ISPCAN Child Abuse Screening Tools
The ICAST Instruments

Desmond Runyan, MD, DrPH
Kempe Center
The University Colorado
School of Medicine
Limitations of current international knowledge

- data compromised by many measures & definitions
- Mixture of incidence & prevalence
- Some studies mix school & home while others considered only home
- Some scholars limit focus & avoid sexual abuse or child labor
- Studies use different samples & approaches: comparison is complex
Among few international studies: one example

- World Survey of Abuse in the Family Environment
  - Collaborative project by scientists in 6 countries
  - Developed a common core instrument asking mothers about a single randomly-selected child
  - Population-based samples
  - Study sizes limited by available resources
  - Careful training and concern about ethics, privacy & safety
World Studies of Abuse & Family Environment

- Studies completed in India, Egypt, the Philippines, Chile, Brazil, and the US
- Face-to-face surveys of mothers 15-49, with one child in the home
- Proved a common instrument could be useful
Moderate Discipline Across Countries

- Spank
- Spank/object
- Object/else
- Slap face

Countries:
- Brazil
- Chile
- Egypt
- India urban
- India slum
- India rural
- Philippine
- US
Correlation = -0.73
United Nations Secretary-General’s Study of Children and Violence

- Mandated by the UN General Assembly
- Advised by an NGO Advisory Committee 2003-2006
- Report in 2006 to General Assembly
- In 2004, ISPCAN responded to concerns of NGO Advisory Committee on developing a set of common measures
ISPCAN Contribution to SGSOVAC

Instrument to measure extent of child maltreatment:

- Rights based
- Reliable & valid
- Globally useful
- Culturally sensitive & easily translated

Tension between need to be standardized for comparison of data, yet flexible enough to allow for subject comfort, cultural & individual factors.
A Parent Survey of Maltreatment: The ICAST-P

- Ample evidence that parents will reveal sensitive information by interview
- Parents can understand informed consent
- Parents were present
- Can be asked about behaviors in context of child rearing
Sample items

All adults use certain methods to teach children the right behavior or to address a behavior problem. I will read various methods that might be used and I want you to tell me how often you (or if applicable, your husband/partner) have used this with (index child’s name) in the last year.

Q. Explained why something was wrong
Q. Shook him / her
Q. Hit him or her on the buttocks with an object such as a stick, broom, cane or belt
Q. Threatened to leave or abandon him/ her

Total of 36 questions about discipline
Developing the ICAST-C (I&H)

- Child abuse is often a private act
- Child rights perspective - respect for children
- Research ethics: informed consent & respect for persons
  - US conference recommended not asking children less than 10 years
- 6 year experience asking children directly: found children understood & reveal more events than parents
- Child well-being best predicted by child report
The ICAST-R (retrospective)

- Legal reporting complicates research consent
- Young Adults can give a retrospective report
- Older youth may have a better perspective as to what is unacceptable
## Child maltreatment & adolescent mental health in Viet Nam

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maltreatment</th>
<th>Female %</th>
<th>Male %</th>
<th>Whole Sample</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emotional</td>
<td>42.5</td>
<td>36.3</td>
<td>39.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical</td>
<td>41.6</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>47.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual</td>
<td>18.5</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>19.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neglect</td>
<td>33.4</td>
<td>24.9</td>
<td>29.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ICAST-R data 2591 adolescents

Huong Thanh Nguyen, Michael P Dunne & Anh Vu Le

*Bull World Health Organ* 2009;87:22–30
Childhood maltreatment in South Korea: retrospective study.  Lee Y, Kim S.


- Used ICAST-R, Beck Depression Inventory & Korean Inventory of Interpersonal Problems with 539 young people 18-24 at university & work
- Males had more physical abuse while females were more often emotionally and sexually abused
- Depression & Interpersonal problems associated with more abuse
Georgia Data

Table 15 Comparisons of violence between school, home and institution by type

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Home (Community) (N = 1050)</th>
<th>School (N = 1300)</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical</td>
<td>54.0%</td>
<td>47.1%</td>
<td>0.0009***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychological</td>
<td>59.1%</td>
<td>47.5%</td>
<td>0.0001***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
<td>0.0550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutions(N = 301)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical</td>
<td>71.1%</td>
<td>47.1%</td>
<td>0.0001***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychological</td>
<td>61.5%</td>
<td>47.5%</td>
<td>0.0001***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual</td>
<td>16.6%</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
<td>0.0001***</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Saudi Arabia ICAST-C

- Cross-sectional survey of children in Al Kharj
- Ethics issues complex: addressed parent consent, reporting, and participant distress
- Stratified multistage cluster sampling in schools
- 2835 participants, Response rate 34%
Saudi Arabia ICAST-C Results

Figure 1. Incidence of Child Abuse, Neglect and Exposure to Violence in the past year, Al Kharj, Saudi Arabia, 2011

- Neglect: 48.3%
- Psychological Abuse: 73.8%
- Physical Abuse: 57.9%
- Sexual Abuse: 15.5%
- Exposure to violence: 49.6%
Summary

• The Korean & Vietnam results of ICAST are published
• Extensive data for Georgia, Russia, Belarus, and the Balkan countries are in preparation
• Saudi Arabian paper submitted for publication
• Many other investigators have requested ICAST form ISPCAN
• Access at ISPCAN.ORG