



**CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT
IN FAMILIES
IN THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC**



unicef



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This publication is a product of a national population-based study on child abuse and neglect in families in the Kyrgyz Republic, which was carried out by the initiative and support of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic from April to August 2009.

This research report fills in the current gap of national data on child abuse and neglect in the Kyrgyz Republic and provides recommendations for development of strategy and programs aimed at prevention and creation of an effective mechanism for response, intervention, and child protection.

The report has been prepared by an international consultant, Dr. Robin N. Haarr with support of Public Association "Izildoo Plus".

The opinions expressed in this document do not necessarily reflect the policies or views of the United Nations Children's Fund and the organization does not bear any responsibility.

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¹Dr. Robin Haarr is a criminologist/sociologist and Associate Professor of Criminal Justice & Police Studies and Director of the Institute for Global Justice & Security at Eastern Kentucky University. Dr. Haarr has vast experience designing and conducting survey and field research, analyzing qualitative and quantitative data, and writing technical and research reports, as well as performing capacity building activities throughout the former Soviet Union and Asia on issues of violence against women and children, domestic violence, human trafficking and exploitation, child protection, victim support services for battered women and human trafficking victims, and social policy and program development. Her dedication and leadership to reduce the social, cultural and institutional aspects of such violence and exploitation has brought about change that benefits women and children, families, and communities.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background to the study

Research on child abuse and neglect in the Kyrgyz Republic is virtually nonexistent, and data on the nature and prevalence of child abuse and neglect is scant. Thus, there is no clear picture of the situation of child abuse and neglect in the Kyrgyz Republic.

The goals of this national population-based study of child abuse and neglect were to:

- Gather reliable data on the nature and prevalence of child abuse and neglect in families in Kyrgyzstan;
- Analyze data and generate findings that would provide a comprehensive description of the nature and prevalence of child abuse and neglect in Kyrgyzstan;
- Examine the various factors that contribute to child abuse and neglect, including individual demographics, family size and composition, and regional differences;
- Examine local experts knowledge and understanding of child abuse and neglect, and process for identification and recording of cases, and protection of abuse and neglected children; and
- Use the data and findings to shape recommendations for legislative and policy reform, and system and program development to improve identification, intervention, and protection of children.

Research design

This was a national population-based survey of children in which they were asked to self-report experiences with child abuse – harsh verbal, psychological, physical, and sexual abuse – and neglect in the home and family setting. Effort was also undertaken to survey parents, asking them to self-report their use of harsh verbal, psychological, and physical abuse (moderate and severe) to discipline their children, as well as their neglect of their children. The study also included structured

interviews with local experts, mainly local civil servants responsible for issues of child protection.

This report is designed to present a data-driven description and understanding of child abuse and neglect in homes and family settings throughout the Kyrgyz Republic.

Children's survey

The children's self-report survey was developed to measure the nature and prevalence of four different types of child abuse – harsh verbal, psychological, physical, and sexual abuse – and five different types of neglect – nutrition, clothing, medical, supervision, and work. Each type of child abuse and neglect was measured in the survey using a range of behavior-specific questions related to each type of abuse and neglect. The survey also measured children's demographics and history of running away from whom and witnessing family violence. The children's self-report survey was approved by the Ministry of Education for distribution in schools throughout the nation.

The survey was administered to a cross-sectional sample of children in the 5th through 9th grades (between the ages of 10 and 17 years) from 37 different schools in each of the seven Oblasts and the urban area of Bishkek. When developing the sample selection criteria, special attention was paid to define the study population and its characteristics. The goal was to generate a sample of children that would allow for the production of statistically reliable estimates of the nature and prevalence of child abuse and neglect at the national level.

Parent's survey and focus groups

The parent's self-report survey was developed to also measure the nature and prevalence of three different types of child abuse – harsh verbal, psychological, and physical abuse – and neglect, as well as use of positive discipline.

Focus groups were also conducted with surveyed parents. The aim of the focus groups was to understand the challenges parents face raising children, methods of discipline and punishment used by parents, types of families that have problems with child abuse and neglect, and parents' understanding of child abuse and neglect and child rights.

A total of 18 focus groups were conducted, including 2 in each of the Oblasts, except Osh Oblast and Bishkek where three focus groups were conducted. Each focus group included 8 to 10 parents, with a total of 155 parents (144 mothers and 14 fathers) from 18 focus groups.

Structured interviews with experts

Structured interviews were also conducted with experts on child protection. The agencies were divided into two groups: child protection experts from the Social Departments under the local mayor offices, and child protection experts under the law enforcement bodies, particularly the Inspection of Minors. A total of 83 structured interviews with experts were completed.

Structure interviews were designed to obtain information on their knowledge of child abuse and neglect cases, actions taken to respond to specific cases of child abuse and neglect (e.g., registration, referral, follow-up/monitoring), provision of medical treatment and support services to child victims and parents, and training on child abuse and neglect provided to agency staff.

Data collection in the field

Data collection in the field were carried out by NGO "Izildoo Plus" between April 2009 and mid-May 2009.

Children's sample characteristics

The sample included 2,132 children from 37 research sites in each of the seven Oblasts and the urban area of Bishkek city. Of the 2,132 children surveyed, 53.4% were female and 46.6% male. In addition, 67.7% lived in rural communities and 32.3% in urban centers.

Surveyed children ranged in age from 10 to 17 years, with a fairly equal distribution of children

of between 12 and 15 years of age. The average age was 13.5 years. In regard to ethnic status, 79.0% of surveyed children were Kyrgyz, 12.5% Uzbek, 4.5% Russian, and 4.0% other.

In regard to family size and living arrangements, 80.2% of children lived with both their mother and father, 11.5% lived with their mother only, 2.0% lived with their father only, 1.7% lived with their mother and step-father, .6% lived with their father and step-mother, and 4.0% lived with neither their mother nor father. The majority of children reported they also lived with their sisters (57.4%) and brothers (51.7%). In addition, 21.5% of children also lived with their grandmother, 14.4% with their grandfather, 17.0% with their uncle, 6.8% with their aunt, and 5.9% with cousins.

Children had anywhere from no siblings to six or more siblings. Most children had either two (22.1%), three (24.4%), or four (18.0%) siblings.

The majority of children (62.9%) reported there were four to six persons living with them in their home. Another 26.2% reported there were seven to nine persons living in their home. A small percentage of children reported there were only one to three persons living in their home (8.0%) and even fewer reported there were 10 or more persons living in their home (3.0%). The average home had 5.8 persons.

Children self-report child abuse and neglect

Of the 2,132 children surveyed, 72.7% reported experiencing abuse and/or neglect in the family. More specifically, 51.0% of children reported experiencing harsh verbal abuse by family members, 38.7% experienced psychological abuse, 36.6% experienced physical abuse, and 1.6% experienced sexual abuse in the family. In addition, 64.4% of children experienced one type of neglect.

In terms of neglect, 7.8% of children reported being deprived of food or lack of nutrition, 44.7% were not provided with adequate clothing, 18.7% were not provided medical care or rest from work when sick, 28.0% lacked adult/parental supervision, and 54.9% were forced to work to the point that it interfered with their school attendance, academic studies, and/or leisure time.

Harsh verbal abuse

Of the 2,132 children surveyed, 51.0% ever experienced harsh verbal abuse in the family, and 39.7% of children experienced harsh verbal abuse in the one month prior to the survey. More specifically, 44.4% reported they got scared or felt really bad because grown-ups in their family called them names (idiot, stupid, bastard) and said mean things to them that hurt their feelings. In addition, 31.4% of children experienced harsh verbal abuse by their siblings – they got scared or felt really bad because their siblings (brother or sister) called them names, said mean things to them, or said they didn't want them around.

Abused children typically do not experience only one form of harsh verbal abuse in the family, but experience multiple forms. In fact, 25.9% of children experienced only one form of harsh verbal abuse, and 25% experienced two forms of harsh verbal abuse.

Psychological abuse

Of the 2,132 children surveyed, 38.7% experienced psychological abuse in the family, and 31.2% were psychologically abused in the one month prior to the survey. The most common forms of psychological abuse were threat of physical harm and destruction of personal property. In particular, 25.2% of children reported grown-ups in their family threatened to physically hurt them by hitting, beating, and/or kicking them. Another 15.1% reported grown-ups in their family threatened to hurt them with a weapon, and 20.5% reported a family member broke or ruined their things on purpose. In addition, 10.6% of children reported a family member locked them out of the home for a long time, and 5.6% reported a parent or family member locked them in a room or small place to punish them or keep them alone.

Abused children often experience multiple forms of psychological abuse in the family. In particular, 18.4% of children experienced one form of psychological abuse, 9.3% experienced two forms, 6.1% experienced three forms, 2.8% experienced four forms, and 2.1% experienced five forms of psychological abuse.

Physical abuse

Of the 2,132 children surveyed, 37.3% experienced physical abuse in the home and family, and 29.2% were physically abused in the past month. In

particular, 24.1% of children reported a parent or adult family member hit, beat, kicked or physically hurt them; and 10.9% reported a family member hit or attacked them on purpose with an object or a weapon. A significant proportion of children also reported experiencing physical abuse from their siblings; 28.2% reported their brother or sister pushed, grabbed, or kicked them, and 25.7% reported they were hit or beat by their brother or sister.

Although the proportions are small, it is important to point out that 1.2% of children reported a family member burned them with cigarettes or other hot items on purpose.

Children often experience multiple forms of physical abuse in the family. In fact, 10.1% of children experienced only one form of physical abuse, 7.7% experienced two forms, 10.9% experienced three forms, 7.3% experienced four forms, and .6% experienced five forms of physical abuse.

Children who are physically abused often experience physical injuries as a direct result of the physical abuse. In particular, of the 515 children who were hit, beat, kicked or physically hurt by grown-ups in the family, 31.1% suffered injuries of varying degrees of severity. Of the 160 children who were physically injured, only 11.9% of injured children had their injuries treated at a hospital, doctor's office, or health clinic.

In addition, of the 233 children who were hit or attacked on purpose with an object or weapon by a family member, 47.2% suffered injuries of varying degrees of severity. Of the 110 children who were physically injured, only 10.0% had their injuries treated at a hospital, doctor's office or health clinic.

Finally, of the 549 children who were hit or beaten by their brother or sister, 29.1% suffered injuries of varying degrees of severity. Of the 160 children who were physically hurt, 18.8% had their injuries treated at a hospital, doctor's office or health clinic.

Sexual abuse

We anticipated children would be extremely reluctant to self-report their experiences with sexual abuse in this survey. Of the 2,132 children

surveyed only 1.4% reported a family member touched their sexual organs or made them touch their sexual organs, and .6% of children reported a family member tried to force them to have sexual contact (even if it didn't happen).

Neglect

This research measured five of forms of neglect, including: nutrition neglect, clothing neglect, medical neglect, supervision neglect, and work neglect. In terms of nutrition neglect, 7.8% of children reported they did not get enough to eat or went hungry even though there was enough food for everyone, and 5.7% reported they were not given enough to eat and went hungry in the past month.

In terms of clothing neglect, 44.7% of children experienced clothing neglect, and 37.0% experienced clothing neglect in the past month. In particular, 31.4% of children reported they had to wear dirty or torn cloths, 30.3% had to wear clothes that were the wrong size (too big or small), and 27.0% had to wear clothes that were not warm enough in the winter time or too warm in the summer time.

In regard to medical neglect, 18.7% of children reported experiencing medical neglect, and 13.2% experienced medical neglect in the past month. In particular, 13.6% of children reported they were not taken care of when sick (e.g., they were not taken to the doctor or clinic or not given medicine to make them better), and 12.2% of children reported they were forced to work despite being sick.

In regard to supervision neglect, 28.0% of children reported they were left home alone without attention or supervision from any adults for two days or more; and 21.6% were left home alone without adult supervision for two days or more during the month prior to the survey.

In terms of work neglect, 72.7% of children reported experiencing work neglect, and 48.3% of experienced work neglect in the past month. In particular, 5.9% of children reported their parents sent them or forced them to work or earn money to help support the family, and 40.7% of children reported a parent or grown-up in their family forced them to spend their time doing housework or other work to the point that they had no time to go to school. In addition, 40.0% of children

reported a parent or grown-up in their family forced them to spend their time doing housework or other work to the point that they had no time to do their homework. Finally, 41.1% of children reported their family forced them to spend time doing housework or other work to the point that they had no leisure time.

The majority of children experienced multiple forms of neglect. Specifically, 18.7% of children experienced only one form of neglect, while 18.4% experienced two forms, 14.5% experienced three forms, 9.4% experienced four forms, and 3.4% experienced each of the five forms of neglect.

Multiple types of child abuse and neglect

It is well documented that abused and neglected children do not experience only one type of abuse – harsh verbal, psychological, physical, or sexual – or neglect but often experience multiple types of abuse concurrently. In particular, 64.2% of children who experienced harsh verbal abuse were also psychologically abused, 62.6% were also physically abused, and 88.5% were also neglected. Harsh verbal abuse is a strong predictor that other types of abuse and neglect are occurring against a child in the family.

In addition, 84.3% of children who were psychologically abused also experienced harsh verbal abuse in the family, 71.4% were also physically abused, and 92.0% were also neglected. Psychological abuse is an even stronger predictor that children are experiencing other types of abuse and neglect in the home and family setting.

In regard to physical abuse, 86.9% of children who were physically abused also experienced harsh verbal abuse in the home and family, 73.7% also experienced psychological abuse, and 93.2% were also neglected. The presence of physical violence is another stronger predictor that children are experiencing other types of abuse and neglect.

Finally, 69.9% of children who were neglected in the family also experienced harsh verbal abuse, 55.3% were also psychologically abused, and 53.0% were also physically abused. The presence of neglect is a very strong predictor that other types of abuse are occurring against a child in the home.

Gender differences

This study found few significant differences based upon gender in children's experiences with abuse and neglect in the home and family.

Age differences

A significant proportion of children in all age categories experienced abuse and neglect in the home and family; however, children 10 and 11 years of age (71.4%) experienced significantly more abuse than children between 12 and 17 years of age. In terms of neglect, 16 and 17 year olds (71.3%) were significantly more likely to experience neglect in comparison to children between 10 and 15 years of age.

Ethnic group differences

This study found significant ethnic group differences in children's experience with abuse and neglect in the home and family. Uzbek (85.6%) and Kyrgyz (60.5%) children were significantly more likely to experience abuse compared to Russian (26.0%) and other ethnic group (20.9%) children. Uzbek (83.8%) and Kyrgyz (66.0%) children were also significantly more likely to experience neglect than Russian (19.8%) and other ethnic group (24.4%) children.

Gender-ethnic group intersection differences

A more in-depth analysis was conducted to understand how gender and ethnic group status intersect in children's lives and impact their experiences with abuse and neglect. This study found that male and female Kyrgyz children were equally likely to experience abuse; however, male Uzbeks (88.1%) were significantly more likely to experience abuse than female Uzbeks (84.0%). In contrast, female Russians (31.7%) were more likely to experience abuse than male Russians (21.8%), and female other ethnic groups (27.3%) were more likely to experience abuse than male other ethnic groups (14.3%).

In terms of neglect, male Kyrgyz (70.0%) were significantly more likely to experience neglect than female Kyrgyz (62.4%), and male Uzbeks (89.3%) were more likely to experience neglect than female Uzbeks (80.4%). In addition, male Russians (23.6%) were significantly more likely to experience neglect than female Russians (14.6%). A different pattern

emerged among other ethnic groups, female other ethnic groups (27.3%) were significantly more likely to experience neglect than male other ethnic groups (21.4%).

Number of siblings

As the number of siblings increase so does the occurrence of abuse and neglect. Children with no siblings were less likely to experience abuse and neglect in the family than children with siblings.

Living arrangements with parents

Children living with a parent and step-parent (56.3%) or both their mother and father (58.8%) were significantly less likely to experience abuse than children living with a single-parent (66.0%) or neither their mother or father (76.5). In terms of neglect, children living with neither their mother nor father (89.4%) were most likely to experience neglect. Moreover, children living with neither mother nor father or a single-parent (70.8%) were significantly more likely to experience neglect than children living with both their mother and father (62.5%) or parent and step-parent (53.1%).

Number of people living in the household

Children living in a household with 1 to 3 people were significantly less likely to experience abuse than children living in a household with 4 or more people. In terms of neglect, children living in homes with 1 to 3 people (47.6%) experienced the lowest levels of neglect and households with 10 or more people (79.4%) experienced the highest levels of neglect.

Urban versus rural differences

While a significant proportion of children in urban and rural areas experience abuse and neglect, children in rural areas were some significantly more likely to experience abuse (64.5%) and neglect (72.2%) than children in urban areas (51.9% and 48.2% respectively).

Oblast differences

Significant differences between Oblasts were found. Children in Batken, Osh, and Jalalabad experienced significantly more abuse than children in the other Oblasts. In regard to neglect, although a significant proportion of children in

most Oblasts experience neglect, there were some differences. Children in Bishkek and Chuy were least likely to experience neglect in comparison to children in the other Oblasts.

Impact of witnessing family violence

Of the 2,132 children surveyed, 21.8% witnessed family violence. In particular, 13.7% of children saw their parents or other family members hit, beat or physical hurt their brothers or sisters. In addition, 6.5% of children saw one of their parents hit or beat by another parent or family member, and 7.3% saw one of their family members attack another family member on purpose with a stick, gun, knife or other weapon. It is important to note that 11.5% of children reported witnessing such family violence on one or more occasions in the past month.

Children who witness family violence are significantly more likely to experience abuse (82.6%) and neglect (81.7%) than children who did not witness family violence (54.2% and 59.6% respectively).

Child runaways

Children who are victims of child abuse and neglect are typically at increased risk of running away from home. Of the 2,132 children surveyed, 3.8% ran away from home. Of those 80 children who ran away from home, 65.0% ran away one time, 31.3% ran away two times, and 3.8% ran away three times. Among the 80 children who ran away from home, 88.6% were abused and 92.5% were neglected in the home and family.

Parent's report abuse and neglect of children

A total of 155 parents from 18 research sites in each of the seven Oblasts were surveyed. Of the 155 parents surveyed, 90.3% were mothers and 9.7% were fathers, and 54.2% lived in urban areas and 45.8% lived in rural areas. They ranged in age from 32 to 62 years, and the average age was 45.2 years.

In regard to ethnic status, 81.3% of surveyed parents were Kyrgyz, 5.8% Uzbek, 7.7% Russian, and 5.2% other. In terms of education, 43.2% had a higher education, 32.9% of parents had a secondary

education, 18.1% had a vocational education, and only 1.9% of parents had an incomplete secondary education or only a primary education.

Parents' use of positive discipline

The majority of parents (92.9%) reported using positive methods of discipline on their children for doing something wrong, disobeying, or making them angry. In particular, 85.8% of parents explained to their children why something was wrong, 87.7% told their children to stop doing something, and 62.6% took away privileges or grounded their children. Parents typically use multiple forms of positive discipline with their children.

The majority of parents who use positive discipline also use harsh verbal abuse (82.6%), psychological abuse (42.4%), moderate physical abuse (71.1%), and severe physical abuse (38.0%) to discipline their child. In addition, they were significantly more likely to neglect their children (69.4%). It appears that positive discipline is followed by various forms of harsh verbal abuse, psychological abuse, and physical abuse or they are used simultaneously to correct children's behavior.

Child abuse and neglect

Of the 155 parents surveyed, 89.0% reported abusing and/or neglecting their children. In particular, 78.1% of parents used harsh verbal abuse to discipline and correct their children's behavior, 39.4% used psychological abuse, and 67.7% used physical abuse. In regard to physical abuse, 34.8% used severe forms of physical abuse and 66.5% used moderate forms of physical abuse to discipline their children. Finally, 67.1% of parents reported neglecting their children.

Harsh verbal abuse

Of the 155 parents surveyed, 78.1% used harsh verbal abuse to discipline their children for doing something wrong, disobeying, or making them angry, and 65.2% used harsh verbal abuse on their children in the past month. More specifically, 74.8% of parents reported shouting, yelling or screaming at their children for doing something wrong, disobeying or making them angry; and 46.5% of parents reported swearing at or cursing their children and calling their children names (idiot, stupid, bastard). Of the 155 parents surveyed, 34.8% used only one of these form of harsh verbal abuse, and 43.2% used the two forms of harsh verbal abuse.

Psychological abuse

Of the 155 parents surveyed, 39.4% used psychological abuse against their children, and 31.0% used psychological abuse against their children in the past month. In particular, 34.2% of parents threatened to hit, beat or kick their children for doing something wrong, disobeying, or making them angry. Another 5.2% of parents threatened to physically harm their children with a gun, knife, stick, belt or other weapon. In addition, 11.0% of parents reported telling their children they didn't want them anymore and threatened to kick them out of the house or send them away, and 7.7% of parents actually locked their children out of the home on one or more occasions.

Parents typically don't use only one form of psychological abuse on their children, but use multiple forms of psychological abuse. In fact, 26.5% of parents used one form of psychological abuse, 8.4% used two forms, 3.2% used three forms, and 1.3% used four forms of psychological abuse.

Physical abuse

In all, 67.7% of parents using physical abuse to discipline their children, and 56.8% used physical abuse against their children in the past month. The various forms of physical abuse measured in the survey were broken down into two categories: severe physical abuse and moderate physical abuse.

In regard to moderate physical abuse, 66.5% of parents used moderate physical abuse to discipline their children, and 56.1% of parents used moderate physical abuse in the past month. In particular, 58.1% of parents slapped their child with their hand on the buttocks, back, leg, or arm for doing something wrong, disobeying or making them angry; and 24.5% of parents slapped their child on the face or head to discipline and correct their behavior. A significant proportion of parents (40.6%) also reported shaking their child. Also, 29.7% of parents reported pinching their child, and 9.0% twisted their child's ear to discipline and correct their behavior.

In regard to severe physical abuse, 34.8% of parents used severe physical abuse to discipline and correct their children's behavior, and 19.4% used severe physical abuse in the past month. More specifically, 31.6% of parents hit their child with something like a belt, hairbrush, stick or some other hard item for doing something wrong, disobeying, or making

them angry; and 11.0% of parents beat their child by hitting him/her over and over as hard as they could. In addition, 4.5% of parents reported throwing or knocking their child down, 1.3% burnt their child with cigarettes or other hot items, and 1.3% locked their child in a small place, tied their child up, or chained their child to something to discipline them.

Finally, 32.9% of parents used both moderate and physical abuse and 34.8% used only moderate or severe physical abuse.

Neglect

Of the 155 parents surveyed, 67.1% of neglected their children, and 52.3% neglected their children in the past month. A significant proportion of parents reported being so caught up in their own problems that they were not able to care for their children (42.6%) and/or that they felt so bad or hurt that they had problems caring for their child (34.8%). Although the percentages are small, 3.2% of parents said they were unable to care for their children because they were drunk, and 1.9% said this happened in the past month.

Multiple types of child abuse and neglect

Parents use multiple types of abuse to discipline and correct their children's behavior, as well as neglect their children. It is important to note that only 9.0% of parents did not use any of the types of abuse or neglect measured in the survey. Moreover, 14.8% of parents used only one type of abuse or neglect against their children, 16.8% of parents used two types of abuse and/or neglect, 18.1% used three types, 18.1% used four types, and 21.3% used all four types of abuse (harsh verbal, psychological, moderate physical, and severe physical abuse) and neglect against their children.

Demographic differences

The only comparisons that could be conducted were urban versus rural differences. Although a significant proportion of parents in both urban and rural areas abuse their children, parents in rural areas (90.1%) were significantly more likely to abuse their children than parents in urban areas

(79.0%). In regard to neglect, parents in rural areas (84.5%) were significantly more likely to neglect their children than parents in urban areas (52.4%).

Structured interviews on child protection

Eighty-three local experts from each of the seven Oblasts and Bishkek city were also interviewed. Of the 83 experts interviewed, 74.8% were from state agencies/institutions and 2.8% were from private or civil society organizations. In regard to sector, 20.6% of the experts were in the education sector, 17.8% were in the health care sector, 15.0% were in the social protection sector, and 24.3% were in the interior/justice/militia sector.

Encounters with and registration of child abuse and neglect

Seventy percent of the 83 interviewed experts reported they heard about or encountered cases of child abuse and/or neglect, yet only 42.1% actually registered or recorded information about the cases of child abuse and/or neglect that they encountered. In the year prior to the interview, 15.0% of experts reported they registered no cases, while 15.9% reported registering between 1 and 10 cases of child abuse and/or neglect. Very few respondents reported registering or recording cases of child abuse and neglect that they encountered.

Only 48.6% of interviewed experts reported they are required by official regulation to register or record cases of child abuse and neglect that they encounter.

Referral of cases of child abuse and neglect

Experts were also asked if they referred or reported cases of child abuse and neglect that they encounter to other agencies/institutions. In fact, 57.9% of respondents referred or reported cases of child abuse and neglect that they encountered to another agency/institution. In the past 12 months, 49.5% of experts said they did not refer or report cases of abuse and neglect to another agency/institution. Only 21.5% of experts referred or reported 1 to 10 cases to another agency/

institution. Very few experts reported any more than 10 cases of abuse or neglect to another agency/institution.

Intervention and monitoring of families with child abuse and neglect

Only 50.5% of experts reported they make an effort to discuss with the child problems of abuse and neglect they may be experiencing at home and in the family; whereas, 60.7% reported they make an effort to discuss with the child's parents or caregiver problems with the treatment of their child. Only 43.0% of experts actually follow-up with or monitor the child or family for continued abuse or neglect.

Only 24.3% of experts reported they refer children and parents in cases of abuse and neglect for outside intervention or support.

Guidance or training on child abuse and neglect

Only 25.3% of experts maintain staff in their agency/institution who receive specific guidance or training on identifying signs of child abuse and neglect.

Prevention and education

Forty-two percent of experts reported their agency/institution was involved in efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect. Only 26.2% of respondent reported their agency/institution has program focused on educating parents and children about child abuse and neglect.

Recommendations

Recommendations offered in the report are guided by the human rights obligations of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic under the CRC and other human rights agreements. The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic is required to provide appropriate legislation and social policies to ensure an effective response to child abuse and neglect, programs and services for prevention and protection to assist child victims and parents, and strategies to bring about changes in attitudes and behaviors.

Chapter 1: Introduction

Background to the study

Families have the greatest potential for protecting children from all forms of violence and can serve to empower children to protect themselves. In fact, a basic assumption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is that the family is the natural environment for the growth and well-being of children, while the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights proclaim the family as being the fundamental group unit of society. The CRC requires the State to fully respect and support families (1).

Families can also be dangerous places for children, particularly for babies and young children, but also teenagers. The prevalence of violence against children by parents and other close family members – harsh verbal, psychological, physical, and sexual – has only begun to be acknowledged and documented (2).

Challenging child abuse and neglect is difficult when it occurs in the context of the home and family because there is a reluctance to intervene in what is still perceived in most societies as a “private” sphere. However, UNICEF maintains that human rights and full respect for human dignity and physical integrity – children’s and adult’s equal rights – and State obligations to uphold these rights do not stop at the door of the family home (3).

In the Kyrgyz Republic, child abuse and neglect is rarely addressed because it is considered a private, family matter. In some families, abusive acts – harsh verbal, psychological, and physical abuse – are used to discipline and correct children’s behavior. Child abuse and neglect negatively affect not only individual children, but negatively affects whole families, and communities and society in general.

According to the UN World Report on Violence Against Children, the States responsibility to respect, protect, and fulfill the rights of children extends beyond its direct activities and those of State agents, and requires the adoption of measures to ensure that parents, legal guardians, and others do not violate children’s rights. In fact, the State is required to put in

place a framework of laws, policies, and programs to prevent violence by providing adequate protection if violence occurs (4).

Since the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, the newly established Government of the Kyrgyz Republic ratified numerous important conventions. In 2000, the newly established Government of the Kyrgyz Republic ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The UN CRC provides clear authorization to the State to protect children from all forms of violence in the home and family, and establishes its role as final arbiter of child welfare in the domestic arena. While the State cannot be held directly responsible for individual acts of violence against children by parents, it is required to provide a framework of law and other necessary measures to supply adequate protection, including effective deterrence (5). Since then, international organizations and local NGOs have been working in cooperation with the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic to address issues of child protection, including child abuse and neglect.

This national study on child abuse and neglect in families is just one of the collaborative initiatives, undertaken with the purpose of generating reliable data and findings about the nature and prevalence of child abuse and neglect, as well as efforts to identify and respond to cases of abuse and neglect and ensure child protection. The goal of the study is to generate findings that can be used to inform the development of effective prevention, protection, and legal measures and policies to support identification, intervention, and prevention of child abuse and neglect, and child protection.

Kyrgyz laws relevant to child abuse and neglect and child protection

The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic has a number of laws and regulations that addresses violence against and neglect of children in the family, including:

- Child Code of the Kyrgyz Republic
- Family Code of the Kyrgyz Republic
- Law on Social and Legal Protection from Violence in the Family
- Criminal Code of the Kyrgyz Republic

In 2006, the Kyrgyz legislature passed the Children's Code of the Kyrgyz Republic. The Children's Code was developed to secure the rights and freedoms of children, as well as ensure the protection of children from physical and psychological abuse, and negligent treatment. In the framework of the Code, a Child Protection Department was set up which reports to the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic.

The Family Code of the Kyrgyz Republic is another important piece of legislation that addresses issues of child abuse and neglect in the home and family, and defines systems of criminal and administration protection of children. The Family Code includes several articles relative to child abuse and neglect in the family. For instance, Article 61 of the Family Code states that children have the right to protection of their rights and legitimate interests, including the right to protection from the abuse of parents. In the event that a child's rights and interests are violated or parents fail to fulfill their obligations of upbringing and educating the child, or if they abuse their parental rights, a child has the right to request protection from the body of guardianship and trusteeship and to the courts. Article 61 also maintains that officials of organizations and other citizens who are aware of the threat to a child's life and health, of infringement of his/her rights and legitimate interests, are obliged to inform the body of guardianship and trusteeship, which is obligated under the law to protect the rights and legitimate interests of the child.

Article 70 of the Family Code maintains that parental rights should not be exercised in contradiction with the children's interests and safeguarding children's interests should be one of the main objectives of parents. In the process of exercising parental rights, parents do not have the right to negatively affect the physical or psychological health of their child, or their moral development. And methods of upbringing should not include harsh verbal abuse, cruel and rude treatment that humiliates the human dignity of children, and in-

sults or exploits the children. Parents who damage a child's rights and interests in the process of exercising their parental rights should be held legally responsible.

Finally, Article 74 of the Family Code maintains that one or both parents can have their parental rights deprived if they treat their child in a cruel manner, including the use of physical and psychological violence, sexual abuse, and/or have committed a deliberate crime against the life and health of their children or against the life or health of the spouse, or allow for the vagrancy of their minor child.

In 2003, the Legislative Assembly of Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic adopted the "Law on Social and Legal Protection from Violence in the Family." This Law develops and regulates social and legal protection of persons who suffer from family violence. The law defines the rights of the victim of family violence, including the right to:

- file a complaint of family violence or threat of violence with bodies of interior affairs or the prosecutor's office;
- be transported to a medical facility for medical treatment of injuries;
- transportation to a safe place or place in a specialize institution of social service;
- information about the protection of safety, legal help, and advice;
- apply to court for punishment of the perpetrator of family violence; and
- a warrant of protection or to apply to relevant agencies to institute administrative or criminal proceeding against the perpetrator of violence.

The Law on Social and Legal Protection from Violence in the Family also defines which agencies are responsible for suppressing and preventing family violence, rendering social support to the victims of family violence, and organization of socio-legal protection for victims of family violence. Sections III and IV outline the responsibilities of each agency and the organization of socio-legal protection of victims of family violence.

Finally, there are also provisions in the Criminal Code of the Kyrgyz Republic that can be used to address crimes of child abuse and neglect in the home and family setting. Criminal Codes include, but are not limited to:

- Chapter 16. Crimes against life and health
- Chapter 17. Crimes against freedom, honor and dignity of personality
- Chapter 18. Crimes against sex inviolability and sex freedom of personality
- Chapter 19. Crimes against the constitutional rights, freedoms of human being and citizen
- Chapter 20. Crimes against family and minors

In addition, the Criminal Code of the Kyrgyz Republic includes:

- Article 129. Rape (rape committed deliberately against the minor is punishable by imprisonment for 8 to 15 years; rape committed deliberately against a minor under 14 years of age and that inflicted very grave consequences is punishable by imprisonment for 17 to 20 years or death penalty).
- Article 130. Violent actions of sexual nature (pederasty, lesbianism, or other actions of sexual nature with the use of force or threat of its use against the victim or other persons, or by using the helpless condition of the victim. The same crime deliberately committed against a minor is punishable by imprisonment for 8 to 15 years).
- Article 133. Lecherous actions (commitment to lecherous actions, without using violence, against a minor under 14 years of age is punishable by fine from 100 to 200 minimal monthly salaries or imprisonment for up to 3 years).
- Article 161. Failure to fulfill the obligations of minor upbringing.
- Article 162. Evasion of parents from the maintenance of children.

While there are numerous laws that address child abuse and neglect in the home and family setting and regulate protection of victims of family violence, including children; however, many of these laws are not being effectively implemented and applied in cases of child abuse and neglect. Moreover, there are no regulations that require staff from the health, education, or social work sectors consistently register or report cases of child abuse and neglect. Often parents and relatives will even encourage professionals not to register or report cases of child abuse and neglect that come to their attention. Moreover, the system of social support for child victims of abuse and neglect are extremely limited and weak.

Why embark on a national study of child abuse and neglect in the Kyrgyz Republic?

Research on child abuse and neglect in the Kyrgyz Republic is virtually nonexistent, and data on the nature and prevalence of child abuse and neglect is scant. Thus, there is no clear picture of the situation of child abuse and neglect in the Kyrgyz Republic.

The goals of this national population-based study of child abuse and neglect were to:

- Gather reliable data on the nature and prevalence of child abuse and neglect in families in Kyrgyzstan;
- Analyze data and generate findings that would provide a comprehensive description of the nature and prevalence of child abuse and neglect in Kyrgyzstan;
- Examine the various factors that contribute to child abuse and neglect, including individual demographics, family size and composition, and regional differences;
- Examine local experts knowledge and understanding of child abuse and neglect, and process for identification and recording of cases, and protection of abuse and neglected children; and
- Use the data and findings to shape recommendations for legislative and policy reform, and system and program development develop to improve identification, intervention, and protection of children.

This national study will fill a significant gap in the limited research on child abuse and neglect in the Kyrgyz Republic.

References

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Chapter 2: Research Design

Conducting research on prevalence and nature of child abuse and neglect in the home and family setting is challenging because such violence against children typically happens behind walls and closed doors. Moreover, children who are victims of abuse and neglect are often reluctant or afraid to speak about or report incidents of abuse and neglect in the home and family setting, or other forms of family violence out of fear of punishment or retaliation from their abuser(s) or negative reaction from other family members. The significant power and age differentials between child victims and their abuser(s) further enhances a child's fear of reporting their experiences with abuse and neglect.

Two other challenges facing researchers who study child abuse and neglect in the home and family setting is to develop clear operational definitions of the different types of child abuse and neglect, and to develop tools for measuring the nature and prevalence of each of these types of abuse and neglect (1, 2).

Despite the challenges of conducting survey research on child abuse and neglect, this research was designed to conduct a national population-based survey of children in which they were asked to self-report experiences with child abuse – harsh verbal, psychological, physical, and sexual abuse – and neglect in the home and family setting. Efforts were also undertaken to survey parents, asking them to self-report their use of harsh verbal, psychological, and physical abuse (moderate and severe) to discipline their children, as well as their neglect of their children. The study also included structured interviews with local experts, mainly local civil servants, responsible for issues of child protection.

The five main goals of this research were to:

- gather reliable data on the nature and prevalence of child abuse and neglect in families in Kyrgyzstan in an effort to fill a gap in data;
- analyze the data and generate findings that would provide a comprehensive description of the nature and prevalence of child abuse and neglect in Kyrgyzstan;

- examine the various factors that contribute to child abuse and neglect, including individual demographic factors (e.g., gender, age, ethnic status), family size and composition (e.g., number of siblings, living arrangements with parents, and number of persons in the household), and regional differences;
- examine local experts knowledge and understanding of child abuse and neglect, and processes for identification and recording of cases, and protection of abused and neglected children; and
- use the data and findings to shape recommendations for legislative and policy reform, and system and program development designed to improve identification, intervention, and protection of children.

This report is designed to present a data-driven description and understanding of child abuse and neglect in homes and family settings throughout the Kyrgyz Republic. We intend this report can serve to assist in raising the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, international organizations, and local non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations in their efforts to understand child abuse and neglect in the home and family setting and develop necessary prevention initiatives, identification, intervention, and protection systems, and legal measures and policies that specifically address child abuse and neglect and child protection, and more generally to family violence.

Definitions

Child abuse and neglect is a form of violence against children. The UN Secretary General's Study on Violence Against Children revealed that violence against children in the home and family is a problem of global proportions². In the home and family setting, children experience acts of physical violence, sexual victimization, harmful traditional practices, humiliation and other types of psychological violence, and neglect by parents and step-parents, alternative caregivers, extended family, and siblings (3).

²In keeping with the UN CRC, a child is any person under 18 years of age.

Child abuse and neglect is also one form of family violence. For purposes of this study, family violence refers to “a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one intimate partner or family member to gain and maintain power and control over another intimate partner or family member.” Family violence includes physical, sexual, emotional, and psychological actions or threat of actions that influence another person. This includes any behaviors that intimidate, manipulate, humiliate, isolate,

frighten, terrorize, coerce, threaten, hurt, injure, or wound someone (4).

Worldwide researchers have used various criteria to define child abuse and neglect; however, a common method has been to classify the violence according to the type of act. Box 2.1 identifies and defines each of the types of child abuse and neglect considered in this study.

Box 2.1. Types of child abuse and neglect

Harsh verbal abuse – includes a pattern of harsh verbal abuse that aims to attack a child’s character and undermine their sense of self-worth, self-esteem, and social and emotional development and well-being. Forms of harsh verbal abuse include name-calling, insults, belittling, ridicule, mean, humiliating, and cruel words that convey to a child the message that he or she is worthless, flawed, unloved, unwanted, or only of value to meet someone else’s needs.

Psychological abuse – includes a pattern of intentional verbal and behavioral actions or lack of actions that aim to ignore, reject, control and/or isolate a child, and intimate and cause fear in a child. Psychologically abusive behaviors also include such actions as purposely breaking a child’s possessions, harming a child’s pet, and threatening a child with physical harm with the aim of intimidating and evoking fear in a child to control them.

Physical violence – those acts of physical force against a child by a parent or other family member, including a sibling, which cause physical harm or injury or have the potential for harm to the child’s health, survival, development or dignity. There is a broad range of behaviors that are considered physical abuse, including: hitting, beating, grabbing, kicking, choking, pulling hair, shaking, biting, strangulation, poisoning, burning, assault with an object or weapon, and suffocation by family members. Physical abuse often causes some form of harm or injury, and can even result in disability or a child’s death.

Child sexual abuse – includes situations in which an adult or older adolescent abuses a child for sexual stimulation. Forms of child sexual abuse include pressuring or asking a child to engage in sexual activities (regardless of the outcome), indecent exposure of one’s genitals to a child, displaying pornography to a child, actual sexual contact with a child, physical contact with a child’s genitals, viewing of a child’s genitals without physical contact, and using a child to produce child pornography.

Neglect – refers to the failure of a parent or caregiver responsible for a child to provide for the development of the child – where the parent is in a position to do so – in one or more of the following areas: nutrition, clothing, supervision, medical, emotional development, education, and shelter and safe living conditions. Neglect is distinguished from circumstances of poverty in that neglect can occur only in cases where reasonable resources are available to the family or caregiver.

Measuring child abuse and neglect

The children’s self-report survey was developed to measure the nature and prevalence of four different types of child abuse – harsh verbal, psychological, physical, and sexual abuse – and five different types of neglect – nutrition, clothing, medical, supervision, and

work – defined in Box 2.1.

Definitions of each type of child abuse and neglect were operationalized in the survey using a range of behavior-specific questions related to each type of abuse and neglect. The study did not attempt to measure an exhaustive list of acts of abuse and

neglect in the home and family setting, instead it asked a number of questions about specific acts that commonly occur against abuse and neglect children in homes and family settings. The acts used to define each of the five types of abuse and five types of neglect measured in the survey are summarized in Box 2.2.

The parent's self-report survey was developed to also measure the nature and prevalence of three different types of child abuse – harsh verbal, psychological, and physical abuse – and neglect as defined in Box 2.1.

Despite the highly sensitive nature of child abuse

and neglect and the hesitancy of children and parents through out the Kyrgyz Republic to talk openly about experiences with violence in their home and family, the survey for children was developed to encourage children between 10 and 17 years of age to self-report the nature and prevalence of abuse and neglect they experienced in the home and family setting. Similarly, the survey for parents was developed to encourage parents to self-report the nature and prevalence of abusive and neglectful behaviors they used against their children.

Box 2.2. Types of child abuse and neglect by parents and family members

Harsh verbal abuse

- Swears at, curses or calls a child names (idiot, stupid, bastard)
- Says mean things that hurt a child's feelings
- Says they don't want a child around
- Shouts, yells or screams at a child

Psychological abuse

- Breaks or ruins a child's things on purpose (clothes, toys, school supplies)
- Tells a child you don't want them anymore, and threaten to kick a child out of the house or send them away
- Locks a child out of the home for a long time
- Threatens to physically hurt a child by hitting, beating or kicking
- Threatens to physically hurt a child with a gun, knife, stick, belt or other weapon
- Locks a child in a small place, ties them up, or chains them to something to punish/keep you alone

Physical abuse

- Twists a child's ear
- Pinches a child
- Shakes a child
- Slaps a child with one's hand on the buttocks, back, leg, arm, face or head
- Throws or knocks a child down
- Pushes, grabs or kicks a child
- Hits, beats or physically hurts a child
- Hits or attacks a child on purpose with an hard object or weapon (whip, stick, belt, gun, knife)
- Burns a child with cigarettes or other hot items on purpose

Sexual abuse

- Touches the sexual organs of a child or makes a child touch their sexual organs
- Tries to or forces a child to have sexual contact

Neglect

- Does not give a child enough to eat even though there is enough food for everyone (nutrition)
- Child has to wear dirty or torn clothes (clothing)
- Child has to wear clothes that are not warm enough in the winter or too warm in the summer (clothing)
- Child has to wear clothes that are the wrong size (too big or too small) (clothing)
- Child is not taken care of when sick (not taken to the doctor or clinic, not given medicine to make the child better) (medical)
- Child is made to work in spite of the fact that they are sick (medical and work)
- Left child home alone without attention/supervision from any adults for 2 days or more (supervision)
- Child sent or forced to work or earn money to help support the family (work)
- Child is forced to spend their time doing housework or other work to the point that they have no time to go to school (work)
- Child is forced to spend their time doing housework or other work to the point that they had no time to do their homework, reading or other learning activities (work)
- Child is forced to spend their time doing housework or other work to the point that they have no leisure time (to play, join sports or hobby groups, spend time with friends, watch TV or search the internet) (work)
- Parent unable to care for a child because of their own problems and feeling sad or hurt
- Parent unable to care for a child because they were drunk

Development of surveys

Both the children's self-report survey and the parent's self-report were developed after an extensive review of international literature on child abuse and neglect and a review of existing survey instruments used in the United States and throughout Asia. Dr. Robin Haarr, the international consultant on the project took the lead on developing the surveys and working with the local NGO Izildoo to ensure the surveys were culturally appropriate and sensitive³. The surveys were originally developed in English and then translated into Russian for distribution.

The children's self-report survey was revised several times during the process of getting it approved by the Ministry of Education for distribution in schools throughout the nation. The parent's self-report sur-

vey was developed to remain fairly consistent in some ways with the children's self-report survey.

Structure of children's survey

The Children's Self-Report Survey on Child Abuse and Neglect consisted of a series of close-ended questions that were developed to collect information in 11 different domains, including:

- Demographics (i.e., gender, ethnic status, age, family size and composition, grade and academic ranking).
- Harsh verbal abuse (i.e., children's experience with name-calling and belittling by a parent, sibling, or other family member in the past month or ever).

³ Dr. Robin Haarr has extensive experience conducting survey research in Central Asia and has extensive experience working in the areas of family violence, violence against children, child exploitation and trafficking, and child protection through Asia and the former Soviet Union.

- Psychological abuse (i.e., child's experience with being ignored, rejected, isolated, physically threatened, and having their personal property damaged by a parent or other family member in the past month or ever).
- Physical abuse (i.e., a child's experience with being pushed, grabbed, hit, beat, kicked, burned, physically hurt, and physically assaulted with an object or weapon by a parent, sibling, or other family member in the past month or ever).
- Injuries related to physical abuse (i.e., physical harm and injuries experienced by a child as a result of physical abuse from adults and siblings, type of injury, and whether they received medical treatment for the injury at a medical clinic or hospital).
- Sexual abuse (i.e., sexual abuse from an older sibling or family member and the number of times it occurred).
- Neglect (i.e., a child's experience with nutrition, clothing, medical, supervision and work neglect in the family in the past month or ever).
- Reasons and justifications for being hit/beat by parents or other family members
- History of running away from home (i.e., whether a child ever ran away from home, number of times they ran away, and reasons for running away).
- Witness of family violence (i.e., whether a child ever witnessed their parent(s) or other family member(s) physically abused their brother(s) or sister(s) or their other parent, and weapon-related violence between family members).
- Challenges completing the survey (i.e., whether it was difficult to be sincere or honest about experiences with child abuse and neglect when completing the questionnaire).
- Demographics (i.e., Oblast, gender, ethnic status, age, family size and composition, level of education, and employment status).
- Personal well-being (i.e., level of frustration and conflict with spouse, and health rating)
- Positive parental discipline (i.e., disciplined their child in the past month or ever by explaining why something was wrong, telling them to stop doing something, and take away their privileges).
- Harsh verbal abuse (i.e., disciplined their child in the past month or ever by shouting, yelling, screaming, swearing, cursing, and calling them names).
- Psychological abuse (i.e., disciplined their child in the past month or ever by ignoring, rejecting, isolating, and physically threatening them).
- Physical abuse (i.e., disciplined their child in the past month or ever with severe physical abuse – hitting with a hard object, beating, throwing or knocking down, burning, or locking, tying or chaining their children to something; and disciplined their child in the past month or ever with moderate physical abuse – twisted ear, shook, slapped, or pinched their child).
- Neglect – (i.e., supervision, food, and medical neglect, and being unable to care for their child due to personal problems, feeling bad or hurt, or being drunk in the past month or ever).
- Belief in need to use corporal punishment (physical punishment) to bring up (raise, educate, and discipline) a child.

