

The twelfth community dialogue meeting was held on the 19th of October at the Touwsranten community hall.

17 people from Hoekwil and Touwsranten attended the meeting which was facilitated by Chandré Gould, Morné Heunis, Rosslyn Damons and Sharon Appels. The meeting was conducted in both English and Afrikaans.

For two communities to come together in order to build a safe and prosperous environment

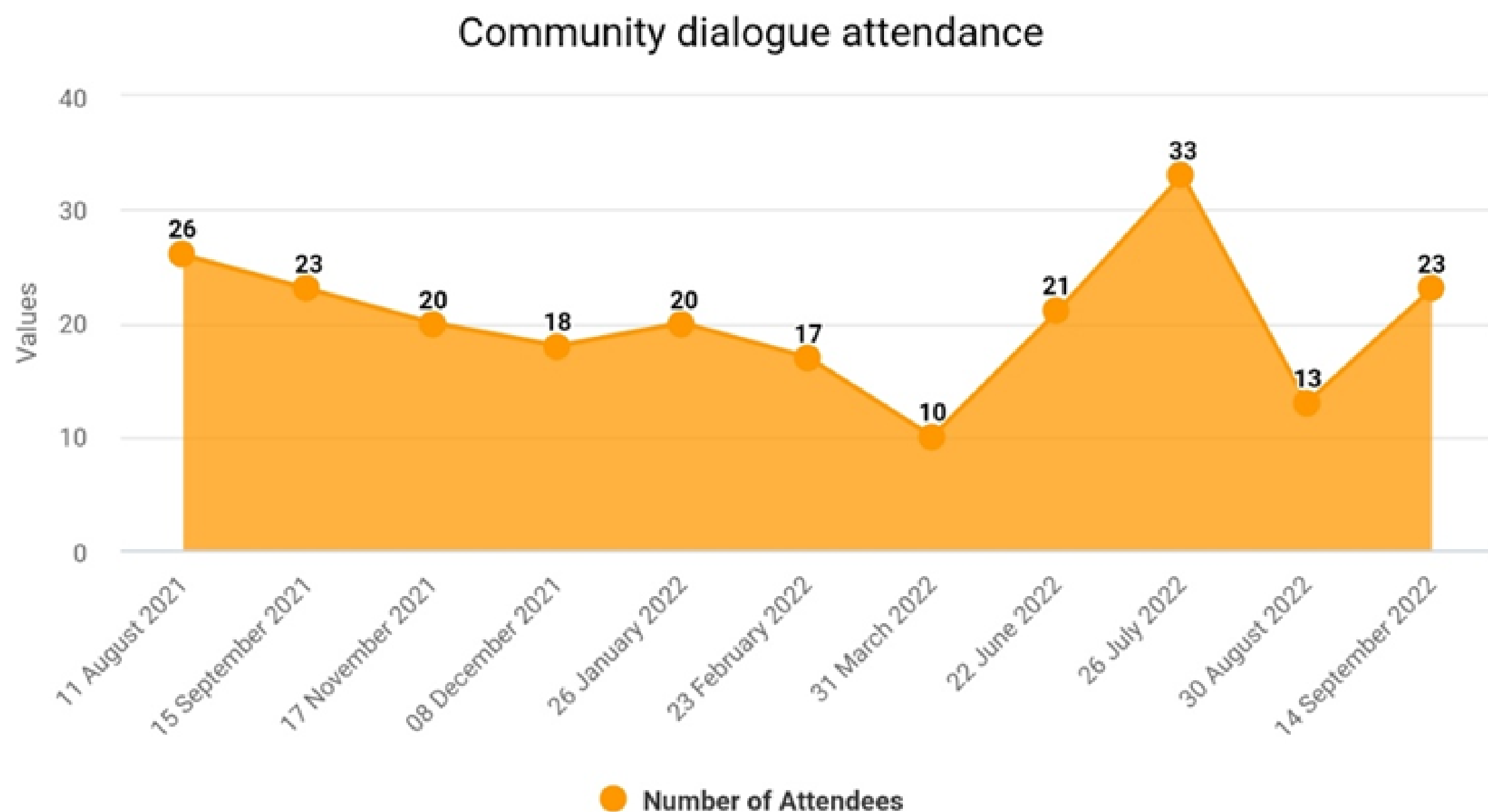
Why Are We Here?

