Changing Families and Preventing Childhood Exposure to Violence

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Exposure to violence

Major preventable source of childhood mortality, morbidity, and lifelong adversity

Children are the most violence exposed segment of the population

Main Categories of Violence Exposure

- ✓ Family
  - ✓ Parental abuse (physical, emotional, sexual)
  - ✓ Sibling abuse
  - ✓ Exposure to domestic violence
- ✓ Peer
  - ✓ Bullying and assault (physical, emotional, sexual)
- ✓ Community
  - ✓ Street crime, sexual exploitation
  - ✓ Witnessing social and political violence

Number of homicide victims among children and adolescents aged 0 to 19 years and number of homicide victims among children and adolescents aged 0 to 19 years per 100,000 population in 2012, by region
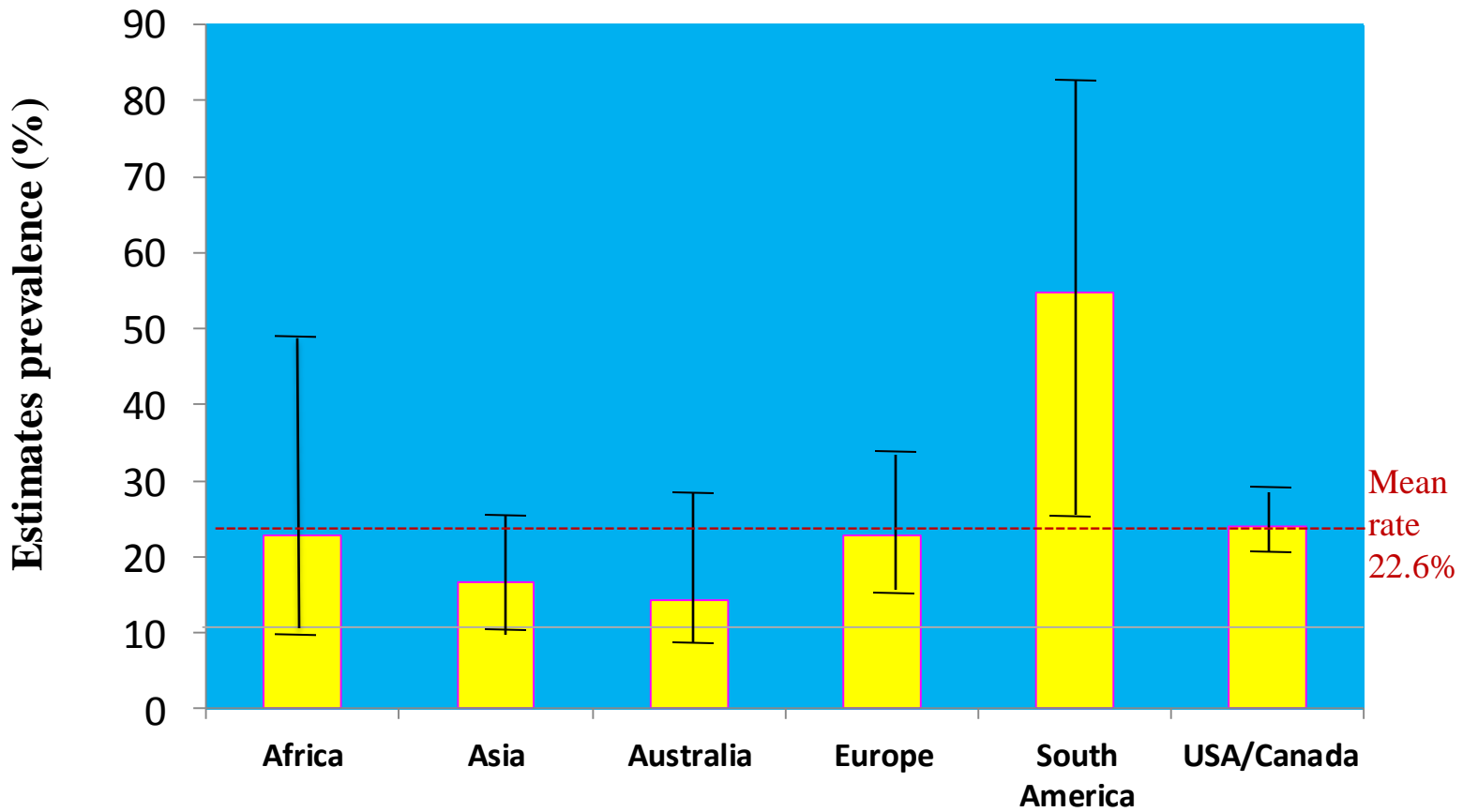
	Number of homicide victims	Homicide rate per 100,000
Latin America and the Caribbean	25,400	12
West and Central Africa	23,400	10
Eastern and Southern Africa	15,000	6
South Asia	15,000	2
Middle East and North Africa	3,700	2
Countries outside of these regions	3,800	2
Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonweath of Independent States (CEE/CIS)	1,500	1
East Asia and the Pacific	7,100	1
World	94,900	4

