



# Violence against children study in Jordan

Summary  
2007

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2007

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### Executive Summary

As a response to the United Nations Secretary General (SG) study on violence against children, Jordan embarked on studying the extent of violence against children at homes, schools and the neighbourhoods. The **study research methodology** consists of qualitative & quantitative techniques; individual and group interviews with children and parents; interviews with teachers and service providers, and data collection tools included observation, document analysis and questionnaires.

A nationally representative sample of 3,130 school children aged (8-17) from 229 schools representing public, private and UNRWA schools were selected. While 2,286 families were selected as a national representative sample.

### Findings

- The majority of violent acts experienced by children are perpetrated by an authority figure whether at home or at school. More than half the children of Jordan are punished by school teachers and administrators, as well as parents/legal guardians.
- More than *two thirds* of children in Jordan are subjected to **verbal abuse** by their parents, school teachers and administrators, while around half are verbally abused by siblings and schoolmates.
- Around *50 per cent* of children are **physically abused** by parents/legal guardians, school teachers and administrators and siblings, while around one third are physically abused by neighbourhood adults and children.
- Approximately *one third of children* are subjected to **sexual harassment** inflicted by neighbourhood adults and children, as well as schoolmates. In addition, 2-7 out of every 100 children are sexually abused by parents/guardians, relatives, siblings, and school teachers and administrators.
- More girls than boys were subjected to verbal and nonverbal abuse by parents/legal guardians, siblings, school teachers and administrators, and schoolmates.
- More boys than girls were physically abused by parents/legal guardians, neighbourhood adults and school teachers, while girls were more often physically abused by siblings, neighbourhood children and schoolmates.

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## **Introduction and background**

Article 19 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child requires States to take all appropriate measures to protect children from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and maltreatment, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parents or legal guardians or any other person who has the care of the child. Millions of children in the world are physically, sexually and emotionally abused within the home. Violence includes all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligence treatment, or corporal punishment. The impact of violence could be dramatic and lead to the perpetration of future acts of violence by the victims. It constitutes a violation of child rights and can lead to short- and long-term physical and mental health problems. Violence against children exists in all countries, cutting across boundaries of culture, race and religion. All forms of violence are interrelated and the root causes of violence are often the same wherever it occurs. The definition of child abuse as defined by WHO is as follows: "Child abuse or maltreatment constitutes all forms of physical and/or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or commercial or other exploitation, resulting in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power" (WHO, 1999).

The United Nations Secretary General has appointed an Independent Expert to lead a global study on Violence Against Children. The 2006 Study, rooted in children's human rights to protection from all forms of violence, aims at promoting action to prevent and eliminate violence against children at international, regional, national and local levels. The Study is a UN-led collaboration, mandated by the General Assembly to draw together existing research and relevant information about the forms, causes and impact of violence which affects children and young people (up to the age of 18 years). The Study Report was published in 2006 and recommendations presented to the UN General Assembly.

One of the main aims of the study is to motivate States to fulfil their obligations to protect children and make commitments with regards to prevention, intervention and recovery related to violence against children.

The UN Study on Violence against Children has raised awareness of the importance and need for core indicators on this sensitive issue. Since violence against children is often hidden and shrouded in secrecy, data collection is weak or non-existent in many countries. Better data on the extent and consequences of violence against children will enable the development of appropriate responses

at the local and the national level. In addition, cross-cultural comparisons are needed to allow for the investigation into regional variations in children's experiences of violence. One of the recommendations of the UN study is the development and implementation of systematic national data collection and research. It also calls upon countries to undertake surveys and studies on the prevalence of violence at home and in schools and its impact.

Stemming from the belief that all violence against children is preventable, UNICEF has initiated this study to investigate violence against children in Jordan, its scale and range. This has been achieved by collecting data against well-defined indicators related to all forms of violence such as punishment and psychological violence (verbal and nonverbal and financial exploitation), and all levels of physical violence and sexual abuse. The study has investigated violence against children within various settings including the home, school and neighbourhood. It has also examined the prevalence of violence against children whether perpetrated by parents/legal guardians, siblings and other close family members, or others who are part of the child victim's immediate environment such as teachers and other school staff, classmates and peers.

### **Methodology**

The study used a variety of research methodologies starting with desk review and literature on the various studies that were conducted nationally and internationally on violence against children. For the field survey, both quantitative and qualitative techniques were used to collect data. Individual and group interviews were conducted with the effective participation of children. Data collection tools included observation, document analysis and questionnaires. The Participatory Assessment Tool that was developed by UNICEF experts for The United Nations Secretary General's Study on Violence against Children was the main data collection tool after introducing minor modifications to suit the Jordanian environment and culture. A total of 29 researchers and a five-member administrative team participated in collecting and analyzing the data. The team was divided into sub-teams to ensure the quality of data collection and analysis. A Steering Committee to oversee and supervise the study was formed from all key agencies including Mr. Moh'd Megdady from National Council for Family Affairs, Ms. Zina Khoury from Jordan River Foundation, Lt. Samia Haboub from Family Protection Department, Dr. Moe'men Hadidi, Dr. Afaf Al-Daoud and Dr. Hani Jahshan from Forensic Medicine in the Ministry of Health, Dr. Moh'd Al-Ekkour and Ms. Eman Al-Ajam from Ministry of Education and Mr. Moh'd Shabaneh from Ministry of Social Development, Ms. Randa Nubani and Ms. Maha Homsy from

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UNICEF in addition to Dr. Hala Hammad as independent expert. Its main tasks included monitoring and follow-up as well as quality control

The study population comprised all school children (aged 8-17) enrolled in the third grade through the eleventh grade in the schools of the Ministry of Education, Private Education, UNRWA and other government schools. The study population consisted of around 1,070,000 students. The family population was identified as 945,806 families. Two nationally representative samples of 3,130 school children (1580 Females, 1550 Males) and 2,286 families were selected.

### **Definitions of Violence as per the Study**

#### **Punishment (Mild/Moderate)**

***Mild*** – Withdrawal of privileges – prohibiting TV time/ play time, cancelling social or family outings/ holidays/ vacation, withholding (not giving) special treats or snacks, removing the child from sports or cultural activities for which he/she has been chosen or Withdrawing support - for something the child wants to do such as a hobby/sport, refusing to accompany him/her to such activities or cancelling classes for such activities

***Moderate*** - Restriction of movement – detention, standing/sitting in the corner/ to a room/ home/ or to a particular spot inside or outside the house, locking the child inside a room or inside the home, etc. Increasing or specifying more tedious chores, Insisting on overtime work, reducing rest or break time, Increasing responsibility such as – asking child to take care of another child, putting the child in charge of or responsible for something that he/she is not capable of at that age.

#### **Emotional abuse (Verbal, Non Verbal & Financial)**

***Verbal*** – Such as scolding / nagging / verbally expressing dissatisfaction or disappointment, shouting/ yelling / screaming / cussing / cursing / using bad language / name calling / insulting / shaming - the child in front of other adults or other children, etc.

***Non Verbal*** - Stopped talking/ avoiding contact or communication/ staying away, refusal to provide basic necessities such as food/ refusal of entry into home / institution, not allowing the child into class, hindering the child's development to teach him / her a lesson– such as removing from school, discontinuing tuitions, discontinuing an activity that was benefiting or would have benefited the child in the long run.

**Financially exploitative** - such as take up a job or do something that is economically profitable for the parents / caregivers (e.g. putting the child to work, though their own earnings are sufficient to manage their needs, putting the child to work instead of going to work himself or herself, funding alcohol/ cigarette or substance addiction with the child's earnings, or spending most of the earnings on alcohol/cigarettes or substances, thus forcing the child into work), forcing the child to marry, Snatching earnings / exploiting the child in some manner - such as selling him/ her, putting him/ her into prostitution/ pledging him or her as slaves, etc.

### **Physical violence (Mild/Moderate/Severe)**

**Mild** - Such as slapping / pinching / pulling hair / pushing or shoving / twisting arm or leg - sudden outbursts or short momentous reactions.

