmates who needed treatment and aftercare received such services, the nation would break even in a year if just over 10% remained substance and crime free and employed. Thereafter, for each inmate who remained sober, employed and crime free the nation would reap an economic benefit of $90,953 per year.

“States complain mightily about their rising prison costs; yet they continue to hemorrhage public funds that could be saved if they provided treatment to inmates with alcohol and other drug problems and stepped up use of drug courts and prosecutorial drug treatment alternative programs,” said Susan E. Foster, CASA’s Vice President and Director of Policy Research and Analysis.

Joseph A. Califano, Jr., CASA’s Chairman and President and former U.S. Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, called the nation’s current prison policies, “Inane and inhuman. Between 1996 and 2006, the U.S. population grew by 12%. Over that same period, the number of adults incarcerated grew by 33% to 2.3 million inmates and the number of inmates who either met the DSM IV medical criteria for alcohol or other drug abuse and addiction or were otherwise substance involved shot up by 43% to 1.9 million inmates. The tragedy is that we know how to sharply reduce the costs of incarceration and the crimes committed by substance-involved offenders.”

The report also noted that in 2005, federal, state and local governments spent $74 billion on incarceration, court proceedings, probation and parole for substance-involved adult and juvenile offenders and less than 1% of that amount--$632 million--on prevention and treatment for them.*
Twelve years ago, CASA released *Behind Bars: Substance Abuse and America's Prison Population*. CASA prepared this report to see if any progress had been made in reducing the number of substance-involved offenders behind bars and to examine and identify promising practices for cost-effective investments. To conduct this study, CASA researchers analyzed data on inmates from 11 federal sources, reviewed more than 650 articles and other publications, examined best practices in prevention and treatment for substance-involved offenders, reviewed accreditation standards and analyzed costs and benefits of treatment.

“Despite increased recognition of the problem and its potential solutions, we have made no progress in reducing the number of substance-involved inmates crowding our prisons and jails. The United States has less than 5% of the world’s population and we consume 2/3 of the world’s illegal drugs and incarcerate almost a quarter of the world’s prisoners, more than 8 of 10 of whom have some substance involvement,” said Califano.

The CASA report also found that compared to non-substance involved inmates, substance-involved inmates are not only likelier to be re-incarcerated, begin their criminal careers at an early age, and have more contacts with the criminal justice system, but they are also:

- 4 times likelier to receive income through illegal activity;
- Twice as likely to have had at least one parent who abused alcohol or other drugs when they were children;
- 41% likelier to have some family criminal history;
- 29% less likely to have completed at least high school; and
- 20% likelier to be unemployed a month before incarceration.

**Other Key Findings**

In 2006, an estimated 1 million substance-involved inmates were parents to more than 2.2 million minor children. Three quarters of these children were age 12 or younger. Alcohol is implicated in the incarceration of more than half of all inmates in America; illicit drugs are implicated in three quarters of incarcerations. Contrary to public perception, only 2% of all inmates are incarcerated for marijuana possession as their controlling or only offense.

**A Call for Action**

To reduce the number of substance-involved inmates crowding our prisons, improve the health of inmates and reduce crime, the CASA report offers specific recommendations in its call for action by the nation’s criminal justice systems and federal, state, and local governments including these:

- Use trained health care professionals to screen, assess and treat substance-involved offenders and provide care for co-occurring physical and mental health problems.
- Provide comprehensive pre-release planning and aftercare to continue treatment services for inmates with substance use disorders.
- Require addiction treatment for inmates to be medically managed.
- Expand the use of treatment-based alternatives to jail and prison.
- Require accreditation for prison- and jail-based treatment programs and providers.

“This report lays out the steps we need to take to address the treatment needs of offenders while holding them accountable for their crimes,” noted Foster. “We do not as a nation refuse to provide treatment for other chronic ailments like heart disease or diabetes. We should do so for addictive disorders, especially when the added benefits of treatment for offenders include significant reductions in crime and its costs to society.” For more information visit [http://www.casacolumbia.org](http://www.casacolumbia.org).
Many of us are familiar with the statistic that America, with only 5% of the world's population, consumes nearly 25% of the world's resources. Here's a less known fact: With the same 5% of the population, the United States consumes 65% of the world's illegal drugs.

That's a lot of pot, cocaine, heroin, and other things the U.S. government and most U.S. citizens say they oppose. According to Mexico's president, Felipe Calderon, the United States is the “biggest drug addict in the world.” Calderon knows about the topic because his country is being ravaged by drug related violence among crime syndicates fighting to maintain their customer base north of the border. Earlier this month, in just a 5-day period, hundreds of people were murdered in drug related incidents in Mexico.

Drugs and America is not a new story. The U.S. launched its "war on drugs" circa 1970, under the direction of President Nixon. In 2010 it is clear that America is not just bogged down in Afghanistan and Iraq, it's struggling with a 40-year war at home. There are ways to effectively combat the scourge of drugs, and the related billions of dollars of costs in lost worker productivity, health care, family breakdown, crime, suicide, abuse, and so on. Victory in any war depends upon maintaining the will to win. The question is: Do American's really want to stop the use of illegal drugs?

Research has shown that if kids are educated about the dangers of drug use and can avoid drugs until they're twenty-one, they are almost certain to avoid drug problems throughout their lives. Yet, the US spends 2/3 of its budget to counter drug use on reactive programs including prosecution and incarceration, instead of prevention and education. That's the opposite of what works, according to experts. Something is amiss with this strategy.

We must also ask: Why does a population that consumes a despicably large percentage of the entire world's stuff, need 2/3 of its drugs, too? Drugs are supposed to make life easier, more exciting, less painful, and more pleasurable—or so the drug dealers claim. But why does the wealthiest nation need to pump itself up with intoxicants anyway? Doesn't all that stuff Americans consume satisfy them? Is perhaps something missing in all those frenetic consumers' lives?

If you shop until you drop, but still need a little pill, puff, snort (or drink, for that matter) to get you through the day, then something is wrong with your formula for success. America needs to re-examine its war on drugs—and perhaps its consumption-driven raison d'etre as well—and figure out a realistic, long-term exit strategy.

Sources: Washington Post, June 16,
National Center on Addition and Substance Abuse, Columbia University
“We Have Failed Our Children”

SECTION 9

HEALTHCARE, INSURANCE AND HOW THEY AFFECT OUR CHILDREN

- Globally, there are more than 1 billion overweight adults, at least 300 million of them obese.
- Globally, there are 22 million children under 5 that are estimated to be overweight.
- Obesity and overweight pose a major risk for chronic diseases, including type-2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease.
- Hypertension and stroke, and certain forms of cancer.
- The key causes are increased consumption of energy-dense foods high in saturated fats and sugars, and reduced physical activity.

Childhood obesity is already epidemic in some areas and on the rise in others. An estimated 22 million children under 5 are estimated to be overweight worldwide. According to the US Surgeon General, in the USA the number of overweight children has doubled and the number of overweight adolescents has trebled since 1980. The prevalence of obese children aged 6- to-11 years has more than doubled since the 1960s. Obesity prevalence in youths aged 12-17 has increased dramatically from 5% to 13% in boys and from 5% to 9% in girls between 1966-70 and 1988-91 in the USA. The problem is global and increasingly extends into the developing worlds.

Almost one-third of American children are overweight or obese. Officials say the rate has tripled in teenagers and doubled in younger children since nineteen eighty. Many American children and teenagers eat unhealthy foods that are high in fat and sugar. They eat many meals at fast-food restaurants. They eat too many snacks between meals. They drink too many sugary drinks. And they do not exercise enough.

Obesity accounts for 2-6% of total health care costs in several developed countries; some estimates put the figure as high as 7%. The true costs are undoubtedly much greater as not all obesity-related conditions are included in the calculations. Among pre-school age children 2-5 years of age, obesity increased from 5 to 10.4% between 1976-1980 and 2007-2008 and from 6.5 to 19.6% among 6-11 year olds. Among adolescents aged 12-19, obesity increased from 5 to 18.1% during the same period.

Obese children and adolescents are at risk for health problems as they mature. During their youth, obese children and adolescents are more likely to have risk factors associated with cardiovascular disease (such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and Type 2 diabetes) than are other children and adolescents. Obese children and adolescents are more likely to become obese as adults. One study found that approximately 80% of children who were overweight at aged 10–15 years were obese adults at age 25 years. Another study found that 25% of obese adults were overweight as children. The latter study also found that if overweight begins before 8 years of age, obesity in adulthood is likely to be more severe.

In addition, some low-income areas do not have enough supermarkets where people can buy fresh and healthy foods. In February, first lady Michelle Obama launched a campaign to fight childhood obesity. Her campaign is called "Let's Move." It aims to teach children about better nutrition and the importance of exercise. Mrs. Obama says 30 million American children get the majority of their calories from foods they eat at school. The Obama administration is proposing to spend ten billion dollars over the next ten years to set nutrition rules for schools. The report presents seventy suggestions. They include: Providing good prenatal care, support for breastfeeding and good child care centers. Empowering parents and caregivers with simple messages about healthy food choices. Limiting the marketing of unhealthy products to children. Providing healthy food in schools and improving nutrition education. Making it easier for everyone to buy healthier food at lower prices. Getting children to be more physically active in and after school and improving playgrounds in neighborhoods.

The CDC’s National Center for Health Statistics said in its report that 15.4% of Americans lacked health insurance in 2009, compared to 14.7% in 2008. The survey found that 46.3 million people had no health insurance in 2009, a bit up from 43.8 million in 2008. This included more than 6 million children under 18. Nearly 30% of young adults aged 18 to 24 lacked health insurance.
“We Have Failed Our Children”

SECTION 10

**CHILD MORTALITY**

The world is home to 2.2 billion children. Children in developing countries face often deadly complications in their early years as a result of poor healthcare. Child Mortality is the number of children who die by the age of 5 out of every thousand live births. Malnutrition, malaria, diarrhea and pneumonia are some of the major causes of death and everyday struggles children face in the developing world. The UN stated in 2007 that children in developing countries are 13 times more likely to die in the first five years of life than those in developed countries. About 25,000 young children die every day, mainly from preventable causes.

Fewer children are dying around the world, with deaths among children under 5 falling in almost every country, U.S. researchers reported on Sunday. Using a new method of calculating mortality that they say is more complete and accurate than previous methods, the team at the University of Washington says the number of deaths of children under 5 has plummeted from 11.9 million in 1990 to 7.7 million in 2010.

The findings are similar to a September report by the United Nation’s children’s fund that showed better malaria prevention and using drugs to protect newborns of AIDS-infected mothers lowered mortality from 12.5 million under-five deaths in 1990 to 8.8 million in 2008. But the new estimates suggest that 800,000 fewer young children died than UNICEF estimates.

“Previous estimates had shown child deaths falling slowly and neonatal deaths nearly at a standstill,” Julie Knoll Rajaratnam, who led the study, said in a statement. “We were able to double the amount of data and improve the accuracy of our estimates to find that children are doing better today than at any time in recent history, especially in the first month of life.”

Globally, the team says 3.1 million newborns died in the past year, 2.3 million infants and 2.3 million children aged 1 year to 4.

Writing in the Lancet medical journal, Knoll and colleague Christopher Murray said they found under-5 mortality is falling in every region of the world with increases in only Swaziland, Lesotho, Equatorial Guinea and Antigua and Barbuda. Every year, mortality goes down more than 2% for children, they said.

“One of the biggest achievements of the past 20 years has been this incredible progress in countries that historically have had the highest child mortality in the world,” Murray said.

* In Ethiopia, 202 per 1,000 children born died by age 5 in 1990, one of the highest rates in the world. By 2010, that rate has dropped by half to 101 per 1,000.

* Singapore had a child mortality rate of eight per 1,000 in 1990, but now has the lowest rate in the world with two under-5 deaths per 1,000.

* The United States ranks 42nd in the world with a 2010 under-5 mortality rate of 6.7 per 1,000.

* This is about the same as Chile, with 6.5 per 1,000 mortality rate and far below Portugal, with 3.3 and Sweden with 2.7.
“We Have Failed Our Children”

SECTION 11

HOW DOES POVERTY AFFECT OUR CHILDREN?

U.S. poverty rate swells to nearly 1 in 6, Census Bureau says
Tuesday, September 13, 2011, By Associated Press

The statistics, contained in the report, titled "Income, Poverty and Health Insurance Coverage: 2010," cover 2010, when U.S. unemployment averaged 9.6%, up from 9.3% the previous year.

• Median household income for the nation was $49,400 in 2010, a decline of 2.3% from 2009, when inflation is figured in.
• The 2010 official poverty rate for the nation was 15.1%, up from 14.3% in 2009, with 46.2 million people in poverty, an increase of 2.6 million since 2009.
• The percentage of people without health insurance coverage in 2010, 16.3%, was not statistically different from the rate in 2009. The number of uninsured increased to 49.9 million in 2010 from 49 million in 2009.

The bureau says that if Social Security payments were excluded from income, the number of people 65 and over in poverty would be 14 million higher in 2010. Trudi Renwick, the bureau's chief of the Poverty Statistics Branch, says "the single most important factor" in the increase in poverty might be the increase in the number of people who did not work at all last year.

She says the number of people over 16 who did not work at least one week increased from 83.3 million in 2009 to 86.7 million last year.

Bruce Meyer, a public policy professor at the University of Chicago, told the Associated Press that the numbers may get even worse, pointing to rising demand for food stamps and a "staggeringly high" level of long-term unemployment - those out of work for more than 26 weeks.

Among the other findings:

- Child poverty rose to 22%, from 20.7%, meaning more than 1 in 5 children in America are living in poverty.
- Poverty among seniors remained unchanged at 9%.
- Poverty levels rose across all racial and ethnic groups except Asians which remained at 12.1%.
- Poverty among Hispanics increased to 26.6 %.
- Blacks had the highest rate at 27.4%,
- Asians had a poverty rate of 12.1%.
- About 14% of men were below the poverty line, compared to 16.2% of women.

Click below for Census Bureau report:
Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in U.S.: 2010
(www.census.gov/prod/2011pubs/p60-239.pdf)

Hip-Hop Summit Youth Council
WASHINGTON, Sept. 13, 2011 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- Rising child poverty rates could mean higher crime rates in the future, a national law enforcement group warned today. Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, composed of more than 5,000 police chiefs, sheriffs and prosecutors in all 50 states, called on state and federal leaders to continue their support for children's programs proven to help at-risk children avoid crime such as high-quality early care and education.

"Investments in high-quality early care and education programs are especially important today with reports that almost 1 million new children have fallen into poverty," said Miriam Rollin, the group's national director. "Research shows that enabling at-risk kids to attend these high-quality programs returns more than $10 in benefits for every $1 invested over the long term, with much of the savings coming from reduced crime and lower prison costs."

New poverty numbers released by the U.S. Census Bureau today shows that almost 1 million additional children under age 18 fell into poverty in 2010, and that for the first time, over 25 percent of children under age 6 now live in poverty. Law enforcement leaders across the country have expressed concern that rising child poverty rates could increase the risk of crime in the future. Earlier this year more than 600 law enforcement leaders urged Congress to support high quality early care and education as an effective way to reduce future crime and save taxpayers money.

"The last two Census Bureau counts show that the number of children living in poverty during the recent recession is growing rapidly. This is a major concern for public safety because childhood poverty is a consistent risk factor for becoming a violent criminal or a victim of crime," said Rollin. "Even as young children fall into poverty, many of the cost-effective approaches we know can help steer kids toward long-term success are facing additional cuts. Law enforcement leaders and crime survivors across America believe that we must make programs benefiting the youngest children our top priority to avoid increases in crime in the future."

While crime researchers generally agree that short-term increases in poverty do not cause increased crime, a U.S. Surgeon General report that said that growing up in poverty is more closely linked to later involvement in violent crime than having abusive parents or watching violent television programs. According to the latest Census findings, the youngest children (under age 6) are now more likely to live in poverty than any other age group, including the elderly or adults 18-65.

Poverty among children under age six grew by 11.7% between 2008 and 2009, and rose again sharply from 2009 to 2010 with a one-year increase of 6.3%. The recent spikes in poverty for under age six are the largest since 1993. The overall poverty rate for children under 18 grew by 8.9% in 2008-2009 and by 6.3% 2009-2010, the largest single-year increases recorded since 1980 (see graph below).

New research findings published this June in the prestigious journal Science strengthen the argument that high-quality early education can reduce crime and steer disadvantaged children toward success. A follow-up at age 28 of over 1,400 low-income children in Chicago found that those who did not attend the Child-Parent Center preschools were 27 percent more likely to have a felony arrest by age 26 and were 39 percent more likely to have spent time in jail.

**Fight Crime: Invest in Kids** is a national anti-crime organization of police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors, other law enforcement leaders and violence survivors, with over 5,000 members nationwide.

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"We Have Failed Our Children"

**SECTION 11-A**

**Rapid Rise in Child Poverty Could Mean Later Increase in Crime, Law Enforcement Leaders Warn**

1 Million Additional Children Sank Into Poverty During 2010; 25% of Children Under Age 6 Now Live in Poverty

**Hip-Hop Summit Youth Council**
GLOBAL POVERTY FACTS

• 1.37 billion people live on less than $1.25 a day, and 2.56 billion live on less than $2 a day. Moreover, 5.05 billion people (more than 80% of the world's population) live on less than $10 a day---Source: World Bank 2005

Hunger & Poverty

• Every year, 5.8 million children die from hunger related-causes. That’s 16,000 daily---- Source: FAO 2008

Inequality & Poverty

• The GDP (Gross Domestic Product, total of everyone's income) in the poorest 48 nations is less than the combined wealth of the world's three richest people-----Source: Global Issues Website

• 20% of the population in developed nations consumes 86% of the world's goods-----Source: Global Issues Website

• The poorest 40% of the world’s population accounts for 5% of the global income. The richest 20% of world’s population accounts for three-quarters of world income-----Source: Global Issues Website

• The average yearly income of the richest 20% of people in the world is about 50 times greater than the yearly income of the poorest 20% of people------Source: Human Development Report 2005

Children & Poverty

• Of the 2.2 billion children in the world, 600 million are victims of extreme poverty------Source: UNICEF 2008

• Each year, over 10 million children in developing countries die before the age of five. More than half of these deaths are attributed to malnutrition, which claims a child's life every 5 seconds------Sources: World Development Indicators 2007, The United Nations' World Food Program

• Every year more than 10 million children die of hunger and preventable diseases - that’s over 30,000 per day, or one every 3 seconds-----Source: Global Poverty Facts

• Approximately 146 million children in developing countries, about 1 out of 4, are underweight------Source: The United Nations' World Food Program

• An estimated 250 million preschool children are vitamin A deficient. An estimated 250,000 to 500,000 vitamin A-deficient children become blind every year. Half of them die within 12 months of losing their sight. This is easily corrected with an inexpensive vitamin supplement------Source: World Health Organization

Clean Water & Sanitation

• 1.1 billion people don't have safe water and 2.6 billion lack basic sanitation------Source: Human Development Report 2006

• Dirty water and poor sanitation account for the vast majority of 1.8 million child deaths each year from diarrhea - almost 5,000 every day - making it the second largest cause of child mortality------Source: Human Development Report 2006

• Poor sanitation and drainage contribute to malaria, which claims the lives of 1.3 million people a year, 90% of which are children under the age of five------Source: Human Development Report 2006

Education & Poverty

• Still, more than 115 million children are out of school - and some 62 million of them are girls------Source: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), The 2006 Human Development Report
Unemployment improved a bit last month but it is still nearly nine percent and the trouble is job creation is so slow, it will be years before we get back the seven and a half million jobs lost in the Great Recession. American families have been falling out of the middle class in record numbers. The combination of lost jobs and millions of foreclosures means a lot of folks are homeless and hungry for the first time in their lives.

One of the consequences of the recession that you don't hear a lot about is the record number of children descending into poverty.

The government considers a family of four to be impoverished if they take in less than $22,000 a year. Based on that standard, and government projections of unemployment, it is estimated the poverty rate for kids in this country will soon hit 25 percent. Those children would be the largest American generation to be raised in hard times since the Great Depression.

In Seminole County, near Orlando, Fla., so many kids have lost their homes that school busses now stop at dozens of cheap motels where families crowd into rooms, living week to week.

But by all means, let's piss away the time talking about austerity for the poor and tax cuts for the rich. Let's have state and federal shutdowns while politicians insist that no, in this greatest recession since the Depression, we just aren't interested in creating jobs or continuing support for the poor. We're in a nationwide war against public workers and teachers, and a state-by-state rollback of family planning services—now that puts a fire in political pot-bellies, but jobs? It's not even being discussed.

You know something? This generation of kids is going to grow up hating the people who put them in poverty, and then kept them there. The government doesn't give a damn about them. The Republicans have a fit if anyone even tries to give a damn about them. Their own states certainly don't give a damn about them. You think Chris Christie, Scott Walker, or Rick Scott gives a damn about nearly 25 percent of American children now living in poverty? I sure haven't heard a peep out of them.

A whole generation marked by poverty. Poverty caused by wealthy bankers making crappy bets, but then prolonged excruciatingly by a nation of political leaders who literally could not possibly do less to get out of recession if they tried. Poverty that will have long-term effects on these children's future prospects, and in turn on the American economy that will rely on them.

Forget mere disapproval: I think anyone talking about austerity for these children's families, while simultaneously coddling the rich and the corporate, deserves to be tarred, feathered, and set adrift in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. The more you hear the hard numbers of how bad this "jobless recovery" actually is for people, the more offensive it becomes.
"We Have Failed Our Children"

SECTION 11-D

The Campaign to End Child Homelessness

About the Campaign

We urge you to act now. As you read this, at least two million Americans are facing housing foreclosures. Many of them are children. Without proper supports, children carry the burden of homelessness for much of their lives. Homeless children experience more hunger, poorer physical and mental health, and fewer educational opportunities than children with permanent homes.

June 23, 2011: HUD Report Shows Significant Increase in Family Homelessness

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development released its 2010 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) last week. According to the report, the number of homeless people in families increased by 20 percent from 2007 to 2010, and families currently represent a much larger share of the total sheltered population. The proportion of homeless people using emergency shelter and transitional housing who are part of a family has increased from 30 percent to 35 percent. These increases are consequences of the current economic recession. Download the full report at www.hudhre.info/documents/2010HomelessAssessmentReport.pdf.

June 1, 2011: Child and Family Homelessness - Federal Policy Priorities

The Campaign to End Child Homelessness presented a webinar on Federal Policy Priorities for 2011-2012. During this webinar, speakers laid out priorities on issues related to child and family homelessness, including access to services and support; housing; early childhood and education; and mental health. View webinar slides.

May 12, 2011: Legislation Aims to Reduce Youth Homelessness

Today, Senator John Kerry (MA) introduced legislation to reduce youth homelessness. The National Center on Family Homelessness has endorsed The Reconnecting Youth to Prevent Homelessness Act, which would improve training, educational opportunities, and permanency planning for older foster youth. It also strengthens programs to reduce poverty and keep families together. The Reconnecting Youth to Prevent Homelessness Act allows children nationwide to remain in foster care until at least their 21st birthday; extends the timeframe foster youth have to utilize the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program; and makes significant improvements to the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program, such as enhancing efforts to connect families with education, training, and housing resources. Read the press release. View a Section by Section Overview of the bill at www.homelesschildrenamerica.org/media/139.pdf.


The Campaign to End Child Homelessness, an initiative of The National Center on Family Homelessness, released a Federal Policy Agenda for the 112th Congress and Administration (www.homelesschildrenamerica.org/media/139.pdf). The Agenda and its policy recommendations are essential to meeting the needs of America's homeless children and their families in 2011 and beyond.

Hip-Hop Summit Youth Council
Across the United States, more families than ever are feeling the strain of the current economic recession and are trying to stretch their limited resources to cover basic necessities. Child and family homelessness is on the rise in all parts of the country. The Federal Policy Agenda calls for coordinated and strategic efforts by national, state, and local political leaders, service providers, advocates, and the business and philanthropic communities. A stable, fully-funded, high quality and efficient support system of housing and services is necessary to make this happen.

The implementation of the Campaign’s policy recommendations would go far in putting the federal government on track to accomplish its goal of ending family homelessness in ten years as stated in *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*. As a country, we can no longer ignore the fact that 1.5 million children go without homes, food, access to health care and educational opportunities each year. The cost is too great to our children and families, our communities, and the country as a whole. View the Federal Policy Agenda. View a summary of the Campaign’s National Policy Survey results.

**March 30, 2011: Homeless Children and Youth Education Bill Strengthens the McKinney-Vento Act**

On March 30, the Congressional Caucus on Homelessness hosted a briefing on family homelessness: "A Growing Epidemic: Homeless Children, Youth and Families." The briefing was held in collaboration with a coalition of advocates including The National Center. Highlights included a bill, the "Educational Success for Children and Youth Without Homes Act of 2011." This bill amends the McKinney-Vento Act's education for Homeless Children and Youth Program and Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. It promotes school stability; improves access to transportation; increases school districts' ability to identify and serve homeless children; and increases access to early childhood education, summer school, before and after-school programs, and other educational opportunities. Learn more from NAEHCY at [www.naehcy.org/reauth.html](http://www.naehcy.org/reauth.html).

**March 24, 2011: Speak Out! Contribute to Our National Policy Agenda**

The Campaign to End Child Homelessness is developing a National Policy Agenda for 2011-2012, and we want your input! Our Policy Agenda will focus on federal programs and policies to prevent and end child and family homelessness. Complete our short survey today!

**February 17, 2011: President Obama Releases FY 2012 Budget Proposal**

On Monday, February 14, President Obama released his Fiscal Year 2012 Budget. The President's new budget puts forward a plan to achieve $1.1 trillion in deficit reductions over the next decade, mainly by cutting funding for social programs.

The decreases are targeted to "non-defense discretionary spending," which makes up less than one-quarter of the overall budget, through a five-year freeze on spending in many domestic government agencies. However, the Budget does make investments in White House priorities like education and research.

While the overall budget picture is grim, we applaud the President for increasing funding for many programs that support homeless children and families. The Budget provides more than $2.5 billion to continue progress toward the Administration's goal to end chronic homelessness and homelessness among veterans and families.
It increases investments in mental health and substance abuse prevention efforts, including targeted funds for young people, military members and their families, and the homeless.

Remember, this is just the starting point for many months of debate over funding for Fiscal Year 2010. The President’s budget is important as it sets the standard for the House and Senate Budget Committees as they develop their own FY2012 budget proposals. The National Center will continue to work to ensure adequate funding for federal programs that support children and families who are homeless.

View the full budget proposal at www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget.

February 17, 2011: Action Alert - Protect Federal Funding for Homeless Children and Families

The National Center on Family Homelessness and Horizons for Homeless Children, along with nearly 30 national organizations from across the country, have sent letters to leaders of the Senate and House Appropriations Committees. The letters advocate for adequate funding for the early education, child care, health, education, nutrition, and domestic violence prevention programs that ensure homeless children and families have access to the critical supports and services they need. Take Action Now by asking members of Congress to protect programs that support homeless children and families.

February 16, 2011: Adequate Funding Needed to Support Homeless Children and Families

The National Center on Family Homelessness and Horizons for Homeless Children, along with about 30 other organizations, recently sent a letter to House and Senate Appropriations Committee members. The letter advocates for adequate funding for programs in FY2011 and FY2012 that support homeless children and families that focus on early education, child care, health, nutrition, and domestic violence prevention. Read the letter at www.homelesschildrenamerica.org/media/94.pdf.

February 9, 2011: Increase Funding for McKinney-Vento

The National Center on Family Homelessness and Horizons for Homeless Children, along with about 30 other organizations, recently sent a letter to House and Senate Appropriations Committee members about the need to increase funding for the McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program with provides critical services and support to students who are homeless. Read the letter at www.homelesschildrenamerica.org/media/95.pdf.

