VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA: DEVELOPING AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE UNDERLYING DETERMINANTS

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Project Team

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Violence against Children in SA

- National estimates Optimus Study (2015)

    1 in 5 report sexual violence & neglect

    1 in 3 report physical abuse

- Community-based studies

Physical abuse	55% of children[1]
Witness domestic violence	35 - 45% of children[2]
Emotional abuse and neglect	53% girls + 56% boys[3]
Sexual violence	39% girls + 16% boys[4]

1. Meinck, Cluver & Boyes in press; 2. Seedat et al 2009; 3. Jewkes et al 2010; 4. Jewkes et al 2009.

- 44% (22 781) of sexual offences reported to the police are children under the age of 18 years (SAPS 2013/2014)
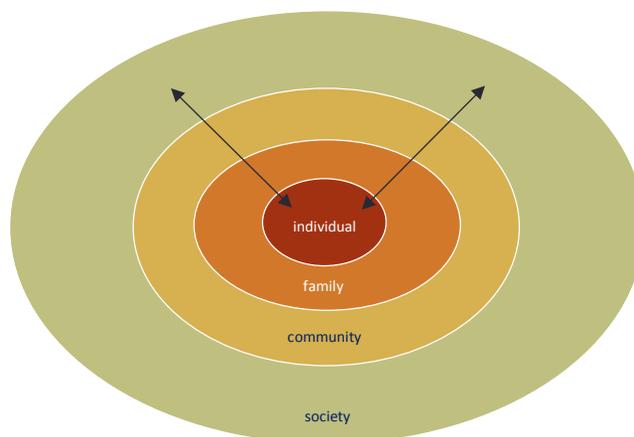

Rationale for the study

- The project was initiated by Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) to Investigate the Root Causes of Violence Against Women in 2014

- "Towards a more comprehensive understanding of the direct and indirect determinants of violence against women and children in South Africa with a view to enhancing violence prevention" - commissioned for the IMC on VAWC

- Supported by United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) through DFID funded Safer South Africa Programme

Objectives

- Literature review - violence against children in South Africa
- Critical analysis of risk and protective factors
- Development of a conceptual model on risk and protective factors based on the critical analysis
- Assess the available and relevant data sets and establish eligibility for predictive modelling
- Estimate predictive models to establish the key factors in explaining violence against women and children and the critical causal relations amongst these

Socio-ecological framework

What did we learn from the critical review?

Level	Risk Factors	Examples
Individual	Biological factors & personal history increases the chance of victimisation	•Gender •Age •Disability & chronic illness •Limited attention
Relationship	Relationships with parent/s and caregiver; Chaotic family environment, care arrangements	•Family home / disorganised family •Caregiver health •Substance abuse •Someone involved in crime
Community	Neighbourhood context; Social integration and capital	• neigbourhood factors i.e level of violence ; • availability of services; • high levels of unemployment • Housing – overcrowding
Societal	Cultural beliefs and practises; social and gender norms; Economic, social, health, and educational policies	• Norms that support violence as a means of resolving conflict ie corporal punishment • Policies that maintain inequality or discrimination based on gender

Development of a Conceptual Model

- Based on the ecological framework
- Conceptualise the child as the centre of the network of interacting influences / systems
- Improvements in the one area can buffer the child
- Risk and protective factors not singular cause – but complex interplay
- Considered whether variables would be background, mediating / intermediate or outcome variables
- Empirical testing of the model – allow for simultaneous analysis of multiple variables.

Predictive Models

The models **ARE**:

- Predictive – they examine the **likelihood** of increased or decreased susceptibility to violence
- Multivariate – they examine the **simultaneous** impact of different variables on other variables
- Explanatory – the paths between variables indicate significant **explanatory** relationships in the overall model
- Empirical – the identified paths between variables represent relationships that have been **scientifically verified**

The models **ARE NOT**:

