Disclosure, reporting and help seeking among child survivors of violence

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SVRI Forum, Rio de Janeiro - September 2017
Motivation

- Disclosure and help seeking is low:
  - UNICEF Hidden in Plain Sight (PV/SV): 32-69% of girls 15-19 years did not disclose or seek help
  - South Africa (EV/PV/SV): 20% disclosed/sought help & 14% received help
  - VACS (SV): 2.7%-24% of women and 0.4% - 6.6% of men received services for violence prior to age 18
- Several gaps in help-seeking literature with direct implications for service provision and programming
Objectives

I. Examine patterns of risk across countries for different types of violence, including polyvictimization for girls and boys, separately, aged 13-17 years

II. Examine patterns of help-seeking among those who experienced physical and/or sexual violence, across countries by age groups 13-17 years and 18-24 years

TWO-PART STUDY USING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN SURVEYS

Prevalence of violence by gender & age group

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<td>Females (13-17)</td>
<td>6%</td>
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<td>36%</td>
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Legend:
- Cambodia
- Haiti
- Kenya
- Malawi
- Nigeria
- Tanzania
## Typologies & definitions of help seeking

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Responses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Informal disclosure</strong></td>
<td>Who did you tell about these experiences of violence?</td>
<td>Own family; husband's/partner's family; current/former husband/partner; current/former boyfriend; friend; neighbor</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Knowledge of where to seek formal help</strong></td>
<td>Did you know a hospital/clinic, police station, social worker, teacher, child protection network, NGOs or FBOs to go for help?</td>
<td>Yes/No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Formal disclosure or help seeking</strong></td>
<td>Who did you tell about these experiences of violence?</td>
<td>Religious leader; doctor/medical personnel; police; lawyer; social service organization</td>
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<td>Did you try to seek professional help for any of these incidents?</td>
<td>Yes/No</td>
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<td><strong>Receipt of formal help</strong></td>
<td>Did you receive any help for any of these experiences from a hospital/clinic, police station, social worker, teacher, child protection network, NGO or FBO?</td>
<td>Yes/No</td>
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</table>
Determinants of help seeking examined

Multivariate logistic regression analyses including the following risk factors:

**HH socio-economic status and location**
- Wealth quintiles (poorer, middle, richer, richest)
- Urban
- Regions (Tanzania)
- Camp areas (Haiti)

**HH level demographics**
- Not living with biological mother
- Not living with biological father
- # of children in the HH
- # of adult females in the HH
- # of adult males in the HH
- Female head of the HH

**Individual level characteristics**
- Male
- Age in years
- Currently enrolled in school

**Informal:**
- Disclosure

**Formal:**
- Knowledge of where to seek help
- Disclosure to or help seeking
- Receipt of help

**Age groups:**
- 13-17 and 18-24 years

**Males and females combined**

**PV &/or SV combined**
Means of help seeking outcomes

Among those who reported experiencing physical and/or sexual violence...
Highlights from results

- Difficult to see clear patterns across countries
  - Males were less likely to informally disclose experience of violence compared to females
    - 13-17 years: Haiti, Kenya, Tanzania
    - 18-24 years: Haiti, Kenya, Nigeria

- Number of adult females in HH increased disclosure and help seeking
  - 13-17 years: Tanzania (informal disclosure), Nigeria (knowledge of where to seek formal help), Malawi (formal disclosure or help seeking)
  - 18-24 years: Cambodia and Malawi (Informal disclosure)

- Not living with biological father increased disclosure and help seeking
  - 13-17 years: Nigeria (knowledge of where to seek formal help), Tanzania (formal disclosure or help seeking)
  - 18-24 years: Tanzania (Informal disclosure)

- No clear patterns in wealth quintile or urban residence
### Main reasons for not seeking help

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Apathy or perceived helplessness</th>
<th>Self blame</th>
<th>Shame &amp; stigma</th>
<th>Afraid of repercussions</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>13-17</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18-24</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>13-17</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>14</td>
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<td>18-24</td>
<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Malawi</td>
<td>13-17</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>45</td>
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<td>18-24</td>
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<td>18-24</td>
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<td>32</td>
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**Legend:**
- Lack of awareness
- Other
- Lack of social support
- Financial constraints
Research implications

- Assess depth versus breadth of questions
  - Push for inclusion of socioeconomic measures, parental characteristics, access to services (community-level information)
- Collection of longitudinal and qualitative data; inclusion of children who do not live in traditional household structures
- Assess tradeoffs between standardization and adaptation to local contexts
Program & policy implications

- Lack of clear patterns across countries potentially points to the **importance of context** in understanding violence & informing programming.
- Disclosure & help seeking extremely low = first ‘responders’ are **informal networks**.
- Low formal help seeking could indicate role of stigmatizing social norms, apathy, helplessness; target norms to increase access.
- Improve service quality & work towards a ‘**whole systems’** approach.
Acknowledgements

We thank the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and national partners, including research institutes and Government, and UNICEF Country Offices for implementation and funding of the Violence Against Children Surveys. No core funding was received for this analysis. A Pereira and A Peterman thank the UK Department for International Development for salary support provided through the UNICEF Office of Research—Innocenti.

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