September 23, 2010: Urge Congress to Extend the TANF Emergency Contingency Fund

The Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Emergency Contingency Fund (ECF) will expire on Thursday, September 30! ECF dollars have helped states provide cash assistance to low-income families, short-term rent assistance to families experiencing a housing crisis, and 250,000 employment opportunities nationally, many of which will end on September 30 if Congress fails to act. U.S. Senator John Kerry (MA) is rallying his colleagues to urge Senate leaders to extend ECF. However, we need to do more to encourage Senate action right away.
Call your U.S. Senators and ask to speak to the staff member who works on welfare issues (phone numbers for Senators can be found by calling the Congressional switchboard at 202-224-3121). Ask the staff members to urge their Senators to ask Senate leaders to support the immediate extension of ECF.

June 10, 2010: Support the National Housing Trust Fund

Join The National Center on Family Homelessness and the Campaign to End Child Homelessness in supporting the funding of the National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF). The National Housing Trust Fund was established a provision of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008. The passage of NHTF legislation was a major victory for the lowest income people in our country with the most serious needs, including children, families and individuals who are homeless. The NHTF will, once capitalized, provide communities with funds to build, preserve and rehabilitate rental homes that are affordable for extremely and very low-income households. Learn more about the NHTF and participate in activities to support (www.nlihc.org/template/page.cfm?id=40).

Almost Half of Latin American and Caribbean Children in Poverty

Posted by: lisaparavisini-----May 18, 2011

Nearly 81 million people under age 18 in Latin America and the Caribbean are affected by moderate to severe deprivation, a new study has found. Pobreza Infantil en América Latina y el Caribe (Child Poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean), released yesterday by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), looks at the multiple dimensions of child poverty and proposes public policy recommendations to confront the key causes of such poverty.

The study—carried out from 2008 to 2009—based its framework on the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, which was adopted in 1989. It took into account such factors as nutrition, access to drinking water and sanitation services, school attendance, and availability of information and communication media, considering deprivation from any one of these as a contributing factor to poverty and social exclusion. It also measured household incomes and assessed a household’s capacity to provide for children’s basic needs.

The report found that child poverty is unevenly distributed across the region, with over two-thirds of the children in Bolivia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Peru living in poverty and less than one-fourth of those in Chile, Costa Rica and Uruguay doing so. The report’s authors urge governments to invest in children by promoting their rights, ensuring their access to food, water and quality services, and developing strong systems for social protection. ECLAC executive secretary Alicia Bárcena and UNICEF regional director Bernt Aasen also call for governments to integrate social, employment and macroeconomic policy to combat the cycle of poverty.

For the original report go to http://www.americasquarterly.org/node/2535
U.N. agency says 45 percent of Latin America's children live in poverty
05-18-2011

ANTIAGO, May 17 (Xinhua) -- About 81 million children and adolescents in Latin America, or the equivalent of about 45 percent of this population group, live in poverty, two United Nations agencies said in a new report Tuesday.

The report, entitled "Child Poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean", is jointly written by the U.N. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The report said there is a great heterogeneity among the countries in the region, with Bolivia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Peru reporting more than two thirds of their children and adolescents to be living in poverty while in Chile, Costa Rica and Uruguay less than one of every four minors live in poverty.

The report is based on research carried out between 2008 and 2009 and measures the different dimensions of child poverty in the region in accordance with the International Convention on Children’s Rights that has been in place since 1989. The research analyzed nutrition levels, access to portable water, sanitation services, housing quality, the number of people living per room and also their school attendance and access to the media.

The research also took into account the income level of the children's homes and the potential capacity of these resources to satisfy their basic needs. Alicia Barcena, ECLAC's executive secretary, and Unicef Regional Director Bernt Aasen, said in the report that in order to eradicate poverty among children the governments in the region must integrate social, labor and macroeconomic policies.

"In order to advance in the issue of child poverty it is necessary to invest in the children and reduce the persistent socio-economic, territorial, ethnic and gender inequalities present in all the countries of the region," the report said.
My father told me I could do and be anything I wanted to be if I dreamed and worked hard enough for it. I took these words to heart, despite growing up in the Jim Crow era in Marlboro County, South Carolina. Today, too many children in Marlboro County and throughout America are not being taught to dream and to work hard for a better future. Unemployment in my home county has hovered between 16-20 percent for long periods of time and many children there have never seen anyone in their family able to find a job and go to work. I was deeply saddened by a story I heard recently about three young teen boys who were asked what they wanted to be when they grew up. The first boy said he wanted to work at McDonald's; the second boy said he wanted to be Spiderman and when pushed for a real person, he could not think of one; and the third boy drew a boy lying on the ground and said he was going to be dead before he grew up.

Hopelessness and despair are too often the products of poverty. Today, 15.5 million children are living in poverty in America -- the highest child poverty rate the nation has seen since 1959. And the younger the children are, the poorer they are. Recently released U.S. Census Bureau data confirmed our worst fears about the impact of the recent recession. Nearly 4 million Americans fell into poverty last year. And worst of all, children experienced the steepest rise in poverty and the largest single year increase since the 1960s.

Back in the 1960s, as a civil rights lawyer working in Mississippi, I learned that civil rights without economic rights did not add up to justice. After two civil rights bills had passed and three years into President Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty, the condition for poor Black Americans in Mississippi was not improving beyond a snail's pace. When U.S. Senators Joseph Clark and Robert F. Kennedy and other lawmakers came to the Delta of Mississippi to see how the War on Poverty was going with their own eyes, the swollen bellies and empty cupboards shocked them into action and led them to call for reform and expansion of the child and family nutrition programs we know today including food stamps, the Women Infants and Children program (WIC) and school lunches. Still believing that fair people will take action when they see and hear about the plight of poor children, I asked Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Julia Cass to go to the Delta in Mississippi, the ravaged cities of New Orleans and Baton Rouge in Louisiana, and to the birthplace of the suburban American dream, in Long Island, New York, and find those children and tell their stories today. The result is the Children's Defense Fund's new report "Held Captive": Child Poverty in America. I'll be sharing stories from this report in several future columns.

Held Captive puts human faces on the statistics that tell the frightening and heartbreaking reality of how poverty is impacting millions of America's children. Julia Cass found that despite safety net protections put in place over the past generations, poor children are still adrift in a sea of poverty with their futures in jeopardy. Years of research link childhood poverty to a multitude of poor outcomes: lower academic attainment, higher rates of teen pregnancy and incarceration, a greater chance of health and behavioral problems, and lifelong poverty. The greatest threat to America's national security comes from no enemy without, but from our own failure to protect, invest in, and educate all of our children who make up all of our futures in this global economy.

We need to invest now in child health, early childhood development and education. For today is tomorrow. Children have only one childhood and it is right now. God has blessed America with great material wealth. America can and must step forward to correct the gross imbalance of government subsidization of the wealthiest and most powerful among us and provide a future for all children free from hunger, hopelessness and despair. If America cannot stand up for its children, it does not stand for anything at all. And it will not stand strong in our competitive, global world.

Follow Marian Wright Edelman on Twitter: www.twitter.com/ChildDefender
“We Have Failed Our Children”

SECTION 11-H

60 Minutes Shines Light on Child Poverty

March 7, 2011------ 60 Minutes, Child poverty, poverty, Recession-----by City Connects

Last night, 60 Minutes reported on the sharp increase of children living in poverty with a story titled, “Homeless Children: The Hard Times Generation.” Census data showed that 47.8 million Americans–15.7% of the U.S. population–lived in poverty in 2009 [see our related post, “Revised Census Numbers Show More Americans Living in Poverty”].

We know that there is a widening income gap between high-income and middle-class families, and we also know that poverty can suppress a child’s potential to excel. As we have seen in our experiences, poverty creates stress for children and can impede their ability to thrive in school. As the children in story explain, it’s hard to study at home when the electricity has been turned off.

The government considers a family of four to be impoverished if they take in less than $22,000 a year. Based on that standard, and government projections of unemployment, it is estimated the poverty rate for kids in this country will soon hit 25 percent. Those children would be the largest American generation to be raised in hard times since the Great Depression.

Children: the hard times generation

(CBS News) Davalos is working to keep Jacob Braverman on track in school. His family lost their house suddenly in October. When he got off the bus that day, the door was locked.

"That was the last thing that I expected," he told Pelley.

His mother, Rosa, lost her job. But the eviction was a shock. The bank told Rosa she had 30 days, but it was five days later that the cops moved them out. There's a lot of chaos in foreclosures all across the country because of the sheer number of them.

There were a million last year, and another million are expected this year. In Florida, the counties with the highest foreclosure rates see some of the increases in child poverty.

Rosa was suddenly on the street, and like the Corfees, she faced splitting up her family. "This is what is important is family is wherever you are...together. It doesn't matter if it is in your house, if it is in one room, or in your vehicle," she told Pelley.

"As long as you're with your family, you're going to make it through all of this that's been going on. All of it," Jacob added.

Rosa, Jacob, Joey and the dog are all in one room, right across the street from their old home. The neighbors took them in. We've seen a lot of that in our stories on the recession - neighbors, even strangers, opening homes to the homeless.
We talked to the Bravermans at the neighbor's house. They've been there three months and that is starting to worry them.

"I want to give the neighbors their own privacy you know? I don't want to be invasive," Jacob explained.

"So you miss your privacy from across the street. What else?" Pelley asked.

"Sometimes, you know, I have to go to the bathroom at night. And here I have to be really, really quiet, 'cause if I wake them up, I don't want to make them upset and get us kicked out," he replied.

Homeless kids tiptoe in a world of insecurity, hoping to be invisible.

"People said that I talk too much, and now they say I don't talk enough and that I'm really shy I guess," Jacob said.

Asked if he thinks the situation has changed him, he told Pelley, "Yeah, and I haven't realized it but I think I've gotten very mature in a very short amount of time."

Look for the homeless in Seminole County, and you'll find Robert Williams' family of five in one motel room. He and his wife lost their tourism jobs several months back.

When Angel Abreau lost his construction job, he and his wife had to split their family among relatives. They see their three young children on weekends. And on Sunday evenings, when we saw them, the goodbyes are always painful.

Destiny Corfee's family got out of the van and into a motel when her dad found a little day labor to scrape together a deposit for the room. He applied at car washes and Disney World; worked as a bricklayer's assistant, but nothing steady.

As the hotel bill came due, David was short. He found himself prepared to do nearly anything to keep his family from being split apart by the homeless shelters.

**Homeless children: the hard times generation**

(CBS News) "So as embarrassing as it was, I sat down with a magic marker, and I've seen these people on the road with these signs before, and I wrote a sign out," he told Pelley. "It said, 'Please help, family of five.' Every truck that went by I would holler out to them, and let them see my sign. 'Hey, do you need any help? Can I get a job? Do you need any help?'"

"I didn't think that it was gonna have to come down to that. Like, he was actually gonna go and take the sign and show it to people. And I don't want people to know that I, he's my dad. I don't want to be embarrassed by people," Destiny said.

"You must have thought that you would never be that guy? The guy with the sign?" Pelley asked David.

"Never and in a million years did I think that that would be me. And I told my wife, 'This is America. And America is full of wonderful people. And I'm gonna go out and see what I can do and see if there's someone out there that can help us,'" he remembered.
"We Have Failed Our Children"

He showed us the sign that eventually caught the eye of a woman who stopped to say she might have a job for him. "And sure enough that phone rang about a week later. She said, 'David, I'd like to tell you you're golden. That we have a job for you, and you can start Friday,'" he remembered.

"And that's where you got the hat?" Pelley asked, referring to a University of Central Florida cap David was wearing.

"That's where I got the hat," David replied. "And I've been wearing this hat ever since."

He's a parking attendant, making $10 an hour - enough to keep the motel room, but not enough to get out. Jorge dropped out, in his senior year, to look for work, but Destiny is still picked up on the school bus route for homeless kids.

"And when things get better again we know that there are still people struggling. So we'll be able to help out a lot more and we'll understand what they're going through," she said.

"This opened your eyes to an America that you didn't know existed?" Pelley asked.

"Mmm hmm," she said. "I can't believe it."

We all hear about the recovery - that the recession ended in 2009 - but some things are getting worse before they get better. And child poverty is one of them.

America's motel generation is growing fast.

Like the kids who came out of the Great Depression, this generation is being shaped by homelessness and hunger but also by memories of neighbors who opened their homes, and of families that refused to be broken.
“We Have Failed Our Children”

SECTION 11-I

The Economic Collapse
Are You Prepared For The Coming Economic Collapse And
The Next Great Depression?

20 Facts About Child Hunger And Child Poverty That Will
Break Your Heart

May 12, 2011

Did you know that nearly half of the 44 million Americans that are on food stamps today are children? Did you know that more than a fifth of all U.S. children are living in poverty and that a fourth of all U.S. children are enrolled in the food stamp program? Did you know that most of the people that starve to death around the globe are children? In 2011, child hunger and child poverty are major problems in the United States and they are at epidemic levels in many areas of the world. The facts that are you are about to read are tough to stomach and they are meant to break your heart. Most of us need to be touched on an emotional level before we will take action.

As I have written about previously, the world is on the verge of a horrific global food crisis. Unless a miracle happens, there is not going to be nearly enough food for everyone in the world in the future. We all need to prepare so that we will be able to feed our own families when that time comes and so that we will be able to be generous and share with others in need.

The food stamp program is the modern equivalent of the old-fashioned bread lines. Today, the number of Americans on food stamps is absolutely exploding. Despite claims that the economy is "recovering", the number of Americans relying on food assistance just continues to increase.

Many food retailers have seen food stamp usage soar to unprecedented levels. Just check out the following quote from a recent article posted on the website of a local Pennsylvania news station....

“The trend started about three years ago and it has increased significantly we have some stores up 40% from last year,” said Scott Karns owner of seven Karns Supermarkets in central PA.

Sadly, a disproportionate number of those on food stamps are children. Even as you read this article, there are millions of children in the United States that are wondering where their next meal is going to come from.

The following are 20 facts about child hunger and child poverty that will break your heart....

#1 According to one recent study, approximately 21% of all children in the United States were living below the poverty line in 2010. In the UK and in France that figure is well under 10%.

#2 According to the U.S. Census, the number of children living in poverty has gone up by about 2 million in just the past 2 years.
#3 Today, **one out of every four** American children is on food stamps.

#4 It is being projected that **approximately 50%** of all U.S. children will be on food stamps at some point in their lives before they reach the age of 18.

#5 It is estimated that up to **half a million** children may currently be homeless in the United States.

#6 **More than 44 million Americans** are currently on food stamps. That is an all-time record and that number is 18 million higher than it was back at the beginning of 2007.

#7 **48%** of the 44 million Americans that are now on food stamps are children.

#8 According to Feeding America's 2010 hunger study, **more than 37 million Americans** are now being served by food pantries and soup kitchens.

#9 The number of Americans that are going to food pantries and soup kitchens has increased **by 46%** since 2006.

#10 According to Feeding America, **50.2 million Americans** lived in "food insecure households" during 2009.

#11 Even with tens of millions of Americans on food stamps there are still large numbers of Americans that go hungry each night. **According to the BBC**, 15% of all U.S. households experienced a shortage of food at some point during 2009.

#12 **More than 20 million** U.S. children rely on school meal programs to keep from going hungry.

#13 One out of every six Americans is now enrolled **in at least one** government anti-poverty program.

#14 The poorest 50% of all Americans collectively own **just 2.5%** of all the wealth in the United States. Statistically, there are more children in poor households than in wealthy ones.

#15 Child hunger is a major problem all over the world. Approximately **1 billion people** around the world go to bed hungry each night.

#16 A lack of food among pregnant women in developing countries results in **one out of every 6 babies** being born with a low birth weight.

#17 **Approximately 28%** of all children in developing countries are considered to be underweight or have had their growth stunted as a result of malnutrition.

#18 More than 3 billion people, close to half the world's population, **live on less than 2 dollars a day**.

#19 Somewhere in the world someone starves to death **every 3.6 seconds**, and 75% of those are children under the age of five.

#20 **Almost 9 million children** around the world died before they reached their fifth birthday during 2008. Approximately a third of all of those deaths were attributed to hunger and malnutrition.
Most Americans have traditionally thought of "hunger" as something that happens over in Africa or Asia, but that is simply not the case anymore. There are tens of millions of Americans that would be going without enough food if it weren't for the food stamp program, school meal programs, food pantries, soup kitchens and the kindness of religious organizations.

Sadly, as the price of food continues to rise there are tens of millions more Americans that are on fixed incomes or on limited incomes that are going to be facing food insecurity.

The average American now spends approximately 23% of his or her income on food and gas. That is going to rise even higher thanks to all of the new money that the U.S. government and the Federal Reserve have pumped into the financial system.

Inflation is a hidden tax that is very cruel. It hits those with limited resources the hardest.

What are most American families going to do someday when a loaf of bread is 10 dollars and a gallon of milk is 20 dollars?

And it is not just the price of food that is going up.

According to consulting firm Milliman Inc., the average American family of four that is covered by health insurance had an average of $19,393 in health care costs last year.

Many Americans (even if they have insurance) are simply avoiding doctors and avoiding hospitals altogether because they can no longer afford them.

Our whole system is breaking down. As the economy crumbles, frustration and anger are rising. As I have written about previously, the number of Americans that have "gone wild" seems to be increasing.

The following are a couple more examples of this phenomenon....

*When things start falling apart, people start going crazy. Just recently, one man stripped naked while riding a New York city subway. He hurled racial and ethnic slurs at the people around him and physically harassed a couple of people before a cop was able to wrestle him to the ground.

*Another example of this happened in California just a few days ago. An elderly woman pulled out a gun and held up a pregnant woman outside of a Kohl's department store in broad daylight on Mother's Day. When old women start shoving guns in our faces and demanding our money that should be a sign to all of us that things really are starting to fall to pieces.

Things are starting to get crazy but this is just the beginning. Someday when the global economy is in shambles and there is a massive global food crisis, what do you think Americans are going to do when they have been without food for 3 or 4 days and their families are crying out for something to eat?

Don't think that it won't happen. The era of endless amounts of cheap food is coming to an end. There is going to be a massive amount of hunger and poverty in the years to come. So what do all of you think about this? Feel free to leave a comment with your opinion below.
“We Have Failed Our Children”

SECTION 12

HOW IS GUN VIOLENCE DESTROYING OUR CHILDREN?

Children’s Defense Fund (CDF’s) *Protect Children, Not Guns 2010* is a compilation of the most recent and reliable national and state data on gun violence in America. This report provides the latest statistics on firearm deaths by race, age and manner; highlights state gun violence trends and efforts to prevent child access to guns; dispels common myths about guns; and explains the significance of recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions on gun ownership.

With over 280 million guns in civilian hands, the terrible truth is that there is no place to hide from gun violence. Children and teens are not safe from gun violence at school, at home, or anywhere else in America. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 3,042 children and teens died from gunfire in America in 2007—one child or teen every three hours, eight every day, 58 every week. The figure is nearly equal to the total number of U.S. combat deaths in Iraq and four times the number of American combat fatalities in Afghanistan to date. Almost six times as many children and teens—17,523—suffered non-fatal gun injuries and the often lifelong emotional aftermath that follows. In each case it was a gun that ended or changed a young life forever. Gun violence, especially in poor communities, drives thousands of vulnerable young people into the pipeline to prison. This report encourages America to help dismantle the pipeline to prison by standing up and taking action to help protect children from the fatal effects of gun violence.

With over 280 million guns in civilian hands, the terrible truth is that there is no place to hide from gun violence. Children and teens are not safe from gun violence at school, at home, or anywhere else in America. A recent study found that rural and urban children and teens are equally likely to die from firearm injuries. Young people in urban areas are more likely to be homicide victims while rural children and teens are more likely to be victims of suicide or accidental shootings. The CDC estimates that nearly 2 million children live in homes with loaded and unlocked guns.

The epidemic of gun violence is particularly acute among young Black men. In 2007, for the first time, more Black than White children and teens were killed by gun violence. Black males 15 to 19 are more than five times as likely as White males of the same age and more than twice as likely as Hispanic males to be killed by firearms. They also are at substantially greater risk of being injured by gun violence than their White and Hispanic peers. Although their physical injuries heal, the emotional scars typically go untreated, leaving thousands of young survivors of gun violence in a hazy fog of trauma similar to that of soldiers returning from combat.

What will it take for us to stop this senseless loss of young lives? Common sense gun laws can make a difference. States with higher rates of gun ownership and weak gun control laws have the highest rates of firearm deaths of people of all ages. Although polls show that the majority of Americans favor common sense gun control laws that would stem the tide of gun violence, federal and state legislative reform has been difficult to achieve. We need political leaders who will protect our children by enacting legislation to limit the number of guns in our communities, control who can obtain firearms, and ensure that guns in the home are stored safely and securely. But the responsibility to keep our children safe does not end here. Individuals and families must remove guns from their homes, mobilize community support to protect children from gun violence, stress nonviolent values and conflict resolution, refuse to buy or use products for children and teens that glamorize violence, and provide children and teens positive alternatives to the streets where they can feel safe and protected. We must act to end the culture of violence that desensitizes us—young and old—to the value of life. We cannot allow these shots to go unheard. Our children and our society deserve more.

*Hip-Hop Summit Youth Council*
Most American gun crimes are gang-related. As you might imagine, teenagers in urban areas are particularly prone to gang violence. Combining teenage gunfire-related deaths with children’s begs the question: is a 17-year-old gang banger’s death from a drive-by the same as the death of a six-year-old from a negligent discharge? As far as the CDF is concerned, yes. As far as their stats are concerned, yes again.

To their credit, the CDF’s first group of stats breaks down America’s 2007 gun fatalities into three types: homicide, suicide and accidental/unknown. Exactly 683 of those 3,042 children and teens who died from gunfire died by their own hand. Presumably (and I know this is the subject of debate), those children would have killed themselves in some other way if guns hadn’t been available. If you pull suicides out of the equation, that leaves you with 2359 deaths, an unspecified number of which are gang-related.

Given the CDF’s focus on the prevention of firearms accidents though legal restrictions, you can understand their decision to keep accidental firearms deaths in the mix. But it should be noted that 198 children died from the negligent discharge of a firearm (or “unidentified”) in 2007. According to the CDC, 688 children drowned in the same year.

The number of 2007 gun homicides: 2161. An unspecified number of which are gang related.

The CDF’s subsequent arguments, statistics and analysis makes no distinction between children and teens; homicides and suicides and accidents. The “report” constantly conflates children with teens, and lumps all gun deaths together. Which inflates the overall figures for “gun violence” and creates an entirely mistaken impression that Americans are slaughtering their children by the thousands.

The CDF asserts that “sensible” gun control laws are the answer. States that have “sensible” gun laws have lower rates of death by gunfire. Except for Washington, DC. The nation’s capitol clocked in with America’s highest firearms-related childhood death rate: 23.7 per 100,000 children and teens. That’s seven times higher than the next most deadly state, New Mexico.

Note: during 2007, Washington, DC residents were banned from owning handguns.

The CDF report goes on and on and on. If you’re looking for all your gun control bullet points in one chart-packed document, here it is. If you’re looking for ground-breaking research or new ideas for curbing gang violence, forget it. At the end of her Huffington Post piece announcing the “study,” CDF Prez Marian Wright Edelman asks “What is it going to take for adults in America to stand up and say enough to the violence that is terrorizing and killing our children?”

Answer: destroy the argument that says yes, children and teens die from gunfire, but we need firearms to protect our children. And to protect the freedom that we want our children to enjoy. That’s where gun control advocates need to focus their fire: on the deeply held belief that we need guns. Only they can’t win that argument, and they know it. Not because American gun owners are pig-ignorant rednecks who cling to their guns and their religion, despite the carnage around them. Again, American gun owners turn their back on gun control because they consider their right to bear arms vital to their personal safety and security, and the preservation of liberty.

“No enemy without poses as great a threat as the gun enemy within,” Edelman concludes. If only that were true. And as long as the CDF thinks that way, theirs is a lost cause.
The latest data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show that:

- 3,042 children and teens died from gunfire in the United States in 2007—one child or teen every three hours, eight every day, 58 every week.
- 2,161 were homicide victims
- 683 committed suicide
- 198 died in accidental or undetermined circumstances
- 2,665 were boys
- 377 were girls
- 397 were under age 15
- 154 were under age 10
- 85 were under age 5
- 1,499 were Black
- 1,460 were White
- 611 were Latino*
- 43 were Asian or Pacific Islander
- 40 were American Indian or Alaska Native
- Almost six times as many children and teens — 17,523 — suffered non-fatal gun injuries.

- The number of children and teens in America killed by guns in 2007 would fill more than 122 public school classrooms of 25 students each.

- More preschoolers (85) were killed by firearms than law enforcement officers (57) killed in the line of duty.

- In 2007, firearms claimed the lives of 1,499 Black children and teens and 1,460 White children and teens. Gun deaths of Black children and teens surpassed White children and teens for the first time the first year since this data was compiled in 1979 that.

- The vast majority (95%) of firearm deaths of young people occurred among children and teens 10 to 19 years old. In fact, more 10 to 19 year olds die from gunshot wounds than from any other cause except motor vehicle accidents.

- States with higher rates of gun ownership and weak gun control laws have the highest rates of firearm deaths when looking at victims of all ages.
We Have Failed Our Children

SECTION 12-B

Protect-children-not-guns-2010-report

By Robert Farago --- Published September 7, 2010

The United States remains one of the few industrialized countries that place so few restrictions on gun sales. There are more than 270 million privately owned firearms in our country—the equivalent of 9 firearms for every 10 men, women and children.

CLICK HERE Protect Children Not Guns 2010
(http://thetruthaboutguns.com/?attachment_id=18569)

Black males 15 to 19 are more than five times as likely as White males and more than twice as likely as Hispanic and American Indian males to be killed by firearms.

Firearm Death Rates of Males Ages 15–19 by Race and Hispanic Origin, 2007

Black males ages 15 to 19 are more than five times as likely as their White peers and more than twice as likely as their Hispanic peers to be killed by firearms.

1Flavors of Hispanic origin can be of any race.
Calculations by Children's Defense Fund.
According to the United Nations and other sources there are over 197 wars and conflicts going on as of June, 2011. We lack the unity and political power to provide a safe planet for our children, again failing them as a lion would abandon her cubs. The United Nations defines "major wars" as military conflicts inflicting 1,000 battlefield deaths per year. The new millennium began with much of the world consumed in armed conflict or cultivating an uncertain peace. Most of these are civil or "intrastate" wars, fueled as much by racial, ethnic, or religious animosities as by ideological fervor. Most victims are civilians, a feature that distinguishes modern conflicts. During World War I, civilians made up fewer than 5% of all casualties. Today, 75% or more of those killed or wounded in wars are non-combatants.

Africa, to a greater extent than any other continent, is afflicted by war. Africa has been marred by more than 20 major civil wars since 1960. Rwanda, Somalia, Angola, Sudan, Liberia, and Burundi are among those countries that have recently suffered serious armed conflict.

War has caused untold economic and social damage to the countries of Africa. Food production is impossible in conflict areas, and famine often results. Widespread conflict has condemned many of Africa's children to lives of misery and, in certain cases, has threatened the existence of traditional African cultures.

Conflict prevention, mediation, humanitarian intervention and demobilization are among the tools needed to underwrite the success of development assistance programs. Nutrition and education programs, for example, cannot succeed in a nation at war. Billions of dollars of development assistance have been virtually wasted in war-ravaged countries such as Liberia, Somalia, and Sudan. So as you can see, in spite of having a global organization like the UN and the great country on earth with the best minds and military in the world, we have again, as adults and parents “Failed to Protect our children”.

On the bright side, thanks to much public pressure, the United Nations for the first time has finally named some of the military forces and rebel groups that are the most persistent violators of children in armed conflicts, identifying groups in Asia, Africa and Latin America which continue to recruit child soldiers and use them to wage war.

While this action is too late for many like Manju Gurung, a Nepalese girl who was abducted by the Maoists at the age of 13, she addressed the Security Council today to speak “on behalf of all children in armed conflict who face and survive the atrocities of war.”

“They trained me to use .303 rifles, ISAS, SLR, AK-47,” she said. “They also taught us how to make and detonate bombs. We had to wear shorts and short-sleeve shirts and do leopard crawls during trainings and my skin had cuts, scabs and bruises.”