To build relationships



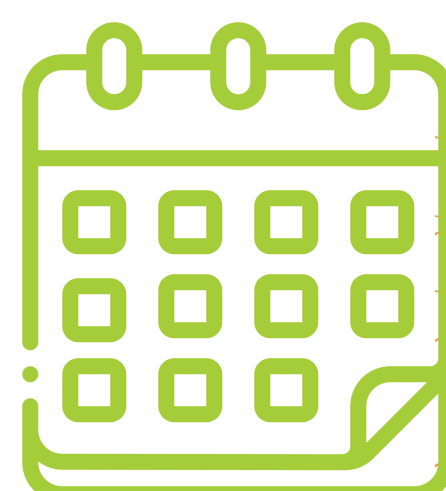
Tracking Past Attendance

Andisiwe has looked at who has attended the meetings, and how many people have attended since the forum started just over a year ago. Here is what she found



Over 80 people have attended the Community Dialogue meetings since they started. On average 20+ people attend the community dialogue meeting. The first time the meeting was held in the Community Hall had an attendance of 33 people which was the highest number of people since the dialogue started.

The lowest attendance which was 10 people was during school holidays in March. Many factors have influenced people's attendance such as loadshedding, other meetings such as school meetings as well as lack of support structures in instances where people have no one to leave their children with.



Values



We were reminded that one of the intentions of the forum is to build relationships between people from Hoekwil and Touwsrante.

The values of **compassion and love** were highlighted as necessary to build a caring community.

We watched a short film titled “on compassion”



New Research on Violence

It is important for people who are part of the forum to know about the latest research about what works to create safety and about how unsafety and violence impacts us all. This forum is linked, through the ISS to the national Violence Prevention Forum: <https://www.violence-prevention.org>, and so we have the chance to learn from new research that is shared there.

Click or tap the VPF button

The **Violence Prevention** Forum

Evidence | Collaboration | Trust



In the previous meeting the questions that came up were

Why do people become criminals?

How can we better deal with this?

Why do people become criminals?

How can we better deal with this?

In light of these questions, we looked at research done at Wits which started in 1994 and followed people for 30 years. In this research the participants represented the South African demographic and were asked about adverse childhood experiences

