

# aile çocuk şiddet

"All children  
have the right  
to protection  
from all forms  
of violence"

## RESEARCH ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN AGED 0-8 YEARS IN TURKEY





RESEARCH  
ON DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE  
AGAINST  
CHILDREN  
AGED 0-8 YEARS  
IN TURKEY

May 2014, İstanbul

**This research was carried out with financial and technical support of the Bernard van Leer Foundation.**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Objective and Justification

The Bernard van Leer Foundation is a Netherlands based independent organization operating with the objective of supporting children's development in a healthier, safer and supportive environment. For more than 15 years now, the Foundation has been providing financial and technical support to different stakeholders and partners in Turkey through various projects. The objectives of the Foundation's programme strategy in Turkey include understanding the dimensions of domestic violence against children and to mitigate its negative effects on children's lives by developing intervention methods together with all stakeholders.

In 2013, the Foundation supported Boğaziçi University, Humanist Bureau and Frekans Research to conduct a national scale survey on domestic violence against children aged 0-8 years in Turkey.

The main objective of the survey is to obtain concrete data on the prevalence of domestic violence against children, the forms it takes, and particularly circumstances that lead to the use of violence. With the outcomes of this evidence-based study, different stakeholders in Turkey working on this issue will be provided a baseline analysis, and a common platform for developing methods of intervention will be created by disseminating the findings of the study to public institutions, NGOs, academia and the media.

### Methodology

The **target group** of the survey consists of adults who are primarily responsible for the care of children between the ages of 0-8. In cases of children having both parents,

interviews were conducted with either mothers or fathers; and for other children, interviewees were adults who are responsible for the primary care of children concerned (i.e. grandmother, aunt etc.).

The survey aimed to interview 3,000 women/mothers and 1,000 men/fathers who are responsible for the care of at least one child in the age group 0-8. The sample was selected from 26 provinces according to the Turkish Statistical Institute’s Classification of Territorial Units for Statistics (IBSS) with an eye on urban/rural distinction on address-based registration system and by using the method of “stratified random cluster sampling.” The survey covered 3,043 women and 1,058 men on completion with a response rate of 81% by households with children aged 0 to 8 years,

Below is the descriptive information concerning the survey sample size and its distribution:

Survey Sample	Female/Mother		Male/Father		Total	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
Number of Persons Interviewed	2,363	680	793	265	3,156	945
Total	3,043		1,058		4,101	

**The questionnaire form** was developed through the feedback provided by a group of experts from different disciplines (psychologist, social worker, paediatrician, and statistician) who are experienced in the field of violence against children and/or in studies on violence. Focus group meetings and pilot implementation were also conducted with the target group. The questionnaire was assessed and approved by the Boğaziçi University Human Research Ethics Committee.

At the stage of **data collection**, before field work commenced, all pollsters were given a 2-day training delivered by experts who developed the questionnaire. This training focused in detail on the purpose and methodology of the survey including possible difficulties and, by considering the sensitivity of the survey topic, there were also presentations and group work on such issues as “child protecting environments and neglect”, “violence against children” and “the child protection system in Turkey” to enhance the awareness of the field workers. Throughout the process of data collection, pollsters were supported with regards to the content of questions and possible other queries. Furthermore, 40% of the forms were checked either by supervisors in the field or by telephone calls from the central office.

## Findings

The study first addresses the **dimensions of child neglect, emotional violence and physical violence** against children, both individually and with respect to the degree of violence in each case. The major findings are as follows:

- 32% of the children between the ages of 0-8 spend time in such places as playgrounds, parks, streets, sports fields, schoolyards out of school hours and internet cafes unaccompanied by an adult.

- 66% of the children between the ages of 0-8 spend at least 2 hours a day watching TV.
- 8% of the children between the ages of 0-8 spend at least 1 hour a week under the care of another child younger than 12 and 6% spend at least 1 hour all alone at home.
- In response to their children's annoying behaviour, 74% of parents state resorting to emotional violence (i.e. denying something that the child likes, curtailing the provision of some basic needs, locking the child into a room, yelling, threatening etc.) while 23% use physical violence (i.e. slapping, pushing, shaking, pulling the hair/ear, etc.).
- Parents say they resort to emotional violence because they think it works and to physical violence due to a lack of control of their temper.
- Most of the parents who resort to emotional violence think that such methods have no harm on their children.
- If there is emotional or physical violence at home, 70% of children witness such incidences.

