

Interesting and Noteworthy Findings From MICS Analyses

Implications For The Cross Cultural Study Of Parenting And Child Development

2022-08-02

Data

The findings below are drawn from studies using the *Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys* (MICS) conducted by UNICEF. Data come from several hundred thousand families from a diverse group of approximately 60 Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICS) around the world.

Countries in MICS

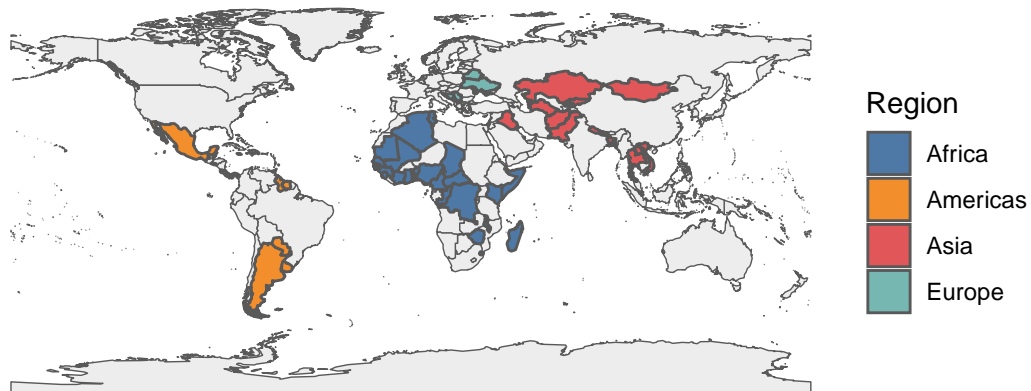


Figure 1: Countries in MICS

Spanking Hurts Children

Spanking is associated with decreased child socio-emotional development & with increased child aggression.

Insults Contribute to Harm

Name-calling & psychological aggression may have effects that are as harmful as those of physical punishment.

Physical and Psychological Punishment Slow Child Development

Harsh punishment is consistently associated with decreased child socio-emotional development & with more child aggression.

Eliminating Spanking Reduces Abuse

Simulations with MICS data suggest that eliminating the use of physical punishment would be met with a large reduction in the amount of physical child abuse.

Use Positive Discipline!

Positive discipline—in the form of verbal reasoning—is generally associated with improved child well-being across MICS countries.

Positive discipline benefits children

References

- Grogan-Kaylor, Andrew, Berenice Castillo, Garrett T Pace, Kaitlin P Ward, Julie Ma, Shawna J Lee, and Heather Knauer. 2021. “Global perspectives on physical and nonphysical discipline: A Bayesian multilevel analysis.” *International Journal of Behavioral Development*, January. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0165025420981642>.
- Ma, Julie, Andrew C. Grogan-Kaylor, Garrett T. Pace, Kaitlin P. Ward, and Shawna J. Lee. 2022. “The association between spanking and physical abuse of young children in 56 low- and middle-income countries.” *Child Abuse & Neglect* 129 (July): 105662. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2022.105662>.

- Pace, Garrett T., Shawna J. Lee, and Andrew Grogan-Kaylor. 2019. "Spanking and young children's socioemotional development in low- and middle-income countries." *Child Abuse and Neglect* 88: 84–95. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2018.11.003>.
- Ward, Kaitlin P., Andrew C. Grogan-Kaylor, Garrett T. Pace, Jorge Cuartas, and Shawna J. Lee. 2021a. "A Multilevel Ecological Analysis of the Predictors of Spanking Across 65 Countries." *BMJ Open* 11 (e046075). <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2020-046075>.
- Ward, Kaitlin P., Andrew Grogan-Kaylor, Julie Ma, Garrett T Pace, and Shawna J Lee. 2021b. "Associations Between 11 Parental Discipline Behaviors and Child Outcomes Across 60 Countries." PsyArXiv. <https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/f5t8x>.
- Ward, Kaitlin P., Shawna J. Lee, Andrew C. Grogan-Kaylor, Julie Ma, and Garrett T. Pace. 2022. "Patterns of Caregiver Aggressive and Nonaggressive Discipline Toward Young Children in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: A Latent Class Approach." *Child Abuse & Neglect* 128. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2022.105606>.