Also addressing the Security Council, UNICEF Deputy Executive Director Hilde Johnson noted that schools were increasingly being targeted by armed groups, an unfortunate reality as illustrated by her recent visit to Chad where she spoke with a group of boys. “I asked them about their hopes for the future. All then had one singular, uniform ambition: education.”
On a positive note, the United Nations estimates the number of child soldiers worldwide has fallen to 250,000 compared to 300,000 five years ago.

U.N. Special Representative Radhika Coomaraswamy says during the past year, a significant number of child soldiers were released by the National Liberation Forces in Burundi and more children are to be released in the Central African Republic and the Philippines as a result of active intervention by the United Nations.

But for the most part, she says negative developments far outweigh the positive ones. In particular, Coomaraswamy highlights the plight of child soldiers in ferocious conflicts in Gaza, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Coomaraswamy says she is also very concerned about the changing nature of conflict, especially in the fight between terrorism and counter-terrorism.

"Children, many of them are used as suicide bombers as well as fighters, on the one hand, that girls schools are attacked on the other. But, we also have a situation where large numbers of children are arrested and detained in the counter-terrorism activity," she said. "And, this is of concern to us. We also are concerned about the collateral damage that often results with child victims." Coomaraswamy says it is critical for the international community to remain steadfast and determined to make those who violate the rights of children be held accountable.
“We Have Failed Our Children”

SECTION 13-A

Wars in the World

*Daily News* on *Wars in the World* and on *New States*

2008
2009
2010
2011

Ongoing Conflicts

List of ongoing Conflicts
(updated on June 22, 2011)

AFRICA:

(19 Countries and 51 between militias-guerrillas and separatist groups involved)

- **Algeria**: fights between regular army and al-Qaeda Organization in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) since 2005 (known in the past as Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC) since 2003)

- **Angola**: fights between regular army and:
  - Front for the Liberation of the Enclave of Cabinda – Military Position (FLEC–PM) secessionist movement from 1975
  - Front for the Liberation of the Enclave of Cabinda – Armed Forces of Cabinda (Flec–Fac)

- **Central African Republic**: fights between regular army and:
  - CPJP (Convention of Patriots for Justice and Peace Movement)
  - FDPC (Democratic Forces for the People of Central Africa)

- **Chad**: fights between regular army and Union of Resistance Forces (URF)

- **Ivory Coast**: fights between “Invisible Commandos” militia and Republican Forces of new-elected president Alassane Ouattara (ended on April 13, 2011)

- **Democratic Republic of Congo**: fights between regular army and:
  - Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) born on 1987 against Congo and Uganda armed forces
  - Popular Front for Justice in Congo
  - Independent Liberation Movement of the Allies known also as (Nzobo ya Lombo)
  - Pro-government militia called Mai Mai Yakutumba
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- Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda or Forces démocratiques pour la libération du Rwanda (FDLR)
- Alliance des patriotes pour un Congo libre et démocratique (APCLS)
- Patriotes résistants congolais (PARECO)

-Djibouti: fights between regular army and rebels of Front for the Restoration of Unity and Democracy (FRUD)

-Eritrea: fights between regular army and:
- Democratic Movement for the Liberation of the Eritrean Kunama (DMLEK)
- Eritrean Salvation Front (ESF)
- Red Sea Afar Democratic Organization (RSADO)
- Continuing tensions of border with Ethiopia and Djibouti

-Ethiopia: fights between regular army and:
- ONLF (Ogaden National Liberation Front) fights for independence of Ogaden from Ethiopia Government from 1984 (accepted to lay down arms in April 2010. On October 12 2010 has signed a peace deal with Government)
- Ogaden National Liberation Army (ONLA) armed wing of ONLF
- Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) fights for independence of Oromo from Ethiopia Government since 1973
- United Western Somali Liberation Front (UWSLF) since 1970 (accepted to lay down arms in April 2010)

-Libya: fights between regular army and rebel fighters anti-Gaddafi supported by NATO (Civil war is going on)

-Mauritania: fights between regular army and:
- Al-Qaeda Organization in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) since 2005 (know in the past as Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC) since 2003)
- Ansar Allah group linked to al-Qaida nel Maghreb islamico (AQMI)

-Nigeria: fights between regular army and:
- Mend (Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta)
- Niger Delta People’s Volunteer Force (NDPVF)
- Boko Haram since 2002

-Rwanda: Rwanda Army against Rwanda Hutu militia

-Senegal: Senegal Army against Casamance Movement of Democratic Forces (MFDC)

-Somalia: fights between regular army and forces of African Union and:
- Al-Shabab somali islamist group
- Hizbul Islam or Islamic Party islamist group (born on 4 February 2009 by the union of 4 groups)
- Hisb al-Islam

Hip-Hop Summit Youth Council
• Sufi Militia Ahlu Sunna Wal–jamaca (ASWJ) (islamist group pro-government against Al–Shabab and Hizbul Islam since March 17 2010)
• Rahanweyn Resistance Army or Reewin Resistance Army (RRA) active in Somalia’s State of Southwestern since 1995

–Somaliland – Puntland: fights between both armies against Sool, Sanag, Cayn (SSC), the armed wing of a group that calls itself Northern Somalia Unionist Movement (NSUM). Puntland army fights against Galgala militia.

–Sudan: fights between islamic North Sudan Government against Christian South Sudan since 2005. Government fights also Darfur population from 2003. Are also reported continuing clashes with rebels:
• Jem (Justice and Equality Movement) since 2006 (it signed a ceasefire with Government on February 2010) (member of alliance of Justice and Equality Movement and Sudan Liberation Movement Minni Minnawi faction)
• Sudan Liberation Movement Minni Minnawi faction (Sla–Minnawi)
• Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM) group, includes 10 smaller rebel groups since February 2010 (it is negotiating a ceasefire with Government since March 2010)
• Sla (Sudan Liberation Army) since 2002
• Sla–Nour (Sudan Liberation Army Abdel Wahid Nour faction)
• National Redemption Front (NRF) since 2006
• Sudan Liberation Movement – Revolutionary Forces (SLM–RF) since 2006
• Sudan People’s Liberation Army/Movement (SPLA/M) and its political wing Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA) or Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM)
• Gatluak Gai militia (active in South Sudan)
• Militia Gabriel Tang, also called Tang Ginye (active in South Sudan)
• Peter Gadet militia (active in South Sudan)
• Philip Bepan militia (active in South Sudan)*

–Uganda: fights between regular army and:
• Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) born on 1987 against Uganda and Congo armed forces
• Al–Shabab somali islamist group

–Western Sahara: Fight of Polisario Front against Maroc occupation

ASIA:

(14 Countries and 59 between militias-guerrillas and separatist groups involved)

Afghanistan: war between regular afghan army and Onu forces against:
• Haqqani Network
• Peshawar Shura (east Afghanistan)
• Quetta Shura
• Hezb–e–Islami Gulbuddin (HIG) since 1977
We Have Failed Our Children

- Hezb-e Islami Khalis (HIK) since 1979
- Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

Burma–Myanmar: fights between regular army and:
- rebels Kachin Independence Army (KIA) armed wing of Kachin Independence Organization (KIO) -> members of the alliance
- ethnic militia of Karen National Union (KNU) whose armed wing is Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) since 1949 -> members of the alliance
- Shan State Army–North (SSA–North) -> members of the alliance
- Karenni Army (KA) armed wing of Karenni National Progressive party (KNPP) -> members of the alliance
- Chin National Front -> members of the alliance
- New Mon State Party -> members of the alliance
- ethnic militia of Kokang (Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDA) or Kokang Democracy Party or Eastern Shan State Army since 1989
- Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA)
- Brigade 5 faction within (DKBA)
- God’s Army (was an offshoot of the Karen National Union)
- Shan rebels of Myanmar Peace and Democracy Front (MPDF)
- rebels of United Wa State Army (UWSP) since 1989
- Lahu National Democratic Front [LNDF]
- Shan State Army–South (SSA–South)
- Mong Tai Army (MTA)
- Palaung State Liberation Front (PSLF)
- United Wa State Army

China: clashes between regular army and Eastern Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM)

India: clashes between regular army and following rebels groups:
- Islamics separatists of Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) since 1977
- Hizbul Mujahideen (HuM) since 1989
- Lashkar–e-Taiba (Let) since 1989
- Maoists of Orissa since 2004
- Maoists Naxalites of Communist Party of India (CPI) of Jharkhand since 1967
- separatists of Nagaland since 1980
- rebels of Assam of (United Liberation Front of Asom) since 1979
- People’s Committee Against Police Atrocities (PCPA)
- National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB)
- People’s Liberation Guerrilla Army
- Some time are reported clashes at border between India army and Pakistan army
- Indian Mujahideen since 2008

Indonesia: fights between regular army and:
- Free Papua Movement Rebels
- Islamist group Jemaah Islamiyah since 1993
- few separatist rebel groups in Aceh
Koreas: Skirmishes at border between North Korea and South Korea

Nepal: fights between regular army and Unified Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) since 1994

Pakistan:
• Rebels of Lashkar-e-Taiba (Let)
• Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)
• Fights between regular army and talibans rebels in (South Waziristan since 2008)
• (Balochistan with Balochistan Liberation Army since 2000)
• Shahzain Bugti’s movement (Balochistan separatists)
• Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM)
• Punjab Taliban
• Abdullah Azzam Shaheed Brigade (AASB) linked to al-Qaeda
• Haqqani Network lead by Jalaluddin Haqqani in North Waziristan linked to al-Qaeda since 2006
• Jihad Islami
• 313 Brigade (a unit of organization called Harkatul Jihad al-Islami)
• Some time are reported clashes between Pakistan army and India army, first war was on 1949

Philippines: fights between regular army and:
• Islamic separatist group Abu Sayyaf since 1990
• Islamic separatist group Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) since 1981
• Revolutionary Proletarian Army–Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPA–ABB) since 1994
• New People’s Army (armed wing of Communist Party of the Philippines) since 1969

Sri Lanka: fights between regular army and Upsurging People’s Force since 2006

Tajikistan: fights between regular army and:
• Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU)
• Armed groups lead by Mirzokhouja Ahmadov and Mullo Sayriddin (surrendered to Government Forces on October 2010)
• Islamic movement Hizb ut–Tahrir

Thailand: fights between regular army and:
• Separatist group Patani Malay National Revolutionary Front Coordinate or (BRN–C)
• Runda Kumpulan Kecil (RKK) since 2004

Kyrgyzstan: fights between regular army and:
• Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU)
• Hizb ut–Tahrir (islamist group)
EUROPE:

(9 Countries and 25 between militias-guerrillas and separatist groups involved)

France: armed actions of:
- National Liberation Front of Corsica (FLNC) previously divided in Brigades Revolutionaries Corses (BRC)
- Armée de Libération Nationale Corse, (ALNC) against French presence in the isle since 1976

Georgia: After war between Georgia and Russia/Abkazia/South Ossezia in 2008, are reported tensions at border

Greece: There are terrorist acts by:
- Revolutionary Struggle (Ea)
- Conspiracy of the Cells of Fire (Spf)
- Sect of Revolutionaries (SR)

Italy:
- Federazione Anarchica Informale (FAI) cellula rivoluzionaria Lambros Fountas since 2003
- Il Silvestre (anarchist ecologist group)
- Gruppi armati patriottici (Gap) since 2011
Federazione Anarchica Informale (FAI) cellula rivoluzionaria Lambros Fountas since 2003

Nagorno-Karabakh: Clashes at Nagorno-Karabakh border between Armenia and Azerbaijan

North Ireland: armed actions of:
- Ulster Defense Association (UDA) since 1971 claims its actions in Northern Ireland under name of Ulster Freedom Fighters (Protestant)
- Red Hand Defenders since 1998 (Protestant)
- Ulster Young Militants since 1974 (Protestant)
- Ulster Resistance since 1989 (Protestant)
- Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) (Protestant)
- Orange Volunteers since 1998 (Protestant)
- Continuity Irish Republican Army (CIRA) or The Continuity IRA since 1986 (republican paramilitary group)
- Real Irish Republican Army or Real Ira since 1997 (Republican)
- Irish Republican Army (created by former members of the Provisional IRA) since April 2011

Russia: Fights between Russian army and:
- Caucasus Mujahideens also called Mujahideen of Idel Ural (Independentist islamic militia chechnya in Chechnya, Ingushetia and Dagestan since 1991)
• Islamic separatist movement of north Caucasus Emirate (Independentist islamic militia chechnya in Chechnya, Ingushetia and Dagestan since 1991)
• Commando delle Province Kabarda, Balkaria e Karachai
• Riyadh–us–Saliheen Martyrs’ Brigade (Comando Mujahideen Ingusceto)
• Far Eastern guerrillas
• Jamaat Nogai (Nogai Battalion) wahabite islamist group
• Caspian terrorist group (present in Dagestan)

Spain: Fights between regular army and Basque Country separatist group Eta since 1968 (September 5 2010 has declared ceasefire)

MIDDLE EAST:
(8 Countries and 51 between militias-guerrillas and separatist groups involved)

Iran: Fights between regular army and:
• sunni group Jundallah or Soldiers of God or People’s Resistance Movement of Iran (PRMI) since 2003
• Partiya Jiyan a Kurdistanê (PJAK) or Party of Free Life of Kurdistan since 2004
• Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization left-wing Islamic group or People’s Mujahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI) (based in Iraq, but against Islamic Republic of Iran) since 1965

Iraq: Fights between regular army and American/english against islamic militias:
• Ba‘athists
• Wahhabiti
• Salafi Islamists
• Shia militias or Mahdi militia or Jaish al–Mahdi (JAM) led by Moqtada al–Sadr since 2003 (military activity suspended on 2008)
• Sahwa a Qaim or Sons of Iraq
• The Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) (linked to al–Qaeda)
• Mujahideen Shura Council (11 sunni groups)
• Alleanza Ilfh al–Motaiyabin (Alliance of scented)
• Ansar al–Islam (kurdish sunni islamist group) since 2001
• Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization left-wing Islamic group or People’s Mujahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI) (based in Iraq, but against Islamic Republic of Iran) since 1965

Israel: Fights between regular army and a list of 5 armed wings, 20 armed groups, 1 faction, 1 armed faction (included 6 political parties):

Hamas (since 1987) armed and political group
| –Izz ad–Din al–Qassam Brigades (armed wing)

Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) (since 1970) armed group
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- Al–Quds Brigades (Jerusalem brigades) (armed wing)

**The Popular Resistance Committees (PRC)** (since 2000) armed group
- Al–Nasser Salah al–Deen Brigades (armed wing)

**Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)** (since 1964) armed group
- Marxist–secular Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) (since 1967) armed group
- Abu Ali Mustapha Brigades (armed wing)
- Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) (since 1969) political party
- Abu Nidal organization (ANO) or Fatah – the Revolutionary Council (FRC) (since 1974) armed group
- Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) (since 1977) armed group
- Arab Liberation Front (ALF) (since 1969) political party
- As–Sa'ïqa or Vanguard for the Popular Liberation War (VPLW) (since 1966) political party
- Palestinian Popular Struggle Front (PPSF) (since 1967) political party
- Palestinian Arab Front (PAF) (since 1968) minor faction
- Fatah or Movement for the National Liberation of Palestine (since 1960) political party
  - Tanzim (since 2000) militant armed faction
  - Force 17 (since 1970) (now as Palestinian Presidential Guard) armed group
- Fatah Special Operations Group (Fatah–SOG) or Martyrs of Tel Al Za'atar, Hawari, and Amn Araissi (since 1970) armed group no more active
- Ahmed Abu Reish Brigade armed group
- Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade (since 2000) armed group
- Al–'Asifah (since 1964) armed wing

More armed groups:

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- Holy Jihad Brigades (since 2006) gruppo armato
- Jamaat Ansar al-Sunna (Iraq salafi group that has a Gaza armed faction)

**Armed groups linked to al-Qaeda**

- Army of Islam (Jaysh al-Islam) or Organization of al-Qaeda in Palestine or Palestine Army of Islam or Tawhid Al Jihad or Jihad Brigades operating in Gaza Strip (split by Al-Nasser Salah al-Deen Brigades). armed group
- Jund Ansar Allah (Allah warriors) (since 2008) armed group
- Fatah al-Islam (since 2006) armed group
- Jaljalat (since 2009) operating in Gaza Strip. armed group
- Lions of the mujahideen in Palestine (since 2010) armed group
- Mohammed Bin Moslama Brigade (salafite group)
- Abu al-Hareth
- Jaysh al-Umma

**Lebanon**: fights between regular army and:
- Islamist group Fatah al-Islam since 2006
- Jund al-Sham
- Osbat al-Ansar or Usbat Al-Ansar (Band of Supporters) since 1990

**Saudi Arabia**: fights between regular army and Houthis rebels since 2009

**Syria**: fights between regular army and armed groups (against Bashar royal family) in north near Turkish border since 2011

**Turkey**: fights between regular army and:
- Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK) rebels since 1978
- Kurdistan Freedom Falcons (TAK) since 2004
- Revolutionary People’s Liberation Party–Front (DHKP/C) since 1978

**Yemen**: fights between regular army and:
- al-Houthi rebels since 2004
- Shia rebels in the northern governorate of Saada
- al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP)
- Al-Janoob al-Har – the Free South (Southern separatist movement)
- Aden–Abyan Army since October 2010
- Clashes between troops loyal to President Ali Abdullah Saleh against troops supporting Gen Ali Mohsen al-Ahmar who has defected to the opposition and tribesmen from the Hashid tribal confederation
**AMERICAS:**

(3 Countries and 11 between drug cartels, militias-guerrillas and separatist groups involved)

**Colombia:** fights between regular army and:
- Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) since 1964
- National Liberation Army (ELN) since 1964

**Mexico:** fights between regular army and:
- Zapatista Army of National Liberation (EZLN), peaceful revolutionary, active in Chiapas State since 1994
- Sinaloa Cartel (Mexican drug Cartel)
- Juarez Cartel (Mexican drug Cartel) with its armed wing La Linea
- Los Zetas Cartel (Mexican drug Cartel)
- Gulf Cartel (Mexican drug Cartel)
- Tijuana Cartel (Mexican drug Cartel)
- La Familia Cartel (Mexican drug Cartel)
- Beltrán–Leyva Cartel (Mexican drug Cartel)

**Peru:** fights between regular army and Shining Path (Partido Comunista del Perú – Sendero Luminoso, PCP–SL) since 196
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SECTION 13-B

Prepare for the Next Conflict: Water Wars

April 18, 2011—huffingtonpost

Every minute, 15 children die from drinking dirty water. Every time you eat a hamburger, you consume 2400 liters of the planet’s fresh water resources — that is the amount of water needed to produce one hamburger. Today poor people are dying from lack of water, while rich people are consuming enormous amounts of water. This water paradox illustrates that we are currently looking at a global water conflict in the making.

We are terrifyingly fast consuming one of the most important and perishable resources of the planet — our water. Global water use has tripled over the last 50 years. The World Bank reports that 80 countries now have water shortages with more than 2.8 billion people living in areas of high water stress. This is expected to rise to 3.9 billion — more than half of the world’s population — by 2030 in a ‘business as usual’-scenario. The status as of today is sobering: the planet is facing a ‘water bankruptcy’ and we are facing a gloomy future where the fight for the ‘blue gold’ is king.

The growing water scarcity is a primary driver for insecurity, instability and conflicts and is currently setting the stage for future water wars — unless global action is taken. This was the main message from a report released last month from the US Senate “Avoiding Water Wars: Water Scarcity and Central Asia’s Growing Importance for Stability in Afghanistan and Pakistan”. The report warned of coming water wars in Central and South Asia due to water scarcity and predicted that it “will be felt all over the world”.

A looming crisis

As little as 0.75 percent of the total water available on earth is accessible fresh water. These 0.75 percent are perhaps the world’s most important resource. Our global economy, our industries and our everyday life runs on this water. But fresh water is a finite and vulnerable resource. In some places, like parts of North America and Europe, water is plentiful, but in most parts of the world the water resources are under stress due to a growing imbalance between a mounting demand for water and shrinking water reserves.

This means that large parts of the world are running out of water. Sana — the capital of Yemen — is likely to be the first capital city to completely run dry in a few years. A paper presented by the World Bank entitled “the Aftermath of Current Situation in the Absence of Work” concluded that Yemen will run out of water in the period between 2020-2050. Some 60 percent of China’s 669 cities are already short of water and the current record drought in several of China’s region is directly linked to the problems with water scarcity.

A decisive factor of the growing water crisis is poor resource management on a global scale; according to the UN, 70 percent of industrial wastes in developing countries are dumped untreated into waters where they pollute the usable water supply; poor drainage and irrigation practices have led to water logging and salinization of approx.10 percent of the world’s irrigated lands according to the UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO); more than 20 pct. of our food production is unsustainable, relying on over pumping of finite groundwater resources.

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For instance, 175 million Indians are fed with grain produced with water from irrigation wells that will soon go dry. In large parts of India, the water table is falling by about 4cm (1.6 inches) per year due to the intense water use. As these water tables fall, will drillers are forced to use modified oil drilling technology to reach fresh water, going as deep as 1000 meters in some locations.

Furthermore, the water demand is increasing rapidly worldwide. Today we use 70 percent of the global water use to produce food. With the prospects of feeding 9 million people in 2050 (an additional 2.5 billion people from today) the industrial, individual, and especially the water demands for agricultural purposes is expected escalate dramatically — by 2050 we shall need 80 percent increase in water supplies just to feed ourselves putting even more pressure on the water resources. This vicious water cycle poses a great threat where a future of water shortage will also mean a future of food shortage. This is enhanced dramatically by a growing global ‘water market’. We are seeing a new trend where farmers in California are selling their water instead of producing crops — because they make more money selling water to the big cities. This means that demand for water in the cities is now draining the areas normally used to produce our food.

The interconnected epidemic

A very important factor of the growing water scarcity is climate change. Many leading organizations such as the UN and NASA agree that climate change is creating additional pressure on the scarce water supplies, due to changes in temperature that boost evaporation rates, altering rainfall patterns, and the melting of ice. They expect the global access to fresh water to be even more hampered by future changes in the climate. In 2007 this dangerous development led the IPCC to conclude that we are to expect an increased strain on water due to climate changes which alone represents a great threat to the world community: “Water and its availability and quality will be the main pressures on and issues for, societies and the environment under climate change”.

A concrete example of the nexus between the water crisis and the climate epidemic is the melting of glaciers in Asia and South America. In both regions, climate change is already causing major water shortages for millions of people whose supplies come from melting snow and glaciers. With higher temperatures and more rapid melting of ice, fewer water supplies are available to farms and cities. The past 30 years rapid melting of the Himalayan glaciers — which supply freshwater to a third of the world’s population — due to climate changes have already made fresh water scarce in parts of Asia.

The worst water-effects of the climate change have yet to emerge. As the climate epidemic spreads and the global warming accelerates, 38 percent of the world’s surface is expected to desertificate and dry out — especially the subtropics and mid-latitudes, where much of the world’s poorest populations live — leading to a severe increase in the gap between supply and demand, to a vast inequality in access to water and thus an exacerbation of the water crisis.

The road to water wars

For years experts have set out warnings of how the earth will be affected by the water crises, with millions dying and increasing conflicts over dwindling resources.

They have proclaimed — in line with the report from the US Senate — that the water scarcity is a security issue, and that it will yield political stress with a risk of international water wars. This has been reflected in the oft-repeated observation that water will likely replace oil as a future cause of war between nations.
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Today the first glimpses of the coming water wars are emerging. Many countries in the Middle East, Africa, Central and South Asia — e.g. Afghanistan, Pakistan, China, Kenya, Egypt, and India — are already feeling the direct consequences of the water scarcity — with the competition for water leading to social unrest, conflict and migration. This month the escalating concerns about the possibility of water wars triggered calls by Zafar Adeel, chair of UN-Water, for the UN to promote “hydro-diplomacy” in the Middle East and North Africa in order to avoid or at least manage emerging tensions over access to water.

The gloomy outlook of our global fresh water resources points in the direction that the current conflicts and instability in these countries are only glimpses of the water wars expected to unfold in the future. Thus we need to address the water crisis that can quickly escalate and become a great humanitarian crisis and also a global safety problem.

A revolution
The current effort is nowhere near what is needed to deal with the water-challenge — the world community has yet to find the solutions. Even though the ‘water issue’ is moving further up the agenda all over the globe: the US foreign assistance is investing massively in activities that promote water security, the European Commission is planning to present a “Blueprint for Safeguarding Europe’s Water” in 2012 and the Chinese government plans to spend $600 billion over the next 10 years on measures to ensure adequate water supplies for the country. But it is not enough. The situation requires a response that goes far beyond regional and national initiatives — we need a global water plan.

With the current state of affairs, correcting measures still can be taken to avoid the crisis to be worsening. But it demands that we act now. We need a new way of thinking about water. We need to stop depleting our water resources, and urge water conservation on a global scale. This calls for a global awareness that water is a very scarce and valuable natural resource and that we need to initiate fundamental technological and management changes, and combine this with international solidarity and cooperation.

In 2009, The International Water Management Institute called for a blue revolution as the only way to move forward: “We will need nothing less than a ‘Blue Revolution’, if we are to achieve food security and avert a serious water crisis in the future” said Dr. Colin Chartres, Director General of the International Water Management Institute. This meaning that we need ensure “more crop per drop”: while many developing countries use precious water to grow 1 ton of rice per hectare, other countries produce 5 tons per hectare under similar social and water conditions, but with better technology and management. Thus, if we behave intelligently, and collaborate between neighbors, between neighboring countries, between North and South, and in the global trading system, we shall not ‘run out of water’. If we do not, and “business as usual” prevails, then water wars will accelerate.
“We Have Failed Our Children”

**SECTION 13-C**

**The state of the world**

*brief introduction to global issues*

**peace, war & conflict**

There have been over 250 major wars in the world since World War II, in which 23 million people have been killed, tens of millions made homeless, and countless millions injured and bereaved. Over 37 (or 42) million people have by killed by wars in the 20th century. Three times more people have been killed in wars in the last 90 years than in all the previous 500.

There are over 35 major conflicts going on in the world today. In armed conflicts since 1945, 90 per cent of casualties have been civilians. 3 out of 4 fatalities of war are women and children.

In the wars of the last decade, more children were killed than soldiers. In the last decade, child victims of war include an estimated 2 million killed, 4 to 5 million disabled, 12 million left homeless, and more than 1 million orphaned.

There are 300,000 child soldiers in the world.

Landmines maim or kill approximately 26,000 civilians every year, including 8,000 to 10,000 children. At least 75% of landmine victims are civilians. It is estimated that there are between 60 and 70 million landmines in the ground in at least 70 countries.

More than 500 million small arms and light weapons are in circulation around the world. In major conflicts since 1990, they have caused 4 million deaths - about 90 per cent of them civilians, and 80 per cent women and children.

There are approximately 30,000 nuclear warheads in the world today. Some 5,000 nuclear weapons are on hair-trigger alert, ready to be launched on a few minutes notice.

Current global military spending is approximately $800 billion per year; more than the total annual income of the poorest 45% of the global population.

Genocide and other mass murders killed more people in the 20th century than all wars combined. Between 54 and 80 million people have been killed in genocides in the last century. Between 170 and 360 million people have been killed, in total, by governments (genocide) in the 20th century, apart from war.

**human rights & social justice**

33% of the world's people live under authoritarian, non-democratic regimes. 35% of the world's people live in countries in which basic political rights and civil liberties are denied (such as freedom of speech, religion, press, fair trials, democratic political processes, etc).
1 billion people - 1/3rd of the world's labor force, is unemployed or underemployed. An estimated 27 million people are enslaved around the world, including an estimated 20 million people held in bonded labor (forced to work in order to pay off a debt, also known as 'debt bondage'). At least 700,000 people annually, and up to 2 million, mostly women and children, are victims of human trafficking worldwide (a modern form of slavery -- bought, sold, transported and held against their will in slave-like conditions).

About 246 million, or 1 out of 6, children ages 5 to 17 worldwide are involved in child labor. Nearly three-fourths of these, about 180 million children, including 110 million under age 15, are exposed to the worst forms of, or hazardous, child labor. Some estimated 8.4 million children are trapped in the most abhorrent forms of child labor - slavery, trafficking, debt bondage, prostitution, pornography and other such activities.