**Moderate** – Such as beating / hitting / spanking / kicking – more lasting and focussed on hurting the child.

**Severe** – Such as use of a rod or other device such as wires / ropes / cane / etc, biting, burning or scalding, torturous abuse – such as making the child kneel on rock salt, making the child inhale chilli smoke, etc.

### **Sexual (Harrassment/Moderate/Severe)**

**Harassment** – Such as obscene remarks / unwelcome jokes / innuendos / obscene references / obscene gestures, watching porn videos or reading porn in the presence of the child.

**Moderate** - Making inappropriate bodily contact with sexual overtones - such as brushing, pushing, pinching etc., inappropriate kissing or fondling or touching - the child or forcing the child to touch, kiss, fondle or caress with sexual intention - softer forms of sexual behaviour not amounting to intercourse.

**Severe** - Penetrative sexual intercourse – penetration could be penile or through the use of a finger or other object such as a pen, or toys, etc, violent sexual intercourse causing physical hurt or injury to the child, gang rape – rape by more than one person at a time or one after another.

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## **Main findings from the Desk Review of National Institutions Records**

Combating violence against children in Jordan has been characterised by a multi-disciplinary approach whereby government institutions such as the Family Protection Department together with Ministries of Health and Social Development work with NGOs such as Jordan River Foundation, MiZAN and Jordanian Women Union to prevent and respond to violence against children. Thus, the study tried to look at the records of these institutions to draw a picture of the available statistics nationally.

### **Violence-related child deaths**

- According to the Department of Forensic Medicine, there were 248 cases of accidental child deaths (150 males and 98 females) in 2006. The leading causes of death among children were illness (53.6 per cent), road accidents (21 per cent), fatal falls (7 per cent), burns (5.6 per cent), electric shock (3 per cent), gunshots (2 per cent), drowning (1.6 per cent) and asphyxiation and murder (1.2 per cent each).
- There are no records of the numbers of children treated for injuries resulting from violence, as hospital emergency departments are not required to document such injuries and the Ministry of Health does not have a specialized department for documenting the data provided by emergency departments at public and private hospitals.

### **Officially documented child abuse cases**

- According to the records of the Department of Criminal Data at the Public Security Directorate, there were 2,808 documented cases of violence against children in 2006, the most frequent of which were mild physical abuse (85 per cent), forced anal sex (9.5 per cent) and rape (2.9 per cent).
- According to the Ministry of Social Development records, 2,402 cases of abuse were dealt with in 2006 by its Social Services Offices at the Family Protection Department; physical abuse accounted for 50 per cent of all cases, followed by sexual abuse (10 per cent) and neglect (37 per cent).
- The Social Services Offices provided the following services: office interviews (73.3 per cent), referral to courts (8.6 per cent), referral to psychiatrists (8 per cent), placing children in residential care (5.3 per cent) and referral to behaviour therapists (3.6 per cent).

- According to the Family Protection Department records 823 cases of violence against children were referred to court in 2006. Of these, 43 per cent (40 per cent females, 58 males) were cases of sodomy, 4.4 per cent rape (97.3 per cent females, 2.7 per cent males), 2 per cent attempted rape (77 per cent females, 33 per cent males), 4.7 per cent indecent acts (61.5 per cent females, 38.5 per cent males), and 5.4 per cent physical abuse (60 per cent females, 40 per cent males). Of the total number of abused children, females constituted a total of 51.7 per cent.
- According to the Family Protection Department, the majority of perpetrators were strangers (46 per cent), followed by family (16 per cent), neighbours (4 per cent), and friends (7.5 per cent). 91.5 per cent of perpetrators were males. As for the setting in which violence occurs, 45.7 per cent of the reported abuse cases took place in the home, 2.2 per cent in school, 3.7 per cent in streets and playgrounds, 1.8 per cent in transportation and 44 per cent in other settings.
- The number of children in the care of the Jordanian Women's Union reached 207 in 2006; 83 per cent of these were males and 17 per cent were females. The reasons they were in care included: family disagreements (35 per cent), physical violence (35 per cent), emotional abuse (11 per cent), sexual abuse (8 per cent), financial exploitation (7 per cent), school dropouts (3 per cent) and enforced prostitution (2 per cent).
- The number of children registered at Dar Al-Aman/Jordan River Foundation for the year 2006 was 18 children (10 females, 8 males). 53 per cent were subjected to physical abuse, 12 per cent were subjected to sexual abuse and 35 per cent suffered from neglect.

### **Main findings from the Field Study**

A few notes on interpreting the data of the survey:-

- Data in the survey reflects the children's perceptions of the violence practised against them in the home, school and neighbourhood. Therefore, many of the per centages reflecting violence will not add up to 100 per cent since a child could be subjected to mild and severe physical at the same time. Thus, the child would answer both questions correct.
- Mild punishment is the only approach that could be considered as an acceptable response for modifying children's behaviours that could be undertaken without negative psychological impact on the child wellbeing.

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## **Settings in which violence against children occurs**

Please refer to tables for detailed breakdown for boys and girls.

### ***In the home:***

- Violence against children in the family may frequently take place in the context of “discipline”. Children were subjected to punishment by parents / legal guardians, siblings, relatives and other children living in the house. 52 per cent of children were subjected to mild punishment by parents/legal guardians (46 per cent females, 59 per cent males), while 34 per cent were subjected to moderate punishment. Siblings were responsible for inflicting mild punishment in 26 per cent of the cases and moderate punishment in 17 per cent of the cases. An additional 9 per cent suffered mild punishment and 4 per cent suffered moderate punishment at the hands of other relatives such as grandparents and uncles. Other children living in the home were responsible for 2 per cent of the cases of mild punishment and 3 per cent of the cases of moderate punishment.
- 70 per cent of children were victims of parental verbal abuse, while 31 per cent suffered nonverbal abuse (36 per cent females, 27 per cent males) and 6 per cent were financially exploited. As for siblings, they were responsible for inflicting verbal abuse in 49 per cent of the cases (64 per cent females, 35 per cent males), nonverbal abuse in 29 per cent of the cases (42 per cent females, 15 per cent males) and financially exploited children in 2 per cent of the cases. Verbal abuse inflicted by relatives sharing the same living place with the children amounted to 13 per cent (10 per cent females, 15 per cent males), nonverbal abuse to 8 per cent (7 per cent females, 29 per cent males), and financial exploitation to 1 per cent). Children also suffered verbal abuse (4 per cent), nonverbal abuse (2 per cent) and financial exploitation (1 per cent) by other children living with them.
- Parents / legal guardians and siblings were the perpetrators of violence in the majority of cases. Parents being responsible for mild physical abuse (53 per cent; 46 per cent females, 60 per cent males), moderate physical abuse (24 per cent; 16 per cent females, 33 per cent males) and severe physical abuse (34 per cent; 25 per cent females, 42 per cent males). As for siblings, the degree of abuse they inflicted ranged from mild abuse (49 per cent; 62 per cent females, 37 per cent males) to moderate abuse (32 per cent; 39 females, 25 males) and severe abuse (26 per cent; 32 per cent females, 20 per cent males). Relatives as perpetrators of violence were responsible for 10 per cent of mild abuse (7 per cent females, 13 per cent males), 5 per cent of moderate abuse (3 per cent females, 7 per cent males) and 5 per cent for severe abuse. The prevalence of

mild violence against children by other children living in the home was 4 per cent (7 per cent females, 2 per cent males); moderate abuse accounted for 2 per cent (3 per cent females, 1 per cent males) and severe abuse also 2 per cent (4 per cent females, 1 per cent males).