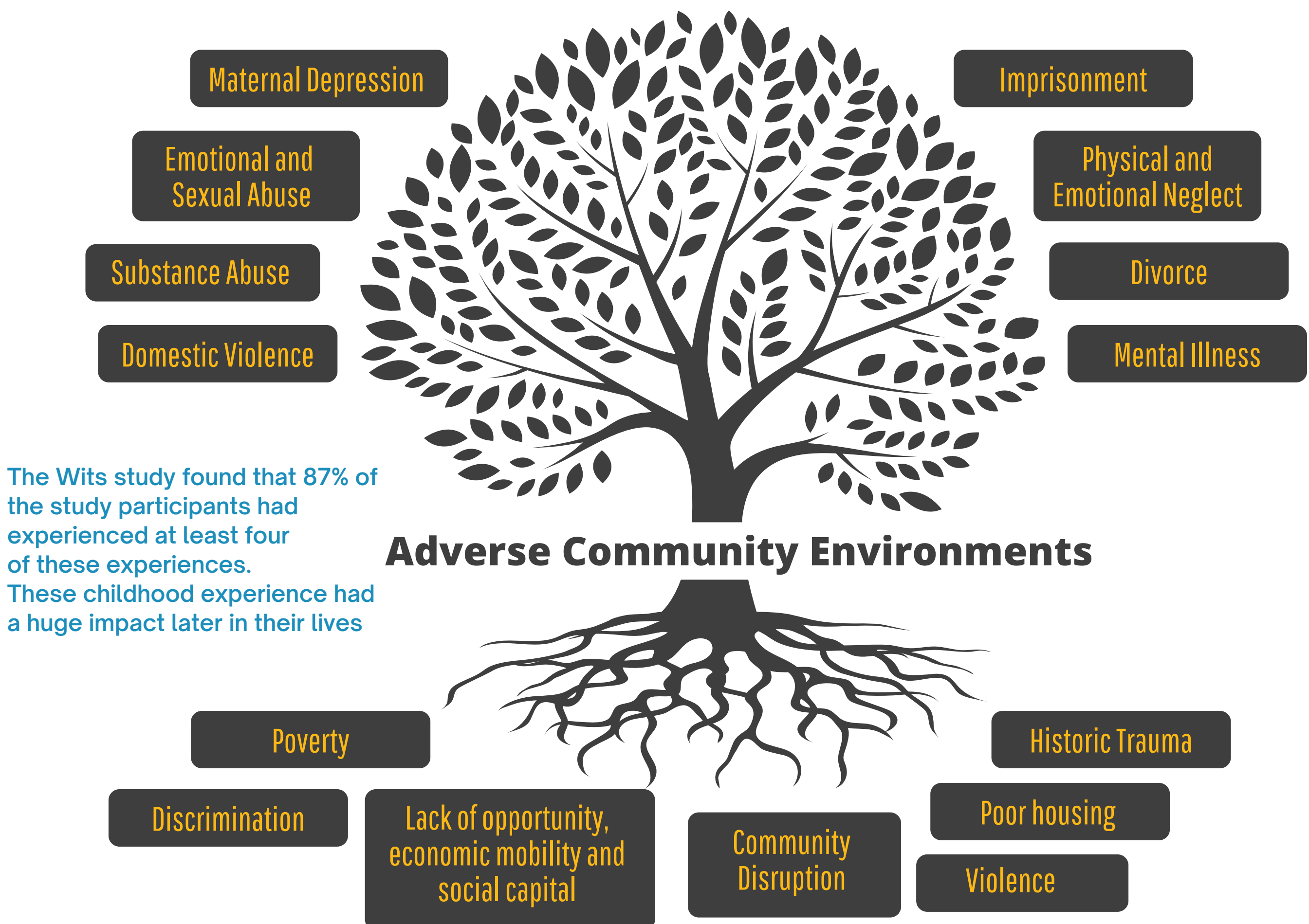
<https://issafrica.org/research/policy-brief/how-violence-and-adversity-undermine-human-development>



