

South Africa - Prevalence and factors associated with experience of corporal punishment in public schools in South Africa

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Overview

Identification

ID NUMBER

CorporalpunishmentinpublicschoolsSouthAfrica

Overview

ABSTRACT

Background: Corporal punishment (CP) is still a common practice in schools globally. Although illegal, studies in South Africa report its continued use, but only a few have explored factors associated with school CP. Moreover, extant studies have not shown the interrelationships between explanatory factors. This study aimed to determine the prevalence and factors associated with learners' experiences, and to examine pathways to the learners' experiences of CP at school.

Method: 3743 grade 8 learners (2118 girls and 1625 boys) from 24 selected public schools in Tshwane, South Africa, enrolled in a cluster randomised controlled trial evaluating a multi-component school-based intervention to prevent intimate partner violence, and completed self-administered questionnaires. We carried out descriptive analysis, simple linear and structural equation modelling to examine factors and pathways to the learners' experience of CP at school.

Results: About 52% of learners had experienced CP at school in the last 6 months. It was higher among boys compared to girls. Experience of CP at school amongst learners was associated with learner behavior, home environment, school environment. Learners from households with low-socio economic status (SES) had an increased risk of CP experience at school. Amongst boys, low family SES status was associated with a negative home environment and had a direct negative impact on a learner's mental health and delinquent behavior.

Conclusion: CP in public schools in South Africa continues despite legislation prohibiting its use. While addressing learner behaviour is critical, evidence-based interventions addressing home and school environment are needed to change the culture among teachers of using corporal punishment to discipline adolescents and inculcate one that promotes positive discipline.

Producers and Sponsors

PRIMARY INVESTIGATOR(S)

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Sampling

No content available

Questionnaires

No content available

Data Collection

Data Collection Dates

Start	End	Cycle
2014-01-01	2014-12-31	N/A

Data Processing

No content available

Data Appraisal

No content available

File Description

Variable List

baseline

Content

Cases 3755

Variable(s) 30

Structure Type:
Keys: ()

Version

Producer

Missing Data

Variables

ID	Name	Label	Type	Format	Question
V1	index	index	contin	numeric	
V2	school	school	contin	numeric	
V3	sex	sex	discrete	numeric	
V4	club_member	club_member	discrete	numeric	
V5	active_church	active_church	discrete	numeric	
V6	age	age	contin	numeric	
V7	substance	substance	discrete	numeric	
V8	biolpare	biolpare	discrete	numeric	
V9	agegrp	agegrp	discrete	numeric	
V10	main_man	main_man	discrete	numeric	
V11	main_wman	main_wman	discrete	numeric	
V12	caregv_unemployment	caregv_unemployment	discrete	numeric	
V13	home	home	discrete	numeric	
V14	dating	dating	discrete	numeric	
V15	repeatgrd	repeatgrd	discrete	numeric	
V16	caregv_attitude_schworkscore	caregv_attitude_schworkscore	discrete	numeric	
V17	corporalpun_homescore	corporalpun_homescore	discrete	numeric	
V18	corporalpun_home	corporalpun_home	discrete	numeric	
V19	neglect	neglect	discrete	numeric	
V20	caregv_commscore	caregv_commscore	discrete	numeric	
V21	caregv_kindnessscore	caregv_kindnessscore	contin	numeric	
V22	att_schworkscore	att_schworkscore	discrete	numeric	
V23	bullyscore	bullyscore	discrete	numeric	
V24	delinquecyscore	delinquecyscore	discrete	numeric	
V25	ses_score	ses_score	discrete	numeric	
V26	depressionscore	depressionscore	contin	numeric	
V27	sex_behscore	sex_behscore	discrete	numeric	

ID	Name	Label	Type	Format	Question
V28	substanceuse_score	substanceuse_score	discrete	numeric	
V29	teacher_behscore	teacher_behscore	contin	numeric	
V30	corporal_sch	corporal_sch	discrete	numeric	

index (index)

File: baseline

Overview

Type: Continuous	Valid cases: 3755
Format: numeric	Invalid: 0
Decimals: 0	Minimum: 1
Range: 1-3755	Maximum: 3755
	Mean: 1878
	Standard deviation: 1084.1

school (school)

File: baseline

Overview

Type: Continuous	Valid cases: 3755
Format: numeric	Invalid: 0
Decimals: 0	Minimum: 1
Range: 1-24	Maximum: 24
	Mean: 11.8
	Standard deviation: 6.8

sex (sex)

File: baseline

Overview

Type: Discrete	Valid cases: 3755
Format: numeric	Invalid: 0
Decimals: 0	
Range: 0-1	

club_member (club_member)

File: baseline

Overview

Type: Discrete	Valid cases: 3742
Format: numeric	Invalid: 13
Decimals: 0	
Range: 0-1	

active_church (active_church)

File: baseline

Overview

Type: Discrete	Valid cases: 3741
Format: numeric	Invalid: 14
Decimals: 0	
Range: 0-1	

age (age)

File: baseline

age (age)

File: baseline

Overview

Type: Continuous
Format: numeric
Decimals: 2
Range: 11.82204-18.986996

Valid cases: 3743
Invalid: 12
Minimum: 11.8
Maximum: 19
Mean: 13.7
Standard deviation: 0.9

substance (substance)