- The interviewed children suffered sexual harassment by parents in 3 per cent of the cases, by siblings in 6 per cent of the cases, by relatives in 2 per cent of the cases and by other children in 1 per cent of the cases. They also suffered moderate sexual abuse by parents in 1 per cent of the cases. 1 per cent of boys were subjected to severe sexual abuse by parents and an additional 1 per cent suffered the same degree of abuse by other children living in the same place.
- Children linked the violence parents inflicted on them to poor academic performance (56 per cent), troublesome or errant improper behaviour, (53 per cent) and minor mistakes and lack of discipline (52 per cent). With regards to the violence inflicted by siblings, children believed it is due to minor mistakes in 28 per cent of the cases (33 per cent females, 23 per cent males), troublesome or errant improper behaviour 27 per cent (34 per cent females, 19 per cent males), poor academic performance (20 per cent; 25 per cent females, 15 per cent males) and in 15 per cent (19 per cent females, 11 per cent males) of the cases due to adults' unmet expectations.

### ***Violence in the neighbourhood:***

- Neighbourhood adults were the source of verbal abuse (38 per cent; 34 per cent females, 42 per cent males), nonverbal abuse (17 per cent) and financial exploitation (16 per cent). Children also suffered verbal and nonverbal abuse from other neighbourhood children (41 per cent and 27 per cent respectively).
- Children were subjected to mild, moderate and severe physical abuse by adults at rates of 23 per cent, (12 per cent; 7 per cent females, 18 per cent males) and (13 per cent; 8 per cent females, 19 per cent males) respectively and 32 per cent, (20 per cent; 18 per cent females, 23 per cent males) and 27 per cent respectively by other children. This indicates that violence was more commonly perpetrated by neighbourhood children than neighbourhood adults.
- Children suffered sexual harassment at the hands of neighbourhood adults and children (32 per cent and 37 per cent respectively), moderate sexual abuse (8 per cent and 6 per cent (8 per cent females, 4 per cent males respectively), and severe sexual abuse 2 per cent and 1 per cent respectively.
- Children in Jordan who reported violence and abuse were found to be exposed to violence on an average of 10 times per month.

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- Fifteen per cent of the children were constantly abused (more than 15 times a month), 14 per cent were regularly abused (6-15 times a month), 24 per cent were subjected to occasional abuse (3-5 times a month) and 37 were abused once or twice a month. Females were more frequently abused than males.

### ***Violence in schools:***

- At school, children were subjected to both mild (53 per cent) and moderate punishment (52 per cent; 56 per cent females, 47 per cent males) by school principals, teachers and other staff. Children were also perpetrators of mild punishment (13 per cent; 11 per cent females, 16 per cent males) and moderate punishment (7 per cent). In fact, school janitors and maintenance workers were responsible for 4 per cent of mild cases and 2 per cent of moderate cases.
- The most frequent source of verbal abuse was teachers (71 per cent; 75 per cent females, 67 per cent males), who were also responsible for nonverbal abuse (29 per cent; 39 per cent females, 19 per cent males). Schoolmates were also a source of abuse, with children subjecting their schoolmates to both verbal abuse (45 per cent; 55 per cent females, 35 per cent males) and nonverbal abuse (34 per cent; 38 per cent females, 29 per cent males).
- Children suffered mild, moderate and severe physical abuse by teachers and administrative staff, with severe physical abuse being the most frequent (57 per cent; 46 per cent females, 67 per cent males), followed by mild abuse (50 per cent; 40 per cent females, 60 per cent males) and finally moderate abuse (27 per cent; 14 females per cent, 40 per cent males). They were also subjected to the same levels of abuse from schoolmates at percentages of 40 per cent mild (44 per cent females, 35 per cent males), 21 per cent moderate and 18 per cent severe, and also from janitors and maintenance workers (3 per cent, 2 per cent and 1 per cent respectively).
- As for sexual abuse, 7 per cent of children (3 per cent females, 12 per cent males) had been exposed to sexual harassment by teachers and administrative staff, while 1 per cent had been exposed to moderate sexual abuse. Sexual violence was also directed against children by schoolmates, who were responsible for cases of sexual harassment (28 per cent; 23 per cent females, 32 per cent males), moderate sexual abuse (5 per cent; 8 per cent females, 3 per cent males) and severe sexual abuse (1 per cent). 1 per cent of children were subjected to sexual harassment by janitors and maintenance workers, and another 1 per cent suffered severe sexual abuse.
- Children in Jordan who reported violence and abuse were found to be exposed to violence at school on an average of ten times per month.

- Girls were more frequently subjected to constant abuse than boys while more boys were subjected to physical abuse.
- Children linked the violence teachers inflicted on them to poor academic performance (60 per cent; 67 per cent females, 53 per cent males), troublesome or errant improper behaviour (54 per cent), lack of discipline (52 per cent; 57 per cent females, 48 per cent males) and minor mistakes (48 per cent; 41 per cent females, 55 per cent males). As regards to violence perpetrated by schoolmates, children linked (12 per cent; 14 per cent females, 10 per cent males) of it to troublesome or errant improper behaviour, (11 per cent; 14 per cent females, 7 per cent males) to minor mistakes and (9 per cent; 11 per cent females, 6 per cent males) to academic performance. As for janitors and maintenance workers, the main cause of abuse by them was minor mistakes and accidents.

### *How children are affected by and cope with violence*

- The most common coping mechanisms that children resorted to in order to protect themselves from violence at home, school and in the neighbourhood were: (1) self-defence: 48 per cent of children (59 per cent females, 38 per cent males) opted for this method to protect themselves at the home, 59 per cent (42 per cent females, 76 per cent males) in the neighbourhood, and 61 per cent at school (53 per cent females, 68 per cent males); (2) avoiding conflict: 58 per cent of the children (50 per cent females, 65 per cent males) said they avoid conflict to protect themselves at home, 43 per cent to protect themselves in the neighbourhood, and 47 per cent to protect themselves at school; and (3) seeking help from close friends and relatives: 36 per cent of children (41 per cent females, 31 per cent males) sought support to face difficulties at home, 40 per cent (28 per cent females, 53 per cent males) to face difficulties in the neighbourhood and 46 per cent to face difficulties at school.
- Avoiding conflict was the most common method practised to avoid violence in the home (58 per cent; 50 per cent females, 65 per cent males), followed by appeasing the perpetrator (58 per cent; 46 per cent females, 71 per cent males), self-restraint (51 per cent; 44 per cent females, 59 per cent males), self-defence (48 per cent; 59 per cent females, 38 per cent males), running away from home (38 per cent; 35 per cent females, 41 per cent males) and seeking help from friends and relatives (36 per cent; 41 per cent females, 31 per cent males).
- The most common reactions to violence in the home were: (1) sadness: 66 per cent (60 per cent males and 72 per cent females); (2) ashamed, regretful and apologetic: 57 per cent (65 per cent males and 49 per cent females); (3)

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anger: 47 per cent (45 per cent males and 49 per cent females); (4) confused: 42 per cent; (5) embarrassed: 42 per cent (39 per cent males and 45 per cent females); (6) fear: 41 per cent (38 per cent males and 44 per cent females); and (7) depressed: 40 per cent.

- The methods most commonly used by children to face difficulties in the neighbourhood were: (1) self-defence: 59 per cent (42 per cent females, 76 per cent males); (2) avoiding conflict: 43 per cent; and (3) seeking help from close friends and relatives: 40 per cent (28 per cent females, 53 per cent males).
- The most common reactions to violence in the neighbourhood were: (1) anger: 47 per cent (60 per cent males and 34 per cent females); (2) revenge: 42 per cent (56 per cent males and 28 per cent females); and (3) sadness: 27 per cent (24 per cent males and 30 per cent females).
- Self-defence was also the most common method children resorted to at school with a percentage of 61 per cent (53 per cent females, 68 per cent males). Avoiding conflict came second at 47 per cent. Seeking help from close friends and relatives followed at 46 per cent. After that came self-restraint at 42 per cent, and finally, appeasement at 40 per cent.
- The most common reactions to violence at school were: (1) anger: 49 per cent (54 per cent males and 45 per cent females); (2) sadness and depressed: 44 per cent (35 per cent males and 53 per cent females); (3) revengeful: 43 per cent (52 per cent males and 34 per cent females); (4) ashamed, regretful and apologetic: 40 per cent; and (5) embarrassed: 40 per cent (35 per cent males and 44 per cent females).
- In situations where children would expect to find themselves subjected to violence, 57 per cent of them said they would avoid being in the places where it could happen, whereas 31 per cent of children said they would solve the problem by complaining, hitting, protecting/defending themselves or seeking help. The remainder 12 per cent said they would do nothing about it.
- If children found themselves in situations of violence, they would seek help from the following: parents (56.6 per cent), friends (22 per cent), teachers (12.6 per cent) and an adult (2.7 per cent). A further 2.7 per cent said they would seek no help, and 14.6 said they would resort to physically harming the perpetrator.

