Letter to Editor: Violence Against Children and Strategies for Ending of This Phenomenon

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1. Introduction

Violence against children contains all forms of violence against children aged 2-17 years. This kind of violence covers all types of child maltreatment, including physical, sexual, and emotional abuse as well as neglect by strangers, their parents, other caregivers, peers, or romantic partners [1]. Unfortunately, the global statistics of violence against children show very high values. However, in the Middle East countries such as Iran, very little research has been conducted in this field [2]. In the following, we discuss the global situation of violence against children and how to prevent it according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

The results of a systematic review study extracted from 38 quality reports from 96 countries in 2015 showed that over half of all children in the world were the victims of violence in the previous year [2]. The evidence shows that nearly (25%) of all adults had the experience of physical abuse in childhood, and (20%) of the females and (7.5%) of the males reported being sexually abused in their childhood. Estimates indicate that nearly 41000 homicide deaths occurred in children under 15 years each year in the world. Figure 1 shows the data of Violence against Children Surveys (VACS) for some countries, which indicates the high prevalence of this problem [3].

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2. Conclusion

Violence against children hurts public health and increases health care costs. These remarkable data regarding violence against children in different countries demonstrate an urgent need for evidence-based interventions to reduce the high burden of this social anomaly. It is recommended that surveillance systems in societies should better cover all types of violence against children.

Ethical Considerations

Compliance with ethical guidelines

The study complies with standard ethical standards

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Conflict of interest

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References


