
VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

DR. SIREEN M. ALKHALDI, DRPH

COMMUNITY MEDICINE

FACULTY OF MEDICINE, THE UNIVERSITY OF JORDAN

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VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN?

Definitions:

- A Child is “Every human being under the age of 18 years”.
- Violence is “all forms of physical or mental violence, injury and abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse.” (UN)
- Violence against children is “the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against a child, by an individual or group, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in actual or potential harm to the child’s health, survival, development or dignity.” (World Report on Violence and Health)

VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

- Violence against children cuts across boundaries of geography, race, class, religion and culture.
- It occurs in homes, schools and streets; in places of work and entertainment, and in care and detention centers.
- Perpetrators include parents, family members, teachers, caretakers, law enforcement authorities and other children.
- Some children are particularly vulnerable because of gender, race, ethnic origin, disability or social status. And no country is immune, whether rich or poor.

VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN ... A GLOBAL PROBLEM

- Violence corresponds to over 3 800 people killed every day. Violence is a significant public health, human rights and human development problem.
- Violence mainly impacts young, economically productive people
- Suicide and homicide account for more than 80% of violence-related deaths (Of those killed by violence, 58% die by their own hand, 36% because of injuries inflicted by another person, and 6% as a direct result of war or some other form of collective violence).

VIOLENCE, TYPOLOGY

The World Report on Violence and Health (WRVH) presented a typology of violence that can be a useful way to understand the contexts in which violence occurs and the interactions between types of violence.

- ✓ This typology distinguishes four **modes** in which violence may be inflicted: **physical; sexual; psychological attack; and deprivation.**
- ✓ It further divides the general definition of violence into three **sub-types** according to the victim-perpetrator relationship:
 - 1) **Self-directed violence**
 - 2) **Interpersonal violence**
 - 3) **Collective violence**

VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN, SETTINGS

- Violence against children occurs in the environments or settings in which childhood is spent :
 1. Home and family (domestic violence is a form of child abuse)
 2. Schools and educational setting
 3. Care institutions and Justice systems
 4. Work settings
 5. the community.

VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN, SETTINGS

Violence In the home and family (child abuse)

A family is supposed to take care of the child, but in recent years violence against children by parents and other family members has been documented. This can include physical, sexual and psychological violence as well as deliberate neglect.

- Frequently, children experience physical, cruel or humiliating punishment in the context of discipline.
- Children are most frequently sexually abused by someone they know, often a member of their own family. Much of this violence is hidden behind closed doors or because of shame or fear.

VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN, SETTINGS

Violence in schools and educational settings

Schools have an important role in protecting children from violence. For many children, though, educational settings expose them to violence and may teach them violence.

- They are exposed to corporal punishment, cruel and humiliating forms of psychological punishment, sexual and gender-based violence, and bullying.
- Although 102 countries have banned corporal punishment in schools, often this ban is not adequately enforced.
- Fighting and bullying are also examples of violence against children in schools. Often bullying is associated with discrimination against students from poor families or marginalized groups, or those with particular personal characteristics such as appearance or a disability.

VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN, SETTINGS

Violence in care and justice systems

As many as 8 million of the world's children are in residential care. Relatively few are there because they have no parents; most are in care because of disability, family disintegration, violence in the home and social and economic conditions such as poverty.

- Children in some institutions face violence from care-givers and other children. Staff may 'discipline' them with beatings or restraints, or by locking them up.
- In some institutions, children with disabilities face violence in the process of treatment, such as being subjected to electric shock to control their behavior or given drugs to make them more 'compliant'. Children in detention are frequently subjected to violence by staff.

VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN, SETTINGS

In work settings

Across all regions, violence – physical, sexual and psychological – affects many millions of children who are working, both legally and illegally.

It may be used to coerce children to work or punish or control them in the workplace.

- Most workplace violence is inflicted by employers, although those who inflict violence may also include co-workers, customers, police, criminal gangs and intermediaries. Many girls work in domestic labor, which is often unregulated. They report maltreatment such as physical punishment, humiliation and sexual harassment.

VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN, SETTINGS

In the community

- The community is a source of protection and solidarity for children but it can also be a site of violence – including peer violence, violence related to guns and other weapons, gang and police violence, physical and sexual violence, and trafficking.
- Violence may also be associated with the mass media and new information and communication technologies.
- Community violence often affects marginalized groups of children, such as street children.
- The mass media sometimes portray violence as normal. Cyber-bullying through the Internet or mobile phones has been documented in recent times.

VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN, FORMS

- Abuse and Violence against children includes:
 1. Physical violence
 2. Sexual abuse
 3. Emotional and verbal harm
 4. Neglect and abandonment

VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN...FORMS

Physical Violence:

Physical abuse of a child is when a parent or caregiver causes any non-accidental physical injury to a child. There are many signs of physical abuse.

- ✓ Physical abuse includes **striking, kicking, burning, biting, hair pulling, choking, throwing, shoving, whipping or any other action that injures a child**. Physical abuse can result in:
 - Bruises, blisters, burns, cuts and scratches
 - Internal injuries, brain damage
 - Broken bones, sprains, dislocated joints
 - Emotional and psychological harm
 - Lifelong injury, death

VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN...FORMS

■ Sexual Abuse:

Sexual abuse occurs when an adult uses a child for sexual purposes or involves a child in sexual acts.

- Sudden changes in the child's behavior will be noticed, bedwetting, fears and phobia, significant changes in school performance, hesitancy to be alone with a certain person, age inappropriate sexual knowledge; sore, red, bleeding, itching, burning genital areas, pain on urination, stained underpants, sexually transmitted diseases, self-destructive behavior- this can be Sexual Abuse.

FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

Emotional and Verbal Harm:

- ✓ It includes: calling a child names, yelling, screaming, threats, bullying, comparing kids negatively to others, public and private humiliation and shaming, unrealistic and extreme demands made on a child, intentional withholding of a parent's love and affection, and telling them "they're no good, worthless, bad or a mistake" ... this is extremely harmful to children.
- ✓ It undermines a child's foundation, spirit, and psychological and social development. Their self-esteem is destroyed — possibly throughout their adulthood, and can affect their whole lives.

FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

Child neglect and abandonment:

is when a parent or caregiver does not give the care, supervision, affection and support needed for a child's health, safety and well-being. Child neglect includes: **Physical neglect and inadequate supervision, Emotional neglect, Medical neglect, Educational neglect.**

- ✓ Children need enough care to be healthy and enough supervision to be safe. Adults that care for children must provide clothing, food, and drink, safe, healthy shelter, and adequate supervision.
- ✓ Children require enough affection and attention to feel loved and supported. If a child shows signs of psychological illness, it must be treated.
- ✓ Parents and caregivers must provide children with appropriate treatment for injuries and illness. They must also provide basic preventive care to make sure their child stays safe and healthy.

SIGNS OF CHILD ABUSE AND VIOLENCE

The Child

- Has many unusual injuries or injuries that can't be explained, and wear long sleeves to cover the bruises.
- Seems sad and cries a lot, has self-destructive behavior
- Fights with classmates, acts out in the classroom, or destroys things; throws toys across a room or is violent toward a pet
- Seems very tired; talks about trouble sleeping and often has nightmares
- Seems afraid of a parent or other adults, like teachers or baby-sitters
- Spends a lot of time at the playground and doesn't want to go home after school, as if afraid of something there
- Eating disorders and drug abuse.

SIGNS OF CHILD ABUSE AND VIOLENCE

The Child's Parents

- ✓ Stay away from other mothers and fathers in the neighborhood
- ✓ Not take part in school activities, and may have a drinking or drug abuse problem
- ✓ Don't want to talk about the child's injuries or seem nervous when they do.
- ✓ Parents who were victims of violence and neglect as children, can often continue the cycle when they punish their own children
- ✓ Being poor, sick or on drugs, or have history of violence, increases the risk of harming and neglecting a child

HEALTH IMPACT OF VIOLENCE

The health impact of violence is not limited to physical injury:

- **Long-term effects** can include depression, mental disorders, suicide attempts, chronic pain syndromes, unwanted pregnancy, HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections.
- Children who are victims of violence have a **higher risk** of alcohol and drug abuse, smoking, and high-risk sexual behavior. This may lead, even decades later, to chronic diseases such as heart disease and cancer and sexually-transmitted infections.

VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN: JORDAN

- In Jordan, 66 percent of children age 2-14 were subjected to at least one form of physical punishment by their parents or other adult household members during the month preceding the survey (JPFHS, 2012).

VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN: JORDAN

- 89 percent of children in Jordan were subjected to a violent form of discipline, with
- 20 percent subject to severe physical punishment, i.e., either being hit or slapped on the face, head, or ears, or being beaten hard over and over (JPFHS, 2012).

VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN: JORDAN

- Eighty-seven percent of children were subjected to psychological disciplining methods, such as being shouted at, yelled at, or screamed at, or being called dumb, lazy or something similar (JPFHS, 2012).

VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN: JORDAN

- On the other hand, only 23 percent of young children's parents believe that children need to be physically punished, which implies an interesting contrast with the actual prevalence of physical discipline (JPFHS, 2012).

Table 15.6 Child discipline

Percentage of children age 2-14 who experienced various methods of disciplining during the month before the survey, according to background characteristics, Jordan 2012

Background characteristic	Percentage of children age 2-14 who experienced:					Respondent believes that the child needs to be physically punished	Respondent to the child discipline module
	Only non-violent discipline	Psychological aggression	Any physical punishment	Severe physical punishment	Any violent discipline method		
Age							
2-4	7.0	86.6	76.4	20.2	89.5	23.6	1,486
5-9	5.8	91.1	73.5	23.9	92.5	23.8	2,340
10-14	10.6	83.4	52.2	17.0	86.5	21.4	2,490
Child's sex							
Male	7.6	88.0	68.9	22.4	90.4	23.0	3,215
Female	8.3	86.0	62.6	18.0	88.4	22.6	3,105
Residence							
Urban	7.9	87.2	66.7	20.9	89.6	23.6	5,176
Rural	8.4	85.9	61.7	17.3	88.6	19.0	1,144
Education of the household head							
No education	5.2	90.5	64.1	36.8	93.5	na	na
Elementary	11.3	82.6	62.3	21.8	85.3	na	na
Preparatory	4.8	91.4	71.3	24.0	92.8	na	na
Secondary	6.1	89.8	71.3	21.1	92.0	na	na
Higher	11.7	81.3	55.5	13.7	84.7	na	na
Respondent's education							
No education	na	na	na	na	na	21.0	196
Elementary	na	na	na	na	na	23.9	554
Preparatory	na	na	na	na	na	18.7	973
Secondary	na	na	na	na	na	24.3	2,879
Higher	na	na	na	na	na	22.5	1,718
Wealth quintile							
Lowest	6.9	86.8	70.5	25.1	90.2	19.5	1,357
Second	5.9	90.1	68.9	21.6	91.9	22.6	1,322
Middle	6.7	88.1	68.4	20.0	90.9	24.8	1,347
Fourth	6.0	89.4	66.9	18.8	91.4	25.8	1,217
Highest	15.6	79.4	51.6	14.5	81.4	21.2	1,077
Total	8.0	87.0	65.8	20.3	89.4	22.8	6,320

