Childhood Polyvictimization and Kenyan Young Adult Health Outcomes

Kimberly Nguyen, MS, MPH
Epidemiologist
Division of Violence Prevention
National Center for Injury Prevention and Control
U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

SVRI 2017
Polyvictimization

• Polyvictimization refers to the experience of multiple victimizations of different kinds
  – sexual abuse
  – physical abuse
  – emotional abuse
• Not just multiple episodes of the same kind of victimization.
Impact: Violence Against Children Causes Severe, Lifelong Consequences

- Violence
  - Head Injury
  - Fractures
  - Burns
  - Internal Injury
  - Depression and Anxiety
  - PTSD
  - Eating/Sleep Disorders
  - Fetal Death
  - Pregnancy Complications
  - Unintended and Adolescent Pregnancy
- Maternal and Child Health
- Injury
- Disease Outcomes
  - Cancer
  - Chronic Lung Disease
  - Diabetes
  - Obesity
  - Alcohol Disorders
  - STDs
  - HIV
- Mental Health Problems
  - Suicide
  - Depression and Anxiety
  - PTSD
- Risk Behaviors
  - Alcohol and Drugs
  - Smoking
  - Physical Inactivity
  - Multiple Partners
  - Unsafe Sexual Practices
- Risk Behaviors
3 key concepts in early development

- Experiences help construct the brain architecture
- The interaction between “giving and receiving stimuli” transforms brain circuits
- Toxic stress interrupts healthy development
Completed, In Progress, & Repeated VACS

- **Completed**
  - Botswana*
  - Cambodia
  - Haití
  - Malawi
  - Nigeria
  - Rwanda*
  - Swaziland
  - Tanzania
  - Uganda*
  - Zambia

- **In Progress**
  - China
  - Colombia
  - Cote d’Ivoire
  - El Salvador
  - Guatemala
  - Honduras
  - Laos
  - Lesotho
  - Moldova
  - Mozambique
  - Namibia

- **Repeating**
  - Kenya
  - Zimbabwe

*Countries have completed data collection. Reports are in development.
Kenya VACS Methods

- National household survey
- Three-stage cluster sample survey design
- 13-24 year old males & females
- Retrospective
- Surveys carried out by in-country institutions
- Extensive efforts to protect child respondents
Outcome Variables

• Anxiety
• Depression
• Suicidal Thoughts
• Fair/Poor Health

• All are self-reported
Exposure variables

- Sexual Violence (SV)
- Physical Violence (PV)
- Emotional Violence (EV)
- Have enough money
- Orphanhood
- Polyvictimization = SV+PV; PV+EV; SV+EV; SV+PV+EV
Findings

• 75% of adults experienced some type of violence before age 18
  – physical violence being the most commonly reported type
• 33% females and males experienced more than one type of violence before age 18.
Logistic Regression Results: Females

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Anxiety</th>
<th>Depression</th>
<th>Suicidal Thoughts</th>
<th>Fair/Poor Health</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enough Money</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Types of Violence</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Types of Violence</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Referent group is No Violence in Childhood

ORs presented are significant at p<.05
No significant associations for 1 type of violence

No significant association
Decreases risk for the health condition
Increases risk for the health condition
Logistic Regression Results: Males

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Anxiety</th>
<th>Depression</th>
<th>Suicidal Thoughts</th>
<th>Fair/Poor Health</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Enough Money</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2 Types of Violence</strong></td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3 Types of Violence</strong></td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Referent group is No Violence in Childhood

- ORs presented are significant at p<.05
- No significant associations for 1 type of violence
- No significant association
  Decreases risk for the health condition
  Increases risk for the health condition
Discussion

• In comparison to no violence in childhood:

• Two or three types of violence in childhood is associated with anxiety, depression, and suicidal thoughts in young adults

• Among males, having two types of violence was significantly associated with fair/poor health

• Both males and females, having one type of victimization was not significantly associated with any of the assessed health outcomes
INSPIRE
7 Strategies to End Violence Against Children

Implementation and enforcement of laws
Norms and value change
Safe environments
Parental and caregiver support
Income and economic strengthening
Response and support services
Education and life skills
Together to INSPIRE

Closing Thoughts and Questions