On average, it took children 40 to 45 minutes (one class period) to complete the survey after receiving direction from members of the research team.

Structure of parent's survey

The Parent's Self-Report Survey on Child Abuse and Neglect consisted of a series of close-ended questions that were developed to collect information in 8 different domains, including:

Maximizing disclosure

From the outset of the survey it was recognized that child abuse and neglect is a highly sensitive issue, and that children and parents would be reluctant to disclose their experiences with abuse and neglect in the home and family setting. For these reasons, attempts were made to design the surveys to ensure that children and parents would feel comfortable and able to disclose any experiences of/use of abuse and neglect in the home and family setting.

In particular, the children's self-report survey was structured so that early sections collected information on less sensitive issues (e.g., individual demographics, region of residence, family size and com-

position, and academic performance), and more sensitive issues (e.g., self-reporting experiences of abuse and neglect in the home and family, reasons for abuse, witnessing family violence, and history of running away) were explored later in the survey. In addition, attention was given to the wording of survey directions. Child respondents were forewarned of the focus of the survey and the sensitive nature of questions included in the survey. Children were also informed that their responses would remain anonymous and confidential, that names were not required on the surveys, and that neither administrator nor teachers from their school would have access to the surveys or their responses. Every effort was made to make children feel comfortable with the survey and ensure children that their rights as human subjects were being protected. They were instructed that all surveys would be brought back to Bishkek where they would be input into a computer system with no identifiers.

The parents self-report survey was also structured so that early sections collected information on less sensitive issues (e.g., demographics, personal well-being, and positive parental discipline) and more sensitive issues (e.g., use of abuse and neglect in the home against their children) were explored later in the survey. In addition, attention was given to the wording of the survey direction. Respondents were forewarned of the focus of the survey. Parents were also informed that their responses would remain anonymous and confidential, that names were not required on the surveys, and that no one from the school would have access to the survey or their responses. Every effort was made to make parents feel comfortable with the survey and ensure parents that their rights as human subjects were being protecting. There were instructed that all surveys would be brought back to Bishkek where they would be input into a computer system with no identifiers.

Children's survey sample design

The study consisted of a cross-sectional sample of children in the 5th through 9th grades from 37 different schools in each of the seven Oblasts and the urban area of Bishkek. According to international literature children under 10 years would have a more difficult time processing and understanding questions related to child abuse and neglect. Therefore children between the ages of 10 and 17 years were surveyed due to their reading and comprehension levels.

When developing the sample selection criteria, special attention was paid to define the study population and its characteristics. The goal was to generate a sample of children that would allow for the production of statistically reliable estimates of the nature and prevalence of child abuse and neglect at the national level, and would allow for Oblast and urban versus rural comparisons.

The initial sample size calculations suggested that a sample size of 3,600 students between 10 and 17 years of age from 120 classrooms in 40 schools would give sufficient power to meet the study objectives.

A stratified, cluster sampling scheme was developed and used to select the schools and classrooms for sampling. A cluster (unit) is defined one school class. The following formula was used in order to identify the optimal size of the sample:

$$n = \frac{4r(1-r) \cdot f \cdot 1,1}{(0,12r)^2 pn_h}$$

wherein:

n = required size of the sample

4 = multiplier that provides for credibility level of 95%

r = expected level of incidence of violence against children (as expected r = 20%)

1,1 = factor required to increase the sample by 10%, considering no responses

f = design effect of the sample (which shows to what extent the sample is inferior to a random sample; for purposes of this review the f = 1.5)

0,12r = allowance for data errors at 95% credibility interval

p = share of the total number of the population upon which the r is based. For purposes of the gender aspect, this review uses the share of girls (p=0.5)

nh = average size of a class (30 students)

First, an estimate of the number of classes in each school in the country was calculated, and then the number of classes and schools to be surveyed in each Oblast was identified. Next, schools were randomly selected. First a list of all schools in a given Oblast was compiled; then the selection ratio (total number of schools to the number of schools to be covered by the survey) was calculated.

According to this formula, the total sample size would be 120 classes in schools (i.e., 3 classes per 40 schools) and an estimated 3,600 children.

Field researchers

Prior to administering the survey, NGO Izildoo carefully selected and trained 12 field researchers to administer the children's self-report survey in schools, administer the parent's self-report survey and conduct focus groups with parents, and conduct structured interviews with local experts⁴.

Each member of the research team was trained over a period of two days prior to the beginning of survey administration and data collection. The training covered the purpose research, the content of the surveys, the purpose of focus groups and interviews with experts, sampling and survey procedures, how to administer the survey in a face-to-face setting, how to assist child respondents if they have questions related to the survey, and human subject protections and the importance of anonymity and confidentiality (special attention was given to the unique human subjects protection involving children, particularly as it relates to a self-report survey on child abuse and neglect).

Field researchers were also trained on how to administer the parent's survey and conduct a one-hour focus group discussion among six to ten participants using scripted questions and drawings. The moderators were also instructed in how to allow participants to talk freely and spontaneously, and how to probe participants.

Research team members were also provided with ongoing support throughout the course of the study.

Children's survey administration

Survey administration and data collection in the field, including focus groups with parents and

structured interviews with experts, began in April 2009 and continued through mid-May 2009.

Field researchers were provided with plenty of copies of the surveys and other data collection instruments for administration in the field, directions for administering the survey, and required guidelines for the sampling framework. Two field researchers visited each Oblast and spent a period of one week in each Oblast where there were two research sites where they were responsible for administering surveys to children in schools, conducting focus groups with and surveying parents, and interviewing experts in the areas of child protection.

With a letter of consent from the Ministry of Education, two field researchers arrived at the pre-selected schools that were designated to be sample. At each school, the field researchers met with the school director and explained the purpose of the research and that the school was pre-selected to be surveyed with the approval of the Ministry of Education. Based upon the pre-established sampling framework, the field researcher knew how many classes at each school needed to be surveyed. Thus, the field researchers requested from the director a list of classes for each of the 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th grades. The field researchers were instructed to sum up the number of classes between the 5th and 9th grades and divide it by the number classes that were supposed to be surveyed (e.g., if there were 20 classes and four needed to be sampled they would divide 20 by 4 and get 5, and then survey every fifth class until they surveyed four classes between the 5th and 9th grades). The, the field researchers would inform the director which classes they wanted to survey at the school. Often the survey was made in front of the director to demonstrate the sampling approach was fair and unbiased. This sampling framework was adopted in an effort to generate a real cross-section of students with differing levels of academic achievement. However, the survey was administered only to those students that were in attendance on the day the survey was administered.

Once classes were selected, field researchers proceeded to the selected classroom to inform students of the purpose of the survey, that their anonymity and confidentiality was ensured, and how to complete the survey. The survey of children was administered in a face-to-face setting in each of the classrooms. It is important to note that children were not paid or provided any incentives to complete the survey.

⁴ NGO Izildoo has a qualified team of field coordinators/researchers, so most of the field researchers utilized in this research project were employed on projects in the past by NGO Izildoo.

In each classroom, after students completed the survey the survey was collected. Children could select not to complete the survey if they did not want; however, most students completed the survey. In each classroom, all surveys were collected and placed into a sealed envelope.

All completed or partially completed surveys were brought back to Bishkek to NGO Izildoo where they were checked for completeness and completed surveys were provided with a survey number. Incomplete surveys were eliminated from the sample; however, fewer than 10 were incomplete. All completed surveys were input into SPSS. In Bishkek, three people were responsible for data input.

Parent's survey and focus groups

In each research site, field researchers were also instructed to work with the school director and teachers to organize focus groups with parents. The director and teachers were instructed that the goal was to invite a cross-section of parents, representing different socio-economic and educational backgrounds, to participate in the focus groups.

The aim of the focus groups was to understand:

- challenges parents face raising children;
- methods of discipline and punishment of children used by parents;
- traditional ways of raising and disciplining a child that should be maintained;
- parents understanding of terms such as child abuse, maltreatment of children, violence against children, and child rights;
- situations in which it is appropriate for parents to use corporal punishment or physical violence against children; and
- types of families that have problems with child abuse and neglect.

At each focus group, the parent's self-report survey on child abuse and neglect was administered at the beginning. Parents were instructed on the purpose of the survey, how to complete the survey, and that their anonymity and confidentiality was be maintained with the surveys.

A total of 18 focus groups were conducted, including 2 in each of the Oblasts (one in an urban area and one in a rural area), except Osh Oblast where three focus groups were conducted. In Osh, one focus group was organized through a Kyrgyz school,

one through a Russian school, and one through an Uzbek school. Three focus groups were also conducted in Bishkek, including one organized through a regular public school, one through an elite school, and one through a school in one of the new lower-income migrant neighborhoods on the edge of the city. Of the 18 focus groups, 12 were conducted through the same schools where children were surveyed, and six were organized through schools in the Oblast center, in an effort to ensure parents from urban areas in each Oblast were surveyed.

Each focus group included 8 to 10 parents, with a total of 158 parents (144 mothers and 14 fathers) from 18 focus groups. Each focus group participant was provided with a notebook and pen worth about 50 Kyrgyz Som or 1.10 USD to compensate them for their time. Refreshments were also provided during each focus group.

All except one focus group was audio recorded and later transcribed into Russian and/or Kyrgyz. Focus group data are used in this report to supplement and enrich the quantitative data obtained from the survey of parents.

All completed or partially completed surveys were brought back to Bishkek to NGO Izildoo where they were checked for completeness and completed surveys were provided with a survey number. Incomplete surveys were eliminated from the sample. All completed surveys were input into SPSS.

Structured interviews with experts

At each of the research sites, structured interviews were also conducted with experts on child protection. The agencies were divided into two groups: child protection experts from the Social Departments under the local mayor offices, and child protection experts under the law enforcement bodies, particularly the Inspection of Minors. A total of 83 structured interviews with experts were completed.

The structured interview schedule consisted of a series of open- and close-ended questions that were developed to collect information in 13 different domains, including:

- Agency information (e.g., name, sector, type of service provider, and public vs. private).
- Knowledge of child abuse and neglect cases

- Actions taken to respond to specific cases of child abuse and neglect.
- Registration/recording of child abuse and neglect cases by the agency (including number of cases recorded in the past month, information regarding such cases, and regulations that require they record such cases).
- Referral/reporting of child abuse and neglect cases to other agencies or individuals (including number of cases referred/reported to another agency or individual, do they refer such cases to the militia or social workers).
- Provision of medical treatment to child victims.
- Discussion of abuse and neglect problems with child and/or parents or caregivers of the child.
- Follow-up/monitoring of child victim and family
- Referral of child victim and parents to outside intervention or support (including number of cases referred).
- Guidance and training on child abuse and neglect/violence against children provided to agency staff (including type of training).
- Agency prevention and public awareness raising efforts.
- Other organizations in the community working to reduce or address issues of violence against children.
- Coordination mechanisms used in cases of child abuse and neglect.

Interview notes were taken throughout the interviews by the field researchers; then, interview notes brought back to Bishkek where they were input into Excel

Data processing and analysis

The data entry and processing procedures were carefully supervised by NGO Izildoo. A standardized approach to coding was developed and adopted at the time the surveys were developed, and a corresponding data entry program was developed in SPSS for the children and parent's surveys. In addition, a corresponding data entry program was developed in Excel for the structured interviews with experts. This helped to ensure that the data was input properly.

As data was collected throughout Kyrgyzstan, it was returned to Bishkek and entered into select computers using SPSS and Excel. In order to ensure quality control, surveys were randomly selected and double checked for proper entry. Internal consistency checks were regularly performed.

All data entry and focus group transcriptions began in April 2009 and were completed in July 2009. The clean SPSS databases related to the children and parent's surveys were used for data analysis using SPSS. It is important to note that the sample of children was self-weighted.

References

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3. *Pinheiro, 2006.*
4. *US Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women. Retrieved on March 11, 2009 from <http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/domviolence.htm>*

Chapter 3: Children's Survey Sample Demographics

This chapter contains information on the demographics of children who were sampled as part of the self-report survey on child abuse and neglect.

Children's demographics

Table 3.1 reveals the demographic characteristics of the sample of 2,132 children from 37 research sites in each of the seven Oblasts and the urban area of Bishkek city (see Chapter 3 for an explanation of the sample design)⁵. More children were surveyed in Osh and Jalalabad Oblasts because according to data obtained from the Kyrgyz National Statistics Committee a larger proportion of schools and children between 11 to 17 years of age reside in Osh and Jalalabad Oblasts. In comparison, fewer children were surveyed in Naryn and Talas Oblasts because there were fewer schools and children between 11 and 17 years of age in Talas and Naryn Oblasts. Each research site was also categorized as either urban or rural. Table 3.1 shows that 67.7% of the children surveyed lived in rural communities, and 32.3% lived in urban centers⁶.

Among the 2,132 children surveyed, 53.4% were female and 46.6% male. They ranged in age from 10 to 17 years, with a fairly equal distribution of children of between 12 and 15 years of age; however, a slight under-representation of children 10, 11, 16 and 17 years of age. The average age was 13.5 years⁷. Figure 3.1 reveals a fairly equal distribution of male and female children in each of the age categories despite the fact that there were slightly more 12-year old boys than girls, and more 13-year-old girls than boys. Thus, any differences between age categories in children's experiences with abuse and neglect would not necessarily be based upon gender representation differences across the age categories (see also Appendix Table 1).

In regard to ethnic status, 79.0% of surveyed children were Kyrgyz, 12.5% Uzbek, 4.5% Russian, and 4.0%

other. Further analysis revealed that 80.2% of Russian children surveyed lived in Bishkek and 13.5% in Chuy Oblast. In addition, 63.2% of Uzbek children surveyed lived in Osh Oblast and 28.9% in Jalalabad Oblast (see also Appendix Table 2).

Table 3.1. Children's demographics		
	N=2,132	
	n	%
Bishkek (city)	269	12.6
Oblast		
Chuy	265	12.4
Issyk-kul	162	7.6
Naryn	94	4.4
Talas	111	5.2
Batken	245	11.5
Osh (Oblast and city)	542	25.4
Jalalabad	444	20.8
Residence		
Urban	689	32.3
Rural	1,443	67.7
Gender		
Female	1,139	53.4
Male	993	46.6
School Grade		
5th grade	317	14.9
6th grade	517	24.2
7th grade	392	18.4
8th grade	444	20.8
9th grade	462	21.7
Age		
10 years	28	1.3
11 years	156	7.2
12 years	436	20.5
13 years	434	20.4

⁵ Because of the sensitive nature of the survey, the 37 research sites will not be revealed by name; however, they were categorized by Oblast and by urban versus rural for the purpose of analysis.

⁶ National data estimates 36% of the population lives in urban areas and 64% in rural areas in 2008.

⁷ For purposes of analysis, 10-11 year olds were grouped together and 16-17 year olds were grouped together.

14 years	451	21.2
15 years	397	18.6
16 years	221	10.4
17 years	9	.4
Ethnic Status		
Kyrgyz	1,684	79.0
Uzbek	266	12.5
Russian	96	4.5
Other	86	4.0

One of the questions often asked about a sample is whether males and females are equally represented across Oblasts, urban versus rural areas, and age groups. Figure 3.1 reveals there were some minor differences in representation of males and females across each of the Oblasts. For instance, in Bishkek and Chuy Oblast the sample included slightly more boys and than girls, and in Osh and Jalalabad Oblasts the sample included slightly more girls than boys (see also Appendix Table 1).

Figure 3.1. Oblast by gender

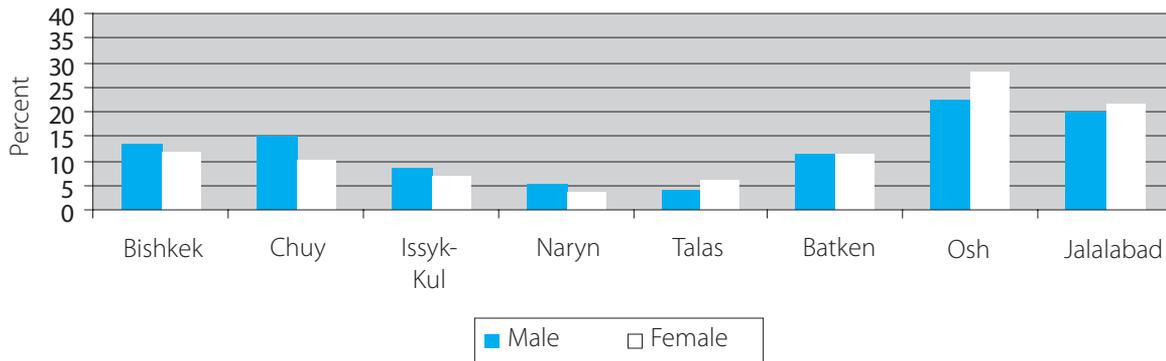
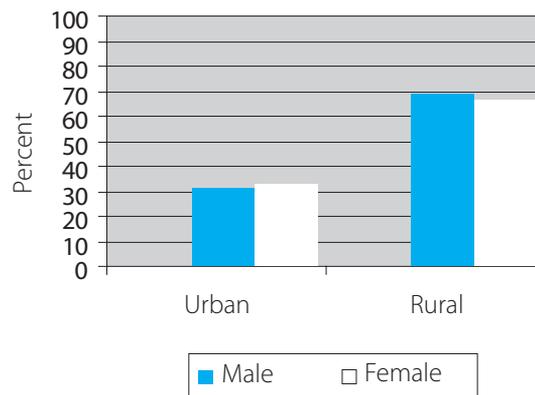


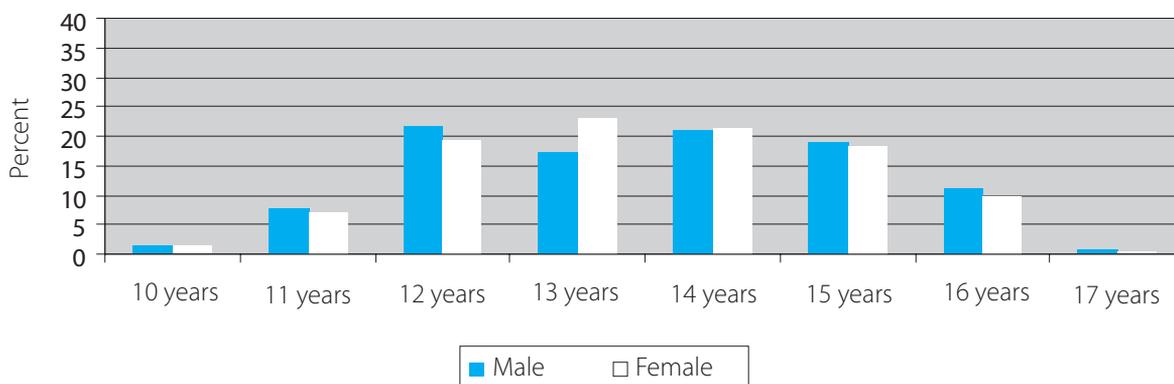
Figure 3.2 reveals there was a fairly equal representation of male and female children in urban and rural areas. Therefore, any differences between urban and rural areas in children's experiences with abuse and neglect will not be based upon gender representation differences across urban and rural areas (see also Appendix Table 1).

Figure 3.2. Urban vs. rural residence by gender



Finally, Figure 3.3 reveals there was also an equal representation of male and female children in each of the age categories. Therefore, any differences across age groups children's experiences with abuse and neglect will not be based upon gender representation differences across urban and rural areas (see also Appendix Table 1).

Figure 3.3. Age by gender



Children's family size and composition

In regard to children's family size and living arrangements, Table 3.2 reveals that 80.2% of children surveyed lived with both their mother and father, 11.5% lived with their mother only, 2.0% lived with their father only, 1.7% lived with their mother and step-father, .6% lived with their father and step-mother, and 4.0% lived with neither their mother nor father.

Children were asked how many bothers and sisters they have in the family. Table 3.2 shows children reported having anywhere from no siblings to six or more siblings. Most children had either two (22.1%), three (24.4%), or four (18.0%) siblings.

Children were also asked what other family members live in their home. Table 3.2 reveals the majority of children reported they also live with their sisters (57.4%) and brothers (51.7%). In addition, 21.5% of children reported they also live with their grandmother, 14.4% with their grandfather, 17.0% with their uncle, 6.8% with their aunt, and 5.9% with cousins.

On the next page, Table 3.3 reveals that children who do not live with either their mother or father were most likely to live with extended relatives, including their grandfather (41.2%), grandmother (57.6%), uncles (22.4%), aunts (29.4%), and/or cousins (12.9%). Often they live in extended families along with their sisters (45.9%) and brothers (43.5%). Children who live with a single-parent (either mother only or father only) were more likely to live with their grandmother (27.1%) and their sisters (45.58%) and brothers (44.8%). Some children who live with a parent and step-parent were also likely to live with a grandmother (30.6%). In comparison, children who lived with both their mother and father were most likely to also live with their sisters (60.5%) and brothers (53.6%); however, less likely to live with their grandfather (13.0%), grandmother (18.5%), uncles (17.1%), or aunts (5.4%; see also Appendix Table 3).

Table 3.2 also reveals the number of people living in the home along with the child. The majority of children (62.9%) reported there were four to six persons living with them in their home. Another 26.2% reported there were seven to nine persons living in their home. A small percentage of children reported there were only one to three persons living in the home (8.0%) and even fewer reported

there were 10 or more persons living in their home (3.0%). The average home had 5.8 persons. It is important to note that children living in families of one to three persons were more likely to live in urban areas (12.8%) than rural areas (5.7%). While children living in families of seven to nine persons and 10 or more persons were more likely to live in rural areas (30.1% and 4.0% respectively) than urban areas (17.9% and .7% respectively; see also Appendix Table 4).

Table 3.2. Family and living arrangements

	N=2,132	
	n	%
Parents in the home⁸		
Both mother and father	1,710	80.2
Mother only	245	11.5
Father only	43	2.0
Mother and step-father	36	1.7
Father and step-mother	13	.6
Neither mother nor father	85	4.0
Number of siblings⁹		
None	95	4.5
One	262	12.3
Two	472	22.1
Three	520	24.4
Four	385	18.0
Five	210	9.8
Six or more	188	8.8
Other relatives in the home		
Sister	1,224	57.4
Brother	1,102	51.7
Grandfather	308	14.4
Grandmother	459	21.5
Uncle	362	17.0
Aunt	146	6.8
Cousin(s)	126	5.9
Other	37	1.7
Number people living in the home		
1-3 persons	170	8.0
4-6 persons	1,341	62.9
7-9 persons	558	26.2
10 or more persons	63	3.0

⁸ For purposes of further analysis, the category mother only and father only were grouped together making the category "single-parent," and mother and step-father and father and step-mother were grouped together making the category "parent and step-parent."

⁹ For purposes of analysis, the variable was recoded to include the categories: no siblings, 1-3 siblings, 4-5 siblings, and 6 or more siblings.

Table 3.3. Parents in the home by other relatives in the home

Other family living in the home	N=2,132							
	Parents in the home							
	Both mother and father		Single-parent		Parent and step-parent		Neither mother or father	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Sister	1,034	60.5	131	45.5	20	40.8	39	45.9
Brother	916	53.6	129	44.8	20	40.8	37	43.5
Grandfather	222	13.0	45	15.6	6	12.2	35	41.2
Grandmother	317	18.5	78	27.1	15	30.6	49	57.6
Uncle(s)	292	17.1	43	14.9	8	16.3	19	22.4
Aunt(s)	93	5.4	21	7.3	7	14.3	25	29.4
Cousin(s)	95	5.6	15	5.2	5	10.2	11	12.9
Other	25	1.5	7	2.4	3	6.1	2	2.4

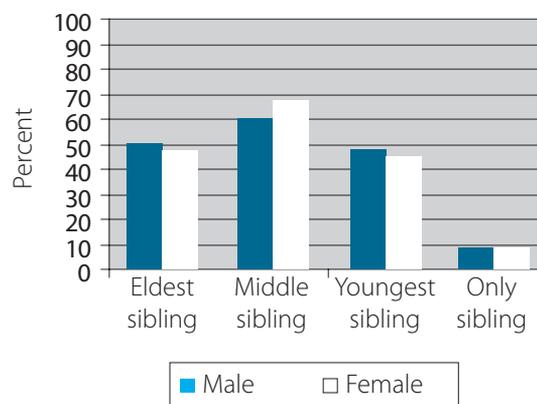
Finally, children were asked about their birth order in the family. Table 3.4 shows 28.3% of children reported being the eldest sibling, 38.8% were middle siblings, and 28.1% were the youngest siblings. Only 4.7% of children reported they were the only child in their family.

One of the questions often asked about a sample is whether males and females are equally represented across the different birth order categories. Figure 3.4 reveals there was an equal representation of male and female children in each of the birth order categories (see also Appendix Table 5). Therefore, any differences based upon birth order in regard to children’s experiences with abuse and neglect will not be based upon gender representation differences across birth order categories

Table 3.4. Siblings and birth order

N=2,132		
Birth Order		
Eldest sibling	604	28.3
Middle sibling	827	38.8
Youngest sibling	600	28.1
Only child	101	4.7

Figure 3.4. Sibling status by children’s gender



Chapter 4: Children Self-Report Child Abuse and Neglect

According to the UN World Report on Violence Against Children, families can be dangerous places for children. In the home and family setting, children experience assaults and other acts of physical violence, humiliation and other types of harsh verbal and psychological abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect. Perpetrators of child abuse and neglect include parents and step-parents, brothers and sisters, grandparents, and extended family members. Often, children are also the indirect victims of family violence that occurs between other family members in the home (1).

Children, however, are the invisible and forgotten victims of family violence because child abuse and neglect typically occur behind walls and closed doors and goes unreported. Also, children's familial relationship with their abuser(s) coupled with their young age and lack of power in the home and family setting makes it particularly difficult for them to report their experiences with abuse and neglect in the home and family setting. Children also tend to fear reprisal by perpetrators and other family members if they report incidents of abuse and neglect, and they fear intervention by authorities in their family, which in most cases can worsen their situation and result in increased abuse and neglect.

It is also important to note that traditional cultural practices that dictate the use of physical violence and corporal punishment along with other forms of humiliating and degrading emotional and psychological punishment by parents and other family members at home to correct children's behavior and discipline children contributes to the prevalence of child abuse and neglect in families (2). It also contributes to children's reluctance to report child abuse and neglect, and the reluctance of authorities to record and investigate cases. In fact, only a small proportion of acts of child abuse and neglect are ever reported and investigated, and few perpetrators are ever held accountable for their actions. There is a reluctance to intervene in what is still perceived in most societies as a "private" sphere" (3).

The prevalence of violence against children by parents and other close family members has only begun to be acknowledged and documented. The focus of this chapter is on revealing the multiple forms of abuse and neglect that children experience in the family – giving voice to child victims who typically suffer in silence and are reluctant to report the instances or prevalence of abuse and neglect in their lives. This chapter also includes comparisons of children's experiences with abuse and neglect based upon individual demographic characteristics (e.g., gender, age, ethnic status), Oblast and urban vs. rural residency, and family size and living arrangements.

It is important to bear in mind as you read this chapter that while the survey was conducted at one-point in time, child abuse and neglect most typically begins at an early age and continues throughout childhood and into adolescence, having a cumulative effect on child development (4, 5)

Child abuse and neglect

Of the 2,132 children surveyed, 72.7% of children reported experiencing abuse and/or neglect in the family; only 26.7% of children did not experience either abuse and/or neglect. More specifically, Table 4.1 reveals 60.1% of children experienced at least one type of abuse in the family. In particular, 51.0% of children reported experiencing harsh verbal abuse by family members, 38.7% experienced psychological abuse, 36.6% experienced physical abuse, and 1.6% experienced sexual abuse in the family¹⁰.

Table 4.1 also reveals 64.4% of children experienced one type of neglect. In particular, 7.8% of children reported being deprived of food or lack of nutrition, 44.7% were not provided with adequate clothing, 18.7% were not provided with medical care or rest from work when sick, 28.0% lacked adult/parental supervision, and 54.9% were

¹⁰ For each type of violence, a new variable was created to determine whether children ever experienced each type of violence – harsh verbal abuse, psychological abuse, physical violence, sexual violence, neglect, and sibling violence – in their lifetime.

forced to work to the point that it interfered with their school attendance, academic studies, and/or time to participate in extracurricular activities.

Table 4.1. Percentage of children age 10 to 17 years who experienced abuse and neglect

	N=2,132	
	n	%
Abuse (all forms)	1,281	60.1
Harsh verbal abuse	1,087	51.0
Psychological abuse	826	38.7
Physical abuse	778	36.6
Sexual abuse	33	1.6
Sibling abuse ¹¹	830	38.9
Neglect (all forms)	1,374	64.4
Neglect – nutrition	167	7.8
Neglect – clothing	953	44.7
Neglect – medical	398	18.7
Neglect – supervision	598	28.0
Neglect – work	1,171	54.9
Abuse and neglect (totals)	1,551	72.7

Note: Only 26.7% of children did not experience any abuse or neglect in the family (missing data = .6%)

Harsh verbal abuse

Harsh verbal abuse is a pattern of harsh verbal abuse that aims to attack a child’s character and undermine their sense of self-worth, self-esteem, and social and emotional development and well-being. Forms of harsh verbal abuse include name-calling, insults, belittling, ridicule, and mean, humiliating, and cruel words that convey to a child the message that he or she is worthless, flawed, unloved, unwanted, or only of value to meet someone else’s needs.

Harsh verbal abuse may be the outcome of uncontrolled frustration on the part of a parent or other family member, or it may have a similar purpose to that of corporal punishment – to intimidate or scare a child into obedience and “retrain” his or her unruly behavior (6). People often maintain harsh verbal abuse, such as name-calling, insults, belittling, and ridicule are just words, and that words don’t hurt; however, research on

harsh verbal abuse provides contradictory evidence. Children who are victims of harsh verbal abuse are likely to internalize the negative name-calling, insults, ridicule, and mean and humiliating words, particularly when directed at them from a parent or elder sibling or family member. Also, children who experience harsh verbal abuse don’t typically experience only one incident, but often years of harsh verbal abuse that can begin in childhood and continue through into adolescence.

The negative effects of harsh verbal abuse on children are numerous, including: hurt feelings, feelings of rejection, feelings of worthlessness and self-doubt, stress and anxiety, depression, fear, and lack of security and safety in the family. The negative effects are likely to differ greatly depending on the context and the age of the child; nevertheless, children often internalize the negative labels and messages of harsh verbal abuse to the point that it can negatively impact their behavior, social and emotional development, and academic performance (7).

Little is know about the extent of this form of child abuse except that it frequently accompanies other forms of abuse – there is often a strong relationship between harsh verbal and psychological abuse and with physical abuse in violent households (8).

Table 4.2 reveals the forms of harsh verbal abuse that were measured in the survey and experienced by children between 10 and 17 years of age. The survey measured harsh verbal abuse of children by adult family members and siblings. Sibling abuse is a common form of family violence that has received little attention; nevertheless, research has shown that sibling abuse, even verbal abuse, can have negative long-term consequences for children, including emotional and behavioral problems, antisocial behavior, peer and sibling bullying, and varying forms of trauma. Sibling abuse can also have long-lasting and damaging effects on relational ties among siblings that continue into adulthoods. Sibling abuse is particularly pertinent in societies where siblings, oftentimes elder siblings, are expected to administer discipline to younger siblings (9, 10).

Table 4.2 reveals that in all, 51.0% of children surveyed reported ever experiencing harsh verbal abuse in the family (ever), and 39.7% of children reported they experience harsh verbal abuse in the one month prior to the survey (current). More specifically, 44.4%

¹¹ Sibling abuse includes three items including one item focused on harsh verbal abuse and two items focused on physical abuse that are committed against a child by their brothers and/or sisters.

reported they got scared or felt really bad because grown-ups in their family called them names (idiot, stupid, bastard) and said mean things to them that hurt their feelings. In addition, 33.2% of children reported such harsh verbal abuse from adult family members happened in the past month (current). In terms of frequency, 22.8% of children reported at least one or two time in the past month adult family members called them names and said mean things to them that hurt their feelings and made them afraid or feel really bad. Whereas, 7.0% of children reported adult family members used harsh verbal abuse against them in this way several times (3 to 5 times) in the past month, and 3.5% reported it happened many times (more than five times) in the past month.

Table 4.2 also reveals that 31.4% of children reported they experienced harsh verbal abuse by their siblings – they got scared or felt really bad because their

siblings (brother or sister) called them names, said mean things to them, or said they didn't want them around. Moreover, 23.1% of children reported such harsh verbal abuse from their siblings happened in the past month (current). In terms of frequency, 16.1% of children reported their siblings called them names and/or said mean things to them or they didn't want them around one or two times during the past month. In addition, 5.4% of children reported their siblings used harsh verbal abuse against them several times (3 to 5 times) in the past month, and 1.6% reported it happened many times (more than 5 times) in the past month.

Table 4.2. Harsh verbal abuse experienced by children age 10 to 17 years (N=2,132)

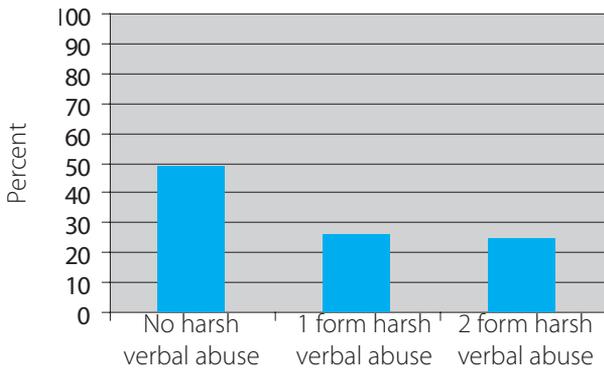
	Ever		Current (past month)		Frequency during the past month					
					1-2 times		Several times (3-5 times)		Many times (> 5 times)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Harsh verbal abuse (total)	1,087	51.0	846	39.7						
Grown-ups in your family called you names and said mean things to you that hurt your feelings	947	44.4	709	33.2	486	22.8	149	7.0	74	3.5
Brother or sister called you names, said mean things to you, or said they didn't want you around	670	31.4	492	23.1	343	16.1	115	5.4	34	1.6

It is important to understand that abused children typically do not experience only one form of harsh verbal abuse in the family, but often experience multiple forms of harsh verbal abuse. Figure 4.1 reveals the percentage of children who reported experiencing one or more of the two forms of harsh verbal abuse identified in Table 4.2. In all, 51.0% of children reported experiencing harsh verbal abuse in the family, and 49% of children reported they did not experience any of the forms of harsh verbal abuse measured in the survey. However, these children may have experienced other forms of harsh verbal abuse that were not measured in the survey (e.g., family member yelled or screamed at you, ignored or refused to speak to you, talked to you in a manner that makes you feel bad or worthless).

Figure 4.1 shows that of the 2,132 children surveyed, 25.9% of children reported experiencing only one form of harsh verbal abuse in Table 4.2, and 25% experienced two forms of harsh verbal abuse. The long-term effects of harsh verbal abuse in its multiple forms are often severe for abused children (see also Appendix Table 6).

The scars of harsh verbal abuse are real and often run deep in abused children, and can have negative long-term consequences. Moreover, harsh verbal abuse typically worsens over time, and in many cases escalates to psychological abuse and even physical abuse. Thus, harsh verbal abuse needs to be taken seriously.

Figure 4.1. Multiple forms of harsh verbal abuse experienced by children age 10 to 17 years



Psychological abuse

Psychological abuse differs from harsh verbal abuse in that psychological abuse includes a pattern of intentional verbal and behavioral actions or lack of actions that aim to ignore, isolate, reject, and control a child, as well as threaten, intimidate and cause fear in a child. Psychological abusive behaviors also include such actions as purposely breaking a child’s possessions, harming a child’s pet, and threatening a child with physical harm with the aim of intimidating and evoking fear in a child to control them. Psychological

abuse negatively effects a child’s psychological development and well-being (11).

Little is know about the extent of psychological abuse experienced by children except that it frequently accompanies other types of abuse – there is often a strong relationship between psychological and harsh verbal, as well as with physical abuse in violent households (12).

Table 4.3 reveals the various forms of psychological abuse that were measured in the survey and experienced in the family by children between 10 and 17 years of age. In all, 38.7% of children surveyed reported ever experiencing psychological abuse in the family (ever), and 31.2% of children reported they were psychologically abused in the one month prior to the survey (current).

The most common forms of psychological abuse experienced by children were threat of physical harm and destruction of personal property. In particular, of the 2,132 children surveyed, 25.2% reported grown-ups in their family threatened to physical hurt them by hitting, beating, and/or kicking them. Another 15.1% of children reported grown-ups in their family threatened to hurt them with a weapon (e.g., gun, knife, stick, belt, or other weapon), and 20.5% of

Table 4.3. Psychological abuse experienced by children age 10 to 17 years (N=2,132)

	Ever		Current (past month)		Frequency during the past month					
					1-2 times		Several times (3-5 times)		Many times (> 5 times)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Psychological abuse (total)	826	38.7	666	31.2						
Family broke or ruined your things on purpose (clothes, toys, school supplies)	437	20.5	271	12.7	206	9.7	40	1.9	25	1.2
Family locked you out of the home for a long time	227	10.6	169	7.9	124	5.8	38	1.8	7	.3
Parent/grown-up in your family threatened to physically hurt you by hitting, beating, and/or kicking	537	25.2	437	20.5	325	15.2	84	3.9	28	1.3
Parent/grown-up in your family threatened to hurt you with a weapon (e.g., gun, knife, stick, belt, or other weapon)	322	15.1	214	10.0	163	7.6	45	2.1	6	.3
Parent/family member lock you up in a room or small place to punish/keep you alone	120	5.6	69	3.2	63	3.0	5	.2	1	.0

children reported a family member broke or ruined their things on purpose (e.g., clothes, toys, school supplies). In addition, 10.6% of children reported a family member locked them out of the home for a long time. Finally, 5.6% of children reported a parent or family member locked them in a room or small place to punish them or keep them along.

It is important to note that a significant proportion of children reported experiencing each of these forms of psychological abuse during the past month (current). In particular, 20.5% of children reported that during the past month grown-ups in their family threatened to physically hurt them by hitting, beating, and/or kicking them. In terms of frequency, 15.2% of children reported this happened one or two times during the past month, 3.9% report it happened several times (3 to 5 times), and 1.3% reported it happened many times (more than 5 times) in the past month.

In the past month, 12.7% of children reported a family member broke or ruined their things on purpose, 10.0% reported grown-ups in their family threatened to hurt them with a weapon, and 7.9% reported a family member locked them out of the house for a long period of time.

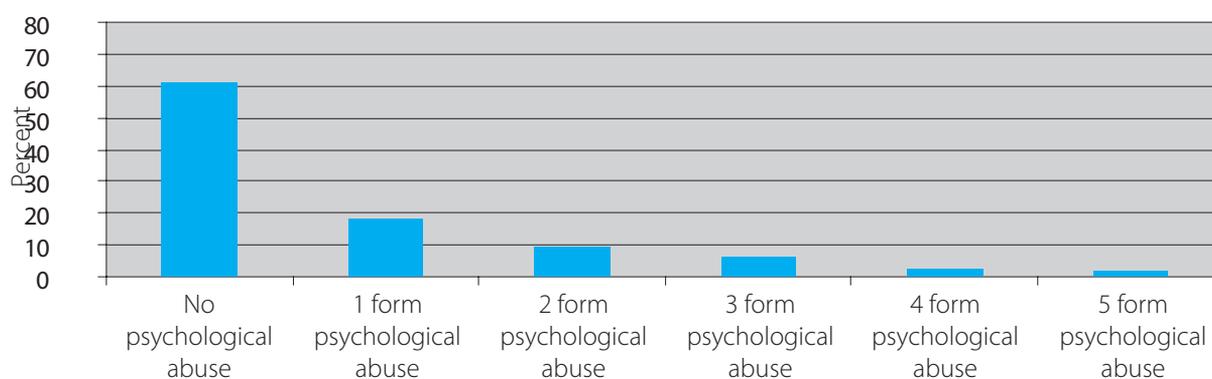
Forms of psychological abuse such as those in Table 4.3 need to be taken seriously because they instill fear and anxiety in children and can have negative long-term consequences on children that impact their behavior, social and emotional development, and academic performance. Similar to harsh verbal

abuse, psychological abuse typically worsens over time, and in many cases escalates to physical abuse. Thus, psychological abuse needs to be taken seriously.

Abused children often experience multiple forms of psychological abuse in their family. Figure 4.2 reveals the percentage of children who reported experiencing one or more of the four forms of harsh verbal abuse identified in Table 4.3. In all, 38.7% of children reported experiencing psychological abuse, and 61.3% of children reported they did not experience any of the forms of psychological abuse measured in the survey. However, children may have experienced other forms of psychological abuse that were not measured in the survey (e.g., threatened to kick the child out of the home, threatened abandonment, threatened harm or purposely harmed a child's pet).

Figure 4.2 shows that 18.4% of children experienced one of the forms of psychological abuse in Table 4.3, 9.3% experienced two forms of psychological abuse, 6.1% experienced three forms, 2.8% experienced four forms, and 2.1% experienced five forms of psychological abuse. The long-term effects of psychological abuse in its multiple forms are severe for abused children (see also Appendix Table 7).

Figure 4.2. Multiple forms of psychological abuse experienced by children age 10 to 17 years



Psychological abuse has pronounced negative consequences on a child's development and well-being. The scars of psychological abuse are real and often run deep in abused children. Oftentimes psychological abuse is coupled with harsh verbal abuse and worsens over time, often escalating to physical abuse. Psychologically abused children

typically have a difficult time telling someone about the abuse they experience in the family, particularly when there are no signs of physical injuries; moreover, they may not understand that they are being abused by family members. Nevertheless, psychological abuse needs to be taken seriously.

Physical abuse

When people talk about child abuse they often refer to the physical abuse of a child by a parent or other family member. Physical abuse is defined as those acts of physical force against a child by a parent or other family member, including sibling, that cause physical harm or injury or has the potential for harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity. There are a broad range of behaviors that are considered physical abuse, including: hitting, beating, grabbing, kicking, choking, pulling hair, shaking, biting, strangulation, poisoning, burning, assault with an object or weapon, and suffocation by family members. Physical abuse often causes some form of harm or injury, and can even result in disability or a child's death (13, 14). Physical abuse of a child is a crime whether it occurs by adults or siblings, inside or outside of the home.

Table 4.4 reveals the various forms of physical abuse that were measured in the survey and experienced in the family by children between 10 and 17 years of age. The survey measured physical abuse of children by adult family members and siblings. Siblings hitting each other is so common that few people regard it as physical abuse; however, there is a growing body of literature that concurs that physical violence between siblings can be categorized as a form of physical abuse in the family, particularly when it involves an escalating pattern of sibling aggression and retaliation that goes unchecked by parental intervention, with a solidifying of victim and offender roles among siblings. The potential for physical harm or injury to the victim is a crucial delineation of sibling violence (15). Moreover, physical violence between siblings can be categorized as a form of physical abuse in the family particularly when elder siblings are expected to control and discipline younger siblings (creating a significant age and power differential between the abuser and abused).

Table 4.4 reveals that in all, 36.6% of the 2,132 children surveyed reported experiencing physical abuse in the home and family (ever), and 29.2% of children reported they were physically abused in this way the past month (current). In particular, 24.1% of children reported a parent or adult family member hit, beat, kicked or physical hurt them, and 16.4% of children reported this happened in the past month. In terms of frequency, 14.2% of children reported they were hit, beat, kicked or

physically hurt by a parent or adult family member at least one or two times in the past month, and 2.2% of children report it happened three or more times in the past month.

In addition, 10.9% of children reported a family member hit or attacked them on purpose with an object or a weapon, and 4.5% of children reported this happened in the past month. In terms of frequency, 4.0% of children reported a family member hit or attacked them on purpose with an object or weapon at least one or two times in the past month.

A significant proportion of children also reported experiencing physical abuse from their siblings. Of the 2,132 children surveyed, 28.2% reported their brother or sister pushed, grabbed, or kicked them, and 25.7% reported they were hit or beat by their brother or sister. In addition, 21.0% of children reported they were pushed, grabbed or kicked by their siblings in the past month, and 19.1% said they were hit or beat by their siblings in the past month. In terms of frequency 15.0% to 17.0% of children such physical abuse from their siblings happened one or two times in the past months and at least 4.0% of children reported it happened three times or more in the past month.

Although the proportions are small, it is important to point out that 1.2% of children reported a family member burned them with cigarettes or other hot items on purpose.

Physical abuse in these various forms often result in injury to the child, and these injuries often have an adverse effect on the short- and long-term physical health and well-being of a child.

Children typically do not just experience one form of physical abuse in the home and family, but rather experience multiple forms of physical abuse. Figure 4.3 reveals the percentage of children who reported experiencing one or more of the five forms of physical abuse identified in Table 4.4. In all, 37.3% of children reported experiencing physical abuse, while 63.1% of children reported they did not experience any of the forms of physical abuse measured in the survey. Remember, however, children may experience other forms of physical abuse that were not measured in the survey.

