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PARENTAL VIOLENCE AGAINST ADOLESCENTS AGED 10-19 YEARS BIHAR, INDIA

BACKGROUND

Child abuse affects more than 1 in 5 youth globally, affecting their development and wellbeing into adulthood.¹ The most common form of child abuse in India is physical violence from parents, occurring at almost three times the rate of that seen globally.² Unfortunately, available data on physical violence from parents in India is limited to children under age 13 years,² but the nation's more than 250 million adolescents are likely affected by child abuse as well. This study examines the prevalence of child abuse in the form of parental physical violence among adolescents aged 10-19 years of age in Bihar, India.

THE UDAYA STUDY: BIHAR

We analyzed data from the *Understanding the Lives of Adolescents and Young Adults* (UDAYA) study on adolescent health and development conducted in 2015-2016. We examined differences in experiences of physical violence from parents by sex, urban/rural residence, and wealth quintile [from quintile (Q)1: poorest to Q2: richest], across a representative sample of unmarried youth in Bihar. We focused on the following subpopulations: 10-14 year old males (n=982) and females (n=736), and 15-19 year old males (n=1713) and females (n=3296).

FINDINGS: PARENTAL VIOLENCE AGAINST ADOLESCENTS

Almost 70% of males and 56% of females ages 10-14 reported experiencing physical violence from parents. However, for males, this high prevalence was sustained through early adolescence and declined in late adolescence, whereas for girls rapid decline in physical violence from parents was noted over time (See Fig 1).

- Males are significantly more likely than females to experience physical violence from parents ($p < .05$), with a gender gap that continues from ages 11 to 19.
- For both males and females, there is a significant reduction in experiences of parental violence with age ($p < .05$).
- While older females report the lowest prevalence of parental violence within this sample, the prevalence for this group is still not low, with 1 in 4 older adolescent girls reporting parental violence.

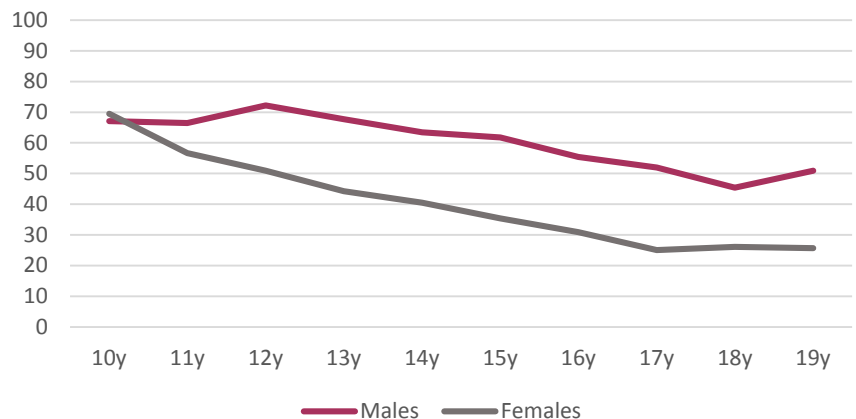
RESEARCH QUESTION AND ANALYSIS

Using these data, we asked:

- 1) What percent of adolescents in Bihar report being physically hurt from either parent since the age of 10 years?
- 2) Is parental violence different for youth, based on urban or rural residence or level of wealth (measured in quintiles from poorest to richest)?

Chi-square tests were used to test significant differences in gender, age, rural/urban residence, and wealth.

Fig 1. Prevalence of Parental Violence among Adolescents 10-19 Years, Bihar



WHO IS AT RISK FOR PARENTAL VIOLENCE? FINDINGS FROM BIHAR, INDIA

Urban/Rural Differences: For both males and females, adolescents residing in rural areas were significantly more likely to experience physical violence from parents ($p < .05$) (See Fig 2).

Differences based on Wealth Quintile: For both males and females, adolescents in the richer and richest quintiles were significantly less likely to experience violence from parents ($p < .05$) (See Fig. 3).

Fig 2. Prevalence of Parental Violence Against Adolescents 10-19 Years by Residence, in Bihar

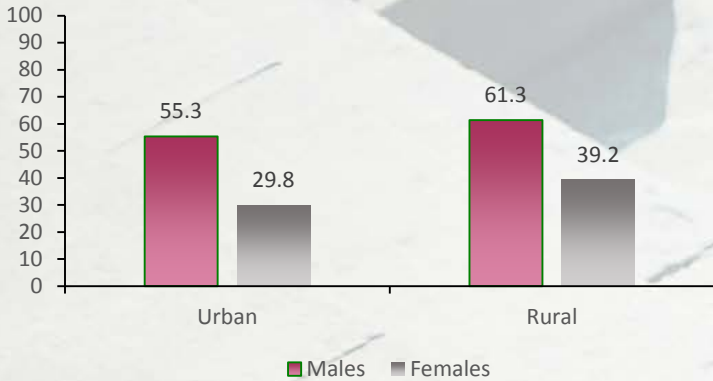
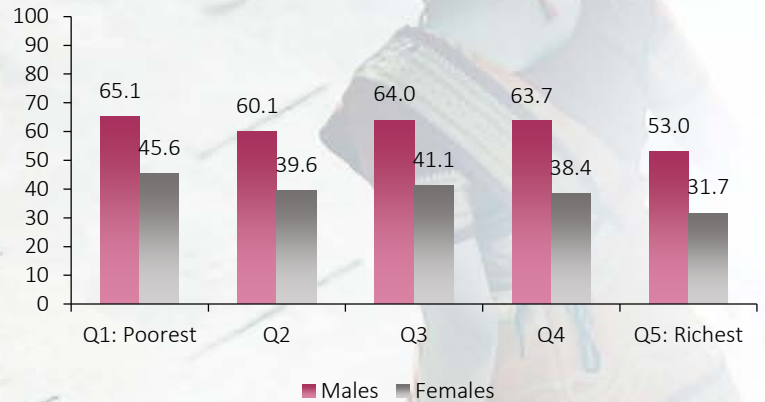


Fig 3. Prevalence of Parental Violence among Adolescents 10-19 Years by Wealth Quintile in Bihar



CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Nearly 70% of adolescent males and 56% of adolescent females in Bihar are experiencing physical violence from parents. While this violence declines for both males and females over time, from age 10 to 19, the decline is greater for girls than for boys. However, even for older adolescent females, 1 in 4 are experiencing violence, as are 1 in 2 older adolescent males.
- While rates of physical violence from parents is high across adolescent groups, those in rural areas, and those who are poorer relative to the richer or richest families in the state, are more likely to face abuse from parents.
- These findings suggest that parental violence against adolescents, while lesser than that seen among younger children, continues as a norm for many adolescents in Bihar, likely compromising their mental and physical health. More focus is needed to change norms of physical punishment from parents, and to support abused adolescents.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you would like more information about this study, or to collaborate with us on its success, please contact Principal Investigator of this research at UC San Diego, or visit

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