Violence Against Children Surveys (VACS): Data for Action

Division of Violence Prevention
National Center on Injury Prevention and Control
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Violence Against Children Is Costly and Destructive

Injury
- Head Injury
- Fractures
- Burns
- Internal Injury

Mental Health Problems
- Depression and Anxiety
- PTSD
- Suicide
- Assault
- Fetal Death
- Pregnancy Complications
- Unintended and Adolescent Pregnancy

Maternal and Child Health
- STDs
- HIV

Non-Communicable Disease
- Cancer
- Chronic Lung Disease
- Diabetes
- Alcohol
- Physical Inactivity
- Obesity

Communicable Disease and Risk Behavior
- Alcohol and Drugs
- Unsafe Sexual Practices
- Multiple Partners
- Smoking

Violence Against Children

Heart Disease

Stroke

Stroke
Together for Girls
A Unique Public-Private Partnership
Violence Against Children Surveys (VACS): Countries

**Completed**
- Cambodia
- Haiti
- Indonesia
- Kenya
- Malawi
- Nigeria
- Swaziland
- Tanzania
- Zimbabwe

**In Progress**
- Botswana
- Laos
- Mozambique
- Rwanda
- Uganda
- Zambia

**Potential**
- Benin
- China
- Cote d'Ivoire
- Colombia
- Guatemala
- El Salvador
- Honduras
- India
- Malaysia
- Mexico
- Namibia
- Nepal
- Puerto Rico
- Thailand
- Vietnam
Violence Against Children Surveys (VACS) are nationally representative household surveys of children and young adults age 13-24 years. Trained interviewers administer household and respondent questionnaires and collect data electronically.

Survey topics include:
- Background (e.g. demographics, SES, and education)
- Gender Attitudes
- Safety
- Witnessing Violence
- Violence Victimization including: Sexual Violence (i.e. Abuse, Non-Contact Violence, and Exploitation), Physical Violence, and Emotional Violence
- Violence Perpetration
- Health Risk Behaviors
- Health Outcomes
- Service Seeking and Utilization
Prevalence of Sexual Violence Prior to Age 18 Reported by Females and Males 18-24 Years of Age in Eight VACS Country Sites

Females

Males

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>Males</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Swaziland*</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haiti</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malawi</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Only girls interviewed in Swaziland
Prevalence of Physical Violence Prior to Age 18 Reported by Females and Males 18-24 Years of Age by Parents, Adult Caregivers, and Authority Figures in Seven VACS Country Sites
Association Between Childhood Sexual Violence and Selected Health Conditions, Females 13 to 24 Years of Age, Swaziland, 2007

Adjusted odds ratio* adjusted for age, community setting, SES, and orphan status

- HIV / STDs: 3.7
- Pregnancy Complications: 3.5
- Alcohol Use: 3.0
- Unwanted Pregnancy: 2.9
- Suicidal Ideation: 2.3
- Feeling Depressed: 2.3
- Attempted Suicide: 2.0
- Difficulty Sleeping: 1.8
- Cigarette Use: 1.2


SES, Socioeconomic status
STDs, Sexually transmitted diseases
Disclosure and Service Usage by 18-24 year old Victims of Sexual Violence Prior to Age 18, VACS

Girls
- 2.7% - 10.0% received services for sexual violence
- 4.3% - 38.9% sought services for sexual violence
- 38.3% - 61.2% told someone about sexual violence

Boys
- 0.4% - 6.6% received services for sexual violence
- 2.1% - 5.9% sought services for sexual violence
- 20.6% - 64.7% told someone about sexual violence
VACS Catalyzes Action

Advocacy tool

Multi-Sector Task Force

Government Ministry Lead

UNICEF In-Country

Multi-Lateral And Bi-lateral Agencies

USG In-Country

Other Government Ministries

Universities

Civil Society & NGOs

Advocacy tool

Breaks the silence

Creates a new conversation

Guides action
African Child-Friendliness Index Rankings in 2013 and 2008

Source: The African Child Policy Forum (ACPF)
“This is a historic day. A day when Nigeria stands up and says to our children – we commit to protecting you from violence.” — Nigerian President, Muhammadu Buhari

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Press Type</th>
<th>Number of articles/mentions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Online News</td>
<td>53</td>
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<tr>
<td>Television</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radio</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: TV stations represented had a reach of > 60 million people and radio stations represented had a reach of > 10 million people.