Figure 4.3 shows that among the 2,132 children surveyed, 10.1% experienced only one form of physical abuse presented in Table 4.4, while 7.7% experienced two forms, 10.9% experienced three forms, 7.3% experienced four forms, and .6%

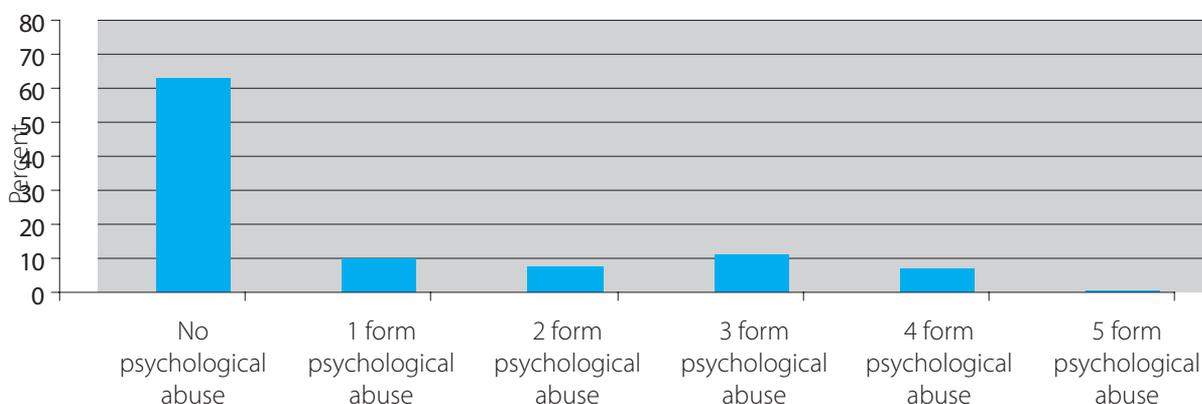
Table 4.4. Physical abuse experienced by children age 10 to 17 years (N=2,132)

	Ever		Current (past month)		Frequency during the past month					
					1-2 times		Several times (3-5 times)		Many times (> 5 times)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Physical abuse (total)	778	36.6	623	29.2						
Parent/grown-up in your family hit, beat, kicked or physically hurt you	515	24.1	349	16.4	303	14.2	40	1.9	6	.3
Family member hit or attacked you on purpose with an object or weapon	233	10.9	95	4.5	85	4.0	7	.3	3	.1
Family member burned you with cigarettes or other hot items on purpose	25	1.2	18	.8	14	.7	3	.1	1	.0
Brother or sister pushed, grabbed and/or kicked you	601	28.2	448	21.0	357	16.7	73	3.4	18	.8
Brother or sister hit or beat you	549	25.7	407	19.1	331	15.5	57	2.7	19	.9

experienced five forms of physical abuse. The effects of physical abuse in its multiple forms on children can often be severe, leading to short- and long-term

physical health problems, disability, and even death by homicide or suicide (see also Appendix Table 8).

Figure 4.3. Multiple forms of physical abuse experienced by children age 10 to 17 years



Physical abuse and injuries

Children who are physically abused often experience physical injuries as a direct result of the physical abuse. Physical injuries exist on a continuum from minor to severe injuries – the most severe being disability and death. It is important to remember that abused children are often reluctant to speak about or report their injuries, whether to teachers, medical doctors, or law enforcement authorities. Despite the challenge of getting children to report injuries,

the survey was designed to measure children’s injuries related to incidents of physical abuse from parents, adult family members, and siblings.

Table 4.5 reveals that 24.1% of children reported they were hit, beat, kicked or physically hurt by grown-ups in their family. Children who experienced such physical abuse were asked if they were physically injured during the incident, the type of injuries they suffered, and whether or not they received medical treatment for their injuries.

Table 4.5 reveals that of the 515 children who were hit, beat, kicked or physically hurt by grown-ups in the family, 31.1% suffered injuries of varying degrees of severity. While a large proportion of both male and female children suffered injuries as a result of the physical abuse, males (35.3%) were significantly more likely to suffer injuries than females (27.6%).

Of the 160 children who were physically injured, 75.0% experienced small bruises, scrapes and/or cuts, 13.8% experienced large bruises, major cuts, and/or black eyes, and 3.1% experienced sprains, broken bones and/or broken teeth. In addition, 6.9% of children reported experiencing more severe injuries such as internal injuries, loss of consciousness, and/or head, eye or ear injuries. Finally, only 11.9% of injured children had their

injuries treated at a hospital, doctor's office, or health clinic. Males and females were equally likely to have their injuries medically treated.

Table 4.6 reveals 10.9% of children also reported being hit or attacked on purpose with an object or weapon by a family member. These children were also asked if they were physically injured, the type of injuries they suffered, and whether or not they received medical treatment for their injuries. Of the 233 children who were hit or attacked on purpose with an object or weapon by a family member, 47.2% reported they suffered injuries of varying degrees of severity. Males and females were equally likely to experience injury in such incidents of physical abuse with an object or weapon.

Table 4.5. Physical abuse by adult family members and injuries

	N=2,132	
	n	%
Grown-up in family hit, beat, kicked or physically hurt you	515	24.1
	N=515	
Was physically hurt* when this happened	160	31.1
Females	78	27.6
Males	82	35.3
Type of injury:	N=160	
Small bruise, scrape and/or cut	120	75.0
Large bruise, major cut and/or black eye	22	13.8
Sprain, broken bone and/or broken teeth	5	3.1
Internal injuries	5	3.1
Knocked out or hit unconscious	3	1.9
Head, eye or ear injuries	3	1.9
Other	4	2.5
Had to go to the hospital, doctor's office or health clinic to be treated for injuries	19	11.9

* Note: Hurt means you could still feel pain the next day or you had a bruise, cut that bled, or anything more serious like a broken bone.

Table 4.6 reveals 10.9% of children also reported being hit or attacked on purpose with an object or weapon by a family member. These children were also asked if they were physically injured, the type of injuries they suffered, and whether or not they received medical treatment for their injuries.

Of the 233 children who were hit or attacked on purpose with an object or weapon by a family member, 47.2% reported they suffered injuries of varying degrees of severity. Males and females were equally likely to experience injury in such incidents of physical abuse with an object or weapon.

Table 4.6. Physical abuse with a weapon by family members and injuries

	N=2,132	
	n	%
Family hit or attacked you on purpose with an object or weapon	233	10.9
	N=233	
Was physically hurt* when this happened	110	47.2
Female	9	11.5
Male	10	12.2
Type of injury:	N=110	
Small bruise, scrape or cut	67	60.9
Large bruise, major cut or black eye	24	21.8
Sprain, broken bone or broken teeth	3	2.7
Internal injuries	5	4.5
Knocked out or hit unconscious	2	1.8
Head, eye or ear injuries	4	3.6
Other	5	4.5
Had to go to the hospital, doctor's office or health clinic to be treated for injuries	11	10.0

* Note: Hurt means you could still feel pain the next day or you had a bruise, cut that bled, or anything more serious like a broken bone.

Of the 110 children who were physically injured, 60.9% experienced small bruises, scrapes and/or cuts, and 21.8% experienced large bruises, major cuts, and/or black eyes. In addition, 4.5% experienced internal injuries, 3.6% experienced head, eye, and/or ear injuries, 1.8% were knocked unconscious as a result the attack, and 4.5% experienced other injuries.

Of the 110 children who were physically injured, 10.0% had their injuries treated at a hospital, doctor's office or health clinic. Males and females were equally likely to have their injuries medically treated. It is important to note that children who were physically hit or attacked on purpose with an object or weapon by a parent or adult family member were significantly more likely to suffer injuries and suffered more serious injuries than children who reported being hit, beat or kicked (see Table 4.5). Despite more serious injuries, children who suffered injuries as a result of physical abused with a weapon were less likely to go to the hospital, doctor's office or health clinic to have their injuries treated. Parents in such situations may be more fearful that medical doctors would report the incident to law enforcement officials.

Finally, Table 4.7 reveals a significant proportion of children also reported being hit or beat by their brother or sister (25.7%). Children who reported they were physically assaulted by a sibling were asked if they were physically hurt, the type of injuries they

suffered, and whether or not they were needed medical treatment for their injuries.

Of the 549 children who reported being hit or beat by their brother or sister, 29.1% reported they suffered injuries of varying degrees of severity. While both male and female children suffered injuries as a result of the physical abuse, males (34.3%) were significantly more likely to suffer injuries than females (24.8%).

Of the 160 children who were physically hurt, 76.7% reported experiencing small bruises, scrapes and/or cuts, and 11.4% experienced large bruises, major cuts, and/or black eyes. In addition, 4.5% reported experiencing internal injuries, 2.5% reported being knocked unconscious, and 1.3% reported head, eye, and/or ear injuries as a result of being hit or beat by their sibling.

Table 4.7. Physical abuse by siblings and injuries

	N=2,132	
	n	%
Brother or sister hit or beat you	549	25.7
	N=549	
Was physically hurt* when this happened	160	29.1
Female	74	24.8
Male	86	34.3
Type of injury:	N=160	
Small bruise, scrape or cut	122	76.7
Large bruise, major cut or black eye	18	11.4
Sprain, broken bone or broken teeth	2	1.3
Internal injuries	7	4.5
Knocked out or hit unconscious	4	2.5
Head, eye or ear injuries	2	1.3
Other	3	1.9
Had to go to the hospital, doctor's office or health clinic to be treated for injuries	30	18.8

Of the 160 children who were physically hurt, 18.8% had their injuries treated at a hospital, doctor's office or health clinic. Males and females were equally likely to have their injuries medically treated. It is interesting to note that children who were injured as a result of sibling abuse were significantly more likely to go to the hospital, doctor's office or health clinic to have their injuries treated, than children who suffered injuries after being hit, beat, physical hurt, or attacked with an object or weapon by a parent or adult family member. This may be because parents and adult family members may be more fearful that medical doctors or hospital staff will perceive physical abuse and injury of a child by an adult as more serious than physical abuse and injury of a child by another sibling; even though each are equally serious and result in similar injuries.

The injuries and scars of physical abuse are real for abused children, despite the fact that they often try to cover and hide their injuries and scars out of shame and embarrassment. Nevertheless, the physical abuse and related injuries are often cumulative and lead to both short- and long-term physical health problems. In rural areas and Oblasts where emergency medical care is either not expediently provided or not available, physically abused children are at higher risk of permanent injury, disability, or even death from their injuries

Sexual abuse

The survey was also designed to measure familial child sexual abuse. Child sexual abuse is a form of abuse in which an adult or older adolescent abuses a child for sexual stimulation. Forms of child sexual abuse include pressuring or asking a child to engage in sexual activities (regardless of the outcome), indecent exposure of one's genitals to a child, displaying pornography to a child, actual sexual contact with a child, physical contact with a child's genitals, viewing of a child's genitals without physical contact, and using a child to produce child pornography. Because of the sensitive nature of child sexual abuse, only two forms of sexual abuse were measured in the survey.

It is well documented in international research that most sexually abused children do not self-report their experiences with sexual violence in the home and family setting because they are afraid of what will happen to them and their family, they fear their family will be blame or reject them, or that they will not be believed (16). Thus, we anticipated children would be extremely reluctant to self-report their experiences with sexual abuse in this survey.

Nevertheless, Table 4.8 reveals that of 2,132 children surveyed only 1.4% reported a family member touched their sexual organs or made them touch their sexual organs. In terms of frequency, 83.3% of

sexually abused children reported this happened one or two times, 13.33% reported it happened

several times (3 to 5 times) and 3.3% reported it happened many time (more than 5 times).

Table 4.8. Sexual abuse experienced by children age 10 to 17 years (N=2,132)

	Ever		Frequency					
			1-2 times		Several times (3-5 times)		Many times (> 5 times)	
	N	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Sexual abuse (total)	33	1.6						
Family member touched your sexual organs or made you touch their sexual organs	30	1.4	25	83.3	4	13.3	1	3.3
Family member tried to force you to have sexual contact, even if it didn't happen	13	.6	11	84.6	1	7.7	1	7.7

Table 4.8 also reveals that only .6% of children reported a family member tried to force them to have sexual contact (even if it didn't happen). In terms of frequency, 84.6% of sexually abused children reported this happened one or two times, 7.7% reported it happened several times, and 7.7% reported it happened many times.

The shame, secrecy, and denial associated with familial child sexual abuse fosters a pervasive culture of silence, where children cannot speak about sexual abuse they have suffered, adults do not speak about the risk of sexual violence in the home, and where adults do know what to do or say if they suspect someone they know is sexually abusing a child. Despite the culture of silence surrounding child sexual abuse, it is important to point out that familial child sexual abuse within the context of childhood and/or adolescence is a serious and prevalent form of child abuse across societies (17).

Research indicates that child sexual abuse often has severe and long-lasting consequences for children. The physical effects of sexual abuse may include injuries to children's reproductive organs and vaginal and anal areas (e.g., lacerations, soreness, bruising, and torn muscles). Children who have been sexually abused or raped also suffer other physical injuries (e.g., broken bones, black eye, knife wounds) that occur during the course of sexual abuse. They also experience specific gynecological problems, such as vaginal stretching, anal tearing, pelvic pain, urinary tract infections, miscarriages, stillbirths, bladder infections, and infertility. Sexual abuse victims are also often restricted from using contraceptives and face increased risk of unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS (18).

Children who are sexually abused by a family member are likely to experience multiple assaults and completed sexual attacks. The trauma is particularly enhanced because they are sexually assaulted or raped by someone whom they love and are supposed to trust; thus, it is not surprising that sexual abuse survivors often suffer severe and long-term psychological consequences, including: anxiety, shock, intense fear, depression, suicidal thoughts and attempts, eating and sleep disorders, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Some child sexual abuse survivors also report flashbacks, sexual distress and dysfunction, and emotional pain for years after the violence (19, 20, 21).

Neglect

Neglect is an important contributor to death and illness in children. Neglect refers to the failure of a parent or caregiver responsible for a child to meet a child's physical and emotional needs when they have the means, knowledge, and access to services to do so (22)¹². Neglect can occur in one or more of the following areas: nutrition, clothing, supervision, medical, emotional development, education, and shelter and safe living conditions. Neglect is distinguished from circumstances of poverty in that neglect can occur only in cases where reasonable resources are available to the family or caregiver (23, 24, 25).

The survey measured five of these forms of neglect, including: nutrition neglect, clothing neglect, medical neglect, supervision neglect, and work neglect (which negatively effects a child's school attendance, academic studies

¹² In many settings the line between what is caused deliberately and what is caused by ignorance or lack of care possibilities may be difficult to draw.

outside of the classroom, and participation in extracurricular and leisure activities). Tables 4.9 and 4.10 reveal the various forms of neglect that were measured in the survey and experienced by children between 10 and 17 years of age. In terms of nutrition neglect, 7.8% of children reported they did not get enough to eat or went hungry even though there was enough food for everyone (ever), and 5.7% of children reported they were not given enough to eat and went hungry in the past month (current). In terms of frequency, 4.0% of children reported they were not provided with enough to eat or went hungry at least one or two times in the past month, and 1.7% reported it happened three or more times.

In regard to children's experience with clothing neglect, Table 4.9 reveals, in all, 44.7% of children experienced clothing neglect (ever), and 37.0% of children experienced clothing neglect in the past month (current). In particular, 31.4% of children reported they had to wear dirty or torn cloths, 30.3% had to wear clothes that were the wrong size (too big or small), and 27.0% had to wear clothes that were not warm enough in the winter time or too warm in the summer time. Children were asked if these forms of neglect occurred in the past month and 21.9% reported they had to wear dirty or torn cloths in the past month, 19.4% had to wear clothes that were not warm enough in the winter time or too warm in the summer time, and 22.2% had to wear clothes that were the wrong size in the past month. The majority

of children reported it happened one or two times in the past month; however, some children reported they were not provided with adequate clothing three or more times in the past month.

The survey also measured medical neglect. Table 4.9 reveals, in all, 18.7% of children reported ever experiencing medical neglect (ever), and 13.2% of children reported experiencing medical neglect in the past month (current). In particular, 13.6% of children reported they were not taken care of when sick (e.g., they were not taken to the doctor or clinic or not given medicine to make them better), and 12.2% of children reported they were forced to work despite being sick. At least 8.8% of children reported in the past month they were not taken care of when sick and 8.1% reported they were forced to work despite being ill in the past month.

In regard to supervision neglect, Table 4.9 reveals 28.0% of children reported they were left home alone without attention or supervision from any adults for two days or more. Moreover, 21.6% of children reported in the past month they were left home alone without adult/parental supervision for two or more days. In terms of frequency, 17.3% of children reported this happened one or two times in the past month, 2.6% reported it happened several times (3 to 5 times), and 1.6% reported it happened many times (more than 5 times) in the past month.

Table 4.9. Neglect experienced by children age 10 to 17 years (N=2,132)

Neglect	Ever		Current (past month)		Frequency during the past month					
					1-2 times		Several times (3-5 times)		Many times (> 5 times)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Nutrition neglect (total)	167	7.8	121	5.7						
Did not get enough to eat (went hungry) even though there was enough food for everyone	167	7.8	121	5.7	86	4.0	25	1.2	10	.5
Clothing neglect (total)	953	44.7	788	37.0						
Had to wear dirty/torn clothes	669	31.4	467	21.9	381	17.9	63	3.0	23	1.1
Had to wear clothes that were not warm enough in the winter time or too warm in the summer time	576	27.0	413	19.4	291	13.6	71	3.3	51	2.4
Had to wear clothes that were the wrong size (too big or small)	646	30.3	474	22.2	375	17.6	63	3.0	36	1.7
Medical neglect (total)	398	18.7	282	13.2						

Was not taken care of when you were sick (not taken to the doctor or clinic, not given medicine to make you better)	289	13.6	187	8.8	143	6.7	32	1.5	12	.6
Forced to work despite being ill	261	12.2	172	8.1	131	6.1	21	1.0	20	.9
Supervision neglect (total)	598	28.0	460	21.6						
Left home alone without attention/supervision from any adults for 2 days or more	598	28.0	460	21.6	370	17.3	55	2.6	35	1.6

The final form of neglect measured in the survey was work neglect. Table 4.10 reveals, in all, 72.7% of children reported ever experiencing work neglect (ever), and 48.3% of experienced work neglect in the past month (current). In particular, 5.9% of children reported their parents sent them or forced them to work or earn money to help support the family, and 40.7% of children reported a parent or grown-up in their family forced them to spend their time doing housework or other work to the point that they had no time to go to school. In addition, 40.0% of children reported a parent or grown-up in their family forced them to spend their time doing housework or other work to the point that

they had not time to do their homework, reading, or other learning activities. Finally, 41.1% of children reported their family forced them to spend time doing housework or other work to the point that they had no leisure time to play, join sport or hobby groups, spend time with friends, watch TV, or search the internet. Moreover, one-third of children said that in the past month on one or more occasions they were forced to engage in housework or other work to the point that it interfered with their ability to go to school, do homework, reading or other learning activities, and to have personal time.

Table 4.10. Work neglect experienced by children age 10 to 17 years

Neglect	Ever		Current (past month)		Frequency during the past month					
					1-2 times		Several times (3-5 times)		Many times (> 5 times)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Work neglect (total)	1,171	72.7	1,030	48.3						
Parent sent you or forced you to work or earn money to help support the family	125	5.9	93	4.4	74	3.5	15	.7	4	.2
Parent/grown-up in your family forced you to spend your time doing housework or other work to the point that you had:										
• no time to go to school	867	40.7	686	32.2	478	22.4	113	5.3	95	4.5
• no time to do your homework, reading or other learning activities	853	40.0	703	33.0	447	22.4	130	6.1	96	4.5
• no personal time	876	41.1	712	33.4	427	20.0	142	6.7	143	6.7

Children were also asked how many hours per day they can devote to activities such as play, sports, hobbies, spending time with friends, watching TV, or searching the internet. Table 4.11 reveals that 2.1% of children reported they have no time to do person-

al things, 12.3% had less than one hour per day, 32.3% had only one to two hours per day, 22.9% had three to four hours per day, and 30.4% had more than four hours per day.

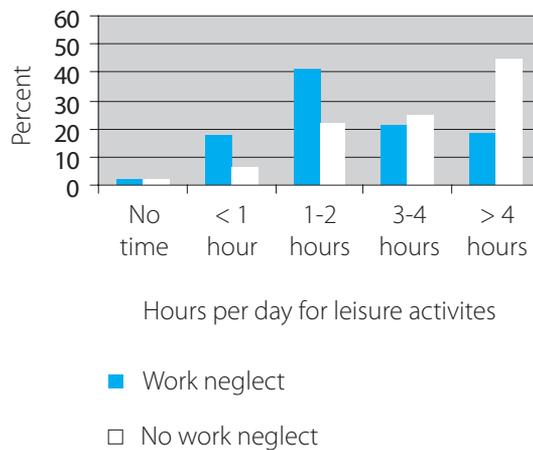
Table 4.11. Hours per day a child can devote to leisure activities		
	N=2,132	
	N	%
No time	44	2.1
< 1 hour	262	12.3
1-2 hours	689	32.3
3-4 hours	488	22.9
> 4 hours	649	30.4

sport or hobby groups, spend time with friends, and engage in other extracurricular or leisure activities.

Figure 4.4 reveals that children who experienced work neglect were significantly more likely to have two hours or less per day for leisure activities; whereas children who did not experience work neglect were significantly more likely to have three or more hours per day to play, join sport or hobby groups, spend time with friends, and engage in other extracurricular or leisure activities (see also Appendix Table 9).

It is important for a child’s social and emotional development that children have time to play, join

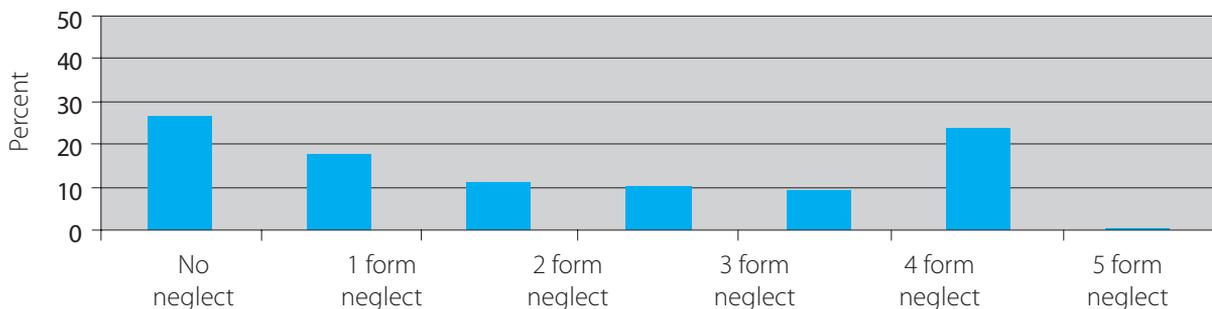
Figure 4.4. Number of hours per day for leisure activities by gender



It is important to understand that children typically do not experience only one form of neglect, but often experience multiple forms of neglect. Figure 4.5 shows that of the 2,132 children surveyed 64.4% of children experienced one or more of the five forms of neglect measured in the survey, only 35.6% of children did not experience neglect. The

majority of children reported experiencing multiple forms of neglect. Specifically, 18.7% of children experienced only one form of neglect, while 18.4% experienced two forms of neglect, 14.5% experienced three forms, 9.4% experienced four forms, and 3.4% experienced each of the five forms of neglect (see also Appendix Table 10).

Figure 4.5. Multiple forms of neglect experienced by children age 10 to 17 years



The effects of neglect in its multiple forms on children can often be severe, leading to negative consequences for the emotional, cognitive,

physical and behavioral development of children. Children who are neglected are significantly more likely to exhibit problematic school performance,

attention deficits, poor social skills, physical aggression, delinquent behaviors (including running away from home), aggressive and/or violent behaviors, and substance abuse. Neglected children are also more likely to experience intimacy problems, and experience stress, anxiety, and depression which can place them at increased risk of suicidal thoughts and attempts (26, 27).

Multiple types of child abuse and neglect

It is well documented that abused and neglected children do not experience only one type of abuse – harsh verbal, psychological, physical, or sexual – or neglect but often experience multiple types of abuse concurrently. For instance, children who experience harsh verbal abuse often experience psychological abuse. Children who experience harsh verbal and/or psychologically abused are often physically abused in the family. Also,

children who experience harsh verbal abuse and are psychologically, physically, and/or sexually abused are often neglected at the same time (28).

Thus, analysis was undertaken to examine the relationship between the different types of child abuse and neglect.

Analysis was carried out to examine the relationship between the various forms of abuse and neglect. Figure 4.6 reveals the relationship between harsh verbal abuse and other types of abuse and neglect. Children who experience harsh verbal abuse in the home and family by parents, adult family members, and/or siblings are significantly more likely to also experience psychological and physical abuse, as well as neglect (particularly in comparison to children that did not experience harsh verbal abuse). In particular, 64.2% of children who experienced harsh physical abuse were also psychologically abused, and 62.6% were physically abused. In addition, 88.5% of children who experienced harsh physical abuse were also neglected. In other words, harsh verbal abuse is a strong predictor that other types of abuse and neglect are occurring against a child in the family (see also Appendix Tables 11).

Figure 4.6. Relationship between harsh verbal abuse and other types of abuse and neglect

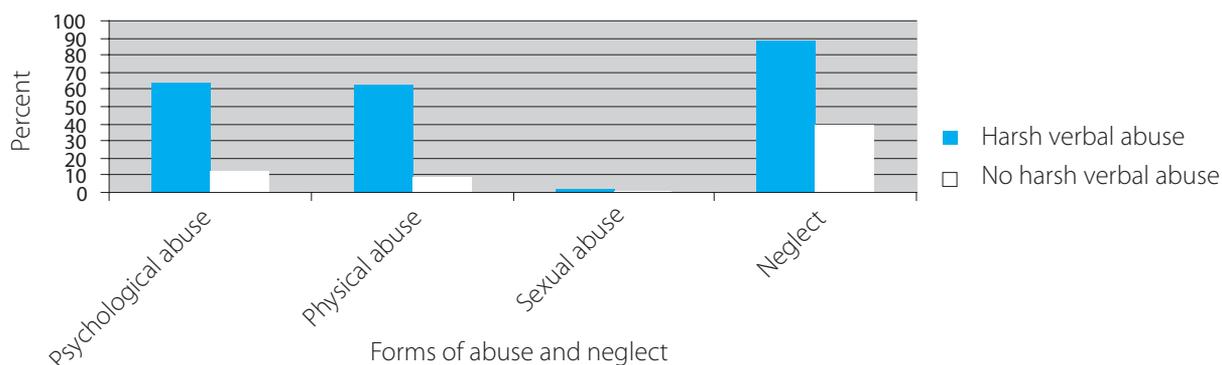
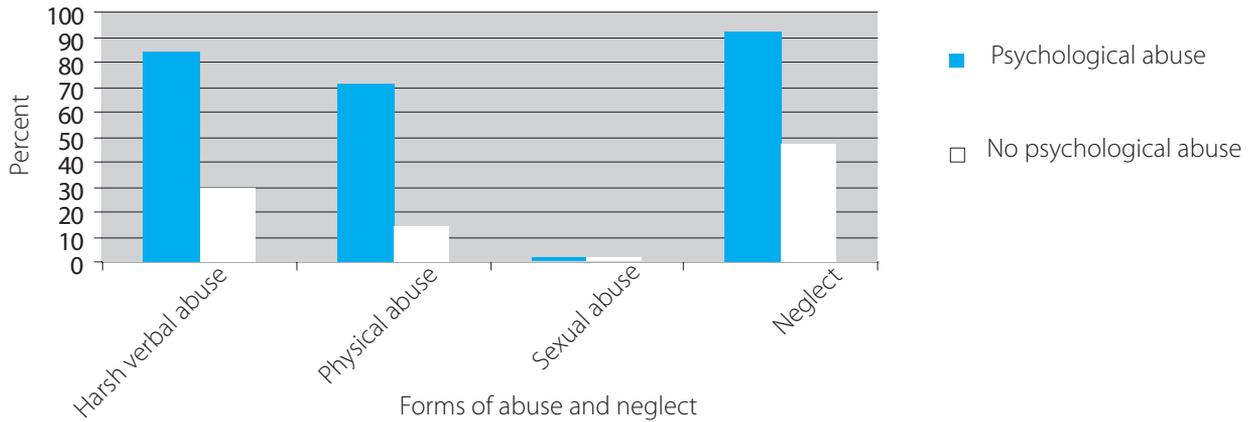


Figure 4.7 reveals the relationship between psychological abuse and other types of abuse and neglect. Children who are psychologically abused in the home and family are significantly more likely to experience harsh verbal and physical abuse, as well as neglect (particularly in comparison to children that did not experience psychological abuse). In particular, 84.3% of children who were psychologically abused also experienced harsh verbal abuse in the family. In addition, 71.4% of psychologically abused children were also physically abused. Finally, 92.0% of children who were psychologically abused were also neglected. Notice that psychological abuse is even stronger predictor that children are experiencing other types of abuse and neglect in the home and family setting (see also Appendix Tables 12).

Next, Figure 4.8 reveals the relationship between physical abuse and other types of abuse and neglect. Children who are physically abused in the family by adult family members and/or siblings are significantly more likely to also experience harsh verbal, psychological, and sexual abuse, as well as neglect (particularly in comparison to children that did not experience physical abuse). In particular, 86.9% of children who were physically abused also experienced harsh verbal abuse in the home and family, and 73.7% also experienced psychological abuse. In addition, 2.7% of children who were physically abused were also sexually abused in the family. Finally, 93.2% of physically abused children were also neglected.

Figure 4.7. Relationship between psychological abuse and other types of abuse and neglect



The presence of physical violence is an even stronger predictor that other types of abuse and neglect are occurring in against a child in the home and family (see also Appendix Tables 13).

Figure 4.8. Relationship between physical abuse and other types of abuse and neglect

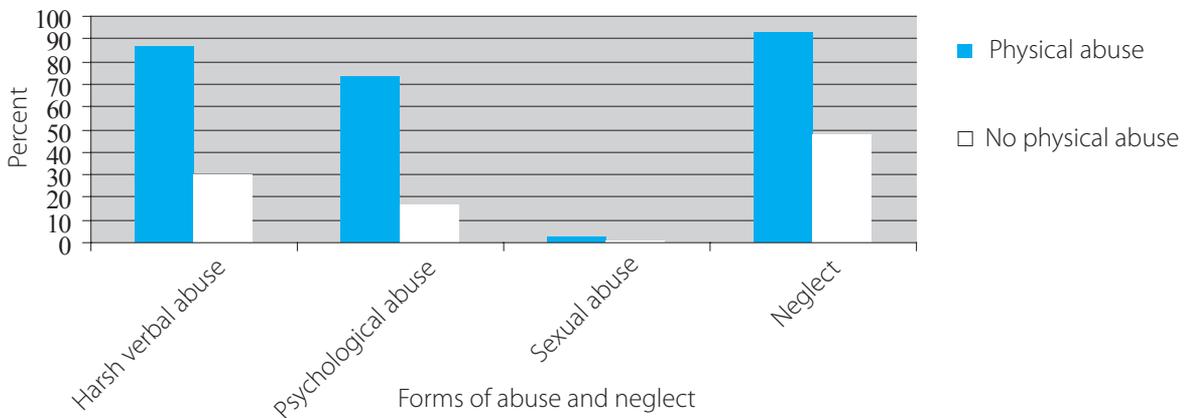


Figure 4.9 reveals the relationship between sexual abuse and other types of abuse and neglect. Children who are sexually abused in the home and family are significantly more likely to experience harsh verbal and physical abuse, as well as neglect (particularly in comparison to children that did not experience sexual abuse). Specifically, 66.7% of children who were sexually abused in the

family also experienced harsh verbal abuse, and 63.6% were also physically abused. In addition, 78.8% of sexually abused children were also neglected. The presence of sexual violence, like physical violence, is a very strong predictor that other types of abuse and neglect are occurring against a child in the family (see also Appendix Tables 14).

Figure 4.9. Relationship between sexual abuse and other types of abuse and neglect

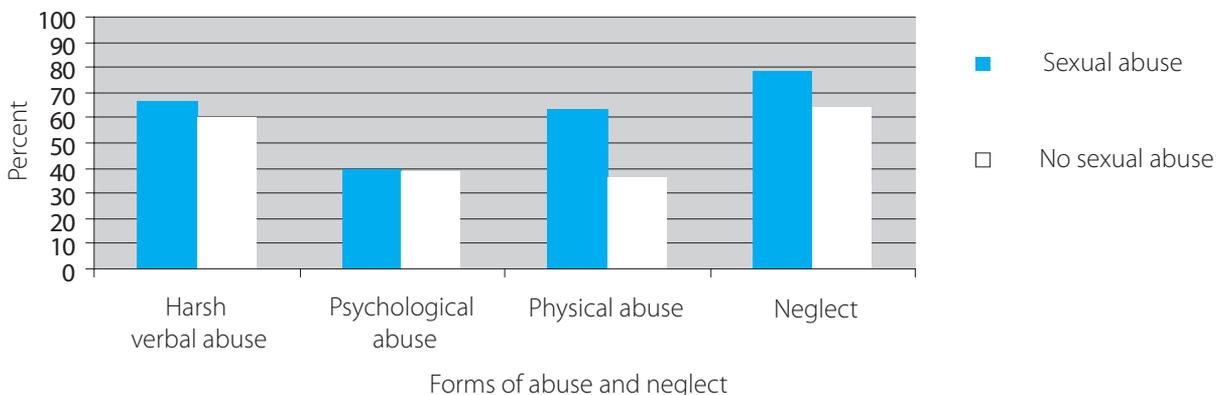
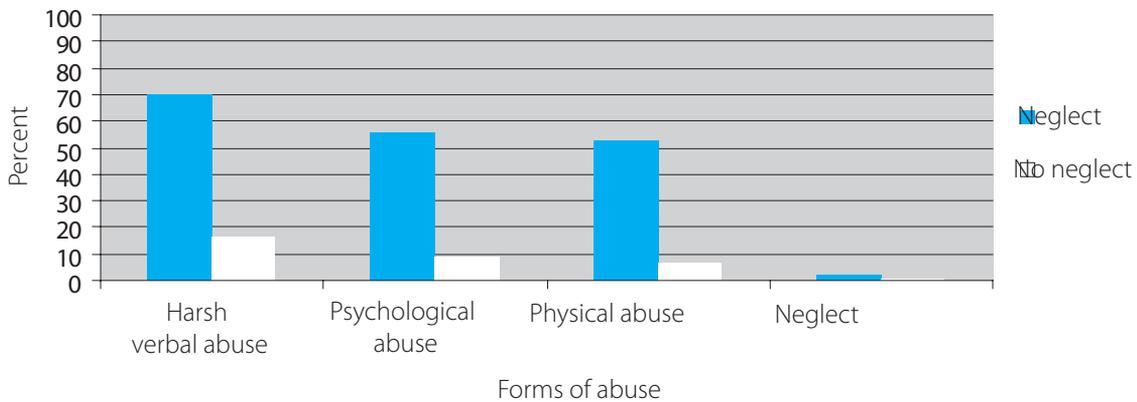


Figure 4.10 reveals the relationship between neglect and abuse. Children who are neglected are significantly more likely to experience harsh verbal, psychological, and sexual abuse in the family (particularly in comparison to children that did not experience neglect). In particular, 69.9% of children who were neglected in the family also

experienced harsh verbal abuse, and 55.3% were also psychologically abused. In addition, 53.0% of neglected children were also physically abused in the home and family. The presence of neglect is a very strong predictor that other types of abuse are occurring against a child in the home and family (see also Appendix Tables 15).

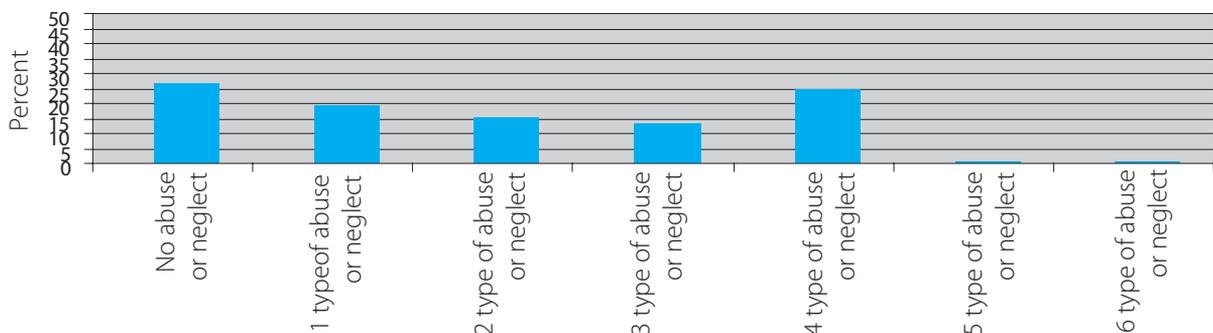
Figure 4.10. Relationship between neglect and abuse



In an effort to further demonstrate that children experience multiple forms of abuse and neglect in the home and family, Figure 4.11 reveals only 26.7% of children did not experience any abuse or neglect. Moreover, 19.1% of children experienced one type of abuse or neglect measured in the survey (i.e., harsh verbal, psychological, physical, sexual, and sibling abuse, and neglect), while 15.1% experienced two

types of abuse and/or neglect, 13.2% experienced three types, 24.8% experienced four types, and .6% experienced five types of abuse or neglect in the family, and .5% experienced all five types of abuse and neglect. It is important to note that most children reported experiencing multiple forms of abuse and neglect (see also Appendix Table 16)

Figure 4.11. Multiple forms of abuse and/or neglect experienced by children age 10 to 17 years



Figures 4.6 through 4.11 dispel the misperception that children experience only one form of abuse or neglect in the family. Although we do not see bruises and scars from harsh verbal and psychological abuse, if we see a child with bruises, injuries and scars from physical abuse we can be 70% to 90% certain the battered child is also experiencing harsh verbal abuse and/or psychological abuse in the home and family setting. Also, when we see a child that is being neglected we can be 55% to 70% certain that the

neglected child is also experiencing harsh verbal, psychological, and/or physical abuse in the home and family. Although sexually abused children typically don't speak out about their sexual abuse, when they do we can be almost 60% to 80% certain that they are also experiencing harsh verbal and physical abuse and/or neglect.

Despite the multiple layers of victimization in many children's lives, a majority of children suffer

in silence and endure multiple forms of abuse and neglect that most often being in infancy or early childhood and continue into adolescence. Each of these various forms of abuse and neglect and their multiple layers have real and serious consequences in children’s lives and on their physical and mental health and well-being, social and intellectual development, and risk for delinquency and offending, alcohol and drug use and abuse, running away, and perpetuating the cycle of family violence in the future.

Individual differences

Studies of child abuse and neglect throughout the world suggest that certain individual characteristics increase a child’s risk of abuse and neglect (29, 30). The advantage of having such a large sample size of children is the ability to examine the effect of individual demographics – gender, age, and ethnic status – on children’s experiences with abuse and neglect in the home and family. To understand the individual demographic differences in children’s experiences with each of the forms of abuse and neglect, data was used to determine whether a child ever experienced one or more of the different forms of abuse and neglect listed in Table 4.1. Then, crosstabulations were carried out to determine if there were statistically significant individual demographic differences that would help us understand abuse and neglect of children in the home and family. The sections that follow reveal the individual demographic differences that were found to be significant.

Gender differences

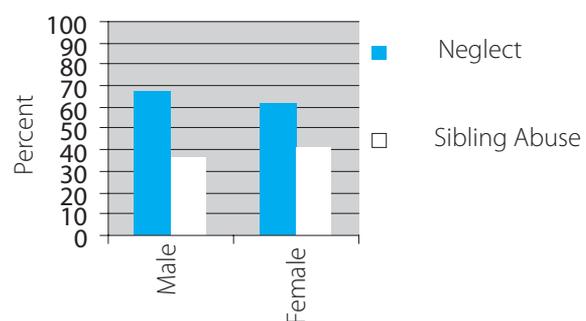
In most countries, male children are at greater risk of harsh physical punishment than female children; whereas, female children are at higher risk for infanticide, sexual abuse, and education and nutrition neglect (31, 32). This study found few significant differences based upon gender in children’s experiences with abuse and neglect in the home and family. In other words, males and females were equally likely to experience harsh verbal, psychological, physical, and sexual abuse. The only significant gender differences in terms of abuse were related to sibling abuse. In fact, Figure 4.12 reveals females (41.2%) are significantly more likely

to experience sibling abuse than males (36.8%; see also Appendix Table 17). This finding may be a reflection of the fact that brothers are expected in many families to control their sisters and discipline their sisters for behaviors that transcend gender expectations.

Figure 4.12 also reveals that while a significant proportion of both males and females are neglected, males (67.4%) are significantly more likely to experience neglect than females (61.9%).

Further analysis of neglect, however, revealed no significant gender differences in children’s experiences each of the separate forms of neglect – nutrition, clothing, medical, supervision, and work neglect. Thus, males and females were equally likely to experience each of these forms of neglect

Figure 4.12. Abuse and neglect by gender



Age differences

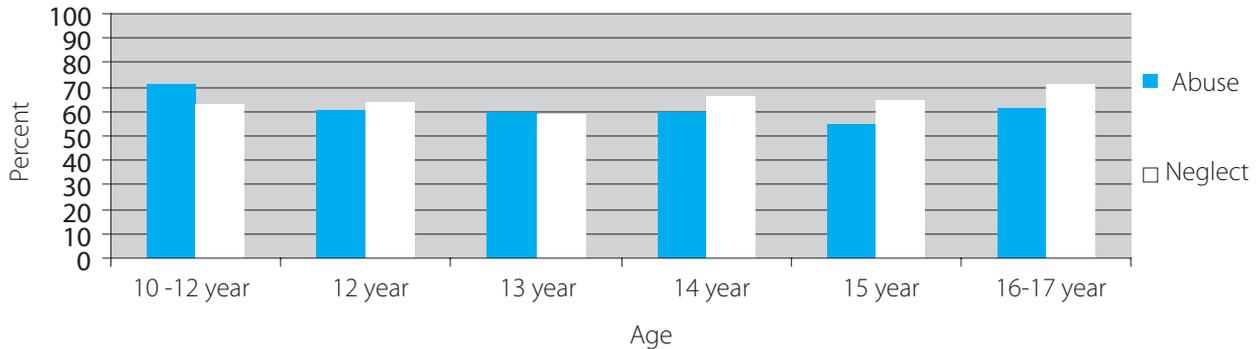
Vulnerability to child abuse and neglect depends in part on a child’s age and stage of development – one type of abuse and neglect may give way to another depending upon age. Infants and younger children are typically at increased risk of physical abuse by parents and other primary caregivers and family members because of their dependence on adult caregivers and limited independent social interactions outside of the home. As children age and develop, they grow in independence and spend increasing amounts of time outside of the home and away from the family which can reduce the occurrence of abuse and neglect. Yet, adolescent children are still susceptible to abuse and neglect in the home and family setting (33, 34).

Figure 4.13 reveals there are numerous significant differences based upon age in regards to children’s experiences with abuse and neglect in the home and family. Figure 4.13 reveals that a significant proportion of children in all age categories experienced abuse and neglect in the home and family. In regard to abuse, children 10 and 11 years of age (71.4%) experienced significantly more abuse than children between 12 and 17 years of age. In terms of neglect,

16 and 17 year olds (71.3%) were significantly more likely to experience neglect in comparison to children

between 10 and 15 years of age (see Appendix Tables 19).

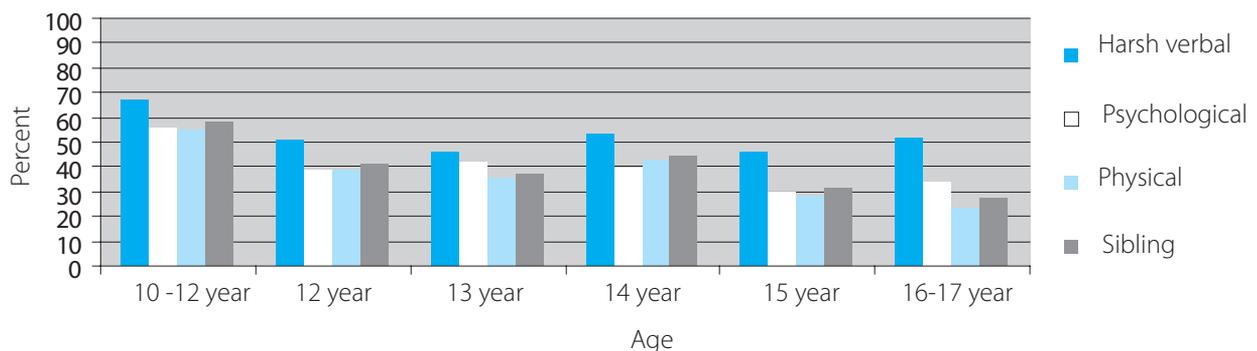
Figure 4.13. Abuse and neglect (all forms) by age



Further analysis revealed significant age differences in regard to four the separate forms of abuse – harsh verbal, psychological, physical, and sibling abuse. Figure 4.14 reveals that 10 and 11 year olds were significantly more likely to experience harsh verbal abuse (66.7%), psychological abuse (56.0%), physical abuse (54.6%), and sibling abuse (57.7%)

compared to children between 12 and 17 years of age. It is also important to note that 15 year olds and 16 and 17 year olds experienced the lowest levels of psychological abuse (30.0% and 33.5% respectively), physical abuse (28.0% and 23.2% respectively), and sibling abuse (31.4% and 27.6% respectively; see also Appendix Table 19).

Figure 4.14. Forms of abuse by age



In regard to neglect, further analysis revealed significant age differences in regard to only three of the separate forms of neglect – nutrition, clothing, and supervision neglect. There were no significant age differences in regard to medical neglect and work neglect. This means that children in each of the age categories were equally likely to experience medical neglect and work neglect in the family.

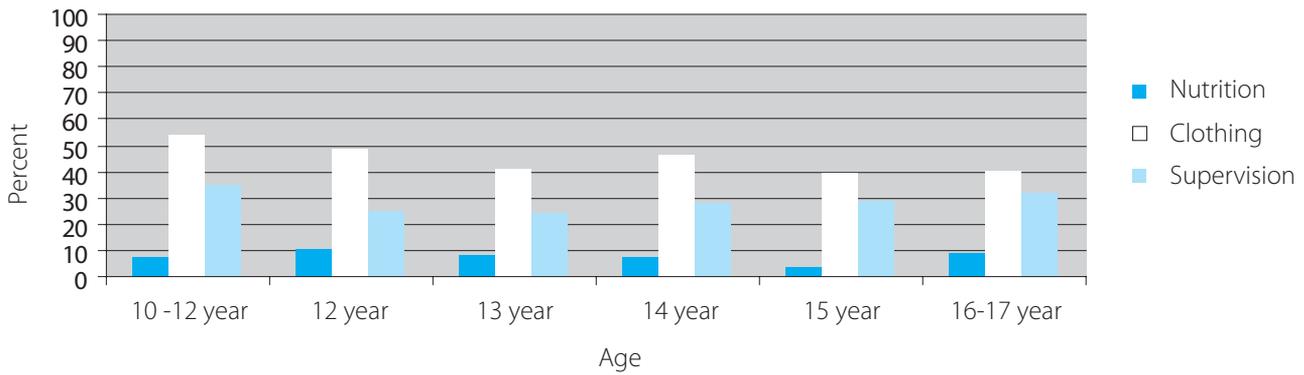
Figure 4.15 reveals the significant age differences in terms of nutrition, clothing, and supervision neglect. In particular, 12 year olds (11.0%) and 16 and 17 year olds (9.1%) were significantly more likely to experience nutrition neglect (i.e., not being provided with enough to eat or went hungry even though there was enough food for everyone) compared to children in the other age categories.