Women account for 70 percent of the world's people who live in absolute poverty. Women work two-thirds of the world's working hours, produce half of the world's food, and yet earn only 10% of the world's income and own less than 1% of the world's property. Worldwide, a quarter of all women are raped during their lifetime. Depending on the country, 25 to 75 percent of women are regularly beaten at home. Between 10% and 50% of women report they have been physically abused by an intimate partner in their lifetime. Over 120 million women have undergone female genital mutilation. Women hold only 12% of parliamentary seats worldwide. Women account for 2/3rd of the world's illiterate adults, and girls account for 2/3rd of the world's children without access to education.

In 1998, extrajudicial executions were carried out in 47 countries, 'disappearances' occurred in 37 countries, torture occurred in 125 countries, prisoners of conscience were held in 78 countries, unfair trials for political prisoners occurred in 35 countries, detentions without charge or trial occurred in 66 countries, executions were carried out in 36 countries, and human rights abuses were committed by armed opposition groups in 37 countries.

There are over 45 million refugees and internally displaced people in the world.

www.worldrevolution.org/projects/.
Armed conflict blocking efforts to achieve universal primary schooling, UN warns

1 March 2011 –

Armed conflict is robbing 28 million children of an education by exposing them to widespread rape and other sexual violence, targeted attacks on schools and other human rights abuses, according to a United Nations report issued today.

The number accounts for 42 per cent of the primary school age children globally not enrolled in school and living in poor countries affected by conflict, the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) warned in its 2011 Global Monitoring Report, which also set out a comprehensive agenda for change – including tougher action against human rights violations, an overhaul of global aid priorities and strengthened rights for displaced people.

“Armed conflict remains a major roadblock to human development in many parts of the world, yet its impact on education is widely neglected,” UNESCO’s Director-General, Irina Bokova, said, noting that the report – The hidden crisis: Armed conflict and education – documents the scale of this problem, identifies its root causes and offers solid proposals for change.

The world is not on track to achieve the six Education for All goals that over 160 countries signed up to at the World Education Forum in 2000 in Dakar, Senegal, with the aim of achieving 100 per cent child enrolment in primary schools by 2015, the report stresses – the report itself is the prime instrument to assess global progress towards achieving the six goals.

The report added that the number of children out of school stood at 67 million in 2008 – the most recent year in which the data was compiled – and is falling too slowly to meet the target, which will be missed by a wide margin, especially in regions driven by conflict.

Rape and other forms of sexual violence have been widely used as a war tactic in many countries and insecurity and fear associated with sexual violence keep young girls, in particular, out of school. Although the international courts set up after the wars in the former Yugoslavia and genocide in Rwanda have firmly established rape and other forms of sexual violence as war crimes, these acts remain widely deployed weapons of war.

Of the rapes reported in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), one third involve children, with 13 per cent against children under ten, the report states. It calls for the end to a culture of impunity surrounding sexual violence, stronger monitoring of human rights violations affecting education, and creation of an International Commission on Rape and Sexual Violence backed by the International Criminal Court.

Unreported rape in conflict-affected areas in eastern DRC may be ten to 20 times the reported level, and the report warns that sexual violence has a devastating impact on education, impairing learning potential, creating a climate of fear that keeps girls at home, and leading to family breakdown that deprives children of a nurturing environment.
“We Have Failed Our Children”

“Children and education are not just getting caught in the cross-fire, they are increasingly the targets of violent conflict,” the report’s director, Kevin Watkins, said. “The failure of governments to protect human rights is causing children deep harm – and taking away their only chance of an education. It is time for the international community to bring to account the perpetrators of heinous crimes like systematic rape, and to back UN resolutions with decisive action.”

The report is endorsed by four Nobel Peace Prize laureates: Oscar Arias Sánchez of Costa Rica, Shirin Ebadi of Iran, José Ramos-Horta of Timor-Leste and Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa. In an introduction to the report, Archbishop Tutu said “it documents in stark detail the sheer brutality of the violence against some of the world’s most vulnerable people, including its schoolchildren, and it challenges world leaders of all countries, rich and poor, to act decisively.”

The reports note that 35 countries were affected by armed conflict from 1999 to 2008. Children and schools are on the front line of these conflicts, with classrooms, teachers and pupils seen as legitimate targets. In Afghanistan, at least 613 attacks on schools were recorded in 2009, up from 347 in 2008.

Insurgents in north-western Pakistan have made numerous attacks on girls’ schools, including one in which 95 girls were injured. In north Yemen, 220 schools were destroyed, damaged or looted during fighting in 2009 and 2010 between government and rebel forces.

Armed conflict is also diverting public funds from education into military spending, the report warns. Many of the poorest countries spend significantly more on arms than on basic education. If 21 of these countries were to cut military spending by just ten per cent, they could put 9.5 million more children in school.

Military spending is also diverting the resources of aid donor countries – it would take just six days of military spending by rich countries to close the $16 billion Education for All external financing gap.

Donors’ security agendas have led them to focus on a small group of countries while neglecting many of the world’s poorest countries. Aid for basic education has increased more than fivefold in Afghanistan over the past five years, but it has stagnated or risen more slowly in countries such as Chad and the Central African Republic, and declined in Côte d’Ivoire. Education accounts for just two percent of humanitarian aid and only a small fraction of requests for humanitarian aid for education are met.

The report also warns that education failures are fuelling conflict. In many conflict-affected countries, over 60 per cent of the population is aged under 25, but education systems are not providing youth with the skills needed to escape poverty, unemployment and the economic despair that often contributes to violent conflict.

**News Tracker: past stories on this issue**

UN chief encourages philanthropists to invest more in education
NOW LET’S LOOK AT HOW WE ARE FAILING OUR CHILDREN IN THE AREAS OF ONE OF THEIR MOST IMPORTANT BASIC NEEDS, 
**EDUCATION, WHICH HAPPENS TO BE THE SECOND MDG AND THEIR KEY TO FREEDOM.** Education in every country in 
some kind of way is under Attack. Violence against Students, Teachers and Schools seems to be the norm, as 
incidents of violence against students, teachers, union and government officials and schools are on the rise 
worldwide. A recently published UNESCO report, "Education under Attack 2010," finds that political and 
military violence targeted at education has been reported in at least 32 countries over the past three years. In 
situations of armed conflict and insecurity, deliberate threats against students, academics, teachers and education 
facilities create a barrier to accessing quality education. The report examines the nature and extent of the 
problem, as well as its impact on education and development, while offering opportunities for action. This new 
evidence has spurred the recent formation of the Global Coalition for Protecting Education from attacks.

This report is launched together with a second UNESCO publication entitled *Protecting Education from Attack: A 
State-of-the-Art Review*, in which several experts take critical stock of knowledge on prevention and response, 
with respect to both international law and interventions on the ground. The review also shares the 
recommendations generated by a seminar on the subject held in Paris in 2009. The publication of these reports 
has been made possible by the generous support of Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser al-Misned of 
Qatar, UNESCO Special Envoy for Basic and Higher Education, whose work in recent years has helped bring the 
issue of attacks on education to the attention of international policy-makers and the wider public. The two texts 
comprise both an assessment of the current situation and a call to action, in the face of violence that appears to be 
rising dramatically, following a more general pattern of increased attacks on civilians and aid workers in recent 
years.

Three years ago, when UNESCO commissioned the first *Education under Attack* study, the problem was little 
known. *Education under Attack 2010* notes growing awareness within United Nations agencies, non- 
governmental organizations (NGOs) and public opinion of the recurring nature of these attacks, which are not 
extceptional or isolated incidents. Above all, the report demonstrates that the destruction of schools and the 
murder of students and teachers are not limited to acts by the Taliban in Afghanistan or Pakistan in opposition to 
the education of girls and women. The 2010 report reveals that the problem is much more extensive. Education 
was attacked in at least 31 countries between January 2007 and July 2009. Often, an attack on the educational 
system represents an attack on the State. Conversely, certain States or paramilitary organizations may target 
aacemics in order to neutralize real or imagined opponents.

The report also covers the issue of child soldiers – the number of which is currently estimated at 250,000 
worldwide. Abductions are frequently carried out for the purpose of forced recruitment or sexual violence against 
girls. The report expresses particular concern about the systematic nature of crimes committed and sinister tactics 
used in several countries against teachers, pupils and unionized education workers. The report also examines the 
reasons why attacks on education often attract little attention and it points to the role that the International 
Criminal Court (ICC) could play in strengthening accountability and ending impunity for such attacks.

Finally, while we have limited information on the effectiveness of protective measures and negotiations with 
armed groups, O’Malley lists possible solutions: providing armed guards at schools or for transport to or from 
school, encouraging community defense of schools, providing distance learning where it is too dangerous to 
attend classes, relocating schools within community homes to make them less visible targets, and providing rapid 
repair and resupply of educational materials.
On November 12, 2008, two motorcyclists rode up to a group of schoolgirls and teachers on their way to Mirwais Nika Girls’ High School in Kandahar, southern Afghanistan, and repeatedly threw battery acid over them. The attack left at least one girl blinded and two permanently disfigured. The attackers were reportedly paid 100,000 Pakistani rupees ($1,187 for each of the 15 girls they were able to burn).

It was one of a growing number of attacks on students and teachers in Afghanistan – and one of thousands of incidents in countries across the world in recent years that have resulted in the kidnapping, imprisonment, beating, torture, burning alive, shooting or blowing up of students, teachers and academics, and other education staff by rebels, armies, criminal groups and repressive regimes. The effects on education of such incidents will be felt long after the funerals through the loss of teachers and intellectuals; the flight of students and staff; grief and psychological distress and trauma among students and personnel; fear of turning up to class; damage to buildings, materials and resources; staff recruitment difficulties; shelving of investment; and degradation of the education system. At a UN General Assembly thematic debate on Education in Emergencies in March 2009, which focused on this escalating problem, Miguel D’Escoto Brockmann, the President of the UN General Assembly, called on all states to develop policies to ‘protect schools and make them safe havens’. He demanded that governments criminalize attacks on schools as war crimes and prosecute offenders routinely and systematically.

Attacks on exam halls and exam transport or ministry or local district offices and officials to undermine the functioning of the education system; Abduction of children and some adults to fill the ranks of rebel or armed forces or provide forced labor, sexual services and/or logistical support; Abduction for ransom; Sexual violence by members of armed groups, soldiers or security forces as a tactic of war or due to disrespect for gender rights; Attacks on students, teachers or academics for involvement in trade union activity; Attacks on students and academics to silence political opposition or prevent the voicing of alternative views; Attacks on students and academics to silence human rights campaigns; Attacks on academics to limit research on sensitive topics; Occupation of schools for security/military operations by security forces/armed forces/armed groups and attacks on such schools because they are occupied or in military use; Destruction of education institutions by invading forces as a tactic of defeating the enemy; Destruction of education buildings in revenge for, or to deter, mortar/rocket/stoning attacks launched from inside them or nearby.

Advocacy and Solutions

The international community should promote respect for schools and other education institutions as sanctuaries and zones of peace in order to protect the right to education. Further advocacy work is required to increase awareness of how attacks on education: Violate existing human rights instruments; Harm education systems and attempts to achieve Education for All; and Undermine development, and contribute to fragility and conflict. UN agencies, NGOs and teacher unions should campaign for international solidarity with targeted groups and institutions and press for human rights instruments to be invoked to punish the perpetrators of attacks on education. Education organizations should engage with the media to encourage coverage of attacks and their impact in order to improve accountability and response to attacks. This should include coverage of the long-term impact of attacks on education, education systems and efforts to achieve Education for All. The international and national media should recognize their critical role in bringing such attacks to global attention and commit to reporting on them. Training and guidance should be provided to the media on how attacks on education violate human rights instruments.
“We Have Failed Our Children”

The international community should consider providing funding to help capacity-building for local protection of education. UN country teams, peacekeepers and governments, where the security situation and safety concerns allow, should encourage negotiations among education and community stakeholders and parties to armed conflict to reach agreement on respect for schools as safe sanctuaries and the re-opening of closed schools. In situations where there is a pattern of attacks on or abduction of schoolboys or schoolgirls on the way to or from school for recruitment as child soldiers/forced laborers or for rape, governments should find ways to provide safe transport of students to and from school.

The international community should support the use of national, regional and international courts to bring perpetrators of attacks on education to account (for example via advocacy, sponsorship of legal scholarship on relevant subjects, and monitoring trials). Governments and the international community should consider ways to strengthen the protection of higher education in international humanitarian and human rights law.

On monitoring and reporting Recognizing the limited attention paid to attacks on schools by the current MRM on Children and Armed Conflict, the Security Council should demonstrate its commitment to the right to education by establishing attacks on schools as a trigger violation for UN Security Council listing of parties committing violations against children in armed conflict, requiring monitoring and reporting and time-bound action plans.

Measures should be taken to encourage better training for military lawyers, commanders and soldiers on the application of humanitarian and human rights law to the protection of education buildings, students and personnel and inclusion of the issue in military manuals. Governments should use every opportunity to set conditions of adherence to human rights norms, with particular reference to the rights of children, the right to education, the right to academic freedom and protection of both educational institutions and the process of education when entering trade or aid agreements with parties to a conflict.
“We Have Failed Our Children”

**SECTION 15**

**OUR CHILDREN AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**

After 20 years, the US still won’t sign the child’s rights treaty

*by Evan Moulson October 13, 2010*

I read a story today on the UN News Centre that shocked me: the United States and Somalia are the only two countries in the world not to have ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). This convention, according to the story, “is the first legally binding international instrument to incorporate the full range of human rights – civil, cultural, economic, political and social – for youngsters under 18.”

That intrigued me – I wonder what “the full range of human rights” is defined as.

As it turns out, under the CRC, children (defined as people under the age of majority) have the rights to life, freedom of expression, freedom of association, freedom of religion and conscience, privacy… hmmm… does this sound familiar at all? Because it sounds to me like the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child was modeled directly on the United States’ Bill of Rights and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Why, then, would the United States refuse to sign the convention?

Is it in some way abhorrent to basic American values? Evidently not, if it was modeled on one of the foundational documents of American democracy. In fact, during his 2008 campaign, President Obama declared that he would push to ratify the treaty (which has been in force for **20 years**).

Is it, then, stuck because of political concerns? According to the UN News article, the major sticking point was that the convention disallowed the execution of children (which the US apparently endorsed) but this point was rendered moot in 2005 when the United States Supreme Court declared, in a 5-4 vote, that executing a minor was unconstitutional.

However, according to the UN News report, “some people” (presumably with some degree of say over the issue of ratification) believe that the CRC is pro-abortion rights and “pro-adolescent health”. I won’t get into the former claim (to put it shortly, the CRC is not pro-abortion) but the latter objection just makes me laugh. Do Americans seriously think that advancing adolescent health is a bad thing? If so, then Tufts should be chastised for its provision of excellent health services (including, *gasp*, free flu shots!).

No, Yanghee Lee, the Chair of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, said that she believes that “the lack of political will is the biggest reason” for the United States not ratifying a twenty year old convention intended to protect the rights of children. It is little wonder that Congress is sitting on 20% positive approval ratings when it can only be bothered to muster as much political will (or rather, not muster the will) as Somalia, a country that has **no effective government at all**.

The United States has a history of ignoring or refusing to recognize treaties, conventions, or specific parts of treaties for its own purposes (for an example, look no further than the Rome Statute, establishing the International Criminal Court). This is the time to end that history. With the midterm elections coming up, America must make a commitment to live up to its duties on the international stage.

*Hip-Hop Summit Youth Council*
WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court ruled Monday that juveniles cannot be sentenced to life without parole for crimes other than murder, in a significant 5-4 decision that says imposing such sentences violates the Constitution's prohibition on "cruel and unusual" punishment.

The court's 5-4 decision — which says that an automatic life sentence for a young offender who has not committed murder violates the Constitution's ban on "cruel and unusual" punishment — wipes out laws in 37 states. It means that the 129 juveniles now serving time under such laws will, at some point, have an opportunity to make a case for parole. Most significantly, the decision — signed by the nine-member court's four more liberal justices and Anthony Kennedy, the conservative who votes with the liberals the most — emphasizes that young criminals are different from adults. And not just when it comes to the death penalty, which the court made off-limits for juveniles in 2005.

"A life without parole sentence improperly denies the juvenile offender a chance to demonstrate growth and maturity," Kennedy wrote for the majority in the decision that found life without parole disproportionally harsh. The decision immediately generated debate over where the court would go in the future regarding juvenile rights, including the possibility that it could strike down life-without-parole for juvenile murderers.

An estimated 2,500 juvenile defendants in the USA are serving life-without-parole sentences — the vast majority for homicides. Hornberger and the Equal Justice Initiative's Stevenson said they hope the court decision inspires a re-examination of harsh sentencing policies, including automatic life without parole for juvenile murderers.

"It's an important win not only for kids who have been condemned to die in prison but for all children who need additional protection and recognition in the criminal justice system," said Stevenson, who had represented a second juvenile whose case was before the court. Kennedy also addressed the court's different handling of the death penalty from all other punishments in past cases: "It is true that a death sentence is unique in its severity and irrevocability, yet life without parole sentences share some characteristics with death sentences that are shared by no other sentences." Life without a chance of parole, Kennedy said, "deprives the convict of the most basic liberties without giving hope."

That ruling in 2005 spared several dozen young murderers from a possible execution. Monday's ruling gives new hope — but no guarantee of release — to at least 129 prisoners nationwide who were given life terms for crimes such as robbery or assault that took place before they were 18 years old. Because juveniles are not fully mature, Kennedy said, they do not deserve the same harsh punishment as adults who commit the same crimes.

I'd also note that insofar as juveniles have now won a right to a parole hearing, we might question how meaningful of a right that really is (notwithstanding the "some meaningful opportunity" language) given that in many states, parole hearings have become a sort of charade in which the prisoner can never actually win release, because the parole board routinely denies parole eligibility based solely upon the facts of the underlying crime, which is the one thing that the prisoner, of course, can never change. I am not too familiar with how parole works in Florida, which is home to most of the country's juvenile LWOP prisoners, but I’ve blogged previously about challenges to rubber-stamp parole boards in Virginia and Michigan.
Death penalty: China challenged to end executions secrecy

China, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, USA top execution table

Amnesty’s report, Death Sentences and Executions in 2009, shows that after China the worst offending countries were Iran (at least 388 executions), Iraq (at least 120), Saudi Arabia (at least 69) and the USA (52). (A full list is available). Overall, Amnesty’s report emphasizes that 2009 saw a continued trend toward global abolition of the death penalty. The number of countries that have removed capital punishment for all crimes rose to 95, after Burundi and Togo completely abolished the penalty. Last year was also the first ever year that Amnesty recorded no executions whatsoever in the whole of Europe. However, last week Belarus - the only remaining executioner in Europe - executed two prisoners, only informing relatives after the fact. Meanwhile, across the whole of the Americas, the USA was the only country in 2009 to resort to capital punishment and even there the number of new death sentences (106) was the lowest since the country resumed executions in 1977.
“We Have Failed Our Children”

SECTION 15-C

New York Finds Extreme Crisis in Youth Prisons

By NICHOLAS CONFESSORE---Published: December 13, 2009

ALBANY — New York’s system of juvenile prisons is broken, with young people battling mental illness or addiction held alongside violent offenders in abysmal facilities where they receive little counseling, can be physically abused and rarely get even a basic education, according to a report by a state panel.

The problems are so acute that the state agency overseeing the prisons has asked N.Y.’s Family Court judges not to send youths to any of them unless they are a significant risk to public safety, recommending alternatives, like therapeutic foster care. “NYS current approach fails the young people who are drawn into the system, the public whose safety it is intended to protect, and the principles of good governance that demand effective use of scarce state resources,” said the confidential draft report, which was obtained by The N.Y. Times.

The report, prepared by a task force appointed by Gov. David A. Paterson and led by Jeremy Travis, president of the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, comes three months after a federal investigation found that excessive force was routinely used at four prisons, resulting in injuries as severe as broken bones and shattered teeth.

The situation was so serious the Department of Justice, which made the investigation, threatened to take over the system. But according to the task force, the problems uncovered at the four prisons are endemic to the entire system, which houses about 900 young people at 28 facilities around the state. While some prisons for violent and dangerous offenders should be preserved, the report calls for most to be replaced with a system of smaller centers closer to the communities where most of the families of the youths in custody live. The task force was convened in 2008 after years of complaints about the prisons, punctuated by the death in 2006 of an emotionally disturbed 15-year-old boy at one center after two workers pinned him to the “I was not proud of my state when I saw some of these facilities,” Mr. Travis said in an interview on Friday.

The Task Force provides 20 recommendations that offer a framework for an effective juvenile justice system.

• Reserving institutional placement for youth who pose a significant risk to public safety and ensuring that no youth is placed in a facility because of social service needs.
• Reducing the disproportionate representation of youth of color in institutional placement.
• Ensure that New York State operates a unified and cohesive system of care that keep all youth in its custody safe whether in private or state run facilities.
• Downsizing or closing underutilized facilities, and reinvesting those savings in communities.
• Making facilities more conducive to positive youth development and rehabilitation.
• Limiting the amount of time youth spend in institutional facilities.
• Establish an independent, external oversight body to monitor and report on juvenile justice policies and practices.

More than 1,600 youth enter NYS institutional placement facilities (youth prisons) each year at an estimated annualized cost of $210,000 per child. Yet many of these youth leave more angry, fearful, or violent than when they entered. In September 2008, Governor David A. Paterson created the Task Force on Transforming Juvenile Justice to help the state shift from its punitive approach toward a rehabilitative, treatment-focused model of care that promotes public safety, holds youth accountable for their actions, and produces positive outcomes for young people and their families. In this report, the Task Force offers 20 recommendations for reducing the use of institutional placement and expanding alternatives; eliminating inequities across the system, particularly those that disproportionately impact youth of color; improving the supports and services provided to young people in state custody and upon release; and ensuring system accountability and transparency.
BJS Bureau of Justice Statistics

Total correctional population

Summary findings

- In 2009, over 7.2 million people were on probation, in jail or prison, or on parole at yearend — 3.1% of all U.S. adult residents or 1 in every 32 adults.

- The total correctional population declined (down 0.7% or 48,800 offenders) during 2009, the first decline observed in the population since the Bureau of Justice Statistics began reporting this population in 1980.

- At yearend 2009 a total of 4,203,967 adult men and women were on probation and 819,308 were on parole or mandatory conditional release following a prison term.

- State and federal prison authorities had jurisdiction over 1,613,740 prisoners at yearend 2009: 1,405,622 under state jurisdiction and 208,118 under federal jurisdiction.

- Local jails held 760,400 adults awaiting trial or serving a sentence at midyear 2009.
Incarceration in the United States

The United States has the highest documented incarceration rate in the world. The U.S. incarceration rate on June 30, 2009 was 748 inmates per 100,000 U.S. residents, or 0.75%. The USA also has the highest total documented prison and jail population in the world. According to the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) 7,225,800 people at yearend 2009 were on probation, in jail or prison, or on parole — about 3.1% of adults in the U.S. resident population, or 1 in every 32 adults.

As of June 2009, 2,297,400 were incarcerated in U.S. prisons and jails. In addition, there were 92,854 held in juvenile facilities as of the 2006 Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement (CJR), conducted by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

The federal government, states, counties, and many individual cities have facilities to confine people. Generally, "prison" refers to facilities for holding convicted felons (offenders who commit crimes where the sentence is at least one year). Individuals awaiting trial, being held pending citations for non-custodial offenses, and those convicted of misdemeanors (crimes which carry a sentence of less than one year), are generally held in county jails. In most states, cities operate small jail facilities, sometimes simply referred to as "lock-ups", used only for very short-term incarceration—can be held for up to 72 business hours or up to five days—until the prisoner comes before a judge for the first time or receives a citation or summons before being released or transferred to a larger jail. Some states have "unified" systems, in which all the jails and prisons are operated by the state. The federal government also operates various "detention centers" in major urban areas or near federal courthouses to hold criminal defendants appearing in federal court.

Population

American prisons and jails held 2,297,400 inmates in 2009. Approximately one in every 18 men in the United States is behind bars or being monitored. A significantly greater percentage of the American population is in some form of correctional control even though crime rates have declined by about 25% from 1988-2008. 70% of prisoners in the United States are non-whites. In recent decades the U.S. has experienced a surge in its prison population, quadrupling since 1980, partially as a result of mandated sentences that came about during the "war on drugs." Violent crime and property crime have declined since the early 1990s.

As of 2009, the three states with the lowest ratio of imprisoned to civilian population are Maine (150 per 100,000), Minnesota (189 per 100,000), and New Hampshire (206 per 100,000). The three states with the highest ratio are Louisiana (881 per 100,000), Mississippi (702 per 100,000) and Oklahoma (657 per 100,000).

Nearly one million of those incarcerated in state and federal prisons, as well as local jails, are serving time for committing non-violent crimes. In 2009, 92.9% of prisoners were male. Blacks accounted for 38.2% of the prison population, despite making up just 12.4% of the general population. Similarly, Hispanics are over-represented in the prison population, accounting for 20.7% of those incarcerated. The incarceration rate for black males is over six times the rate for white males, and 2.6 times the rate for Hispanic males.
The British game show *Quite Interesting* hosted by the comedic actor Stephen Fry tackles the subject of the American gaol (the Oxford Dictionary spelling of jail) population. As always, the erudite QI uncovers some statistical gems demonstrating how insane our criminal justice policy is.

- The U.S. has the highest documented incarceration rate in the world with nearly 1% of the population behind bars. One in ninety-nine adults are behind bars. No society in history has imprisoned more of its citizens than the U.S.

- There are more black 17 year olds in prison than in college.

- As a percentage of the population, we imprison more than twice as much as South Africa. Our rate of incarceration is more than three times higher than Iran's and more than six times higher than China's.

- As Stephen Fry notes, prisons are a big business going as far as suggesting that we have re-invented the slave trade. Perhaps, that's a bit much but it's also hard to ignore that prisons are a big business in the United States. While it is illegal to import manufactured goods made by forced prison labor, it's not illegal to produce them domestically. Take the Federal Prison Industries (FPI), a self-sustaining, self-funded corporation established in 1934 by executive order, who employs more than 30,000 inmates in over 100 FPI factories in prisons across the US. UNICOR's "employees" have grown by a third in the last decade. FPI, who manufactures under the trade name UNICOR, manufactures products such as office furniture, clothing, beds and linens, electronics equipment, and eyewear. It also offers services including data entry, bulk mailing, laundry services, recycling, and refurbishing of vehicle components. 21% of U.S. manufactured office furniture is produced by prison labor.

- Minimum estimate of annual value of prison and jail industrial output exceeded $2 billion dollars in 2006 with FPI accounting for over a quarter of that amount. In 2009, FPI reported sales of $885 million. The minimum wage paid at a UNICOR plants is $0.23 an hour. By way of comparison, the minimum wage paid in Haiti is $0.30 an hour while the average hourly earnings of a non-prisoner U.S. worker making office furniture: $13.04.

- Nevada pays its prison work force $0.13 an hour. Georgia and Texas do not pay a wage at all.

**Here are some other disturbing facts:**

- The United States has just over 4% of the world's population, but over 25% of the world's prison population.

- The People's Republic of China ranks second with 1.5 million incarcerated people, while having four times the population, thus having only about 18% of the U.S. incarceration rate.

- On a per capita basis, the United States has the highest prison population rate in the world with 756 per 100,000 of the national population behind bars We are followed by Russia (629), Rwanda (604), St Kitts & Nevis (588), Cuba (c.531), U.S. Virgin Is. (512), British Virgin Is. (488), Palau (478), Belarus (468), Belize (455), Bahamas (422), Georgia (415), American Samoa (410), Grenada (408) and Anguilla (401).

- According to the US Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS): "In 2008, over 7.3 million people were on probation, in jail or prison, or on parole at yearend — 3.2% of all U.S. adult residents or 1 in every 31 adults.
The country's prison population topped 2 million incarcerated people for the first time in history on June 30, 2002 meaning that the US prison population has grown by nearly 50% in just 8 years. At yearend 2008, the total incarcerated population equaled 2,424,279 inmates.

The majority (62.6%) of these incarcerated people were held in state or federal correctional facilities. Another 32.4% of these inmates were held in local jails.

