

Violence and Trauma Among Black Men Episode Guide

Focus: The impact of violence and trauma among young Black men

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Key Findings

- Services are not looking at the holistic contextual factors within the lives of young Black men who have experienced violence and trauma
 - Impact of structural violence
 - Impact of poverty
 - Impact of race
 - Support the needs of caregivers
- These men have undiagnosed/untreated trauma and do not have resources to help them cope
 - Self medication
 - Childhood trauma, adverse childhood experiences - one of the other more significant risk factors for violent injury
 - Social workers and other caregivers in their lives are also experiencing untreated and undiagnosed vicarious trauma
- Studies lead back to the criminal justice system
 - Previous incarceration is the number one risk factor for men being violently injured
 - Black men are disenfranchised due to the criminal justice system policies, which leads to
 - Exclusion from affordable housing
 - Exclusion from employment
 - Increased substance use
 - Violent injury
 - Trauma

Key Recommendations

- Caregivers need support
- There needs to be more teaching of the ways to do self-care in schools of social work

- Structural violence (criminal justice system and in our neighborhoods) needs to be discussed as a cause for other violence
- Awareness regarding the experiences of these men who are experiencing violent injuries as well as the people in their lives caring for and working with them
 - Integrate more of a family support component
- Reduce trauma recidivism
 - Using M-TREM (evidence based treatment) with the men who are coming in with violent injuries
 - Work with probation officers to make sure they are not violating parole and ensure that the individuals are involved in the intervention program
- Focus on credentialing, not job trainings
 - Find ways for young men to have sustainable careers
- Violence intervention programs need a research component that is continually informing the program

Resources

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- Robillard, A. G., Spencer, S. M., & Richardson, J. B. (2015). Expanding the African-American Studies Paradigm to Include Health: a Novel Approach to Promoting Health Equity. *Journal of African American Studies*, 19(1), 94–104. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12111-014-9292-7>