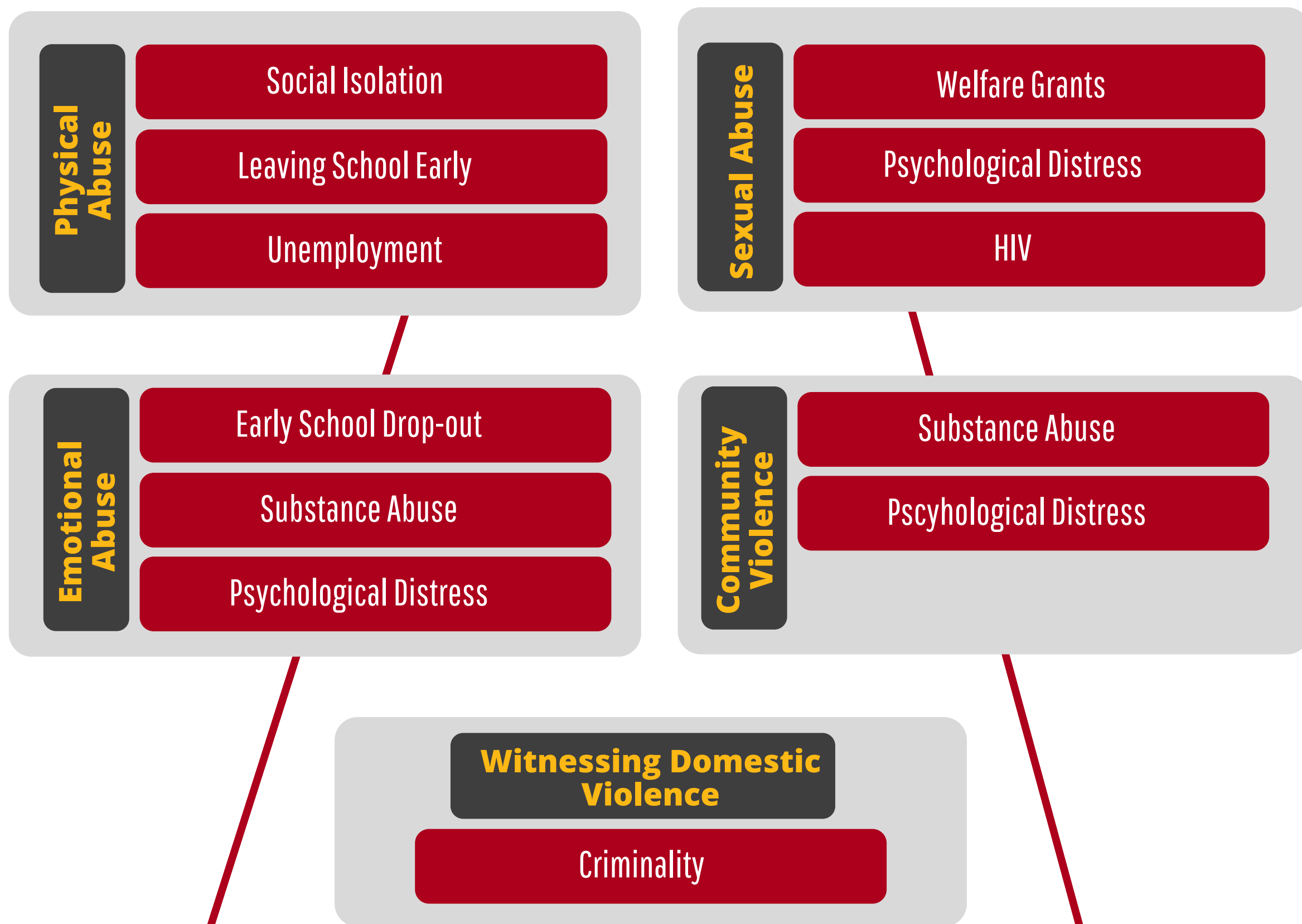
It is important to note that that not all outcomes are the same for everyone, regardless of having the same adverse childhood experiences.



Adverse Childhood Experiences



Consequences of Experiences



- People who experienced physical abuse were found to be likely to feel socially isolated and be unemployed.
- People who experienced sexual abuse were found to be more likely to suffer from psychological distress and have HIV and be unemployed.
- Those who experience emotional abuse were found likely to become early school dropouts, substance abuse and experience psychological distress.
- Those who witnessed domestic violence were likely to end up committing criminality.
- Those who experience community violence such as getting displaced were found to be likely to end up with psychological distress and substance abuse.

These experiences keep people in cycles of violence and abuse.

Parenting Programmes

Parenting programmes are an important way to support parents who have lots of stress. The parenting programmes offered by Seven Passes have helped to bring down parents' stress about parenting, and research has shown that they have also helped children to be less depressed and anxious, and less aggressive



Feedback about positive actions in the community

Gospel Idols

The Gospel Idols was hosted by the United Reformed Church “Die Hoogtes” in Touwsrante in collaboration with the Dutch Reformed Church in Hoekwil. It was a successful three-legged competition with at least 60 people in attendance. What started on the 29th of June with twenty-four hopeful contestants ended in a grand finale which took place on the 30th of September, with the top 5 dazzling the Touwsrante community. From this top 5 Chrisne Appels emerged victorious. Gospel Idols Hoekwil is set to take place on the 22nd of October and the Touwsrante top 5 will be performing there.



Sharon's Garden

Sharon started a community garden near her house last year, after attending the community dialogue meetings. She reported that the garden is going strong, people are eating the vegetables and are appreciating the garden.



Market

The last market for 2022 will be held on the 16th of December. Stall holders were consulted and reached an agreement that it should be held in Hoekwil again. It will be a night market with transportation arranged for the stall holders. Transport is yet to be confirmed for those wishing to attend it. It will take place in Touwsrante again next year.