### *Parents' perception of violence*

- Forty-seven per cent of parents believe it is sometimes important to use corporal punishment at home as a method of discipline. In fact, 58.4 per cent of them believe that when used in an appropriate manner, corporal punishment is an effective child-rearing method, especially at a time when they believe that so many children show their parents little respect.
- More than half the parents (55.8 per cent) believe it is sometimes important to employ corporal punishment to maintain discipline in schools. They also believe that when administered appropriately, it can positively affect a child's education, especially when 76.1 per cent of parents believe that children nowadays show little respect for their teachers.
- Parents believe hitting is justifiable when a child refuses to perform a task he/she has been assigned (81.8 per cent), steals something (67.9 per cent), constantly argues with siblings (67.3 per cent), disobeys adults (65.9 per cent) or has poor academic performance (65 per cent).
- Parents believe that corporal punishment is justified at school in the following cases: fighting with other students (77.6 per cent), stealing from another child (72.2 per cent), disobeying the teacher (63.6 per cent), leaving the classroom without the teacher's permission (61.7 per cent) and having poor academic performance (58 per cent).
- Parents used the following approaches to modify their child's behaviour: (1) explaining to the child why a certain behaviour is considered inappropriate (74.7 per cent); (2) asking the child to stop doing something or asking her/him to do something (63 per cent); (3) scolding the child (28.5 per cent); (4) withholding pocket money or taking away a favourite item (28.2 per cent); (5) shaking the child (22.8 per cent); (6) refusing to talk to her/him (22.5 per cent); and (7) pinching her/his ear (19.4 per cent).
- The methods parents apply to get their children do their chores include dialogue and discussion (34.1 per cent), offering rewards and incentives (25.4 per cent), punishment (20.5 per cent), withholding pocket money or a favourite item (16.9 per cent), scolding and threatening (8.7 per cent), offering guidance (8.3 per cent) and nurturing a warm and supportive relationship with the child (8.1 per cent).

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- To modify their children's behaviour and to get them to do their work at school, parents opt for dialogue (32.2 per cent), withholding something (16.9 per cent), punishment (14.7 per cent), providing help (14.6 per cent), reinforcement (14.2 per cent), cooperating with the school administration (2.9 per cent), following up with the school (2.4 per cent) and scolding (1.8 per cent).

## **Conclusions**

Children in Jordan are exposed to violence from a variety of sources. This violence can have short- and long-term repercussions, which influence not only all aspects of a child's growth and development, but her/his future and the community in which she/he lives. Following are some of the manifestations of violence against children in Jordan:

- The child death rate due to accidents is 1 per 10,000 children. Leading causes of death include illness due to negligence, road accidents, falls, electric shock, gunshot wounds and drowning.
- One in every 1,000 children is subjected to a degree of violence that requires intervention by the responsible authorities, such as the Family Protection Department of the Public Security Directorate, and the violence is therefore documented.
- The majority of violent acts experienced by children are perpetrated by an authority figure whether at home or at school. More than half the children of Jordan are punished by school teachers and administrators, as well as parents/legal guardians.
- Around a quarter of all children in Jordan are punished by siblings who live with them, and 1 in every 10 children is punished by schoolmates.
- More than two thirds of children in Jordan are subjected to verbal abuse by their parents, school teachers and administrators, while around half are verbally abused by siblings and schoolmates. In addition, around 4 in every 10 children are verbally abused by neighbourhood adults and children.
- Approximately one third of children are subjected to nonverbal abuse by other children at school and in the neighbourhood, from siblings and parents/legal guardians, as well as school teachers and administrators.
- One in every eight children is financially exploited, most often by neighbourhood adults.

- Around 50 per cent of children are physically abused by parents / legal guardians, school teachers and administrators and siblings, while around one third are physically abused by neighbourhood adults and children.
- Approximately one third of children are subjected to sexual harassment inflicted by neighbourhood adults and children, as well as schoolmates. In addition, 27 out of every 100 children are sexually abused by parents/guardians, relatives, siblings, and school teachers and administrators.
- More boys than girls were punished by parents, relatives and neighbourhood adults, while girls were punished more often by siblings, neighbourhood children, schoolmates, and school teachers and administrators.
- More girls than boys were subjected to verbal and nonverbal abuse by parents/legal guardians, siblings, school teachers and administrators, and schoolmates.
- More boys than girls were physically abused by parents/legal guardians, neighbourhood adults and school teachers, while girls were more often physically abused by siblings, neighbourhood children and schoolmates.
- The rate of girls sexually abused by parents/legal guardians and siblings was higher than boys, while boys were found to be abused more often by school teachers and administrators, and schoolmates.
- Around one third of children were abused daily by schoolmates and around one quarter suffered daily abuse by other children at home. One in every eight children was abused daily by other neighbourhood children. Around one third of children were abused once or twice a month on average.
- Approximately 15 per cent of children stayed off school at least once a year because of feeling unsafe; this is due to fear of being hit, threatened and called names by teachers, fear of being bullied by gangs on the way to school and being ridiculed by other children.

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## **Recommendations**

The Study reiterates the overarching recommendations of the 2006 Secretary General Study for the UN on Violence against Children that calls states to apply to all efforts to prevent violence against children and to respond to it if it occurs. These overarching recommendations are:

- A) ***Strengthen national and local commitment and action***; The National Framework for Family Protection needs to be implemented at all levels to ensure the protection of children from violence. A plan of Action with measurable time-bound objectives needs to be endorsed and implemented.
- B) ***Prohibit all violence against children***; National legislation should prohibit all forms of violence against children, in all settings, including all corporal punishment, harmful traditional practices, such as early marriages and so-called honour crimes, sexual violence, and torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. The justice system should bring all perpetrators of violence against children to justice and ensure that they are held accountable through appropriate criminal, civil, administrative and professional proceedings and sanctions.
- C) ***Prioritise prevention***; Efforts should be exerted to preventing violence against children by addressing its underlying causes. Adequate resources should be allocated to address risk factors and prevent violence before it occurs. Policies and programmes should address immediate risk factors, such as a lack of parent-child attachment, family breakdown, abuse of alcohol or drugs, and poverty, gender and other forms of inequality.
- D) ***Promote non-violent values and awareness-raising***; National programmes should focus on transforming attitudes that condone or normalize violence against children, including stereotypical gender roles and discrimination, acceptance of corporal punishment and harmful traditional practices. Public information campaigns should be used to sensitize the public about the harmful effects that violence has on children.
- E) ***Enhance the capacity of all who work with and for children***; Capacities of all those who work with and for children to contribute to eliminate all violence against them must be developed. States should invest in systematic education and training programmes both for professionals and non-professionals who work with or for children and families to prevent, detect and respond to violence against children. Codes of conduct and clear standards of practice, incorporating the prohibition and rejection of all forms of violence, should be formulated and implemented.

- F) ***Provide recovery and social reintegration services;*** States should provide accessible, child-sensitive and universal health and social services, including pre-hospital and emergency care, legal assistance to children and, where appropriate, their families when violence is detected or disclosed.
- G) ***Ensure participation of children;*** Programmes should actively engage with children and respect their views in all aspects of prevention, response and monitoring of violence against them.
- H) ***Create accessible and child-friendly reporting systems and services;*** States should establish safe, well-publicised, confidential and accessible mechanisms for children, their representatives and others to report violence against children. All children, including those in care and justice institutions, should be aware of the existence of mechanisms of complaint.
- I) ***Develop and implement systematic national data collection and research;*** Improve data collection and information systems in order to identify vulnerable subgroups, inform policy and programming at all levels, and track progress towards the goal of preventing violence against children. States should use national indicators based on internationally agreed standards, and ensure that data are compiled, analysed and disseminated to monitor progress over time.

