University of Dundee

Evidence for policymaking: Presenting the Growing Up On The Streets research data

Professor Lorraine van Blerk &

Ms Anne Louise Meincke,

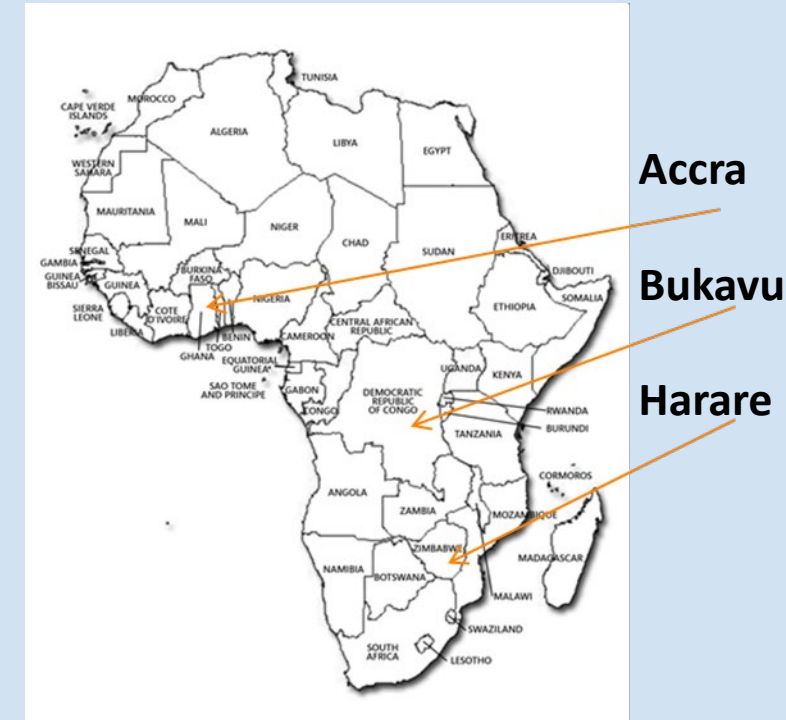with additional data analysis by Ms Janine Hunter

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Content

1. Introducing the Growing Up On The Streets research and data

2. The daily reality of violence

3. Recommendations for promising practices

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Growing Up On The Streets research and data

Accra

Bukavu

Harare

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Street children and youth trained as researchers investigating their own lives and those of their peers

Three cities

Three years

379 street children & youth

14-20 years old

2,478 narrative reports

198 focus groups

Annual survey data

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The daily reality of violence

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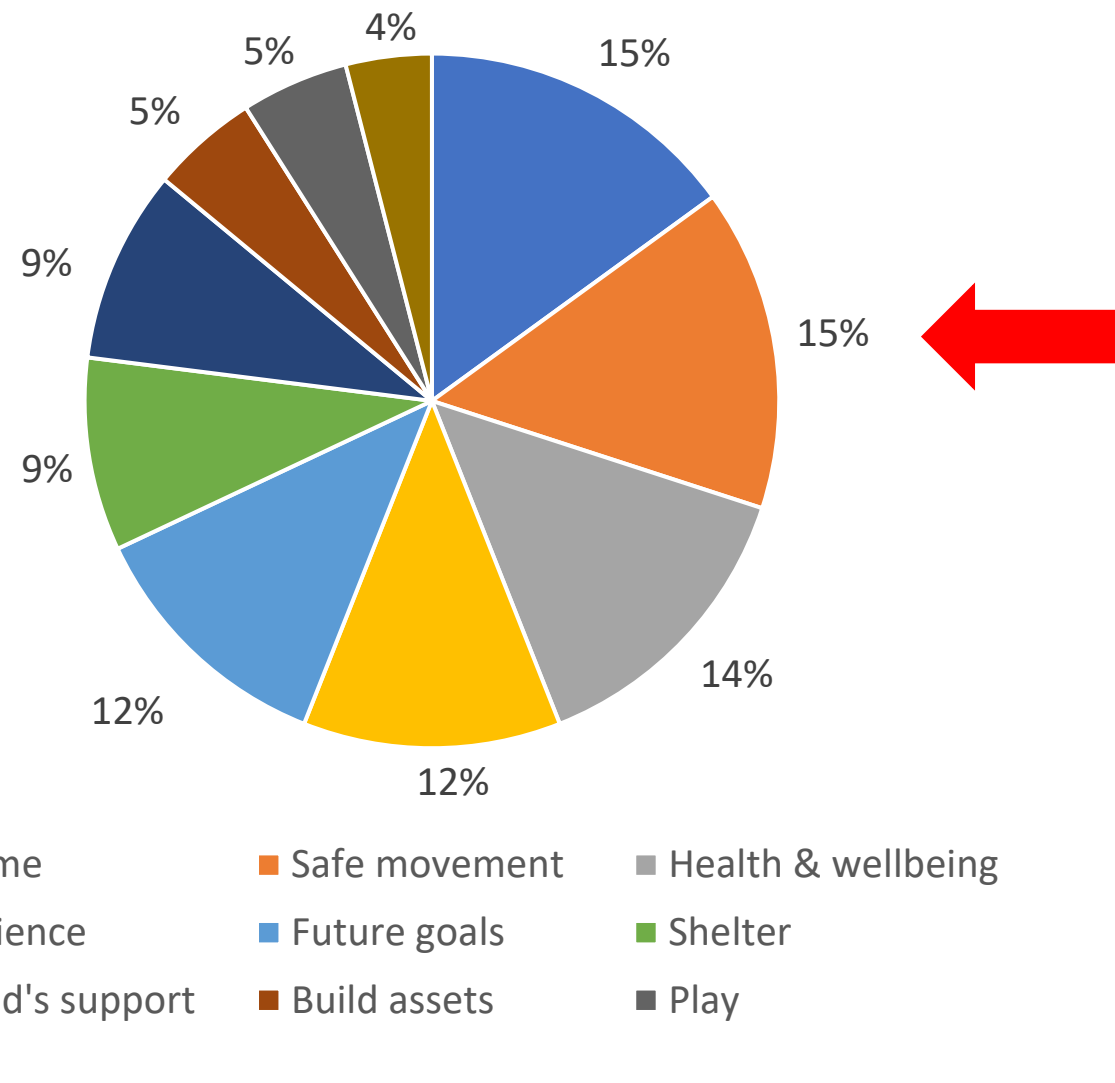
Capability codes

