

HELP & SHELTER/ UN WOMEN PROJECT- KAP SURVEY RESULTS –CHILD ABUSE

SECTION 5: CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES

1. Did you experience any of the following as a child by a family member? (Please tick all that apply.)

Both female and male respondents experienced high levels of physical and verbal abuse as children with more male respondents than female respondents indicating higher levels of physical (90%:77%), verbal abuse (70%:47%) threats (30%:27%) than female respondents. Experiences of sexual abuse were much less prevalent but in keeping with percentages in other surveys even though we know there is a tremendous under reporting of sexual abuse

Exposure to child abuse	Percentage
Beating, hitting, slapping, cuffing	83%
Cursing, insulting, name calling	58%
Threats	28%
Sexual abuse, sexual touching	10%
Neglect	11%

2. When you were a child did you tell anyone about any of the above?

Most female and male respondents did not tell or report the abuse they experienced as children, male respondents were also much more reluctant to tell than female respondents (70%:36%). This is very much in keeping with gender socialization practices and acceptance of corporal punishment as the most used form of discipline in use in homes and schools. As some respondents said there was no one to tell as parents for the most part were the ones responsible for physical, verbal, emotional and psychological abuse. Some respondents did not experience any form of abuse as a child so they did not respond to this follow up question.

Disclosure of child abuse	Percentage
No	53%
Yes	17%

SECTION 3: KNOWLEDGE & PERCEPTIONS OF CHILD ABUSE

3. Explain in your own words what is child abuse? (Please tick all boxes of child abuse, interviewee was able to identify)

Both female and male respondents were able to identify physical, verbal, sexual abuse and neglect as forms of child abuse. Only female respondents were able to identify emotional/psychological abuse as a form of child abuse. Disaggregated responses showed that more female than male respondents were able to identify 3 forms of child abuse i.e. physical abuse (89%:70%); verbal abuse (60%:30%); neglect (38%:30%) while higher percentages of male respondents than female respondents identified sexual abuse (50%:29%). Additionally higher percentages of both male and female respondents were comfortable in identifying sexual abuse as a form of child abuse than in identifying this as a form of domestic abuse. Respondents were also able to identify child labour as a form of child abuse even though not listed in the options on questionnaire.

Forms of child abuse	Percentage
Physical abuse	79%
Verbal abuse	45%
Sexual abuse	39%
Neglect	34%
Emotional/psychological abuse	10%

4. How often does child abuse takes place in your community?

Both female and male respondents indicated in descending order that child abuse occurred not often in their community, very often or quite often.

How often child abuse takes place	Percentage
Not often	60%
Very often	17%
Quite often	14%
Unresponsive	7%

5. Do you know child/children in your community who is/are experiencing child abuse?

In answering this question more female respondents than male respondents (66%:40%) knew of a child experiencing some form of abuse

Knowledge of child/children experiencing abuse	Percentage
Yes	53%
No	46%

6. What form/type of child abuse is taking place? (Please tick all that apply.)

Both female and male respondents identified physical abuse as the main form of child abuse occurring in communities followed by verbal abuse, neglect, emotional/psychological abuse, sexual abuse and other types of abuse such as child labour and forcing children to consume alcohol. However only female respondents identified verbal abuse as occurring.

Forms of child abuse taking place	Percentage
Physical abuse	48%
Verbal abuse	26%
Neglect	22%
Emotional/psychological abuse	14%
Sexual abuse	13%
Other	5%

7. What action is taken for children experiencing abuse in your community? (Please tick all that apply.)

Responses from female and male respondents indicated that most people take no action when faced with child abuse. The second most taken action agreed upon by female and male respondents were reporting to police. All other options except for other were only identified by female respondents i.e. seeking help from family members, reporting to the CPA, removing child from the home, seeking help from the Church, or reporting to a NGO. Respondents in identifying other options included talking to abuser; reporting to probation & welfare services and talking to parents.

Actions taken for children experiencing child abuse	Percentage
Do nothing	44%
Report to police	26%
Seek help from family members	18%
Report to Child Protection Agency	9%
Remove child from home	9%
Seeking help from Church	3%
Report to NGO	1%
Other	10%

8. Do you think that child abuse is OK/acceptable?

Both female and male respondents overwhelmingly agreed that child abuse is not or never OK or acceptable

Acceptance of child abuse	Percentage
No	51%
Never	46%
Sometimes	1%

9. Do you think that abused children should be given services/help/assistance from Government and other organizations?

Respondents were in full agreement that government and other organizations should give assistance to children suffering from abuse.

Agreement that Gov. & other org. services/help/assistance for child abuse	Percentage
Yes	98%
Sometimes	1%

10. Would you be willing to help a child suffering abuse?

Female and male respondents overwhelmingly said they would be willing to help a child experiencing child abuse.

Willing to help a child experiencing child abuse	Percentage
Yes	99%
No	1%

11. Who do you think experiences more abuse?

Both female and male respondents agreed that girls experienced more abuse than boys, followed by boys and then equally as the third option.

Who experiences more child abuse	Percentage
Girls	60%
Boys	23%
Both	15%

12. Do you know where children who are experiencing violence can go for help?

Both female and male respondents 78% indicated a fairly high familiarity with services for child experiencing abuse as indicated in comparison to only 14% not familiar with such services.

Knowledge of service for child abuse	Percentage
Yes	78%
No	14%

13. Can you list these places/services? (Please tick all the services that the person can identify.)

The number one option identified for accessing services for child abuse survivors was Probation & Welfare services, followed by Police, Childcare & Protection Services etc. In the category of other respondents identified religious institutions, relatives, teachers, Guyana Human Rights Association and parents and Government.

Social services identified	Percentage
Probation & Welfare (Gov)	43%
Help & Shelter	61%
Police	31%
Childcare & Protection Services	18%
Children's Home	6%
Other NGOs	3%
Shelter for DV survivors	1%
Other	9%

14. Do you know about any new laws for child protection?

Few female or male respondents knew of any laws for the protection of children and only 1-2 of the respondents who said they knew of such laws were able to explain a little about these laws.

Knowledge of laws for child protection	Percentage
No	72%
No	27%