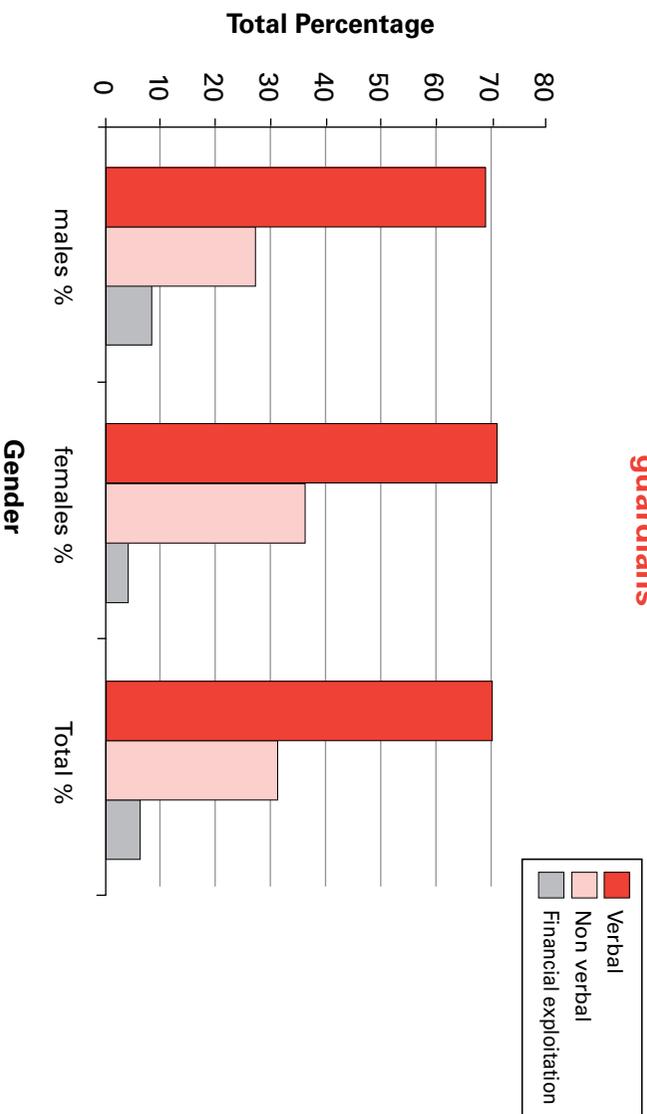
**Table 1: Children reporting violence at home by type of violence and perpetrator**

No	Type of violence	Violence perpetrator level of violence	Parents /guardians			Siblings sharing the same residence			Other adults such as grandparents sharing the same residence			Other children sharing the same residence		
			males %	females %	Total %	males %	females %	Total %	males %	females %	Total %	males %	females %	Total %
a	Punishment	Mild	59	46	52	24	28	26	10	8	9	2	3	2
		Moderate	31	36	34	14	19	17	5	4	4	2	4	3
b	Emotional Abuse	Verbal	69	71	70	35	64	49	15	10	13	2	5	4
		Non verbal	27	36	31	15	42	29	7	8	8	1	3	2
		Financial exploitation	8	4	6	2	1	2	1	00	1	2	1	1
c	Physical Abuse	Mild	60	46	53	37	62	49	13	7	10	2	7	4
		Moderate	33	16	24	25	39	32	7	3	5	1	3	2
		Severe	42	25	34	20	32	26	6	4	5	1	4	2
d	Sexual Abuse	Harassment	3	4	3	5	7	6	2	2	2	1	1	1
		Moderate	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Severe	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

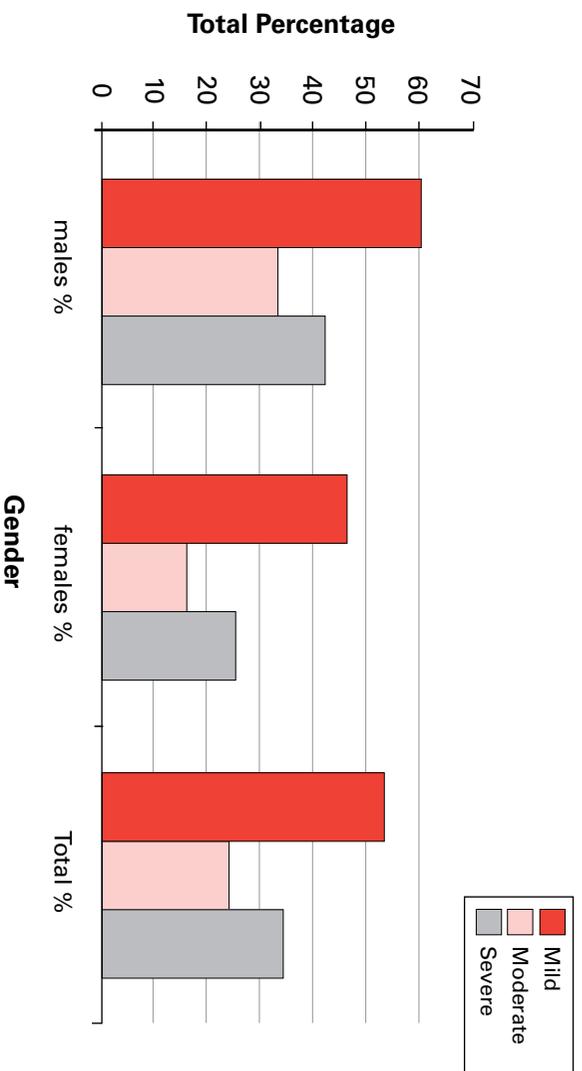
- Children might have experienced more than one type of violence by perpetrators which make the total > 100 in some instances.
- Some children might have never exposed to violence at all, however the tools could not detect it which make the total < 100 in some instances.