70% of prisoners in the United States are non-whites even though non-whites make up only about a third of the US populations. One out of every 20 black males over the age of 18 is in prison. That compares to one in 180 white males over the age of 18. In five states, between one in 13 and one in 14 black men is in prison. One in nine African-American males will spend at least one year in jail over the course of their lifetimes.

Most drug offenders are white - 5 times as many whites use drugs as blacks -- yet blacks comprise the great majority of drug offenders sent to prison. Of the 253,300 state prison inmates serving time for drug offenses at yearend 2005, 113,500 (44.8%) were black, 51,100 (20.2%) were Hispanic, and 72,300 (28.5%) were white.

The non-violent prison population, alone, is larger than the combined populations of Wyoming and Alaska.

According to the American Corrections Association, the average daily cost per state prison inmate per day in the US is $67.55. State prisons held 253,300 inmates for drug offenses in 2005. That means states spent approximately $17,110,415 per day to imprison drug offenders, or $6,245,301,475 per year.

You can learn more at the Prison Policy Initiative and at Drug War Facts.

"The Playground Jail"

Adults often start conversations with children by asking them what they want to be when they grow up. We tell them to dream big, and encourage them by giving them pretend doctor’s kits, fancy dress-up clothes, and other toys that let them imitate adult life. Now, imagine you’re a parent, and in the middle of your neighborhood, there is a playground. Of course you’d want that playground to be a joyful, creative space. If your neighborhood were a crowded public housing development in the middle of a city, the chance to bring your children to a small outdoor sanctuary where they could stretch their bodies and imaginations would be even more precious. You might hope the jungle gym would include a pretend steering wheel, storefront, or spaceship, like the equipment in thousands of playgrounds across the country. Imagine, then, if instead the “sanctuary” the city provided for your children featured a pretend jail.

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“We Have Failed Our Children”

That’s just what happened in New York City, where for years toddlers living in a violence-racked neighborhood in Brooklyn were encouraged to dream they were in jail at a city-funded playground. When the Reverend Dr. Emma Jordan-Simpson, the executive director of the Children’s Defense Fund’s New York office, first heard about the design of the playground at the Tompkins Houses in Bedford Stuyvesant this spring, she had to visit and see it for herself. The photographs she took show the shameful truth: sure enough, the center of the play structure featured a bright orange square with the word “JAIL” in bold capital letters, cutout bars on a pretend window, and the image of an exaggerated lock on a child-sized door.

At a cost of almost $210,000 a year per youth, and a re-arrest rate of 75% within 3 years of release, New York is funneling money into one of the surest pipelines to the adult prison system. But there are proven solutions that provide better outcomes for children and cost 15 to 100 times less. In these budget strapped times, we should be investing in quality community alternatives that work, especially since most of our youth are jailed for nonviolent offenses. We know what works. It’s time for all of us to focus on strategies for dismantling the real pipeline to prison for good.

SECTION 15-H

NAACP Supports the National Criminal Justice Act

By Ishton W. Morton T

The National Criminal Justice Commission Act of 2010, S. 714/ HR 5143, will create a national commission with an 18-month timeline to examine and review the myriad of problems that exist in our current criminal justice system. The commissions’ specifically will be to review every stage of the criminal justice system, from initial contact to sentencing and challenges facing ex-offenders who are re-entering society.

Also, the commission will be charged with looking into the myriad of problems that have resulted in the staggering over representation of racial and ethnic minorities, from pedestrian stops to the use of the death penalty. The NAACP identifies this legislation as a legislative priority. Already it has passed the U.S. House of Representatives, approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee, and is now pending in the Senate.

It is absolutely necessary to get this very important bill passed by the Senate during the “lame duck” session, which was scheduled to begin November 15 will only last for approximately three weeks. If it does not pass the Senate this year, it will be forced to start over, reintroduced in 2011 to both the House and the Senate. Within the American criminal justice system, serious problems exist today that undermine basic tenets of fairness and equity, as well as the public’s expectations for safety. This is especially problematic predicated on the vastly disparate treatment of racial and ethnic minorities by the criminal justice system at every stage of the criminal justice process.

From the initial contact to sentencing to the challenges facing those re-entering the community after incarceration, the racial and ethnic minorities are disproportionately represented in the number of people stopped, arrested, tried, convicted incarcerated and then victimized by the revolving door syndrome.

Today, there are practically 1 million African Americans incarcerated in prisons and in jails. Unless there are changes, black males born today have a 1-in-3 chance of going to prison in his lifetime.

*Hip-Hop Summit Youth Council*
“We Have Failed Our Children”

As a reminder, the 13th amendment of the United States Constitution says. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction. Prisons and jails houses are the new frontier for continued slavery. Furthermore, African American women have the highest rate of incarceration among women in our nation, a rate that is four times higher than that of Caucasian women.

In conversations with Hilary O. Shelton, Director, NAACP Washington Bureau, Senior Vice President for Advocacy and Policy, says, “This is not just a problem among African Americans or racial and ethnic minorities. Our nation has 5% of the world’s population. We have 25% of the world’s known prison population. We have an incarceration rate in the United States is five times the incarceration rate in the rest of the world. The bottom line is, under our current criminal justice system too many people are being incarcerated and otherwise caught up in the criminal justice system. Still we have too many Americans who do not feel safe in their homes or communities”.

He continues to say, “It is impossible for entire communities within our nation to have faith in our criminal justice system when it is obviously riddled with disparate treatment. The NAACP supports. The National Criminal Justice Act, S. 714 / H.R. 5143, which would create a national commission to examine”.

SECTION 15-I

Prisons, Jails & Probation - Overview

(Rape in Prison)

"In December 2000, the Prison Journal published a study based on a survey of inmates in seven men's prison facilities in four states. The results showed that 21% of the inmates had experienced at least one episode of pressured or forced sexual contact since being incarcerated, and at least 7% had been raped in their facility. A 1996 study of the Nebraska prison system produced similar findings, with 22% of male inmates reporting that they had been pressured or forced to have sexual contact against their will while incarcerated. Of these, over 50% had submitted to forced anal sex at least once. Extrapolating these findings to the national level gives a total of at least 140,000 inmates who have been raped." Source: Human Rights Watch, "No Escape: Male Rape in US Prisons - Summary and Recommendations," (December 2005), p. 2.--


(Limited economic benefits of prison construction)

"The few studies on the local economic impacts of prisons to date have not found significant positive impacts. For example, a study by the Sentencing Project challenges the notion that a new prison brings economic benefits to smaller communities. Using 25 years of data from New York State rural counties, the authors looked at employment rates and per capita income and found 'no significant difference or discernible pattern of economic trends' between counties that were home to a prison and counties that were not home to a prison (King, Mauer, and Huling 2003). According to a recent study by Iowa State University, many towns that made sizeable investments in prisons did not reap the economic gains that were predicted (Besser 2003). Another analysis in Texas found no impacts as measured by consumer spending in nearly three-fourths of the areas examined (Chuang 1998)." Source: Lawrence, Sarah and Jeremy Travis, "The New Landscape of Imprisonment: Mapping America's Prison Expansion" (Washington, DC: Urban Institute, April 2004), p. 3.--

http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/410994_mapping_prisons.pdf

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(Revenue lost from prisoner relocation)

According to a report on prison growth by the Urban Institute's Justice Policy Center, "Every dollar transferred to a "prison community" is a dollar that is not given to the home community of a prisoner, which is often among the country's most disadvantaged urban areas. According to one account, Cook County Illinois will lose nearly $88 million in federal benefits over the next decade because residents were counted in the 2000 Census in their county of incarceration rather than their county of origin (Duggan 2000). Losing funds from the "relocation" of prisoners is also an issue for New York City, as two-thirds of state prisoners are from the city, while 91% of prisoners are incarcerated in upstate counties (Wagner 2002a)."  


(Economic incentive of Prisons)

"The economic benefits of new prisons may come from the flow of additional state and federal dollars. In the decennial census, prisoners are counted where they are incarcerated, and many federal and state funding streams are tied to census population counts. According to the U.S. General Accounting Office (2003), the federal government distributes over $140 billion in grant money to state and local governments through formula-based grants. Formula grant money is in part based on census data and covers programs such as Medicaid, Foster Care, Adoption Assistance, and Social Services Block Grant (U.S. General Accounting Office 2003). Within a state, funding for community health services, road construction and repair, public housing, local law enforcement, and public libraries are all driven by population counts from the census."  


(Prison location)

"Another issue related to prison expansion of the 1980s and 1990s is the disparity between where prisoners come from ("home counties") and where prisoners serve their sentences ("prison counties"). Many believe that the prison construction boom of the last 20 years happened in areas that were located far away from prisoners' homes. This has been an area of concern because greater distances between a prisoner's home and where he or she is incarcerated can negatively impact a prisoner and his or her family members. Being incarcerated far away from home makes it more challenging to maintain familial relationships and parent/child relationships in particular. In addition, challenges related to reintegrating into the community increase when a prisoner is housed far away from home. For example, steps that may facilitate prisoner reentry, such as finding a job and a place to live, are more difficult when a prisoner is imprisoned a long distance from the place to which he or she will return after release."  


(States with fastest prison growth)

"The top 10 states ranked from the highest growth to the lowest growth. They are Texas, Florida, California, New York, Michigan, Georgia, Illinois, Ohio, Colorado, and Missouri. The magnitude of prison growth in these 10 states is remarkable. Between 1979 and 2000, the number of additional prisons ranged from 19 prisons in Missouri to 120 prisons in Texas. The growth in Texas equates to an extraordinary average annual increase of 5.7 additional prisons per year over the 21-year period.

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As a group, the 10 states were operating more than three times as many prisons in 2000 as in 1979—increasing from 195 facilities to 604 facilities. Figure 6 shows the relative growth in each state in addition to the absolute growth. In all 10 states, the number of prisons increased by more than 100% over the 2 decades. States with the lowest relative growth are Florida, which grew by 115%, and New York, which grew by 117%. Texas is again the clear leader growing by 706% over the 21-year period. Indeed, Texas is in a league of its own, as it added the most prisons (120), currently has the largest number of prisons in operation (137), and experienced the largest percentage increase (706%)." Source: Lawrence, Sarah and Jeremy Travis, "The New Landscape of Imprisonment: Mapping America's Prison Expansion" (Washington, DC: Urban Institute, April 2004), p. 9.-- http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/410994_mapping_prisons.pdf

(Housing prisoners in other States)

"The effect of prisoner location on population counts may also influence the allocation of political representation and, therefore, political influence (Haberman 2000). In Wisconsin, the number of state prisoners who were housed in other states (known as interstate transfers) caused concern because these prisoners would be counted in the decennial census in the states where they were incarcerated. In 1999, U.S. Representative Mark Green introduced a bill (unsuccessfully) that proposed changes to the census policy so Wisconsin prisoners held in other states would be counted as Wisconsin residents." Source: Lawrence, Sarah and Jeremy Travis, "The New Landscape of Imprisonment: Mapping America's Prison Expansion" (Washington, DC: Urban Institute, April 2004), p. 3.-- http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/410994_mapping_prisons.pdf

(Prison construction)

"The prison construction boom was not concentrated in a few, key states or in certain regions of the country. Prison systems expanded significantly in states across the country. Prison systems also expanded within states. The share of counties in the top 10 states that were home to at least one prison increased from 13 to 31% between 1979 and 2000. State level maps (figures 13 to 22) illustrate that new prisons were geographically dispersed throughout the states. New prisons were generally not spatially concentrated, as few counties gained three or more prisons. Finally, prisons expanded into different types of counties; prisons increased significantly in both non-metro counties and metro counties." Source: Lawrence, Sarah and Jeremy Travis, "The New Landscape of Imprisonment: Mapping America's Prison Expansion" (Washington, DC: Urban Institute, April 2004), p. 42.-- http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/410994_mapping_prisons.pdf

(2007 & 2008 - HIV/AIDS cases and deaths in state and federal prisons)

• At yearend 2008, a reported 21,987 inmates held in state or federal prisons were HIV positive or had confirmed AIDS, accounting for 1.5% of the total custody population.
• At yearend 2008, 1.5% (20,075) of male inmates and 1.9% (1,912) of female inmates held in state or federal prisons were HIV positive or had confirmed AIDS.
• At yearend 2008 an estimated 5,733 state and federal prisoners had confirmed AIDS.
• During 2007, 130 state and federal prisoners died from AIDS-related causes.

ABSTRACT:
Studies show that prisoners who participate in post-secondary degree programs while incarcerated recidivate at a rate lower than those who do not participate, yet in the mid-1990s, state governments removed public funding for such programs. This paper looks at the issues surrounding publicly funded post-secondary education programs in correctional facilities, and focuses on New York in particular. State legislators should reinstate public funding for post-secondary degree programs, and support research of the link between post-secondary programs and recidivism in order to encourage reinstatement of public funding nationwide. This paper ultimately calls for lawmakers and society to put prisoner issues at the forefront of political discussion in order to bring attention to the issues and create stimulus for change.

Every year 700,000 state and federal prisoners exit the correctional system, and most prisoners do not have the means to create a stable life. These prisoners often have traits in common that make reentry exceedingly difficult: low education attainment, lack of a stable life, drug addiction, and mental health problems. A post-secondary degree has become increasingly valuable in society, particularly in obtaining well-paid employment; yet only 11% of incarcerated state prison inmates have a post-secondary degree, compared to 48% of the general population. There are four key ways to increase reentry success and decrease the chance of recidivism: discharge planning, drug and mental health counseling, vocational and General Education Development (GED) training, and post-secondary degrees. All states operate publicly funded GED and vocational training programs, and some offer college coursework, but there are zero publicly funded post-secondary degree programs in correctional facilities in the country.

This paper focuses on post-secondary degree programs in New York state prisons, and explores the link between post-secondary degrees and rates of re-incarceration. The focus will be on post-secondary degrees rather than GEDs because studies have shown that a degree has more value upon reentry and decreases re-incarceration rates more than a GED. More than 50% of state prisons offer vocational training and approximately 80% of state prisons offer GED programs, but as of 2005, only twelve prisons offered post-secondary degree programs (this number has since decreased to an undetermined number). New York has four prisons that operate privately funded post-secondary programs, and therefore offers the best opportunity for analysis. This paper will recommend that in order to persuasively argue for the introduction of publicly funded post-secondary education programs in state correctional facilities (hereafter termed “post-secondary programs” or “post-secondary education”) advocates should complete a comprehensive study of the link between post-secondary degree completion and recidivism rates. In addition, there should be a call for action among policymakers and the public to discuss issues facing inmates in order to bring prisoner issues to the forefront of the political agenda in New York.

Self-Perpetuation of the Prison Population
While crime rates have fallen across the country since the 1990s, the number of prisons, prison population, and corrections expenditures has continued to rise. In 2007, New York State alone allocated $2.4 billion for corrections. To put that number in perspective, for every dollar New York spent on education, it spent 73 cents on corrections. In 2006, New York state facilities housed 63,315 inmates; about 4.5% of the total U.S. prison population.
A 2008 Pew Center on the States report found that 1% of adults nationwide are behind bars, and one in nine black men ages 20 to 34 nationwide are in jail or prison (federal, state, and local facilities). The prison population is a positive causal loop: a person who has been incarcerated once has a 66% chance of re-arrest and a 37.8% chance of re-incarceration. Taken together, these statistics suggest that while New York and other states are pouring billions of public dollars into corrections, not enough money or attention is going into creating a long-term solution to reduce the prison population.

The 2007 Federal Second Chance Act, aimed at increasing GED and vocational training in correctional facilities nationwide, states that “less than 32% of state prison inmates have a high school diploma or higher level of education, compared to 82% of the general population.” This suggests that people with lower education attainment levels are more likely to be incarcerated. To further demonstrate the link between a lack of education and incarceration, a 2003 National Assessment of Adult Literacy study found “among prison inmates, two to 3% had proficient prose, document, and quantitative literacy compared with 13 to 14% of adults living in households.” Proficiency, as defined by this study, “indicates that an adult has the skills necessary to perform more complex and challenging literacy activities.” What is striking about the NAAL study is not just the low level of proficiency among prisoners, but that, when compared to the general population, prisoners’ proficiency level is 79 to 85% lower. The difference in proficiency levels demonstrates that educational attainment plays an important role in determining individuals’ outcomes in life. One can conclude from these studies that high levels of education strongly reduce the chance of incarceration.

If we discount high school equivalency degree recipients and consider only those who actually graduate from high school, 68% of state prison inmates did not graduate from high school. This suggests that failure to graduate from high school is associated with a tripling of likelihood of being imprisoned.

The link between lack of educational achievement and incarceration rates demonstrates the importance of education in reducing the prison population.

The Context of Recidivism in the United States

Recidivism is a very important term in the debate surrounding correctional education because the prison population is self-perpetuated by a high rate of re-incarceration. One definition of recidivism is “the reversion of an individual to criminal behavior after he or she has been convicted of a prior offense, sentenced, and (presumably) corrected.” Correctional education advocates use recidivism rates to measure programmatic success, but the use of the term varies because its definition is fluid. There is little agreement among prison academics as to what constitutes recidivism as the term can refer to re-arrest, reconviction, re-incarceration, or even a criminal act in which the ex-offender is not caught. This paper joins most researchers in defining recidivism as re-incarceration within three years of release. Unless otherwise indicated, referenced studies define recidivism in the same manner.

When a prisoner is released, the factors that contributed to the initial criminal activity are still prevalent and are exacerbated by the stigma of a prison stay. Upon release, many prisoners face unemployment, homelessness, and little support for dealing with addictions, gang membership, mental health problems, and unhealthy relationships. Coley and Barton describe the barriers to employment as a three strike rule: a criminal record makes it difficult to find employment, particularly well-paying employment; time spent incarcerated reduces work experience; and employers have an aversion to hiring ex-offenders, as some jobs are closed to felons completely.
Ex-offenders who are unable to obtain employment tend to also have difficulty maintaining housing, and the combination of unemployment and homelessness is a strong incentive to commit crime upon release. Having a higher level of education makes finding employment easier, which lowers the incentive to commit crime, and therefore lowers recidivism rates.

When discharge planning is combined with increased educational attainment and other support programs ex-offenders will be able to utilize their degree to obtain well-paid employment, which may allow them to move into better neighborhoods and refrain from illegal activities. Nonprofit organizations, such as the Center for Employment Opportunity in New York City, work with ex-offenders to pair them with employers who are willing to hire qualified individuals with a criminal record. An increased level of education allows an ex-offender to request a higher paying position within a company, because salary is typically commensurate with experience. There are other benefits of post-secondary education, as will be described below, that help ex-offenders stay at one job long enough to merit benefits and a raise - incentive for ex-offenders to remain employed at the same job. In this way, post-secondary degrees, in conjunction with discharge planning, can counteract Coley and Barton’s three strikes rule, create employment stability, and decrease recidivism.

**Past Funding of Correctional Education**

In 1972, the federal government created the Pell Grant program to assist low-income students in gaining access to post-secondary education. Prisoners who were not sentenced to death or life without the possibility of parole could apply as low-income students for Pell Grants to cover tuition, fees, books, and supplies. States also granted similar funds for prisoners who participated in post-secondary programs, such as the New York Tuition Assistance Program (TAP), which assists low-income students in paying for college. The **1995 Federal Crime Bill contained a provision entitled Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act, which eliminated prisoner access to Pell Grants.**

The number of states offering post-secondary programs dropped from 37 to 26 in one year after the passage of the Crime Bill.20 In 1995, 350 prisons offered such programs, and by 2005 only twelve continued to do so, including the four in New York, all privately funded.21 Since Pell and TAP grants were cut in the mid-90s, funding for correctional education programs relies on nonprofit organizations and private donors who see the value in such programs. These organizations use private donations and fundraising to provide education programs to inmates, at an average cost of $2,500 per inmate.

**Institutional and Political Barriers to Correctional Education**

There are two major external barriers to implementing correctional education on a large scale: the negative impact on small town economies and vague legislation. A real reduction of New York’s prison population will create negative effects on small upstate towns that rely on prisons for employment opportunities. Policymakers are cognizant of the fact that if the prison population decreases significantly, the state will be forced to shut down facilities, which will devastate multiple towns in upstate New York. This was demonstrated during a 2001 New York State legislative hearing during which prisoner advocates Michelle Fine and Maria Elena Torre testified to the benefits of correctional education programs. At the completion of their testimony, one state legislator responded, “You know that in New York, down state’s crime is up-state’s industry.” As Fine states, “Thus, the crime in the city produces the industry and jobs for the upstate populations.” This means that any policy that reduces the New York prison population will likely need to be coupled with an economic stimulus program for upstate.

*Hip-Hop Summit Youth Council*
Vague legislation allows for loose interpretation by the implementing agency, and it gives the agency the opportunity to take only the minimum action required. In the area of correctional education, vague legislation has allowed lawmakers to support increased funding for GED and vocational programs rather than post-secondary programs because they are easier to implement and less contentious to pass. The 2007 Second Chance Act is an example of federal legislation that promotes an increase in education programs in prisons, but does not push for or mandate post-secondary education. Many state facilities offer GED programs, vocational programs, and college coursework, and the new legislation only calls for an expansion of these programs. Until post-secondary education programs become as standard as GED and vocational programs, legislation that specifically supports post-secondary education is necessary to motivate states to use public money to fund these programs.

There are structural barriers inherent to post-secondary programs that make policymakers hesitant to fund such programs. The environment of prisons makes learning difficult as there are frequent lockdowns, headcounts, hearings, etc. which disrupt the consistency of classes and interrupt the education process. Inmates are often moved among prisons to alleviate overcrowding, interrupting individual post-secondary degree programs, especially if an inmate’s new facility does not offer a degree program. These interruptions make policymakers wary of funding prisoners who may not be able to complete a post-secondary degree because transfers lower the degree of positive impact that would result from a full degree. It is easier for inmates to transfer their gains from substance abuse and anger management counseling because so many prisons offer these programs and because the programs tend to be similarly designed.

Prisoners’ educational attainment level prior to incarceration is a barrier to post-secondary correctional education because a large number have not completed high school or equivalent. Many prisoners interested in completing a degree program must take remedial and/or GED classes before they can proceed, and testing the education level of all potential participants can be expensive. In addition to poor academic preparation, many prisoners associate schooling with negative experiences, have poor attitudes towards education, and may lack the necessary self-confidence to succeed. These structural and demographic limitations can be overcome with the right planning, but must be addressed during the program design and funding phases.

Benefits of Post-Secondary Education

Correctional education advocates argue that these programs create a lot of benefit from a little bit of investment. The primary benefit of obtaining a post-secondary degree while incarcerated is a decrease in the recidivism rate. There are also secondary benefits from achieving higher education, namely: increased psychological well-being, fewer inmate infractions, created role models in prisons, increased self-esteem, and a strengthened identity. The secondary benefits also decrease recidivism rates because they help ex-offenders maintain a crime-free life upon release.

Effect on Recidivism Rates

As discussed above, recidivism is caused by a number of factors, but a lack of housing and employment top the list because they greatly affect stability. Programs that address these barriers are likely to be successful at reducing the recidivism rate. Prisoners who obtain more education while incarcerated are shown to have lower recidivism rates than those who do not participate in such programs because the benefits of a degree lead to a more stable lifestyle. While government sponsored research on the effect of correctional education is outdated, numerous scholars have performed studies on a smaller scale that support the claim that higher education reduces recidivism rates.
Studies have shown a strong correlation between post-secondary education and lower recidivism rates. The last government sponsored report that looked at education’s effect on recidivism, released in 1987 by the Federal Bureau of Prison’s Office of Research and Evaluation, found that recidivism rates dropped as education attainment levels increased during incarceration.

Recidivism rates were inversely related to educational program participation while in prison. The more educational programs successfully completed for each 6 months confined the lower the recidivism rate. For inmates successfully completing one or more courses per each 6 months of their prison term, 35.5% recidivated compared to 41.1% of those who successfully completed no courses during their prison term.

While this study was government sponsored and its sample size is quite comprehensive, its age limits the value of the results because, as described above, the demographics of the population have changed drastically since 1987.

Sarah L. Schirmer is a first year MPA fellow with a concentration in social policy at the Cornell Institute for Public Affairs with a focus on prisoner issues and education reform. Sarah earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Temple University in 2005. She wishes to thank The Current editorial staff for their time and effort, and special thanks go to Ben Fenwick for all his support.
One of the more disturbing trends we noticed in 2010 was the staggering number of rappers who ended up in jail. Reminisce with us as we go down a list of some of the folks that we hope didn't drop the soap this year.

T.I.
T.I. probably had the worst year when it comes to being in jail. After serving a jail sentence on federal weapons charges, T.I was released from a halfway house on March 26th and put on probation. However on September 1st, T.I. was arrested again after the driver of his car made an illegal u-turn. Police searched the vehicle and found drugs in the car. T.I. went back to jail on November 1st to serve an 11 month sentence.

Lil’ Wayne
Weezy did a bid on Riker’s Island from March 8 to November 4th on weapons charges. During his time in the clink, Weezy managed to release several music videos that he shot before going in, as well as the I Am Not A Human Being album.

DMX
DMX was in and out of jail this year. In March, he went in for violating his probation. After being released in July, he went back to jail three weeks later on a reckless driving charge for 90 days. On November 19th, he was arrested for violating his probation again.

Suge Knight
The former Death Row Records head was arrested for driving with a suspended license in early December, but earlier in the year, Suge was nabbed by police for ordering a hit on a man.

Foxy Brown
Foxy Brown was arrested this summer after violating a protective order placed on her by her neighbor, Arlene Richmond. Richmond claimed that Foxy yelled at her and mooned her.

Wiz Khalifa
The “Black and Yellow” rapper was busted in November after police found a sizable amount of marijuana on his tour bus. He was charged with possession and trafficking.

Jae Millz
The Young Money rapper was arrested in May after his girlfriend called the cops on him during an argument. Police found that Millz was in possession of marijuana.

Kid Cudi
The Cudster was arrested on June 11th in New York and charged with felony criminal mischief and possession of a controlled substance after police were called in response to a disturbance involving Cudi and an unidentified woman. Cudi later admitted that the controlled substance he was caught with was cocaine.
Ice T
Though he plays a cop on Law & Order, Ice T found himself on the wrong side of the law in July when he was arrested for driving with expired auto insurance. The charge was later dismissed.

Too Short
The Bay Area hip-hop legend was arrested and charged with three counts of misdemeanor battery in July after a scuffle in an Idaho concert venue.

Petey Pablo
Petey Pablo found himself in serious trouble on September 11th when he was arrested at Raleigh-Durham International Airport after airport security found a gun in his carry-on luggage.

Juvenile
In February, Juvenile was arrested at his home after police responded to a call from his neighbors complaining about the smell of marijuana coming from the home.

Flesh-N-Bone of Bone Thugz N Harmony
In March, the Bone Thugz member was arrested during a concert in the group’s hometown of Cleveland on warrants for felonious assault with a firearm, and domestic violence.

Karriem “Biggs” Burke
The co-founder of Roc-A-Fella Records was arrested in October, along with 43 other people, on federal drug charges.

Khia
The raunchy female rapper was arrested in September for “endangering security interests.”
“We Have Failed Our Children”

SECTION 15-K

The Real Cost of Prisons

CA/NY: will build new urban youth prisons when rural ones are shut down

By Martha Moore, USA TODAY-----March 16, 2011

States making juvenile detention more localized

California, seeking to close a $26 billion deficit, and New York, with a $10 billion budget gap, are moving to close state youth prisons for good and instead let local governments lock up young offenders. State youth lockups are easy targets for cost-cutter and reformers: They cost a lot and, according to data showing high rates of repeat offenders, accomplish little.

"There isn't a whole lot of evidence that state-run juvenile correction systems can be anything other than very expensive, ineffective and scandal-prone," says Bart Lubow of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, which promotes alternatives to incarceration for kids. New York has been under pressure to improve its juvenile justice system since a 2009 federal investigation — sparked by the death of a 15-year-old boy — found that state youth prisons used excessive force. States including Illinois, Ohio and Pennsylvania have reduced the number of kids sent to state lockups by offering financial incentives to counties to keep youthful offenders in local programs. Ohio, for instance, has reduced the number of juveniles in state lockups from almost 1,800 in 2007 to 736 this year.