Ten capability codes mapped across total dataset.

Top three codes:

1. Safe movement (15%)

2. Income (15%)

3. Health and wellbeing (14%)

Legend:
- Income
- Safe movement
- Health & wellbeing
- Resilience
- Future goals
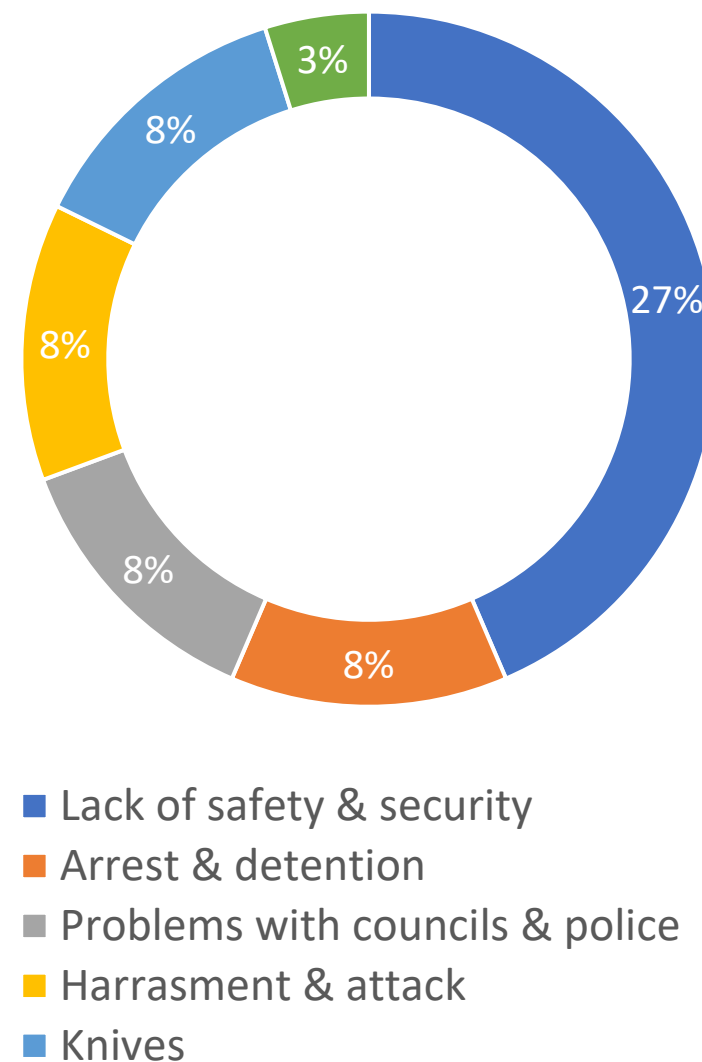- Shelter
- Friend's support
- Build assets
- Play
- Food

