Title: Violence against children and strategies for ending this phenomenon

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Introduction

Violence against children is contains all forms of violence against children aged 2–17 years. This violence's covered all types child maltreatment including physical, sexual and emotional abuse as well as neglect by strangers, their parents or other caregivers, peers or romantic partners (1). Unfortunately, the globally rates of violence against children are very high. However, Middle East countries such as Iran, very little research has been done in this area (2). In below we discussed about the global situation and preventing strategies recommended by WHO.

Results of the systematic review study which extracted from thirty-eight reports provided quality data for 96 countries in 2015 showed that globally over half of all children have been victims of violence in the previous year (2). Evidence shows that nearly 25% of all adults having experience of physically abuse in childhood, also about 20% of females and 7.5% of males report have encountered with sexually abuse in childhood. Estimated indicate that nearly 41,000 homicide deaths globally occurred in children under 15 years of age each year. Data from Violence against Children Surveys (VACS) for some selected countries are presented in below map, which indicates the high prevalence of this problem in the societies (3).

Figure 1. Data from Violence against Children Surveys (VACS) for some selected countries (3)
Child maltreatment imposed the increase in risk for physical, sexual and emotional problems such as: homicide, anxiety and mood disorders, tendency to smoking, risky sexual behaviors, illegal pregnancy, abuse of alcohol and drugs, contribute to a wide range of non-communicable diseases like heart diseases, cancer, suicide and sexually transmitted infections. In addition to these, there is also will increase costs of hospitalization and reduces the welfare of children (4, 5).

WHO has introduced INSPIRE to end violence against children (6). INSPIRE is a collection of strategies that through multi-sector collaboration, their efficacy on reducing violence against children in various contexts. These strategies are: implementation and strengthen child protection laws; adherence to community norms and values; providing a safe environment; enough support through parents and caregiver; strengthening income and economic; providing support services with early response; and life skills training. The strategies above are most effective and with rigorous monitoring and evaluation.

**Conclusion:** The violence against children phenomenon has a negative impact on 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 surveillance systems in the societies will better cover all types of violence against children.

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