## Violence Against Children Study In Jordan

### Children reporting Emotional Abuse at home by parents/ guardians



### Children reporting Physical Abuse at home by parents/ guardians

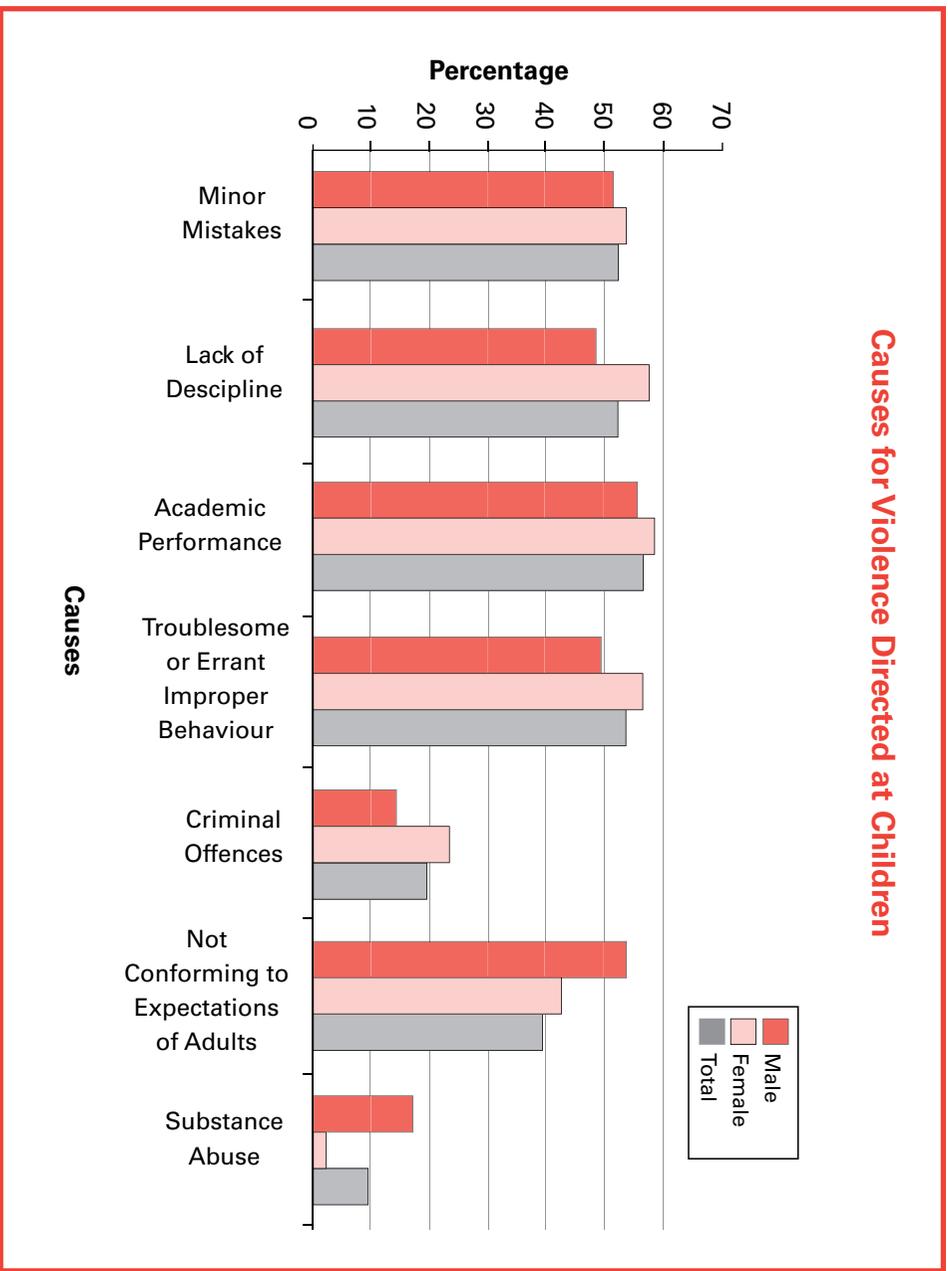


**Table 2: Causes for Violence Directed at Children at Home**

No.	Context of Violence	Parents /guardians			Siblings sharing the same residence			Other adults such as grandparents sharing the same residence			Other children living in the house		
		males %	females %	Total %	males %	females %	Total %	males %	females %	Total %	males %	females %	Total %
1	Minor Mistakes	51	53	52	23	33	28	8	6	7	2	3	2
2	Lack of Discipline	48	57	52	1	3	2	6	5	5	1	1	1
3	Academic Performance	55	58	56	15	25	20	6	4	5	1	3	2
4	Troublesome or Errant Improper Behaviour	49	56	53	19	34	27				1	3	2
5	Criminal Offences	14	23	19	5	16	11	1	2	2	1	2	1
6	Not Conforming to Expectations of Adults	53	42	39	11	19	15	2	4	3	0	1	1
7	Substance Abuse	17	2	9	4	2	3	1	1	1	0	1	1

## Violence Against Children Study In Jordan

### Causes for Violence Directed at Children

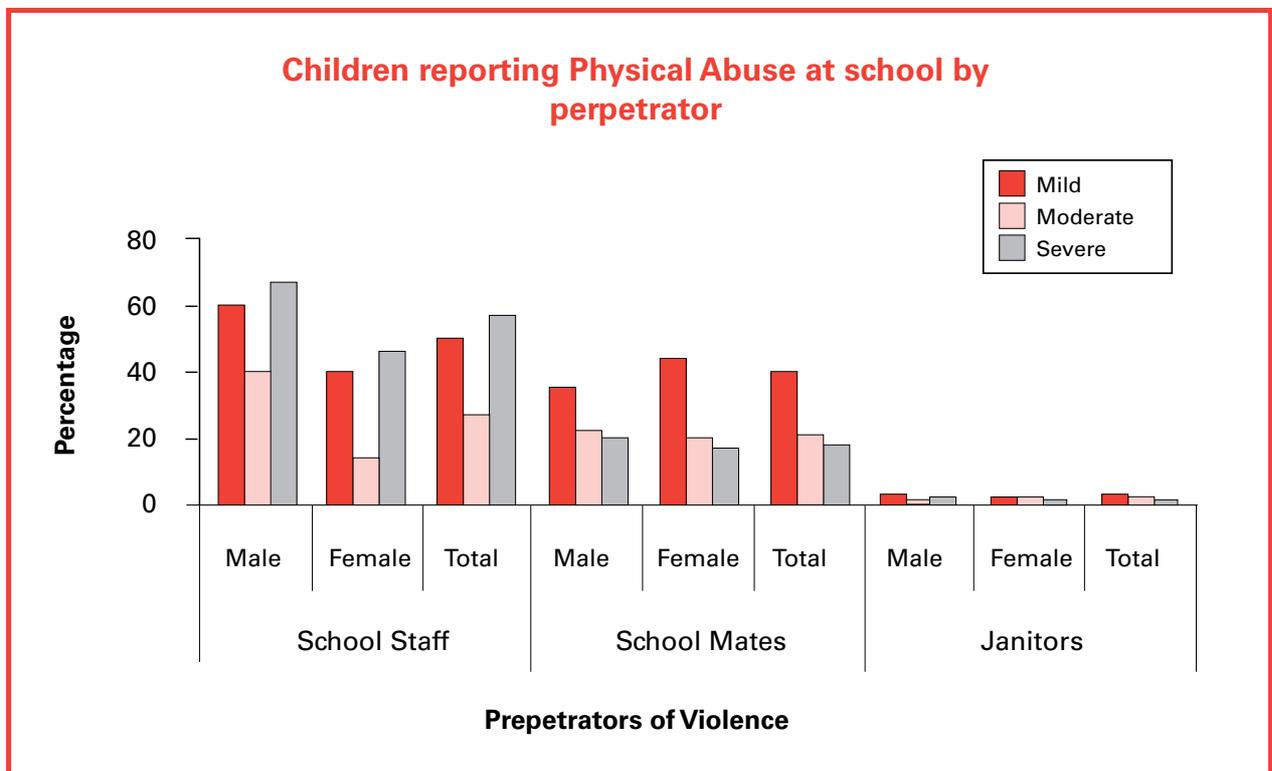
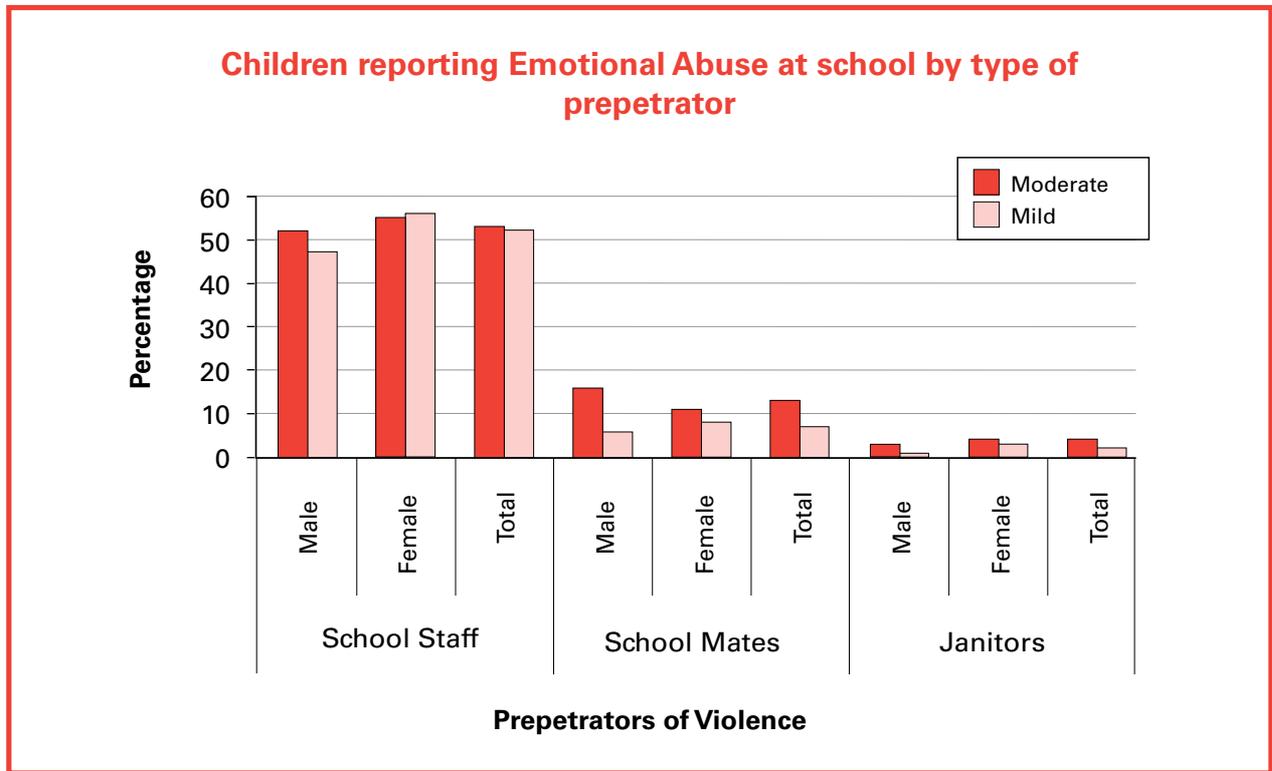