Whereas, 15 year olds (3.5%) were least likely experience nutrition neglect.

In regard to clothing neglect, 10 and 11 year olds (54.3%) were significantly more likely to experience clothing neglect (i.e., had to wear dirty or torn cloth, clothes that were not warm enough in the winter or too warm in the summer, or clothes that were too big or too small) in comparison to children between 12 and 17 years of age.

Finally, in regard to supervision neglect, children 10 and 11 years of age (35.5%) and 16 and 17 years of age (31.7%) were significantly more likely to experience lack of adult/parental supervision (i.e., left home alone for two days or more with out adult attention or supervision) in comparison to children in the other age categories (see also Appendix Table 19).

Figure 4.15. Forms of neglect by age



Ethnic group differences

Further analysis was also conducted to determine if there are significant differences between ethnic groups in terms of children’s experiences with abuse and neglect in the home and family. Significant ethnic group differences were found. Figure 4.16 reveals that Uzbek (85.6%) and Kyrgyz (60.5%) children were significantly more likely to experience abuse in the home and family than Russian (26.0%) and other ethnic group (20.9%) children. In addition, Uzbek (83.8%) and Kyrgyz (66.0%) children were significantly more likely to experience neglect than Russian (19.8%) and other ethnic group (24.4%) children; see also Appendix Table 18).

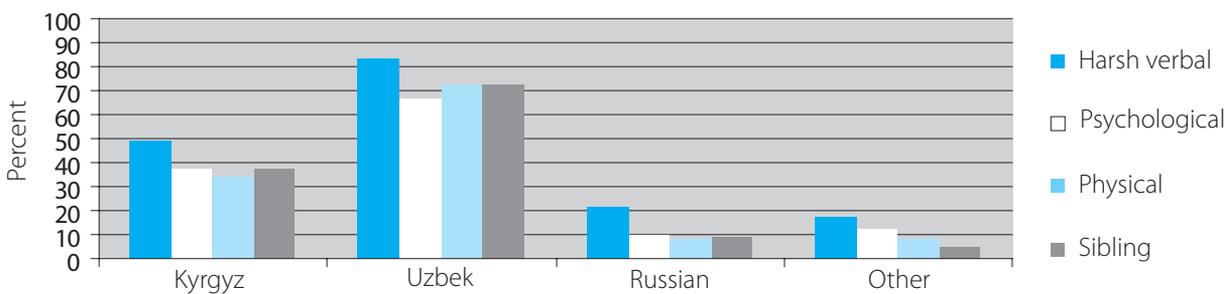
Further analysis revealed significant differences between ethnic groups in regard to four of the separate forms of abuse – harsh verbal, psychological, physical, and sibling abuse. Figure 4.17 reveals that Uzbek children were most likely

Figure 4.16. Abuse and neglect (all forms) by ethnic status



to experience harsh verbal (83.1%), psychological (66.5%), physical (72.3%), and sibling abuse (72.7%) compared to Kyrgyz, Russian, and other ethnic group children. Moreover, Uzbek and Kyrgyz children were significantly more likely to experience harsh verbal, psychological, physical, and sibling abuse compared to Russian children and children of other ethnic groups (see also Appendix Table 18).

Figure 4.17. Forms of abuse by ethnic status



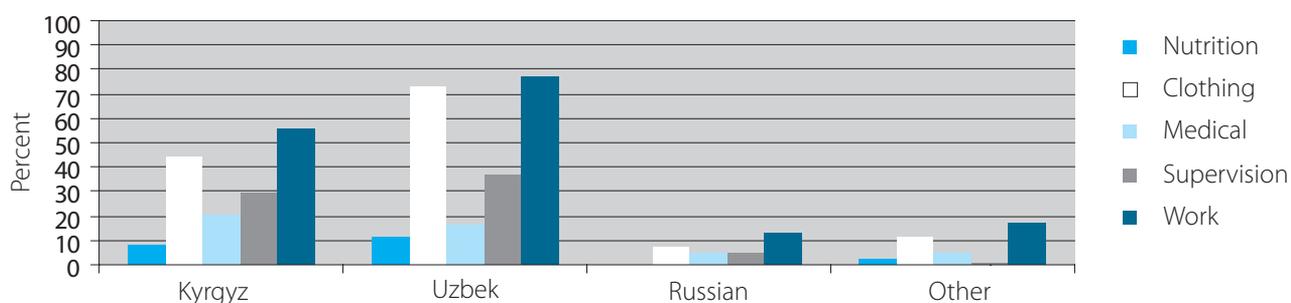
Further analysis revealed significant differences between ethnic groups in regard to each of the separate forms of neglect – nutrition, clothing, medical, supervision, and work neglect. Figure 4.18 reveals that Uzbek (11.7%) and Kyrgyz (8.0%) children were significantly more likely to

experience nutrition neglect than Russian (0.0%) and other ethnic group (2.3%) children. In regard to clothing neglect, Uzbek children (73.3%) were most likely to experience clothing neglect. Furthermore, Uzbek and Kyrgyz (44.0%) children experienced significantly more clothing neglect than Russian (7.3%) and other ethnic group (11.6%) children.

In regard to medical neglect, Kyrgyz (20.5%) and Uzbek (16.2%) children experienced significantly more medical neglect than Russian (5.2%) and other ethnic group (4.7%) children. In terms of supervision neglect, Uzbek (37.2%) and Kyrgyz (29.3%) children experienced significantly more adult/parental supervision neglect than Russian (5.2%) and other ethnic group (1.2%) children.

In terms of work neglect, Figure 4.18 reveals that Uzbek children (76.7%) were most likely to experienced work neglect. However, Uzbek and Kyrgyz (55.8%) children experienced significantly more work neglect than Russian (13.5%) and other ethnic group (17.4%) children (see also Appendix Table 18).

Figure 4.18. Forms of neglect by ethnic status

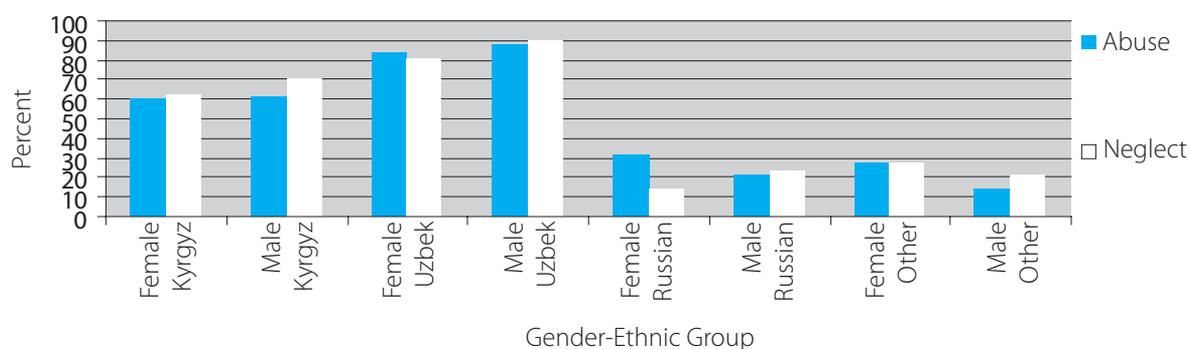


Gender-ethnic group intersection differences

It was important to conduct more in-depth analysis to understand how gender and ethnic group status intersect in children’s lives and impact their experiences with abuse and neglect in the home and family. Figure 4.19 reveals that both male and female Kyrgyz children were equally likely to experience abuse; whereas, male Uzbeks (88.1%)

were significantly more likely to experience abuse than female Uzbeks (84.0%). In contrast, female Russians (31.7%) were significantly more likely to experience abuse than male Russians (21.8%), and female other ethnic groups (27.3%) were significantly more likely to experience abuse than male other ethnic groups (14.3%).

Figure 4.19. Abuse and neglect (all forms) by gender-ethnic group



In regard to neglect, male Kyrgyz (70.0%) were significantly more likely to experience neglect than female Kyrgyz (62.4%), and male Uzbeks (89.3%) were significantly more likely to experience neglect than female Uzbeks (80.4%). In addition, male Russians (23.6%) were significantly more likely to experience neglect than female Russians (14.6%). A different pattern emerged among other ethnic groups, female

other ethnic groups (27.3%) were significantly more likely to experience neglect than male other ethnic groups (21.4%; see also Appendix Table 20).

Further analysis revealed significant differences between gender-ethnic groups in regard to four separate forms of abuse – harsh verbal, psychological, physical, and sibling abuse. Figure

4.20 reveals that female Uzbeks were mostly likely to experience harsh verbal (80.4%), psychological (61.3%), physical (71.2%), and sibling abuse (71.8%) in the home and family. Moreover, female Uzbek and female Kyrgyz children experienced significantly more harsh verbal, psychological, physical, and sibling abuse in the home and family than female Russians and female other ethnic groups.

It is also important to note that Figures 4.31 and 4.32 reveal that female Russians (31.7%) were significantly more likely to experience harsh

verbal abuse in the home and family than male Russians (14.5%). Female Russians (12.2%) were also significantly more likely to experience physical abuse than male Russians (5.5%). Finally, female Russians (17.1%) were significantly more likely to experience sibling abuse than male Russians (3.6%).

In terms of other ethnic group children, female other ethnic group children were significantly more likely to experience harsh verbal abuse (20.5%) and physical abuse (9.1%) than male other ethnic group children (14.3% and 5.5% respectively; see also Appendix Table 20).

Figure 4.20. Forms of abuse by gender-ethnic group

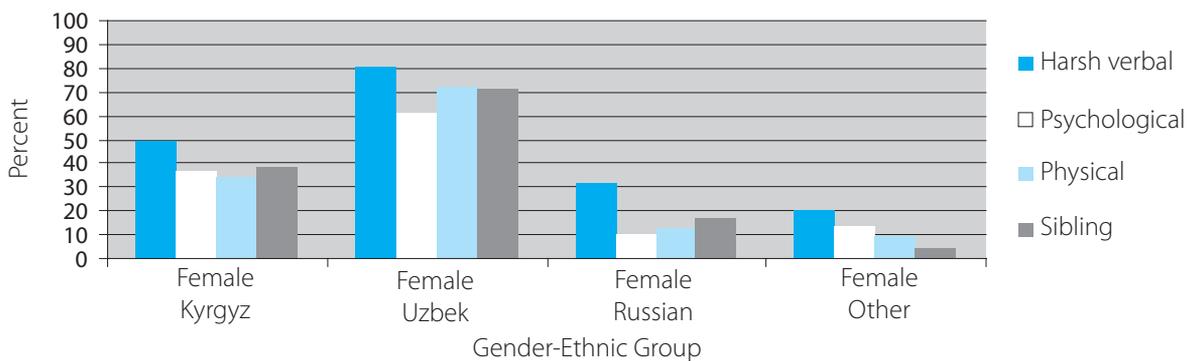
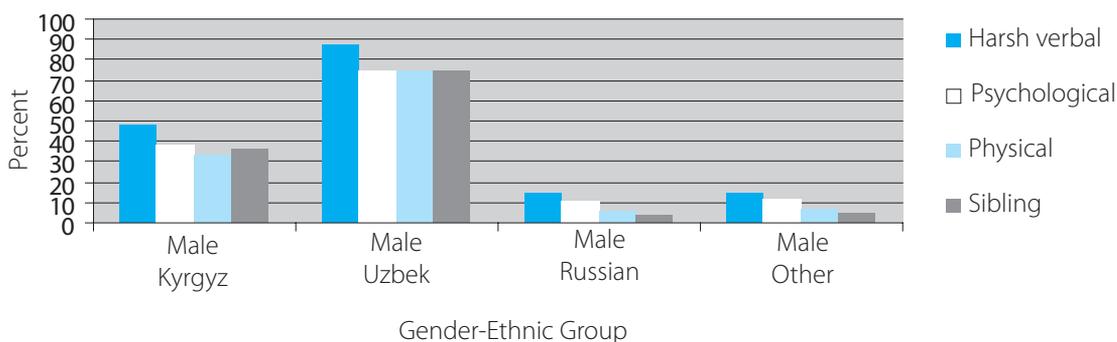


Figure 4.21 further reveals that male Uzbek children were most likely to experience harsh verbal abuse (87.4%), psychological abuse (74.8%), physical abuse (74.3%), and sibling abuse (74.3%) in the home and family than male Kyrgyz. Moreover, male Uzbek and male Kyrgyz children were significantly more likely to experience harsh verbal, psychological, physical and sibling abuse in the home and family than male Russian

children and male other ethnic group children. It is also important to note that Figures 4.20 and 4.21 reveal that although a significant proportion of male and female Uzbek children experience harsh verbal abuse, male Uzbek children (87.4%) were significantly more likely to experience harsh verbal abuse (87.4%) and psychological abuse (74.8% than female Uzbek children (80.4% and (61.3%; see also Appendix Table 20).

Figure 4.21. Forms of abuse by gender ethnic-group



Finally, analysis revealed significant differences between gender-ethnic groups in regard to each of separate forms of neglect – nutrition, clothing, medical, supervision, and work. Figure 4.22 reveals that female Kyrgyz (7.6%) and female Uzbeks (9.2%) experience significantly more nutrition

neglect than female Russians (0.0%) and female other ethnic groups (2.3%).

In regard to clothing neglect, female Uzbeks (70.6%) were mostly likely to experience clothing neglect. Moreover, female Uzbeks and female Kyrgyz (42.1%)

experienced significantly more clothing neglect than female Russians (4.9%) and female other ethnic groups (11.4%).

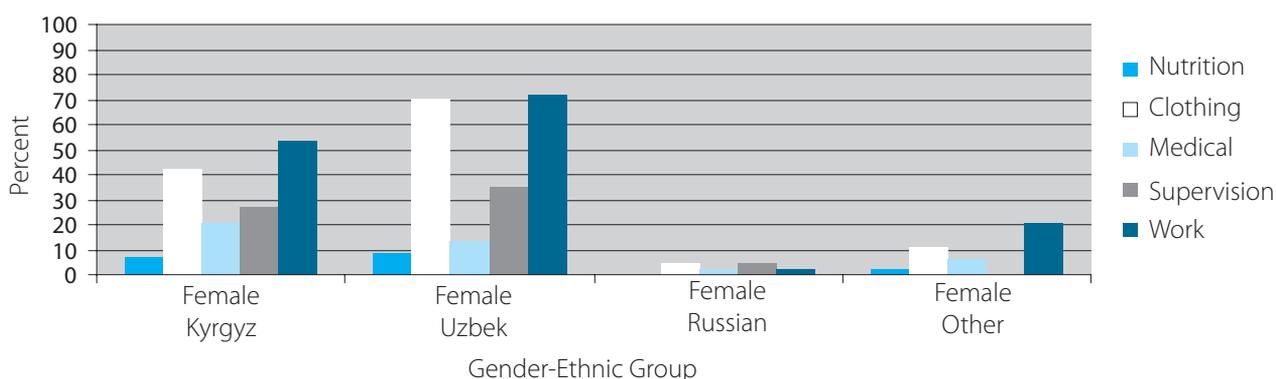
In regard to medical neglect, female Kyrgyz (20.9%) were most likely to experience medical neglect. Moreover, female Kyrgyz (20.9%) and female Uzbeks (13.5%) were significantly more likely to experience medical neglect than female Russians (2.4%) and female other ethnic groups (6.8%).

In regard to supervision neglect, female Kyrgyz (27.4%) and female Uzbeks (35.0%) experienced

significantly more adult/parental supervision neglect than female Russians (4.9%) and female other ethnic groups (0.0%).

Finally, in terms of work neglect, female Uzbeks (71.8%) were most likely to experience work neglect. Moreover, female Uzbeks (71.8%) and female Kyrgyz (53.9%) experienced significantly more work neglect than female Russians (2.4%) and female other ethnic groups (20.5%; see also Appendix Table 20).

Figure 4.22. Forms of neglect by gender-ethnic group



It is also important to note that Figures 4.22 and 4.23 reveal that female other ethnic groups were significantly more likely to experience medical neglect (6.8%) and work neglect (20.5%) than male other ethnic groups (2.4% and 11.9% respectively).

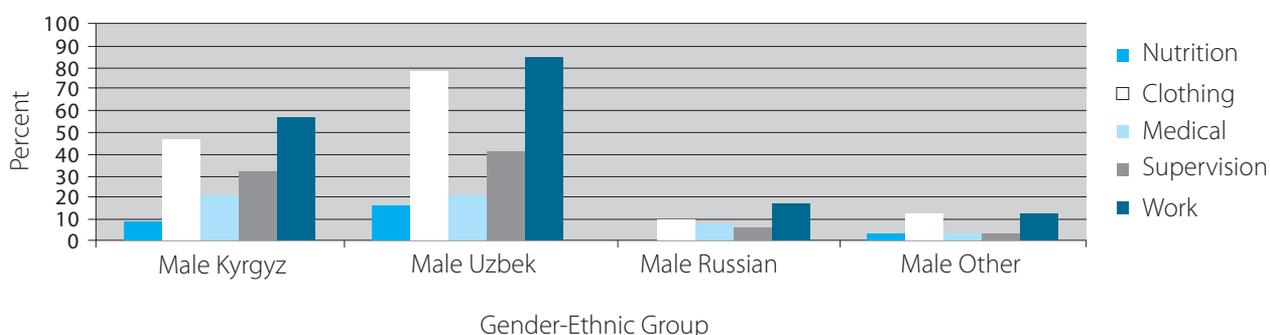
In addition, Figure 4.23 reveals that male Uzbeks (15.5%) and male Kyrgyz (8.3%) were significantly more likely to experience nutrition neglect than male Russians (0.0%) and male other ethnic groups (2.4%). In regard to clothing neglect, male Uzbeks (77.7%) were most likely to experience clothing neglect; but male Uzbeks and male Kyrgyz (46.2%) were significantly more likely to experience clothing neglect than male Russians (9.1%) and male other ethnic groups (11.9%).

In regard to medical neglect, male Kyrgyz (20.2%) and male Uzbeks (20.4%) experienced significantly more medical neglect than male Russians (7.3%) and male other ethnic groups (2.4%).

In terms of supervision neglect, male Uzbeks (40.8%) and male Kyrgyz (31.4%) were significantly more likely to experience adult/parental supervision neglect than male Russians (5.5%) and male other ethnic groups (2.4%).

Finally, Figure 4.23 reveals that male Uzbeks (84.5%) were most likely to experience work neglect. Moreover, male Uzbeks and male Kyrgyz (56.9%) experienced significantly more work neglect than male Russians (16.4%) and male other ethnic groups (11.9%; see also Appendix Table 20).

Figure 4.23. Forms of neglect by gender-ethnic group



It is important to note that Figures 4.22 and 4.23 reveal that male Kyrgyz were significantly more likely to experience clothing neglect (46.2%), supervision neglect (40.8%), and work neglect (56.9%) than female Kyrgyz (42.1%, 27.4%, and 53.9% respectively). In addition, male Uzbeks were significantly more likely to experience nutrition neglect (15.5%), clothing neglect (77.7%), medical neglect (20.4%), supervision neglect (40.8%), and work neglect (84.5%) than female Uzbeks (9.2%, 70.6%, 13.5%, 35.0%, and 71.8% respectively). Finally, male Russians were significantly more likely to experience clothing neglect (9.1%), medical neglect (7.3%), and work neglect (16.4%) than female Russians (4.9%, 2.4%, and 2.4% respectively; see also Appendix Table 22).

Family size and composition differences

While violence in the home is found in all social and economic spheres, studies of child abuse and neglect across the world suggest that family size and composition can increase a child's risk of abuse and neglect (35). The advantage of having such a large sample size of children is the ability to examine the effect of family size and composition – number of siblings, number of people living in the home, and living arrangements with parents – on children's experiences with abuse and neglect in the home and family. To understand differences in children's experiences with each of the forms of abuse and neglect based upon family size and composition, data was used to determine whether a child ever experienced one or more of the different forms of abuse and neglect listed in Table 4.1. Then, crosstabulations were carried out to determine if there were statistically significant differences based upon family size and

composition that would help us understand abuse and neglect of children in the home and family. The sections that follow reveal the differences based upon family size and composition that were found to be significant.

Number of siblings

Existing research has found a relationship between the number of children in a family and abuse and neglect. Families with four or more children are often more likely to be violent toward their children than parents with fewer children. However, it is not always the size of the family that matters, as data from a range of countries indicate that household overcrowding increases the risk of child abuse (36). Thus, analysis was conducted to determine if the number of children in a family has an effect on the occurrence of child abuse and neglect in the home and family. Figure 4.24 reveals that children with no siblings were significantly less likely to experience abuse (35.8%) and neglect (40.0%) in the family compared to children with siblings. Moreover, as the number of siblings increase so does the occurrence of abuse and neglect (see also Appendix Table 21).

Figure 4.25 reveals significant differences between the number of children in the family and four of the separate forms of abuse – harsh verbal, psychological, physical, and sibling abuse. Children with no siblings were least likely to experience harsh verbal abuse (29.5%), psychological abuse (23.2%), physical abuse (16.8%), and sibling abuse (0.0%) than children with siblings. Children with 4 to 5 siblings or 6 or more siblings were more likely to experience psychological, physical, and sibling abuse than children with only one to three siblings (see also Appendix Table 21).

Figure 4.24. Abuse and neglect (all forms) by number of siblings

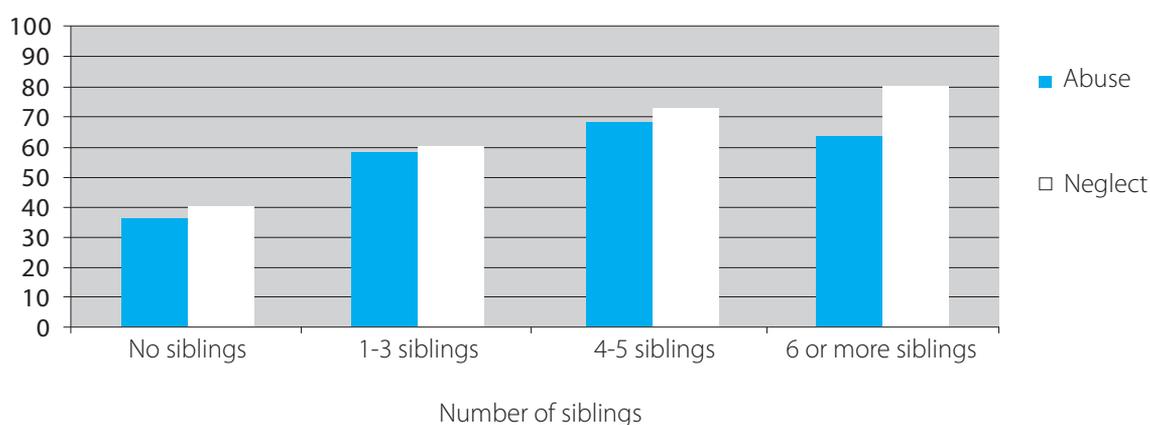
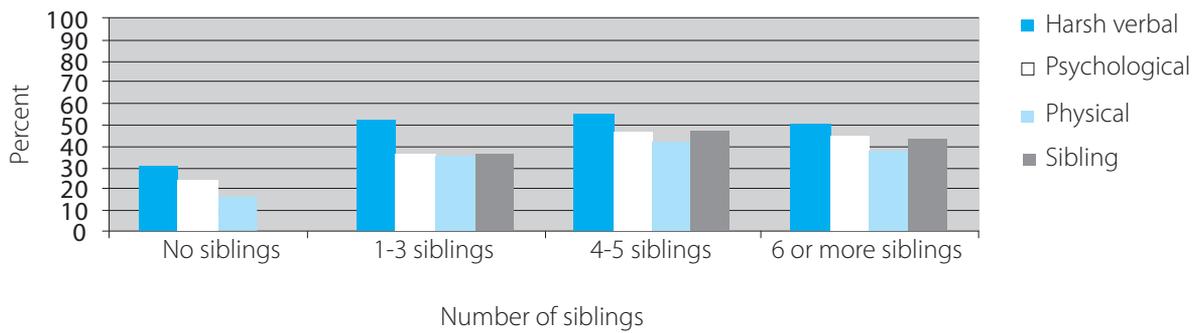


Figure 4.25. Forms of abuse by number of siblings



Further analysis revealed significant differences in each of the separate forms of neglect – nutrition, clothing, medical, supervision, and work neglect – based upon the number of children in the family. Figure 4.26 reveals that children with 4 to 5 siblings (11.4%) were significantly more likely to experience nutrition neglect than children with no siblings (7.4%) and 1 to 3 siblings (8.5%).

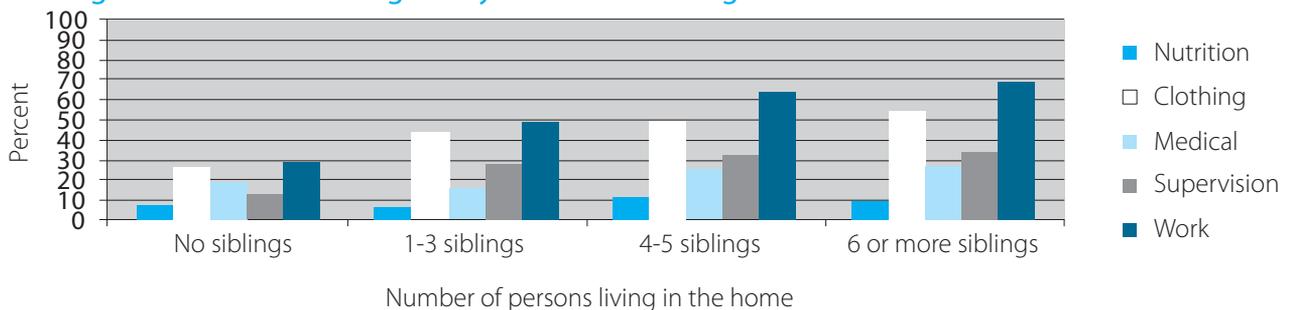
In regard to clothing neglect, children in families with 6 or more children (54.3%) were most likely to experience clothing neglect; whereas, children with no siblings (26.3%) were significantly less likely to experience clothing neglect in comparison to children with 1 to 3 siblings (42.7%), 4 to 5 siblings (48.9%), and 6 or more siblings (54.3%).

In regard to medical neglect, children with 4 to 5 siblings (24.5%) and 6 or more siblings (26.6%) were significantly more likely to experience medical neglect than children with no siblings (17.9%) and 1 to 3 siblings (14.8%).

In regard to supervision neglect, children with no siblings (12.6%) were significantly less likely to experience adult/parental supervision neglect in comparison to children with siblings.

Finally, children with 4 to 5 siblings (64.0%) and 6 or more siblings (69.1%) were significantly more likely to experience work neglect than children with no siblings (28.4%) and those with 1 to 3 siblings (27.0%; see also Appendix Table 21).

Figure 4.26. Forms of neglect by number of siblings



Living arrangements with parents

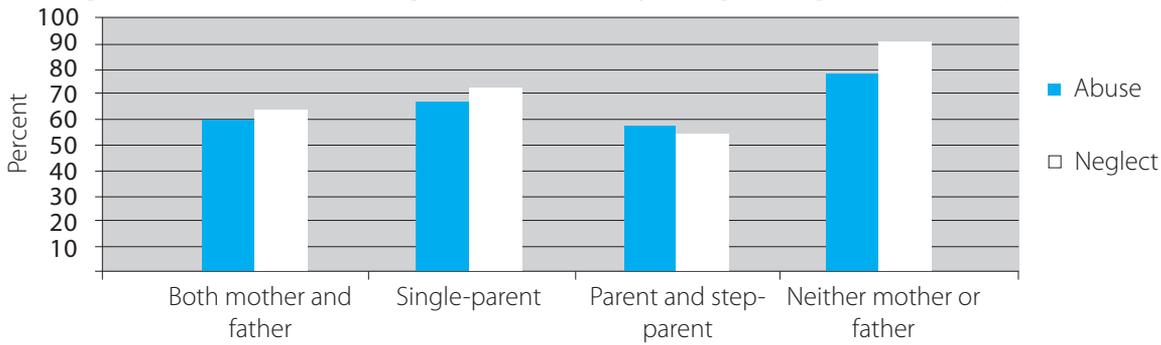
In both developing and industrialized countries, poor, young, single mothers are among those at greatest risk for using harsh discipline and violence toward their children. This in part, is because poor, young, single mother are more likely to have less education and to live in poverty and face significant pressures to care for and support their children. Parental loss or separation also increases a child's risk for child abuse and neglect whether in the home of extended family or place in an institution for orphaned and abandoned children (37, 38).

Figure 4.27 shows that children living with a parent and step-parent (56.3%) or both their mother and father (58.8%) were significantly less likely to

experience abuse than children living with a single-parent (66.0%) or neither their mother or father (76.5). It is important to note that Table 3.3 revealed that children who did not live with either a mother or father were most likely to live with extended relatives such as grandmother (57.6%), grandfather (41.2%), brother (43.5%), sister (45.9%), aunt (29.4%), and/or uncle (22.4%).

In regard to neglect, Figure 4.27 reveals that children living with neither their mother nor father (89.4%) were most likely to experience neglect. Moreover, children living with neither mother nor father or a single-parent (70.8%) were significantly more likely to experience neglect than children living with both their mother and father (62.5%) or parent and step-parent (53.1%; see also Appendix Table 22).

Figure 4.27. Abuse and neglect (all forms) by living arrangements with parents



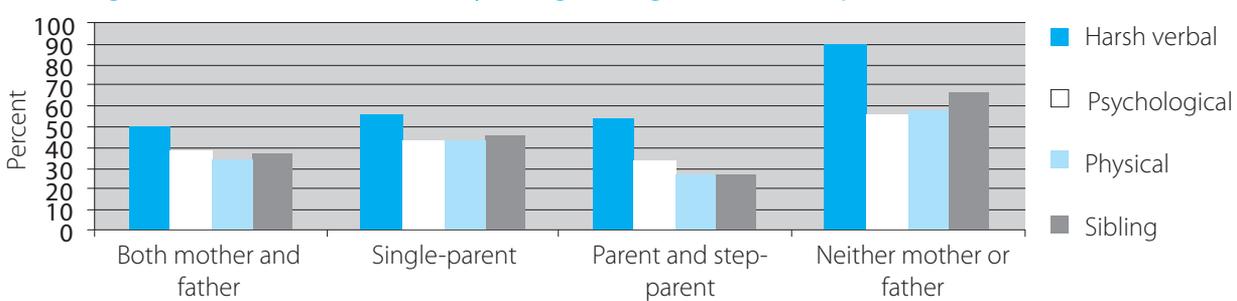
Further analysis reveals significant differences in four of the separate forms of abuse – harsh verbal, psychological, physical, and sibling abuse – based upon children’s living arrangement with their parents. Figure 4.28 reveals that children living with neither their mother or father were most likely to experience harsh verbal abuse (89.4%) compared to children living with a single-parent (55.2%), parent and step-parent (53.1%), or both their mother and father (49.2%). In regard to psychological abuse, children living with neither their mother nor father (55.3%) or a single-parent (43.1%) were significantly more likely to experience psychological abuse than children living with a parent and step-parent (32.7%) or both their mother and father (37.4%).

In regard to physical abuse, children living with neither their mother nor father (57.6%) were most likely to experience physical abuse. Moreover,

children living with neither their mother or father or a single-parent (43.4%) were significantly more likely to experience physical violence in the home and family than children living with a parent and step-parent (27.1%) or both their mother and father (34.7%). It is interesting to note that children living with a parent and step-parent reported the lowest levels of physical abuse in the home and family setting.

Finally, in regard to sibling abuse, Figure 4.28 reveals that children living with neither their mother or father (65.9%) were most likely to experience sibling abuse; but children living with neither their mother or father (65.9%) or a single-parent (45.5%) were significantly more likely to experience sibling abuse than children living with both their mother and father (37.1%) or parent and step-parent (27.1%). Again, it is interesting to note that children living with a parent and step-parent reported the lowest level sibling abuse (see also Appendix Table 22).

Figure 4.28. Forms of abuse by living arrangements with parents



Further analysis revealed significant differences in each of the separate forms of neglect – nutrition, clothing, medical, supervision, and work neglect – based upon children’s living arrangements with their parents. Figure 4.29 reveals that children living with neither their mother nor father (18.8%) were most likely to experience nutrition neglect compared to children living with their mother and father (7.4%), a single-parent (7.3%), or parent and step-parent (6.1%).

In regard to clothing neglect, children living with neither their mother nor father (70.6%) were most likely to experience clothing neglect. Moreover, children living with neither their mother nor father or a single-parent (51.7%) were significantly more likely to experience clothing neglect than children living with both their mother and father (42.6%) or parent and step-parent (32.7%).

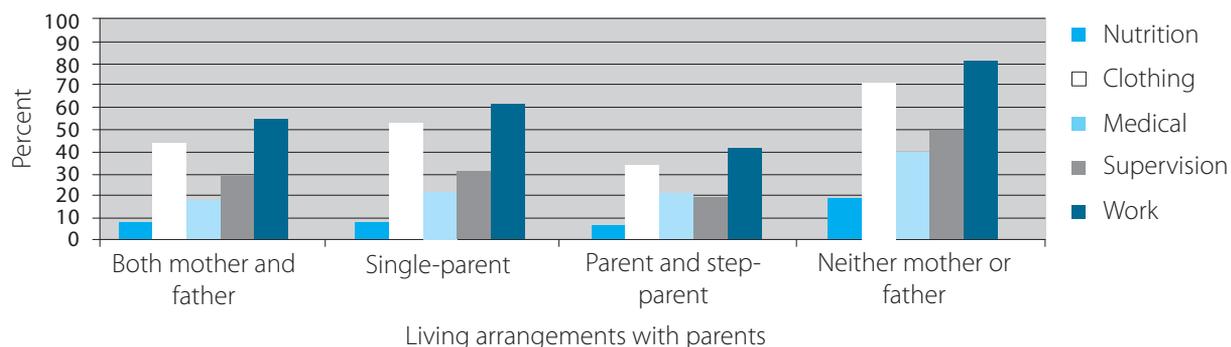
In regard to medical neglect, again children living with neither their mother or father (38.8%) were significantly more likely to experience medical neglect than children living with a single-parent (21.5%), parent and step-parent (20.4%), or both their mother and father (17.1%).

In terms of supervision neglect, Figure 4.29 reveals that children living with neither their mother nor father (48.2%) were significantly more likely to experience adult/parental supervision neglect than children living with a single-parent (30.2%), both their mother and father (27.0%), or parent

and step-parent (18.4%). It is interesting to note that children living with a parent and step-parent experienced the lowest levels of adult/parental supervision neglect.

Finally, children living with neither their mother nor father (80.0%) were most likely to experience work neglect. Moreover, children living with neither their mother or father or a single parent (60.1%) were significantly more likely to experience work neglect than children living with both their mother and father (53.2%) or a parent and step-parent (40.8%; see also Appendix Table 21).

Figure 4.29. Forms of neglect by which child's living arrangements with parents



Number of people living in the household

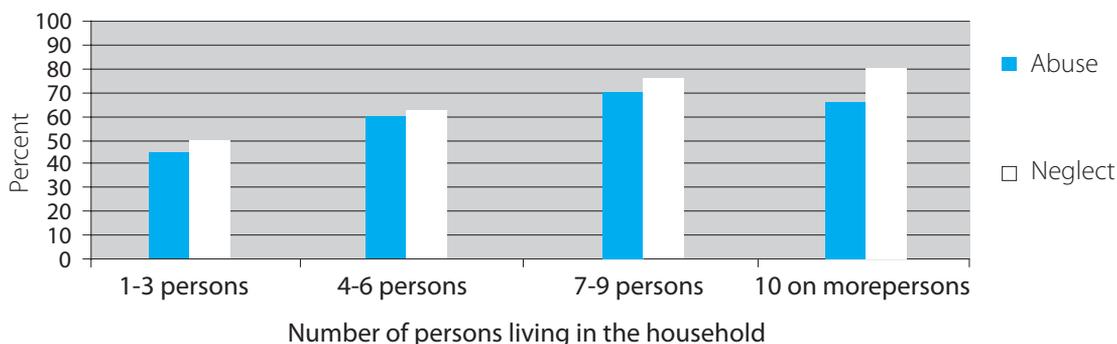
The size of the family can increase the risk for abuse and neglect; however, it is not always simply the size of the family that matters. Data from a range of countries indicate that household overcrowding increases the risk of child abuse. In addition, unstable family environments, in which the composition of the household frequently changes as family members and other move in and out, are particularly noted in cases of chronic neglect (39).

Figure 4.30 reveals that although most children were likely to experience abuse, children living in a household with 1 to 3 other people (43.5%) were significantly less likely to experience abuse than

children living in a household with 4 or more people. In general, as the number of people in the household increases so does a child's risk for abuse in the home and family setting.

In terms of neglect, Figure 4.30 reveals that children living in households with more people are significantly more likely to experience neglect than children living in households with fewer persons. Again, children living in homes with 1 to 3 people (47.6%) experienced the lowest levels of neglect and households with 10 or more people (79.4%) experienced the highest levels of neglect (see also Appendix Table 23).

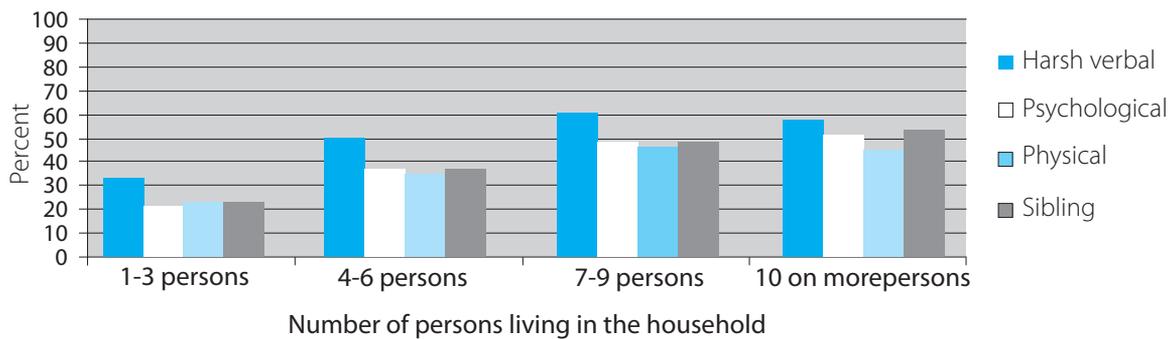
Figure 4.30. Forms of abuse by number of people living in the household with a child



Further analysis reveals significant differences in four of the separate forms of abuse – harsh verbal, psychological, physical, and sibling abuse – based upon the number of people in a household. Figure 4.31 reveals that children living in households with 7 or more people were significantly more likely to experience harsh verbal, psychological, physical, and sibling abuse than children living in households with 6 or fewer people. Yet, children in households with 4 to 6 people were significantly

more likely to experience harsh verbal, psychological, physical, and sibling abuse than children in households with only 1 to 3 people. Children in households of 1 to 3 people experienced significantly less harsh verbal, psychological, physical, and sibling abuse than children living in larger households. Thus, it appears as the number of people in the household increases so does a child’s risk of harsh verbal, psychological, physical and sibling abuse (see also Appendix Table 23).

Figure 4.31. Forms of abuse by number of people living in the household with a child



In regard to the different forms of neglect, Figure 4.32 reveals that children living in households with more people are significantly more likely to experience each of the different forms of neglect – nutrition, clothing, medical, supervision, and work neglect – compared to children living in households with fewer persons. Specifically, in regard to nutrition neglect, children living in households with 10 or more people (17.5%) were significantly more likely to experience nutrition neglect than children in households with 7 to 9 people (8.8%), 4 to 6 people (7.5%), and 1 to 3 people (3.5%). In regard to clothing neglect, children living in households with 7 to 9 people (55.7%) and 10 or more people (61.9%) were significantly more likely to experience clothing neglect than children living in homes with 4 to 6 people (41.2%) and only 1 to 3 people (30.0%).

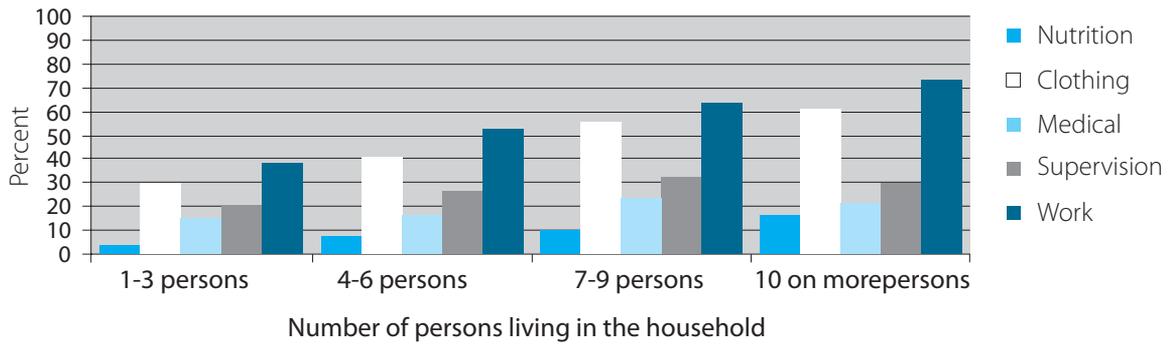
only 1 to 3 people (20.6%) were significantly less likely to experience adult/parental supervision neglect in comparison to children living in homes with 4 to 6 people (27.4%), 7 to 9 people (31.5%), and 10 or more people (30.2%).

Finally, in regard to work neglect, children living in households with only 1 to 3 people (37.1%) were significantly less likely to experience work neglect in comparison to children living in households with 4 to 6 people (52.3%), 7 to 9 people (64.3%), and 10 or more people (74.6%). It is important to note that children with 10 or more people were also significantly more likely to experience work neglect than children in families with nine or less people (see also Appendix Table 23).

In regard to medical neglect, children living in households with 7 to 9 people (23.7%) and 10 or more people (22.2%) were significantly more likely to experience medical neglect than children living in homes with 4 to 6 six people (17.0%) and only 1 to 3 people (14.1%).

In regard to supervision neglect, Figure 4.32 reveals that children living in households with

Figure 4.32. Forms of neglect by number of people living in the household with the child



Regional differences

This study was also designed to examine regional differences in regard to children’s experiences with abuse and neglect in the home and family. The advantage of having such a large national sample of children is the ability to examine regional differences – Oblast differences and urban versus rural differences – in children’s experiences with abuse and neglect. To understand these regional differences, data was used to determine whether a child ever experienced one or more of the different forms of abuse and neglect listed in Table 4.1, then crosstabulations were carried out to determine if there were statistically significant differences based upon Oblast and urban vs. rural residence. The sections that follow reveal the regional differences that were found to be significant.

Urban versus rural differences

There are numerous significant differences between urban and rural areas in regard to children’s experiences with abuse and neglect in the home and family. Figure 4.33 reveals that a significant proportion of children in urban and rural areas experience abuse and neglect, but children in rural areas were some significantly more likely to experience abuse (64.5%)

and neglect (72.2%) than children in urban areas (51.9% and 48.2% respectively; see also Appendix Table 24).

Further analysis revealed significant urban and rural differences in regard to four of the separate forms of abuse – harsh verbal, psychological, physical, and sibling abuse. Figure 4.34 reveals that children in rural communities were significantly more likely to experience harsh verbal abuse (52.7%), psychological abuse (41.9%), physical abuse (40.2%), and sibling abuse (44.1%) than children in urban areas (47.1%, 32.2%, 29.3% and 28.9% respectively; see also Appendix Table 24).

Figure 4.33. Abuse and neglect (all forms) by urban vs. rural

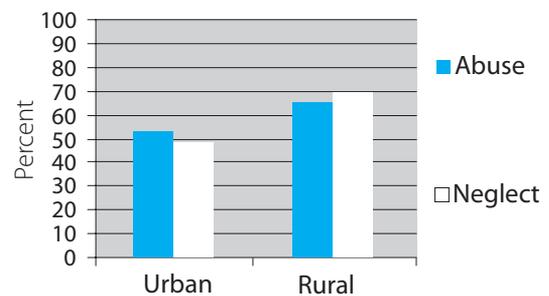
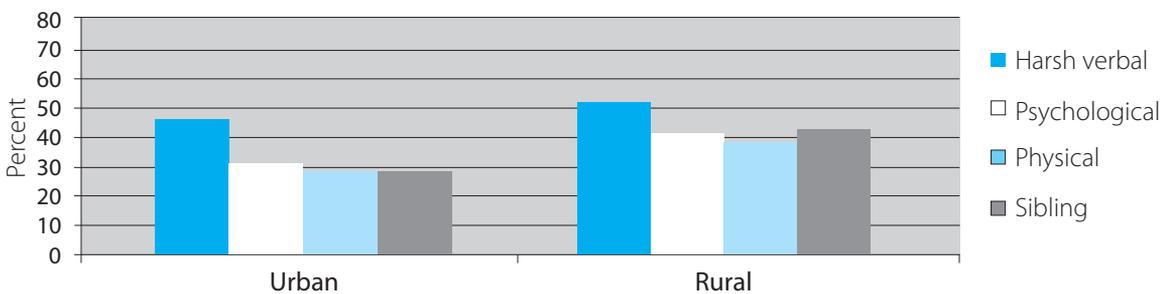


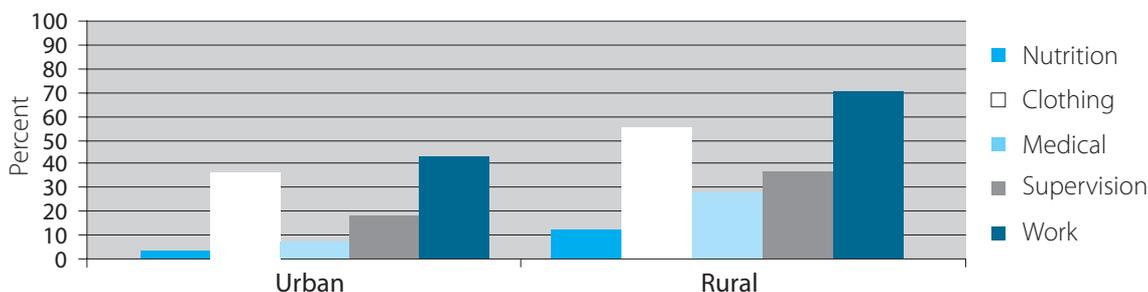
Figure 4.34. Forms of abuse by urban vs. rural



Analysis also revealed significant differences between urban and rural areas in regard to each of the separate forms of neglect – nutrition, clothing, medical, supervision, and work neglect. Figure 4.35 reveals children in rural areas were significantly more likely to experience nutrition

neglect (10.6%), clothing neglect (50.2%), medical neglect (24.6%), supervision neglect (33.3%), and work neglect (63.3%) in comparison to children in urban areas (2.0%, 33.2%, 6.2%, 17.1%, and 37.4% respectively; see also Appendix Table 24).

