The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) of Households: Cross-National Child Surveillance System to Address Disciplinary Practices

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Center for Children

Overview

- UNICEF: Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS)
- MICS3 child discipline module

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  - Violent: Psychological, physical, and severe physical
  - Belief in need for physical punishment
  - Nonviolent
  - Item and subscale prevalences
- Risk & Protective Factors
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- Summary & Program Implications

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  - Rights of protection
  - Rights of participation
  - Rights of provision
- The need for quality data
  - Monitor, develop policies and programs, and advocacy

UNICEF: MICS3 Child Discipline Module

- 101 indicators covered

- National-level, all households, government organizations and UNICEF

• 3 rounds completed & 4th round is ongoing

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- Child selected at random (2 through 14 years)

UNICEF MICS 1-3: Countries Surveyed

15 years, 100 countries and 200 surveys

Monitoring the situation of children and women
### Discipline subscales: Violent discipline subscales & Item prevalences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subscale</th>
<th>MICS Items</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>SE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Violent Discipline Subscales</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychological discipline</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shouted, yelled at, or screamed at him/her</td>
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<td>.73</td>
<td>.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Called him/her dumb, lazy, or another name like that</td>
<td>Called him/her dumb, lazy, or another name like that</td>
<td>.22</td>
<td>.01</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical discipline</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Spanked, hit or slapped him/her on the bottom with a bare hand</td>
<td>Spanked, hit or slapped him/her on the bottom with a bare hand</td>
<td>.27</td>
<td>.01</td>
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<td>Hit him/her on the bottom or elsewhere on the body with something like a belt, hairbrush, stick or other hard object</td>
<td>Hit him/her on the bottom or elsewhere on the body with something like a belt, hairbrush, stick or other hard object</td>
<td>.04</td>
<td>.01</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hit or slapped him/her on the hand, arm, or leg</td>
<td>Hit or slapped him/her on the hand, arm, or leg</td>
<td>.20</td>
<td>.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe physical discipline</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beat him/her up with an implement (hit over and over as hard as one could)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shook him/her</td>
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<td>Severe Physical</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hit or slapped him/her on the face, head or ears</td>
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Discipline item:
Attitude about need for physical punishment

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<td>Do you believe that in order to bring up (raise/educate) (target child) properly, you need to physically punish him/her?</td>
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<td>NONE: Use neither violent nor nonviolent discipline methods</td>
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Overall Percentage of Children Receiving Any Violent Discipline
Risk & Protective Factors

Low SES & Lack of Resources

- Family Wealth
- Family Education
- Number of Household Members

Family Wealth

- Definition
  - Wealthiest 40 percent & Poorest 60 percent
  - Relative not absolute wealth is measured
  - More violent discipline in poorest 60% (N=30 countries)

Family Education

- Definition: None or Primary; Secondary; Higher
**Family Education**
- Definition: None or Primary; Secondary; Higher
- Least violent discipline in households with “higher” education (N=26)

**Number of Household Members**
- Definition: 1-3, 4-5, 6+
- More violent discipline in largest households (N=33)

**Child characteristics**
- Child gender
- Child age

**Child Gender**
- More violent discipline against boys (N=33)

**Child Age**
- Definition: 2-4, 5-9, 10-14
Child Age
• Definition: 2-4, 5-9, 10-14
• More violent discipline against 5-9 year olds (N=33)

Attitudes about violence
• Belief in need for violent discipline
• Maternal attitudes towards domestic violence

Endorsement of Belief that Physical Discipline is Necessary and Any Physical Discipline
• Definition: Belief in need for physical discipline

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• Definition: Belief in need for physical discipline
• More physical discipline in households that endorse use of physical discipline (N=33)

Maternal acceptance of domestic violence and Any Physical Discipline
• Definition: Acceptability of use of domestic violence (Yes/no: endorsed 1+ items)

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• Definition: Acceptability of use of domestic violence (Yes/no: endorsed 1+ items)
• More physical discipline when mother accepts use of domestic violence (N=27)
Caregiver behaviors

• Children's & non-children's books
• Educational & play activities
• Non-adult care

Children's & Non-children's Books

• Definition (Under 5):
  – Children's (up to 10) + Non-children's (Up to 10)

Children’s & Non-children's Books

• Definition (Under 5):  
  – Children's (up to 10) + Non-children's (Up to 10)
• Mixed results with Any violent discipline
• Less Severe violent discipline in households with more books (N=10)

Educational & Play activities

• Definition (Under 5):  
  – Educational activities + Play + Toys
  – 3-8, 9-15, 16+

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  – 3-8, 9-15, 16+

Non-adult Care

• Definition: Left with a child or alone (Under 5)
Non-adult Care

- Definition: Left with a child or alone (Under 5)
- More violent discipline in households where children are left in non-adult care (N=24)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Left 1+ times without adult supervision</th>
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<td>N=5</td>
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<td>79%</td>
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Summary & Program implications

- Widespread use of violent discipline
- Need to combat simultaneously against all forms of violent discipline (Physical and psychological)
- A lack of knowledge of alternative parenting methods?
- Planning for future prevention approaches