Ban commends Nigeria on completion of VAC survey

Abuja - UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has commended Nigeria for being the first country in West Africa to complete the survey on Violence Against Children (VAC).

This is contained in a statement signed by Geoffrey Njoku, Media and External Relations Officer, UNICEF, in Abuja on Tuesday.

Santos Pász, Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG), said in the statement that the findings released in Abuja on Sept. 10 would enhance efforts to protect children.

I welcome efforts by the Nigerian Government to end the invisibility of violence.

Year of Action to End Violence Against Children

Launched by President of Nigeria

Police Vow To Prosecute Perpetrators Of Violence Against Children
Technical Package
THRIVES: A Global Technical Package to Help Protect Children from Trauma and Adversity

- T raining in parenting for caretakers
- H ousehold economic strengthening
- R educe violence by legislative protection
- I mprove services for victims of violence
- V alue norms that protect children
- E ducate and build life skills
- S urveillance to monitor trends and progress
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Implementation Programs</th>
<th>Implementation Resources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Training for Parents | - Home Visitation  
- Training in comprehensive programs  
- Training in small groups | [http://cwbsa.org/sinovuyo/kids](http://cwbsa.org/sinovuyo/kids),  
[http://cwbsa.org/sinovuyo/teens](http://cwbsa.org/sinovuyo/teens)  
Nurse Family Partnerships, Philani Plus,  
Positive Action, KiVa , Families for Safe Dates, ACT  
Families Matter! ([kmiller@cdc.gov](mailto:kmiller@cdc.gov)) |
| Household Economic Strengthening | - Microfinance with gender equity training  
- Group savings & loans associations with gender equity training  
- Cash transfer with or without conditions | [Intervention with Microfinance for Aids and Gender Equity (IMAGE)](http://cwbsa.org/sinovuyo/kids) |
| Reduced Violence Through Legal Protection | - Laws banning violent punishment  
- Laws regulating alcohol sale, outlets  
- Laws prohibiting child sexual abuse  
- Laws establishing equal rights for females and males | [UN Women, Child Abuse legislation, Alcohol policies](http://cwbsa.org/sinovuyo/teens),  
Corporal Punishment legislation |
| Improved Services | - Counseling/therapeutic approaches  
- IPV screening with interventions  
- Support groups, Shelters, Case management | [Hawaii Healthy Start Program](http://cwbsa.org/sinovuyo/kids)  
Community Advocacy Project |
| Values and Norms that Protect Children | - Small group programs  
- Bystander interventions  
- Community mobilization programs  
- Campaigns | [Yaari-Dosti, Coaching Boys into Men, Bringing in the Bystander, Green Dot, SASA!, Soul City](http://cwbsa.org/sinovuyo/teens) |
| Education and Life Skills | - School enrollment and attendance  
- Life skills violence-prevention programs | [Child-Parent Center Education Program, Positive Action, Safe Dates, Real Consent, IMpower](http://cwbsa.org/sinovuyo/teens) |
| Surveillance and Monitoring | - Gaining adequate monitoring data  
- Gain evidence for effectiveness of programs and positives in low-and-middle income countries | [Violence Against Children Survey](http://cwbsa.org/sinovuyo/kids)  
Multiple Indicator Survey |
Changing the Paradigm

Moving from a Vision of Surviving
to
a Vision of Surviving and Thriving
Thank you

For more information contact the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road, Atlanta, Georgia, 30333
Telephone: 1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636) TTY: 1-888-232-6348
Email: cdcinfo@cdc.gov website: www.cdc.gov

For more information on VACS, visit: www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/vacs
For more information on THRIVES, visit: www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/vacs/publications.html

The findings and conclusion in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention