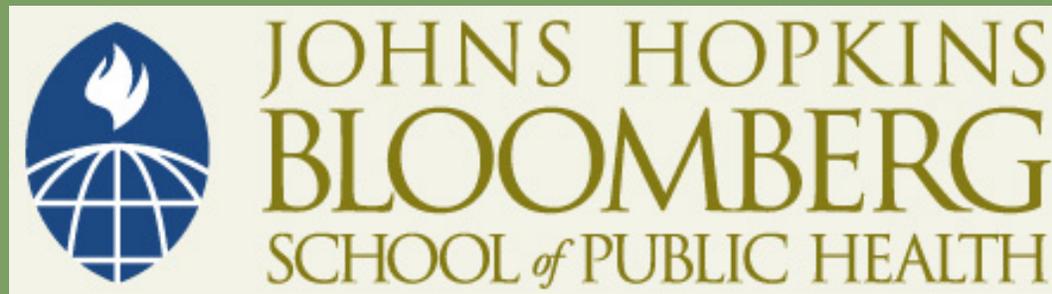


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JOHNS HOPKINS
BLOOMBERG
SCHOOL *of* PUBLIC HEALTH

Section D

Prevalence and Consequences of
Violence in the Lives of Children

Prevalence of Violence in the Lives of Children

- 60.6% of children had witnessed or experienced victimization in the past year
- 46.3% had experienced physical assault
- 10.2% had experienced child maltreatment
- 6.1% had experienced sexual victimization
- 5.5% report having been victims of aggravated assault or robbery

Prevalence of Violence in the Lives of Children (cont.)

- A quarter of children in high-crime neighborhoods have *witnessed* a murder
- 70% of children in high-crime neighborhoods have witnessed a serious assault (Burka et al., 1997)
- Children average 28 hours of TV per week and by the age of 18...
 - 16,000 simulated murders
 - 200,000 acts of violence
 - Cartoons are increasingly violent: up to 80 acts per hour

America Spanks Its Children

- 70% of US adults believe that children need “a good hard spank” and have done so for children under 8 years old in the past year
- 33% of parents spank children under 2 years old
- 21% of parents report “spanking” with an object

Child Abuse Is Common

- 6% of fathers and 3% of mothers report having physically abused their children
- 7.7% of 9th through 12th graders report ever having been raped
- 9.1 per 100,000: the homicide rate for children under 1
- 2.4 per 100,000 children 1-4 years of age are killed annually

Home Is the Primary Setting

- For children under the age of 10 years, home is the primary setting for experiencing and witnessing violence: physical abuse, sexual abuse, domestic violence, domestic abuse, and neglect

The Consequences

- What are the consequences for children experiencing and witnessing violence?

Consequences of Exposure to Violence

- Infants/toddlers
 - Excessive irritability
 - Immature behavior
 - Sleep disturbances
 - Emotional distress
 - Fear of being alone
 - Disrupts trust/exploratory behavior
- School-age children
 - Anxiety
 - Depression
 - Sleep disorders
 - Aggressive behavior
 - Attention difficulties/easy distractibility
 - PTSD

Witnessing Violence Affects Development

- Witnessing violence impacts five domains of development
 1. Physical and biologic
 2. Behavior
 3. Emotion
 4. Cognitive
 5. Social

Effects of Witnessing Domestic Abuse/Violence

- Consequences of witnessing domestic abuse/violence as a child
 - Lower verbal, motor, and cognitive scores
 - Insomnia
 - Bed wetting
 - Aggression
 - Antisocial behavior
 - Depression