

new approach – which was deployed in 2015 – will be available early 2016.

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# FIREARM LEGISLATION CAN REDUCE FIREARM-RELATED INJURIES IN CHILDREN

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**Background** Violence and firearms are common features of South African society: the leading cause of death being those resulting from violence and homicide, with firearms being ranked as a leading external cause of non-natural deaths. The Red Cross Children Hospital is the only hospital in Africa with a dedicated trauma unit for children and has been dealing with gunshot wounds since 1991.

**Methods** A retrospective review of firearms injuries which presented to the Red Cross Children's Hospital between 1991 and 2011 was performed. Data recorded included the folder numbers; sex; date of birth; age; date of presentation; date discharged and in-patient stay; firearm type; number of shots; circumstances; injury sites; injury type; treatment; resulting morbidities and survival.

**Results** 441 children presented with firearm injuries during the review period. The results showed a steady decrease in incidence from 2001–2011. There was a greater incidence amongst older children and males. Contrary to studies in adults, the majority of children were shot unintentionally, as innocent bystanders and in crossfire. During the first decade (1991–2000) there was a gradual increase in incidence of children suffering from firearms injuries with time, peaking in the year 2000, while the number of gunshots gradually declined during the second decade (2001–2010). The study showed a decline in total firearm injuries in children since 2001, coinciding with the legislation introduced in 2004 and the changes in government opinion since 2000. Mortality also reduced significantly from the previous study (6% to 2.6%), as did the total number of in-patient days (1063 to 635).

**Conclusions** This study showed a significant reduction in the number of children presenting with a firearm-related injury after the implementation of the New Firearm Bill. Mortality rate and in-patient stay were also significantly reduced. This study shows the impact that the Firearms Control Act has had in terms of paediatric firearm-related injury and provides clear evidence of the important role civil society mobilisation can play in the prevention of fire-arm related injuries in children.

## Child Maltreatment

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# PREVALENCE OF CHILD ABUSE AMONG CHILDREN AGED 11 TO 17 YEARS OLD IN COMMUNITY SETTINGS OF KARACHI, PAKISTAN

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**Background** Harsh disciplinary practices are considered common in developing countries. However, scientific evidence lacks to support this. Primary aim of this study was to determine the prevalence of different forms (physical, emotional maltreatment and neglect) of child abuse in Karachi, Pakistan.

**Methods** A cross sectional survey of 800 dyads (children ranging from 11–17 years old and their parent) were selected from 32 clusters of Karachi, using multistage cluster sampling between December 2014 to March 2015. A structured questionnaire adopted from International society of child abuse and neglect (International child abuse screening tool for parent and child). Prevalence of child maltreatment was estimated by mean child abuse score.

**Results** Mean score were 51.7 + 11.9 (child), 77.9 + 20.2 (mother) and 63.6 + 17.3 (father). Both parent and child responses revealed similar prevalence (43%) of child maltreatment. The mother's responses showed a prevalence of physical (42%), emotional (50%) maltreatment and neglect (5.4%) whereas, father's responses showed a prevalence of physical (39%), emotional (46%) maltreatment and neglect (9.7%). The child's experiences showed a prevalence of physical (49%), emotional (50%) maltreatment and neglect (57%). A substantial proportion of participants were exposed to at-least one form of maltreatment on mother (58%), father (54%) and child (74%) responses, of which all three maltreatment forms experienced by children were 4%, 9% and 31% on mother, father and child responses respectively.

**Conclusions** This study reflects hidden extent of child maltreatment and poly-victimisation in Karachi. Our findings provide evidence to raise public awareness about malpractices and highlight the need to develop positive parenting program.

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# PREVALENCE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN CHINA

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**Background** Violence against children (VAC) prevention is the priority of public health; and to master the prevalence state and risk factors of VAC is the base to develop the prevention strategies. This study aimed to obtain the prevalence features and to find the risk factors of VAC in China, and provide basis and formulate the prevention strategies.

**Methods** The death data of VAC was from The National disease surveillance points system (DSP) during 2006–2012. There were 161 surveillance points in DSP distributed in all the 31 provinces in China. The total population in this system was more than 73 million. We analysed the data from DSP about children aged 0–17 died from violence (ICD-10: V01-Y89). The VAC hospital information was from The National Injury Surveillance System (NISS) during 2006–2013. This system included 126 hospitals from 43 surveillance points. We analysed the data from NISS about children aged 0–17 caused by VAC with the parameter of “intentional” injury.

**Results** The trend of death caused by VAC had declined overall; it was reduced to 0.52/100,000 in 2012 from 0.85/100,000 in 2006. The male VAC mortality was higher than female, and the rural was higher than urban. Blunt injury was the leading maltreatment injury (63.35%), followed by sharp injury (11.09%).