But New York City and California would go a step further by virtually eliminating the state's role. California once had the largest number of young people in lockups: from 10,000 in 2005 to 1,200 now. It has cut that number dramatically after a 2007 law required the release of non-violent offenders.

Gov. Jerry Brown's budget called for the state to close its four juvenile prisons, currently housing about 1,200 youths, by 2014 and send money to the state's 58 counties to run their own lockups. After protests from counties, a revised proposal announced last week would keep some state youth prisons open and allow counties without secure lockups for youths to pay to send kids to the state juvenile prison. Counties that want to run their own youth lockups could use state money to do that instead.

"We're on a pathway to the end of the state system," says David Steinhart of Commonweal, a California advocacy group, who helped write the 2007 law. "The argument now is how to write the final chapter."

In New York, where 700 youths are in state lockups, Gov. Andrew Cuomo wants to close juvenile prisons despite local opposition over lost jobs. Meanwhile, New York City, which accounts for more than half the youths in state custody at a cost of $270,000 per youth per year, wants to opt out of the state system entirely.

A system run by the city — with funding from the state — would be cheaper and more effective if only because it would be nearby, says John Feinblatt, criminal justice coordinator for Mayor Michael Bloomberg. "Some of these kids have tough relationship with the families, but what you don't want to do is break those relationships any further than they are broken, he says. "What you want to do with a 14-, 15-year-old is build on what connections already exist."
The city's plan is modeled on Detroit, which began handling almost all its juvenile cases in 2000 and where the number of youth sent to state facilities dropped from more than 730 in 1998 to 18 in 2009. The proposals have roused opposition from people who don't want to see jobs lost when state youth prisons close. And juvenile justice advocates are divided on whether it's a good idea to get rid of the state programs altogether.

"I've seen too many kids die because the state wasn't appropriately regulating what was going on at the local level," says Barry Krisberg, a Berkeley law professor and juvenile justice expert.

Counties in California say they cannot handle more kids, especially the violent offenders still in state youth prisons. "You're asking them to take back kids that they've rejected. It's like asking the school principal to take back the kids that they've expelled," says Dan Macallair, executive director of the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice in San Francisco, an advocacy group. Advocates fear that losing the state youth prisons mean that county prosecutors will increasingly charge juveniles in adult court. The number of juveniles tried as adults has already increased in California. Even though state youth prisons are bad, advocates say, prisons are worse.

Youth prisons are located in economically depressed rural counties where jobs are scarce. Unions representing staff at youth prisons oppose closing the facilities because jobs will be lost. In New York, Gov. Andrew Cuomo is trying to overturn a law that requires a year's notice before a facility can be shut down.

"It's all about closing facilities. ... Match the number of beds to the number of kids," says Elizabeth Glazer, New York's deputy secretary for public safety. "The notion that we are keeping open empty facilities, guarding imaginary children, is just not tenable."

Some advocates say the California state youth agency has been so bad for so long that it should be scrapped for good. "Right now we're dooming them all to certain hell." says Jakadi Imani, executive director of the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights in Oakland. Eliminating the state system means "we open up the possibility that kids will actually get help."

But others pointed out that some counties have too few serious youth offenders to merit building a juvenile lockup.

"You're going to have a lot of counties that aren't going to have the capacity to develop a small, secure program," says Ned Loughran, executive director of the Association of State Correctional Administrators.

County programs have their own problems. Los Angeles' youth detention system has already been investigated by the Justice Department. Alameda County, where Oakland is located, will build a youth lockup to accommodate kids that would have gone to state youth prisons, says David Muhammad, the county's head of probation. "A huge concern is, you close (the state agency) completely, fund the counties to supervise this population but only fund it for five years. What happens after that?"

New York City would have to build a secure youth prison, Feinblatt says. It is not proposing to end the incarceration juvenile delinquents. "Bringing kids back to the city does not mean bringing kids back to New York City streets," Feinblatt says. "It doesn't mean that there are some kids that won't be incarcerated. Some of them will be because they need to be."

“We Have Failed Our Children”

SECTION 16

HOW THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM HAS FAILED OUR CHILDREN

Marian Wright Edelman's Child Watch® Column: "Children Drop Out and Into Lives of Poverty and Imprisonment"

A homeless man talking about how he ended up on the streets said he had wanted to get in with "cool" crowd in 8th or 9th grade—a crowd that smoked marijuana, got into fights, and skipped school. No adult reached out to help him turn his life around so he continued his decline into a life of chronic joblessness and poverty, and long stretches of incarceration after he dropped out of school.

Youths who drop out of school represent a colossal loss to our communities and nation. And many dropouts are condemned to the social and economic fringes of our society and lives less fulfilled than their peers who graduate from high school. Today, more than half of all young adult dropouts are jobless. And dropouts are at greater risk of being incarcerated and having poorer physical and mental health than those who graduate.

The impact of the enormous dropout problem is not evenly shared among children in America. Poor and minority youths are far less likely to graduate from high school than White children. An October 2009 report released by the National Center for Education Statistics says 59.8% of Blacks, 62.2% of Hispanics, and 61.2% of American Indians graduated from public high school in four years with a regular diploma in the 2006–07 school year compared to 79.8% for Whites and 91.2% for Asian and Pacific Islanders. Black and Hispanic dropout rates were more than twice those of White youths.

Children don't just wake up one morning and decide to take a path to a dead end life. So how is it possible that more than half a million of them drop out every year? I believe the main reason is that adults have often let our children down and abandoned our responsibilities to prepare them for healthy and productive lives in our homes and communities. We'd rather punish children after they get into trouble than prevent child problems. The only universally guaranteed child right is a jail or detention cell after they come in conflict with the law. We don't even assure all children prenatal care to be born as healthy as possible. We have deprived our children of fathers by locking up young men and putting them in a pipeline to prison, and we've allowed our community supports to fray, depriving children of safe havens and positive mentors.

For most of the week, congregational doors are locked and we've cut back on the hours when community centers and libraries are open. Some have decided that after-school and summer enrichment programs are too expensive. Some states spend more to incarcerate a child for a year than it would cost to send him to Harvard University! Some New York state youth prisons cost $210,000 to house one child for a year. Gangs and drug dealers are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, offering apprenticeships in drug dealing and car stealing and other illegal behaviors.

So many of our nation's schools have let our children down and are unwitting accomplices to the pipeline to prison's destructive work. Academic tracking, social promotion, and out-of-school suspensions and expulsions contribute mightily to the discouragement, low self-esteem, and disengagement of so many poor and minority children.

One-size-fits-all school zero tolerance disciplinary policies are responsible for the growth in the number of school-based arrests of poor and minority children, funneling them into the juvenile and criminal justice systems at younger and younger ages. So many are suspended, expelled, even arrested, for nonviolent infractions such as being "disruptive" or "disrespectful."
In the past, many of these problems would have been resolved in the principal’s office or referred to a pastor or social worker or by calling the parent (who may no longer be in the house). Too many children today end up with an arrest record and are labeled a troublemaker, increasing the likelihood of dropping out of school.

There are a lot of things we know about preventing children from dropping out. New research has led to a better understanding of how to turn this enormous crisis around and has identified schools where graduation is not the norm. Researchers at Johns Hopkins University have identified 2,000 high schools in the country (12%) responsible for nearly half of the nation's dropouts. The children attending these "dropout factories" are overwhelmingly minority.

We can spot students in elementary school who, if adults do intervene, will be less likely to drop out. Potential dropouts can be identified as early as the fourth and sixth grades by looking at attendance, behavior and, of course, failure in math and English. We can focus our resources on these schools and their students with the goal of turning them around and rescuing hundreds of thousands of children from the cradle to prison pipeline. But the community has to care and raise a ruckus for our children's and nation's sakes.

This is a national problem requiring all of our focused attention. The dropout crisis is too costly to our children, communities, and nation to let it persist. We know how to keep children in school. We simply must decide to mix our knowledge and experience with the will to educate every child.

SECTION 16-A

AMERICA’S PROMISE ALLIANCE JOINS PRESIDENT OBAMA AND U.S. SECRETARY OF EDUCATION TO ADDRESS NATION’S HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT & COLLEGE-READINESS CRISIS

For Immediate Release—Monday, March 1, 2010

Alliance Chair Alma Powell and Founding Chair Gen. Colin Powell Announce Grad Nation, a National Multi-Year Campaign to Mobilize Americans to End the Dropout Crisis

President Obama Outlines Plans to Combat America’s Dropout Crisis and Improve Secondary Education So More Students are Prepared for College and Career

In total, approximately 1.3 million students drop out each year – averaging 7,200 each school day or one every 26 seconds. Among minority students, the problem is even more severe with less than 50% of Native American and a little more than half of African American and Hispanic students completing high school on time. The effects of the dropout crisis are widespread with those who drop out more likely to be incarcerated, rely on public programs and social services, and go without health insurance than those who graduate from high school. The Alliance for Excellent Education estimates that high school dropouts from the Class of 2008-09 will cost the U.S. more than $335 billion in lost wages over their lifetimes.

“On average, each high school dropout is estimated to cost the taxpayers over $292,000 in lost tax revenue, government support, and incarceration costs,” says U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. “In today’s job market, you cannot drop out of high school anymore and land a decent job. All too often, dropping out of school is an apprenticeship for prison, not for success in the workplace.”

"The teachers didn't care, the students didn't care," White said. "Nobody cared, so why should I.”
“We Have Failed Our Children”

SECTION 16-B

CBS News correspondent Bill Whitaker Reports:

4 million students who enter high school every year, one million of them will drop out before graduation. That's 7,000 every school day -- one dropout every 26 seconds. Michael Piscal, Headmaster of View Park Prep Charter School in L.A. said, "It's not working for teachers, it's not working for students -- it's not working for society.

The dropout problem is even worse in big cities. Almost half of all students in the country's 50 largest school districts fail to get a high school diploma. Thirty years ago the United States led the world in high school graduation. Today we rank 18th among industrial nations. Besides the intrinsic value of education itself, when Americans lack an education it hurts us all -- in the wallet.

Dropouts cost taxpayers more than $8 billion annually in public assistance programs like food stamps. High school dropouts earn about $10 thousand less a year than workers with diplomas. That's $300 billion in lost earnings every year. They're more likely to be unemployed: 15% are out of work versus a national average of 9.4%. They also are more likely to be incarcerated. Almost 60% of federal inmates are high school dropouts.

SECTION 16-C

Earn More With An Advanced Degree
by Shane Hurley | January 11th, 2011

You will hear it a lot. Want more money? Get a degree. Is that accurate? Absolutely! Statistically, college graduates earn more over their careers than those who stopped at a high school diploma and certainly more than those who didn’t graduate high school. And the higher the degree, the more money they make.

Compare a high school graduate to a college graduate. A high school graduate will earn an average of about $1.2 million over their lifetime. A college graduate can expect an average of about $2.1 million. A graduate with a Masters degree can expect to earn about $2.5 million and if you want even more money or proof, a person earning their PhD will earn on average $3.4 million. These figures are based on a Census Bureau report titled THE BIG PAYOFF.

Let’s look a little deeper at these numbers. Those who drop out of high school earn about $18,900 a year. High school graduates make around $25,900. However a college graduate can expect to make, again, on average, about $45,000 while doctors, dentists, lawyers and other with professional degrees can expect about $99,300. This means that someone with a professional degree can earn about $80,000 more per year than a high school dropout! That is quite a gap.

What if your formal education stopped at high school graduation? Don’t worry. There’s still time. Getting that degree is not easy but it has become easier. We aren’t talking diploma mills. You will still need to study material, be tested and prove that you know the material. Think you don’t have time for college? There are new ways to go to school. There are many online programs available for working adults that will allow you to obtain your higher degree at your pace, while working and from anywhere that you have an internet connection and a computer.
“We Have Failed Our Children”

So is online education right for you? First and foremost what are your goals and plans? You need to answer that first. Then once you know where you want to go you need to find an online college that will help you get there. Make sure you talk to friends and family and see if anyone you know has gone to school online. A recommendation from a successful graduate is a good place to start. You will also want to attend an accredited institution and know that your units earned are transferable.

You laid out a formidable goal for yourself and selected an online school to help your reach that goal. What about tuition and books? You may already have discovered the answer while you were researching potential schools. A good online school will have a Financial Aid department that will help you through the process of affording your new education. Don’t let the word AID sidetrack you. This isn’t about handouts. There are financial aid advisors who are well versed in how to pay for higher education through loans, scholarships, grants and cash payments. Ask your financial aid advisor a lot of questions and make sure that you feel comfortable with their expertise. He or she can be every bit as vital to your success as your academic advisor.

It is possible to increase your earnings by getting a high school diploma, Bachelors degree, Masters Degree, or PhD, but you have to do your homework first. You must know what your goals are, what degree you want, how much it’s going to cost and how you’re going to pay for it. Once you have that mastered you will be on your way to completing the homework need to obtain your degree. Study your options and study hard!

If you’re ready to pursue your education, start with an accredited university degree. You’re sure to find the online bachelor degree that’s right for you.

**Finding work without a High School Diploma**

Today, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics released data related to College Enrollment and Work Activity of 2009 High School Graduates. According to a corresponding news release, just over 70% of all 2009 high school graduates were enrolled in colleges and universities in October 2009—an historical high. That means, of course, that 3 out of 10 high school graduates and 10 out of 10 high school dropouts were not enrolled in college. For anyone out there doubting the value of a high school diploma these days, compare the jobless rates of high school dropouts with those who graduated from high school but did not enroll in college. In October 2009, it’s clear that the job prospects for both groups were bleak. But the economic future of those not owning a high school diploma is downright grim.

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<th>Average Salary by Gender</th>
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<td>Men</td>
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<td>Women</td>
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<td>Overall Average</td>
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Source: The eLearning Guild Research
“We Have Failed Our Children”

SECTION 16-D

According to the Literacy Report released by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)

**Literacy statistics and juvenile court**

- 85% of all juveniles who interface with the juvenile court system are functionally illiterate.

- More than 60% of all prison inmates are functionally illiterate.

- Penal institution records show that inmates have a 16% chance of returning to prison if they receive literacy help, as opposed to 70% who receive no help. This equates to taxpayer costs of $25,000 per year per inmate and nearly doubles that amount for juvenile offenders.

- Illiteracy and crime are closely related. The Department of Justice states, “The link between academic failure and delinquency, violence, and crime is welded to reading failure.” Over 70% of inmates in America's prisons cannot read above a fourth grade level.

- One child in four grows up not knowing how to read.

- 43% of adults at Level 1 literacy skills live in poverty compared to only 4% of those at Level 5.

- 3 out of 4 food stamp recipients perform in the lowest 2 literacy levels.

- 90% of welfare recipients are high school dropouts.

- 16 to 19 year old girls at the poverty level and below, with below average skills, are 6 times more likely to have out-of-wedlock children than their reading counterparts.

- Low literary costs $73 million per year in terms of direct health care costs. A recent study by Pfizer put the cost much higher.

- U.S.A Illiterate people are missing out on 237 billion dollars total each year in money that they could be earning if they knew how to read.
WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. high school dropout crisis poses one of the greatest threats to the nation’s economic growth and competitiveness and must be addressed, witnesses told the House Education and Labor Committee today. Witnesses urged Congress to explore legislative solutions as quickly as possible.

“The crisis we’re seeing in our nation’s high schools is real, it’s urgent, and it must be fixed,” said U.S. Rep. George Miller (D-CA), chair of the committee. “It’s become increasingly clear that addressing this dropout crisis is one of the most important things we can do to turn our economy around and regain our competitive footing for good. We have a moral and economic obligation to ensure that, at a minimum, every student in this country can graduate high school prepared to succeed in college or the workforce. Our intent is to address this problem in this Congress in the most comprehensive way possible.”

Nationwide, 7,000 students drop out every day and only about 70% of students graduate from high school with a regular high school diploma. Two thousand high schools in the U.S. produce more than half of all dropouts and a recent study suggests that in the 50 largest cities, only 53% of students graduate on time. Research shows that poor and minority children attend these so-called “dropout factories” – the 2,000 schools that produce more than 50% of our nation’s dropouts – at significantly higher rates.

Studies also highlight the financial impact of the nation’s dropout rates. A recent report by the McKinsey Corporation showed that if minority student performance had reached white students by 1998, the GDP in 2009 would have been between $310 billion and $525 billion higher – or approximately 2 to 4% of GDP. The report also says the achievement gaps in this country are the same as having “a permanent national recession.

“Currently this Congress is grappling with massive economic problems. But the enormous cost of bailing out the banks, financial institutions, the auto industry, and AIG is still less than the economic cost of just five years of dropouts in the United States,” said Bob Wise, president, Alliance for Excellent Education and the former Governor of West Virginia. “That is why I believe that the ultimate economic stimulus package is a diploma.”

Cutting the dropout rate in half would yield $45 billion annually in new federal tax revenues or cost savings, according to a recent report by Columbia University’s Center for Benefit-Cost Studies of Education at Teachers College. The U.S. Department of Labor estimates 90% of new high-growth, high-wage jobs will require some level of postsecondary education.

“Simply put, the world has changed and there is no work for high school dropouts,” said Dr. Robert Balfanz, Ph. D, a research scientist at the Johns Hopkins University. “To meet its graduation challenge, the nation must find a solution for its dropout factories.”
Balfanz recent research findings show “it is often possible to identify as early as sixth grade up to half of the students who, absent effective interventions, will not graduate, and up to 80% by the ninth grade.”

Witnesses also presented data which shows African-American, Latino, American Indian and Alaska Native high school students have a far lower chance of graduating on time with a regular diploma.

“I echo the likes of Secretary Duncan and other education leaders when I say that education is the most important American civil rights issue of the 21st century,” said Michael Wotorson, executive director of the Campaign for High School Equity. “The one consistency in our education system is in our high schools that fail to provide students of color and youth from low-income neighborhoods with the high-quality education they need to succeed in college and in the modern workplace.”

Witnesses all agreed that a common core of rigorous internationally benchmarked standards will help ensure all students graduate career and college ready.

“We do not have to live in a country where three out of 10 students do not graduate on time, and where on-time graduation for minority students is a 50-50 proposition,” said Marguerite Kondracke, President and CEO of America’s Promise Alliance. “We have solutions on the ground, and legislative proposals that will bring them to scale.”

Other witnesses called for reforms that to make schools and teachers more accountable to their students.

Scott Gordon, the CEO of Mastery Charter Schools in Philadelphia, where 47% of the city’s public school first graders graduate from high school, discussed strategies that help his school turn around high dropout rates and low performance. The average scores for Mastery students increased 35 points per grade in every subject and violence decreased by 85%. The schools’ turnover rates dropped a third.

He urged teachers to take more responsibility for the outcomes of their students, and urged administrators and state officials to reward teachers accordingly.

“The structure of the turnarounds required that Mastery continue operating as a neighborhood schools and enroll all of the students currently attending. So, in many ways these turnaround schools are perfect controlled experiments on school reform,” said Gordon. “The same students, the same neighborhood, the same building – the only variable that changed were the adults.
Dropout Factories

Some secondary schools are successfully graduating their students prepared for what lies ahead—one in three high schools graduate 90% of their students. Unfortunately, there is a small subset of chronically underperforming high schools that are poorly serving some or all of their students and are responsible for a majority of nation's dropout crisis.

Researchers at Johns Hopkins University have identified almost 2,000 high schools (about 13% of American high schools) where the typical freshman class shrinks by 40% or more by the time the students reach their senior year. These "dropout factories" serve large numbers of minority and low-income students, and have fewer resources and less-qualified teachers than schools in more affluent neighborhoods with larger numbers of white students. In fact, 38% of African American students and 33% of Latino students attend dropout factories.

The nearly 2,000 dropout factories turn out 51% of the nation's dropouts. They produce 81% of all Native American dropouts, 73% of all African American dropouts, and 66% of all Hispanic dropouts. This is powerful information. By addressing the persistent failure of this relatively small number of high schools - by transforming the nation's dropout factories - we can fundamentally improve educational outcomes for America's students and better their impact on America's society. To see how your local high school stacks up, or to about solutions, or how click on one of the links below:

Find out how your local high school stacks up (www.all4ed.org/about_the_crisis/promotingpower)
Federal Policy Solutions
“We Have Failed Our Children”

SECTION 17

DAYCARE TO PRISON PIPELINE THREATENS PUBLIC SAFETY

AFSCME Marchers Demand City Save Childcare Centers
April 30, 2010

Thousands of New York City day care and Head Start employees represented by AFSCME District Council 1707 are building public support to stop the city from closing facilities this June and displacing some 1,800 children whose parents depend on their services.

Chanting, “We need our day care,” more than 2,000 parents, children, supporters and members of DC 1707’s Head Start Local 95 and Day Care Employees Local 205 marched across the Brooklyn Bridge on April 21 from Cadman Plaza Park to City Hall. There, at an event billed as a “Day of Outrage for New York City Child Care,” they demanded that officials of the city’s Administration for Children’s Services:

- Drop plans to close 16 day care centers and 31 day care classrooms, plus 12 Head Start centers this summer.
- End a four-year impasse and negotiate a fair contract for public day care employees.
- Approve a cost of living increase for Head Start employees.
- Stop two flawed anti-union programs, “Project Full Enrollment,” which awards funds on the basis of attendance and enrollment, and EarlyLearn NYC, which allows for-profit contractors to run childcare.

“The reduction of early childhood programs for children is now a legacy of this administration,” declared DC 1707 Executive Director Raglan George Jr., also an AFSCME International vice president. “Since 2003, over 3,000 slots from day care centers were eliminated, stopping thousands of children from attending quality child care programs.”

Closing the 16 day care centers would affect more than 1,100 children and about 320 employees. About 110 employees work at the 31 targeted day care classrooms, where some 600 children are enrolled.

City officials have claimed the centers they wish to close are located in “gentrifying” communities where wealthier people are buying properties once occupied by lower-income residents. But DC 1707 points to enrollment/capacity figures that reveal facilities near the targeted day care centers cannot take in all the affected children (ages 2 through 4) between now and June 30.

DC 1707 officials also contend the city currently can serve only 27 percent of low-income children eligible for child care and Head Start programs. Closing more facilities – and transferring the children to crowded public schools or other centers – makes no sense, George contends.

“As the economic downturn worsens, the need will only grow,” he says. “We cannot afford to lose any of the city’s child care capacity.” Read more about the “Day of Outrage” march in the Epoch Times and the Brooklyn Eagle. More on DC 1707’s efforts to protect New York’s children services can be found here and here.
Every single person living in the United States today is affected by juvenile crime. It affects parents, neighbors, teachers, and families. It affects the victims of crime, the perpetrators, and the bystanders. While delinquency rates have been decreasing, rates are still too high. There have been numerous programs that have attempted to lower this rate. Some are greatly successful, while many others have minimal or no impact. These programs are a waste of our resources. It is essential to determine the efficacy of different programs, and to see what works and what does not. In this way, the most successful programs can continue to be implemented and improved, while those that do not work are discontinued.

A number of different types of programs currently exist. Those that get involved with the delinquent after the occurrence of deviant behavior tend to be less successful, since by that point antisocial habits are well developed. More effective programs are ones that intervene before the onset of delinquent behavior and prevent that behavior – prevention programs. By getting involved in children’s lives early, later crime can be effectively reduced (Zagar, Busch, and Hughes 282). Prevention programs positively impact the general public because they stop this crime from happening in the first place. And there are even some prevention programs that are more successful than others. One aspect of exceptionally successful prevention programs is their comprehensive nature. Programs that are more holistic prevent future crime better because they deal with various aspects of a child’s life, not just a single one.

Two programs that have both of these features – early intervention and comprehensiveness - are home visitation programs and Head Start. Both of these programs have shown incredible results by targeting specific risk factors that lead to delinquent behavior. Once these risk factors are lessened, the problem behavior is much less likely to occur. In conclusion, juvenile justice prevention programs such as prenatal and early childhood nurse visitation programs and Head Start are largely successful at deterring crime for the children involved because they occur early in the child’s development and because they focus on holistic and general aspects of the child’s life rather than focusing on crime itself.

Although there is really no way to completely predict which children will behave in delinquent and criminal ways in the future, there are a multitude of risk factors that have been shown to correlate with these behaviors. Fetal substance exposure, prenatal difficulties, an abusive and violent family are all risk factors related to poorer executive functioning. This weakness is then shown to lead to violent behavior (Zagar, Busch, and Hughes 281). Other precursors to later frequent offending include poor child-rearing practices, poor parental supervision, criminal parents and siblings, low family income, large family size, poor housing, low intelligence, and low educational attainment (Zigler and Taussig 998). Physical and/or sexual abuse are specifically risk factors for homicidal behavior (Zagar, Busch, and Hughes 288). It has also been shown that early-onset antisocial behavior is associated with more severe outcomes compared with antisocial behavior that occurs later, and it is more likely to persist into adulthood (Olds et al. 66).
But these risk factors generally have a more complicated connection to problem behavior than simply increasing it directly. For example, low intelligence is considered a risk factor since children with below-average intelligence have a good chance of doing poorly in school. They may also have some sort of mental retardation. Both of these factors are correlated with physical abuse from the parents. Therefore, a child that has low intelligence and is also dealing with parental abuse must face two external events that preclude delinquent outcomes (Zigler and Taussig 999). Socioeconomic status is another interesting risk factor. While in some studies it is directly associated with delinquent behavior, other studies have found that regardless of socioeconomic status, those children who were raised by distressed and unsupportive caregivers in unstable families had a greater chance of developing problem behavior than did children who had nurturing caregivers and grew up in supportive homes (Zigler and Taussig 999). Once again, it is the combination of factors and the interactions among them that best forecasts behavior.

So one risk factor alone will hardly predict any future behavior. What is important to look at is the co-occurrence of any number of risk factors. As the number of risk factors that a child possesses increases, that may predict with increasing accuracy if they will develop delinquent behavior (Zigler and Taussig 998). So what does that mean for prevention programs? It means that targeting risk factors is a great way to prevent crime. As more and more risk factors are diffused, the child has less and less reason to misbehave.

First, it is important to define what exactly early intervention is. A program is considered “early” if it occurs from before birth until early adolescence, and before the onset of delinquent behavior. This is a valuable time period because early childhood provides an unusual window of opportunity for young children to be uniquely receptive to enriching and supportive environments (Welsh and Farrington 872). Research has shown that the later the intervention occurs in the child’s life, the more therapeutic effort is required to return the child to a pattern of normal development (Zagar, Busch, and Hughes 286). If these programs are successful, they should alleviate some of the risk factors associated with delinquency and antisocial behavior and have lasting effects on socially competent behavior (Zigler and Taussig 999).

The results of high-quality early prevention programs can be tremendous. Looking specifically at preschool programs and parent educational services that improve school readiness, they help to set a pattern that prevents delinquency in later years. Children who participate are less likely to drop out and perform delinquent behavior because they have had better early school experiences and a stronger commitment to education (Zigler 5). Early interventions also show increases in IQ scores and executive functioning, better elementary school achievement, and lower rates of aggression and other antisocial behavior (Zagar, Busch, and Hughes 291). These programs focus on the risk factors that were mentioned before, and that is why they actually reduce crime.

The best programs, in fact, deal with a variety of risk factors, including ones that come from the home. The best of the early intervention programs build on the strengths of families as well as children (Zigler 5). Adults that are offered practical and social support are in a better position to become effective parents than parents who are stressed and alienated. Early intervention programs offer a support system of parental involvement and education that works to improve family functioning and with that, child functioning (Zigler and Taussig 1003). This aspect of dealing with the family also makes these programs more comprehensive, which is another factor of good programs.

Anyway, the effects of successful experiences early in childhood build on each other to generate further success in school and in other social contexts (Zigler and Taussig 1002). An important point to make is that no child is inaccessible. In fact, the greater risk factors a child has, the more they will benefit from additional support such as a strong and encompassing program (Zagar, Busch, and Hughes 291).
Even in terms of cost these programs succeed. Various cost-benefit analyses show that early prevention programs provide value for money and can be a worthwhile investment of government resources compared with prison and other criminal justice responses (Welsh and Farrington 871). Especially since today the majority of money in crime prevention goes towards incarceration (Zagar, Busch, and Hughes 285). If that same money could be used for prevention programs instead, the results would be outstanding.

