

ASPECTS OF PREVENTING PHYSICAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN

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Abstract

The author studied the physical abuse of children during 2013-2017, focusing on causes, risks that lead to physical abuse on children and determining the age limit that is most affected. Throughout the years of study, victims of physical abuse were predominantly female, but there was no great difference compared to male. The incidence of trauma in the rural area was significantly higher than in the rural area, the urban / rural ratio being 2. Regarding the age of the abused children, it was observed that those between 2-6 years were more at risk with 2, 8 higher compared to the age group between 12-18 years. In 2017, the incidence of physical abuse on children was significantly higher than in other years, the lowest incidence is found in 2013. During the period studied there were 176 cases of physical abuse of the child, which led to an increase worrying with 31.3% in the last year of study. The severity index related to the physical abuse of children was 35.8% for head injuries, while for the injuries in the trunk area was 27.3%.

Keywords: physical abuse, children, injuries, causes.

INTRODUCTION

The history of physical abuse of the child is probably older than the recorded history, although the period of systematic studies of the phenomenon is relatively short.

In most countries of the world, the definition of abuse also includes acts or circumstances that threaten the child with injury or create a substantial risk of damaging the child's health or well-being.

OBJECTIVES

Assessment and prevention of physical abuse of children in Bihor County for the future period.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

The author analyzes cases of physical abuse of children between 2013 and 2017 on the territory of Bihor County, with an emphasis on cases where domestic violence was significant, abusers were mostly family members and the average age was low. 176 cases of physical

abuse of children were recorded and analyzed. The demographic data were collected, together with the medical records, the forensic and judicial investigations, the family environment and the questioning of the abusers.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

1. The average age for abused children between 0 and 18 years, for the period 2013-2017

In the period 2013 - 2017, victims of physical abuse between 0 and 18 years registered in Bihor county designated an increase among children aged 4-6 by 39.2%, the least victims being between the ages of 12 -18 years with a percentage of 10.8%.

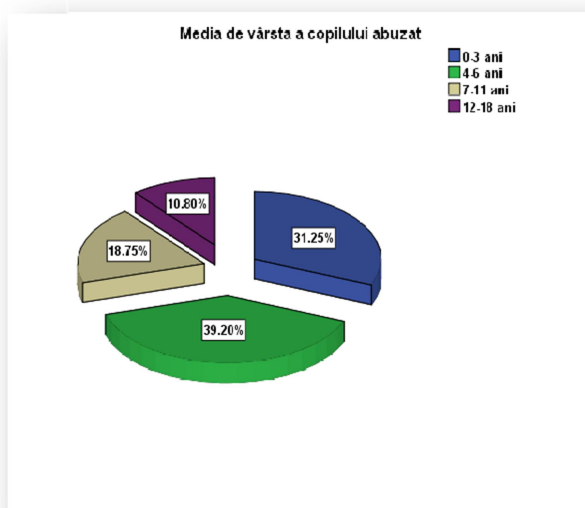


Chart 1. The average age for abused children between 0 and 18 years, for the period 2013-2017

Children between the ages of 0-3 years are more likely than children of older age to be victims of physical abuse, but those cases should not be overlooked as there are multiple causes that may be present in this phenomenon.

I was able to find significant differences between children aged 0-3 years and those aged 12-18, ($\chi^2 = 22.190$, $p < 0.0001$). Thus, children up to 3 years of age have a risk of up to 20.5% (RR = 2.89).

Table 1

The average age for abused children between 0 and 18 years, for the period 2013-2017

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
0-3 ani	55	31.3	31.3	31.3
4-6 ani	69	39.2	39.2	70.5
Valid 7-11 ani	33	18.8	18.8	89.2
12-18 ani	19	10.8	10.8	68.0
Total	176	100.0	100.0	100.0

From the graphical interpretation we can conclude that in the case of our study the most predominant age is between 4-6 years (39,2%), thus meaning that they can have a favorable factor in the frequency of physical abuse.