Figure 4.35. Forms of neglect by urban vs. rural

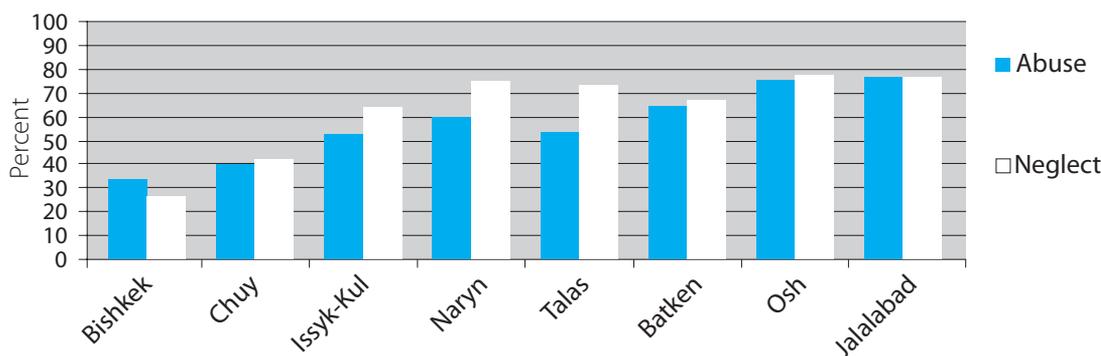


Oblast differences

Finally, analysis was conducted to determine if there are significant differences between Oblasts in children’s experiences with abuse and neglect in the home and family. Significant differences between Oblasts were found. Figure 4.36 reveals there are significant differences across Oblasts in children’s experiences with abuse in the family. In particular, children in Batken (62.7%),

Osh (76.1%), and Jalalabad (77.0%) experienced significantly more abuse than children in the other Oblasts. In regard to neglect, although a significant proportion of children in most Oblasts experience neglect, there were some differences. Children in Bishkek (28.3%) and Chuy (41.5%) were least likely to experience neglect in comparison to children in the other Oblast (see also Appendix Table 25).

Figure 4.36. Abuse (all forms) by Oblast



Further analysis revealed significant differences between Oblasts in four of the separate forms of abuse – harsh verbal, psychological, physical, and sibling abuse. Figure 4.37 reveals that children in children in Jalalabad (72.3%), Osh (68.5%), and Batken (52.9%) were significantly more likely to experience harsh verbal abuse in the home and family than children in the other Oblasts. In comparison, children in Chuy (24.6%) and Bishkek (26.0%) experienced significantly less harsh verbal abuse in the home and family compared to children in the other Oblasts.

In regard to psychological abuse, children in Jalalabad (56.3%) and Osh (54.2%) were significantly more likely to experience psychological abuse in the home and family in comparison to children in the other Oblasts. Children in Bishkek (14.5%) and Chuy (19.6%) experienced significantly less psychological abuse compared to children in the other Oblasts.

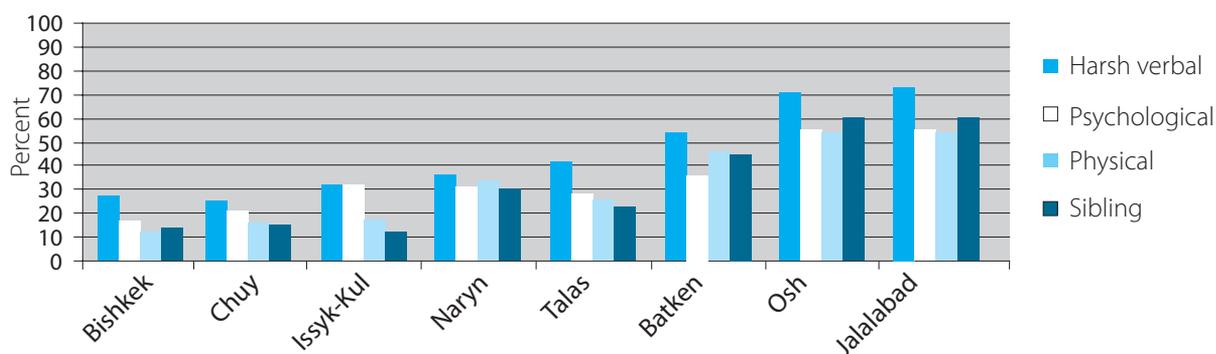
In regard to physical abuse, children in Jalalabad (53.5%), Osh (51.9%), and Batken (44.5%) were significantly more likely to experience physical abuse in the home and family compared to children in the other Oblasts. In comparison, children in

Bishkek (11.2%), Chuy (14.7%), and Issyk-kul (16.9%) experienced significantly less physical abuse.

Finally, in regard to sibling abuse, children in Jalalabad (59.4%), Osh (59.3%), and Batken (44.3%) were significantly more likely to experience sibling

abuse compared to children in the other Oblasts. In comparison, children in Bishkek (13.0%), Chuy (13.3%), and Issyk-kul (12.6%) experienced significantly less sibling abuse (see also Appendix Table 25).

Figure 4.37. Forms of abuse by Oblast



Finally, analysis revealed significant differences between Oblasts in regard to each of the separate forms of neglect – nutrition, clothing, medical, supervision, and work neglect. Figure 4.38 shows the significant differences between Oblasts in terms of nutrition, clothing, and medical neglect. In regard to nutrition neglect, children in Jalalabad (23.9%) were most likely to experience nutrition neglect than children in the other Oblasts. It is important to point out that no children in Bishkek reported nutrition neglect, and fewer than 4.0% of children in Chuy, Issyk-kul, Naryn, Talas, and Batken experienced nutrition neglect.

In regard to clothing neglect, children in Jalalabad (68.7%), Osh (64.2%), and Batken (50.2%) were significantly more likely to experience clothing neglect compared to children in the other Oblasts. In comparison, children in Bishkek (10.8%) and Chuy (16.6%) were significantly less likely to experience clothing neglect.

In regard to medical neglect, children in Jalalabad (28.6%) and Osh (22.5%) were significantly more likely to experience medical neglect than children in the other Oblasts. In comparison, children in Bishkek (5.9%) and Chuy (10.6%) were significantly less likely to experience medical neglect (see also Appendix Table 25).

Figure 4.38. Forms of neglect by Oblast

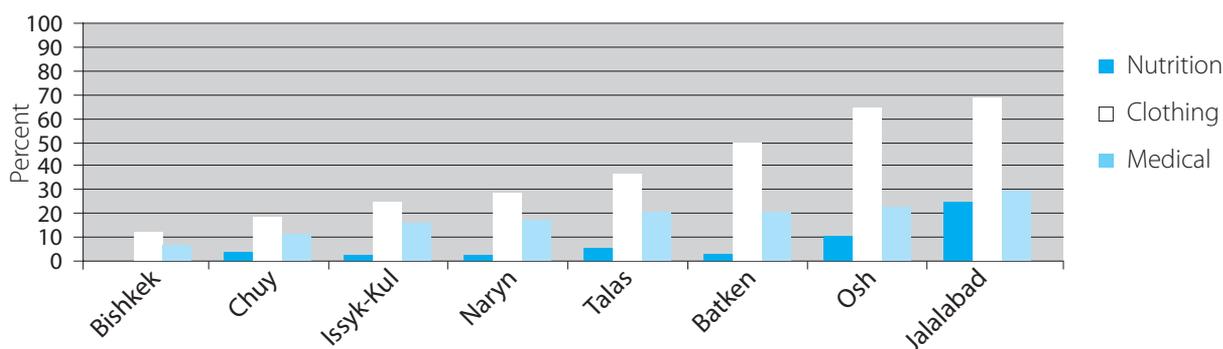


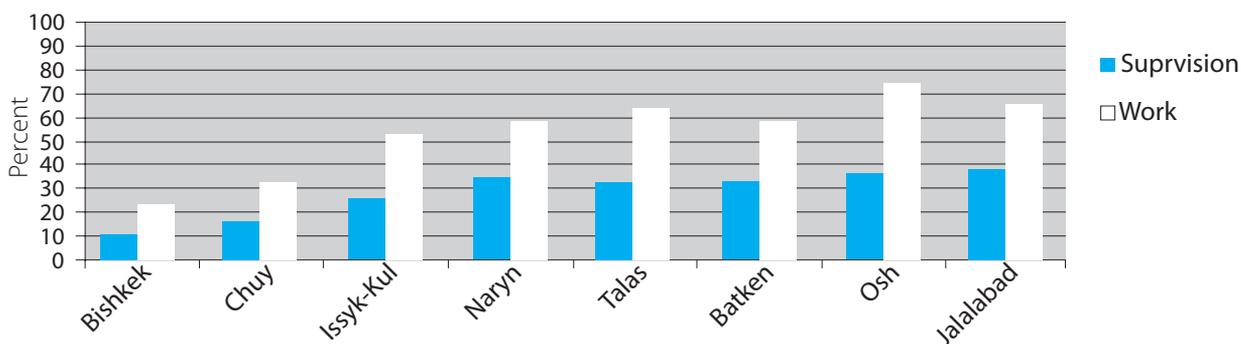
Figure 4.39 reveals the significant differences between Oblasts in terms of supervision and work neglect. In regard to supervision neglect, children in Jalalabad (37.2%), Osh (34.5%), Naryn (33.0%),

Batken (31.8%), and Talas (30.6%) were significantly more likely to experience adult/parental supervision neglect than children in Chuy (14.3%) and Bishkek (9.7%).

In regard to work neglect, children in Osh (74.0%), Jalalabad (63.5%), and Talas (62.2%) were most likely to report experiencing work neglect in comparison to children in the other Oblasts.

Whereas, children in Bishkek (21.9%) and Osh (31.3%) were least likely to experience work neglect (see also Appendix Table 25).

Figure 4.39. Forms of neglect by Oblast



Impact of witnessing family violence

It is well documented that children witness family violence between their parents, parents and siblings, and other family members on a frequent basis. Even if children don't witness the violence they are aware when it occurs in the home and family setting because they hear the yelling and arguments, and see the physical injuries and damage to property. Children are often seriously affected by witnessing violence between other family members. In fact, evidence from a range of international studies shows that witnessing family violence over a long period of time can severely affect a child's physical and emotional well-being, personal development, and social interacts both in childhood and adulthood. Some children may even exhibit the same behavioral and psychological disturbances as those who are directly exposed to the violence (40, 41, 42).

Children that grow up in violent families, including violence between parents and other family members, are at increased risk of physical violence and other forms of abuse and neglect. They are also at increased risk of going on to be future perpetrators or victims of violence (43).

Because families serve as an important institution of socialization for children, children that grow up in homes and families with violence and abuse are more likely to learn powerful lessons about aggression in interpersonal relationships which they carry with them into their future. Child development specialists suggest that hostile styles of behavior, emotional regulation, and the capacity for personal conflict resolution are shaped by parent-child and inter-parental relationships (44).

Table 4.12 reveals that of the 2,132 children surveyed, 21.8% witnessed family violence. For instance, 13.7% of children saw their parents or other family members hit, beat or physical hurt their brothers or sisters. In addition, 6.5% of children saw one of their parents hit or beat by another parent or family member, and 7.3% saw one of their family members attack another family member on purpose with a stick, gun, knife or other weapon. It is important to note that 11.5% of children reported witnessing such family violence on one or more occasions in the past month.

Further analysis was conducted to examine the relationship between children witnessing family violence and their experiences with abuse and neglect. Figure 4.40 reveals that children who witness family violence are significantly more likely to experience abuse (82.6%) and neglect (81.7%) than children who did not witness family violence (54.2% and 59.6% respectively; see also Appendix Table 26).

More specifically, Figure 4.41 reveals that children who witness family violence are significantly more likely to experience each of the separate forms of abuse. In particular, children who witness family violence are significantly more likely to experience harsh verbal abuse (75.9%) and psychological abuse (62.6%) than children who do not witness family violence (43.9% and 32.13% respectively). Children who witness family violence are also significantly more likely to experience physical abuse (68.0%) than children who do not witness family violence (27.9%).

Table 4.12. Family violence witnessed by children age 10 to 17 years

	Ever		Current (past month)		Frequency during the past month					
					1-2 times		Several times (3-5 times)		Many times (> 5 times)	
	n	%	n	%	N	%	n	%	n	%
Witness family violence	465	21.8	246	11.5						
Saw your parents or other family members hit, beat or physically hurt your brothers or sisters	293	13.7	203	9.5	185	8.7	13	.6	5	.2
Saw one of your parents hit or beat by another parent or family member	138	6.5	65	3.0	49	2.3	14	.7	2	.1
Saw one of your family members attack another family member on purpose with a stick, gun, knife or other weapon that would hurt	156	7.3	22	1.0	14	.7	5	.2	3	.1

Figure 4.41 also reveals that children who witness family violence (3.0%) are even significantly more likely to experience sexual abuse than children who do not witness family violence (1.1%). Children who witness family violence (70.5%) are also significantly more likely to experience sibling violence than children who do not witness family violence (30.3%; see also Appendix Table 26).

Finally, Figure 4.42 reveals that children who witness family violence are significantly more likely to experience each of the separate forms of neglect. In particular, children who witness family violence are significantly more likely to experience nutrition

Figure 4.40. Abuse and Neglect (all forms) by witnessing family violence

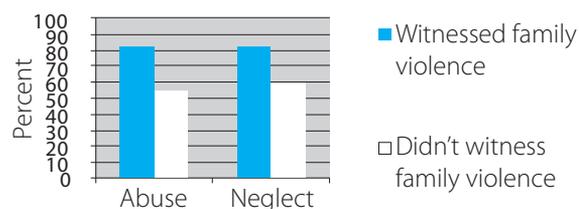
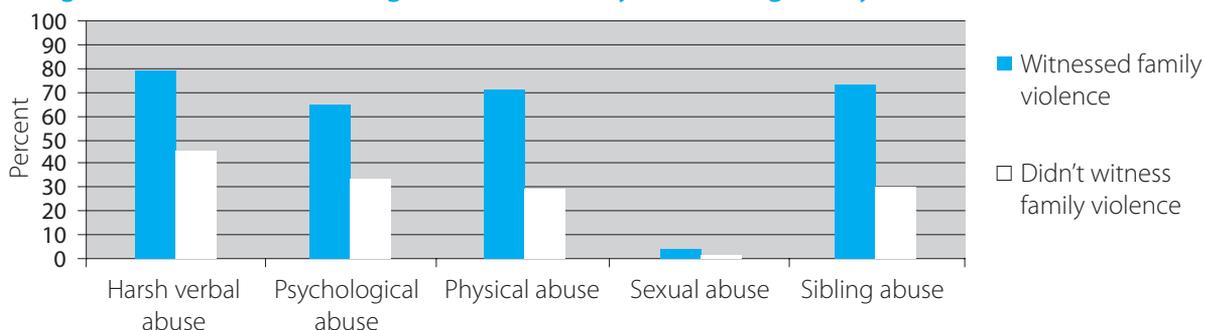


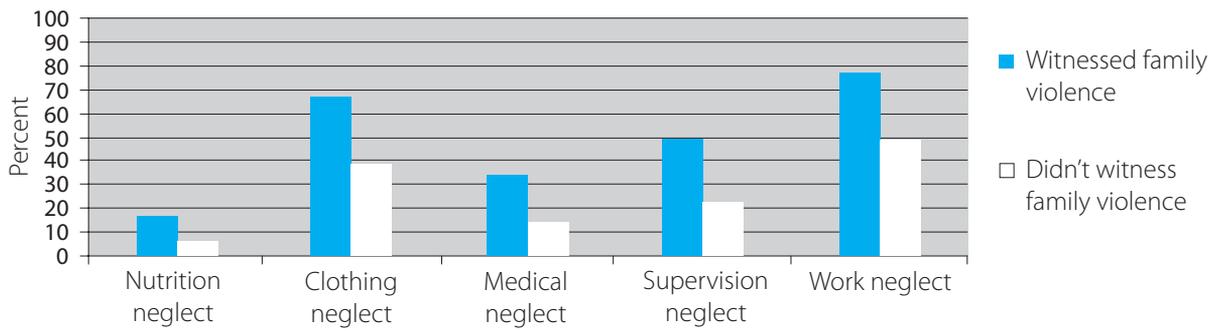
Figure 4.41. Abuse and Neglect (all forms) by witnessing family violence



neglect (15.7%) and clothing neglect (66.0%) than children who do not witness family violence (5.6% and 38.8% respectively). Children who witness family violence (34.0%) are also significantly more likely to experience medical neglect than children who do not witness family violence (14.4%). Finally, children

who witness family violence are significantly more likely to experience supervision neglect (48.6%) and work neglect (75.9%) compared to children who do not witness family violence (22.3% and 48.4% respectively; see also Appendix Table 26).

Figure 4.42. Abuse and Neglect (all forms) by witnessing family violence



Reasons parents/adult family members beat children

In a close-ended question, children were asked in which situations their parents or adult family members beat them. Table 4.13 reveals that children were beat by their parents or adult family members for a variety of reasons. Most children reported they were beat because they didn't obey (54.3%) or came home late (42.1%). A significant proportion of children also reported they were beat because they didn't do/complete their household chores (28.7%), didn't do their homework (25.8%), or received a failing grade in school (22.9%). In addition, some children were beat because they broke something (14.6%), lost money (14.9%), lost their house key (6.6%), or tore/damaged their clothes or shoes (6.5%).

There were few gender differences in the situations for a child being beat by parents or adult family members – male and female children were beat for similar reasons. The only significant gender difference to emerge was that males (44.7%) were significantly more likely to be beat for coming home late than females (39.9%; see also Appendix Table 27).

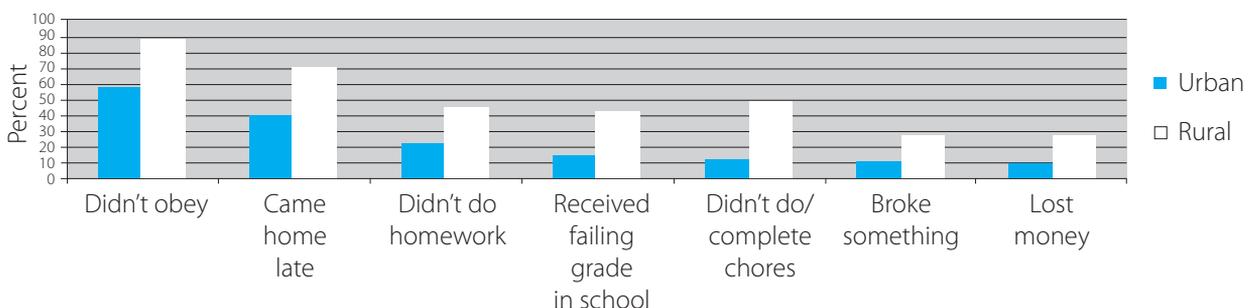
There were, however, numerous significant differences between urban and rural areas;

however, Figure 4.43 reveals that children in rural areas were significantly more likely than children in urban areas to be beat by parents or adult family members for not obeying, coming home late, not doing their homework, receiving a failing grade in school, not doing/completing their household chores, breaking something, and losing money (see also Appendix Table 28)

Table 4.13. Reasons parents/adult family members beat children

Reasons	N=2,132	
	n	%
Didn't obey	1,157	54.3
Came home late	898	42.1
Didn't do homework	551	25.8
Received failing grade in school	448	22.9
Didn't do/complete chores	611	28.7
Broke something	312	14.6
Lost money	317	14.9
Lost house key	140	6.6
Tore/damaged clothes or shoes	139	6.5
Seen talking to a boy that was not a relative	22	1.0
When your parents have troubles or are in a bad mood	50	2.3
Other	101	4.7

Figure 4.43. Reasons parents/adult family members beat children by urban vs. rural



Justifications for hitting/beating a child

In a close-ended question, children were asked what they perceived as the justification for their parents/adult family members hitting/beating them. Table 4.14 reveals that 70.4% of children reported they were hit/beat because their parents/adult family members wanted them to grow up to be a good person. In addition, 42.2% of children reported their parents/adult family members hit/beat them because they love them, and 40.1% reported it was because their parents/adult family members worry about them. These findings demonstrate that abused children learn that people who are close, precisely those with whom the child has the most intimate relationships and upon whom the child most depends, can at times be harmful. Early victimization sets up expectations that social relationships need not be positively reinforcing and that people can behave aggressively and violently with each other, particularly in the home and family setting. Being the victim of physical abuse in the family provides a child with models of familial and social behavior that are generally unacceptable and harmful. Abusive and violent behavior learned within the context of abusive family interactions, if incorporated into a child's behavioral repertoire are likely to lead to impaired relationship with other people and family (45).

It is interesting that very small proportion of children reported the justification for their parents/family members hitting/beating them was because of disobedience or bad behaviors. In particular, only 21.9% of children reported they were hit/beat because they did not obey or listen, 9.0% reported they did not behave, 9.9% had teachers or neighbors complained about them, 7.7% had neighbors complain about them, and only 1.9% reported they were hit/beat because they were a bad person).

Child runaways

Children who are victims of child abuse and neglect are typically at increased risk of running away from home (46). Children were asked if they ever ran away from home, how many times they ran away, and their reasons for running away. Table 4.15 reveals that of the 2,132 children surveyed, 3.8% ran away from home. Of those 80 children who ran away from home, 65.0% ran away one time, 31.3% ran away two times, and 3.8% ran away three times.

Table 4.14. Reasons parents/adult family member hit/beat children

	N=2,133	
	n	%
They want me to grown up to be a good person	1,501	70.4
They worry about me	856	40.1
They love me	900	42.2
Do not obey or listen	468	21.9
Do not behave myself	192	9.0
Am a bad person	40	1.9
Teachers complain about me	211	9.9
Neighbors complain about me	164	7.7
Other	222	10.4

In a close-ended question children who ran away from home were asked to identify why they ran away. Table 4.15 reveals that among the 80 children who ran away from home, 37.5% reported they ran away because they broke something in the home, 30.0% said they ran away because they were beaten at home, and 30.0% said it was because their family put them down. In addition, 18.8% of children reported they ran away because they didn't behave themselves at school and a teacher asked their parents to come to school, and 17.5% said it was because they received a failing grade in school. Finally, 8.8% of children said they ran away because their family doesn't love them.

Further analysis was conducted to understand the relationship between child abuse and neglect and running away from home. Table 4.16 reveals that among the 80 children who ran away from home, 88.6% were abused and 92.5% were neglected in the home and family. In regard to each of the separate forms of abuse, 82.5% experienced harsh verbal abuse, 81.0% experienced physical abuse, 79.7% experienced sibling abuse, and 73.8% experience psychological abuse.

In terms of neglect, 87.5% of runaway children experienced work neglect, 81.3% experienced clothing neglect, 61.3% experienced medical neglect, 58.8% experienced supervision neglect, and 36.3% experienced nutrition neglect.

Table 4.15. Runaway from home		
	N=2,132	
	n	%
Ran away from home	80	3.8
Number times ran away from home		
1 time	52	65.0
2 times	25	31.3
3 times	3	3.8
Reasons for running away from home		
Beaten at home	24	30.0
Family puts me down	24	30.0
Family doesn't love me	7	8.8
Broke something in the home	30	37.5
Friends asked me to run away with them	10	12.5
Didn't behave myself at school and a teacher asked my parents to come to school	15	18.8
Got a failing grade in school	1	1.3
Father or mother regularly drinks too much alcohol	1	1.3
Father or mother regularly uses drugs	4	5.0
Someone in my family tried to or had sexual relations with me		
I got in trouble with the police		
Other		

Challenges completing the survey

One of the final questions asked of children was whether it was difficult for them to be completely sincere or honest about their experiences with abuse and neglect in the home and the family setting. It is important to note that 10.5% of children reported they had a difficult time being honest or sincere in their responses. This finding can be interpreted to mean that nearly 10.0% to 11.0% of children may have underreported their experiences with abuse and/or neglect in the home and family.

Table 4.16. Abuse and neglect in background of runaways		
	N=80	
	n	%
Abuse (all forms)	70	88.6
Harsh verbal abuse	66	82.5
Psychological abuse	59	73.8
Physical abuse	64	81.0
Sexual abuse	0	0.0
Sibling abuse	63	79.7
Neglect (all forms)	74	92.5
Neglect – nutrition	29	36.3
Neglect – clothing	65	81.3
Neglect – medical	49	61.3
Neglect – supervision	47	58.8
Neglect – work	70	87.5
Witness family violence	44	50.0

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Chapter 5: Parents' Self-Report Abuse and Neglect of Children

This chapter contains information on the demographics of parents who were sampled as part of the survey on child abuse and neglect, and findings related to parents' use of abuse and neglect with their children.

Parent's demographics

Table 5.1 reveals the demographic characteristics of the sample of 155 parents from 18 research sites in each of the seven Oblasts (see Chapter 3 for an explanation of the sample design). Each of the research sites was categorized as either urban or rural. Table 5.1 shows that 54.2% of parents surveyed live in urban areas, and 45.8% live in rural areas.

Among the 155 parents surveyed, 90.3% were female/mothers and 9.7% male/fathers. They ranged in age from 32 to 62 years, and the average age was 45.2 years¹³. In regard to level of education, the majority of parents had some education. In particular, 32.9% of parents had a secondary education, 18.1% had a vocational education, and 43.2% had a higher education. It is important to note that only 1.9% of parents reported having an incomplete secondary education or only a primary education.

In regard to ethnic status, 81.3% of surveyed parents were Kyrgyz, 5.8% Uzbek, 7.7% Russian, and 5.2% other.

Family size and living arrangements

In regard to family size and living arrangements, Table 5.2 reveals that 83.9% of parents reported they live with their husband (their children live with both a mother and father), and 15.5% of parents reported they were a single-parent to their child (their children live in a single-parent household).

Table 5.1. Parent's demographics

	N=155	
	n	%
Oblast		
Bishkek (city)	30	19.4
Chuy	18	11.6
Issyk-kul	18	11.6
Naryn	16	10.3
Talas	19	12.3
Batken	16	10.3
Osh (Oblast and city)	24	15.5
Jalalabad	14	9.0
Residence		
Urban	84	54.2
Rural	71	45.8
Gender		
Female	140	90.3
Male	15	9.7
Age Group		
30-39 years	47	30.3
40-49 years	78	50.3
50-59 years	22	14.2
60-69 years	3	1.9
Level of education		
Primary education	2	1.3
Incomplete secondary educ.	1	.6
Secondary education	51	32.9
Vocational education	28	18.1
Incomplete higher education	6	3.9
Higher education	67	43.2
Ethnic Status		
Kyrgyz	126	81.3
Uzbek	9	5.8
Russian	12	7.7
Other	8	5.2

¹³ For purposes of analysis, age groups were created.

Parents were also asked how many children they have, and how many children were currently living with them in their home. Table 5.2 reveals that 20.0% of parents reported having one child, 28.4% had two children, 25.2% had three, 15.5% had four, 7.7% had five, and 3.2% had six or more children. In regard to how many children were living in the home with parents, 20.0% reported they lived with only one of their children, 28.4% lived with two children, 25.2% with three children, 15.5% with four children, 7.7% with five children, and 3.2% of parents lived with six or more of their children.

Table 5.2. Family and living arrangements

	N=155	
	n	%
Parents in the home		
Both mother and father	130	83.9
Single-parent	24	15.5
Other	1	.6
Number of children in the home		
One	31	20.0
Two	44	28.4
Three	39	25.2
Four	24	15.5
Five	12	7.7
Six or more	5	3.2

Parents' use of positive discipline

Before examining parent's abuse and neglect of their children, it is important to first examine their use of positive methods of discipline. Table 5.3 reveals the various forms of positive disciplines that were measured in the survey. In all, 92.9% reported using positive methods of discipline on their children for doing something wrong, disobeying, or making them angry (ever), and 87.1% of parents reported using positive methods of discipline in the past month.

More specifically, Table 5.3 reveals 85.8% of parents reported they explained to their children why something was wrong, 87.7% reported they told their children to stop doing something, and 62.6% reported they took away privileges (e.g., TV, computer, games) or grounded their children (did not allow them to go outside of the home or play with friends). It is important to point out that a significant proportion of parents reported using each of these methods of positive discipline in the past month (current). The most common method of positive discipline used in the past month was to tell their children to stop doing something (81.9%). In terms of frequency, parents frequently told their children to stop doing something – 43.9% of parents used it several times (3-5 times) and 37.4% used it many times (more than 5 times). Parents used the other methods – taking the time to explain to their children why something was wrong or taking away their privileges and grounding them – much less often.

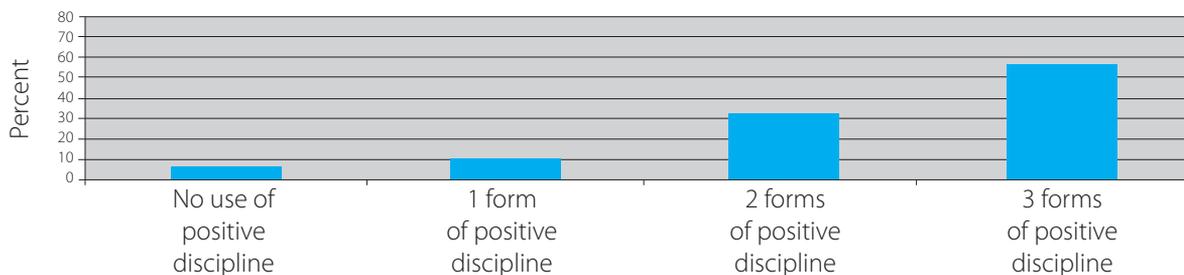
Table 5.3. Positive discipline used by parents (N=155)

	Ever		Current (past month)		Frequency during the past month					
					1-2 times		Several times (3-5 times)		Many times (> 5 times)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Positive discipline (total)	144	92.9	135	87.1						
Explained to child why something was wrong	133	85.8	80	51.6	40	25.8	26	16.8	14	9.0
Told child to stop doing something	136	87.7	127	81.9	1	.6	68	43.9	58	37.4
Took away privileges (TV, computer, games) or grounded child (did not allow them to go outside of the home or play with friends).	97	62.6	81	52.3	43	27.7	27	17.4	11	7.1

It is important to understand that parents typically use multiple forms of positive discipline with their children. Figure 5.1 reveals the percentage of parents who reported using one or more of the three forms of positive discipline identified in Table 5.3. In all, only 4.5% of parents reported

using no methods of positive discipline, while 92.9% of parents used positive discipline. More specifically, only 7.7% of parents used only one form of positive discipline, 30.3% used two forms, and 54.8% used all three forms of positive discipline identified in Table 5.3 (see also Appendix Table 29).

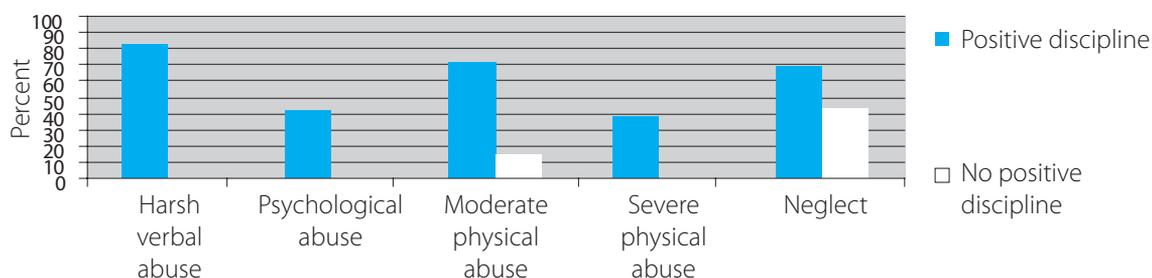
Figure 5.1. Multiple forms of positive discipline used by parents



The assumption may be that because parents use positive discipline to discipline their children that they don't use abusive methods of discipline on their children. However, Figure 5.2 shows that the majority of parents who use positive discipline to correct their children's behavior also use harsh verbal abuse (82.6%), psychological abuse (42.4%), moderate physical abuse (71.1%), and severe physical abuse (38.0%) to discipline their child.

In addition, they were significantly more likely to neglect their children (69.4%). It appears that positive discipline is followed by various forms of harsh verbal abuse, psychological abuse, and physical abuse or that they are they used simultaneously in the effort to discipline, control, and correct the behavior of their children (see also Appendix Table 30).

Figure 5.2. Relationship between psychological abuse and other types of abuse and neglect



Child abuse and neglect

Table 5.4 reveals that of the 155 parents surveyed, 89.0% reported abusing and/or neglecting their children; only 9.0% of parent did not use any abuse or neglect against their children. More specifically, Table 5.4 reveals that 82.6% of parents reported using at least one type of abuse against their children. In particular, 78.1% of parents used harsh verbal abuse to discipline and correct their children's behavior, 39.4% used psychological

abuse, and 67.7% used physical abuse. In regard to physical abuse, 34.8% used severe forms of physical abuse and 66.5% used moderate forms of physical abuse to discipline their children. Finally, 67.1% of parents reported neglecting their children.

Table 5.4. Percentage of parents who abuse and neglect their children

	N=155	
	n	%
Abuse (all forms)	128	82.6
Harsh verbal abuse	121	78.1
Psychological abuse	61	39.4
Physical abuse	105	67.7
Severe physical abuse	54	34.8
Moderate physical abuse	103	66.5
Neglect (all forms)	104	67.1
Abuse and neglect (totals)	138	89.0

Note: Only 9.0% of parents did not use any abuse or neglect against their children (missing data, n= 3, 1.9%).

Harsh verbal abuse

Table 5.5 reveals the various forms of harsh verbal abuse that were measured in the survey. In all, 78.1% of parents reported ever using harsh verbal abuse to discipline their children for doing something wrong, disobeying, or making them angry (ever).

In addition, 65.2% of parents used harsh verbal abuse on their children in the past month (for a definition of harsh verbal abuse see Chapter 2). More specifically, 74.8% of parents reported shouting, yelling or screaming at their children for doing something wrong, disobeying or making them angry; moreover, 60.0% reported using harsh verbal abuse on their children in this way in the past month. In terms of frequency, 31.0% of parents reported they shouted, yelled or screamed at their children one or two times in the past month, 18.1% used this form of harsh verbal abuse several times, and 11.0% did this many times in the past month.

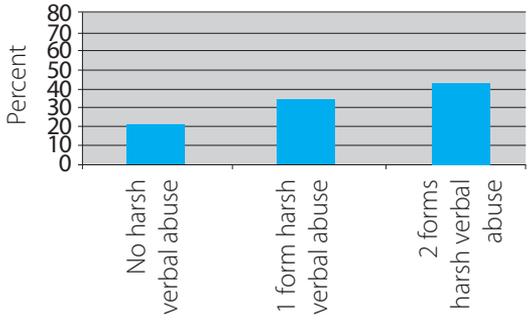
Table 5.5 also reveals that 46.5% of parents reported swearing at or cursing their children and calling their children names (idiot, stupid, bastard); and 41.3% reported using this form of harsh verbal abuse on their children in this way in the past month. In terms of frequency, 22.6% of parents swore at or cursed their children and called them names one or two times in the past month, 11.6% used this form of harsh verbal abuse several times (3 to 5 times), and 7.1% did this many times (more than 5 times) in the past month.

Table 5.5. Harsh verbal abuse by parents (N=155)

	Ever		Current (past month)		Frequency during the past month					
					1-2 times		Several times (3-5 times)		Many times (> 5 times)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Harsh verbal abuse (total)	121	78.1	101	65.2						
Shouted, yelled or screamed at child	116	74.8	93	60.0	48	31.0	28	18.1	17	11.0
Swore or cursed children and called him/her names (idiot, stupid, bastard)	72	46.5	64	41.3	35	22.6	18	11.6	11	7.1

Parents typically don't use only one form of harsh verbal abuse on their children, rather they use multiple forms. Figure 5.3 reveals the percentage of parents who reported using one or more of the two forms of harsh verbal abuse identified in Table 5.5. In all, 78.1% of parents reported using harsh verbal abuse to discipline their children; only 21.9% of parent did not use any of the forms of harsh verbal discipline measured in the survey. However, these parents may have used other forms of harsh verbal

Figure 5.3. Multiple forms of harsh verbal abuse used by parents



abuse that were not measured in the survey (see also Appendix Table 31).

Figure 5.3 also reveals that of the 155 parents surveyed, 34.8% used only one form of harsh verbal abuse in Table 5.5, and 43.2% used the two forms of harsh verbal abuse. The long-term effects of harsh verbal abuse in its multiple forms are often severe for abused children, affecting their self-image, self-esteem and sense of self-worth, which in turn can negatively affect their social, emotional, and intellectual development (refer to Chapter 3 for an explanation of the effects of harsh verbal abuse on children).

Psychological abuse

Little is known about the extent of psychological abuse used by parents except that it frequently accompanies other types of abuse – there is often a strong relationship between psychological abuse and harsh verbal abuse, and with physical abuse in violent households (refer to Chapters 2 and 3 for a concise definition of psychological abuse).

Table 5.6 reveals that various forms of psychological abuse that were measured in the survey and used by parents to discipline and correct their children's behavior. In all, 39.4% of parents reported ever using psychological abuse against their children (ever), and 31.0% reported using psychological abuse against their children in the past month (current).

The most common form of psychological abuse used by parents was to threaten to physically harm their children. In particular, of the 155 parents surveyed, 34.2% reported threatening to hit, beat or kick their children for doing something wrong, disobeying, or making them angry. Moreover, 26.5% of parents threatened to hit, beat or kick their children within the past month. In terms of frequency, 16.8% of parents threatened to physically harm their child one or two times in the past month, 3.9% used this form of psychological abuse several times, and 5.8% used it many times in the past month.

Another 5.2% of parents threatened to physically harm their children with a gun, knife, stick, belt or other weapon for doing something wrong, disobeying, or making them angry; and 3.2% of parents reported threatening their children with a weapon one or more times in the past month.

It is important to note that 11.0% of parents also reported telling their children they didn't want them anymore and threatened to kick them out of the house or send them away, and 7.7% of parents actually locked their children out of the home on one or more occasions. Parents even reported using both of these forms of psychological abuse in the past month, and 3.2% of parents reported that many times (more than 5 times) in the past month they told their children they didn't want them anymore and threatened to kick them out of the house.

Parents typically don't use only one form of psychological abuse on their children, but use

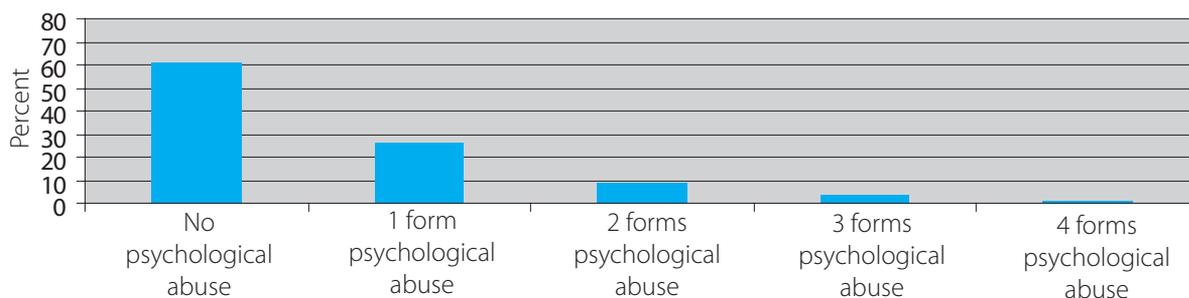
Table 5.6. Psychological abuse by parents (N=155)

	Ever		Current (past month)		Frequency during the past month					
					1-2 times		Several times (3-5 times)		Many times (> 5 times)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Psychological abuse	61	39.4	48	31.0						
Told child I didn't want him/her anymore and threatened to kick him/her out of the house or send him/her away	17	11.0	10	6.5	5	3.2	0	0.0	5	3.2
Locked child out of the home	12	7.7	7	4.5	5	3.2	1	.6	1	.6
Threatened to hit, beat or kick my child	53	34.2	41	26.5	26	16.8	6	3.9	9	5.8
Threatened child with a gun, knife, stick, belt or other weapon	8	5.2	5	3.2	3	1.9	1	.6	1	.6

multiple forms of psychological abuse. Figure 5.4 reveals the percentage of parents who reported using one or more of the four forms of psychological abuse identified in Table 5.6. In all, 39.4% of parents reported using psychological abuse, and 60.6% of parents did not use any of the forms of psychological abuse measured in the survey. However, these parents may have used other forms of psychological abuse that were not measured in the survey.

Figure 5.4 reveals that of the 155 parents surveyed, 26.5% used only one form of psychological abuse, 8.4% used two forms of psychological abuse, 3.2% used three forms, and 1.3% used four forms of the forms of psychological abuse measured in the survey (see also Appendix Table 32).

Figure 5.4. Multiple forms of psychological abuse by parents



Physical abuse

Physical abuse of children, often referred to as corporal punishment, is often harmful to children because it can lead to later anti-social behavior. While parents often use corporal punishment in an attempt to enforce compliance with desired behavior among their children, existing research has found that corporal punishment is likely to have an opposite and undesirable effect. Rather than reducing inappropriate behaviors among children, the use of corporal punishment or physical abuse teaches children that the use of physical aggression is normal and an appropriate method to solve conflicts (1, 2, 3).

Table 5.7 reveals the various forms of physical abuse that were measured in the survey. In all, 67.7% of parents used one or more of the forms of physical abuse measured in the survey to discipline their children (ever), and 56.8% of parents used physical abuse against children in the past month (current). The various forms of physical abuse measured in the survey were broken down into two categories: severe physical abuse and moderate physical abuse¹⁴.

In regard to moderate physical abuse, 66.5% of parents used moderate physical abuse to discipline their children (ever), and 56.1% of parents used moderate physical abuse in the past month (current). In particular, 58.1% of parents reported slapping their

child with their hand on the buttocks, back, leg, or arm for doing something wrong, disobeying or making them angry; and 47.1% of parents slapped their child with their hand in this manner in the past month. In terms of frequency, 29.0% of parents reported slapping their child with their hand on the buttocks, back, leg or arm one or two times in the past month, 12.9% slapped their child in this manner several times (3 to 5 times) and 5.2% slapped their child many times (more than 5 times in the past month).

In addition, 24.5% of parents reported slapping their child on the face or head to discipline and correct their behavior (ever), and 15.5% of parents slapped their child on the face or head in the past month (current). In terms of frequency, 14.8% of parents slapped their child on the face or the head one or two times in the past month.

A significant proportion of parents (40.6%) also reported shaking their child (ever), and 27.1% of parents shook their child in the past month (current). The risks of shaking a child can be quite severe depending upon the age of the child. Internationally, shaken baby syndrome is the medical term used to describe the injuries resulting from shaking an infant or young child. Shaken baby syndrome occurs when a child is shaken violently as part of an adult or caregiver's

¹⁴ The breakdown of physical abuse into severe and moderate physical abuse was in keeping with such categorizations identified in the World Health Organization's World Report on Violence and Health.

pattern of abuse or because an adult or caregiver momentarily succumbs to the frustration of having to respond to a crying baby or young child. Violent shaking is especially dangerous to infants and young children because their neck muscles are not fully developed and their brain tissue is exceptionally fragile. Their small size further adds to their risk of injury (4). According to the World Health Organization, about one-third of severely shaken infants die and the majority of children that survive shaking suffer long-term health problems, such as mental retardation, cerebral palsy, or blindness (5).

In terms of frequency of parents shaking their children, it is significant to note that 19.4% of parents reported shaking their child one or two times in the past month, 5.8% of parents shook their child several times (3 to 5 times), and 1.9% shook their child many times (more than 5 times) in the past month. The frequency by which parents shake their child is concerning particularly if the child is an infant or young child.

It is also important to note that 29.7% of parents reported pinching their child, and 9.0% twisted their child's ear to discipline and correct their behavior.

In regard to severe physical abuse, 34.8% of parents used severe physical abuse to discipline and correct their children's behavior (ever), and 19.4% used severe physical abuse in the past month (current). More specifically, 31.6% of parents reported hitting their child with something like a belt, hairbrush, stick or some other hard item for doing something wrong, disobeying, or making them angry (ever), and 16.1% of parents reported hitting their child with a hard object in the past month (current). In terms of frequency, 13.5% of parents reported they physically abused their child with a hard object one or two times in the past month, and 2.5% physically abused their child in this manner 3 or more times in the past month.