Safe movement

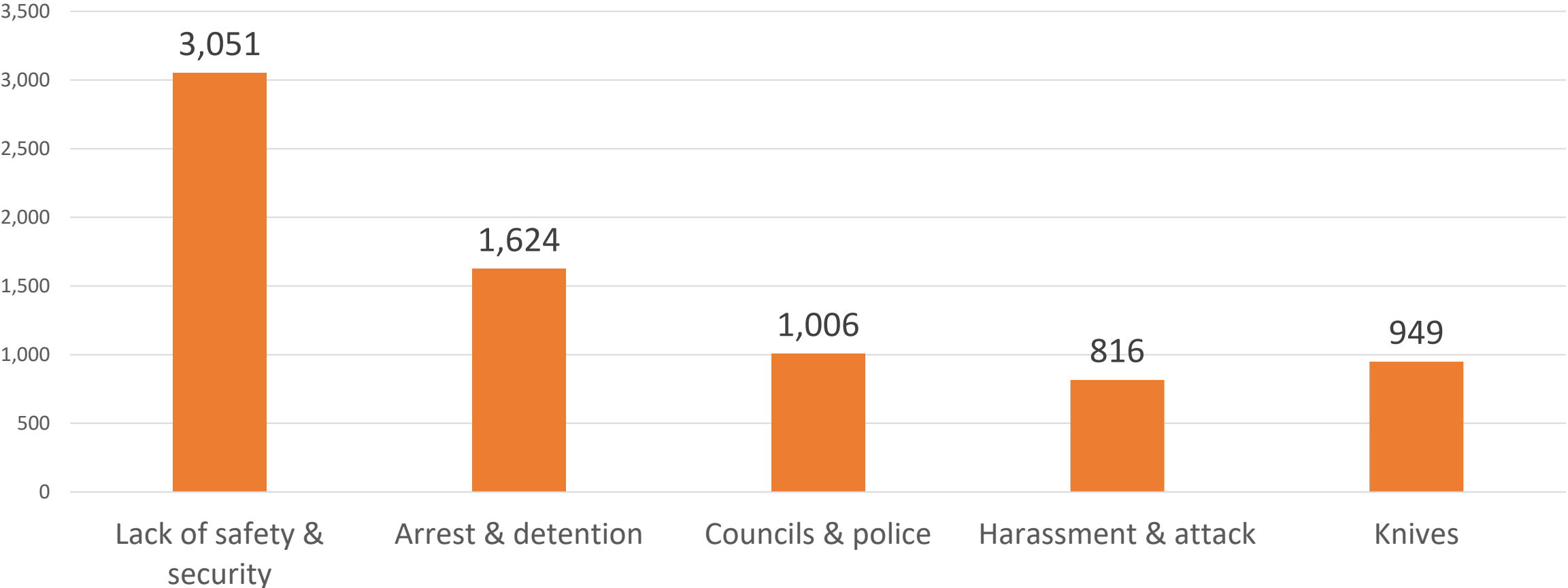15 subcodes mapped across safe movement code (n= 11,326).

Top five sub-codes:

1. Lack of safety &security (27%)
2. Arrest & detention (13%)
3. Problems with councils & police (8%)
4. Harassment & attack (8%)
5. Knives (8%)

Positive & collaborative experiences with authorities (3%)

- Lack of safety & security
- Arrest & detention
- Problems with councils & police
- Harrasment & attack
- Knives

Number of violent incidences coded (for 379 young people)

Category	Value
Lack of safety & security	3,051
Arrest & detention	1,624
Councils & police	1,006
Harassment & attack	816
Knives	949

"Yesterday for instance I was arrested but one policewoman rescued me — she investigated the matter and realized that I wasn't guilty. So, the way you will talk and conduct yourself will let you get help from others".

"There is a certain policeman who allowed us to play soccer at the {place}. He is like our Godfather because there was a time he would come here and sleep in his car protecting us".

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Recommendations for promising practices

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1. **Evidence matters:** policies and practices must be informed by evidence produced with street children and youth.

2. **Adapt child protection systems**: go beyond violence in family, school and online settings to consider realities of children and youth in street situations.

3. **Safety in the community:** Enable non-violent relationships with authorities and communities.

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Growing Up On The Streets

https://www.dundee.ac.uk/projects/growing-streets

Knowledge Exchange Training Pack

https://tinyurl.com/5yev6je2

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