

Factsheet– Violence Against Children

3/4 children aged 2 to 4 experience **violent discipline** by their caregivers on a regular basis

More than **1/3** students between age 13 and 15 experience **BULLYING**

Every 7 minutes, somewhere in the world, **an adolescent is killed** by an act of violence

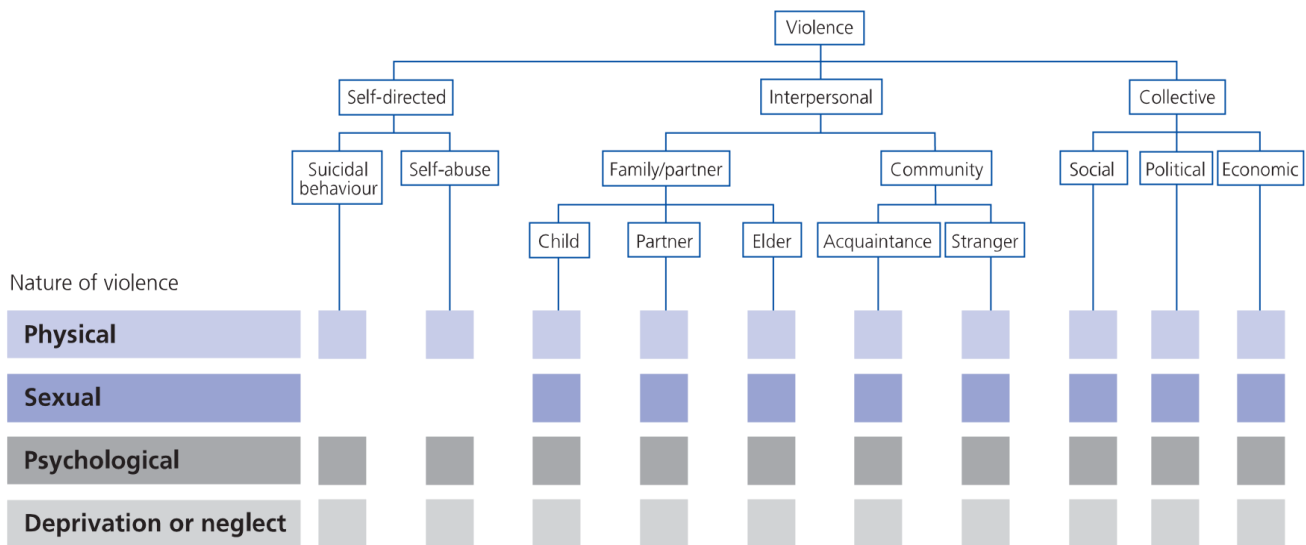
All children have the right to be protected from violence. However, the statistics reveal that children experience violence across all stages of childhood, in diverse settings, and often at the hands of the trusted individuals with whom they interact on a daily basis.

Violence against children is a phenomenon that could no longer be tolerated and ignored.

Definitions

The World Health Organization defines violence as: ***The intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment or deprivation.***¹

A typology of violence



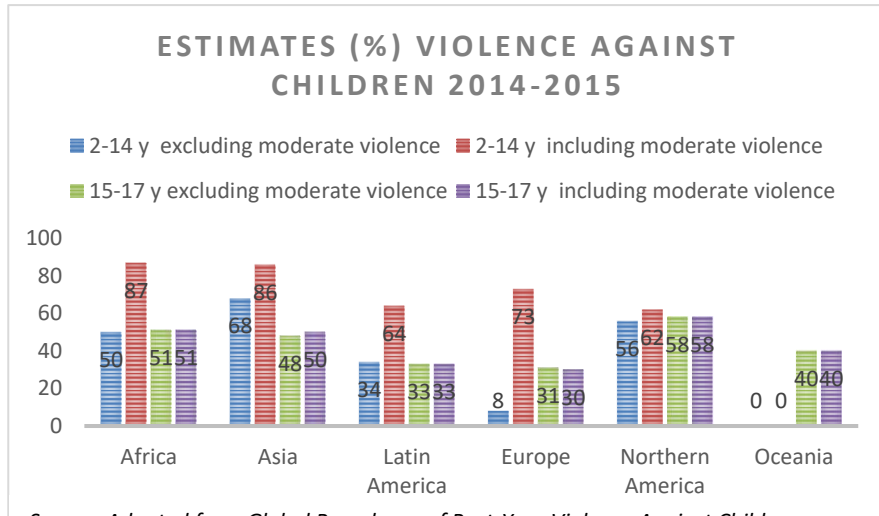
Source: Adapted from World Report on Violence and health, WHO