By now it is clear that programs that target youth early in their lives are generally more successful than programs with a later onset. This is one important aspect of good programs. Another facet that predicts success is how well a particular program addresses various aspects of the child’s life. Some programs only focus on a child’s schoolwork and academic achievement. Other programs focus solely on the parents. But the programs that seem to work the best are ones that incorporate many different aspects of a child’s life into their curriculum.

One particular study used a review-of-reviews approach to identify general principles of effective prevention programs that might transcend specific content areas (Nation et al. 450). This meta-analysis found that one of these principles is comprehensiveness. The study defines comprehensive as “providing an array of interventions to address the salient precursors or mediators of the target problem” (Nation et al. 451). Two important factors of comprehensive programming are multiple interventions and multiple settings (Nation et al. 451). The idea of multiple interventions and multiple settings relates to Bronfenbrenner’s Ecological Systems theory. This theory states that there are a multitude of systems surrounding a child that all influence the development of the child. Therefore it is not enough to work with just one of the systems. True progress can only be made when many of the systems are involved.

This Ecological Systems theory influenced another article to come up with an ecological approach to enrich child development by trying to promote social competence in the various systems that children encounter. This approach is based on the assumption that the most proximal influence on children is the family, however, both children and families are interactive members of a larger system of social institutions (Zigler and Taussig 997). So by targeting these various systems as opposed to just one or a few of them, a program is able to more fully aid in the appropriate development of a child. Because the risk factors associated with delinquent behavior are based in many different systems, comprehensive prevention approaches are bound to be more effective than those of more narrow range (Zigler and Taussig 1004).

One prevention program stands out among the sea of others. It is implemented early on in a child’s life, and it takes a holistic approach in order to deal with the many aspects of the child’s life. It is also one of the most famous early prevention programs out there. Head Start began as part of Lyndon Johnson’s War on Poverty. The Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 gave enormous power to the Office of Economic Opportunities, who then founded the program (Zigler and Muenchow 2). Sargent Shriver, the initial creator, states that he had the idea for Head Start after a revelation that almost half the people living in poverty were children (Zigler and Muenchow 3). Although Head Start was roughly based on some other educational experiments, it was a very unique undertaking – truly the first of its kind. The program provides comprehensive education, health services, nutritional guidance, parental involvement, and social services to low-income children and their families (Zigler and Muenchow 5). Almost 50 years later, Head Start has enrolled over 22 million children in its history (Mills 4). It has been called “the best investment this country has ever made in its young children” (Mills 165).

The program, which is based on income to determine eligible families, aims to improve the intellectual capacity and school performance of poor children (Zigler and Muenchow 4). The ultimate goal is to prepare kids to enter school – to give underprivileged kids a “head start” (Mills 304). So in the beginning, juvenile delinquency was nowhere in the picture. In fact, the goals spanned no later than the first few years of school. No one expected the huge impact that the Head Start program would have on its participants.
In fact, the main long-term impact is indeed reducing school failure (Mills 169). But the side effects have been unexpected and tremendous. Head Start has been shown to improve intelligence, academic readiness and achievement, self-esteem, social behavior, and physical health (Mills 165). In addition, results are also highly favorable for impacts on future government assistance, employment, income, substance abuse, and family stability. There is evidence that suggests that these programs not only pay back their costs but also earn a profit for the government and taxpayers in terms of deflecting costs of social assistance and judicial costs, and adding to tax revenue. And finally, a meta-review of programs concludes that preschool intellectual enrichment is effective in ultimately preventing delinquency (Welsh and Farrington 873). Again, this is most likely due to the curbing of early risk factors that set children up for future success.

Another preschool program, the High/Scope Perry Preschool Project, was similar to the Head Start program. It was a short-term experiment however, and therefore was more concentrated and had more funding. But the basis of the program was very similar to Head Start. The Perry Preschool Project was shown to be very effective in decreasing arrest rates, and increasing achievement and success in school (Zagar, Busch, and Hughes 298). Children who participated in the project also used less special education services, relied less on public assistance in the future, had better jobs and more stable employment, showed increased home ownership, and had less children out of wedlock (Zagar, Busch, and Hughes 301). It is clear that programs such as Head Start do much more than just prepare kids for school. Their effects cover various areas of children’s lives, and are visible many years later.

Another highly successful type of program, that also combines early intervention with comprehensive care, is home visitation. There are many different types of home visitation programs, but most of them share a few common factors. The premise of this program is that nurses or trained professionals meet with usually low-income and/or high-risk mothers. Often times these women are teen mothers. The professionals meet with them throughout their pregnancy and then until the child is around 24 months of age. The general goal of these visits is to provide information and support to the mother. More specifically, the nurses aim to reduce environmental hazards, instruct mothers about nutrition for themselves and for their infants, effectively correct behavior, and reduce substance abuse by the mother (Zagar, Busch, and Hughes 297). Yet before discussing the outcomes of home visiting, it is important to understand just how crucial parenting is to the healthy development of the child.

Good parenting provides children with a variety of different skills for them to use for the rest of their lives. Two of these important skills are impulse regulation and empathy. When these skills are lacking, the risk for adolescent criminal behavior increases. Another valuable skill that parents generally instill in their children is the ability to regulate their emotions, which the lack of can also predict future delinquency (Olds et al. 70). Recent research supports the relationship between antisocial behavior and problems in emotional self-regulation and impulse control – specifically emotions like anger and aggressiveness (Olds et al. 71). Other parental factors include an increased family size. This may lead to reduced parental influence and monitoring and greater peer influence (Olds et al. 74). Moreover, increased economic difficulties and parent depression may lead to a lack of nurturing and involved parenting, which is associated with negative peer relations as well (Olds et al. 77).

As the number of risk factors increase, the likelihood of delinquency increases as well. When rejecting parenting is combined with other risk factors, such as neuro-developmental impairment, the chance that child maltreatment or rejecting parenting will be associated with future violence is increased substantially (Olds et al. 70). Recent evidence from a Danish longitudinal study stresses the volatility of combining neuro-developmental impairment and dysfunctional parenting early in the life cycle. The odds of poor behavior increase exponentially (Olds et al. 75). From this research, it is clear that both effective discipline and nurturing care giving is especially crucial in preventing future delinquency (Olds et al. 78).
So do home visitation programs really improve parenting? In fact, the results speak for themselves. The effects of visitation programs include a reduction in maternal substance abuse during pregnancy, a reduction in child maltreatment, a reduction in family size, closely spaced pregnancies, and chronic welfare dependence. The negative effects of cigarette smoking on children’s IQ at ages 3 and 4 were completely eliminated among nurse-visited children (Olds et al. 67).

Nurse-visited women reported that their infants were less fussy and irritable than did women who were not part of the program. The improved temperament seemed to be directly related to a decrease in maternal smoking and a better diet (Olds et al. 69). Visitation program reduced the rates of state-verified cases of child maltreatment and health care encounters for injuries and ingestions, while improving maternal involvement with their children and use of consistent discipline techniques. Two years after the end of the program, children from nurse-visited families were much less likely to be seen in the physician’s office for injuries, ingestions, or social problems, and they had 35% fewer visits to the emergency department (Olds et al. 72).

Other benefits include improved school readiness, school performance, greater employment and educational opportunities for parents, and greater family stability in general. There is evidence that suggests that home visiting programs can pay back program costs as well as produce monetary benefits for the government and for taxpayers. Parents are also taught how to use rewards and punishment effectively (Welsh and Farrington 874). In addition, maternal attitudes toward childrearing improved and there were noticeable enhancements in the home environment (Olds et al. 74). Within four years after the birth of the first child, rates of subsequent pregnancy were lower, participation in the work force was higher, and dependence on the Aid to Families with Dependent Children Program was lower (Olds et al. 75). From this extensive list of positive outcomes, it can be concluded that home visitation programs decrease the occurrence of prominent risk factors, and consequently reduce delinquent behavior later in life.

One specific program, the University of Rochester Nurse Home-Visitation Program was particularly successful. It was conducted with 400 women, and home visits emphasized the mother's health throughout pregnancy, the child's health and development, and enrichment of the family's support systems within the community. The most striking result of the program was the decline of child abuse and neglect among high-risk mothers, a major risk factor in future deviant and violent behavior (Zigler and Taussig 1002).

Juvenile delinquency is a serious problem in our society that needs to receive serious attention. Even those who are not directly affected end up being touched by this issue through governmental allocation of tax dollars and the general safety of our communities. This crisis is not managed by simply throwing money at programs expecting them to work. There has been enough research in this field done to conclude what works and what does not. Early interventions have proven to be effective. These programs focus not on reducing crime, since at this point children are too young to commit crimes. Rather, the focus is on targeting risk factors that later predict delinquent behavior.

If these risk factors are properly dealt with, they will decrease the chances of this future negative behavior. Comprehensive programs also have high success rates. By working with various aspects of a child’s life – including the ecological systems surrounding a child – these programs are able to mitigate more risk factors than solely working with one or two aspects. An early start and a broad approach are signs of a good program, and many programs out there successfully integrate these two concepts.

The Head Start program aims to prepare kids for school and by doing so alleviates risk factors for delinquency. The main Head Start program works with three and four-year-olds in the classroom and in the home.
In addition to offering educational services, it provides health services as well as social services for the parents. The program has been very popular and successful, and has expanded a great deal since its creation in the 1960s. Today, Head Start is considered an educational achievement program as well as an early intervention delinquency program. Home visitation has also been hugely successful in mediating risk factors. Nurses or trained professionals visit the homes of low-income and high-risk soon-to-be mothers and offer advice, counseling, support, and social and health services. These services continue until the second year after the child’s birth. Once again, this program not only helps foster healthy childhood development, but it sets children up for future success and deters them from committing crimes in the future.

While these two programs have been beacons of light within the fog of an assortment of programs, there is always room for improvement. Research shows that truly successful programs continue beyond childhood years to provide support to at-risk youth (Zigler and Taussig 1003). The best programs do not end once a child enters school. They instead continue to provide support for as long as the particular child requires it. The key is continuity of intervention, and that is a goal all prevention programs should strive for (Zigler and Taussig 1003). Both Head Start and early childhood home visitation programs that combine early intervention with comprehensive curriculums provide very strong examples of programs that decrease the rates of delinquent behavior in the future. However, they are only the beginning, and our society must turn to research and investigation to create programs that will bring us closer to finding an end to this far-reaching problem of juvenile delinquency.


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We Have Failed Our Children

SECTION 17-B

Study: Kids who aren’t reading well by 4th grade are more likely to end up in poverty

May 18, 2010 from Education Week, May 18, 2010

By Debra Viadero

Eighty-five percent of poor 4th graders in predominantly low-income schools are failing to reach “proficient” levels in reading on federal tests, according to a new study by a national foundation that is gearing up to lead a 10-year effort to raise 3rd graders’ reading proficiency.

“The evidence is clear that those students who do not read well have a very tough time succeeding in school and graduating from high schools and going on to successful careers and lives,” Ralph R. Smith, the executive vice president of the Baltimore-based Annie E. Casey Foundation, said in an interview. “The Casey Foundation is putting a stake in the ground on grade-level reading by the end of the 3rd grade.”

The report, which is due to be released this morning, lays out the statistical case for the foundation’s soon-to-be-announced, 10-year initiative to ensure that more children become proficient readers by the time they leave 3rd grade.

As part of the new campaign, the report says, the foundation plans to join with other philanthropies to finance reading-improvement efforts in a dozen states representing different geographic regions in the country. But Mr. Smith said details of that new venture will not be available for another two months.

The report, “EARLY WARNING!: Why Reading by the End of Third Grade Matters,” is the 21st in a series of statistics-laden Kids Count special reports by the foundation. While some of the foundation’s previous studies have emphasized its “two-generation” approach to improving the well-being of disadvantaged young children and their parents, the new report shifts the focus to getting children on the path to reading proficiency from birth through 3rd grade.

Context Matters

Nationwide, the report notes that 68 percent of all 4th grade public school students scored below proficient levels on 2009 reading tests administered through the National Assessment of Educational Progress, a congressionally mandated testing program. But on a state-by-state basis, the percentages ranged from a high of 82 percent in Louisiana to 53 percent in Massachusetts.

National results for the 2009 NAEP reading tests were released in March, and the U.S. Department of Education on Thursday is scheduled to release results in reading from the Trial Urban District Assessment, which compares the performance of 4th and 8th grade students in 18 of the largest U.S. school districts.

The foundation adds a new wrinkle to those analyses, though, by breaking out passage rates for disadvantaged students in the nation’s neediest schools.

Hip-Hop Summit Youth Council
The figures show how poverty and different school contexts can exacerbate the proportion of students having trouble mastering reading. While 83 percent of poor black students in schools with moderate to low levels of poverty failed to hit the grade-level reading target, for example, the corresponding percentage for low-income African-American students in schools with high concentrations of poor students was 90 percent. For economically disadvantaged Hispanic students, the percentage of students falling short of proficiency drops from 88 percent in the schools with the most poor children to 82 percent in better-off schools.

The nation’s reading problem is also worse than it seems, the foundation says, because many states, facing pressure to boost students’ scores on state exams, have lowered the “cut scores,” which are the number of items that students must answer correctly. To underscore that point, the report cites an earlier study by the National Center for Education Statistics, which showed that only 16 states set their proficiency standards at levels that met or exceeded NAEP’s lower “basic” standard.

It’s crucial that children master grade-level reading by 3rd grade, the report says, because that’s when instruction moves from a focus on learning to read to reading to learn.

**Room for Improvement**

The report also offers several recommendations for improving children’s reading, including targeting absenteeism—an aspect of schooling that is often overlooked. Nationwide, the report says, an average of one in 10 kindergartners and 1st graders miss 10 percent or more of the school year because of excused or unexcused absences. In some districts, the ratio is as high as one in four for children in grades K-3.

“Because we generally thought about it in terms of truancy, we haven’t really done the math,” Mr. Smith said. “When you do that, you find that for many reasons we have not completely built a culture of attendance.”

The report also targets the disproportionate learning losses experienced by poor children over the summer as another area ripe for improvement.

To underscore that point, the report cites research showing that low-income children fall behind during the summer by as much as two months in reading achievement, while middle-income students tend to make slight gains in that subject over the same period. That’s because more-affluent parents can better afford books, computers, summer camps, and other learning opportunities that keep students learning when school is out, the report says.

The report also makes a pitch for developing a coherent system of early care and education that “aligns, integrates, and coordinates what happens from birth through 3rd grade,” so that children enter 4th grade healthy and better able to understand the more-complex reading tests they encounter at that level.

**Context Matters**

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“We Have Failed Our Children”

National results for the 2009 NAEP reading tests were released in March, and the U.S. Department of Education on Thursday is scheduled to release results in reading from the Trial Urban District Assessment, which compares the performance of 4th and 8th grade students in 18 of the largest U.S. school districts.

The foundation adds a new wrinkle to those analyses, though, by breaking out passage rates for disadvantaged students in the nation’s neediest schools.

The figures show how poverty and different school contexts can exacerbate the proportion of students having trouble mastering reading. While 83 percent of poor black students in schools with moderate to low levels of poverty failed to hit the grade-level reading target, for example, the corresponding percentage for low-income African-American students in schools with high concentrations of poor students was 90 percent. For economically disadvantaged Hispanic students, the percentage of students falling short of proficiency drops from 88 percent in the schools with the most poor children to 82 percent in better-off schools.

The nation’s reading problem is also worse than it seems, the foundation says, because many states, facing pressure to boost students’ scores on state exams, have lowered the “cut scores,” which are the number of items that students must answer correctly. To underscore that point, the report cites an earlier study by the National Center for Education Statistics, which showed that only 16 states set their proficiency standards at levels that met or exceeded NAEP’s lower “basic” standard.

It’s crucial that children master grade-level reading by 3rd grade, the report says, because that’s when instruction moves from a focus on learning to read to reading to learn.

**Room for Improvement**

The report also offers several recommendations for improving children’s reading, including targeting absenteeism—an aspect of schooling that is often overlooked. Nationwide, the report says, an average of one in 10 kindergartners and 1st graders miss 10 percent or more of the school year because of excused or unexcused absences. In some districts, the ratio is as high as one in four for children in grades K-3.

“Because we generally thought about it in terms of truancy, we haven’t really done the math,” Mr. Smith said. “When you do that, you find that for many reasons we have not completely built a culture of attendance.”

The report also targets the disproportionate learning losses experienced by poor children over the summer as another area ripe for improvement.

To underscore that point, the report cites research showing that low-income children fall behind during the summer by as much as two months in reading achievement, while middle-income students tend to make slight gains in that subject over the same period. That’s because more-affluent parents can better afford books, computers, summer camps, and other learning opportunities that keep students learning when school is out, the report says.

The report also makes a pitch for developing a coherent system of early care and education that “aligns, integrates, and coordinates what happens from birth through 3rd grade,” so that children enter 4th grade healthy and better able to understand the more-complex reading tests they encounter at that level.
The Vanda Early Learning Center in Lubbock, TX, sits between two cotton fields, with a bright-blue sign out front and a globe painted on the sidewalk. It's a cheery spot for the children who come here, nearly all of whom qualify for the federal free-lunch program. With its state-endorsed kindergarten-readiness program, it also represents a critical opportunity for them to avoid ending up like the 22 percent of adults over age 25 in Lubbock who don't have a high school diploma.

Zadrian Rodriguez was at high risk of becoming one of those statistics because his mother, Amelia, was struggling to raise three young kids on her own. "I was working long hours and I didn't have time to sit down with them or read to them," she says. Like more than half of the families whose children attend Vanda, Rodriguez also didn't have any books at home. And those are huge problems.

Research has repeatedly shown that access to books and one-on-one reading time is an important predictor of future literacy skills. Reading to your baby from infancy on exposes her to the alphabet, to the sounds that words make, and to the idea that print letters translate into spoken words. Talking to your child about a story boosts understanding and vocabulary. In contrast, not having this language and literacy exposure can quickly set kids like Zadrian and his siblings up for failure. Many children who enter kindergarten without pre-reading skills in place never catch up, according to "America's Early Childhood Literacy Gap," a 2009 report from Jumpstart, a national early education organization dedicated to advancing school readiness in low-income communities. "By second grade, we can predict with reasonable accuracy who will go on to higher education and who will not, based on their literacy skills," says Jumpstart board member Laura Berk, Ph.D., professor of psychology at Illinois State University.

A parade of experts echo this sentiment: If a child isn't caught up by third grade, "it requires intense intervention to close this gap," says Janice Im, senior program manager at Zero to Three, a nonprofit that promotes healthy development in babies and toddlers.

"We have faith in education and how it works, but the truth is that these kids don't catch up no matter how good their schools are," agrees Adam Ray of the Pearson Foundation, the nonprofit arm of the media giant, which helps fund Jumpstart's work.

Having reading difficulties also increases the odds that a child will drop out of school and have a criminal record. States like California and Indiana have even factored in the number of third-graders who are not reading at grade level when planning future jail construction. But the news isn't all bad: There's a growing understanding of the urgent need to help young kids develop literacy skills, and organizations like Jumpstart are stepping in to help.
READING BETWEEN THE LINES
In 2002, government agencies convened the National Early Literacy Panel (NELP) to understand what helps children from birth to age 5 learn to read when they get to school. Their report, "Developing Early Literacy," released last year, analyzed 500 studies and used the results to define a specific set of skills that predict later literacy achievement for children in kindergarten, explains NELP panel chair Timothy Shanahan, Ph.D., director of the Center for Literacy at the University of Illinois at Chicago. "We're not talking about sitting kids down with workbooks," notes Shanahan, "but you still need a plan to teach a child literacy skills through play."

Children also need access to books, and far too many don't have that. While a child growing up in a middle-class neighborhood will own an average of 13 books at any given time, low-income communities average about one book for every 300 children, according to University of Michigan professor Susan Neuman, Ed.D., author of Changing the Odds for Children at Risk. Even all libraries aren't created equal: School libraries in low-income areas average half the number of children's books as those in middle-income neighborhoods, and public libraries in these communities often have more restrictive hours of operation. "Physical and psychological proximity to books and reading materials is critical. A child can't pick up a book that isn't there," says Neuman.

A language-rich environment, in which parents talk to their children, ask questions, and involve them in an ongoing dialogue, is also essential to emerging literacy. One often-cited study estimates that by the time kids enter school, there can be a difference of 30 million words between the vocabularies of children growing up in well-off households versus the vocabularies of children in poorer ones. These children "often haven't been exposed in their interactions with their parents to the alphabet, vocabulary, and language skills," according to Susan Landry, Ph.D., founder and director of The Children's Learning Institute at the University of Texas Health Science Center, in Houston.

STEPS TO SUCCESS
Here's what parents can focus on to get their child on the road to reading, according to National Early Literacy Panel chair Timothy Shanahan, Ph.D.

1. Print concepts: When you read to your Child, you show her that you read words (not pictures), where you begin on a page, what direction you go in, whether print is right side up, and that you turn the pages of a book one at a time.

2. Alphabet knowledge: Help your child first learn to name letters, then the sounds that each letter makes.

3. Phonological awareness: Preschoolers also need to hear and remember the separations between words in a sentence and to hear the sounds within words — such as the “c” sound in “cat.” Rhyming books and songs encourage phonological awareness.

4. Oral language: Talk to your child about what you’re reading, asking basic questions about the characters and the story line. You can also extend your child’s language skills by repeating and paraphrasing what she has said to you: “Yes, this is an elephant!”

5. Writing: Encourage any drawing or scribbling, if your child is too young to start practicing letters (many are ready by age 4), let her see you write her name, a story that she tells you, even your grocery list.

HELP IS ON THE WAY
Enter groups like Jumpstart, whose corps of volunteers, a nationwide team of trained community residents and college students, provides intervention in 260 preschools and childcare facilities.
“We Have Failed Our Children”

Corps members spend six to eight hours each week -- for an entire school year -- reading with kids and doing activities that develop social, language, and literacy skills. The results so far have been impressive: A 2008 review of Jumpstart's program run out of Illinois State University found that the children who received literacy intervention showed fall-to-spring gains in achievement -- on three different tests -- that were two to three times greater than children who did not participate in the program. Zadrian Rodriguez, now 6, benefited from the Jumpstart corps while attending Vanda, and his sister, Nazlyn, 5, is part of the program as well.

Washington seems to be on board, too: Last year's stimulus bill allocated $5 billion for early learning programs like Head Start, a federal program that provides comprehensive early-childhood development services to low-income children. It also included $5 billion in challenge grants to encourage innovative programs that work toward closing "the achievement gap."

The next step: States also need to make early education more accessible. Research has shown that public pre-kindergarten programs increase high school graduation rates, improve academic outcomes, and reduce the number of children who require special-education services, says Marci Young, the director of Pre-K Now, a group working to make quality pre-kindergarten available for all 3- and 4-year-olds. Currently, only 24 percent of 4-year-olds and 4 percent of 3-year-olds in the U.S. are in a state-funded program, according to Pre-K Now.

Public awareness and support for programs that encourage reading is essential as well. A poll by the Pearson Foundation and Jumpstart found that while 95 percent of Americans consider early childhood literacy an important issue, they were not aware that reading to a child between the ages of 3 and 5 is critical for future achievement.

Zadrian Rodriguez is proof of that. Now a first-grader at Hodges Elementary in Lubbock, the little boy loves reading the books he brings home from the school library. His sister, Nazlyn, just got her first book, Eric Carle's The Very Hungry Caterpillar, from her participation in Jumpstart's program. Wednesdays are Zadrian's favorite day at school because that's when they have spelling tests. "He loves when he gets a hundred," says Amelia Rodriguez. "We put it on the refrigerator and we all give high fives." With enough noise, maybe state and federal elected officials can also give a big high five to early literacy education for all.

SECTION 17-D

Day Care Closure Notification Law Draws Mixed Reactions

Wednesday, 01 September 2010

A new state law that requires the Administration for Children’s Services (ACS) to provide parents with six months advance notice before closing City-funded child care centers is drawing strongly mixed reactions in New York City. DC1707, which represents employees at the ACS contracted centers and which had pressed for the legislation, praised the bill. ACS Commissioner John Mattingly — and some nonprofit advocates — panned the legislation as an “unfunded mandate” that will limit the City’s ability to use funding so that it serves the greatest number of children and families.
The legislation, which was signed by Governor Paterson yesterday, comes in response to moves by ACS in recent years to close child care centers which it believes are underutilized or located in particularly high cost facilities. In February, ACS had proposed closing 16 programs housed in buildings where the City’s own “direct lease” rental costs were exceptionally high. As part of the FY2010-2011 budget negotiations, the City Council allocated $18 million in funding to continue operations at 10 of the programs for another full year and six of the programs for three months, until September 30. The new law, which took effect immediately, requires that the six month advance notification period for these six centers begins yesterday – rather than when the proposed closing were originally announced.

“We have failed our children,” said Raglan George, Jr., Executive Director of DC1707. “Public center-based day care is a precious commodity that needs all of us to safeguard.”

“We are outraged by this bill’s passage and that the Governor signed it,” said Mattingly. “Less than two weeks ago, we received an $11 million cut to the state block grant for child care. Then, in spite of that, we get this bill which is just another un-funded mandate. This is bad legislation that is going to make it harder for all of us to try and provide good child care within the budgets we have to abide by.”

The Commissioner expressed particular outrage over the bill’s retroactive coverage the centers where closure plans had already been announced. “We have already provided parents with notice and offered alternatives,” he said.

The Citizens Committee for Children, which had opposed the legislation, expressed similar concerns. “New York City’s child care system is desperately short of resources due to increasing costs, increasing numbers of mandated public assistance families entitled to child care, local budget reductions, as well as decreasing state support,” wrote CCC’s Jennifer March-Joly and Stephanie Gendell in a letter to the Governor on August 26th. “The state must not impose this unfunded mandate in the current year, as it will lead to an immediate reduction in the number of children served by the city's child care system.”

CCC estimated the cost of the new mandate at $1.5 million for the current fiscal year. They went on to note that the mandate would ultimately lead to the closure of programs during the middle of the school year, rather than at more appropriate times when parents would be more able to find child care alternatives.

“Given that ACS and the centers have known about this closure since July (at the latest), many of the parents have already found child care elsewhere and to ensure continuity of services many of the children will transition in September even if this bill keeps the centers open until January,” said CCC. “The result of this bill would be that the City’s precious resources would be spent on empty classrooms at the expense of serving 120 actual children in other centers. This is unacceptable and untenable for the children of the city of New York.”

DC1707 counters that the combination of City Council funding and $29 million in federal stimulus funds targeted towards child care should provide all the resources necessary to keep all its centers open.

“Any stimulus money we have gotten for child care is being spent on child care,” said Commissioner Mattingly in response. “We have been operating at a substantial deficit.”
UN proclaims International Year of Youth in 2010

18 December 2009 —

In an effort to harness the energy, imagination and initiative of the world’s youth in overcoming the challenges facing humankind, from enhancing peace to boosting economic development, the United Nations today proclaimed an International Year of Youth starting on 12 August 2010.

“The International Year is about advancing the full and effective participation of youth in all aspects of society,” UN Focal Point on Youth (www.UN.org/youth) Nicola Shepherd said. “We encourage all sectors of society to work in partnership with youth and youth organizations to better understand their needs and concerns and to recognize the contributions that they can make to society.”

In its resolution proclaiming the Year, the General Assembly called on governments, civil society, individuals and communities worldwide to support activities at local and international levels to mark the event.

Under the theme ‘Dialogue and Mutual Understanding,’ the Year aims to encourage dialogue and understanding across generations and promote the ideals of peace, respect for human rights and freedoms, and solidarity.

It also encourages young people to dedicate themselves to fostering progress, including the attainment of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which seek to slash a host of social ills, ranging from extreme poverty and hunger to maternal and infant mortality to lack of access to education and health care, all by 2015.

Several international events are already scheduled throughout the year, including the Fifth World Youth Congress from 31 July to 13 August in Istanbul, and the World Conference for Youth in Mexico City from 24 to 27 August. Both gatherings will focus on youth and sustainable development in the context of the MDGs.