Note: Figures in this table have been rounded.
Source: World Health Organization, *Global Health Estimates (GHE) Summary Tables: Deaths by cause, age, sex and region, 2012*, WHO, Geneva, 2014, recalculated according to UNICEF's regional classification.

Child Physical Abuse: International Prevalence
157 self report studies

Source: Stoltenborgh et al (2011).

Child Sexual Abuse: International Prevalence

331 Self-Report Studies

Source: Stoltenborgh et al (2011). A Global Perspective on CSA: Meta-Analysis of Prevalence Around the World. *Child Maltreatment, 16*(2): 79-101.

School violence

"I was hit or hurt by other students in school in the last month." 12-14 year olds
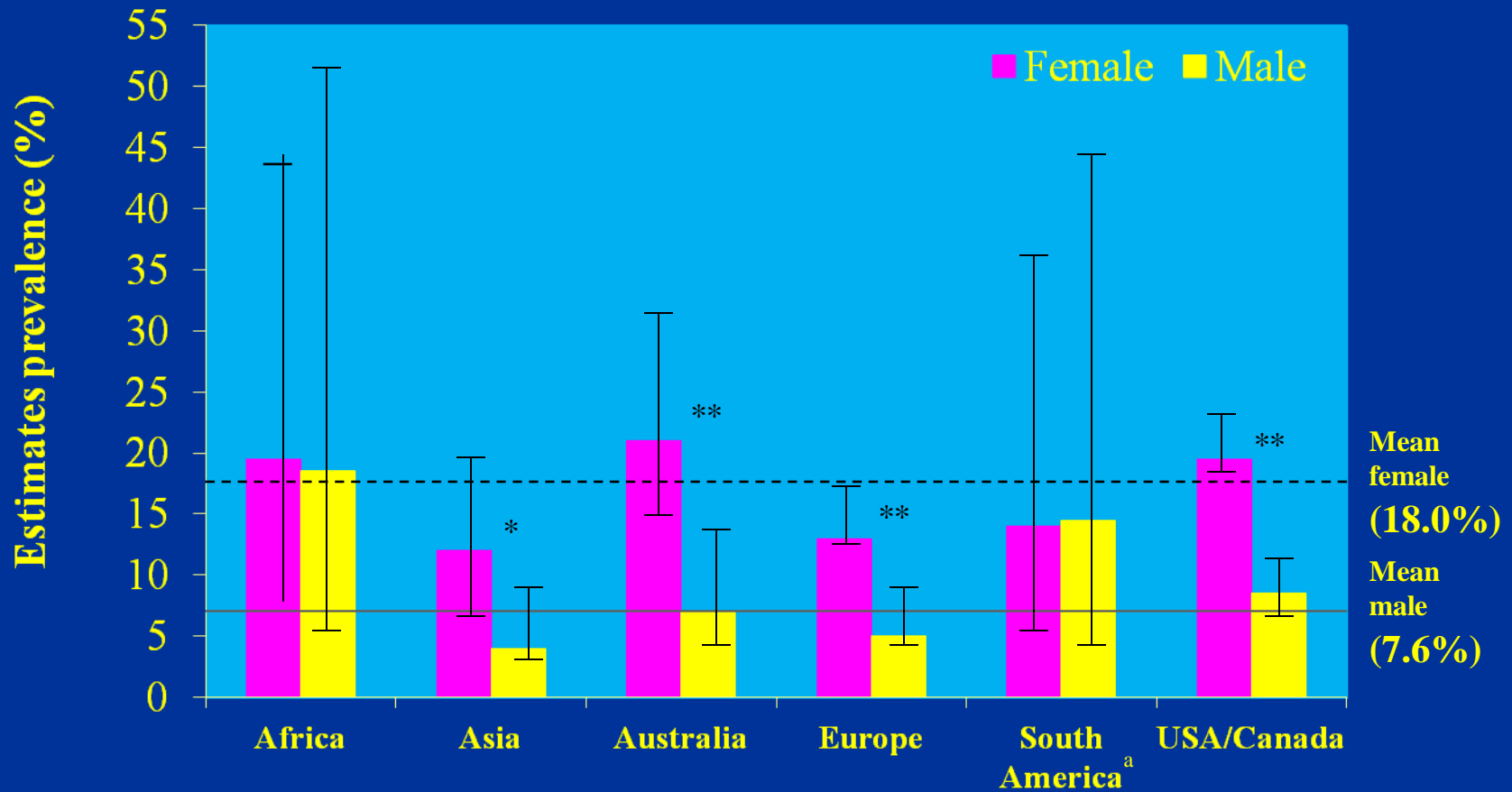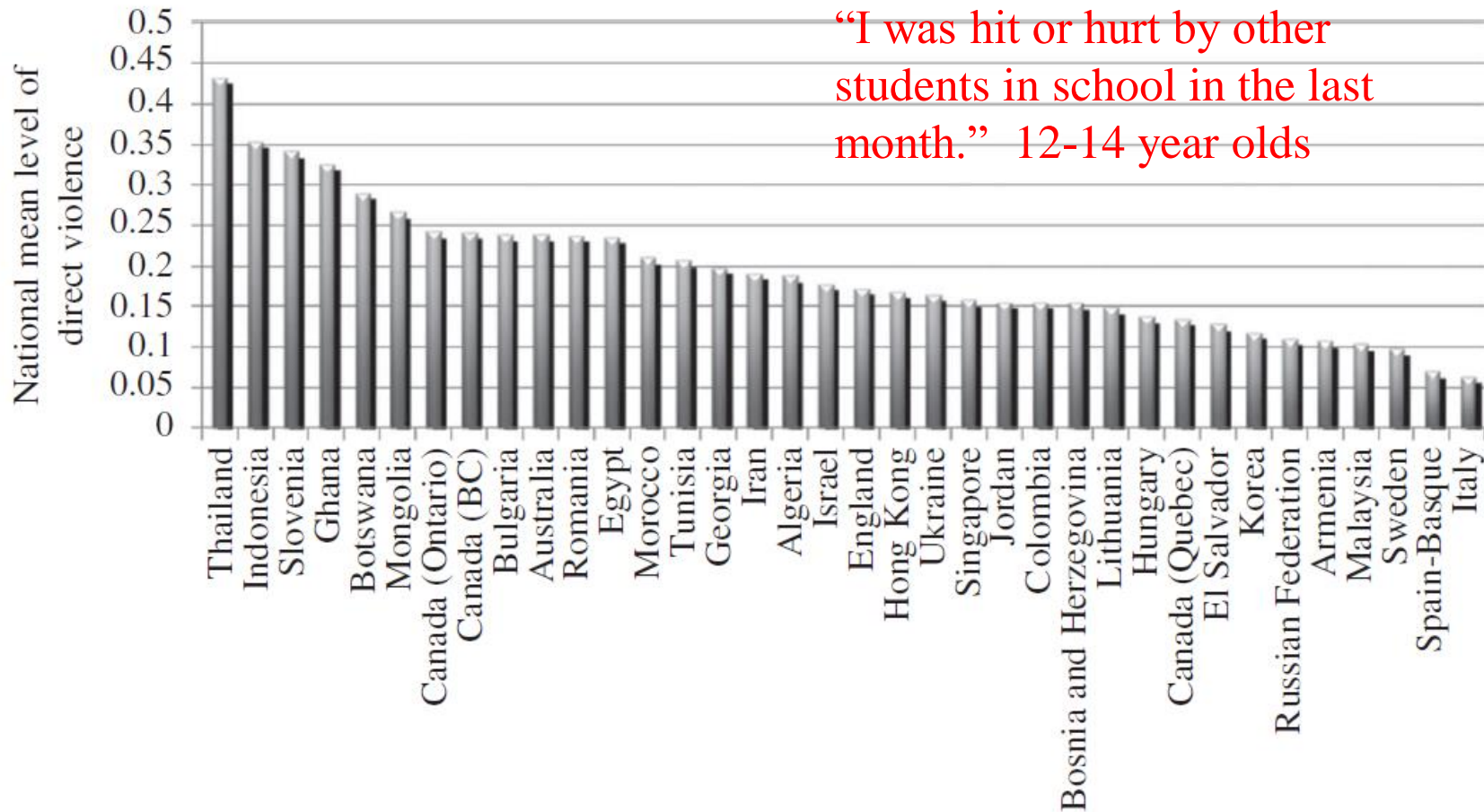
FIGURE 1 Schools' level of direct, physical violence by nation.

