Findings from the PIECES project

Availability of Survey and Administrative Data Sources on Child Violence in the EU

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Rationale for investigating data sources on child violence

• Data drives policy
• Epidemiological data is necessary for taking action and generating evidence
• Need for sound data for decision-making

Crucial that data on violence to children are harmonized and comparable throughout the European Union
Limitations of Existing Data

- Children and their families affected by violence use a wide range of services -- each service generates its OWN data, using different definitions and classifications.
- Only a small percentage of children exposed to violence use services.

France: 27% of women reported being victims of sexual abuse, only 2.7% of children are identified as being victims of sexual abuse through child protection services (ONED 2008).

EU Report: a 10-fold difference between official data and those reported in surveys (Sethi 2013).

Corporal punishment: banned in the 1950s in Finland, banned in 1998 in Denmark. How does this affect rates?
Objectives

- To map information on national level data related to violence against children covering all forms (also self-harm and suicide as potential outcomes of violence) in the EU and Norway

- To analyse, synthesise and provide recommendations on existing data sources on child violence: prevalence, incidence from administrative sources and ad hoc surveys
Descriptive Analysis of Results

- Key respondents contacted in all EU Member States and Norway
- 19 completed country surveys (countries shown on next slide)
- Surveys for 7 of the 19 completed were incomplete: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxembourg
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National administrative data source with child violence</th>
<th>Percentage countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mortality Register</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitalisation Discharge Registry</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Trauma Registry</td>
<td>26%</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Police Registry</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Protection Register</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Data Component</td>
<td>Percentage countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National data sharing agreement</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linking data between sources</td>
<td>30%, Nordic countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access of data by another agency</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flagging of data for repeat victimisation</td>
<td>30% some sources</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
National Ad Hoc Surveys on Child Violence

- 10 reports of at least two ad-hoc surveys on child violence since 2008 (Lux, Spain no such surveys)
- Of the 10 surveys implemented, all representative of the national population except for France
- Majority of surveys one-time only, covered multiple types of child violence
- In six out of 10 surveys children were included as respondents
- Only Greek respondent stated data on child exposure to violence as witness and outcome of the maltreatment included in the survey
Existence and Data Sources for Prevalence and Incidence Data

- 24 types of violence (including self-harm, attempted suicide and suicide as an outcome of violence) against children
- Most data available on common types of violence—physical and sexual abuse, neglect
- Little data on abandonment, three out of 20 respondents (Ireland, Malta, Spain)
- Definitions vary (FGM included in sexual abuse)
- Age groups vary (0 to 14, 0 to 11, 11-14)
- Target groups and classifications vary (e.g., mild or severe physical abuse in Denmark)
Other types of violence

- Incidence/prevalence of emotional abuse obtained for 11 out of the 19 countries
- Majority of country respondents stated they have no data on child prostitution, child pornography or child solicitation
- Respondents in seven countries (Croatia, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Romania, Sweden) reported having data on online/cyberbullying, either incidence or prevalence data
- No data available for female genital mutilation, forced marriages or harmful traditional practices, except in Denmark
Child violence data by setting

- Nordic countries had the most child violence data overall by setting: peer-to-peer, school, gang, workplace, care settings and in detention or justice system
- Only respondents from Bulgaria and Romania reported having data on violence in care settings
- No respondent reported data on violence against children at the workplace – would delete from survey
- Only England reported data on gang violence
Main Findings: EU Data on Child Violence

- Data highly fragmented at the national level
- Majority of respondents not possible for data to be accessed by another agency
- Over 1/2 of respondents reported no data sharing agreements exist
- Nordic countries had high quality child violence data / in Denmark unethical NOT to use the data
- Few countries have routine surveys to estimate the magnitude and nature of violence against children
3 Data Recommendations

• Eurostat to contribute to child-specific indicators for child maltreatment, as for material deprivation
• Council of Europe to fund routine, school-based surveys on child exposure to violence
• Member States to integrate mandatory questions on adverse childhood events/maltreatment in the European Health Interview Survey (EHIS)
THANK YOU

PIECES

Policy Investigation in Europe on Child Endangerment and Support

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