A major part of the study is devoted to **determining variables that child neglect and emotional/physical violence are associated with**. The following is the summary of the important findings in this area:

- Neglect of and emotional/physical violence against children is reduced as the education level of the parents increases.
- The number of children in the family is positively correlated with cases of neglect and of emotional/physical violence against children and children's witnessing of domestic violence.
- In households with any member with a disability, children are more likely to be subject to and/or witness neglect and emotional/physical violence.
- The better the economic status of the family is, the less the children face and witness neglect and emotional/physical violence. The difference is particularly striking in the case of families that are unable to provide for their basic needs.
- Children are more likely to face and witness neglect and emotional/physical violence in cases where their parents are likely to have psychological/psychiatric problems.
- It is more likely for children to face and witness neglect and emotional/physical violence if their families experience such problems as unemployment or traumatic experiences such as serious illness/injury/accident/migration/displacement/grief, etc.
- Parents who have childhood or present experiences of violence make more statements about cases of child neglect and emotional/physical violence against children compared to those having faced no violence.
- Children of parents with positive child rearing attitudes are less likely to face and witness neglect and emotional/physical violence.
- There is less neglect of and emotional/physical violence against children if parents live in harmony.

Finally, the survey asked parents about their perceptions of the **prevalence of violence against children in Turkey** and their views about the **methods of intervention in cases where violence is witnessed**. Below is the summary of some major findings:

- Over 60% of parents say violence against children is ‘quite prevalent’ or ‘extremely prevalent’ in Turkey.
- Witnessing a case of violence against a child, most parents prefer to intervene “on their own”. The proportion of those who say they would ‘report it to relevant authorities’ varies from 6% to 12% if the case involves insult, slapping, beating etc. and increases up to only 39% in case of violence turning into aggravated assault.
- When parents were asked where they would apply in the case that they witnessed a child suffering violence, 73% said ‘security forces’ while only 19% mentioned social services.

## Policy and Strategy Suggestions

In the light of survey findings, suggestions on further research topics and policy changes are as follows:

### Research Suggestions

- A “Child Neglect Study” to inquire into the causes of child neglect and factors affecting negligent behaviour.
- An “Impact Study on Family Training Programmes” to assess the coverage and effectiveness of the trainings, as well as knowledge and perceptions on such programmes.
- A “Study on Sexual Abuse of Children” to explore sexual abuse related perceptions and reflexes of society, and to determine information about and effectiveness of services available to victims of sexual abuse.
- A “Study on Information about Child Protection Services” to explore preferences in reporting cases of child abuse and the processes of reporting.
- A “Study on the Distribution of Roles and Responsibilities within Family” to cover the family responsibilities that young children in particular have to undertake and perceptions and attitudes regarding the father’s role in family.
- A “Study on Family Income and Support Services” to explore minimum standards for child welfare, the cost of such standards, the benefits of family support services and the contribution of social assistance to child welfare.
- A “Study on the Perceptions of Anti-Violence Campaigns and News” to explore the impact of such campaigns on violent behaviour and associated perceptions.

### Policy Suggestions

- “Parent Training Programmes” must be expanded so as to be accessible to all parents and their effectiveness must be assessed on the basis of evidence.
- “Family Counselling Services” must be improved in quality and expanded so as to be accessible and affordable to the entire population.
- In cases such as single/working parents and the existence of a disabled family member where parents may find it difficult to attend to their children appropriately, there must be improved “family support services” enabling the parent to spare more time for their children and themselves.



- A “Basic income guarantee” must be provided to each family with children. Family benefits and minimum wage must be determined by taking due account of the needs of children.
- “Social assistance policies” must be reviewed and children’s needs must be given first priority while extending social support services to families.
- “Social service units” must be commonly available and social services must be provided by the smallest administrative units (neighbourhoods) in order to fulfil the obligation of identifying and preventing violence against children.
- “Education policies” must make it a priority to ensure that all children complete 12 years of compulsory education and that they develop basic life skills during this period.
- “Pro-natalist policies” envisaging at least 3 children per family must be re-considered. There must either be a policy developed to provide for all necessary services in case all families do have at least 3 children or the official policy on population growth must be revised according to the State’s means of provision of such services.
- “Support services to victims of abuse” must be diversified, expanded and made easily accessible for those under current severe threat.
- “Mental health services” must be improved in quality and made available and affordable to the entire population.
- Provision of protective services must not be conditional on being a direct victim of abuse and necessary administrative and legislative arrangements must be made to recognize that “witnessing violence is a case for protection as well.”
- There must be an “early warning system” to identify and prevent the risk of neglect and abuse of children.
- There must be an effective “data collection system” while developing risk identification, reporting and intervention mechanisms in the context of child services.