File: baseline

Overview

Type: Discrete
Format: numeric
Decimals: 0
Range: 0-1

Valid cases: 3724
Invalid: 31

biolpare (biolpare)

File: baseline

Overview

Type: Discrete
Format: numeric
Decimals: 0
Range: 0-3

Valid cases: 3737
Invalid: 18

agegrp (agegrp)

File: baseline

Overview

Type: Discrete
Format: numeric
Decimals: 0
Range: 1-4

Valid cases: 3743
Invalid: 12

main_man (main_man)

File: baseline

Overview

Type: Discrete
Format: numeric
Decimals: 0
Range: 0-1

Valid cases: 3739
Invalid: 16

main_wman (main_wman)

File: baseline

Overview

main_wman (main_wman)

File: baseline

Type: Discrete
 Format: numeric
 Decimals: 0
 Range: 0-1

Valid cases: 3743
 Invalid: 12

caregv_unemployment (caregv_unemployment)

File: baseline

Overview

Type: Discrete
 Format: numeric
 Decimals: 0
 Range: 0-3

Valid cases: 3737
 Invalid: 18

home (home)

File: baseline

Overview

Type: Discrete
 Format: numeric
 Decimals: 0
 Range: 1-3

Valid cases: 3740
 Invalid: 15

dating (dating)

File: baseline

Overview

Type: Discrete
 Format: numeric
 Decimals: 0
 Range: 0-1

Valid cases: 3726
 Invalid: 29

repeatgrd (repeatgrd)

File: baseline

Overview

Type: Discrete
 Format: numeric
 Decimals: 0
 Range: 0-1

Valid cases: 3733
 Invalid: 22

caregv_attitude_schworkscore (caregv_attitude_schworkscore)

File: baseline

Overview

caregv_attitude_schworkscore (caregv_attitude_schworkscore)

File: baseline

Type: Discrete
 Format: numeric
 Decimals: 0
 Range: 1-4

Valid cases: 3739
 Invalid: 16

corporalpun_homescore (corporalpun_homescore)

File: baseline

Overview

Type: Discrete
 Format: numeric
 Decimals: 0
 Range: 0-9

Valid cases: 3730
 Invalid: 25

corporalpun_home (corporalpun_home)

File: baseline

Overview

Type: Discrete
 Format: numeric
 Decimals: 0
 Range: 0-1

Valid cases: 3734
 Invalid: 21

neglect (neglect)

File: baseline

Overview

Type: Discrete
 Format: numeric
 Decimals: 0
 Range: 0-8

Valid cases: 3755
 Invalid: 0

caregv_commscore (caregv_commscore)

File: baseline

Overview

Type: Discrete
 Format: numeric
 Decimals: 0
 Range: 2-20

Valid cases: 3742
 Invalid: 13

caregv_kindnessscore (caregv_kindnessscore)

File: baseline

Overview

caregv_kindnessscore (caregv_kindnessscore)

File: baseline

Type: Continuous
Format: numeric
Decimals: 0
Range: 6-35

Valid cases: 3741
Invalid: 14
Minimum: 6
Maximum: 35
Mean: 12
Standard deviation: 4.8

att_schworkscore (att_schworkscore)

File: baseline

Overview

Type: Discrete
Format: numeric
Decimals: 0
Range: 1-12

Valid cases: 3742
Invalid: 13

bullyscore (bullyscore)

File: baseline

Overview

Type: Discrete
Format: numeric
Decimals: 0
Range: 2-12

Valid cases: 3732
Invalid: 23

delinquescscore (delinquescscore)

File: baseline

Overview

Type: Discrete
Format: numeric
Decimals: 0
Range: 3-20

Valid cases: 3719
Invalid: 36

ses_score (ses_score)

File: baseline

Overview

Type: Discrete
Format: numeric
Decimals: 0
Range: 2-10

Valid cases: 3734
Invalid: 21

depressionscore (depressionscore)

File: baseline

Overview

depressionscore (depressionscore)

File: baseline

Type: Continuous
Format: numeric
Decimals: 0
Range: 0-32

Valid cases: 3717
Invalid: 38
Minimum: 0
Maximum: 32
Mean: 4.1
Standard deviation: 4.7

sex_behscore (sex_behscore)

File: baseline

Overview

Type: Discrete
Format: numeric
Decimals: 0
Range: 1-12

Valid cases: 3726
Invalid: 29

substanceuse_score (substanceuse_score)

File: baseline

Overview

Type: Discrete
Format: numeric
Decimals: 0
Range: 0-8

Valid cases: 3726
Invalid: 29

teacher_behscore (teacher_behscore)

File: baseline

Overview

Type: Continuous
Format: numeric
Decimals: 0
Range: 8-36

Valid cases: 3731
Invalid: 24
Minimum: 8
Maximum: 36
Mean: 19.9
Standard deviation: 5.9

corporal_sch (corporal_sch)

File: baseline

Overview

Type: Discrete
Format: numeric
Decimals: 0
Range: 0-1

Valid cases: 3723
Invalid: 32

