

cause and suicide is third. Almost eight, 1.8 million teenagers were the victims of violent crimes in 1988 and low-income teenagers are more likely to be the victims of crime than other teens. Substance abuse is another issue out there that is facing many of our teenagers. The fact that many of them do not have adequate shelter, over 100,000 children are homeless in the United States. We have a different kind of family arrangement in terms of working parents and that has created some problems for our young people in the sense that there is no one home between three-thirty and six when young people get out of high school. Senator Nelson raised the question, is there anything we really can do for these children? The fact of the matter is we do know much about what we should be doing, we simply haven't invested in doing it. And Senator Hillman and I have looked at this whole issue of teen pregnancy, there are programs that are working around the country. Many of them focus on education and that certainly is a critical element, but there are two other factors that we discovered in our studies that we need to talk about in terms of all of the issues facing adolescents today. One of these that we are finding over and over again, that we don't have hard data on, but people keep telling us, people who are working...

SENATOR WARNER: One minute.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: ...in this area is that one of the key components is lack of self-esteem. The other is lack of hope for the future. And those kinds of things can be changed by programs that we provide for them, and it may mean not just talking about educating our young people, but dealing with how they feel about themselves, how they perceive themselves in terms of their competencies, in terms of their health, and what they see as their potential for the future. Many young girls are getting pregnant, not by accident, but on purpose because they have nothing else out there for them. We need to change that for them and those programs that do that are making a difference, and I am optimistic that this commission could begin to come up with some very specific recommendations for making a difference, not only in teen pregnancy, but on a variety of issues that are facing our adolescent children today.

SENATOR WARNER: Time.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Thank you.