- Causal – no tests of causality are undertaken, and none should be **inferred**

Predictive model development overview
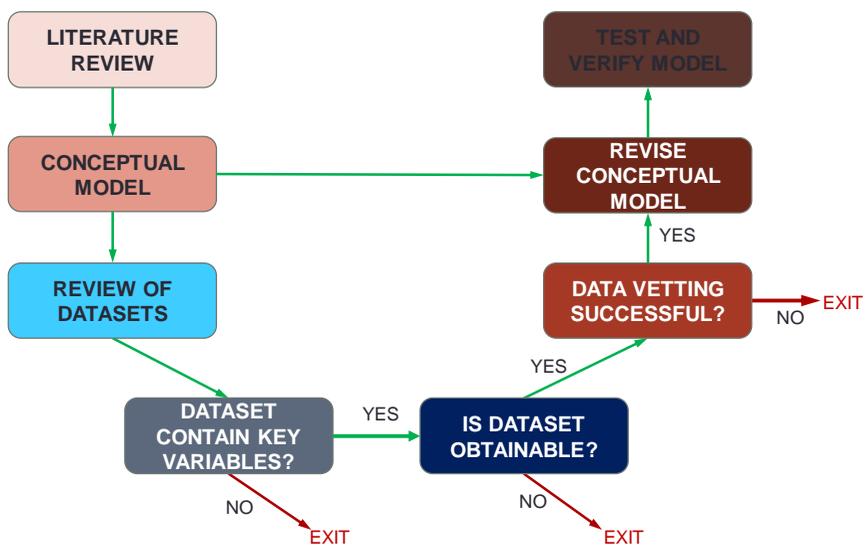
The Cape Area Panel (CAP) Study

- Initiated in 2002, longitudinal (panel design) study of young people in Cape Town.
- Investigated the multidimensional nature of the lives of the young men and women - educational, psychological, familial, sociological, economic, community
- The first iteration of CAPS conducted in 2002, sampled +/- 4 750 respondents aged between 14 years and 22 years
- Five successive waves of the survey between 2002 and 2009.
- In addition to the youth interviews, household data collected by interviewing adults and other household members
- CAPS also accumulated data on suburbs and neighbourhoods from a variety of sources, such as Statistics SA

CAP Study – design issues

Longitudinal panel survey - tracks the same respondents through various life stages

- Likely to explain violence victimisation and perpetration due t
- Rigorous examination of the temporal nature of determination
- Allows us to investigate how early childhood conditions relate to later adolescent and adult behaviours.
- Enables a better test of how violence victimisation early in life leads to violence perpetration in later years.

The challenge with panel studies is attrition, CAPS retains an adequate longitudinal sample to enable robust data for modelling

Study Variables vetted for predictive modelling

Adverse Adult Influence In Childhood Home — Family Temper and Violence

Anxiety and Depression

Sub-place: HH Income (2002

Sub-place: Poor HHs (2002)

Sub-place: HHs Unemployment (2002)

Homestead Water

Homestead Toilet

Homestead Electricity

Age, Gender, Race, Religion

Current Employment

Current Earnings

Self Restraint

Current Experience of Violent Crime

Social Trust

Household Per Capita Income

Perceived Household Financial Situation

Current Adverse Family Influences

Current Adverse Neighbourhood Influences

Community Engagement

Problematic School Behaviour

Alcohol Use

Childhood Relationship with Parents

Childhood Experiences of Emotional Violence

Childhood Experiences of Physical Violence

Youth/Adult Perpetration of Domestic Violence

Youth/Adult Perpetration of Other Inter-Personal Violence

Structural equation model – key variables

| BACKGROUND VARIABLES	FAMILY AND COMMUNITY	VIOLENCE VICTIMISATION	VIOLENCE PERPETRATION	BEHAVIOURIAL OUTCOMES
Gender	Alcohol/Drugs in Childhood Home	Victim: Emotional Violence	Domestic Violence	Alcohol Use/Abuse
Presence of Parents in HH	Crime/Jail in Childhood Home	Victim: Physical Violence	Other Inter-Personal Violence	Drugs Use/Abuse
Household per capita Income	Family Temper and Conflict			Community Engagement
	Current Adverse Influence in Hood			
	Current Adverse Influence in Home			

Predictive Modelling – Indices

- Structural Equations Modelling (SEM) does not rely upon a single measure to determine statistical significance - due it being a complex multivariate techniques.