Feedback about positive actions in the community

Youth Group

The youth group met for the first and brainstormed some ideas. There were suggestions to have a sevens rugby tournament which will be one street versus another. They are in the process of starting martial arts classes and will approach people who can assist in making this possible. Hoping to use the market to raise funds for a six-month skills development programme. For this they will get more Touwsrante community members through a recruitment process three weeks before the market takes place. They were informed that there is a skateboard ramp that is available which they can utilize if they wish to do so.

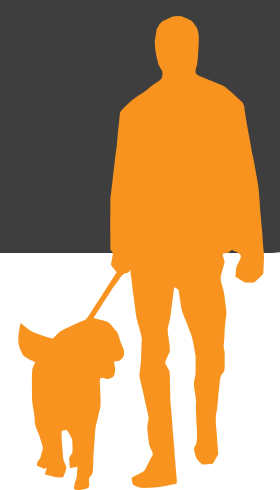


Substance Abuse

Church leaders and community leaders were invited for a meeting where it was agreed that prayer meetings should be conducted, unfortunately the turnout to the meeting was not good. One had to be cancelled due to loadshedding and will be arranged again for a later date.

Walk Safe Campaign

A campaign by Knysna CPF was used as an example of what can be done to ensure safety in the path between Touwsrante and Hoekwil. This campaign involves police and CPF members walking around the path handing out pamphlets with safety tips to people walking on the path. Encourages people to walk in groups.



Feedback about positive actions in the community

SAPS

There have been fewer incidence reports since the last meeting. The path between Touwsrante and Hoekwil has since been cleared and since 2 men were arrested there have been no robberies, they are still in custody. Burglaries have picked up and Seven Passes was also a victim, no arrests have been made yet.

SAPS is trying to provide more support to victims to get them to apply for protection orders.

There was a murder incident in Touwsrante over the weekend and an arrest has since made. People are encouraged to speak to the police and report any crime.

These reports can be made anonymously and send the police in the right direction.

People were advised to be more vigilant; they should avoid leaving windows open or leaving keys outside.

The police recently had the Rural Safety Summit where there were discussions around safety. Morné reported that the Garden Route and George mayors were present and are committed to increasing safety.

Simon raised concern about blocked toilets that means that women have to use the bushes and this is unsafe and exposes them to risk. Concern was raised with regards to blocked toilets happening due to criminals smoking in the public toilets.

Bennie Boshoff committed to look into this.

An AGM meeting for the Community Policing Forum will be held on the 7th of November upon confirmation. Those interest in becoming part of the community safety forum were invited to contact Bennie Boshoff.

A letter was sent to the ward counsellor last week to ask for lighting to be place in the pathway. She was also added to the Community Dialogue WhatsApp group.

No response was received.

The dialogue will try to get a sponsor to get emergency LED bulbs, however those who can afford to were encouraged to bring one for someone who cannot afford it to our next meeting. These would assist in times of loadshedding.

It was also suggested that someone can set up a stand in the market with these bulbs

Feedback about positive actions in the community

Take aways from the Meeting

Positivity

The need for parenting programmes in communities

Youth Group's Potential

Youth Group Activation

Hope

Compassion and passion with regards to projects

Dialogue became family

The importance of how one would like to be perceived

Connectedness

Research on why people commit violence

There is progress being made

Way Forward

A suggestion was raised to have the last meeting early in December before the last market. It was proposed that we make this a celebration and a way of spending some time together to share food. All ideas are welcome.

 The next meeting is on 17 November 5h30pm at Touwsrante Community Hall

Attendees List

Chandré Gould

Anelisiwe Fana

Andisiwe Makwecana

Roslynn Damons

Sharon Appels

Simon Mtshotana

Denzel De Swardt

Helet Theron

Sharon Fisher-Buys

Mila Gould

Bennie Boshoff

Deryl Appels

Raoul Van Tonder

Gerald Peterson

Michelle Jenkins

Morné Heunis

Patrick Buys