## 1 / INTRODUCTION

It is one of the priority rights of children to be protected from all forms of violence in all environments. All States parties to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child<sup>1</sup> have committed to adopt all legal, social and educational measures to protect children from all forms of violence, neglect and abuse. Yet, too many children in many parts of the world live deprived of this right. Violence faced by children in Turkey, particularly at home, is an important social problem worth addressing urgently, both in terms of its dimensions and consequences.

Violence that children suffer has many negative impacts on their lives. Circumstances of **neglect** that emerge when a child's health, educational, emotional development, nutrition and sheltering needs are overlooked is an aspect of violence against the child frequently overlooked despite its importance. Neglect means not only failing to respond to the physical, cognitive, emotional and social development needs of the child but also covers responsibilities imposed on the child that are not suitable for his/her age.

**Emotional violence** means behaviour and attitudes that makes the child feel worthless, unwanted and disliked. Such behaviour and attitudes as not speaking with the child, scolding, and not responding to his/her needs for purposes of punishment, etc. may be accepted as "normal". The negative impact on the child is simply missed. Furthermore, such acts as using degrading words, swearing and threatening the child's physical and emotional integrity are not considered as violence in all instances and in all places.

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<sup>1</sup> The Convention on the Rights of the Child, which came into force on September 2, 1990, was signed by Turkey on September 14, 1990, ratified on December 9, 1994 and published in Official Gazette on December 11, 1994. As per article 90 of the Constitution of Turkey, it has the force of law.

While **physical violence** includes, by definition, the use of physical force of all kinds that may be harmful to a child’s health, life, development and dignity, there is still debate on what kind of acts fall into this category. Some forms of physical violence that are considered as “normal” (i.e. slapping, throwing things at a child, pulling by the ear or hair) are still accepted by many.

Similarly, while exposure to any sort of behaviour of a sexual nature is defined as **sexual abuse**, society’s outlook to the issue may not always be in line with this definition.

All forms of violence have their lasting negative consequences on children. Especially in early childhood, violence may affect the brain which is still in the process of maturing. Besides being victim to violence, witnessing violence may also lead to physical, social, emotional and cognitive problems in children; these may be followed by anxiety, depression, aggressive behaviour, substance abuse, risky sexual behaviour, suicidal tendencies, self-damage and death.<sup>2,3,4</sup>

Though limited, studies on the prevalence, causes and consequences of violence against children in Turkey give some idea about the magnitude of the problem:

- The “Family Structure Survey” conducted in 2006 jointly by the Turkish Statistics Institute (TÜİK) and General Directorate of Family and Social Studies with 27,647 adults point out that mothers punish their children by “scolding” (80.5%), “beating” (35.5%) and “locking in a room” (10.3%).
- At the end of a survey conducted in 2007 with secondary school students, the Turkish Grand National Assembly issued the “Report on Violence among Secondary School Students and Children Either Convicted or Held in Custody in Prisons and Factors Affecting Violence”. According to the report, 53% of children have faced verbal, 36% emotional, 22% physical and 16% sexual abuse within the last three months.
- Outcomes of a 2010 study “Child Abuse and Domestic Violence in Turkey” conducted under the coordination of the Social Services and Child Protection Agency with the technical support of UNICEF show that 25% of children face neglect, 45% physical abuse, 51% emotional abuse and 3% sexual abuse in school, family and other environments.
- The “Study on Domestic Violence Experienced by Children” conducted in 2012 under the coordination of the “Genç Hayat Foundation” with 449 students aged 11 to 17 shows that 26% of children face neglect, 68% emotional violence and 26% physical violence at least once in their lives while 20.5% witness cases of domestic violence.

