



Violence and Injury

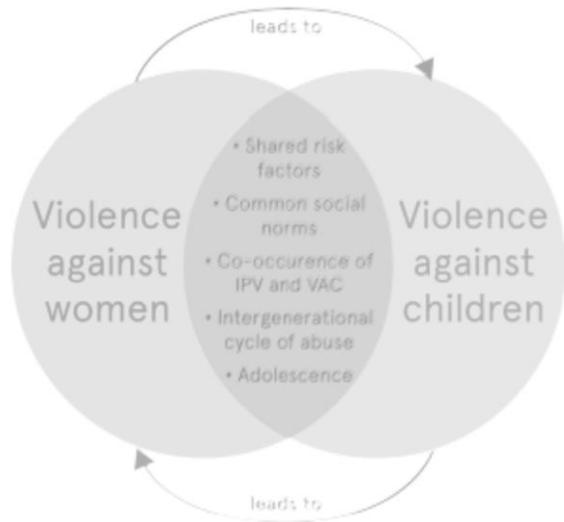
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In South Africa:

1 in 2 women have experienced physical and sexual IPV in their lifetime

35-45% children have experienced violence in the home



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- There was a 10% decrease in children presenting with **non-accidental injuries** driven by a sharp 50% decrease during hard lockdown and the alcohol ban - after which cases climbed to pre-pandemic levels. ¹

1. Red Cross Children's Hospital, Social Work Department non-accidental injury data

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What are the numbers telling us ?



- Minister of Police announced a 37% increase of GBV reports to SAPS at end of the first week of lockdown
- But a month later SAPS statistics showed a decrease of complaints – domestic violence down by 69,4% and rape by 87%
- Similarly, services like Rape Crisis saw a 50% decrease in rape and sexual assault cases
- While Childline reported an increase in the number of calls.
- Shelters reported a drop in women and children accessing safety

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Effects of social isolation



- Living in **confined spaces** increases stress, fear, poor mental health, which can in turn increase risk of VAW/C.
- Lockdown and quarantine also increases **day-to-day exposure** to perpetrators and can reinforce abuse tactics of social isolation.
- Usual **support systems** for women and children like family, friends and school were not available – increasing the risk for escalation of violence
- Disruption of social and **child protection services** made it harder for women and children to access SAPS, courts and social services + anecdotal evidence points to delays in following up Form 22s

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Specific recommendations



- **Prioritise child protection** services in crisis response plans
- Designate child protection as an essential service and establish **local response teams** to facilitate access to support services at community level
- Strengthen collaboration between health, education and child protection services making use of **every point of contact** - including schools, ECD programmes, health facilities and contact tracing teams - to identify and respond to cases of violence and abuse.
- Limit the sale of **alcohol** to prevent injuries and interpersonal violence

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