Major Areas of Identified Developmental Impact

Attachment

Emotional Regulation

Cognitive Development

Memory Storage & Processing

Social Withdrawal

Inhibition of Aggression

Moral Development

Friendship Formation & Acceptance

Attributional Biases

Academic Performance

Self-Esteem

Pessimism

Social Competence

Antisocial Behavior

Younger   *Older*

Social, Economic, Health Consequences

✓ School drop out

✓ Higher unemployment and poverty

✓ Greater rates of substance abuse

✓ Mental illness morbidity

✓ Chronic disease morbidity

Associated with Reduced Maltreatment

- ✓ More parental education
- ✓ Smaller families
- ✓ Women empowerment
- ✓ Reduced social and political conflict
- ✓ Reduced poverty and adversity

Education

- ✓ Parents learn cognitive skills, non-coercive parenting, child development, value independence
- ✓ Removes child from exclusive family control
- ✓ Provides for direct intervention with children

Average Years of Schooling of Adults
Countries Compared

Showing latest available data.

Rank	Countries	Amount ▼
# 1	United States	12
# 2	Norway	11.8
# 3	New Zealand	11.7
# 4	Canada	11.6
# 5	Sweden	11.4
# 6	Australia	10.9
# 7	Switzerland	10.5
# 8	Germany	10.2
# 9	Finland	10
# 10	Poland	9.8
# 11	Denmark	9.7
# 12	Israel	9.6
# 13	Japan	9.5
= 14	United Kingdom	9.4
= 14	Netherlands	9.4
= 14	Ireland	9.4
= 17	Slovakia	9.3
= 17	Belgium	9.3
# 19	Cyprus	9.2
# 20	Hungary	9.1
= 21	Argentina	8.8
= 21	Iceland	8.8

Rank	Countries	Amount
= 23	Greece	8.7
= 23	Barbados	8.7
# 25	Panama	8.6
# 26	Austria	8.4
# 27	Fiji	8.3
# 28	Philippines	8.2
# 29	France	7.9
# 30	Trinidad and Tobago	7.8
= 31	Uruguay	7.6
= 31	Peru	7.6
# 33	Chile	7.5
	Weighted average:	6.2

Rank	Countries	Amount ▼
# 34	Spain	7.3
= 35	Italy	7.2
= 35	Mexico	7.2
= 37	Slovenia	7.1
= 37	Kuwait	7.1
# 39	Singapore	7
= 40	Jordan	6.9
= 40	Sri Lanka	6.9
# 42	Malaysia	6.8
# 43	Venezuela	6.6
# 44	Thailand	6.5
= 45	Ecuador	6.4
= 45	China	6.4
# 47	Botswana	6.3
= 48	Paraguay	6.2
= 48	Guyana	6.2
= 50	Bahrain	6.1
= 50	South Africa	6.1
= 52	Mauritius	6
= 52	Costa Rica	6
= 52	Swaziland	6
# 55	Portugal	5.9
# 56	Syria	5.8

Average Years of Schooling of Adults
Countries Compared

Rank	Countries	Amount ▼
# 57	Bolivia:	5.6
# 58	Zambia:	5.5
= 59	Algeria:	5.4
= 59	Zimbabwe:	5.4
= 61	Jamaica:	5.3
= 61	Colombia:	5.3
= 61	Turkey:	5.3
# 64	El Salvador:	5.2
# 65	India:	5.1
= 66	Tunisia:	5
= 66	Indonesia:	5
= 68	Dominican Republic:	4.9
= 68	Brazil:	4.9
# 70	Honduras:	4.8
# 71	Nicaragua:	4.6
= 72	Kenya:	4.2
= 72	Lesotho:	4.2
# 74	Iraq:	4
= 75	Pakistan:	3.9
= 75	Ghana:	3.9
= 77	Guatemala:	3.5
= 77	Cameroon:	3.5
	Weighted average:	6.2

Rank	Countries	Amount ▼
= 77	Uganda:	3.5
# 80	Togo:	3.3
# 81	Malawi:	3.2
# 82	Papua New Guinea:	2.9
= 83	Haiti:	2.8
= 83	Burma:	2.8
# 85	Tanzania:	2.7
= 86	Senegal:	2.6
= 86	Rwanda:	2.6
= 86	Bangladesh:	2.6
= 89	Central African Republic:	2.5
= 89	Liberia:	2.5
= 91	Nepal:	2.4
= 91	Sierra Leone:	2.4
= 93	Gambia, The:	2.3
= 93	Benin:	2.3
# 95	Sudan:	2.1
# 96	Afghanistan:	1.7
# 97	Mozambique:	1.1
# 98	Niger:	1
# 99	Mali:	0.9
# 100	Guinea-Bissau:	0.8
	Weighted average:	6.2