In 2013, a countrywide survey was conducted to solicit the statements of parents primarily responsible for childcare in order to reach new and concrete data on the prevalence and forms of domestic violence against children aged 0-8 year and, especially, circumstances that trigger violence. The aims of this study are to present different stakeholders

2 UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (2011). **General Comment No.13: The Right of the Child to Freedom from all Forms of Violence.**

3 Inter-Parliamentary Union (2007). **Elimination of Violence against Children.**

4 World Health Organisation (2006). **Preventing Child Maltreatment: A Guide to Taking Action and Generating Evidence.**

working in this area an analysis of the present situation; to disseminate the findings of the survey to the public, NGOs, academia and the media and to create a common ground to contribute to the development of intervention methods.

This research was supported by the Bernard van Leer Foundation, an independent Netherlands based organization, engaged in activities to support the growth and development of children in healthier, safer and more supportive environments.

For longer than 15 years now, the Foundation has been extending financial and technical support to various projects together with different stakeholders and partners. The main objective of the programme strategy implemented in Turkey by the Foundation is to explore the dimensions of domestic violence against children, develop methods of intervention together with all stakeholders and to mitigate its negative effects on children's life.

This research supported by the Foundation was conducted by Boğaziçi University<sup>5</sup>, Humanist Bureau<sup>6</sup> and Frekans Research Company<sup>7</sup>.

The present report presents the methodology and findings of this research and, in light of these findings, makes policy and modelling suggestions.

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5 [www.boun.edu.tr](http://www.boun.edu.tr)

6 [www.humanistbureau.org](http://www.humanistbureau.org)

7 [www.frekans.com.tr](http://www.frekans.com.tr)



## 2 / METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 / Research Sample

The Research on Domestic Violence against Children Aged 0-8 Year in Turkey aims to collect data on the prevalence of violence against children as well as analyse the relationship between violence and such factors as parental attitudes, concepts and methods of discipline.

With this aim, the target group of the survey was adults who are primary caregivers of 0 to 8 year old children. Interviews were conducted with parents and, in cases where parents were absent, with other adults such as grandmothers, aunts etc. who were primary caregivers.

The target was to interview 3,000 women/mothers and 1,000 men/fathers who are primary caregivers of at least 1 child aged 0 to 8. The sample was selected from 26 provinces given representative authority according to TÜİK's Classification of Territorial Units for Statistics (IBSS) taking into account the urban/rural distinction and by using the "stratified random cluster sampling" method of the address-based registration system. With the response rate of 81% by households with children aged 0 to 8 years, 3,043 women and 1,058 men were surveyed on completion. Of the women interviewed, 3,026 were mothers and 17 were other adult women who were primary caregivers.

Tables 1 to 8 below present overall information on the geographical distribution and demographic characteristics of the survey sample:

**Table 1.** Geographical Distribution of the Sample

	Number of Interviewees		Total	
	Female	Male	N	%
Marmara	863	313	1176	28.7
Central Anatolia	414	146	560	13.7
Aegean	314	108	422	10.3
Mediterranean	415	137	552	13.5
Black Sea	237	88	325	7.9
East Anatolia	311	108	419	10.2
Southeast Anatolia	489	158	647	15.8
Urban	2,363	793	3,156	77.0
Rural	680	265	945	23.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,043</b>	<b>1,058</b>	<b>4,101</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 2.** Age Distribution of the Sample

	Over- all	Urban	Rural	Marmara	Aege- an	Mediter- ranean	Central Anatolia	East Anatolia	S.east Anatolia	Black Sea
Mother	32.2 (sd:6.5)	32.2 (sd:6.4)	32.0 (sd:6.9)	32.7 (sd:6)	32.1 (sd:6.7)	32.2 (sd:6.1)	31.8 (sd:6.8)	31.6 (sd:6.8)	32.2 (sd:7.1)	32.0 (sd:6.5)
Father	35.8 (sd:7.1)	35.4 (sd:6.9)	36.9 (sd:7.5)	35.5 (sd:5.7)	34.6 (sd:8.3)	36.4 (sd:8)	35.2 (sd:6.7)	37.9 (sd:7.6)	36.5 (sd:7.9)	34.3 (sd:6.2)

**Table 3.** Average Number of Household Members in the Sample

Overall	Urban	Rural	Marmara	Aegean	Mediter- ranean	Central Anatolia	East Anatolia	S.east Anatolia	Black Sea
4.5 (sd:1.5)	4.3 (sd:1.4)	5.0 (sd:1.8)	4.1 (sd:1.1)	3.8 (sd:0.9)	4.4 (sd:1.3)	4.2 (sd:1.2)	5.3 (sd:1.7)	5.5 (sd:1.9)	4.2 (sd:1.2)

