VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA:
DEVELOPING AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE UNDERLYING DETERMINANTS

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Violence against Children in SA

- National estimates Optimus Study (2015)
  - 1 in 5 report sexual violence & neglect
  - 1 in 3 report physical abuse

- Community-based studies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abuse Type</th>
<th>Proportion</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical abuse</td>
<td>55% of children(^1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Witness domestic violence</td>
<td>35 - 45% of children(^2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emotional abuse and neglect</td>
<td>53% girls + 56% boys(^3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual violence</td>
<td>39% girls + 16% boys(^4)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>


- 44% (22 781) of sexual offences reported to the police are children under the age of 18 years (SAPS 2013/2014)
Background

• The project was initiated by Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) to Investigate the Root Causes of Violence Against Women in 2014

• “Towards a more comprehensive understanding of the direct and indirect determinants of violence against women and children in South Africa with a view to enhancing violence prevention” - commissioned for the IMC on VAWC

• Supported by United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) through DFID funded Safer South Africa Programme
Study Design

• Literature review - violence against children in South Africa
• Critical analysis of risk and protective factors
• Development of a conceptual model on risk and protective factors based on the critical analysis
• Assess the available and relevant data sets and establish eligibility for predictive modelling
• Estimate predictive models to establish the key factors in explaining violence against women and children and the critical causal relations amongst these
Socio-ecological framework
What did we learn from the critical review?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Risk Factors</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| Individual | Biological factors & personal history increases the chance of victimisation  | • Gender  
• Age  
• Disability & chronic illness  
• Limited attention |
| Relationship| Relationships with parent/s and caregiver; Chaotic family environment, care arrangements | • Family home / disorganized family  
• Caregiver health  
• Substance abuse  
• Someone involved in crime |
| Community  | Neighbourhood context; Social integration and capital                         | • neighbourhood factors i.e level of violence;  
• availability of services;  
• high levels of unemployment  
• Housing – overcrowding |
| Societal   | Cultural beliefs and practises; social and gender norms; Economic, social, health, and educational policies | • Norms that support violence as a means of resolving conflict ie corporal punishment  
• Policies that maintain inequality or discrimination based on gender |
Development of a Conceptual Model

- Based on the ecological framework
- Conceptualise the child as the centre of the network of interacting influences / systems
- Improvements in the one area can buffer the child
- Risk and protective factors not singular cause – but complex interplay
- Considered whether variables would be background, mediating / intermediate or outcome variables
- Empirical testing of the model – allow for simultaneous analysis of multiple variables.
Predictive Models

- Identify key **risk & protective factors** in violence against women/children
- Identify the key **moderating and mediating variables**
- Provide robust **predictions and explanations**
- Permit generalisation of model to **wider populations**
- Help determine **priority areas** for **policy & programmes**
- Help identify key areas for **monitoring & evaluation**
Predictive model development overview

1. **LITERATURE REVIEW**
2. **CONCEPTUAL MODEL**
3. **REVIEW OF DATASETS**
   - **DATASET CONTAIN KEY VARIABLES?**
     - **IS DATASET OBTAINABLE?**
       - **DATA VETTING SUCCESSFUL?**
         - **TEST AND VERIFY MODEL**
           - **REVISE CONCEPTUAL MODEL**
             - YES
             - NO -> **EXIT**
           - **EXIT**
         - **YES**
         - NO -> **EXIT**
   - NO -> **EXIT**

YES

NO

EXIT
The Cape Area Panel (CAP) Study

- The Cape Area Panel Study (CAPS) - a longitudinal (panel design) started in 2002 and ended in 2009 – five successive waves.

- Investigated the multidimensional nature of the lives of the young men and women - educational, psychological, familial, sociological, economic, community

- In addition to the youth interviews, household data collected by interviewing adults and other household members

- The panel nature of CAPS offered considerable benefits:
  - Rigorous examination of the temporal nature of determination
  - Allows us to investigate how early childhood conditions relate to later adolescent and adult behaviours.
  - Enables a better test of how violence victimisation early in life leads to violence perpetration in later years
Structural equation model – key variables

- **BACKGROUND VARIABLES**
  - Gender
  - Presence of Parents in HH
  - Household per capita Income

- **FAMILY AND COMMUNITY**
  - Alcohol/Drugs in Childhood Home
  - Crime/Jail in Childhood Home
  - Family Temper and Conflict
  - Current Adverse Influence in Hood
  - Current Adverse Influence in Home

- **VIOLENCE VICTIMISATION**
  - Victim: Emotional Violence
  - Victim: Physical Violence

- **VIOLENCE PERPETRATION**
  - Domestic Violence
  - Other Inter-Personal Violence

- **BEHAVIOUSIAL OUTCOMES**
  - Alcohol Use/Abuse
  - Drugs Use/Abuse
  - Community Engagement
WHAT ARE THE MODELS SHOWING US?
Determinants of emotional violence

Alcohol/Drugs in Childhood Home

Victim: Emotional Violence

Gender

Household per capita Income

Presence of Parents in HH

Alcohol/Drugs in Childhood Home

Family Temper and Conflict

Crime/Jail in Childhood Home

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<tr>
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<th>CRITICAL</th>
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<tr>
<td>$X^2/df$</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>&lt; 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CFI</td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>&gt; 0.95</td>
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<tr>
<td>RMSEA</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>&lt; 0.05</td>
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Determinants of physical violence

- Presence of Parents in HH
- Gender
- Household per capita Income
- Crime/Jail in Childhood Home
- Alcohol/Drugs in Childhood Home
- Family Temper and Conflict
- Victim: Physical Violence

**Indices**

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Key Findings

• Girls are at increased risk for emotional abuse
• Both girls and boys are at equal risk for physical abuse
• Children from households with scarce financial resources are significantly more likely to experience violence and for males to eventually perpetrate violence in and outside the home
• The absence of one or both parents increases the risk of violence victimisation and perpetration
• Conflict in families place children at greater risk of violence victimisation and perpetration
• Factors in the home increase the risk for young men to perpetrate domestic violence
• Alcohol use/abuse for men is a predictor on its own to increase the risk for domestic violence perpetration
Levers for change

- Structural interventions
  - Poverty alleviation
  - Job creation
- Shift social norms
  - Role of fathers
  - Gender
- Policy
  - Alcohol
  - Corporal punishment
Strengthen families

- Combine IPV interventions with VAC prevention
- Early identification of at risk families
- Positive parenting
- Reduce substance use and abuse
Moving forward

• Transform our responses and capacity of lead institutions
• Invest in expanding our evidence base of what works to prevent violence
• Promote multi-dimensional approaches to prevention
• Scale-up what we already know works