¹ Krug et al. (2002) World Report on Violence and health, WHO

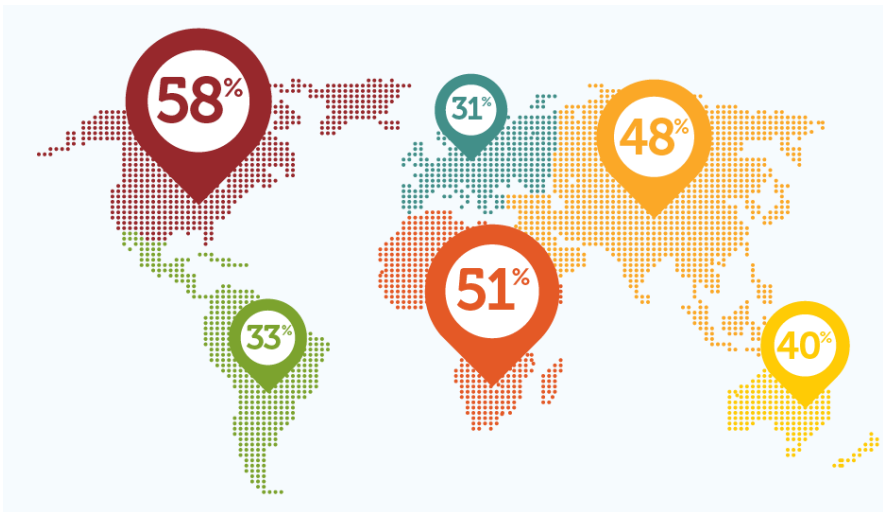
Prevalence

A recent systematic review of a number of population-based surveys on the prevalence of past-year interpersonal violence against children estimated the number of children exposed to violence in the past year exceeding 1 billion, or half the children in the world.²

However, despite its high prevalence, Violence against children is still a hidden and unreported phenomenon.



Source: Adapted from *Global Prevalence of Past-Year Violence Against Children*

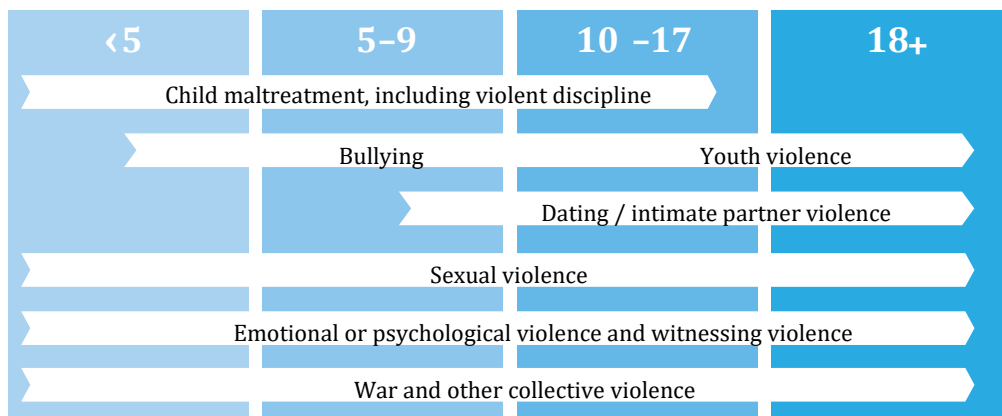


HOW MUCH
VIOLENCE
DO YOUNG PEOPLE
(ages 15-17)
ENDURE?

Source: *International Youth Foundation*

Type of violence by age group affected

Evidence suggests that children are more likely to experience certain forms of violence at different ages and prolonged exposure to multiple forms is often linked to more adverse effects.