Table 5.7. Physical abuse by parents (N=155)

	Ever		Current (past month)		Frequency during the past month					
					1-2 times		Several times (3-5 times)		Many times (> 5 times)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Physical abuse (all forms)	105	67.7	88	56.8						
Severe physical abuse	54	34.8	30	19.4						
Hit child with something like a belt, hairbrush, stick or some other hard object	49	31.6	25	16.1	21	13.5	3	1.9	1	.6
Beat child by hitting him/her over and over as hard as I could	17	11.0	11	7.1	5	3.2	4	2.6	2	1.3
Threw or knocked child down	7	4.5	5	3.2	2	1.3	1	.6	2	1.3
Burnt child with cigarettes or other hot items	2	1.3	1	.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	.6
Locked child in a small place, tied him/her up, or chained him/her to something	2	1.3	1	.6	1	.6	0	0.0	0	0.0
Moderate physical abuse	103	66.5	87	56.1						
Shook child	63	40.6	42	27.1	30	19.4	9	5.8	3	1.9
Slapped child with hand on the buttocks, back, leg or arm	90	58.1	73	47.1	45	29.0	20	12.9	8	5.2
Slapped child on the face or head	38	24.5	24	15.5	23	14.8	0	0.0	1	.6
Twisted child's ear	14	9.0	11	7.1	3	1.9	9	5.8	2	1.3
Pinched child	46	29.7	31	20.0	18	11.6	11	7.1	2	1.3

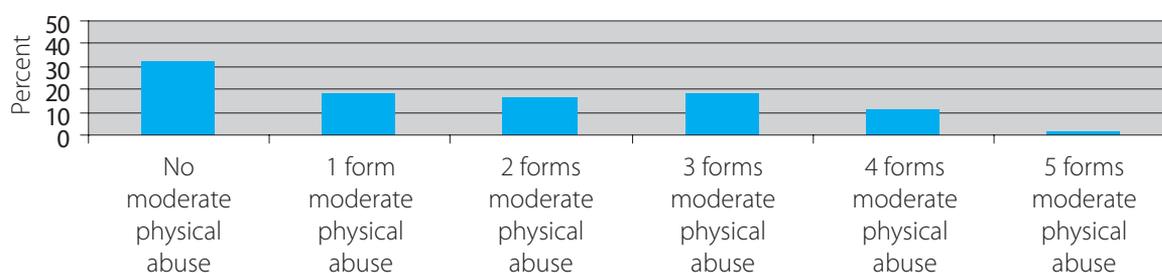
In addition, 11.0% of parents reported they beat their child by hitting him/her over and over as hard as they could (ever), and 7.1% of parents reported seriously beating their child in the past month (current). In terms of frequency, 3.2% of parents reported hitting their child over and over as hard as they can one or two times in the past month, 2.6% did so several times (3 to 5 times), and 1.3% do so many times (more than 5 times) in the past month.

Although the proportions are small, it is important to point out that 4.5% of parents reported throwing or knocking their child down, 1.3% burnt their child with cigarettes or other hot items, and 1.3% locked their child in a small place, tied their child up, or chained their child to something to discipline them.

Parents do not use just one form of physical abuse to discipline and correct their children's behavior,

but often use multiple forms of severe and/or moderate physical abuse. In regard to moderate physical abuse, Figure 5.5 reveals that only 32.3% of parents did not use any of the forms of moderate physical abuse measured in the survey; whereas, 66.5% of parents used one or more of the forms of moderate physical abuse to discipline and correct their children's behavior. Among those parents who used moderate physical abuse, 18.7% used one form of moderate physical abuse, 16.8% used two forms, 18.1% used three forms, 11.0% used four forms, and 1.9% used all five forms of moderate physical abuse in Table 5.7 (see also Appendix Table 33).

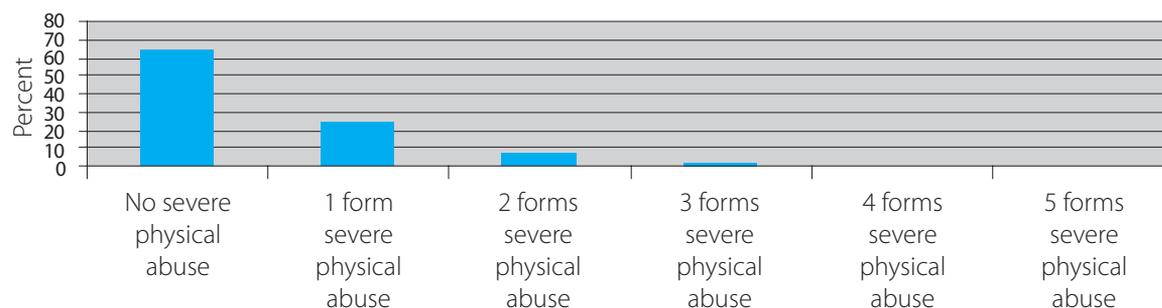
Figure 5.5. Multiple forms of moderate physical abuse by parents



In regard to severe physical abuse, Figure 5.6 reveals that 63.9% of parents did not use severe physical abuse against their child; however, 34.8% did. Among those parents that did, 25.2% used one form of severe physical abuse to discipline their children, 6.5% used two forms, 1.9% used three forms, and 1.2% used four

or more of the forms of severe physical abuse in Table 5.7. Remember, parents may use other forms of severe physical abuse that were not measured in the survey (see also Appendix Table 34).

Figure 5.6. Multiple forms of severe physical abuse by parents



It is also important to reveal the percentage of parents that used both moderate and severe physical abuse to discipline and correct their children's behavior. Figure 5.7 reveals that of the parents that used physical abuse to discipline and correct their

children's behavior, 32.9% used both moderate and physical abuse, whereas 34.8% used only moderate or physical abuse (see also Appendix Table 35).

Neglect

Finally, the survey attempted to measure parents' neglect and inability to care for their children (for a concise definition see Chapters 2 and 3). Table 5.8 reveals that 67.1% of parents neglected their children, and 52.3% of parents neglected their children in the past month. In particular, a significant proportion of parents reported being so caught up in their own problems that they were not able to care for their children (42.6%) and/or that they felt so bad or hurt that they had problems caring for their child (34.8%). Moreover, many parents reported they were unable to care for their children in the past month (current) because of their own problems (31.0%) or because they felt so bad or hurt (25.2%).

In addition, 39.4% of parents said they had to leave their child home alone, even though they knew an adult should be there to supervise them. This is a form of supervision neglect, and 27.7%

of parents reported they left their child home alone without adult supervision in the past month on one or more occasions. In terms of frequency, 14.8% of children said they left their children home alone without adult/parental supervision one or two times in the past month, 7.1% did this several times (3 to 5 times), and 5.8% left their children unsupervised many times (more than 5 times) in the past month.

Figure 5.7. Parents use of both moderate and severe physical abuse

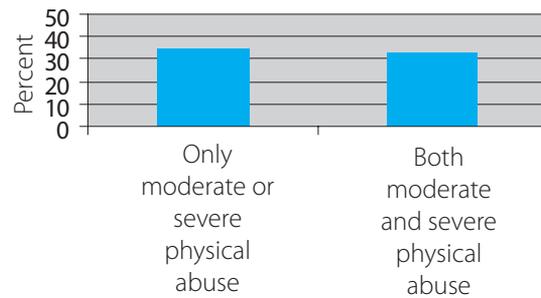


Table 5.8. Neglect by parents (N=155)

	Ever		Current (past month)		Frequency during the past month					
					1-2 times		Several times (3-5 times)		Many times (> 5 times)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Neglect	104	67.1	81	52.3						
I had to leave child home alone, even though I knew an adult should be there to supervise him/her	61	39.4	43	27.7	23	14.8	11	7.1	9	5.8
I was not able to make sure my children get the food he/she needed	23	14.8	17	11.0	8	5.2	5	3.2	4	2.6
I was not able to take my sick or injured child to a doctor, hospital, or clinic when he/she needed	33	21.3	24	15.5	22	14.2	2	1.3	0	0.0
I was so caught up in my own problems that I was not able to care for my child	66	42.6	48	31.0	27	17.4	19	12.3	2	1.3
I felt so bad or hurt that I had problems taking care of my child	54	34.8	39	25.2	25	16.1	13	8.4	1	.6
I was so drunk that I had a problem taking care of my child	5	3.2	3	1.9	2	1.3	0	0.0	1	.6

A significant proportion of parents also reported being unable to provide for or neglecting their children's medical needs. In particular, 21.3% of parents said they were not able to take their sick or injured child

to a doctor, hospital or clinic when needed. Whether this was due to a lack of economic resources, time, or medical facilities in their community is unknown. In terms of frequency, 14.2% of parents reported this happened one

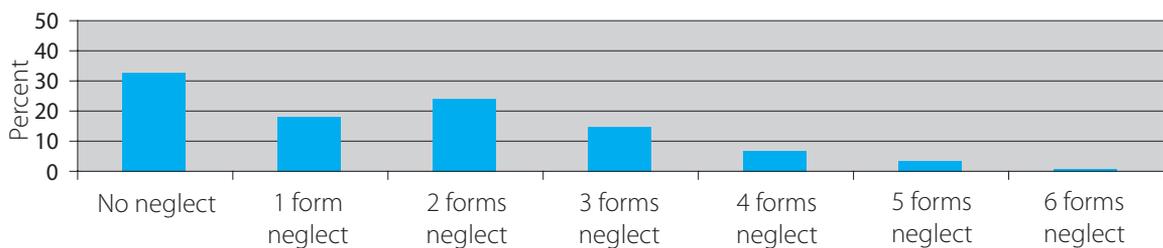
or two times in the past month, and 1.3% reported it happened several times.

In addition, 14.8% of parents reported they were not able to make sure their children got the food they needed, and 11.0% of parents said they were not able to provide their children with the food they needed within the past month. It is interesting to note that 5.2% of parents said they were not able to provide their children with the food they need one or two times in the past month; however, 3.2% of parents said they faced this problems several times, and 2.6% said it happened many times.

Finally, although the percentage is small, 3.2% of parents said they were unable to care for their children because they were drunk, and 1.9% said this happened in the past month.

Figure 5.8 reveals that parents neglected their children in more than one way. Only 32.9% of parents did not neglect their children; whereas 67.1% neglected their children as measured in the survey (see Table 5.8). Among parents who neglected their children, 18.1% of parents used only one form of neglect, 23.9% used two forms, 14.8% used three forms, 6.5% used four forms of neglect, 3.2% used five forms, and .6% used six forms of neglect (see also Appendix Table 36)

Figure 5.8. Multiple forms of neglect by parents



Multiple types of child abuse and neglect

It is well documented that abusive and neglectful parents do not use only one form of abuse or neglect on their children (findings in Chapter 4 demonstrated that children experience with multiple forms of abuse and neglect). For instance, parents who use harsh verbal abuse to discipline and correct their children’s behavior often psychologically abuse their children. Parents who used harsh verbal abuse with their children and/or psychologically abuse their children often physically abuse their children as well. In addition, parents who use harsh verbal abuse, psychological abuse, and physical abuse on their children also tend to neglect their children.

and neglect. Parents who used harsh verbal abuse to discipline and correct their children’s behavior are significantly more likely to use psychological abuse, moderate physical abuse, and severe physical abuse on their children They are also more likely to neglect their children (in comparison to parents that did not use harsh verbal abuse on their children). In particular, 47.9% of parents who used harsh verbal abuse on their children also used psychological abuse, 79% used moderate physical abuse, and 42.9% used severe physical abuse. In addition, 72.7% of parents who used harsh verbal abuse on their children also neglected their children. Figure 5.8 demonstrates that harsh verbal abuse is a strong predictor of each of the other forms of abuse, particularly moderate physical abuse, and neglect (see also Appendix Table 37).

Analysis was carried out to examine the relationship between the use of abuse and neglect by parents. Figure 5.9 reveals the relationship between harsh verbal abuse and other types of abuse

Figure 5.9. Relationship between harsh verbal abuse and other types of abuse and neglect

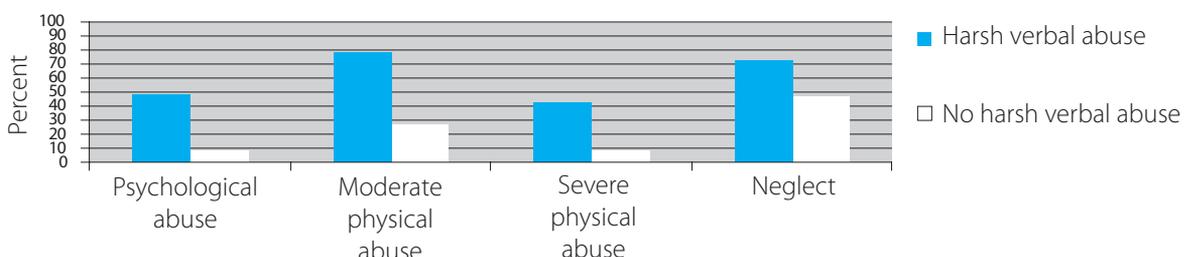


Figure 5.10 reveals that 95.1% of parents who psychologically abused their children were significantly more likely to use harsh verbal abuse and moderate and severe physical abuse on their children, as well as to neglect their children (in comparison to parents that did not psychologically abuse their children). In particular, 95.1% of parents who psychologically abused their children when they did something wrong, disobeyed, or made their parents angry also used harsh verbal abuse

to discipline and correct their children's behavior. Moreover, 95.1% of parents who psychologically abused their children also used moderate physical abuse, and 65.0% used severe physical abuse against their children. In addition, 82.0% of parents who psychologically abused their children also neglected their children. Notice that psychological abuse is a very strong predictor of harsh verbal abuse and moderate and severe physical abuse, as well as neglect (see also Appendix Table 38).

Figure 5.10. Relationship between psychological abuse and other types of abuse and neglect

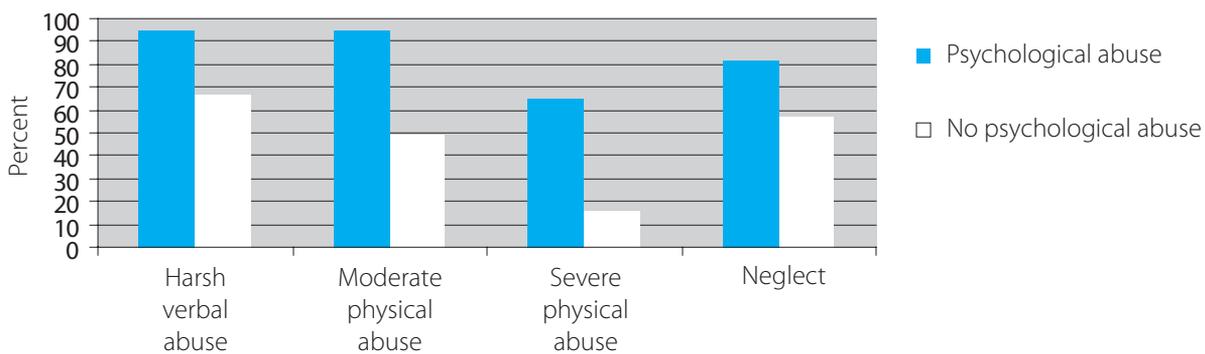


Figure 5.11 reveals the relationship between moderate physical abuse and other types of abuse and neglect. Parents who use moderate physical abuse to discipline and correct their children's behavior are significantly more likely to use harsh verbal abuse, psychological abuse, and severe physical abuse against their children. Parents who use moderate physical abuse against their children are also more likely to neglect their children (in comparison to parents that did not use moderate physical abuse against their children). More specifically, 91.3% of parents who used moderate physical abuse to discipline and correct their children's behavior also used harsh verbal abuse

against their children, 56.3% psychologically abused their children, and 49.5% used severe physical abuse to discipline and correct their children's behavior. In addition, 76.7% of parents that used moderate physical abuse against their children also neglected their children. Thus, if a parent is using moderate forms of physical abuse against their children, it is highly likely that the parent is also using harsh verbal abuse against their children and even neglecting their children. It is also significantly likely that they are psychologically abusing their children and using severe physical abuse against their children (see also Appendix Table 39).

Figure 5.11. Relationship between moderate physical abuse and other types of abuse and neglect

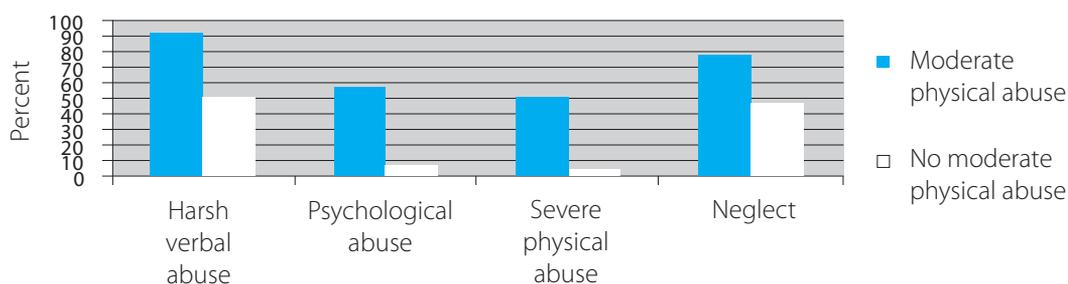


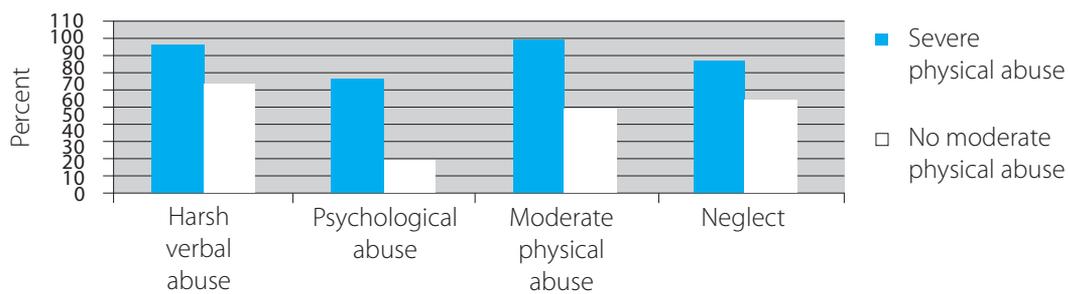
Figure 5.12 reveals the relationship between severe physical abuse and other types of abuse and neglect. Parents who used severe physical abuse

to discipline and correct their children's behavior are significantly more likely to use harsh verbal abuse, psychological abuse, and moderate physical abuse

against their children (in comparison to parents that did not use severe physical abuse against their children). In particular, 94.4% of parents that used severe physical abuse to discipline and correct their children's behavior also used harsh verbal abuse, and 72.2% psychologically abused their children. In addition, 96.2% of parents that used severe physical abuse against their children also used moderate physical abuse against their children when they did something wrong, disobeyed or made them angry.

Finally, 83.3% of parents who used severe physical abuse against their children also neglected their children. Figure 5.12 demonstrates that if a parent is using severe physical abuse against their children it is highly likely they are also using harsh verbal abuse, psychological abuse, and moderate physical abuse. Also, if a parent is using severe physical abuse it is highly likely they are also neglecting their children (see also Appendix Table 40).

Figure 5.12. Relationship between severe physical abuse and other types of abuse and neglect



Finally, Figure 5.13 reveals the relationship between neglect and abuse. Parents that neglect their children are significantly more likely to use harsh verbal abuse, psychological abuse, and moderate and severe physical abuse to discipline their children (in comparison to parents that did not use neglect). In particular, 84.6% of parents that neglected their children were also likely to use harsh verbal abuse with their children, and 48.1% were likely to

psychologically abuse their children. In addition, 77.5% of parents that neglected their children were also likely to use moderate physical abuse, and 43.7% used severe physical abuse against their children. Parent's neglect of their children is a very strong predictor that they are also using other types of abuse against their children, particularly harsh verbal abuse and moderate physical abuse (see also Appendix Table 41).

Figure 5.13. Relationship between neglect and abuse

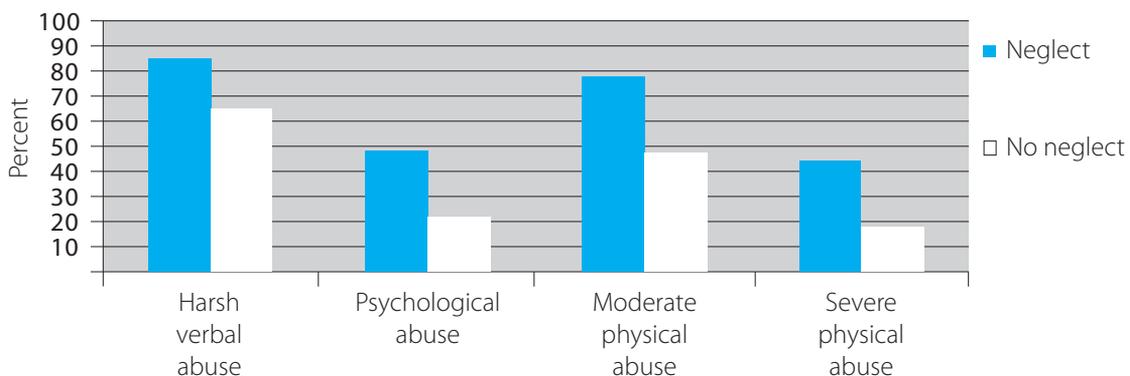
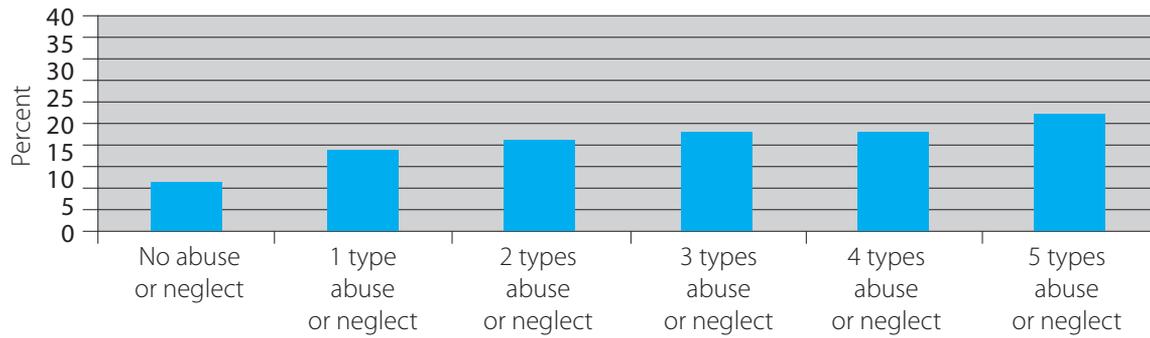


Figure 5.14 further demonstrates that parents use multiple types of abuse to discipline and correct their children's behavior, as well as neglect their children. It is important to note that only 9.0% of parents did not use any of the types of abuse or neglect measured in the survey. Moreover, 14.8% of parents used only one type of abuse or neglect against their children,

16.8% of parents used two types of abuse and/or neglect, 18.1% used three types, 18.1% used four types, and 21.3% used all five types of abuse (harsh verbal, psychological, moderate physical, and severe physical abuse) and neglect against their children (see Appendix Table 42).

Figure 5.14. Multiple forms of abuse and/or neglect used by parents against their children



Figures 5.8 through 5.14 dispel the misperception that parents use only one form of abuse or neglect on their children. Because child abuse and neglect typically happens behind walls and closed doors we often do not see parents abuse or neglect their children. However, if we are aware that a parent is using harsh verbal abuse against their children we can be almost 80% certain they are also using moderate physical abuse, and 40% to 50% certain they are also using forms of psychological abuse and/or severe physical abuse against their children. Moreover, if we are aware that a parent is psychologically abusing their children we can be almost 95% certain they are also using harsh verbal abuse and/or moderate physical abuse against their children, and 65% certain they are using severe physical abuse against their children.

In terms of physical abuse, if we see a parent using moderate and/or severe physical abuse against their children, we can be 90% certain they are also using harsh verbal abuse against their children. If we see a parent using moderate physical abuse against their children, we can be almost 50% to 60% certain they are also using psychological abuse and/or severe physical abuse against their children. However, if a parent is using severe physical abuse, we can be 70% to 90% certain they are also using psychological abuse and/or moderate physical abuse against their children.

Finally, if we see a parent neglecting their children we can be 75% to 80% certain that they are also using harsh verbal abuse and/or moderate physical abuse against their children, and 40% to 50% certain they are using psychological abuse and/or severe physical abuse against their children.

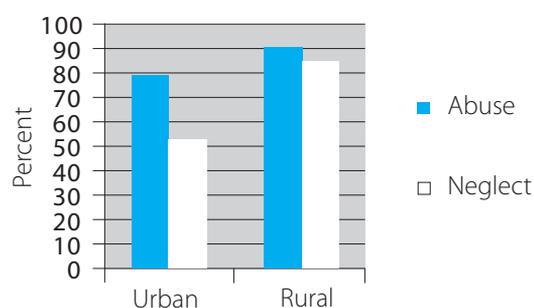
Parents clearly inflict multiple forms of abuse and neglect on their children, often beginning in infancy or early childhood and continuing into

adolescence and early adulthood. The consequences of such abuse in children’s lives are real and has serious consequences on their physical and mental health and well-being, social and intellectual development, and risk for delinquency and offending, alcohol and drug use and abuse, running away, and perpetuating the cycle of family violence in the future.

Demographic differences

Unfortunately the sample of 155 parents was not large enough to allow for analysis of demographic differences (e.g., gender, age, and ethnic status), family size and composition differences, or Oblast differences. The only comparisons that could be conducted were urban versus rural differences. Figure 5.15 reveals there are significant differences between urban and rural areas in regard to parents’ abuse and neglect of their children. Although a significant proportion of parents in both urban and rural areas abuse their children, parents in rural areas (90.1%) were significantly more likely to abuse their children than parents in urban areas (79.0%). In regard to neglect, parents in rural areas (84.5%) were significantly more likely to neglect their children than parents in urban areas (52.4%; see also Appendix Table 43).

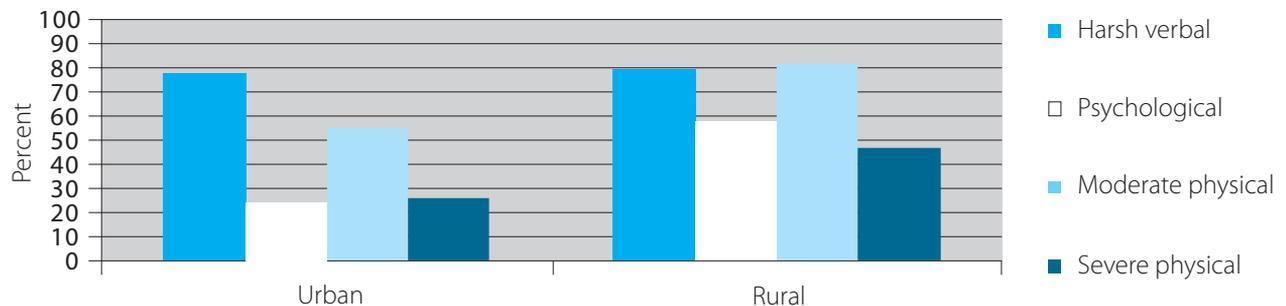
Figure 5.15. Abuse and neglect by urban vs. rural



Further 6.4. analyses revealed significant urban versus rural differences in parents' use of three of the four separate types of abuse measured in the survey. To begin, Figure 5.16 reveals there were no significant differences between urban and rural areas in regard

to parents' use of harsh verbal abuse – parents in urban areas (77.4%) were equally likely to use harsh verbal abuse to discipline and correct their children's behavior as parents in rural areas (78.9%).

Figure 5.16. Forms of abuse by urban vs. rural



Significant differences did emerge, however, in regard to parents' use of psychological abuse and physical abuse. In particular, parents in rural areas (57.7%) were significantly more likely to psychologically abuse their children than parents in urban areas (23.8%). In addition, although a significant proportion of parents in both urban and rural areas used moderate physical abuse on their children, parents in rural areas (81.7%) were significantly more likely to use moderate physical abuse than parents in urban areas (54.9%). In regard to severe physical abuse, parents in rural areas (46.5%) were significantly more likely to use severe physical than parents in urban areas (25.6%; see Appendix Table 43).

of their children. Parents also spoke about using methods of positive discipline with their children; however, focus group data was analyzed with a particular focus on revealing more about abusive methods of discipline.

Overall, survey and focus group data reveals that parents use various types of abuse – harsh verbal, psychological, moderate physical, and/or severe physical – to discipline and correct their children's behavior. As one parent explained,

“Every parent applies some violence against a child in order to stop the child from wrongdoings, and such situations are very useful for the future of the child.” (Batken)

Parents justify abuse of children

After parents completed the survey they participated in a one-hour focus group about issues of violence against children in families, and traditional practices of raising and disciplining children. While the survey guaranteed respondents anonymity and confidentiality, focus group discussions were neither anonymous nor confidential because parents were asked to speak about these issues along with other parents from their children's school and often from their own neighborhoods or community. As a result, parents were much more reluctant to speak openly about their use of harsh verbal, psychological, and physical abuse on their own children (as survey data was able to reveal); nevertheless, parents did provide useful qualitative data that can be used to supplement the quantitative survey data presented above. What follows is an analysis of focus group data as it helps to reveal parents use of harsh verbal, psychological, and physical abuse to discipline and correct the behavior

Parents frequently use of abusive methods of discipline because they perceive it as their right as a parent and family member. Children are rarely perceived as having rights, but are more often perceived as the property of parents. This thinking contributes to parents' use of harsh verbal, psychological, and physical abuse against their children. As two parents explained,

“I have a right to use violence against my child in order to instill something good in him. I apply such violence for the benefit of the future of the child.” (Batken)

“I believe that for educational purposes, parents have the right to use violence against their children. It is necessary sometimes to apply violence against girls for their own good. We need to educate them properly. We must ask them were they good, who they go with, to what places they go. We should not allow children go without being accompanied by a

chaperone. For instance, my daughter decided to go to the mountains on an excursion without a chaperone, but I did not permit her to go, wishing her only good, because anything can happen. You need sometimes to treat boys in the same manner. It looks like violence, but it's up-bringing of a child." (Jalalabad)

Parents justify use of harsh verbal abuse

In the survey, 78.1% of parents reported using harsh verbal abuse to discipline and correct their children's behavior. In focus groups, parents spoke about their use of harsh verbal abuse and their observations of other family members' use of harsh verbal abuse against their children. As three parents explained,

"I shout at my child because I want him to understand that he did something wrong. He keeps silent/quiet and he does not speak." (Chuy)

"I know parents severely beat their children and call them dirty words." (Batken)

"Of course, in the beginning in a burst of temper I can shout at my child, and then I can explain what was wrong about this behavior." (Jalalabad).

Some parents may tend to use harsh verbal abuse because they do not see more effective or positive methods of discipline that can be used to correct their children's behavior. Sometimes other family members attempt to intervene and encourage a family member to use more positive methods of discipline; however, use of positive discipline requires a change in the parent's attitude, reaction, and behavior which they are not always willing to do.

"My younger sister has a daughter in the 6th grade. They also have problems. She loves to stay in bed in the mornings. The parents leave the house in the morning and she goes to school in the afternoon, so my sister starts shouting at her and I explain to her that she should punish her. She says, so how can I punish her? Her daughter loves watching TV. Before there were no DVDs, but now they watch disks and music, and dance. So just prohibit her to watch TV. This would be real punishment to her and this will be a tragedy for her because she can't live without TV. But, of course, my sister feels compassion on her and she does not punish her in this way." (Chuy)

Some parents recognize that use of harsh verbal abuse with a child not only insults a child, but also teaches a child to communicate in a similar manner. Parents who recognize the harmful effects of harsh verbal abuse are probably less likely to use such verbal abuse on children. As two different parents explained,

"When you talk rude to a child you are insulting a child. The child perceives this differently. It seems to me that he will also insult you." (Chuy)

I think that violence is about humiliating the child. Sometimes you can notice somebody in your presence degrading their own child. It is unpleasant for me to observe. The child should be brought up in a way to expect and experience a respectful attitude; and a child will reflect this to the outside." (Chuy)

Parents justify use of psychological abuse

Survey data revealed that 39.4% of parents used various forms of psychological abuse to discipline their children. According to survey data, the most common form of psychological abuse parents' used was threatening to hit, beat or kick one's child; however, in focus groups parents spoke more about ignoring their children, taking their affection and love away from their children, locking a children out of the house or in a small room, and threatening their children with abandonment. These are all forms of psychological abuse and can have a severe impact on children's social and emotional development, sense of self-esteem, fear, and lack of safety and security in the home and family setting.

Three different parents explained how they ignored their children and took their affection and love away from their children to punish them.

"It depends on the degree to which the child is guilty. Was it his/her fault if he/she has eaten up the candy, has stolen something, and so on. The parent should not use such words as 'I will kill you,' but sometimes yes, you can say something to discipline and you can punish. I punish my children if I stop kissing them and if I stop talking to them. So it depends on the situation." (Osh)

"If my child does not do what I have asked them to do, then I will ignore my child when they ask me for something. Then when my child asks me again, 'please, can you do it for me.' I tell them, 'see, do you

understand how it hurts if I ignore you. I don't shout at my children if they do not listen to me, sometimes I just stop talking to them and then my child comes to bring excuses. (Talas).

"I get offended, I look displeased and children start asking me to forgive them" (Osh)

Parents also spoke about using the threat of abandonment as a way to punish or discipline their children. As one parent explained,

"I always explain and ask with a firm voice not to do it anymore. I tell them examples or fairy tales, which explain a lot of things to children. For example, the fairy tale about the woman that had children who did not listen to her and once she turned into a bird and flew away, and the children kept looking into the sky and asking her to come back, but she never returned." (Jalalabad)

Some parents spoke about how they would lock their child out of the home or in a small room or dark place. This can evoke significant fear in children and have long-term impact on children that carries over into adulthood. Children also emulate this form of psychological abuse and lock their siblings and/or peers in small places to control or punish them, or simply to evoke fear in them. If children are locked or confined in a small space where there is no proper airflow or ventilation and/or a lack of oxygen, a child can die.

"Children never should be left without supervision. There was a case when I washed linen and went to work, and when I came back the children had burnt all the linens. They told this to me only the next day, and when I asked who did it, they told me it was my son. So, I slapped him and locked him on the balcony. I didn't get him from the balcony until the next day; therefore, I believe we should not leave children without supervision." (Osh)

"I think this is not only about manhandling, there can also be cases when children are kept in darkness as a punishment." (Chuy)

One parent spoke about how she used work as a form of psychological abuse. What makes the below example a form of psychological abuse is the manner in which she describes using it. For instance, the fact that it occurs in the middle of the night and she is forcing the children to perform work that she maintains is a way to make them "sweat blood." As the parent explained,

"When my children won't go to sleep, I bring them to the kitchen and give them brushes to scour the kitchen even if it is at 2 or 3 in the morning. In return they 'sweat blood.'" (Bishkek)

Parents justify use of physical abuse

Parents frequently use physical force or corporal punishment in reaction to a child doing something wrong, disobeying or making them angry. In fact, the parents' survey data revealed that 67.7% of parents used physical abuse to discipline and correct their children's behavior. More specifically, 34.8% used forms of severe physical abuse and 66.5% used forms of moderate physical abuse. Focus group data reveals that parents recognize moderate and severe physical abuse are commonly used against children to discipline them, and some parents justify the use of physical abuse as a traditional way to raise and discipline children. As three different parents explained,

"In order to achieve desired results during child upbringing many parents beat their children with belts, sticks, and anything at hand. Of course, this is not right but many parents (particularly fathers) believe this is the traditional way to bring up your children. But all this negatively affects the psychology of children. Sometimes there were cases when parents used to burn the hands and faces of children with pieces of coal and they believed it was necessary for the upbringing of children." (Batken)

"If my child would do something wrong then I would beat him, because my parents disciplined their children in this way. There are a lot of cases when a child that was not beat in their childhood gets beaten when they are older, then such a child, if he/she has a vulnerable psychological state, will end up inflicting intentional damage to their own health or commit suicide." (Jalalabad)

It is well documented that there is often a cycle to family violence – my parents beat me, so I beat my children. It appears from focus group data that parents may misinterpret this vicious cycle of family violence to be a part of tradition and a cultural practice for raising children. Some parents even referred to Kyrgyz and Russian proverbs to justify the use of corporal punishment or physical abuse to discipline and correct children's behavior.

"I tell my child that if he does not change his behavior I can beat him. There is a Russian proverb which says that children that are not punished by their parents are evil. So, sometimes this method is efficient." (Bishkek)

Focus group data also provided a rich description of the various circumstances in which parents use physical force against their children. In most cases, parents perceive no problem with their use of moderate and/or severe physical abuse against their child because they maintain they are justified – the child is guilty and did something wrong to provoke the beating – and they have the right. Some parents spoke mainly about hitting or beating their children, while others spoke about using hard objects or weapons to beat their children. Some parents even spoke about burning children or using other more severe forms of physical abuse. The following statements from parents across Kyrgyzstan provide insight into parents' use of moderate and severe physical abuse against children, and the circumstances in which parents believe they are justified in using corporal punishment to punish, control, or discipline their children.

"I talk first, but if my son does not understand then I punish. If my son doesn't want to do something and keeps disobeying then I beat him." (Chuy).

"When I repeat and repeat to my child and he doesn't listen to me, then he would listen to me if I would beat him. When it is right to beat, it is ok to beat. If he keeps breaking something then you will have to hit the child, otherwise he will not stop doing this." (Issyk-kul)

"First I talk, then I give precaution, and if I see again that the child goes beyond permissible limits, then I use sticks to discipline. There are also such moments when you have to beat your child. Even today I have faced such situations when it is necessary to beat my child, and to turn to this method of discipline." (Osh)

"If my children will not listen to me, will not obey me, I often beat them and kick them out of the house." (Jalalabad)

"Parents should talk and explain. It is as a last resort that parents can punish, so to make the child feel harshly you can threaten the child. I would hit. If you beat them then they are afraid,

but it is more difficult with young adults. Young adults already have a mature character." (Issyk-kul)

"I try to explain to my child and if he does not understand then I can hit him. You know my son does not listen most the time." (Issyk-kul)

"Every time they grow they start misspeaking more and more often and the time comes when it would be right to hit them to punish them." (Naryn)

"I beat my child sometimes. I beat him with a whip. But I really do it seldom to my children. Sometimes I talk and explain." (Chuy).

"Sometimes it is useful to beat children. They will become more obedient, and next time before doing something wrong or making the wrong decision they would know what kind of punishment can be applied to them." (Jalalabad)

"If a child does not obey at all, then the parent may beat the child." (Issyk-kul)

"If my child really misbehaves or is completely out of control then it is alright to beat them." (Talas)

"I think there is no smoke without fire. As there are such children who provoke fights. But it is also trying to explain to the children all the time and to educate them, that is why it is alright sometimes to hit your child so to stop him from repeating serious mistakes. Sometimes it is useful for purposes of disciplining the child to beat the child just a bit so to stop him from offending other children or stealing, but this should be done only for purposes of correction." (Batken)

"When the child does not fulfill his/her duties that were assigned to him/her by parents, in such cases it is necessary for parents to apply violence against children." (Batken)

"There was a case when a child started stealing money from his own mother. The mother tracked her son down and beat him, and cut his hand with a knife, and when she started to suffocate him neighbors arrived on time." (Osh)

"I believe there are such situations when a child should have lunch on time, take a rest on time, do homework on time, and get up on time. In such moments parents apply violent discipline." (Jalalabad)

"Parents have the right to use violence against a child only when it is necessary to protect their children from bad deeds and behaviors." (Jalalabad)

"My neighbor beats his children with a stick...he also used to lock his children in the basement or in the room." (Issyk-kul)

"Children are beat with a lash, belt or locked up." (Talas)

"Parents use something to cause burns on their children, beat them very badly, and insult their children." (Bospiek)

"Parent use needles to prick their children for the sake of giving them a good lesson, and beat their children severely with all their force. To date, I have met many such families." (Batken)

"When they misbehave themselves I sometimes shout at them, sometimes I beat them, and sometimes I explain to them quietly. And my children got used to such treatment. My two girls seemed to be more calm and softer." (Naryn)

Some mothers rely upon their husband or father to be the disciplinarian – the person who will use corporal punishment or physical force against the children. As three parents explained,

"As a last resort if my child does not obey, I call my dad for help. My father is very strict and all children are afraid of him." (Chuy)

"I have boys and it is more difficult for them. I talk to them, but this is not always helpful and then my husband would discipline them. My husband is very strict. I tell them, 'Dad will come and I will tell him.' My daughter gets afraid that dad will come and will hit/beat her. She respects him." (Talas)

"The child should be afraid of one family member so that you can control some situation and call the child to order." (Bishkek)

Throughout Kyrgyzstan, families often live as extended families in one home. Extended relatives who live together in the same household do not always share the same beliefs about the use of corporal punishment or physical abuse to discipline children. This can cause problems within a household when one parent or family member uses physical abuse to discipline their children and another parent or family member doesn't believe in hitting or beating a child. As one parent explained,

"When we were living together with my husband my son was 5 years old and we lived with the sister of my husband. Her son was 4 years old, but she was beating her son so severely. Yes, really he was such a naughty child. We used to live in the

apartment in the city and he could create such a mess there. So she used to punish him. She would take him to the balcony and beat him. I tried to stop her and to pull her aside. Once she beat him so strongly that our neighbors came, the neighbor was crying and she said that one cannot treat children like this and that she would appeal to the police. I explained to my husband's sister that she should stop beating him because we were living together and she was creating problems for our family as well. Once over the table, I shouted at my son, he was 5 years old. And her son said to my son "make such a face (and he showed sorrowful and crying face), if you will make such a face she will feel pity to you and she will not beat you." I have said to my husband's sister, 'you see, he already has fantasies, he is really getting adapted and his psychology is also damaged.'" (Chuy)

Positive discipline

It is important to remember that the survey of parents did reveal that 92.9% of parents used methods of positive discipline. In the focus groups, parents provided numerous examples of their attempt to use positive discipline with their children.

"They think they are adults now. I make no bones about taking away their cell phones. They need to do homework but they sit playing with cell phones. I take it away and they start doing homework." (Bishkek)

"I can deprive my child of some entertainment; he may not go to the discotheque." (Bishkek)

"I punish by not giving toys to my children and do not let them play with other children and then they come themselves to ask me to forgive them" (Bishkek)

At the same time, it is important to remember that parents' survey data also revealed that the majority of parents that used positive discipline also reported using harsh verbal abuse, psychological abuse, and moderate and severe physical abuse to discipline and correct their children's behavior (see Figure 5.2). In fact, focus group data revealed that parents were often quick to use physical abuse if their child did not listen to them or if they became frustrated because they had to repeat themselves.

Role of elder siblings as disciplinarians

In the family, elder siblings are often expected to monitor, control, and discipline younger siblings. In many cases they are often responsible for delegating household work or chores to younger siblings and making sure that they are completed on time and properly. Often this responsibility will be given to the eldest son in the family; however, it could go to the eldest daughter if the son is simply too young or there are no sons in the family. Boys in the family are also given the added responsibility of monitoring and controlling the behavior of their sisters, and disciplining them with physical force if it is for just causes. Focus group data revealed the important role of elder sibling as disciplinarians in the family, which contributes to the phenomenon of sibling abused as discussed in Chapter 4.

"I told to my children at home, and I told my son – you are the eldest one and they should obey you. It means that you are the eldest and you should command, that you give a look to them, and they should run and do what you say. You should not abuse this right. You should respect them because they are younger. Then I explain to the younger children that he is the eldest one and if he asks you to do anything don't make him repeat it. But sometimes the eldest one misuses this right. Of course I do comment to him. For example, my son says that everybody should sit at the table even if you have finished your meal." (Chuy)

"I teach my children to respect parents and elder brothers and sisters, and to listen to them and obey them." (Talas)

"I tell my daughter, don't wait, but she would sit and look, and wait until she is told – get the table cleaned up; you can get up and take away the dishes from the table. There are seven of us in the family and it should not be hard to wash out seven cups. And my son also makes comments: I told you to get up and get it cleaned." (Chuy)

"Children are beat by parents and elder brothers and sisters." (Chuy).

"Sometimes children are put under pressure. For example, Kanat ran away from home a few times because his elder brother and his elder brother's wife beat him." (Talas)

Problem of neglect

In the focus groups parents also spoke about neglect, particularly work neglect, as a form of violence against children that is seen throughout Kyrgyzstan. Since the fall of the Soviet Union, more families have fallen into poverty and face severe economic strain¹⁵; as a result, many families have had to rely upon the work of their children to help to support the family. Alcoholism is also a serious problem in families (although beyond the scope of this research), and alcoholic parents may be more inclined to pressure their children to work outside of the home to help support the family. It is also important to note that agricultural production accounts for an estimated 32.4% of the GDP and 48% of the population works in the agriculture sector. Thus, in many rural and agriculture producing regions of the country, children regularly work in the agriculture fields and/or are responsible for caring for the livestock. In focus groups, parents spoke about how many children in the country are often forced to work both inside and outside of the home by their parents or other caregivers. For instance, as one parent explained,

"There are a lot of unemployed families here. The state is in such a situation now. Children leave school and go to work at 13 or 14 years of age. They do not study. This is violence. At such an age the child is not formed yet." (Chuy)

Parents also maintain working children face other types of abuse – harsh verbal, psychological, and physical abuse – and neglect in the family which causes them to suffer psychologically and loose the opportunity for a formal education and childhood.

"To make children earn money, parents repeat all the time – I gave birth to you and you should work." (Osh)

"Today, a lot of parents force their children to work in the market and to earn money." (Batken)

"Parents force their children to work and they scold and insult their children, putting pressure on them psychologically." (Bishkek)

"Parents really make children work excessively. They shout at children – why you went out on the street? Why don't you sit at home?" (Issyk-kul)

"I think it is violence when parents do not let their children go out and make them to do only household work." (Osh)

¹⁵ In 2004, an estimated 40% of the population lived below the poverty line and 18% of the population was unemployed.

"Parents exchange labor of the child for money and force their children to work for money. Even in those families where children are left without supervision of parents, they have to work in order to make money for their own interests and many people use such circumstances." (Batken).

"I often hear that in rural areas children are forced to do back-breaking work. Of course, this is all done because life in the rural area is not so good, but it negatively affects the future of our children. They are forced to work in the market and to push barrows and this comes from parents. I believe this is violence against children as they do not look well after children and they only make them work. The child does not go to work by his own will." (Jalalabad)

"Parents force their children to work and do not care under which conditions their children work. For them, the most important thing is money earned by the child. Even those people who hire child labor don't tell them that they have not agreed with the child, but rather with his/her parents. They don't ask why the child is working instead of parents." (Batken)

Some parents stressed that the problem is also that some children are expected to do work that is beyond the capabilities of their physical strength.