- Three primary indices used to determine if the developed model is poor, good or excellent

MODEL INDEX	Good	Excellent
Chi-square to df Ratio	< 4	< 2
CFI	< 0.90	> 0.95
RMSEA	< 0.08	< 0.05

WHAT ARE THE MODELS SHOWING US?

Determinants of emotional violence
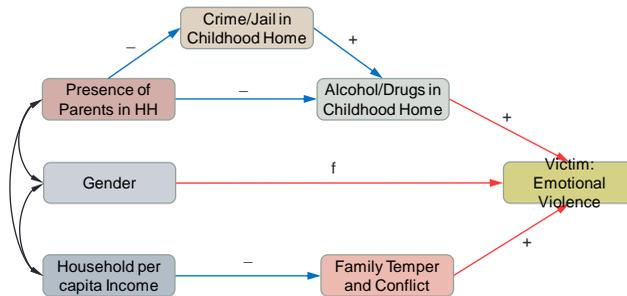
INDICES	MODEL	CRITICAL
X²/df	1.6	< 4
CFI	0.97	> 0.95
RMSEA	0.03	< 0.05

Determinants of physical violence
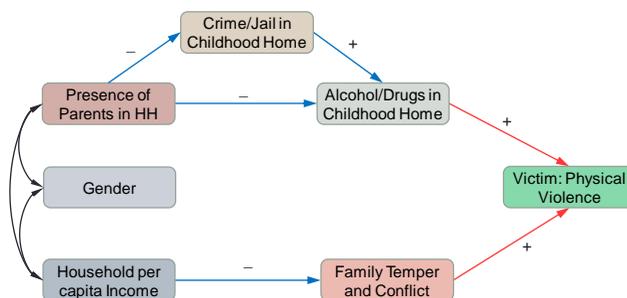
INDICES	MODEL	CRITICAL
X²/df	1.7	< 4
CFI	0.97	> 0.95
RMSEA	0.03	< 0.05

Determinants of emotional & physical violence

Crime/Jail in Childhood Home

−

+

Presence of Parents in HH

−

Alcohol/Drugs in Childhood Home

+

Gender

f

Victim: Emotional Violence

+

Victim: Physical Violence

Household per capita Income

−

Family Temper and Conflict

+

+
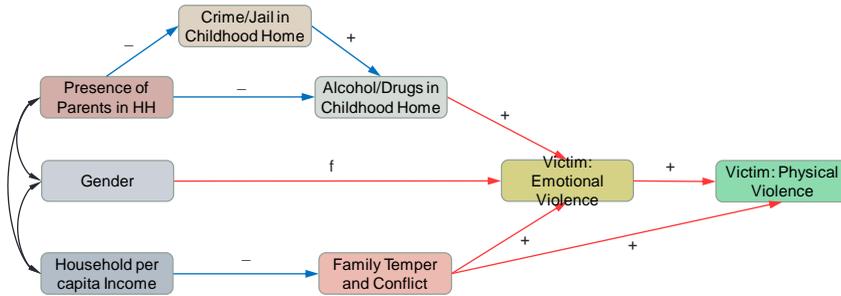
INDICES	MODEL	CRITICAL
X^2/df	1.5	< 4
CFI	0.99	> 0.95
RMSEA	0.02	< 0.05

Outcomes of victimisation – substance abuse

Crime/Jail in Childhood Home

Alcohol Use/Abuse

Presence of Parents in HH

Alcohol/Drugs in Childhood Home

+

m

+

Gender

Victim: Emotional Violence

Victim: Physical Violence

+

+

Household per capita Income

Family Temper and Conflict

m

+

+

Drugs Use/Abuse

+
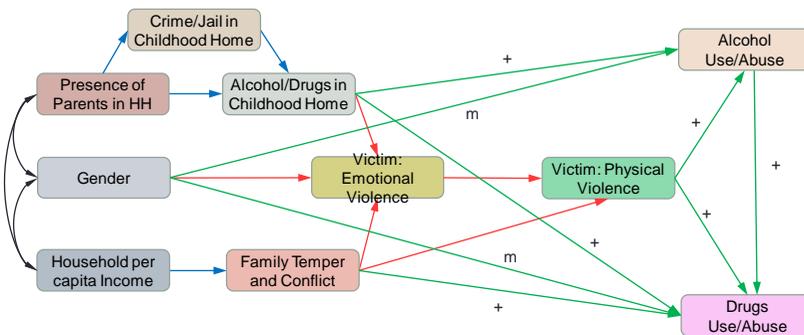
INDICES	MODEL	CRITICAL
X^2/df	1.8	< 4
CFI	0.98	> 0.95
RMSEA	0.03	< 0.05