**Table 4.** Marital Status (%)

Married	97.6
Single	0.3
Divorced	1.5
Deceased spouse / Widowed	0.6



**Table 5.** Level of Education in the Sample (%)

	Overall		Urban		Rural	
	Mother	Father	Mother	Father	Mother	Father
No schooling	11.6	3.1	8.7	2.9	21.6	3.8
Primary school dropout	3.3	2.0	2.8	1.9	4.7	2.3
Primary school graduate	36.5	31.5	36.1	27.4	37.9	43.8
Primary education dropout	1.6	1.2	1.6	1.4	1.6	0.8
Primary education graduate	4.4	1.7	4.1	1.6	5.4	1.9
Secondary school dropout	1.4	2.5	1.5	2.1	0.9	3.4
Secondary school graduate	9.5	11.5	9.5	11.6	9.7	11.3
High school dropout	2.2	3.9	2.2	3.5	2.5	4.9
High school graduate	19.9	25.7	22.2	28.4	11.9	17.7
University dropout	0.5	0.9	0.5	1.1	0.6	0.0
University graduate and post-graduate degree	8.9	15.9	10.6	17.8	2.9	10.2

**Table 6.** Level of Education in the Sample by Region (%)

	Marmara		Aegean		Mediterranean		Central Anatolia		East Anatolia		S.East Anatolia		Black Sea	
	Mother	Father	Mother	Father	Mother	Father	Mother	Father	Mother	Father	Mother	Father	Mother	Father
No schooling	2.0	0.3	2.5	0.9	7.7	2.2	1.4	1.4	33.8	7.4	37.2	10.8	1.3	1.1
Primary school dropout	0.8	1.0	1.9	1.9	3.1	3.6	1.0	0.7	8.4	2.8	8.0	3.2	1.7	2.3
Primary school graduate	38.9	30.0	29.9	21.3	42.7	39.4	41.8	19.2	32.2	44.4	27.6	46.2	40.1	14.8
Primary education dropout	2.1	1.0	0.6	0.0	1.7	2.2	0.5	0.7	3.2	1.9	1.6	1.9	0.8	1.1
Primary education graduate	3.5	1.0	7.0	1.9	4.1	0.7	6.5	0.0	4.2	4.6	3.5	3.8	3.4	1.1
Secondary school dropout	1.3	2.2	2.5	1.9	1.9	2.9	0.7	0.7	1.6	4.6	0.8	3.2	1.3	2.3
Secondary school graduate	9.7	15.0	14.0	10.2	9.4	10.9	10.1	15.8	7.1	4.6	5.1	7.6	14.3	10.2
High school dropout	2.7	3.8	2.5	5.6	2.4	5.1	2.2	2.7	0.6	0.9	1.8	2.5	3.0	8.0
High school graduate	27.1	27.8	22.9	34.3	19.3	19.0	23.4	33.6	5.5	22.2	9.8	10.1	24.5	37.5
University dropout	0.6	1.6	0.6	1.9	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.4	0.6	0.8	1.1
University graduate and post-graduate degree	11.1	16.0	15.3	20.4	7.0	13.9	11.6	25.3	3.2	5.6	3.9	10.1	8.9	20.5

**Table 7.** Employment Status (%)

	Mother			Father		
	Overall	Urban	Rural	Overall	Urban	Rural
Full-time	10.8	12.0	6.6	79.5	85.6	61.1
Part-time	1.2	1.4	0.6	6.5	4.4	12.8
Seasonally employed	0.4	0.3	0.6	2.9	1.5	7.2
Unpaid family worker	0.6	0.6	0.9	2.9	0.4	5.7
Housewife	86.1	84.7	91.0			
Retired	0.4	0.5	0.0	1.7	1.4	2.6
Unemployed, but income earner	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.4	0.3	0.8
Unemployed	0.3	0.3	0.3	5.4	4.7	7.5
Cannot work because of health problems				1.1	1.0	1.5