"Parents make children do household work against their will and even these activities are beyond the strength of the child." (Osh)

"Parents do not take into account the interest of the child and do not consider their wishes and go against the will of the child and make them to do household work which is beyond their strength." (Jalalabad)

"In rural areas many parents oblige their children to do labor which is beyond their strength and for this reason many children do not go to school. They would first follow the requirements of their parents." (Batken)

Alcoholism and child abuse and neglect

Research has found that children whose parents are alcohol and/or other substance abusers are four times more likely to be abused and/or neglected than children of parents who are not alcohol and/or other substance abusers (6). In fact, one of the themes to

emerge in focus group discussions is the impact of parents alcohol use/abuse on child abuse and neglect in families. As several parents explained,

"There are parents that get drunk and beat their children." (Issyk-kul)

"There are parents that drink alcohol everyday; they drink in the morning and in the evening. It is never quiet in such houses. In such houses, children are beaten and the wife gets beaten and they have no life. The next morning everything is repeated. Perhaps other drunk people stay there overnight. It is very difficult for a wife and for children. I don't know how to help them. This is such a difficult situation." (Issyk-kul).

"Violence happens in families where father's drink vodka, because they begin to apply brutality and are demanding when they are drunk. They raise their voice and kick children out of their homes." (Batken)

"In families where parents abuse vodka, they force their children to collect bottles and sell them and then bring them vodka." (Jalalabad)

Families at risk of child abuse and neglect

In the focus groups parents were asked to identify which parents in their communities are particularly vulnerable to family violence and child abuse and neglect. Focus group data revealed that vulnerable families tend to include: families with alcohol use/abuse; families in which a parent or both parents have migrated to another country for work and left the children behind; single-parent households; and poor and low income families. Parents also maintained that children without parents or orphans are particularly vulnerable to child abuse and neglect.

Parents also recognized the fact that parents with lower levels of education are more likely to abuse and/or neglect their children, in part because lack of education is linked to issues of unemployment and low-paying job opportunities, greater economic strain and poverty within families, and lower and more difficult living conditions.

"Where children are left in the care of relatives and parents migrate to work in other countries...because their relatives have their own children and devote very little time to the

proper attitude. In general, there are many demands or requirements and a lot of violence.” (Batken)

Violence against children is applied in families where children live in families of relatives and are brought up by relatives because the parents at the moment are working as labor migrants. Many sister-in-laws apply force to the child and exercise psychological pressure on them.” (Jalalabad)

“Violence against children takes place when parents leave their children behind and migrate somewhere to work. Children are left to themselves, they are not brought up by parents. They are deprived of parental affection and warmth, which are so essential at this age. I think that it would be better for a child to be hungry but live with his/her parents. In this case a child will get parental care.” (Bishkek)

“In those families where there is one child, parents migrated for earnings to other countries. They naturally will not expect any good attitude. They will never receive a normal (proper) education.” (Osh)

In families where parents leave for earnings to other countries, and mothers and fathers leave (abandon) their children. These parents marry again at those places where they have left to, not thinking of the children.” (Osh)

Some parents also acknowledge that child abuse and neglect also occurs in educated and more financially secure or wealthy families. Parents maintained child abuse occurred in these families because parents think only about themselves and their own interests and do not care about the upbringing of their children. As one parent explained,

“In families where parents are rich, they think only about themselves and about their own interests and do not care about the upbringing of their children.” (Jalalabad)

Some parents also identified step-parent households as more prone to child abuse and neglect; however, findings generated from the children’s survey presented in Chapter 4 revealed the opposite – households with a parent and step-parent had some of the lowest rates of child abuse and neglect. This is most likely because these families are less likely to live in poverty, especially in com-

parison to single-parent households. This is not to say that households with a parent and step-parent cannot be violent; however, across the nation children in these homes were not among those most likely to experience abuse and neglect. Nevertheless, focus group data revealed a belief among parents that children living with a step-parent were more susceptible to abuse and neglect. More research is clearly needed on this issue before any major conclusions can be drawn.

“Violence against children is used in those families where there is a stepmother; girls are forced to deal with heavy housework.” (Jalalabad)

Violence happens in families where there are no mothers, but only stepmothers, where a father marries without thinking about the future of their children. (Jalalabad)

Violence happens in families where there is a stepmother, and children think that his stepmother is not caring about him/her and the child becomes cruel. Violence happens in families where a child is not brought-up well and not taken care of by his/her parents. (Jalalabad)

Finally, parents also recognized that families that adhere to more conservative and traditional customs and practices are more likely adhere to stricter gender roles expectations, honor and shame systems, patriarch and authoritarian family structures all of which contribute to increased levels of child abuse and neglect. One would expect to also see high levels of abuse and neglect of the girl child in these more conservative and traditional families.

I think that it is also present in such families where one parent is a tyrant... If a father is a tyrant he can terrorize his wife and children. But in all cases it depends on the parents.” (Bishkek)

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Chapter 6: Structured Interviews on Child Protection

This chapter contains findings from the structured interviews with experts in the education, health care, child protection, and interior/justice/militia sectors regarding cases of child abuse and neglect, including knowledge, registration, and recording of cases, intervention in cases, and collaboration between agencies to intervene and support abused and neglect children.

Sample of experts

Table 6.1 reveals the characteristics of the sample of 83 local experts from each of the seven Oblasts and Bishkek city. More experts were surveyed in Bishkek because it is the nation's capital where significantly more agencies/institutions exist that work with children and address child protection.

Table 6.1. Child protection expert interviewees		
	N ^o =83	
	N ^o	%
Oblast		
Bishkek (city)	20	18.7
Chui	9	8.4
Issyk-kul	9	8.4
Naryn	9	8.4
Talas	9	8.4
Batken	9	8.4
Osh (Oblast and city)	9	8.4
Jalalabad	9	8.4
Agency status		
State	80	74.8
Private	3	2.8
Sector		
Education	22	20.6
Health	19	17.8
Social protection	16	15.0
Interior/justice/militia	26	24.3

Among the 83 experts interviewed, 74.8% were from state agencies/institutions and 2.8% were from private or civil society organizations. In regard

to sector, 20.6% of the experts were in the education sector (e.g., school administrators, teachers, and school medical nurses), 17.8% were in the health care sector (surgeons, traumatologists, pediatricians, and family physicians), 15.0% were in the social protection sector (e.g., staff from centers for children, children's houses, and shelters), and 24.3% were in the interior/justice/militia sector (e.g., officials from oblast/rayon law enforcement bodies and inspection on minor's affairs).

Encounters with and registration of child abuse and neglect

Table 6.2 reveals that 70.1% of the 83 interviewed experts reported they heard about or encountered cases of child abuse and/or neglect.

Table 6.2. Encounters with and registration of cases of child abuse and neglect		
	N=83	
	n	%
Heard about or encountered cases of child abuse or neglect	75	70.1
Number of cases heard about or encountered in the past 12 months		
None	24	22.4
1-10 cases	34	31.8
11-30 cases	7	6.5
31-50 cases	2	1.9
51-70 cases	4	3.7
71-90 cases	10	9.3
More than 90 cases	1	.9
Registered information about cases of child abuse or neglect	45	42.1
Number of cases registered in the past 12 months		
None	16	15.0
1-10 cases	17	15.9
11-30 cases	5	4.7
31-50 cases	0	0.0
51-70 cases	0	0.0

71-90 cases	2	1.9
More than 90 cases	2	1.9
Required by official regulations to register cases of child abuse or neglect encountered	52	48.6

Respondents were also asked how many cases of child abuse and neglect they heard about or encountered in the past 12 months, and 22.4% of respondents reported they heard about or encountered no cases of child abuse in the past 12 months. Only 33.8% of respondents said they heard about or encountered between 1 to 10 cases of child abuse and/or neglect in the past 12 months. The numbers of respondents that heard about or encountered of more than 10 cases were few.

Table 6.2 reveals that only 42.1% of interviewed experts actually registered or recorded information about the cases of child abuse and/or neglect that they encountered. Respondents were asked how many cases of child abuse and neglect they registered or recorded in the past 12 months, and 15.0% reported they registered no cases, while 15.9% reported they registered between 1 and 10 cases of child abuse and/or neglect in the past 12 months. Very few respondents reported registering or recording cases of child abuse and neglect that they encountered.

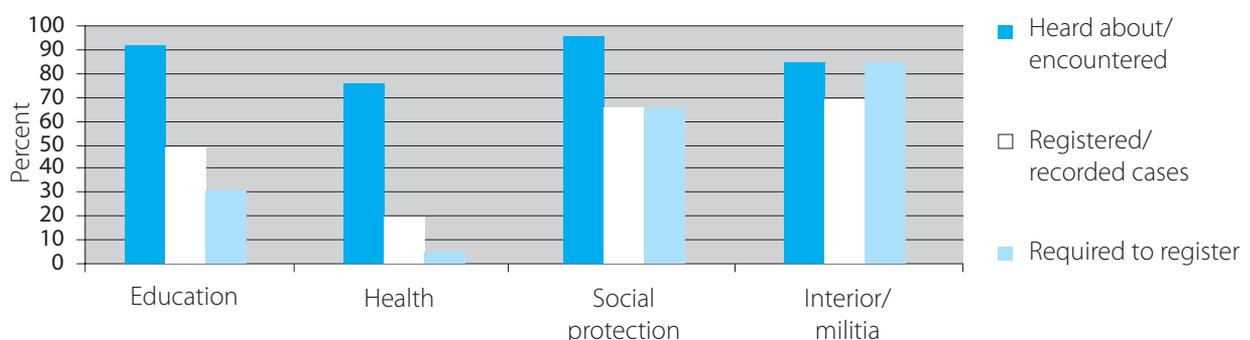
So, while the children and parents' surveys revealed a significant amount of child abuse – harsh verbal, psychological, physical, and sexual – and neglect

in homes and families, interviews with experts revealed very few cases actually come to the attention of local authorities and experts that work with children or child protection.

Finally, Table 6.2 reveals that only 48.6% of interviewed experts reported they are required by official regulation to register or record cases of child abuse and neglect that they encounter.

Analysis was also carried out to examine differences across each of the sectors – education, health, social protection, and interior/justice/militia – in regard to encountering and registering cases of child abuse and neglect. Figure 6.1 reveals that the majority of respondents in each of the sectors – education (95.5%), health (78.9%), social protection (100.0%), and interior/justice/militia (88.5%) – heard about or encountered cases of child abuse and neglect. However, few of these cases are registered or recorded. In particular, respondents in the education and health sectors were least likely to register or record cases of child abuse and neglect. Figure 6.1 reveals 78.9% of health care sector respondents heard about or encountered cases of child abuse and neglect, only 21.1% of respondent actually registered or recorded those cases of child abuse and neglect they encountered. Also, while 95.5% of respondents in the education sector heard about or encountered cases of child abuse and neglect, only 50.0% of respondents registered those cases of child abuse and neglect.

Figure 6.1. Encountered and registered cases of child abuse and neglect by sector



Respondents in the social protection and interior/justice/militia sectors were much more likely to register or record cases of child abuse and neglect they encounter. In particular, 68.8% of respondents in the social protection sector and 73.1% of respondents in the interior/justice/militia sector registered or recorded cases of child abuse and neglect they encountered (see Figure 6.1).

This is because the militia, the Inspection on Minors Affairs (IMA), and social protection agencies are largely responsible for investigating cases of child abuse and neglect. In particular, interview data revealed that agencies are responsible for gathering information on abused and neglected children and their family, visit the homes of abused and neglected children to examine the living conditions, clarify the reasons for abuse and/

or neglect, and collect evidence of abuse and/or neglect. They will also talk with neighbors to gather information about the family and instances of child abuse and neglect. Based upon the investigation, a formal report is typically made and forwarded to the Commission on Children's Affairs (CCA). Some respondent revealed, however, that the CCA is not highly effective. As one respondent in Bishkek stated, "The Commission is weak and they do not have authorities to take efficient actions. It is necessary to undertake specific actions but they cannot do this."

Finally, Figure 6.1 reveals that respondents from the interior/justice/militia sector (88.5%) and the

social protection sector (68.8%) were most likely to report that they are required by official regulations to register cases of child abuse neglect that they encounter; whereas, only 31.8% of respondents in the education sector and 5.3% of the respondents in the health sector reported they are required by official regulations to register cases of child abuse and neglect.

Table 6.3 reveals the various official regulations that respondents from each of the different sectors identified regulate and guide their response to child abuse and neglect.

Table 6.3. Official regulations that regulate registration of cases of child abuse and neglect			
Document category		# times mentioned	Agency
Laws of the Kyrgyz Republic	Name of the document ¹⁶	7	MIA (4) SP(3)
	Child Code of the Kyrgyz Republic	3	SP
	Family Code	2	SP
	Civil Code	1	Education
Bylaws, Decrees of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic, and State Programs	Law on education and parental responsibilities	1	SP
	Decree of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic on protection and support of children № 399 from 30.08.2007	1	SP
	Decree of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic № 390 "On establishing agency to support children and families"	3	SP
	Regulations of "Family and Children Support Unit", approved by the Decree of the Government of the KR from 10.06.08, № 285	1	SP
	Regulations on foster placement procedures for children left without parental care to be adopted by citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic", approved by the Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic from 26.01.06, № 121	1	MIA
	State Program "New Generation"	1	MIA
	Matrix of measures to implement the state program of actions to eliminate the worst forms of child labor in KR for 2008-2010	1	SP
Departmental legal acts	Regulations on rules for foster placement of children, left without parental care to be adopted by citizens of the KR, approved by Decree of the Government of the KR, № 121 from 26.01.06 r.	1	MIA

¹⁶ Names of the documents are given stated in the redaction of respondents.

	Orders of MIA KR	8	MIA
	The Order № 6 of MIA from 10.01.09. "On measures to increase effectiveness of activities of law enforcement bodies of the Kyrgyz Republic to prevent violations of law among minors."	1	MIA
	The Order of MIA № 1069 on the work with minors.	2	MIA
	The Order of MIA № 153 from 1998	2	MIA
	The Order of MIA "Protection of children from family violence" from 07.10.2004 № 388	1	MIA
Internal orders	The Order № 818 of the Ministry of Education of the KR	2	MIA
	The order of the Head of the Department based on which I maintain general registration	1	MIA
Court decisions	Internal order	2	MIA
	Based on court decision we control difficult families		

SP = Social Protection

MIA = Ministry of Internal Affairs

Referral of cases of child abuse and neglect

Experts were also asked if they referred or reported cases of child abuse and neglect that they encounter to other agencies/institutions. Table 6.4 reveals that 57.9% of respondents referred or reported cases of child abuse and neglect that they encountered to another agency/institution. In regard to the number of cases referred or reported to another agency in the past 12 months, 49.5% of experts said that in the past 12 months they did not refer or report cases of abuse and neglect to another agency/institution. Only 21.5% of interviewed experts referred or reported 1 to 10 cases to another agency/institution. Very few expert reported any more than 10 cases of abuse or neglect to another agency/institution.

Experts were also asked if they referred or reported cases of abuse and neglect to the militia, and only 51.4% of respondent referred or reported cases to the militia. Respondents were also asked, "If a child has injuries from abuse or neglect, do you refer or provide the child with medical treatment?" Only 35.5% of respondents reported they refer or provide medical treatment to a child with injuries from abuse and neglect.

Analysis was also carried out to examine differences across each of the sectors in regard to referring or reporting cases of child abuse and neglect to another agency/institution. Figure 6.2 reveals that 92.3% of respondents in the interior/justice/militia sector and 87.5% of respondents in the social protection sector referred or reported cases of child abuse and neglect

to another agency/institution. Most often these cases were reported to the militia. For instance, interview data revealed the Family and Children Support Unit under the Mayor's Office is regulated to transfer information they receive about child abuse and neglect to the IMAs. However, in many cases, children are found by the militia or IMA and these case are referred directly to the CCA.

Table 6.4. Referral of cases of child abuse and neglect

	N=83	
	n	%
Referred or reported cases of child abuse and neglect that are encountered	62	57.9
Number of cases referred or reported to another agency in the past 12 months		
None	53	49.5
1-10 cases	23	21.5
11-30 cases	2	1.9
31-50 cases	1	.9
Referred or reported cases to the militia	55	51.4
Referred or provided medical treatment to children with injuries from abuse or neglect	38	35.5

Figure 6.2. Referred or reported cases of child abuse and neglect by sector

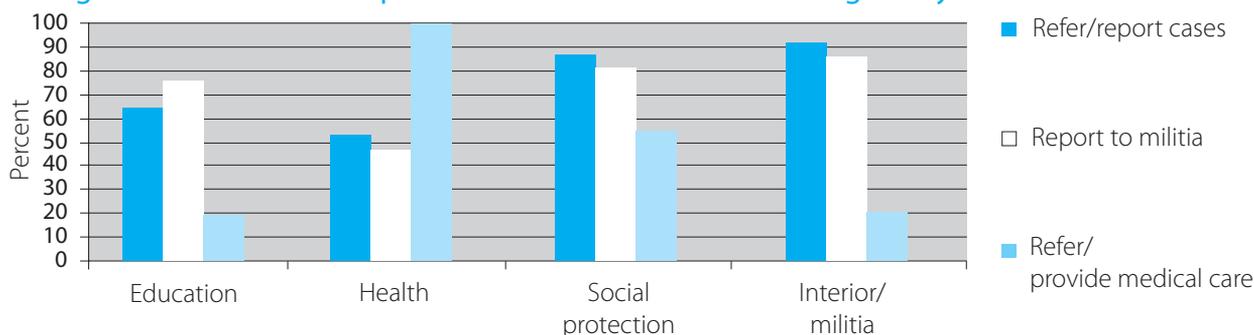


Figure 6.2 also reveals that 63.6% of respondents in the education sector referred or reported cases of child abuse and neglect to another agency/institution; however, 75% of respondents reported such cases to the militia. Interestingly, only 52.6% of respondents in the health sector referred or reported cases of child abuse and neglect they encountered to another agency/institution, and 47.1% of respondents reported such cases of child abuse and neglect to the militia. As one medical doctor in Bishkek explained,

“We report each case of violence to the militia by the place of the child’s residence. We register to who we reported the information.” (Children’s hospital, Bishkek)

Interviews with medical doctors also revealed that children are typically reluctant to report that their injuries were inflicted on them by their parents, and parents will often ask physicians not to report the incident to the militia or other authorities.

Figure 6.2 also reveals that 100.0% of respondents in the health sector were most likely to refer or provide medical treatment to a child with injuries from abuse and neglect. In accordance with their functional duties, physicians conduct a full medical check-up of abused children and issue a certificate on the status of a child’s health.

Interestingly, only 56.3% of respondents in the social protection sector and 23.1% of respondents in the interior/justice/militia sector referred or provided medical treatment to children with injuries from abuse and neglect. Moreover, only 18.2% of respondents in the education sector referred or provided medical treatment to children with injuries from abuse and neglect. The fact that so few respondents in the social protection, interior/justice/militia, and education sectors actually refer or provide medical treatment to children with injuries from abuse and neglect is concerning. Children with injuries from abuse and

neglect need to receive medical treatment and there should be a collaborative effort and practice to ensure that injured children receive medical treatment.

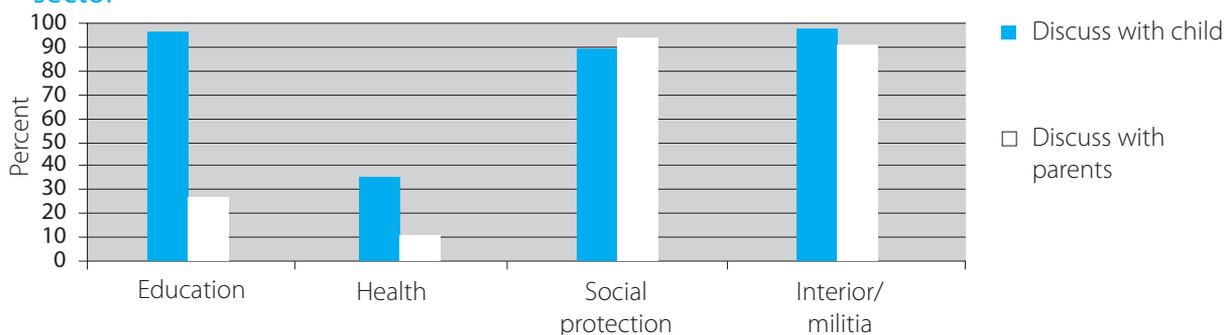
Intervention and monitoring of families with child abuse and neglect

Table 6.5 reveals that only 50.5% of respondents reported they make an effort to discuss with the child problems of abuse and neglect they may be experiencing at home and in the family. Respondents were slightly more likely to report (60.7%) they make an effort to discuss with the child’s parents or caregiver problems with the treatment of their child. However, only 43.0% of respondents reported they actually follow-up with or monitor the child or family for continued abuse or neglect.

Moreover, only 24.3% of respondents reported they refer children and parents in cases of abuse and neglect for outside intervention or support.

	N=83	
	n	%
Make effort to discuss with the child problems and abuse they may be experiencing at home	54	50.5
Make effort to discuss with the child’s parents/caregiver problems with the treatment of their child	65	60.7
Follow-up with or monitor the child or family for continued abuse and neglect	46	43.0
Refer children and parents in cases of abuse and neglect for outside intervention or support	26	24.3

Figure 6.3. Discuss with child and parents problems of child abuse and neglect by sector



Analysis was also carried out to examine differences across each of the sectors – education, health, social protection, and interior/justice/militia – in regard to intervention and monitoring of families with child abuse and neglect. Figure 6.3 reveals respondents in the education (95.5%), social protection (87.5%), and interior/justice/militia (96.0%) sectors discussed with children problems of abuse and neglect they were experiencing in the home. Respondents in the health care sector (35.3%) were least likely to discuss such problems with the child.

Figure 6.3 also reveals that while the majority of experts in the social protection (93.8%) and interior/justice/militia (92.0%) sectors discussed problems of abuse and neglect with a child’s parents or caregiver. Very few respondents in the education (27.3%) and health (11.8%) sectors actually discussed such problems with a child’s parents or caregiver.

However, interview data did revealed that some educators and doctors do attempt to talk directly with parents and relatives about problems of child abuse and neglect, and some even attempt to provide psychological support for the abused or neglected child.

“I have talked to parents and explained to them that such treatment can significantly damage the psychology of the child, but the parents request that the case not be reported to any agency.” (Hospital, Batken)

“We get in contact with relatives of the child. We invite the parents to a meeting at the school and monitor such families.” (Public school, Talas)

Some educators even refer the case to the militia and/or social workers when they feel they can not effectively address the problem with parents.

“In 2008, when I found out that the girl was hospitalized with trauma I reported this case immediately to IMA. Her mother was invited to

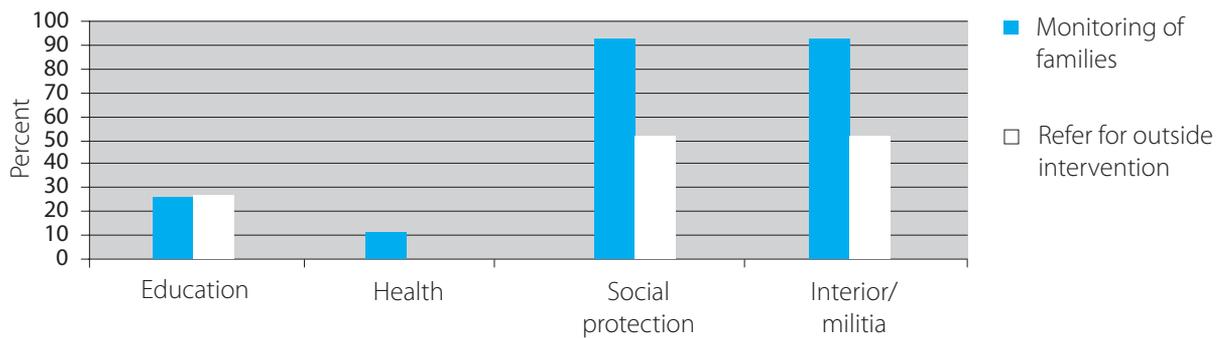
come to the meeting with the CCA, where of course she refused to admit that she beat the girl. Together with the classroom teacher we talked a lot to the mother and the grandmother of the girl, but it was useless.” (Public school, Bishkek)

“Together with the militia and social workers we visit the house of abused and neglected children and find out the reason for such treatment. Our teachers always talk to children and try to return them to their home.” (Public school, Jalalabad)

Figure 6.4 further reveals that respondents in the social protection (93.8%) and interior/justice/militia (92.0%) sectors were most likely to follow-up with or monitor children or family for continued abuse and neglect; whereas, few respondents in the education (27.3%) and health (11.8%) sectors did follow-ups with or monitored children and families for continued abuse or neglect.

It is important to note that few respondents referred children and parents in cases of abuse and neglect for outside intervention and support. More specifically, only 53.3% of respondents in the social protection sector and 50.0% of respondents in the interior/justice/militia sector actually referred children and parents for outside intervention and support. Only 27.3% of respondents in the education sector referred children and parents for outside intervention and support. No respondents in the health sector referred children and parents in cases of abuse and neglect for outside intervention and support.

Figure 6.4. Intervention and monitoring of families with child abuse and neglect by sector



Interview data revealed that the Family and Children Support Unit will work in collaboration with IMA and social protection bodies to gather information on abused and neglected children and their parents, runaway children, and they check and document the living conditions of children in abusive families. Often the Family and Children Support Unit will develop a plan for working with the family which defines the social, legal, medical, and psychological support that can be delivered to the family by agencies such as the Family Medical Center, social protection agencies, and the Department of Education. Often parents are given six-months to correct the situation, stop abusing alcohol, and find a permanent job. If they fail to meet the requirements set forth in the plan they can have their parental rights deprived and the child removed from the family and placed into a state institution. Or, if there are relatives who are willing to foster the child, then guardianship of the child can be transferred to relatives. In the event that a child must be removed from their family, the Family and Children Support Unit will work together with CCA to place an abused and neglected child in a boarding school or children’s institution.

As two different representative from the Family and Children Support Unit explained,

“If facts of neglect are reported we reveal such cases and ask citizens to write an application to the Mayor’s Office. After the application is filed we help to collect documents for placing the child in a boarding school. If the CCA supports such a decision then we take the child to a boarding school and we keep monitoring living conditions of the child in the boarding school.” (Talas)

“We visit the scene together with the CCA. If we see that conditions are inappropriate to keep

the child in this family we remove the child and place him/her to an institution. We also attempt to help poor families to find employment and develop a plan of individual help for the family, and then we work based on this plan. The destiny of the child is decided by CCA and before such decisions are made children and a child is placed in a children’s home we talk to the parents.” (Chui)

Guidance or training on child abuse and neglect

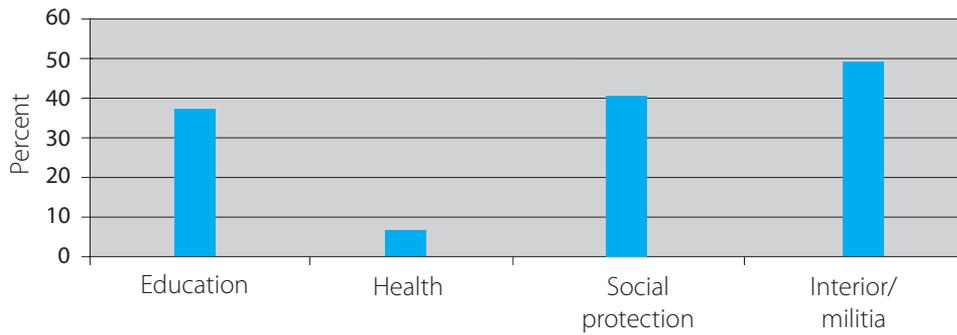
Table 6.6 reveals that only 25.3% of respondents maintain staff in their agency/institution receive specific guidance or training on identifying signs of child abuse and neglect.

More specifically, Figure 6.5 reveals that only 46.2% of respondents in the interior/justice/militia sector, 37.5% of respondents in the social protection, and 36.4% of respondents in the education sector reported staff in their agency/institution received guidance or training on identifying signs of child abuse and neglect.

Surprisingly, only 5.3% of respondents in the health sector reported staff in their medical facility received specific guidance or training on identifying signs of child abuse and neglect.

	N=83	
	n	%
Staff receive specific guidance/training on identifying signs of child abuse and neglect	27	25.3

Figure 6.5. Staff have specific guidance/training on identifying signs of child abuse and neglect



Prevention and education

Finally, Table 6.7 reveals that 42.1% of respondents reported their agency/institution was involved in efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect. Only 26.2% of respondent reported their agency/institution has program focused on educating parents and children about child abuse and neglect.

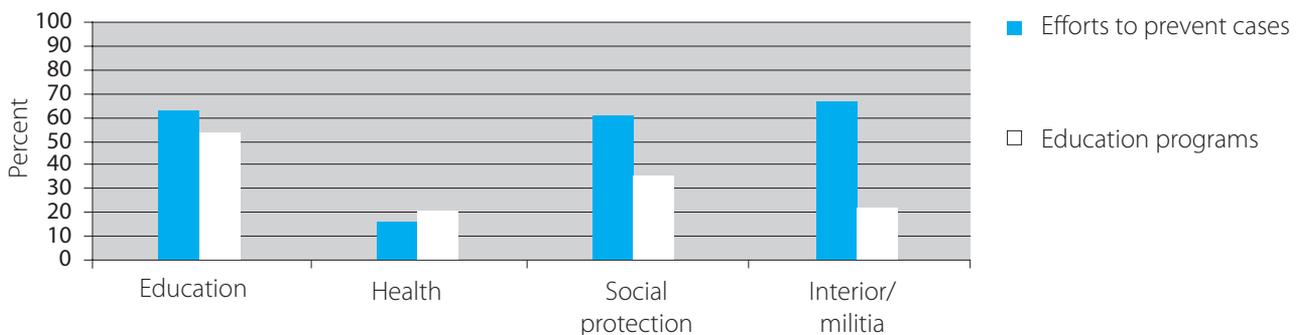
Figure 6.6 reveals respondents in the education (63.6%), social protection (62.5%), and interior/justice/militia (69.2%) sectors were most likely to report their agency/institution was involved in efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect. Only 15.8% of respondents in the health sector were involved in efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect.

In addition, 54.5% of respondents in the education sector and 37.4% of respondents in the social protection sector reported having programs focused on educating parents and children about child abuse and neglect.

Very few respondents in the health (21.1%) and interior/justice/militia (23.1%) sectors reported having programs focused on educating parents and children about child abuse and neglect

Table 6.7. Prevention and education efforts		
	N=83	
	n	%
Involved in efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect	45	42.1
Have programs focused on educating parents and children about child abuse and neglect	28	26.2

Figure 6.6. Prevention and education efforts by sector



Cases of child abuse and neglect

Local experts were asked to talk about cases of child abuse and neglect they heard about, encountered, or registered and recorded. Analysis of interview data revealed a wide range of cases of child abuse and neglect and the various contributing factors, including: parental alcoholism; family dysfunction

and instability; labor migration of one or both parents (with the parents leaving their children behind in Kyrgyzstan to be cared for by relatives); death of a parent or caregiver; and poverty. What follows are a wide range of quotes from local experts that provide some insight into the type of cases of child abuse and neglect that they encounter. Bear in mind, however, these are not

in-depth case studies and the quotes offer little more than bits of summary information about each case.

These first set of quotes reveals cases of child abuse and neglect that are linked to parental alcoholism and family dysfunction and instability.

"In my practice there were a lot of cases. I have seen a case where an alcoholic father used to beat his son and the mother of the child closed her eyes to this. It seemed to her that this was the right way to bring up her child. All in all, the boy ran away from home." (Inspection of Minors, Jalalabad).

"There was a case where a 12-year old boy was beaten by his father who was under the influence of alcohol. His fingers were broken and he had bruises on his body. This happened 3 to 4 years ago. That was the way his father was educating him. He beat him severely and hit his fingers and hands with solid objects. We reported the case to the militia and they proceeded with the case (Hospital, Chui).

"There is a family where the child is neglected because the mother and father misuse alcohol. The grandmother comes and takes the child away from them. The child is left without supervision, he does not have clothes or shoes, and he doesn't go to the school. This is a dysfunctional family." (Hospital, Issyk-kul)

"There was a young woman addicted to alcohol and she gave birth to a child and then abandoned the child and her 3-year old son. She left them with the old man with whom she lived. The younger son was adopted later by a family from the neighboring village and the elder child was placed by the militia in the children's home in Bishkek. This woman was never found. This case has happened 1.5 years ago." (Family medical center, Naryn)

"Six years ago in our school there was a case where the mother was deprived of parental rights. She used to drink and starved her children to death. The children were placed in a children's home in Issyk-Kul. Their mother still has never visited her children." (School, Bishkek)

One woman applied to us with a request to deprive her husband of parental rights as he was misusing alcohol and was violent towards her and her children – two daughters. After getting drunk

the husband used to beat them and kick them out of the house in winter time. Neighbors confirmed this was true. The court decision was to deprive him of parental rights with an argument that he didn't take care of his children and abused his parental rights. Today he is in Russia and the mother stays here with her daughters." (Social protection agency, Talas)

"At the present time we are preparing documents to apply to the court to request to deprive one woman of her parental rights. She has three children and all three are from different husbands. The first child is being brought up by the grandmother, the second child was placed in a children's home, and the third child was just recently born. The mother lives in a shed with her child where the conditions are extremely unsatisfactory. The mother has never bathed the baby and she is constantly under the influence of alcohol. The field commission on children's issues was organized and they persuaded the mother to give her child to a children's home, but at the children's home refused to take the child due to his low weight. The child was taken to the children's hospital by ambulance. In our neighborhood there is a children's home of the family type where 15 children stay and we want to place this child there." (Inspection of Minors Affairs, Bishkek)

"There was a case in the suburbs. The parents were alcoholics and they used to leave the house in the morning in search of earnings. Once in the evening they came back home with nothing. The child was asking to eat and was constantly crying as he was hungry. The parents lost their patience and they choked the child to death with a pillow." (Children's hospital, Bishkek)

"There was a 14 or 15 year old child who did not study since 10 years of age. He had no father and his mother was an alcoholic. She made him work in the field. We kept a file on this family. Now the mother promises that she would not force her boy to work. The boy has slight mental problems and lives with his mother in a dormitory and the mother sleeps around. We want to place the child in a boarding school and his mother is gathering necessary documents for this." (Family and Children Support Unit, Chui)

There were many such cases. I received a brother and sister. The children ran away from home because their parents drank to excess and forced the children to work and beat and abused them (Children's home, Jalalabad)

Local experts also identified cases of child abuse and neglect related more specifically to family instability and migration of one or both parents. Parents that migrate often leave their children behind in Kyrgyzstan to be cared for by extended relatives (e.g., grandmother, grandfather, uncles, and aunts). Below are several examples of such cases of child abuse and neglect that local experts revealed.

"There are cases when parents leave to make earnings and they leave their children alone, and some of them are put under care of relatives. When children are left alone many of them start missing school. There is a case of two children who were left alone and they often miss school." (Public school, Talas)

"Parents left their 2-year old child with distant relatives and migrated for work. The relatives beat the child. They do not take care of him and lock him up and leave the house. The parents have not come back yet and the child has stayed almost one-year with these relatives. There is no news from the parents – poor baby." (Family medical center, Talas)

"In one family, the father died and the mother migrated to Russia and left her daughter with the husband's relatives. The aunt of the girl used to beat her all the time and to separate the girl from her own children. The girl eventually ran away. With the help of the court the aunt was deprived of guardianship rights and the girl was given back to her grandmother."

(Inspection of Minors Affairs, Jalalabad)

"The boy was left alone, his mother got married and his father migrated to Russia to earn money. The child used to live with his grandfather, uncle, and aunt. Because he was treated badly he often used to run away from home." (Inspection on Minors Affairs, Batken)

"One woman gave birth to a child and then left for Russia to make money, and left her child with the grandmother. The girl lives with the grandmother and grandfather but there are no living conditions, the place is unsanitary."

(Department of Internal Affairs, Chui)

Local experts also talked about cases of child abuse and neglect that have ensued after a child lost his/her parent or caregiver.

"Three to four years ago the parents of one boy died. After the death of his parents he stopped

going to school and was abandoned. This was due to financial difficulties. We used to visit him at home many times to help him. He and his brother were always dirty as they worked in the boiler-house. Anyway the boy has finished the 9th grade." (Public school, Naryn)

"The mother of a 15-year old girl died, and she was kicked out of the house by her step-father. We placed the girl in a children's home where she now resides. The step-father did not want to take her back and abandoned her." (Family and Children Support Unit, Chui)

"During my working experience there were no cases of violence, but there were cases when parents did not provide care, education, and parenting. Once we found a street child and he was 15 years old. He had no parents and lived with his grandmother and grandfather. When his grandmother died his brother kicked him out of house and he had to earn a living by working as a hired hand. We found him on the street and placed him in a boarding school. Based on his story we made inquiries to the rayons, but there was no data on him. We also organized a medical check-up for the boy. Now we are looking for a decent family to adopt him." (Family and Children Support Unit, Naryn)

"There was a case of two children – 9 and 11 years old – who were left without a mother. She died and then their father forced them to work for money. They had no right to come back home without alcoholic drinks for the father. The children begged in the market." (Center for social protection of children and families, Issyk-kul)

Some local experts also spoke about cases of child abuse and neglect from step-parents.

"A 12-year old boy ran away from his step-father because he used to beat him. The boy ran away to At-Bashi and got hired to pasture animals. After two years the mother took the boy back because she got divorced from her husband, the step-father of the boy. But the boy never came back to school and today he works somewhere in Bishkek. His mother has five children and she does not have an opportunity to raise them. Their birth father kicked them out of the house." (Public school, Naryn)

“Two years ago we had a girl studying in the 7th grade. Once her father came to look for her in the school; then it turned out that he was her step-father – blood brother of her father. The step-father had adopted her and her mother had died. The family was very successful and they lived in abundance, but the girl did not want to go back to the house. The step-father said that the girl didn’t want to come back because she didn’t want to look after the 90-year old mother of the step-father, and that’s why the girl was running away from home. She was also stealing things from the house to sell them. But the girl explained that her step-father used to drink to excess and cursed and yelled at her. Later extended relatives took her and have been granted guardianship. Today the girl has a normal life with her relative.” (Public school, Naryn)

“In my practice there was a child whose father had died and his mother got married, and of course his new “father” didn’t need him. Because of bad treatment the boy started to run away from home.” (District Militia, Batken)

“The boy did not visit the school for two weeks after he was beaten by his step-father, who treated his two step-sons badly and strictly controlled the pocket money.”

(Evening school, Bishkek)

“A few years ago there was a case of cruel treatment of the child. The step-mother poured boiling water on her step-daughter and the girl had big problems with her genitals. The step-mother was convicted and today the girl is being raised by her grandmother.” (Bishkek)

Many families in Kyrgyzstan also experience significant economic strain and live in or near to conditions of poverty. These families face numerous difficulties in providing children with basic needs, including food, clothing, adequate housing, medical care, and access to education. In many such families, women must work outside of the home and often leave their children home without parental supervision.

“One young woman leaves her 3-month old baby and goes to work, so this baby is often left without care.” (Family medical center, Naryn)

“There is a case of a 13-year old Russian boy. His mother and father worked as hired hands

and the child stayed with his grandmother, but she does not look after him and he stays in manholes.” (Inspection of Minors, Issyk-kul)

“There is 14-year old child and his parents neglected him. He used to leave the house and beg on the streets. Then the boy started stealing and stopped his studies and became a street child. We used to take him back to home but the parents did not pay attention to him. The Commission of Children’s Affairs made a decision to do a medical check-up and he was diagnosed to be mentally sick. He continues today to be a beggar and nobody can help him.” (Department of Internal Affairs, Naryn)

Local experts also encountered cases of child sexual abuse. Several experts spoke about such cases that they encountered.

“There was a case when a step-father raped his step-daughter, in spite of the fact that he lived with his wife. The girl was 12 years old. The step-father was deprived of his parental rights and he was judged and the case was made public.” (Public school, Issyk-kul)

“Five to six years ago there was a case when a step-father raped his step-daughter, whose mother had died. Later the girl was adopted.” (Bishkek)

“There a 9-year old girl and her mother left for Kazakhstan to make money. During this time, one of her 17-year old relatives forced her to have sex. The girl started behaving in a strange way and her classroom teacher noticed this change and correctional talks were conducted and her mother was requested to come. Later on her mother took her away to another region.” (Public school, Chui)

One local expert even spoke about a case of sibling abuse that he encountered.

“In my practice there was a boy who was beaten severely by his brother and his arm was broken. But the boy told to his parents and the militia that he fell down from the tree. The child had to lie because the brother was his step-brother (Hospital, Batken)

The reasons that parents and caregivers have for abusing and neglecting a child are numerous (there is no one reason or circumstance, although there are common contributing factors). Girls are particularly vulnerable to gender-related violence.

“I was asked to come to help the family in which the father severely beat his daughter. When I asked why he beat her, he said she went to the disco without his permission.” (First aid station, Jalalabad)

"There was a case which stuck in my memory. There was a 15-year old girl and the step-father wanted strongly to marry her against her will. The parents used to beat her and prohibited her to go to school. She ran away from home." (Inspection on Minors Affairs, Jalalabad)

Another common theme that emerges in some of the stories that local experts shared is that both women and their children experience violence in the home from the husband/father. Battered women often have a more difficult time caring for their children and can sometimes abuse and neglect their own children as a result of the violence and abuse in their lives from their husband.

"A mother left her 3 children and went out in an unknown direction. The husband said she often did this. The youngest baby was only 2 months old. Later it we found out that she used to leave the house because she was beaten by her husband. Now the 2 children were placed in a children's home and the youngest one is in a children's hospital. We want to deprive the parents of their parental rights as they do not have conditions to bring up their children." (Family and Children Support Unit, Chui)

Local experts also spoke about the different sort of injuries that children suffer as a result of the abuse and neglect they experience.

"We had a boy who was treated badly at home and his psychic was damaged. The boy had no will to study, but after we started working with him he started studying again in school" (Inspection on Minors Affairs, Batken)

"There was a case when the parents beat their son and he was hospitalized with us." (Children's Hospital, Osh)

In 2008, a brother and sister were taken to the children's hospital by ambulance. The girl was 12-years old and the boy was 13-years old. They were beaten by their father who used to beat them often. They drank double vinegar." (First aid station, Batken)

"A 3-year old boy was hospitalized with brain injuries. The duty officer from the Department of Internal Affairs called the ambulance." (First aid station, Batken)

"A one-year old girl was hospitalized with brain injuries. The neighbor called for emergency aid." (First aid station, Batken)

"A 10 to 11 year old child was taken to our department with a fractured jaw and infected

injury. The child was beaten by the father and the parents were addicted to alcohol. Mainly children are taken to our department by parents; therefore, they may hide the circumstances of the trauma related to cruel treatment. The child frightened by the trauma and threats, of course will keep silent." (Medical doctor, Bishkek)

"A 9th grade girl was taken to the hospital because her mother broke her head with an iron. The mother of the girl was psychologically unstable and she used to beat her for any wrongdoing. The girl hid the fact that her mother was beating her from her teachers, but classmates used to tell everything. The girl used to run away from the house. The grandmother also had mental problems and stayed with them." (School, Bishkek)

"The mother was a sex-worker and she used to beat her 5-year old daughter. The child was bitten and beaten. The girl had a psychological disorder and she could not talk; she was frightened and could not perceive other people. Together with the family support department under the Mayor's office we initiated a criminal case and the mother was sentenced to 2 years in prison. Fifteen days ago she was released. Today the girl is staying in a family type house." (Center of social support for children and families, Issyk-kul)

"In 2007 there was a case when a 3-year old boy was beaten by his mother. She bit his off his ear and his face. She was convicted." (Inspection on Minors Affairs, Issyk-kul)

"We have received a girl who had boiling water poured over her by her mother. The child ran away from home. Now the girl stays at our center, soon we will be placing her to a children's home" (Inspector from Center for adaptation and rehabilitation of minors, Osh)

"In April 2009 in Vorontsovka village, a man severely beat his son and in return the son killed his father and hanged himself. By the skin of his teeth the boy was saved (Children's hospital, Bishkek)

Response of the militia to child runaways

The children's survey revealed that children who are abused and neglected will run away from home, and runaway children have very high rates

of abuse and neglect in their backgrounds. The militia is one agency/institution that often has contact with runaway children because they are on the street and some runaways are picked up by the police for begging, street crimes, property crimes, shoplifting, drug and/or alcohol use/abuse, and prostitution. The common response of the militia is to respond to the child runaway's juvenile delinquency and/or offending behaviors as though they are a hooligan or criminal and detain them. Or, if the child is not involved in an act of delinquency or offending, the child is typically returned to their home and family despite the presence of abuse and neglect; and these children often runaway again.

Prior research has revealed that running away is actually a coping strategy or survival strategy to escape the violence and abuse in their life; however, it does not appear that the militia understands or responds appropriately to this reality. More often than not, child runaways are detained and treated more like juvenile delinquents than victims by the militia.

"Another major responsibility of militia and the Inspection on Minors Affairs is to register and monitor children who run away from home and are inclined to beg on the streets. The major objective in these cases is to return the child to the family or other relatives, where the child is better understood." (Inspection on Minors Affairs, Batken)

"I take formal note of detention and report to the administration, then I give this information to directors of schools and social workers. By joint actions we try to return children to their families, but often it happens the other way around and children will run away again." (Inspection on Minors Affairs, Jalalabad)

"Mainly we return children to families but because their families are incomplete children end up running away again and they return to street life. We communicate with the council of elders. And after talking to the child we take him/her to his/her place or to a children's home until the court decision is issued." (Inspection on Minor Affairs, Batken)

"Street children and homeless children are sent to crisis centers. We have 5 to 6 children saddled with a police record who keep running

away from the house. They live in manholes. We want to send them to Chui specialized school." (Militia, Osh)

"We return children back to their families and talk to the parents. There are parents who are concerned and look for their children, but also there are parents who refuse their own children. In such cases, we place them in a children's homes together with the Inspection on Minors Affairs." (Militia, Osh)

Chapter 7: Recommendations

The following recommendations are guided by the human rights obligations of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic under the CRC and other human rights agreements. While the primary role of child care and rearing is accorded to the family, the Government does have an obligation to provide a comprehensive and multi-sectoral response to all forms of child abuse and neglect in families. The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic is required to provide appropriate legislation and social policies to ensure an effective response to child abuse and neglect, programs and services for prevention and protection to assist child victims and parents, and strategies to bring about changes in attitudes and behaviors (1).

