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Name/Title: Defending Childhood: Protect, Heal, Thrive: Report of the Attorney General's National Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence

Author: U.S. Department of Justice Attorney General's Task Force

Media Type: (Book, CD, Flyer, Poster, Website, etc) Report/Book

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Hard copies available here:

<https://www.ncjrs.gov/App/shoppingcart/ShopCart.aspx?item=NCJ%20241563&repro=0>

Language: English

Usefulness Rating:

1. Excellent
2. Good XX – not specifically tailored to schools
3. Fair
4. Poor
5. Rated by: (CSSRC staff member) Alice
6. Comments:
 - a. This document presents the findings and recommendations of the U.S. Attorney General's Task Force on Children's Exposure to Violence. This is a thoroughly researched call to action to address a national public health crisis, voiced by national experts in trauma, violence, and juvenile justice. Types of violence affecting children are identified, along with potential effects on children's wellbeing. Steps are identified to identify, support, and treat these children. Creating safe environments in homes and communities is presented as a method to prevent future exposure to violence. Finally there are recommendations for adjusting the approach of the juvenile justice system.
 - b. While the report is written from a Department of Justice perspective, it includes many arenas for school involvement. Specific issues schools can address include:
 - i. Provide trauma-specific treatments in all agencies and organizations serving children
 - ii. Treatment providers trained in trauma-informed care should be made available in every school
 - iii. Provide workforce protection to individuals who provide services and treatment to children exposed to violence
 - iv. School-based programs should foster, promote, and model health relationships



- v. Address bullying to help stop the spread of emotional and physical violence
- vi. Implement evidence-based suicide prevention and treatment programs
- vii. Aim to keep children in school rather than rely on policies that lead to suspension and expulsion, which drive children into the juvenile justice system

Category: (Prevention, Preparedness, Response, Recovery, Promotional Item) Prevention and Recovery

Topic: (Bullying, Substance Abuse, Threat Assessment, etc) Trauma, Violence, Discipline

Audience: (Administrators, Counselors/Psychologists/Social Workers, Emergency Responders, Health Professionals/Nurses, Law Enforcement/SROs/Security, Parents, Teachers, Other School Personnel)

Intended Age Group: (pre-K, elementary, middle, high, higher education) all

Cost: The document is free to download as a pdf. Hard copies cost \$5 for shipping.

Additional Comments: The full report is large; the Executive Summary and Recommendations briefly provide the essential information.

