

# CONTEXTUAL FACTORS PUTTING DSM YOUTH AT RISK FOR DEATH BY MOB VIOLENCE: A QUALITATIVE STUDY

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**Background** Mob violence, a collective community action arising against individuals or small groups, who are perceived as threatening social safety, is known to occur around the world. More than 200 male youth, mostly petty thieves, are killed annually in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (DSM) by community mobs.

**Purpose** The purpose of the research was to find contextual factors putting youth at risk for death by mob violence in DSM.

**Methods** Data for this qualitative study were gathered through face-to-face interviews (22) and a focus group discussion. All interviews were audiotaped. Source data were imported into NVivo7. Coding and analysis took place within NVivo.

**Results** 49 nodes were identified. Seven were mentioned by more than 10 respondents. Almost all respondents (20) reported that lack of employment was a major factor leading to the victims' death. Twelve respondents each mentioned lack of human rights (12), and good or any parenting, and the difficulties of transitioning from childhood to adulthood, and often rural to urban. The police (14), God (11), and government (11) were also viewed as important factors.

**Significance to the Field** Unless youth needs for employment, in urban and rural areas are supported, there will not be peace at the community level. Research is needed to understand more clearly the factors pulling the youth to the city and the factors pushing youth out of the rural areas.