Legal reform

Recommendation 1: Implementation of existing legislation and monitoring of the implementation of laws that address child abuse and neglect

The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic has several key pieces of legislation that criminalize and regulates the response to child abuse and neglect, including:

- Child Code of the Kyrgyz Republic
- Family Code of the Kyrgyz Republic
- Law on Safeguarding and Protecting the Rights of Minors
- Law on Social and Legal Protection from Violence in the Family
- Criminal Code of the Kyrgyz Republic

The problem lies in the fact that these legislation are not effectively implemented or applied in cases of child abuse and neglect. As Chapter 4 reveals 60.1% of children between 10 and 16 years of age throughout Kyrgyzstan self-reported experiencing at least one type of child abuse and 64.4% experienced child neglect. Chapter 5 also reveals 82.6% of parents' throughout Kyrgyzstan self-reported using at least one type of abuse against their children, and 67.1% of parents' neglected their children. Chapter 6, however, reveals that very few officials or civil servants in the education, health care, social protection, and interior/justice/militia sectors throughout Kyrgyzstan register

or record a small number of cases of child abuse and neglect that they hear about or encounter in their professional work. Moreover, only 48.6% of respondents maintain they are required by official regulations to register or record cases of child abuse and neglect, and few official or civil servants report cases of child abuse and neglect to the militia for investigation and enforcement.

These finding demonstrate that the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic needs to implement mechanisms for effectively and consistently implementing legislation that address child abuse and neglect across and within each of the Oblasts in Kyrgyzstan. For legal reform to be effective and achieve the goal intended, advice and training will be needed for all those who work directly with children (e.g., education and medical and health care professionals) and all those involved in child protection systems (e.g., child protection officials/civil servants, social workers, militia officials, prosecuting authorities, and court staff and judges). Advice and training will need to include:

- identification of cases of child abuse and neglect
- existing national legislation and official regulations that address child abuse and neglect and should guide the response to cases of child abuse and neglect
- reporting, registration, and referral of cases of child abuse and neglect
- investigation of all reported and registered cases of child abuse and neglect
- protection of all child victims from significant harm
- assistance and support services for child victims and their families
- punishment of perpetrators of child abuse and neglect when appropriate

The aim should be to stop parents and other family members from using violence or other cruel or degrading punishment – harsh verbal abuse, psychological abuse, moderate and severe physical abuse, and sexual abuse – against

children and from neglecting children. The focus should be on using supportive and educational interventions and interventions that address the various underlying risk factors that contribute to child abuse and neglect (refer to Chapters 4 through 6 to understand the various risk factors). Punitive interventions should be reserved for extreme cases of child abuse and neglect (2).

It is also important that the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic work in collaboration with international organizations and local nongovernmental organizations or civil society organizations to develop monitoring mechanisms to ensure systematic and consistent monitoring of the implementation of legislation and regulations that address child abuse and neglect across the sectors, including, but not limited to the education, health care, social protection, and interior/justice/militia sectors.

Recommendation 2: Development of legislation on corporal punishment and others forms of cruel or degrading punishment

Both the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the UN World Report on Violence Against Children note that laws on criminal assault are seldom interpreted as prohibiting physical chastisement or corporal punishment, and all other forms of cruel or degrading punishment of children in the home and family setting. It is important that the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic ensure they have legislation that clearly prohibits physical chastisement or corporal punishment of children, along with all other forms of cruel or degrading punishment of children in the home and family setting, including alternative family settings where children are cared for and reside (e.g., special schools for children, boarding schools for children, shelters for children, and institutions for disabled, orphaned, and wayward/troubled children).

Prevention strategies

Research continues to show that a variety of interventions can prevent child abuse and neglect in the home and family setting. The key is to ensure national legislation and policies are coupled with programs and interventions that serve to strengthen and support families and address

the underlying individual, familial, community, and societal factors that contribute to child abuse and neglect in the home and family setting (3).

Recommendation 3: Maternal and child health services that support parents and families

Services for reproductive and maternal health care, and child health care should be the first lines of action to identify and address child abuse and neglect. These services provide the opportunity to:

- prevent unwanted pregnancies;
- improve access to pre- and post-natal health care;
- improve access to infant/newborn and early childhood health care; and
- help strengthen early parent-child attachment; and reduce the risk of parents' abusing and neglecting their infants/newborns and young children.

It is important that all women be provided with free and/or affordable quality maternity services, infant/newborn and early childhood health care. This gives health care workers the opportunity to inform and educate parents about infant and early child care (e.g., nutrition and development needs), positive discipline and the harmful effects of child abuse and neglect, and the opportunity to direct resources and offer additional services to at-risk and high priority families (based upon warning signs of abuse and neglect, or simply the presence of known risk or contributing factors). In some countries, home visitation programs for newborns by health or community workers have proven successful in reducing the occurrence of child abuse and neglect and ensuring early identification of parents who need supportive assistance. The goal should be early identification and supportive assistance, without stigma or labeling, by routine checks on mothers and children through maternity services, and infant/newborn and early childhood health care (4).

Recommendation 4: Home visitation and parenting education and parent-child enhancement programs

Programs focused on family functioning, family management and problem-solving, and parenting practices have existed for several decades. There is strong and consistent evidence that such programs can be effective in reducing child abuse and neglect in the home and family setting, as well as other negative child health and development outcomes. The most successful programs have been those that

address the internal dynamics and functioning of the family along with the family's capacity for dealing with external demands.

The best programs focused on family functioning and management, parenting education and skills, and parent-child interactions includes a home visitation component. Home visitation can involve health care professionals, social workers, or trained volunteers who can assess infants and young children's needs and parents' capacities to meet those needs given the family's current social and economic situation. Personalized home visits should be supportive in nature, with the aim of providing support and training to promote positive parental knowledge, skills, and behaviors, and to a certain extent to assess the family. Home visits also provide those who perform the visit to with the opportunity to link a family with other community services as needed (5).

Throughout the world there are best practices and model programs that focus on providing parents and caregivers with education about child development and nutritional needs and parenting skills, including giving effective directions, rewarding and reinforcing positive behavior, the importance of follow through and consistency in child rearing, and strategically ignoring minor negative behaviors. These programs have proven effective at reducing child abuse and neglect and providing a context in which to teach parents non-violent methods of discipline. Some of these programs have also focused on teaching parents how to enhance parent-child interactions to improve the overall development of the child and the parent-child relationship. The earlier such programs are delivered in a child's life and the longer their duration, the greater the benefits for children and parents (6, 7).

The UN World Report on Violence Against Children recommends well trained professionals conduct trainings and offer support groups and counseling in the various areas for parents and children:

- Parent groups for mothers and babies, mothers and toddlers, and single parents focus on enhancing parent-child interactions and developing parenting skills and knowledge
- Post-natal depression support for mothers
- Training on effective parenting and care for infants, including a focus on nutrition, hygiene, shaking baby syndrome, and early infant development.

- Training for parents on child rearing and disciplining children under-5 years of age, under 12 years, and teenagers
- Counseling for parents and caregivers, and children

While such parenting programs are typically provided to mothers, it is important to remember that fathers can benefit significant from such programs, particularly when it expected that fathers often serve as the disciplinarians in families throughout Kyrgyzstan.

Where and when parent education and parent-child enhancement programs are offered is important. Possible venues include: medical health clinics and polyclinics, schools and day care centers, and community centers. Mainstream parent education in the health care system by health workers who are trained to provide parents with the knowledge and skills needed to meet the survival, growth, development, and protection needs of their infants and young children is one possibility. In fact, health care workers are often the first time responders to cases of child abuse and neglect, particularly as it relates to injuries and illness or identification of malnutrition or underdevelopment of infants and young children. Medical doctors can identify at-risk children and child victims, as well as refer parents to parent education programs and other needed social services. Family doctors and nurses should also attend a training program on how to offer parent education and protect children from all forms of abuse and neglect, including physical punishment and harsh verbal and psychological abuse as forms of discipline (8).

Recommendation 5: Programs for and with children

Children from a very young age should be provided with education programs which enable children to recognize and avoid risky situations, such as appropriate and inappropriate touching, saying "no" to an adult when they feel uncomfortable, and know who a child can tell if they experience any forms of abuse or neglect (9). Throughout the world these education programs for children have produced promising outcomes in a number of school and community-based settings. However, it is important to remember that such programs work

best as part of a more comprehensive strategy that also include parenting education programs and parent-child enhancement programs.

Recommendation 6: Breaking the Silence

The UN World Report on Violence Against Children maintains that one of the cornerstones of any strategic response to child abuse and neglect must be to break the silence about issues of family violence, including the harsh verbal abuse, psychological abuse, physical abuse, and sexual abuse that many children endure in the home and family setting.

Children – however much they fear and dislike the violence they experience – do not feel they have any place to make their feelings known or they may even consider that such their feelings are not legitimate. Many children feel shame or blame themselves for the abuse and neglect they experience from parents, sibling and other family members. While other children remain silent for fear of provoking further violence, or insensitive interventions of authorities which could make their overall situation worse (10).

In fact, this research revealed that the nature and prevalence of child abuse and neglect is quite high throughout Kyrgyzstan, and some Oblasts have higher rates of child abuse and neglect. In fact, parents openly reported their use of various forms of harsh verbal, psychological, and moderate and severe physical abuse against their children as a means of discipline and correct their behavior. These reports were confidential and anonymous, and clearly few of these cases of child abuse and neglect came to the attention of professionals and civil servants that work with children or specifically on child protection.

Intervention strategies

When child abuse and neglect is suspected or disclosed, action must be taken to protect child victims and support families. The preferred response is a multi-sectoral, coordinated response system that is designed to specifically investigate and identify cases of child abuse and neglect, and intervene by providing necessary protection and support services for child victims, and support service for parents and other family members. In

severe cases of child abuse and neglect, it is important that the child is removed from the home and family and the perpetrator(s) is punished for abuse and/or neglect.

Recommendation 7: Detection of child abuse and neglect in the family

The risk for injury and damage to a child's physical and mental health, social and psychological well-being and development, and academic achievement increases with the frequency and severity of child abuse and neglect. Therefore, it is extremely important that cases of child abuse and neglect be identified as soon as possible, and that appropriate intervention be provided to bring an end to the abuse and neglect.

Health care professionals have an important role to play in child protection issue because, except in very remote rural areas, infants and young children are usually taken to the health care center or polyclinic on a routine basis by parents. Educators also need to play an important role in child protection because most children begin to regularly attend school by seven years of age; at which time children will typically have regularly and nearly daily contact with teachers. Both health care professionals and educators should be regulated in their response to and reporting of suspected cases of child abuse and neglect, including referring cases to child protection officials, militia officials, and health care workers if the child requires medical treatment.

Too often children and parents will try to disguise injuries related to child abuse and neglect as an accident; however, well trained health care workers and educators should be able to identify common excuses and detect signs of child abuse and neglect, identify cases, and have specific procedures for documenting and reporting cases of child abuse and neglect. Health care workers may also have the ability to follow-up with abused and neglected children.

Recommendation 8: Reporting of cases of child abuse and neglect by professionals

When health care workers, educators, and child protection officials identify a suspected case of child abuse and neglect, they should be required by law to report their suspicions to the authorities, or should be expected to do so irrespective of legal obligation. To be effective, reporting must be matched with equally

well developed structures of for protection, support, and treatment of child victims and high risk families. Mandatory reporting should be coupled with child protection and family supportive programs, not a punitive system.

Recommendation 9: Intervention in the best interests of the child

Once a child is identified as in danger or at-risk of child abuse and neglect, a coordinated response is needed to ensure the child is protected and the best interests of the child are taken into consideration . Accomplishing this objective, requires a multi-sectoral response and collaborative sharing of information among various service providers in different sector who have contact with children and families. There must be clear lines of sharing not only information, but also lines of responsibility for taking action and accountability for actions taken with children and families. The challenge is clearly to meet the needs of protecting the child along with keeping the family intact when it is possible and does not place the child at serious risk. Consideration must be given to the concerns and desires of the child in all decisions about interventions, taking into account the context of the child's stage of emotional development.

Advocacy and public education

Recommendation 10: Promoting a public dialogue on child abuse and neglect

A dialogue about issues of child abuse and neglect in the home and family need to be discussed in a political and public space where effective solutions can be adequately discussed and implemented. Without a national awareness raising campaign, it will be difficult to reduce child abuse and neglect.

Improving data collection for policy advocacy

This population-based research project is one of the first important efforts to generate accurate and reliable data on the nature and prevalence of child abuse and neglect of purposes of policy development advocacy, resource allocation, and program implementation. Ongoing data collection and analysis of officially reported cases can be extremely useful for identifying trends in service

utilization, and more specific information about identified cases of child abuse and neglect.

References

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APPENDIX TABLES

Appendix Table 1. Sample demographics by gender (survey of children)

	N=2,132				Test of significance	
	Male		Female		χ^2	Sign.
Oblast	n	%	n	%		
Bishkek	135	13.6	134	11.8	29.36	.00
Chuy	149	15.0	116	10.2		
Issyk-kul	83	8.4	79	6.9		
Naryn	52	5.2	42	3.7		
Talas	39	3.9	72	6.3		
Batken	115	11.6	130	11.4		
Osh	221	22.3	321	28.2		
Jalalabad	199	20.0	245	21.5		
Residence						
Urban	311	31.3	378	33.2	.85	.19
Rural	682	68.7	761	66.8		
Age						
10 years	12	1.2	16	1.4	12.76	.08
11 years	76	7.7	80	7.0		
12 years	216	21.8	220	19.3		
13 years	173	17.4	261	22.9		
14 years	209	21.0	242	21.2		
15 years	190	19.1	207	18.2		
16 years	111	11.2	110	9.7		
17 years	6	.6	3	.3		

Note: A significant relationship is $\leq .05$

Appendix Table 2. Oblast by ethnic status (survey of children)

	N=2,132								Test of significance	
	Kyrgyz		Russian		Uzbek		Other		χ^2	Sign.
Oblast	n	%	N	%	n	%	n	%		
Bishkek	143	8.5	77	80.2	6	2.3	43	50.0	925.17	.00
Chuy	216	12.8	13	13.5	2	.8	34	39.5		
Issyk-kul	161	9.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.2		
Naryn	94	5.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0		
Talas	111	6.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0		
Batken	223	13.2	4	4.2	13	4.9	5	5.8		
Osh	372	22.1	0	0.0	168	63.2	2	2.3		
Jalalabad	364	21.6	2	2.1	77	28.9	1	1.2		

Note: A significant relationship is $\leq .05$

Appendix Table 3. Living arrangements with parents and other relatives in the home
(survey of children)

Other family living in the home	N=3,132								Test of significance	
	Living arrangements with parents									
	Both mother and father		Single-parent		Parent and step-parent		Neither mother or father			
	n	%	n	%	N	%	n	%	χ ²	Sign.
Sister	1,034	60.5	131	45.5	20	40.8	39	45.9	34.02	.00
Brother	916	53.6	129	44.8	20	40.8	37	43.5	13.02	.04
Grandfather	222	13.0	45	15.6	6	12.2	35	41.2	53.00	.00
Grandmother	317	18.5	78	27.1	15	30.6	49	57.6	82.70	.00
Uncle(s)	292	17.1	43	14.9	8	16.3	19	22.4	3.06	.80
Aunt(s)	93	5.4	21	7.3	7	14.3	25	29.4	77.88	.00
Cousin(s)	95	5.6	15	5.2	5	10.2	11	12.9	10.25	.11
Other	25	1.5	7	2.4	3	6.1	2	2.4	7.75	.26

Note: A significant relationship is $\leq .05$

Appendix Table 4. Number of persons living in the home by urban vs. rural (survey of children)

Number of persons living in the home	N=2,132				Test of significance	
	Urban		Rural			
	n	%	n	%	χ ²	Sign.
1-3 persons	88	12.8	82	5.7	78.80	.00
4-6 persons	473	68.7	868	60.2		
7-9 persons	123	17.9	435	30.1		
10 or more person	5	.7	58	4.0		

Note: A significant relationship is $\leq .05$

Appendix Table 5. Birth order by gender (survey of children)

Birth order	N=2,132				Test of significance	
	Male		Female			
	N	%	n	%	χ ²	Sign.
Eldest sibling	290	29.2	314	27.6	5.37	.15
Middle sibling	361	36.4	466	40.9		
Youngest sibling	289	29.1	311	27.3		
Only child	53	5.3	48	4.2		

Note: A significant relationship is $\leq .05$

Appendix Table 6. Multiple forms of harsh verbal abuse experienced by children age 10 to 17 years

Number of forms of harsh verbal abuse	N=2,132	
	n	%
No harsh verbal abuse	1,045	49.0
One form	552	25.9
Two forms	532	25.0

Note: Forms of harsh verbal abuse include: calling you names that hurt your feelings; saying mean things that hurt your feelings; and family members saying they don't want you around.

Appendix Table 7. Multiple forms of psychological abuse experienced by children age 10 to 17 years

Number of forms of psychological abuse	N=2,132	
	n	%
No psychological abuse	1,306	61.3
One form	393	18.4
Two forms	198	9.3
Three forms	131	6.1
Four forms	59	2.8
Five forms	45	2.1

Note: Forms of psychological abuse include: breaking or ruining you things on purpose (clothes, toys, school supplies); locking you out of the home for a long time; threatening to physically hurt you by hitting, beating, and kicking; threatening to hurt you with a gun, knife, stick, belt or other weapon; and locking you in a room or small place to punish/keep you alone.

Appendix Table 8. Multiple forms of physical violence experienced by children age 10 to 17 years

Number of forms of physical violence	N=2,132	
	n	%
No physical abuse	1,345	63.1
One form	215	10.1
Two forms	164	7.7
Three forms	232	10.9
Four forms	154	7.2
Five forms	13	.6

Note: Forms of physical violence include: pushing, grabbing, hitting, beating, kicking or physically hurting you; hitting or attacking you on purpose with an object or weapon (whip, stick, gun, knife or other thing that hurts); and burning you with cigarettes or other hot items on purpose.

Appendix Table 9. Number of hours of personal time by gender

Number of hours of personal time	N= 2,132				Test of Significance	
	Work Neglect					
	Yes		No		χ ²	Sign.
n	%	n	%			
No time	24	2.1	20	2.1	227.00	.00
< 1 hour	200	17.3	62	6.4		
1-2 hours	473	40.8	216	22.2		
3-4 hours	246	21.2	242	24.9		
More than 4 hours	216	18.6	433	44.5		

Note: A significant relationship is $\leq .05$

Appendix Table 10. Multiple forms of neglect experienced by children age 10 to 17 years

Number of forms of neglect	N=2,132	
	n	%
No neglect	758	35.6
One form	399	18.7
Two forms	393	18.4
Three forms	310	14.5
Four forms	200	9.4
Five forms	72	3.4

Note: Forms of neglect include: nutrition, clothing, medical, supervision, and work.

Appendix Table 11. Relationship between harsh verbal abuse and other abuse and neglect

	Harsh verbal abuse					
	No		Yes			
	n	%	n	%	χ ²	Sign.
Psychological abuse	130	12.4	686	64.2	600.47	.00
Physical abuse	102	9.8	675	62.6	635.21	.00
Sexual abuse	11	1.1	22	2.0	3.33	.07
Neglect (all forms)	413	39.5	959	88.5	556.32	.00

Note: A significant relationship is $\leq .05$

Note: Comparison percentages are based upon valid percents and do not reflect missing cases.

Appendix Table 12. Relationship between psychological abuse and other abuse and neglect

	Psychological abuse				χ^2	Sign.
	No		Yes			
	n	%	n	%		
Harsh verbal abuse	388	29.8	696	84.3	600.47	.00
Physical abuse	189	14.6	589	71.4	701.75	.00
Sexual abuse	20	1.5	13	1.6	.01	.94
Neglect (all forms)	614	47.0	760	92.0	447.10	.00

Note: A significant relationship is $\leq .05$

Note: Comparison percentages are based upon valid percents and do not reflect missing cases.

Appendix Table 13. Relationship between physical abuse and other abuse and neglect

	Physical abuse				χ^2	Sign.
	No		Yes			
	n	%	n	%		
Harsh verbal abuse	404	30.1	675	86.9	635.21	.00
Psychological abuse	227	17.0	580	73.7	675.88	.00
Sexual abuse	12	.9	21	2.7	10.52	.00
Neglect (all forms)	642	47.7	725	93.2	444.15	.00

Note: A significant relationship is $\leq .05$

Note: Comparison percentages are based upon valid percents and do not reflect missing cases.

Appendix Table 14. Relationship between sexual abuse and other abuse and neglect

	Sexual abuse				χ^2	Sign.
	No		Yes			
	n	%	n	%		
Harsh verbal abuse	1,062	50.7	22	66.7	3.33	.07
Psychological abuse	813	38.7	13	39.4	.01	.94
Physical abuse	757	36.2	21	63.6	10.52	.00
Neglect (all forms)	1,348	64.2	26	78.8	3.01	.08

Note: A significant relationship is $\leq .05$

Note: Comparison percentages are based upon valid percents and do not reflect missing cases.

Appendix Table 15. Relationship between neglect (all forms) and abuse

	Neglect (all forms)				χ^2	Sign.
	No		Yes			
	n	%	N	%		
Harsh verbal abuse	125	16.5	959	69.9	556.32	.00
Psychological abuse	66	8.7	760	55.3	447.10	.00
Physical abuse	53	7.0	725	53.0	444.15	.00
Sexual abuse	7	.9	26	1.9	3.01	.08

Note: A significant relationship is $\leq .05$

Note: Comparison percentages are based upon valid percents and do not reflect missing cases.

Appendix Table 16. Multiple forms of abuse and neglect experienced by children age 10 to 17 years

Number of forms of abuse neglect	N=2,132	
	n	%
No abuse or neglect	569	26.7
One form abuse or neglect	407	19.1
Two forms abuse and/or neglect	322	15.1
Three forms abuse and/or neglect	281	13.2
Four forms abuse and/or neglect	529	24.8
Five forms abuse and/or neglect	12	.6

Note: Forms of abuse and neglect include: harsh verbal abuse, psychological abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect (total).

Appendix Table 17. Forms of abuse and neglect by gender

	N=2,132				Test of significance	
	Male		Female		χ^2	Sign.
	N	%	n	%		
Abuse (all forms)	589	59.7	692	61.0	.365	.29
Harsh verbal abuse	487	49.1	597	52.5	2.33	.13
Psychological abuse	388	39.1	438	38.5	.09	.77
Physical abuse	345	34.9	433	38.1	2.38	.12
Sexual abuse	15	1.5	18	1.6	.02	.90
Sibling abuse	363	36.8	467	41.2	4.22	.04
Neglect (all forms)	669	67.4	705	61.9	6.94	.01
Neglect – nutrition	83	8.4	84	7.4	.71	.40
Neglect – clothing	456	45.9	497	43.6	1.12	.29
Neglect – medical	186	8.7	212	18.6	.01	.94
Neglect – supervision	295	29.7	303	26.6	2.54	.11
Neglect – work	559	56.3	612	53.7	1.41	.24

Note: A significant relationship is $\leq .05$

Appendix Table 18. Forms of abuse by ethnic status

	N=2,132								Test of significant	
	Ethnic status									
	Kyrgyz		Uzbek		Russian		Other		χ^2	Sign.
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Abuse (all forms)	1,012	60.5	226	85.6	25	26.0	18	20.9	173.56	.00
Harsh verbal abuse	827	49.2	221	83.1	21	21.9	15	17.4	183.07	.00
Psychological abuse	628	37.3	177	66.5	10	10.4	11	12.8	144.97	.00
Physical abuse	572	34.1	191	72.3	8	8.3	7	8.1	212.84	.00
Sexual abuse	27	1.6	4	1.5	2	2.1	0	0.0	1.57	.67
Sibling abuse	625	37.3	192	72.7	9	9.4	4	4.7	205.94	.00
Neglect (all forms)	1,111	66.0	223	83.8	19	19.8	21	24.4	189.04	.00
Neglect – nutrition	134	8.0	31	11.7	0	0.0	2	2.3	17.19	.00
Neglect – clothing	741	44.0	195	73.3	7	7.3	10	11.6	180.80	.00
Neglect – medical	346	20.5	43	16.2	5	5.2	4	4.7	27.59	.00
Neglect – supervision	493	29.3	99	37.2	5	5.2	1	1.2	67.96	.00
Neglect – work	939	55.8	204	76.7	13	13.5	15	17.4	166.59	.00

Note: A significant relationship is $\leq .05$

Appendix Table 19. Forms of abuse and neglect by age

	Age												Test of significance	
	10-11 years		12 years		13 years		14 years		15 years		16-18 years			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	χ^2	Sign.
Abuse (all forms)	130	71.4	262	60.6	259	59.8	271	60.2	218	55.2	141	61.8	14.02	.02
Harsh verbal abuse	122	66.7	221	50.8	199	45.9	241	53.4	182	46.0	119	51.7	27.72	.00
Psychological abuse	103	56.0	168	38.5	181	41.7	178	39.5	119	30.0	77	33.5	40.29	.00
Physical abuse	100	54.6	168	38.8	155	35.8	191	42.4	111	28.0	53	23.2	63.35	.00
Sexual abuse	3	1.6	7	1.6	10	2.3	6	1.3	4	1.0	3	1.3	2.64	.76
Sibling abuse	105	57.7	178	41.2	159	36.7	201	44.7	124	31.4	63	27.6	56.53	.00
Neglect (all forms)	116	63.0	280	64.2	257	59.2	301	66.7	256	64.5	164	71.3	11.11	.05
Neglect – nutrition	14	7.6	48	11.0	37	8.5	33	7.3	14	3.5	21	9.1	17.30	.00
Neglect – clothing	100	54.3	214	49.1	180	41.5	209	46.3	157	39.5	93	40.4	18.59	.00
Neglect – medical	35	19.0	78	17.9	66	15.2	95	21.1	76	19.1	48	20.9	6.11	.30
Neglect – supervision	65	35.3	111	25.5	106	24.4	127	28.2	116	29.2	73	31.7	10.93	.05
Neglect – work	104	56.5	224	56.4	228	52.5	256	56.8	205	51.6	132	57.4	4.50	.48

Note: A significant relationship is $\leq .05$

Appendix Table 20. Forms of abuse and neglect by gender-ethnic status

	Gender-Ethnic Group														Test of significance	χ ²	Sign.			
	Female Kyrgyz		Female Uzbek		Female Russian		Female Other		Male Kyrgyz		Male Uzbek		Male Russian					Male Other		
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%				n	%	
Abuse (all forms)	530	59.8	137	84.0	13	31.7	12	27.3	72.76	.00	482	61.2	89	88.1	12	21.8	6	14.3	103.45	.00
Harsh verbal abuse	444	49.4	131	80.4	13	31.7	9	20.5	78.42	.00	383	48.4	90	87.4	8	14.5	6	14.3	107.18	.00
Psychological abuse	328	36.8	100	61.3	4	9.8	6	13.6	62.84	.00	300	37.8	77	74.8	6	10.9	5	11.9	86.96	.00
Physical abuse	308	34.7	116	71.2	5	12.2	4	9.1	107.17	.00	264	33.4	75	74.3	3	5.5	3	7.1	104.83	.00
Sexual abuse	14	1.6	3	1.8	1	2.4	0	0.0	.97	.81	13	1.6	1	1.0	1	1.8	0	0.0	.97	.81
Sibling abuse	341	38.5	117	71.8	7	17.1	2	4.5	99.87	.00	284	36.0	75	74.3	2	3.6	2	4.8	105.65	.00
Neglect (all forms)	556	62.4	131	80.4	6	14.6	12	27.3	84.87	.00	555	70.0	92	89.3	13	23.6	9	21.4	113.23	.00
Neglect – nutrition	68	7.6	15	9.2	0	0.0	1	2.3	5.82	.12	66	8.3	16	15.5	0	0.0	1	2.4	13.90	.00
Neglect – clothing	375	42.1	115	70.6	2	4.9	5	11.4	92.56	.00	366	46.2	80	77.7	5	9.1	5	11.9	91.44	.00
Neglect – medical	186	20.9	22	13.5	1	2.4	3	6.8	16.95	.00	160	20.2	21	20.4	4	7.3	1	2.4	13.39	.00
Neglect – supervision	244	27.4	57	35.0	2	4.9	0	0.0	31.98	.00	249	31.4	42	40.8	3	5.5	1	2.4	37.64	.00
Neglect – work	480	53.9	117	71.8	1	2.4	9	20.5	84.16	.00	451	56.9	87	84.5	9	16.4	5	11.9	102.06	.00

Note: A significant relationship is ≤ .05

Appendix Table 21. Forms of abuse by number of siblings

	N=2,132								Test of significant	
	Number of siblings									
	No siblings		1-3 siblings		4-5 siblings		6 or more siblings			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	χ^2	Sign.
Abuse (all forms)	34	35.8	726	58.2	402	68.0	119	63.6	41.71	.00
Harsh verbal abuse	28	29.5	639	51.0	324	54.5	93	49.7	20.72	.00
Psychological abuse	22	23.2	450	35.9	272	45.7	82	43.6	28.10	.00
Physical abuse	16	16.8	44	35.3	250	42.2	71	37.8	25.02	.00
Sexual abuse	0	0.0	17	1.4	11	1.8	5	2.7	3.68	.30
Sibling abuse	16	16.8	457	36.6	277	46.9	80	42.8	38.94	.00
Neglect (all forms)	38	40.0	755	60.2	431	72.4	150	79.8	70.50	.00
Neglect – nutrition	7	7.4	76	6.1	68	11.4	16	8.5	16.26	.00
Neglect – clothing	25	26.3	535	42.7	291	48.9	102	54.3	26.30	.00
Neglect – medical	17	17.9	185	14.8	146	24.5	50	26.6	33.98	.00
Neglect – supervision	12	12.6	339	27.0	185	31.1	62	33.0	16.83	.00
Neglect – work	27	28.4	621	49.5	381	64.0	130	69.1	76.61	.00

Note: A significant relationship is $\leq .05$

Appendix Table 22. Forms of abuse and neglect by living arrangements with parents

	N=2,132								Test of significant	
	Living arrangements with parents									
	Both mother and father		Single parent		Parent and step-parent		Neither mother or father			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	χ^2	Sign.
Abuse (all forms)	999	58.8	190	66.0	27	56.3	65	76.5	15.09	.00
Harsh verbal abuse	839	49.2	159	55.2	26	53.1	76	89.4	33.98	.00
Psychological abuse	639	37.4	124	43.1	16	32.7	47	55.3	14.20	.00
Physical abuse	391	34.7	125	43.4	13	27.1	49	57.6	26.41	.00
Sexual abuse	29	1.7	2	.7	0	0.0	2	2.4	2.75	.43
Sibling abuse	630	37.1	131	45.5	13	27.1	56	65.9	36.40	.00
Neglect (all forms)	1,068	62.5	204	70.8	26	53.1	76	89.4	33.98	.00
Neglect – nutrition	127	7.4	21	7.3	3	6.1	16	18.8	14.93	.00
Neglect – clothing	728	42.6	149	51.7	16	32.7	60	70.6	34.82	.00
Neglect – medical	293	17.1	62	21.5	10	20.4	33	38.8	27.04	.00
Neglect – supervision	461	27.0	87	30.2	9	18.4	41	48.2	21.11	.00
Neglect – work	910	53.2	173	60.1	20	40.8	68	80.0	30.62	.00

Note: A significant relationship is $\leq .05$

Appendix Table 23. Forms of abuse by number of people living in the household with the child

	N=2,132								Test of significant	
	Number of people living in the household with the child									
	1-3 persons		4-6 persons		7-9 persons		10 or more persons			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	χ ²	Sign.
Abuse (all forms)	74	43.5	780	58.6	387	69.6	40	64.5	42.26	.00
Harsh verbal abuse	56	32.9	659	49.2	333	59.7	36	57.1	41.58	.00
Psychological abuse	37	21.8	487	36.3	270	48.4	32	50.8	49.70	.00
Physical abuse	39	22.9	456	34.2	255	45.9	28	45.2	35.60	.00
Sexual abuse	0	0.0	20	1.5	12	2.2	1	1.6	4.03	.26
Sibling abuse	39	22.9	488	36.6	270	48.6	33	53.2	48.11	.00
Neglect (all forms)	81	47.6	828	61.7	415	74.4	50	79.4	55.33	.00
Neglect – nutrition	6	3.5	101	7.5	49	8.8	11	17.5	13.31	.00
Neglect – clothing	51	30.0	552	41.2	311	55.7	39	61.9	56.68	.00
Neglect – medical	24	14.1	228	17.0	132	23.7	14	22.2	14.44	.00
Neglect – supervision	25	20.6	368	27.4	176	31.5	19	30.2	8.44	.04
Neglect – work	63	37.1	702	52.3	359	64.3	47	74.6	55.33	.00

Note: A significant relationship is $\leq .05$

Appendix Table 24. Forms of abuse and neglect by urban vs. rural

	N=2,132				Test of significance	
	Urban		Rural			
	n	%	N	%	χ ²	Sign.
Abuse (all forms)	357	51.9	924	64.5	31.03	.00
Harsh verbal abuse	324	47.1	760	52.7	5.94	.02
Psychological abuse	222	32.2	604	41.9	18.25	.00
Physical abuse	202	29.3	576	40.2	23.60	.00
Sexual abuse	8	1.2	25	1.7	1.00	.32
Sibling abuse	199	28.9	631	44.1	44.71	.00
Neglect (all forms)	322	48.2	1,042	72.2	117.47	.00
Neglect – nutrition	14	2.0	153	10.6	47.45	.00
Neglect – clothing	229	33.2	724	50.2	54.12	.00
Neglect – medical	43	6.2	355	24.6	103.54	.00
Neglect – supervision	118	17.1	480	33.3	60.18	.00
Neglect – work	258	37.4	913	63.3	125.63	.00

Note: A significant relationship is $\leq .05$

Appendix Table 25. Forms of abuse and neglect by Oblast

	N=2,132																	Test of significance	
	Oblast																		
	Bishkek		Chuy		Issyk-kul		Naryn		Talas		Batken		Osh		Jalalabad		χ ²	Doct.	
	n	%	n	%	N	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%			
Abuse (all forms)	86	32.0	100	37.9	80	50.3	55	58.5	58	52.3	153	62.7	408	76.1	341	77.0	263.72	.00	
Harsh verbal abuse	70	26.0	65	24.6	50	31.1	33	35.1	45	40.5	129	52.9	371	68.5	321	72.3	327.60	.00	
Psychological abuse	39	14.5	52	19.6	51	31.5	27	28.7	30	27.0	83	33.9	294	54.2	250	56.3	236.47	.00	
Physical abuse	30	11.2	39	14.7	27	16.9	31	33.0	27	24.3	109	44.5	278	51.9	237	53.5	279.10	.00	
Sexual abuse	3	1.1	3	1.1	7	4.3	1	1.1	4	3.6	3	1.2	4	.7	8	1.8	14.72	.04	
Sibling abuse	35	13.0	35	13.3	20	12.6	27	28.7	24	21.6	108	44.3	318	59.3	263	59.4	387.47	.00	
Neglect (all forms)	76	28.3	110	41.5	102	63.0	70	74.5	80	72.1	164	66.9	430	79.3	342	77.0	305.51	.00	
Neglect – nutrition	0	0.0	5	1.9	5	3.1	2	2.1	4	3.6	1	.4	44	8.1	106	23.9	224.90	.00	
Neglect – clothing	29	10.8	44	16.6	39	24.1	26	27.7	39	35.1	123	50.2	348	64.2	305	68.7	442.70	.00	
Neglect – medical	16	5.9	28	10.6	25	15.4	15	16.0	21	18.9	44	18.0	122	22.5	127	28.6	75.92	.00	
Neglect – supervision	26	9.7	38	14.3	39	24.1	31	33.0	34	30.6	78	31.8	187	34.5	165	37.2	103.69	.00	
Neglect – work	59	21.9	83	31.3	83	51.2	53	56.4	69	62.2	141	57.6	401	74.0	282	63.5	274.67	.00	

Note: A significant relationship is $\leq .05$

Appendix Table 26. Forms of abuse and neglect by witness of family violence

	N=2,132				Test of significance	
	Witnessed family violence					
	Yes		No		χ^2	Дост.
	n	%	n	%		
Abuse (all forms)	384	82.6	897	54.2	122.28	.00
Harsh verbal abuse	353	75.9	731	43.9	148.76	.00
Psychological abuse	291	62.6	535	32.1	142.39	.00
Physical abuse	316	68.0	462	27.9	251.42	.00
Sexual abuse	14	3.0	19	1.1	8.35	.00
Sibling abuse	328	70.5	502	30.3	246.31	.00
Neglect (all forms)	380	81.7	994	59.6	77.45	.00
Neglect – nutrition	73	15.7	94	5.6	50.97	.00
Neglect – clothing	307	66.0	646	38.8	109.37	.00
Neglect – medical	158	34.0	240	14.4	91.82	.00
Neglect – supervision	226	48.6	372	22.3	124.49	.00
Neglect – work	353	75.9	806	48.4	111.34	.00

Note: A significant relationship is $\leq .05$

Appendix Table 27. Reasons parents/adult family members beat a child by gender

Reasons	N=2,132				Test of significance	
	Male		Female			
	N	%	n	%	χ^2	Sign.
Didn't obey	557	56.1	600	52.7	2.49	.11
Came home late	444	44.7	454	39.9	5.13	.02
Didn't do homework	271	27.3	280	24.6	2.03	.15
Received failing grade in school	239	24.1	249	21.9	1.46	.23
Didn't do/complete household chores	269	27.1	342	30.0	2.24	.14
Broke something	139	14.0	173	15.2	.60	.44
Lost money	136	13.7	181	15.9	2.02	.16
Lost house key	69	6.9	71	6.2	.44	.51
Tore/damaged your clothes/shoes	71	7.2	68	6.0	1.21	.27
Was seen talking to a boy that was not a relative	7	.7	15	1.3	1.95	.16
When your parents have troubles or are in a bad mood	23	2.3	27	2.4	.00	.93
Other	37	3.7	64	5.6	4.21	.04

Note: A significant relationship is $\leq .05$

Appendix Table 28. Reasons parents/adult family members beat a child by urban vs. rural

Reasons	N=2,132				Test of significance	
	Urban		Rural		χ^2	Доств.
	N	%	n	%		
Didn't obey	275	39.9	882	61.1	84.53	.00
Came home late	189	27.4	709	49.1	90.10	.00
Didn't do homework	102	14.8	449	31.1	64.74	.00
Received failing grade in school	68	9.9	420	29.1	97.77	.00
Didn't do/complete household chores	125	8.1	486	33.7	55.06	.00
Broke something	47	6.8	265	18.4	49.74	.00
Lost money	44	6.4	273	18.9	57.87	.00
Lost house key	17	2.5	123	8.5	27.88	.00
Tore/damaged your clothes/shoes	19	2.8	120	8.3	23.64	.00
Was seen talking to a boy that was not a relative	3	.4	19	1.3	3.55	.06
When your parents have troubles or are in a bad mood	11	1.6	39	2.7	2.49	.11
Other	26	3.8	75	5.2	2.10	.15

Note: A significant relationship is $\leq .05$

Appendix Table 29. Multiple forms of positive discipline by parents

Number of forms of positive discipline	N=155	
	n	%
No positive discipline	7	4.5
One form	12	7.7
Two forms	47	30.3
Three forms	85	54.8

Note: Forms of positive discipline include: explaining why something was wrong; telling a child to stop doing something; and taking away privileges or grounding a child.

Appendix Table 30. Forms of abuse and neglect by positive discipline (parents' survey)

	N=155				Test of significance	
	Positive discipline				χ^2	Sign.
	Yes		No			
	n	%	N	%		
Abuse						
Harsh verbal abuse	119	82.6	0	0.0	27.29	.00
Psychological abuse	61	42.4	0	0.0	4.98	.03
Moderate physical abuse	101	71.1	1	14.3	9.98	.00
Severe physical abuse	54	38.0	0	0.0	4.18	.04
Neglect	100	69.4	3	42.9	2.18	.14

Note: A significant relationship is $\leq .05$

Appendix Table 31. Multiple forms of harsh verbal abuse by parents

Number of forms of harsh verbal abuse	N=155	
	n	%
No harsh verbal abuse	34	21.9
One form	54	34.8
Two forms	67	43.2

Note: Forms of harsh verbal abuse include: shouted, yelled or screamed; and swore, cursed or called names.

Appendix Table 32. Multiple forms of psychological abuse by parents

Number of forms of psychological abuse	N=155	
	n	%
No psychological abuse	94	60.6
One form	41	26.5
Two forms	13	8.4
Three forms	5	3.2
Four forms	2	1.3

Note: Forms of psychological abuse include: rejecting the child by telling them you don't want them anymore or threatening to kick them out of the house or send them away; locked child out of the home; threatened to hit, beat or kick child; and threatened child with a gun, knife, stick, belt, or other weapon.

Appendix Table 33. Multiple forms of moderate physical abuse by parents

Number of forms of moderate physical abuse	N=155	
	n	%
No moderate physical abuse	50	32.3
One form	29	18.7
Two forms	26	16.8
Three forms	28	18.1
Four forms	17	11.0
Five forms	3	1.9

Note: Forms of moderate physical abuse include: shook child; slapped child with hand on the buttocks, back, leg, or arm; slapped child on the face or head; twisted child's ear; and pinched child.

Appendix Table 34. Multiple forms of severe physical abuse by parents

	N=155	
	n	%
Number of forms of severe physical abuse		
No severe physical abuse	99	63.9
One form	39	25.2
Two forms	10	6.5
Three forms	3	1.9
Four forms	1	.6
Five forms	1	.6

Note: Forms of severe physical abuse include: hit child with a hard object; beat child by hitting him/her over and over as hard as possible; threw or knocked child won; burnt child with cigarettes or other hot times; and locked child in a small place, tied him/her up, or chained him/her to something.

Appendix Table 35. Parents use of both moderate and severe physical abuse

	N=155	
	n	%
No moderate or severe physical abuse	47	30.3
Only moderate or severe physical abuse	54	34.8
Both moderate and severe physical abuse	51	32.9

Appendix Table 36. Multiple forms of neglect by parents

	N=155	
	n	%
Number of forms of neglect		
No neglect	51	32.9
One form	28	18.1
Two forms	37	23.9
Three forms	23	14.8
Four forms	10	6.5
Five forms	5	3.2
Six forms	1	.6

Note: Forms of moderate neglect include: leaving children home alone without adult supervision; unable to provide child with food he/she needed; not able to take sick or injured child to a doctor, hospital or clinic when needed; unable to care for child because so caught up in own problems; unable to care for child because felt bad or hurt; and unable to care for child because drunk.

Appendix Table 37. Forms of abuse and neglect by harsh verbal abuse (parents' survey)

	N=155				Test of significance	
	Harsh verbal abuse					
	Yes		No		χ^2	Дост.
	n	%	N	%		
Abuse						
Psychological abuse	58	47.9	3	8.8	17.01	.00
Moderate physical abuse	94	79.0	9	26.5	33.16	.00
Severe physical abuse	51	42.9	3	8.8	13.41	.00
Neglect	88	72.7	16	47.1	7.92	.01

Note: A significant relationship is $\leq .05$

Appendix Table 38. Forms of abuse and neglect by psychological abuse (parents' survey)

	N=155				Test of significance	
	Psychological abuse					
	Yes		No		χ^2	Дост.
	n	%	N	%		
Abuse						
Harsh verbal abuse	58	95.1	63	67.0	17.01	.00
Moderate physical abuse	58	95.1	45	48.9	35.54	.00
Severe physical abuse	39	65.0	15	16.1	38.14	.00
Neglect	50	82.0	54	57.4	10.08	.00

Note: A significant relationship is $\leq .05$

Appendix Table 39. Forms of abuse and neglect by moderate physical abuse (parents' survey)

	N=155				Test of significance	
	Moderate physical abuse					
	Yes		No		χ^2	Sign.
	n	%	N	%		
Abuse						
Harsh verbal abuse	94	91.3	25	50.0	33.16	.00
Psychological abuse	58	56.3	3	6.0	35.54	.00
Moderate physical abuse	51	49.5	2	4.1	30.18	.00
Neglect	79	76.7	23	46.0	14.28	.00

Note: A significant relationship is $\leq .05$

Appendix Table 40. Forms of abuse and neglect by severe physical abuse (parents' survey)

	N=155				Test of significance	
	Severe physical abuse					
	Yes		No			
	n	%	N	%	χ^2	Sign.
Abuse						
Harsh verbal abuse	51	94.4	68	68.7	13.41	.00
Psychological abuse	39	72.2	21	21.2	38.14	.00
Moderate physical abuse	51	96.2	52	52.5	30.18	.00
Neglect	45	83.3	58	58.6	9.73	.00

Note: A significant relationship is $\leq .05$

Appendix Table 41. Forms of abuse by neglect (parents' survey)

	N=155				Test of significance	
	Neglect					
	Yes		No			
	n	%	N	%	χ^2	Sign.
Abuse						
Harsh verbal abuse	88	84.6	33	64.7	7.92	.01
Psychological abuse	50	48.1	11	21.6	10.08	.00
Moderate physical abuse	79	77.5	24	47.1	14.28	.00
Severe physical abuse	45	43.7	9	18.0	9.73	.00

Note: A significant relationship is $\leq .05$

Appendix Table 42. Multiple types of abuse and/or neglect by parents

Number of types of abuse and/or neglect	N=155	
	n	%
No abuse and/or neglect	14	9.0
One form	23	14.8
Two forms	26	16.8
Three forms	28	18.1
Four forms	28	18.1
Five forms	33	21.3

Appendix Table 43. Forms of abuse and neglect by urban vs. rural (parents' survey)

	N=155				Test of significance	
	Urban		Rural		χ^2	Sign.
	n	%	N	%		
Positive discipline	77	95.1	67	95.7	.04	.85
Abuse (all forms)						
Harsh verbal abuse	65	77.4	56	78.9	.05	.82
Psychological abuse	20	23.8	41	57.7	18.57	.00
Moderate physical abuse	45	54.9	58	81.7	12.43	.00
Severe physical abuse	21	25.6	33	46.5	7.26	.01
Neglect	44	52.4	60	84.5	17.99	.00

Note: A significant relationship is $\leq .05$

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