2. The period of years in which physical abuse of children occurred 2013-2017

Regarding the year in which the most cases of child abuse were reported, in 2017 there was an almost double increase, compared to the previous years. Parents do not have the education and knowledge necessary to raise and care for a child, they are completely lacking for national programs in this educational field, the implementation of such an educational program as developed in other countries for expectant mothers and future parents could reduce drastically the number of child abuse and educate the population about raising children.

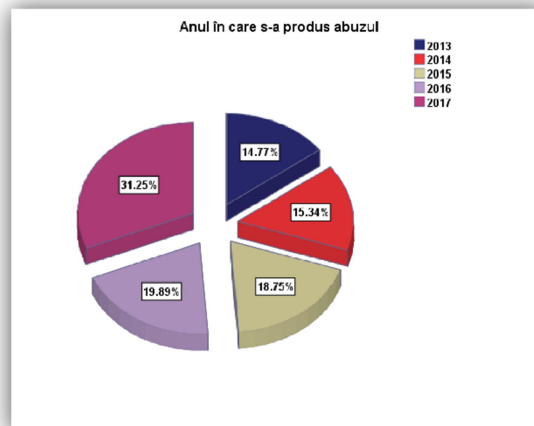


Chart 2. The period of years in which physical abuse of children occurred

Table 2
The period of years in which physical abuse of children occurred 2013- 2017

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
2013	26	14.8	14.8	55.6
2014	27	15.3	15.3	57.6
2015	33	18.8	18.8	70.6
Valid 2016	35	19.9	19.9	74.8
2017	55	31.3	31.3	117.6
Total	176	100.0	100.0	100.0

Within this interpretation, there is a significant difference between 2013 and 2017, ($\chi^2 = 13.469$, $p = 0.0002$). The risk regarding abused children was 2 times higher in 2017 compared to 2013 ($RR = 2.11$).

3. The person accused of abuse

In the statistical interpretation of the study, most people who have abused children are persons with the first degree of kinship, with a percentage of about 47% of the whole lot of people questioned, almost half.

Aggressive behavior is intended, being defined for a specific purpose, to violate social norms and cause a breakdown between two or more persons.

Emotional problems are most often the most common cause of abusive behavior, so a great influence in the cases of physical abuse on the children has a connection between the person who commits the abuse and the abused child.

The abusive behavior of these people exhibits behavior that can cause physical or emotional harm to the children, threatening their integrity. Physical abuse in our study may have varied in intensity. Usually, people who exhibit aggressive behavior may be impulsive, restless or irritated.

Table 3
The person accused of abuse

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Grad de rudenie intai:				
1)Mama				
2)Tata				
3)Mama vitregă	84	47.7	47.7	179.4
4)Mama adoptivă				
5)Tata vitreg				
6)Tata adoptiv				
Grad de rudenie secundar:				
1)Soră				
2)Frate	34	19.3	19.3	72.6
3)Sora vitregă				
4)Frate vitreg				
5)Bunica				
6)Bunic				
Grad de rudenie tertiar:				
1)Unchi	16	9.1	9.1	34.2
2)Matusă				
Grad de rudenie al patrulea:	14	8.0	8.0	30.0
1)Verișor				
2)Verișoară				
3)Naș				
4)Nașă				
Grad de rudenie prin alianță:				
1)Concubina tatălui	28	15.9	15.9	59.8
2)Concubinul mamei				
Total	176	100.0	100.0	100.0

This percentage can be justified based on the fact that first-degree relatives usually spend most of their time with their children and this aspect may favor the risk of physical abuse of children.

There is a significant difference between first and second degree ($\chi^2 = 31,770$, $p < 0.0001$), so people with a first degree have a higher risk than people with a second degree ($RR = 2.47$, $RA = 28.4$).

CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, child abuse is a global problem affecting children from birth to 18 years. There are different types of child abuse, such as neglect, emotional abuse, physical abuse and sexual abuse. There are three main causes for child abuse, which are the parents' causes, the ecological causes and the problems of the child.

Based on the causes, many effects can be observed on the child that affect the emotional, physical and social development. Investigating the

trauma of physically abused children following certain modern demographic and epidemiological concepts determines an accurate understanding of the logic and structure of physical abuse. Therefore, proper community awareness plays an important role in preventing this problem from proceeding further.

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