**Table 3: Children reporting violence at school by type of violence and perpetrator**

No.	Type of violence	Violence perpetrator level of violence	School Principals, Teachers and other staff			Schoolmates, other children			School Janitors and Maintenance Workers		
			males %	females %	Total %	males %	females %	Total %	males %	females %	Total %
a	Punishment	Mild	52	55	53	16	11	13	3	4	4
		Moderate	47	56	52	6	8	7	1	3	2
	Emotional Abuse	Verbal	67	75	71	35	55	45	8	13	10
		Non verbal	19	39	29	29	38	34	2	2	2
b	Physical Abuse	Mild	60	40	50	35	44	40	3	2	3
		Moderate	40	14	27	22	20	21	1	2	2
		Severe	67	46	57	20	17	18	2	1	1
c	Sexual Abuse	Harassment	12	3	7	32	23	28	1	1	1
		Moderate	1	1	1	3	8	5	0	1	0
		Severe	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1

- Children might have experienced more than one type of violence by perpetrators which make the total > 100 in some instances.
- Some children might have never exposed to violence at all, however the tools could not detect it which make the total < 100 in some instances.

## Violence Against Children Study In Jordan



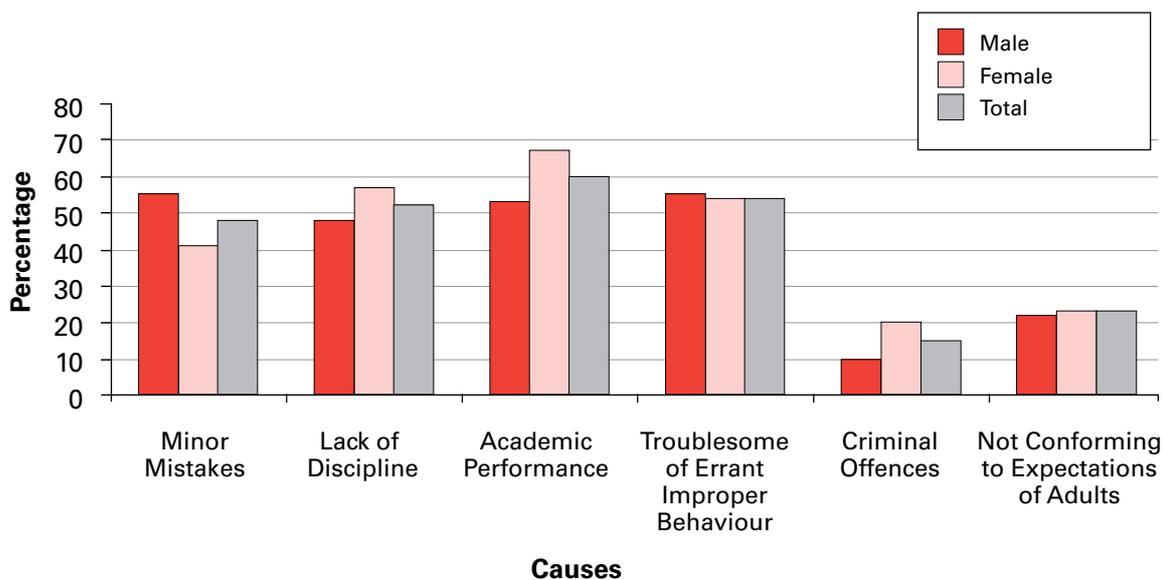
## Tables and Graphs

**Table 4: Causes for Violence Directed at Children in School**

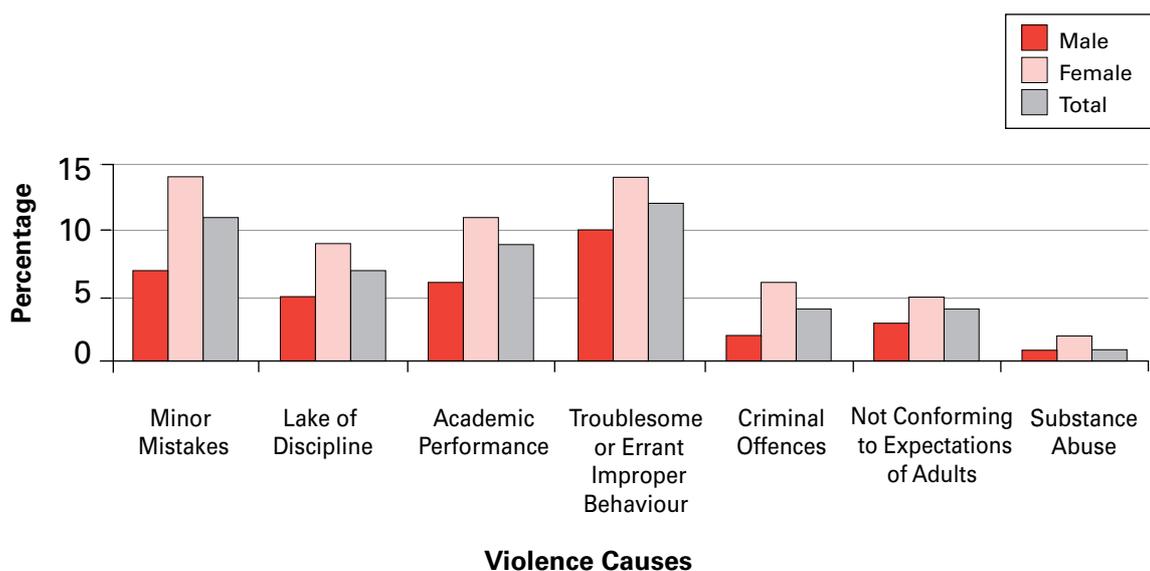
No.	Context of violence	School Principals, Teachers and other staff			Schoolmates, other children			School Janitors and Maintenance Workers		
		males %	females %	Total %	males %	females %	Total %	males %	females %	Total %
1	Minor Mistake	55	41	48	7	14	11	2	3	3
2	Lake of Discipline	48	57	52	5	9	7	2	1	1
3	Academic Performance	53	67	60	6	11	9	1	1	1
4	Troublesome or Errant Improper Behaviour	55	54	54	10	14	12	0	1	1
5	Criminal Offences	10	20	15	2	6	4	1	0	1
6	Not Conforming to Expectations of Adults	22	23	23	3	5	4	0	0	0
7	Substance Abuse	5	3	4	1	2	1	0	1	0