Perpetration of domestic violence
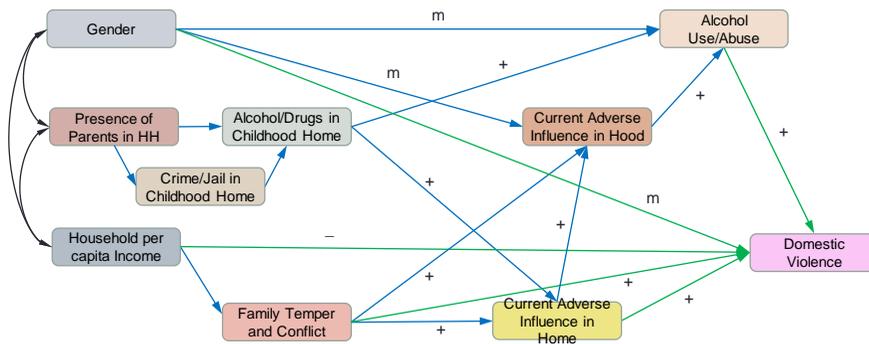
INDICES	MODEL	CRITICAL
X^2/df	2.0	< 4
CFI	0.96	> 0.95
RMSEA	0.03	< 0.05

Victimisation and Perpetration
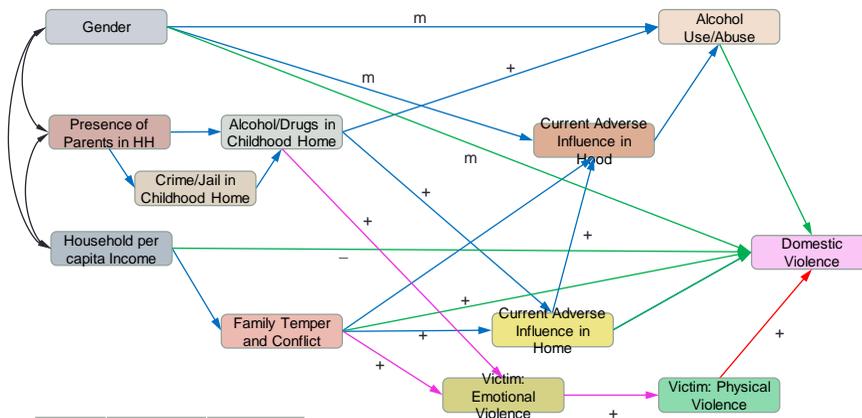
INDICES	MODEL	CRITICAL
X^2/df	1.7	< 4
CFI	0.98	> 0.95
RMSEA	0.03	< 0.05

Key Findings

- Girls are at increased risk for emotional abuse
- Both girls and boys are at equal risk for physical abuse
- Children from households with scarce financial resources are significantly more likely to experience violence and for males to eventually perpetrate domestic violence
- The absence of one or both parents increases the risk of violence victimisation and perpetration
- Conflict in families place children at greater risk of violence victimisation and perpetration
- Current negative influences in the neighbourhood and/or current adverse influences in the home increase the risk for young men to perpetrate domestic violence
- Alcohol use/abuse for men is a predictor on its own to increase the risk for domestic violence perpetration

Potential levers to reduce risk and enhance protective factors

- Structural interventions to reduce poverty is critical for violence prevention
- Strengthening families to lessen stressors in single parent households are important to shift negative outcomes
- Early identification of families in distress to reduce levels of conflict in household - critical to improve outcomes for children
- Interventions to target substance abuse in the household and community is important to reduce children's experiences of violence and risk for perpetration