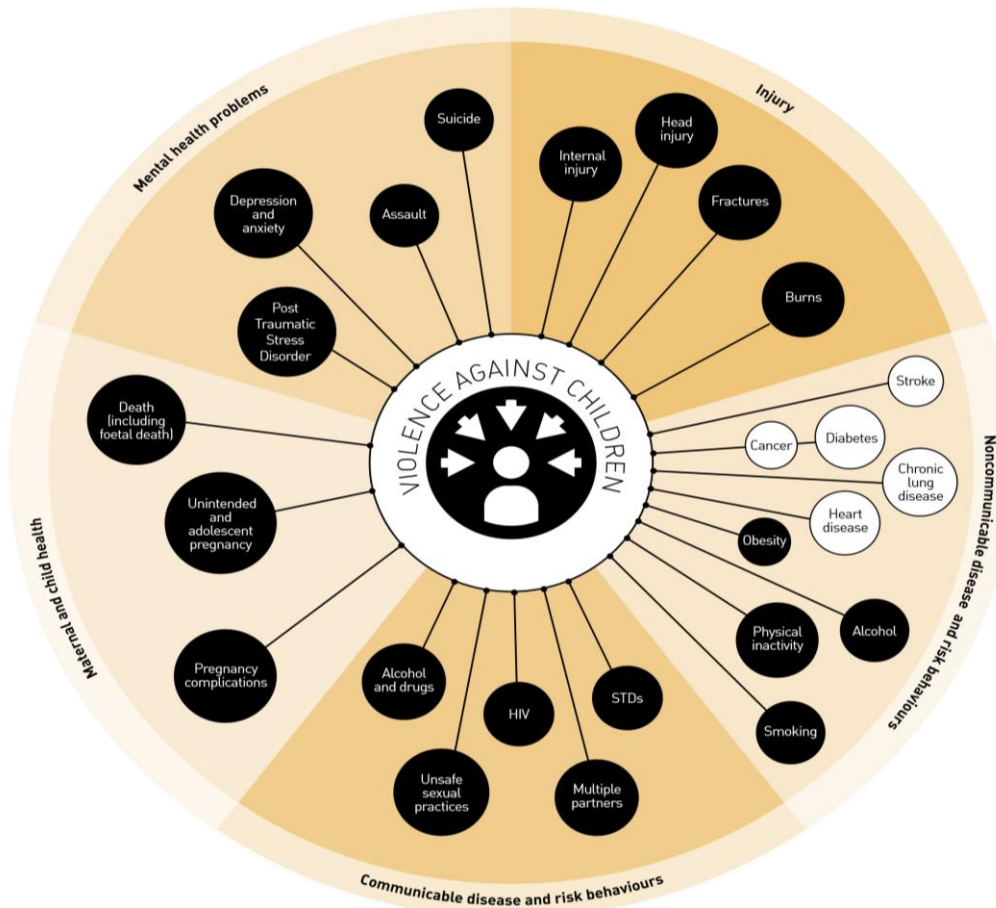


Source: Adapted from *INSPIRE, Seven Strategies for Ending Violence Against Children*

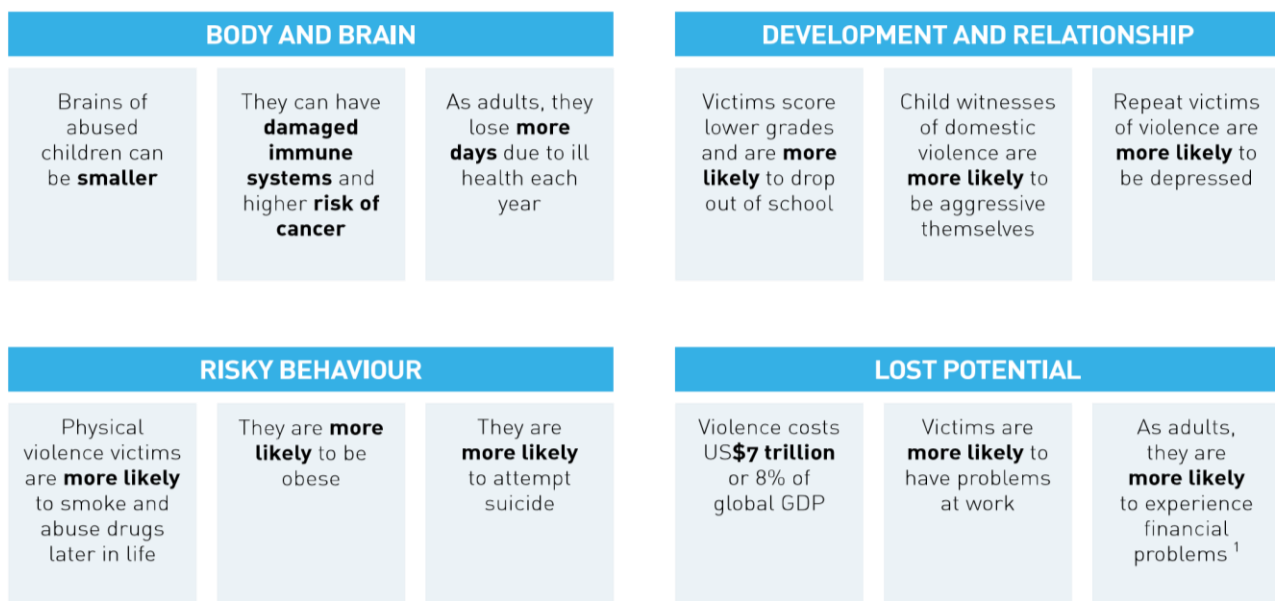
² Hillis S, Mercy J, Amobi A, et al. Global prevalence of past-year violence against children: a systematic review and minimum estimates. *Pediatrics*. 2016;137(3):e20154079.

Consequences

Violence against children is a public health, human rights, and social problem, with potentially **devastating and costly consequences**. The outcomes of violence can have consequences throughout childhood, adolescence, adulthood — inter-generationally and for society as a whole.



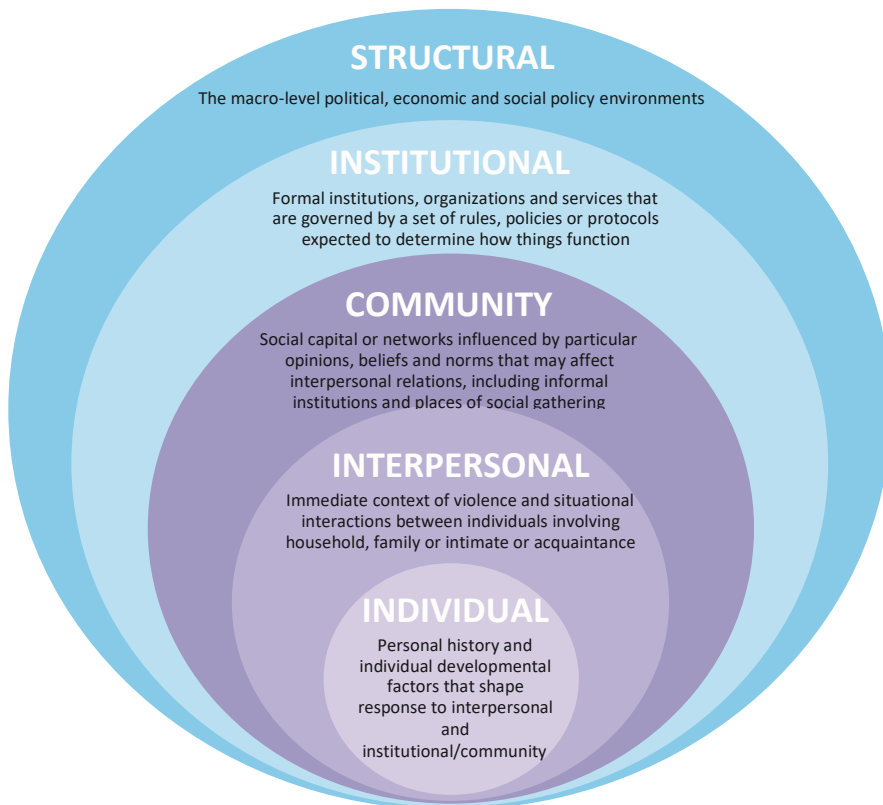
Source: Adapted from INSPIRE, Seven Strategies for Ending Violence Against Children



Source: Adapted from End Violence Against Children – The Global Partnership

Root causes

Violence being a **complex problem with no single cause**, it is important to understand and take into account its root causes in order to implement evidence-based strategies. Though, it is crucial to identify a range of risk and protective factors within the socio-ecological framework and to understand their interaction within a level or between different levels.



STRUCTURAL DRIVERS

- * Migration both within and between countries, which may increase risk of sexual or physical exploitation or abuse
- * Patriarchal norms and resulting inequities
- * Socio-economic dimensions such as poverty and inequality
- * Effects of globalization including epidemics (HIV/AIDS) and the expansion of digital technologies

INSTITUTIONAL DRIVERS

- * Weak child protection systems or ineffective system response
- * Harmful cultural rites and religious doctrines relating to hierarchy, authority, gender, and punishment
- * Quality of school relationships including lack of school connectedness, teachers reinforcing or perpetrating violence
- * Poor school governance including lack of adequate training in pedagogical skills and child development, under-resourced schools and teachers, unequal application of school rules
- * Weak legal structure and/or ineffective policies to protect children, lack of coordination between formal and informal justice mechanisms and service providers

INTERPERSONAL RISK FACTORS

- * Early experience of violence and conflict before adolescence, including witnessing domestic violence
- * Sex selection
- * Family stress including poverty and unemployment
- * Family structure including marital status, parental absence, double-orphanhood
- * Family context such as parents' histories of abuse, substance use, education, occupation(s), financial status, illness/health
- * Quality of peer relationships inclusion/exclusion from same age networks
- * Quality of family relationships inclusion/exclusion

COMMUNITY RISK FACTORS

- * Urban and/or rural environments may have varying risks of violence
- * Harmful cultural practices and/or social norms that support violence, including taboos
- * Quality of community relationships such as the lack of community connectedness and trust; perceptions of community safety
- * Code of silence around all types of violence