## Violence Against Children Study In Jordan

### Causes of Violence Directed at Children in School according to Children's Perceptions by School Staff



### Causes of Violence Directed to Children in School according to Children's Perceptions by Schoolmates

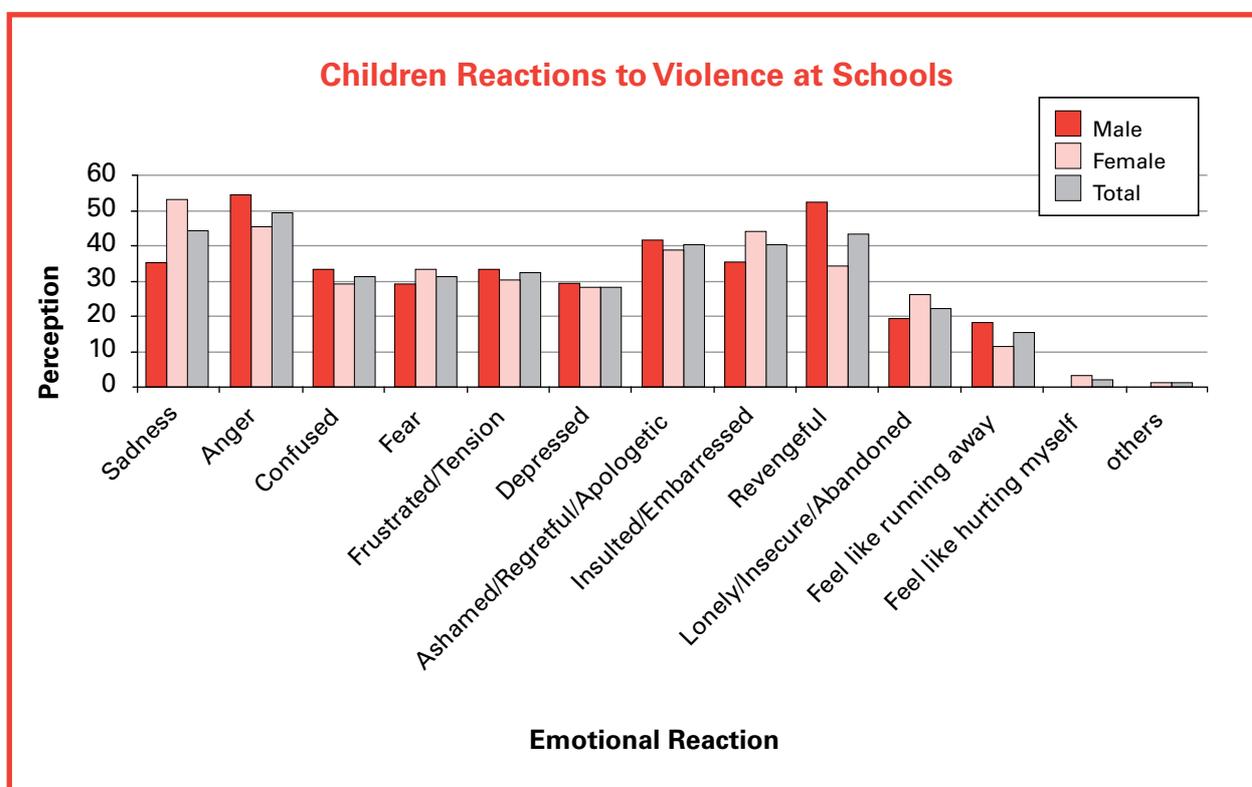
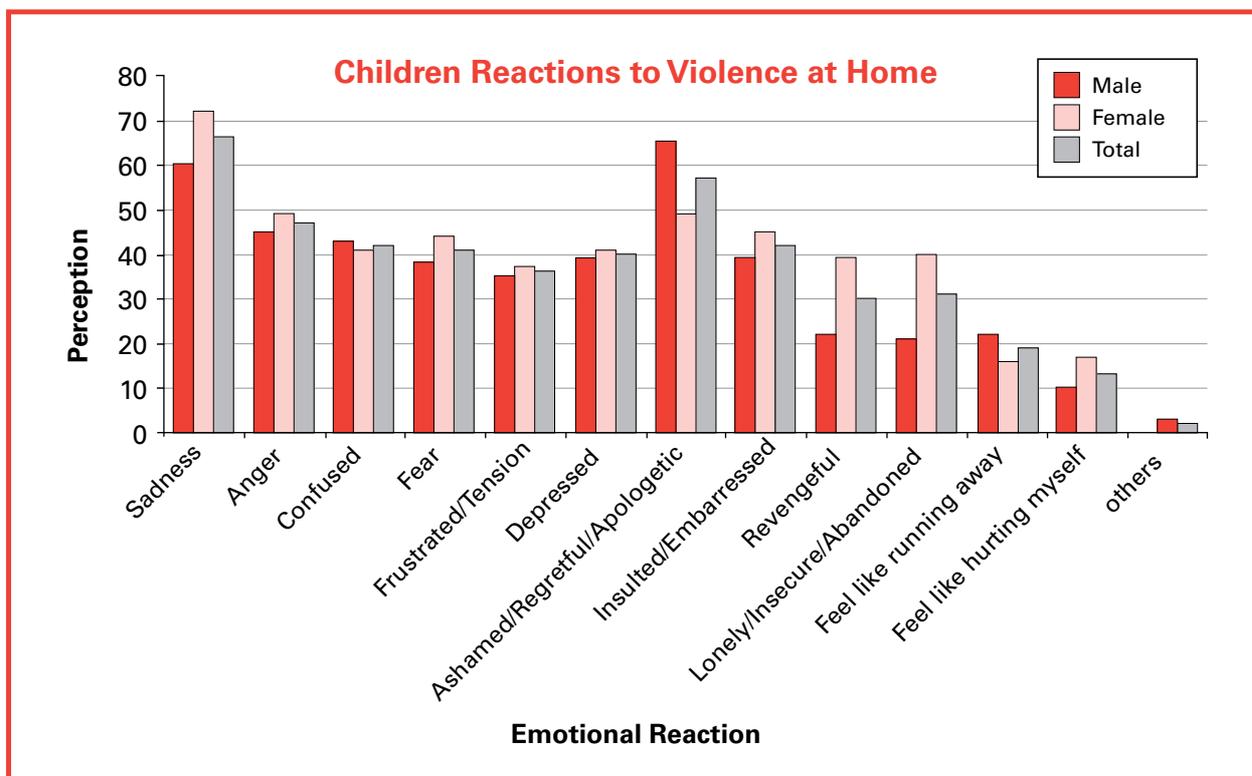


## Tables and Graphs

**Table 5: Children Reactions to Violence at Home, Neighborhood and School**

	Emotional Response	Home Difficulties			Neighbourhood Difficulties			Schools Difficulties		
		males %	females %	Total %	males %	females %	Total %	males %	females %	Total %
1	Sadness	60	72	66	24	30	27	35	53	44
2	Anger	45	49	47	60	34	47	54	45	49
3	Confused	43	41	42	22	21	22	33	29	31
4	Frustrated/ Fear	38	44	41	20	28	24	29	33	31
5	Tension	35	37	36	24	18	21	33	30	32
6	Depression	39	41	40	24	16	20	29	28	28
7	Ashamed, Regretful and Apologetic	65	49	57	24	21	23	41	39	40
8	Insulted/ Embarrassed	39	45	42	27	24	25	35	44	40
9	Revengeful	22	39	30	56	28	42	52	34	43
10	Lonely/ Insecure/ Abandoned	21	40	31	22	18	20	19	26	22
11	Feel like running away	22	16	19	17	10	14	18	11	15
12	Feel like hurting myself	10	17	13	6	2	4	0	3	2
13	Others	0	3	2	1	1	1	0	1	1

## Violence Against Children Study In Jordan



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