Women's Empowerment

- ✓ Reduction in family size
- ✓ Later onset of marriage and child-bearing
- ✓ Parent age and fewer children strongly associated with less maltreatment
- ✓ Mothers acquire new authority
- ✓ Divorce
  - ✓ Removal of child from violent/conflict environment
  - ✓ Single parent environment higher risk
- ✓ Work – family life conflict and stresses

Intensification of Generational Conflict

- ✓ Children influenced by remote institutions and ideas
- ✓ Parental authority and expertise devalued
- ✓ Youth adapt to social change faster
- ✓ Child life experiences diverge from that of parent
- ✓ Child can anticipate living and working in different place

Increased Parental Anxiety and Desire for Control

- ✓ Loss of authority

- ✓ Fear of economic abandonment

- ✓ Fear of loss of allegiance to values and traditions

- ✓ Intensified effort to regulate mate choice, career choice, lifestyle

Changes in Parenting

✓ Parenting occupies smaller portion of life cycle

✓ Less opportunity to care for and learn about younger children

✓ Fewer family and community as support

✓ Growth of appeal of work and leisure satisfactions

Six strategies to prevent and respond to violence against children

Strategy

1

Supporting parents, caregivers and families
Educating families, caregivers and parents on their child's early development increases the likelihood that they will use positive disciplining methods. This reduces the risk of violence within the home.

Strategy

2

Helping children and adolescents manage risks and challenges
Giving children and adolescents the skills to cope and manage risks and challenges without the use of violence and to seek appropriate support when violence does occur is crucial for reducing violence in schools and communities.

Strategy

3

Changing attitudes and social norms that encourage violence and discrimination
Changing the attitudes and social norms that hide violence in plain sight is the surest way to prevent violence from occurring in the first place.

Strategy

4

Promoting and providing support services for children
Encouraging children to seek quality professional support and report incidents of violence helps them to better cope with and resolve experiences of violence.

Strategy

5

Implementing laws and policies that protect children
Implementing and enforcing laws and policies that protect children sends a strong message to society that violence is unacceptable and will be punished.

Strategy

6

Carrying out data collection and research
Knowing about violence – where it occurs, in what forms, and which age groups and communities of children are most affected – is essential to planning and designing intervention strategies, and setting numerical and time-bound targets to monitor progress and end violence.

Policy Implications

- ✓ Education for parents
  - ✓ Promotion of parent-child bonding, positive engagement
    - ✓ Especially men
  - ✓ Non-violent disciplinary skills
  - ✓ Appropriate developmental expectations
  - ✓ Consistent communication
  - ✓ Safe environment creation

Policy Implications

✓ Training for parents and children
  - ✓ Emotion management and regulation
  - ✓ Conflict de-escalation
  - ✓ Non-violent, non-abusive social norms
  - ✓ Respectful communication
  - ✓ Help-seeking

✓ Identification and treatment of mental illness
  - ✓ Especially depression, anxiety, substance abuse

- Venues for Education
  - Prenatal care
  - Post-natal home visitation
  - Pediatric visits
  - Early child care settings
  - Training for nannies and child carers
  - School curricula
  - Religious leaders and religiously based social groups
  - Television, drama and news
  - Internet
- Evaluation and Evidence-based approaches

Evidence based program examples

- ✓ Nurse Family Partnership
- ✓ Incredible Years
- ✓ Triple P Parenting
- ✓ Safe Environment for Every Kid (SEEK)
- ✓ Safecare
- ✓ Second Step (anti-bullying, socio-emotional learning)

Policy Implications

- ✓ Specialized agencies
  - ✓ Investigatory authorities connected to law enforcement, health or special child welfare
  - ✓ Family treatment agencies
  - ✓ Offender/ parent treatment programs
  - ✓ Victim support and advocacy
  - ✓ Foster families, group homes
  - ✓ Specialized treatment for child victims
  - ✓ School safety officials
- ✓ Not well evaluated

Policy Implications

✓Statutory approaches

Mandatory reporting laws

Prohibitions of various types of parental and other cultural practices

✓Corporal punishment

✓Early marriage

✓FGM

Child maltreatment researchers in Arab region

- Bernard Gerbaka, Beirut
- Maha Almuneef, Majid Al Eissa, Riyadh
- Muhammad M. Haj-Yahia, Jerusalem
- Abdullah Alyahri, Yemen

Key International Resources

UNICEF

http://www.unicef.org/violencestudy/reports.html

WHO

http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/global_campaign/en/

ISPCAN

http://www.ispcan.org/