



## Welcome!

The RAPCAN Training and Resource Development Team would like to welcome you to our first bimonthly newsletter aimed at practitioners working in the Youth at Risk field. Youth at Risk is one of our Team's areas of interest and we strive to develop cutting-edge resources and training programs.

Often as practitioners we can feel isolated in our work. We would like to invite you to become part of our network of organizations and practitioners who work with youth at risk. We invite you to share your stories, share your resources (evaluation reports, research reports, new programs, articles) and notify us about your up-coming events.

## Interesting articles

**It feels like it's the end of the world. Cape Town's Youth Talk about Gangs and Community violence.** (Catherine L Ward)

[www.iss.co.za/dynamic/administration/file\\_manager/file\\_links/M136FULL.PDF](http://www.iss.co.za/dynamic/administration/file_manager/file_links/M136FULL.PDF)

**13 195 Reasons for Equality in Sexual Offences Legislation: A national school based survey in South Africa.** Neil Andersson and Ari Ho-Foster (29 July 2008)

Prior to 2007, forced sex with male children in South Africa did not count as rape but as "indecent assault", a much less serious offence. This study sought to document the prevalence of male sexual violence among school going youth. Read more at:

[www.equityhealthj.com/content/7/1/20](http://www.equityhealthj.com/content/7/1/20)

## Journal of the month

**Article 40** is a journal published by the Community Law Centre, who forms part of the Law Faculty of the University of the Western Cape discussing progress on legislation impacting on youth. Articles in this issue are:

- Minimum sentences legislation for child offenders found unconstitutional
- And seal it with a kiss ... "kissing law" in the new Sexual Offences Act
- Update on the Child Justice Bill (Act!)
- New Book: Children's Rights in Africa: a legal perspective,

[www.communitylawcentre.org.za/recent-news/latest-article-40-now-available](http://www.communitylawcentre.org.za/recent-news/latest-article-40-now-available)

### Something to think about....

**Are youth at risk? Kirk A Astroth** (Journal of Extension, Fall 1993, vol 31)

In public discussion of today's youth problems, balance and context has vanished. As a result youth policy and programming are increasingly divorced from research findings, historical lessons and common sense. Many of us in Extension youth development has simply repeated popular myths circulating in the media about "at-risk" youth without questioning their bases or using research to help us more accurately discern the situation of today's youth. Read more at [www.joe.org/joe/1993fall/a6.php](http://www.joe.org/joe/1993fall/a6.php)

### Just for interest sake.....

**South Africa: Sexual violence & HIV/AIDS National Youth Survey, 2001-2004**

[www.ciet.org/en/documents/projects/200621015051.asp](http://www.ciet.org/en/documents/projects/200621015051.asp)

### What's happening around the world?

**Coping & Resilience International Conference, Dubrovnik 2009**

<http://www.resilience2009.org/>

**Reclaiming Youth International:** Equipping Adults to work with Today's Youth –

<http://www.reclaiming.com/content/>

**Conference on the transition to autonomy for youth at risk – Montreal, June 4 and 5, 2009.**

[www.enap.ca/site/en/youth-conference-presentation](http://www.enap.ca/site/en/youth-conference-presentation)

### Future partnerships.....

We are looking forward to sharing more news with you in the upcoming months and hope that you will participate by sharing your stories, resources and up-coming events with us.

RAPCAN works to build effective prevention and responsive measures relating to child victimisation and offending through direct service delivery, capacity building, resource development and dissemination and advocacy. Our work is strengthened by strategic partnerships and child participation. To find out more about RAPCAN visit [www.rapcan.org.za](http://www.rapcan.org.za).

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**Note:** The Newsletter is pleased to provide space for members to share stories and experiences. We will publish all entries that uphold the **values** of RAPCAN. Unfortunately, we are unable to publish member's requests for funds or fundraising drives in this space.