Child Abuse and Neglect; Situation in Turkey

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Outlines

• Magnitude of the problem
• Child Protection Systems
Magnitude of the problem
Korkunç rapor: Türkiye, çocuk istismarında üçüncü sırada serdi.

We are the third in the world about child abuse!

Child abuse increased sevenfold in 10 years
Data and information sources for child abuse and neglect

Official records
• Ministry of Justice

CPCs records
• Universities

Survey studies
• NGO studies
• Academic studies
Official records

- The Ministry of Health
- The Ministry of Interior
  - Child Police
  - Gendarmarie Child Center
- The Ministry of Education
- The Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Service
- Universities (Child Protection Centers)

The Ministry of Justice
National Judiciary Informatic System
Litigated and Convicted Child sexual abuse cases in criminal courts (2009 – 2017)

For Article 103

Adli İstatistikler 2017, Adalet Bakanlığı, Adli Sicil ve istatistik Genel Md.
Child maltreatment in the Turkish law
Turkish Penal Code No.5237

Sexual assault (Article 102)
Child molestation (Article 103)
Sexual intercourse with persons not attained the lawful age (Article 104)
Sexual Harassment (Article 105)
Obscenity (Article 226)
Prostitution (Article 227)

Human Trafficking (Article 80)
Torture (Article 94)
Torment (Article 96)
Abandonment (Article 97)
Failure in the Duty of Assistance or Notification (Article 98)
Deprivation of Liberty (Article 109)
Hatred and Discrimination (Article 122)
Disturbing an Individuals’ Peace and Harmony (Article 123)
Indecent Acts (Article 225)
Begging (Article 229)
Altering the Lineage of a Child (Article 231)
ILL-treatment (Article 232)
Breach of Obligations Derived from Family Law (Article 233)
Kidnapping and Detention of a Child (Article 234)
National Judiciary Informatic System (NJIS)

All information and data in NJIS are very limited to say something about magnitude of child abuse in Turkey.

- NJIS records show cases that could reached to justice system.
- We can't see many other abuse cases which couldn't reach to justice system.
Magnitude of the problem

Convicted
Determined by study results
Silent victims
Data and information sources for child abuse and neglect

Official records
- Ministry of Justice

CPCs records
- Universities

Survey studies
- NGO studies
- Academic studies
Studies about child maltreatment

• Number of National studies (1985-2015)

Prevalence studies are very limited.
Physical abuse
Local prevalence studies

• 13.5 % 862 high school students (Istanbul, 2002)
• 74.0 % 3725 students- 5.-6. grades (Elazığ, 2006)
• 21.8% 595 working children (Mersin, 2010)
• 53.3 % 988 college students (Samsun, 2010)
• 23.1 % 173 medical students –ICAST-R (Izmir, 2016)

Sexual abuse
Local – small scale prevalence studies

• 10.7 % 862 high school students (Istanbul, 2002)
• 13.4 % 1871 female high school students (Istanbul, 2002)
• 28.0 % 1262 university students (Istanbul, Izmir, Ankara, Aydin, 2003)
• 25.2 % 595 working children (Mersin, 2010)
• 11.0 % 173 medical students –ICAST-R (Izmir, 2016)

Child Abuse and Domestic Violence Study in Turkey, 2010

**7 – 18 years**

Witness to violence

7 – 18 years

Victim of violence

Türkiye’de çocuk istismarı ve aile içi şiddet araştırması, 2010, SHÇEK, UNICEF
The Balkan Epidemiological Study on Child Abuse and Neglect (BECAN) (2009 – 2013)

- 11 – 16 years ; 7 526 Students
  - ICAST-CH
  - İzmir, Zonguldak, Denizli

- Emotional abuse 70.5 %
- Physical abuse 58.3 %
- Neglect 42.6 %
- Sexual abuse -
Adverse Childhood Experiences Study, 2013

- ACE Questionnaire (CDC & Kaiser)
- 2,257 University students – (Ankara, Antalya, Erzurum, Van, İzmir)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child maltreatment</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical Abuse</td>
<td>21.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sexual Abuse</td>
<td>7.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emotional Abuse</td>
<td>9.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emotional Neglect</td>
<td>8.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical Neglect</td>
<td>5.7</td>
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Adverse Childhood Experiences Study, 2018

• 8 033 University students
• 29 University in 12 NUTS* region in Turkey

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*NUTS: The Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics
Differences of prevalence in 5 years (ACE studies, 2013-2018)

- Physical abuse: P<0.01
- Sexual abuse: p<0.01
- Emotional abuse: P<0.001
- Emotional neglect:
- Physical neglect:
Child Protection Systems
Child Protection Systems

Traditional process

Children are open the re-trauma
Child Advocacy Center – 2010...
(Child Follow-up Center)

For Sexually Abused Children

❖ Family interview,
❖ Child interview,
❖ Forensic evaluation,
❖ Medical and mental health evaluation,
❖ Forensic report generation

MoH
MoE
MoF
BAR
Police/Gendarmarie
Prosecutor’s Office
CAC are designed to provide all needed staff and equipment to enable a minimum scope of CAC functions with a focus on child’s best interest when an allegedly sexually abused child is referred to the center.
Child Advocacy Center (Child Follow-up Center)

Notification process for sexually abused children
35 Child Advocacy Centers in 32 cities (2018)

TARGET
59 CACs in 56 cities (2019)
CACs and Cases (2010-2018)

**Grafik Başlığı**

- **35 CACs**
- **Total cases 41,960**

*First 6 months of 2018*
Universities

• Child Protection Research and Application Centers – 12 Universities
• Child Protection Units – 6 Universities
• Child Protection Teams – ?

To evaluate, diagnose, treat, protect and monitor children at risk  
To provide appropriate notification and counseling of children  
To conduct research and studies on subjects related to children at risk

The number of cases is low (100-200 cases / year)
Finally

- Child abuse is still an important problem, although not as much as the media exaggerated.
- We could have some problems about our law for child maltreatment, however, there are many laws that we can use.
- Adjudication process are traumatic for some cases (especially sexual abuse!)…. CAC model should be extended to the whole country.
- Treatment and rehabilitation of victims are not optimal.
Thank you...
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