The inaugural Youth Olympic Games in Singapore from 14 to 26 August will seek to inspire youth around the world to embrace, embody and express the Olympic values of excellence, friendship and respect.
The administration of Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, in a blunt acknowledgment that thousands of young black and Latino men are cut off from New York’s civic, educational and economic life, plans to spend nearly $130 million on far-reaching measures to improve their circumstances.

The program, the most ambitious policy push of Mr. Bloomberg’s third term, would overhaul how the government interacts with a population of about 315,000 New Yorkers who are disproportionately undereducated, incarcerated and unemployed.

To pay for the endeavor in a time of fiscal austerity, the city is relying on an unusual source: Mr. Bloomberg himself, who intends to use his personal fortune to cover about a quarter of the cost, city officials said. A $30 million contribution from Mr. Bloomberg’s foundation would be matched by that of a fellow billionaire, George Soros, a hedge fund manager, with the remainder being paid for by the city.

Starting this fall, the administration said it would place job-recruitment centers in public-housing complexes where many young black and Latino men live, retrain probation officers in an effort to reduce recidivism, establish new fatherhood classes and assess schools on the academic progress of male black and Latino students.

Mr. Bloomberg plans to announce the three-year program in a speech on Thursday morning in Manhattan, in which he will declare that “blacks and Latinos are not fully sharing in the promise of American freedom.”
Even as crime has fallen and graduation rates have risen in New York over the past decade, city officials said that black and Latino men, especially those between ages 16 and 24, remained in crisis by nearly every measure, including rates of arrest, school suspension and poverty. Although the populations of young white, black and Latino men in New York are roughly the same size, 84 percent of those in the city’s detention facilities and nearly all of those admitted to children’s and family services facilities are black and Latino youth, according to data from the Bloomberg administration. “The magnitude of the disparities is stunning,” said Linda I. Gibbs, the deputy mayor for health and human services. “It’s tragic.”

Mr. Bloomberg has put the weight of city government behind large-scale social change before, with public-health campaigns against smoking, sugary beverages and fatty foods. But now, he is confronting a problem whose intractability and deep-seated causes have bedeviled policy makers for decades. And by focusing so heavily on a subset of city residents, he risks angering those unlikely to be helped by the new resources.

“The success rate, in general, is not that promising,” said Elijah Anderson, a professor of sociology at Yale, who has written extensively about urban issues.

The challenge, Professor Anderson said, will be persuading New York’s businesses to embrace these young men and offer them permanent employment after the city’s work is completed. “Companies have to be much more receptive to these young people and meet people like Bloomberg halfway,” he said.

The administration’s plan, developed after a year of study and debate, spans much of the city’s bureaucracy and multiple stages in the lives of the men it is trying to reach, beginning in middle school and ending with career counseling. In interviews, aides to the mayor said the new measures emphasized the practical needs of the city’s most impoverished black and Latino men, many of whom are unable or unwilling to enroll in time-consuming education and training programs unless they are compensated, according to the officials. So to promote remedial math and literacy classes in the morning, for example, the city would link them with paid internships in the afternoon. The internships would pay $7.25 an hour, but students would be paid only if they participated in the class.

“Working is a big motivator for these kids,” said Kristin Morse, the director of programs and evaluation at the city’s Center for Economic Opportunity. For the first time, the Education Department would specifically tie the success of black and Latino boys — measured in part by test scores and graduation rates — to the grades the city gives schools each year. Those grades can determine whether a school remains open. Much of the program is intended to prevent young men from entering or returning to the criminal justice system, which has long been a revolving door for many black and Latino youth.

Under the plan, the city’s Probation Department would open five satellite probation offices in neighborhoods with the highest crime rates — like East New York, Brooklyn; Jamaica, Queens; and the South Bronx — and inside community organizations that offer services from which the young men might benefit, like computer classes to help them prepare for a job or yoga classes to help them control anger. Currently, the city’s 524 probation officers work out of central offices in the five boroughs, often disconnected from the communities where the men whom they monitor spend most of their time.

To provide role models for the men on probation, the city said it would recruit from those neighborhoods 900 paid mentors, many of whom used to be troubled themselves, and promote a range of community service programs, like cleaning parks, removing graffiti and painting community centers, said Vincent N. Schiraldi, the city’s probation commissioner.
"We Have Failed Our Children"

He said the goal was to help New Yorkers see these young men “not as the scary guy in a North Face jacket hanging at the corner, but as men who can have a positive impact in their neighborhoods.”

Aides to the mayor described several of the measures as common-sense solutions that would cost little, if anything, to put in place. The city will try to reduce the barriers to employment for men with criminal convictions by instructing managers not to ask job applicants about those records in the first stage of the interview process. The city would also encourage men to obtain driver’s licenses or state identification cards, after focus groups suggested that a large number of young black and Latino men did not have them, making it difficult for them to apply for jobs. “They didn’t know why they should have it or how to get it,” said Andrea Batista Schlesinger, a special adviser to the mayor, who organized the program.

Now the city plans to promote such identification in the paperwork given to high-school graduates and during interviews for summer jobs with city agencies. Mr. Bloomberg urged his aides to study the experiences of black and Latino men in 2010. The aides said he was especially surprised and unsettled by statistics showing how frequently many of the men returned to the city’s prisons — an issue that became personal for the mayor after a stranger pulled him aside on the subway and told him his story: he was 45, black, a convict and unemployed. Mr. Bloomberg asked Dennis M. Walcott, now the schools chancellor, to check in periodically with the man, who was later arrested again.

A few weeks ago, Mr. Bloomberg called Mr. Soros, who has spent millions of dollars on programs to help black men in Baltimore and other cities, and invited him to lunch. The mayor asked the financier to match his donation for a program in New York, and Mr. Soros quickly agreed.

“When the mayor approached us,” Mr. Soros said, “he was knocking on an open door.”

SOLUTIONS PART 2

Eagle President/CEO Leads Mayor's Young Men's Initiative

New York City Mayor Mike Bloomberg's announcement on Thursday, August 4 launching the Young Men's Initiative was the culmination of a comprehensive 18-month study led by David C. Banks, Eagle Academy Foundation President and CEO, and Ana Oliveira, New York Women's Foundation President. Banks was named co-chair to lead the important policy project in January 2010, and worked with top mayoral aides and City commissioners to identify strategies and interventions to produce better outcomes for young men of color. These strategies include a targeted $42 million to strengthen education resources for young men of color.

"I am so proud to have been a part of Mayor Bloomberg's Young Men's Initiative where the Mayor has been fully engaged in this project since day one. This initiative is the first of its kind in the country where the private and public sectors have joined together to say that we intend to reclaim the lives of our young African American and Latino men. It is a call to action, a challenge, not only to the community and its leaders, but to the donor community, to step up and help us alter the future of these young men," said Banks.

Banks and Oliveira gathered their findings and recommendations in a 23-page report, "Young Men's Initiative: Report to the Mayor from the Chairs." You can download your copy here (www.eagleacademyfoundation.com/events.htm).
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“We Have Failed Our Children”

SUMMARY

It is our hope that the wisdom contained in this report will help you see how “We Have Failed Our Children”—each and every one of us. We have outlined in detail the key areas that need to be addressed and trust you will join us in our movement to “Shine some Light on the Darkness” that has consumed us for over 3 decades. We have an obligation to each and every child on this planet. The least we can do is make a sincere effort to save our future generations from the chaos you have just read.

“Divide & Conquer” is a strategy used to win wars. We face wars of “Social Injustice” everyday in poor communities around the world. Through this comprehensive report of the first decade of the New Millennium, we can finally gauge our position and prepare to protect our children from the global parasites who make a fortune from their innocence and ignorance.

Know that the key to winning the “War on our Children” is the “Love and Strength” of a woman. Just think about the power and influence of your Grandmother, Mother, Aunt, Sister and/or Wife/Girlfriend. All have survived against policies of discrimination and inequalities. Former President George Bush attacked Iraq because he feared the country possessed WMDs (Weapons of Mass Destruction). Now the concept of WMD (Woman & Man Divided) is being used to reap havoc in our communities just like a Weapon of Mass Destruction. With so many men in jail, out of work or off to war, women are left to hold down the family. When playing the “Divide & Conquer” game, the key to victory is to eliminate the Man of the House. When the woman is left all alone with the children, the family is compromised, which starts the cycle of destruction. Every child’s education starts with its mother and is reinforced by the father. She is the one who prepares the child for the trials and tribulations of life.

From the Child Soldiers in third world countries who are forced to kill to survive, to the prison gangs that control street gangs who collectively have seized control of our communities, we along with our children are all living in fear. Warlords, Terrorists and Gangs recruit kids to murder, commit crimes, use violence and sell drugs to support their operations. As you can see from this report, Death, Disease, Poverty and other social ills are having a tremendous impact on the safety and development of our children. Not every child whose pants are “Sagging” or who is just hanging on the corner is a thug, gang member or a criminal. Most gang members only see a church when a member is being buried, but yet there are some who believe in God and have children. We are not here to pass judgment, but only to let the world know that it’s time to plant new seeds of hope and opportunity and put an end to the violence, poverty and social injustice that has crippled the growth and development of our children here in the U.S. and all over the world.

Despite three decades of failure, it is our hope that with the information contained in this report and the successful programs we have created over the years, we can reverse the downward spiral and prepare our future leaders for the monumental tasks of improving conditions on this planet and making this a safer and better world. This has been a rough decade starting with the 9/11 attacks and ending with the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. It is only through the power of love, spiritual enlightenment, economic development and a quality education that we will be able to “Win the War on our Children.” Over the years we have “Increased our Spiritual Bank Account” by “Giving Back” to the community and saving many young souls from living the life of the “Living Dead” or, as they say in prison, “Dead Man Walking.” Now that we have a moral and statistical understanding of how we have “Sold Out” our children, we can “Unite the Village” around our “Pledge 4 Peace & Prosperity” and help them become winners in the tough Game of Life.

To make this happen we need more projects like the $130 million 3 year initiative recently announced in NYC by Mayor Bloomberg, with support from George Soros, David Banks and many others. The program will address the problems plaguing at-risk Black & Latino males who are disproportionately undereducated, incarcerated and unemployed. With support from the Private Sector and the Entertainment Industry we can “Make this a Better World for our Children” who are crying out real loud through their “Sagging Pants” for social, political and economic justice.

Hip-Hop Summit Youth Council
We Have Failed Our Children

This report was prepared by:
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Tony Herbert
Dave Hogan/Walmart
Jack Williams/Walmart
Jim Jones
Funk Master Flex/Hot 97
Capone-N-Noreaga
Anthony Mayol
Det. Al Stevens
Jermaine LaMont
Ahmad Quazi
Latifah Johnson
Assemblyman Jeff Aubry
Pat Rubens
Big Ron/Persuaders
Brad Patrick
Beta Records
Peter Benjamin
Bertha Lewis
Reginald Bowman
Robert Boyd, Jr.
Erskine Isaac/Ujaama Talent Agency
Shakira Stewart
Brandon Miree
Zaki Abdul
DJ Pharriss
Phil Edwards
Curtis Taylor
Frank Cooper, III
Toni Serrano
Karen Tucker
Malcolm Wilson
John Copen
Gregory & Darlene Fisher
Lisa St. Rose
Shariff Fisher
Earl & Valencia Foreman
Carmel Mulvany/UN Works
Matthew Greenberg, Esq.
Bill Thompson
Cheryl Briggs
Dr. Arun Gandhi
Leonard Green
Um-Allah Ronald Robinson
Regina Dillard/DYCD
Erv Roberson
Terrence J/BET’s 106 & Park
Rocsi/BET’s 106 & Park
Tyrone “Fly Ty” Williams
Yvonne Acosta/UNDPI
Bill Yotive/UNDPI
Ted Lucas/Slip-N-Slide Records
Richard Williams
Chavante LaSane
Gordon Tapper
Ken Foxworth/Germless
M.1/dead.prez
Ashley Young
Ed Williams/Far Rockaway NAACP
Dr. Elaine Valdov
Ferris Turner, Esq.
Gloria Kins
Glenn Toby
Greg Lisi, Esq.
Lionel Perez
Muriel Glasgow
Mike Brown
Rev. Moses
Pat Long
Rashad Drakeford
Richard Garrett
Angelo Ellerbee[Double XX]posure
Patrick Scharatta/FAF
Merle English/Newsday
Tonya Payton
Jody Miller/JLMPR
NYS Association of Black & Latino Legislators
Justin Miller
Mark Crutch
Steve Lee
Sara Vidal/DYCD
Senteria DePass-Murray
Terry Robertson
Marian Fisher
Darryl Fisher
Kaymel & Ellen Fisher
Monique Fisher
Asst. Comm. Winette Saunders-Halyard
Aliza Hava
Amil Husain
Hugh Spence/NYCHA
Mark Roofe
Daniel Massey/Crain’s Magazine
Oren Yaniv/NY Daily News
Warren Woodberry
Principal Diannah Malcolm
Queens BP Helen Marshall

Hip-Hop Summit Youth Council
"We Have Failed Our Children"

Assemblywoman Barbara Clark
Assemblywoman Vivian Cook
David Hager
Azie Faison
Hammer
Allan Houston
Ed Lover/98.7 KISS FM
Sasha Austrie/SEQ Press
Arnold "Bam" Jones
The Game
Toccara Jones
Doug E. Fresh
Jaheim
Freeway
Li’l Cease
OJ Wedlaw/EMI
DJ King Smij
Papoose
Jinx Da Juvy
Maino
Asst. Commissioner Guillermo Linares
Carl Thomas
Twista
Idris Elba
Doug Banks Morning Show
Cedric "the Entertainer"
En Vogue
EPMD
Dr. Bob Lee/WBLS
DJ Chuck Chillout/98.7 KISS FM
Kwame
Rev. Al Sharpton
Rev. Herbert Daughtry
Councilman James Davis Foundation
Jason Kidd
Vince Carter
Roberta Flack
Darryl Dawkins
Tim Robbins
Susan Sarandon
Cynthia Nixon
Ossie Davis
Ruby Dee
Blair Underwood
Star Jones
Michael Chin/Portland Holdings, Inc.
Roger Guenveur Smith
Erykah Badu
Rev. Jesse Jackson/Rainbow PUSH
Ben Todd Jealous/NAACP
Roslyn Brock/NAACP
Hazel Dukes/NAACP
Assemblywoman Michele Titus
Councilman James Sanders
Julian Bond/NAACP
Remigio Maradona/IIMSAM
Jeff Johnson/BET
Bell Blv DeVoe
India.Arie
Minister Louis Farrakhan
Chancellor Denis Walcott
Senator Chuck Schumer
Kevin Liles
Bad Boy's "The Band"
Loon
Whodini
Minister Kevin Muhummad
Irv Gotti
Fat Joe
Matthew Knowles
MC Shan
Jon Bon Jovi
DJ Green Lantern
Bill Adler
Steve Rifkind
50 Cent
R. Kelly
Usher
Vivica Fox
Kimora Lee Simmons
Mos Def
Treach
T.I.
Ryan Leslie
Remy Ma
Mr. Cheeks/Lost Boyz
Tego Calderon
Mike Conception
Marley Marl
Saigon
Kool G. Rap
Magic Juan
Just Ice
Rosie Perez
Black Child
Bang ‘Em Smurf
Domination
Former Senator Ada L. Smith
Councilman Joel Rivera
Andreus
Real
Top A Da Lyne
Kazual
Nnocent
Councilman Ruben Wills
Ken "Universal" Borum
People’s Choice
Antoine Blech/Club Opia
Troy "Escalade" Jackson (RIP)
DJ TNT
DJ Teardrops
DJ Ruff Handz
DJ Shon White
DJ Chilly
Fancy Black Pesos
Marvin Thompson
Rudy Riminich
Nat Valentine
Ronnie Wright
Frick-N-Frack
AC
L.D. Lucky
Sha Lincoln
Double Threat
Lyfe Kids
Real
Lexx 9 Eleven
Melvin Williams
Carrie & Candi Lynn
Frank Garcia
Jack Villacis
NYPD Youth Services Section
Warden Bailey/Riker’s Island
Nassau DA Kathleen Rice
Meg Reiss/ADA/Nassau County
Risco Mention-Lewis/ADA/Nassau County
Richard Leonard/UNAIDS
Mary Nghidinwa/UNAIDS
Chef Darm/Stache/Prycecess/LIQC
Louis Calos/LJC Publishing
The Company Kaine
President Leonel Fernandez/Dominican Rep.
Martin Dannenberg
Hip-Hop ‘Hood Report
P.O.G Entertainment Group
Senator Brian Foley
Raw Soul Restaurant
Ney Pimentel/Brand Anarchy Group
Mike Jacobson/MDG Awards
Nassau County Executive Ed Mangano
Hempstead CDA/Claude Gooding
Hempstead Chamber of Commerce
Neal Tepel
James Lisbon/Queens Light
Bonsu Thompson/Source Magazine
Reggie Osse/Source Magazine

Hip-Hop Summit Youth Council
"We Have Failed Our Children"

Dana Santiago/NorthStar Group
Sean Jones/NorthStar Group
Tiffany Green/NorthStar Group
Leroy Gadsden/Jamaica NAACP
Andrew Barnes/Jamaica NAACP Day Care
Jeffrey Wright
George Soros/Soros Fund Management
Albany DA David Soares
Ethan Nadelmann/Drug Policy Alliance
Gabriel Sayegh/Drug Policy Alliance
Tony Newman/Drug Policy Alliance
Tony Papa/Drug Policy Alliance
Michael Blaine (R.I.P)
Elaine Bartlett
Dan Cantor/Working Families Party
Former Philly Mayor John Street
Former Hartford, CT Mayor Eddie Perez
Kansas Governor Sam Brownback
Tamika Mallory/National Action Network
Slick Rick
Assemblyman Carl E. Heastie
Former Senator Antoine M. Thompson
Assemblyman Hakeem Jeffries
Donovan Richards
DJ Baby Bear
Former U.S. House Leader Tom DeLay
Georgia Congressman Henry Howard
Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin
Former DeKalb Co. CEO Vernon Jones
The Associated Press
Fox News Channel
BBC
Global News Radio
The Canadian Broadcast Network
NY1 News
WCBS News Channel 2
WNBC News Channel 4
Fox 5 News
WABC News Channel 7
UPN-9 News
WB-11 News
BET News
MTV & MTV2
VH-1
The Christian Science Monitor
Billboard Magazine
Vibe Magazine
XXL Magazine
F.E.D.S Magazine
HITS
New York Newsday
NY Daily News
Mike LaSalle/Source Magazine
Curtis Archer/Harlem EDC
Anthony Suber
New York Post
New York Amsterdam News
The New Voice of NY
Caribbean Life
The LA Times
4 Korners
Y2G.com
MTV.com
AllHipHop.com
SOHH.com
CNN.com
RollingStone.com
1010 WINS
WWRL
WCBS NEWSRADIO 88
Jamaica Times
Southeast Queens Press
Queens Chronicle
Queens Courier
Chelsea Now
Correctional Association of NY
Harm Reduction Coalition
NY Legal Aid Society
Legal Action Center
Malcolm X Grassroots Movement
NY Mothers of the Disappeared
7 Neighborhood Action Partnership
Armand Assante
Margaret Denson
Jackie Denson/No Doubt
York College Continuing Ed. Dept.
Dr. Matthew Katz/York College
Jean Phelps/York College
Malcolm X Foundation
Attallah Shabazz
Qubilah Shabazz
Ilyasah Shabazz
Gamilah Lumumba Shabazz
Melkia Shabazz
Malaak Shabazz
Constance Newman/Carmen Group
Dr. Maulana Karenga/Cal State Univ.
Taimoyo Karenga
Barbara Ciara
Kathy Times/NABJ
Ambassador Dudley Thompson
Dr. Julius Garvey
Hon. Darius Mans/Africare
Dr. Lonnie Bunch/Smithsonian
Pamela Huntley-Corley
James Heyliger/AMENY
Jamel Coleman/Jamaica NAACP Day Care
Mel Foote/Constituency for Africa
Prof. Leonard Jeffries/City College
Delois Blakely/Harlem Community Mayor
Rosalind McLymont/The Network Journal
Fritz-Earle McLymont
Sean Barlow/Afro Pop
John Yearwood/The Miami Herald
James Gomez/RainbowPUSH
Gary Flowers/Black Leadership Forum
Texas State Senator Rodney Ellis
Hilary Shelton/NAACP
Karen Boykin-Towns/NAACP
Elinor Tatum/Amsterdam News
Mamadou Niang/African Film Festival
Richard Gant
Co. Commissioner Audrey Edmonson/Miami
Florida State Senator Anthony Hill
David and Arlene Katzive
Jazz Legend Randy Weston
Fatoumata Weston
Damaso Reyes
Steve Thomas/American Mortgage Capital Grp
Stephanie D. Neely/City of Chicago Treasurer
Phil Pabon
Fern Yates (R.I.P)
Shante Trayham
Autum Ashante
Otto Green, Jr.
Terris Eddington
Tiombbe Bisa Kendrick
Frank Sabio/TCI
Jose Sanchez
Tony “Understanding” Moore
Sano-In (R.I.P)
Charlie Nunez
Ariel Gonzalez
Wanda Alicea
Principal Rodney Fisher
Principal Noreen Little
Principal Nadia Lopez
Principal Miranda Ra’ooof
Stanley Kalathara
Kings County Juvenile Offender Program
Staten Island DA’s office
Rick Henning/Ed Lyrics
Reverend Vernon Williams
Pastor Ron Sullivan
Ishsha Sekou
Deanna Tilley/NYAGV

Hip-Hop Summit Youth Council
“We Have Failed Our Children”

Gary A. Byrd
Debra Robertson
Angelo Green
Wise Dread
Audie Serrano
Jerry Calonge
Travis Williams
Magic Juan
Rosalind Williams/Walmart
Roger Guzman/Walmart
Bill Simon/Walmart
Heidi Walters/MDG Awards
Shaq Hussain
Jim W. Kommu
Tracey Lewis/Walmart
R. Fenimore Fisher/Walmart
Esther Silver-Parker
R. Virginia Smith/Walmart
Leslie Dach/Walmart
Stephen Quinn/Walmart
Adrienne T. White/Walmart
Gerard Dehrmann/Walmart
Mark Espinoza/Walmart
Michelle D. Gilliard/Walmart
Brooke Benoit/Sam's Club
Gyatia M.J. Kimmons/Walmart
Tracey Lewis/Walmart
Gary A. Byrd
Debra Robertson
Angelo Green
Wise Dread
Audie Serrano
Jerry Calonge
Travis Williams
Magic Juan
Rosalind Williams/Walmart
Roger Guzman/Walmart
Bill Simon/Walmart
Heidi Walters/MDG Awards
Shaq Hussain
Jim W. Kommu
Tracey Lewis/Walmart
R. Fenimore Fisher/Walmart
Esther Silver-Parker
R. Virginia Smith/Walmart
Leslie Dach/Walmart
Stephen Quinn/Walmart
Adrienne T. White/Walmart
Gerard Dehrmann/Walmart
Mark Espinoza/Walmart
Michelle D. Gilliard/Walmart
Brooke Benoit/Sam's Club
Gyatia M.J. Kimmons/Walmart

Don Omar
Black Eyed Peas
Ciara
Daddy Yankee
Cypress Hill
Cassie
OutKast
Ivy Queen
DMX
Lil' Wayne
Jennifer Lopez
Pitbull
Ice Cube
Yung Joc
Wu-Tang Clan
Young Jeezy
Xzibit
Snoop Dogg
Pharrell Williams
Ryan Leslie
Alicia Keys
Missy Elliott
Nelly
Ludacris
Ashanti
Usher
Will Smith
Notorious B.I.G (R.I.P)
Mary J. Blige
Queen Latifah
Tupac (R.I.P)
Beyonce
Kanye West
Eminem
Dr. Dre
Chris Brown
Foxy Brown
Musiq Soulchild
Queen Pen
Jaguar Wright
Jamie Hector
Wah, Inc.

Sonia Jaegasar/MOS
Marcellus Morris
Sharesa Storey
Angela Bassett
Gloria Tristani/FCC Commissioner
Warren Woodberry, Jr.
Sara McColgan
Betsy Scheinbart
Corey Takahashi
Former Gov. George Pataki

Paul Williams, Jr./DASNY
Clem Harris
David Johnson
Matthias Stausberg/Global Compact
Kenny Lee
Kevin Alexander/RDRC
Raglan George, Jr./DC 1707
Lorenzo Newby
Dulce Zapata
Officer Richard Lowe
Rudy Johnson/Harlem Magic Masters
Ayesha Hakki
Frank Cooper, III/Pepsi
Keith Belvin
Andrea Anthony
Mathew Greenberg, Esq
Larry Scott Blackmon, Jr.
Jack’s Transmission
Alvin Persaud
Kristian Stiles
Celeste Morris
Lillian Butler
Eddie Robinson
Congresswoman Barbara Lee
Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson
Emmitt Smith
Councilman Robert Jackson
NYC Comptroller John Liu
NYS Senator Bill Perkins
Joel Klein
World Heritage Culture Center
Avery Johnson/Head Coach, NY Nets
Parviz Farahzad/Grumman Studios
Richard Williams
Raymond Kelly/NYC Police Comm.
Detective Martin Brown
Sergeant Lee Manuel
Officer Danny Whitty
Heather Huppert/NY Nets
Jeff Scott/NY Nets
Gerah Wallace
George Wallace
Charmeine Peart-Hosang/Year Up
Captain Charlene Brown
Tariq Alexander
Dena Weisfeld
Norman Weisfeld
Bruce Weisfeld
Joe Fish
Bartin Ashante
Zack Gomopolsky/Vertex, Inc.
Greg St. Rose, Jr.
James Clayton
“We Have Failed Our Children”

Kevin Rivers
Mike Brown
Rick Torres, Esq.
Marquis Jackson
Elijah White
Devon Donaldson
Shantine Houston
Omar Casablan
Chris McPhail
Shaquille Hunter
Bryce Wilson
Mel Jackson
Hawthorne James
Justine Arnold
Sianna Ford
Tia Martin
Yolanda Little
Dr. Johnetta Hill
Dr. Scyatta Wallace/St. Johns
LaRon Profit
Jared Jeffries
Bruce Ratner
Forest City Ratner Companies
Stephanie Asare
Jinea Butler
Joseph Fraga
Dr. Elaine Valdov
Dr. Debora Heflin
Jerry Roebuck
Thomas Cracovia
Ewan Anderson, Esq.
Neil Bacchus
Jeff Signs
Dr. Khalid Al-Mansour
Rabbi Yehuda Assaf
Maimonides Research Institute
Abraham Foxman/ADL
Ellis Williams
Derek Johnson/Time Warner
Carl Brown
J. Alexander Martin
Keith Perrin
Hip-Hop Cultural Center
Carmen Bryan
Damon Dash
Cam’ron
Freaky Tah (R.I.P)
Liz Goldsmith
Lucius Benson/Elmcor
Senator Eric Adams
Pee Wee Kirkland
Cassandra Cummings/Microsoft

Hip-Hop Summit Youth Council
“We Have Failed Our Children”

Statistical data provided by:

- United Nations
- Centers for Disease Control
- National Youth Gang Survey
- U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics
- UNESCO
- U.S. Dept. of Justice
- FBI
- Children’s Defense Fund
- U.S. Census Bureau
- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
- American Corrections Association
- National Institute on Drug Abuse
- National Institutes of Health
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- Office of National Drug Control Policy
- DEA
- UNICEF
- World Health Organization
- American Corrections Association
- CASA
- Monitoring the Future Survey

FINAL NOTE: A majority of the statistics you see in our report are the most recent available. You can bet that in most situations the numbers are now even worse thanks to a slumping economy and a depressed housing market.

Conditions will not improve without the “Voice of the People.” It all starts with our children, youth and young adults, so be on the look out for:

World Peace: LIVE; Operation SNUG;
Read 2 Succeed Through Hip-Hop Project; and our Hip-Hop Against Gun & Gang Violence initiative coming soon.

Hip-Hop Summit Youth Council
“We Have Failed Our Children”

“*We Have Failed Our Children*”

**Hip-Hop Summit Youth Council**

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- Twitter.com/HHSYC
- Myspace.com/HHSYC