**Table 8.** Employment Status by Region (%)

	Marmara	Ae-gean	Mediterranean	Centre Anatolia	East Anatolia	S.East Anatolia	Black Sea
<b>Mother</b>							
Full-time	13.1	22.6	10.4	11.8	4.2	3.3	10.1
Part-time	1.6	1.3	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.8
Seasonally employed	0.2	0.6	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.4
Unpaid family worker	0.8	0.0	1.2	0.2	1.0	0.6	0.0
Housewife	83.5	73.6	86.0	85.7	92.9	93.9	87.8
Retired	0.3	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.0
Unemployed, but income earner	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0
Unemployed	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.4	0.8
<b>Father</b>							
Full-time	93.9	92.6	75.2	91.1	51.9	50.6	79.5
Part-time	0.6	0.9	3.6	1.4	9.3	27.2	6.8
Seasonally employed	0.3	0.9	3.6	0.0	5.6	8.9	4.5
Unpaid family worker	0.0	0.0	2.9	0.7	12.0	0.0	0.0
Retired	1.0	1.9	2.2	3.4	1.9	1.3	1.1
Unemployed, but income earner	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.9	0.6	0.0
Unemployed	2.6	0.9	8.8	2.7	15.7	8.9	1.1
Cannot work because of health problems	1.0	0.0	2.2	0.7	0.0	2.5	1.1

In cases where interviewees were responsible for the care of more than one child in the age group 0-8, an “index child” was selected as the reference for interviewees (this selection was made by pollsters by picking the child whose name starts with the letter closest to A). Sex and age distribution of “index children” is given in Table 9, while Table 10 gives information about their parents.

**Table 9.** Distribution of Index Children by Gender and Age

	Sex		Total	
	Female	Male	N	%
0-24 months	471	457	928	22.6
25-60 months	724	743	1,467	35.8
61-96 months	823	883	1,706	41.6

**Table 10.** Information about the Parents of Index Children (%)

Parents living together	97.1
Parents divorced	1.6
Parents married but living separately	0.4
Mother deceased	0.2
Father deceased	0.7

## 2.2 / Research Questionnaire Form

The questionnaire form was developed using a **five-stage process**. Firstly a **desktop review** was conducted to analyze related studies at national and international level and a pool of questions was created. From this pool, those questions that would best serve the purpose of the study were picked and the first draft of the form was developed with some edits and additions on the basis of these questions. Next, the following were also added to the draft: (1) The Parental Acceptance/Rejection Measurement Form (PAMF), proven to be applicable and reliable in understanding the relationship between parent-child ties and violent behaviour; (2) The “Household Durable Consumer Goods Index” as an indicator of household socioeconomic status, developed by the Hacettepe University and used in Demography and Health Surveys in Turkey, and (3) the “Self-Evaluation Scale” developed by the World Bank for overall emotional health screening purposes.

A **feedback session** was held with specialists from different disciplines (psychologists, sociologists, social workers, paediatricians, statisticians) experienced in studies concerning violence in general and violence against children in particular in order to confirm the relevance of the questionnaire form and to make any necessary changes. In this session each question was reconsidered; and its relevance to the aim of the research, informa-

tion expected from data obtained and the way the question was posed were discussed. Participating experts were also consulted regarding the scope of the research and whether information to be collected would be sufficient. The form was then redesigned on the basis of feedback received.

At the third stage, there were **two focus group meetings**, each with 10 participants selected from İstanbul sample to make sure that the questionnaire is sufficiently understood by the target group. These focus group meetings concentrated particularly on the way the questions were posed and whether they could be understood well. The form is feedback too was functional in giving the questionnaire its final shape.

The final draft was then submitted to the Boğaziçi University Human Research Ethics Committee and given approval.

At the last stage, from 16 to 26 March, a **pilot study** was conducted with the participation of 107 persons in 10 districts of İstanbul and the questionnaire was given its final form upon feedback received. (See, Annex).

### 2.3 / Data Collection Process

Data collection took place from 9 May to 8 July 2013 with 173 pollsters. Before field-work commenced, all pollsters received 2-day training given by experts who drafted the questionnaire. Training sessions were organized in three groups, İstanbul (08-09 April), Erzurum (19-20 April) and Adana (22-23 April), with the participation of trainees coming from nearby provinces.

Firstly, the objective, methodology and possible difficulties of the survey were addressed in detail. Considering the sensitivity of the issue, there were presentations and group work focusing on “child protective environment and neglect”, “violence against children” and “child protection system in Turkey.” Sessions had the following objectives:

- Building awareness on joint responsibilities of families, society and the State to ensure necessary standards for the child,
- Information building on forms of physical and emotional violence (and their effect on children),
- Information building on the role and responsibility of adults in relation to sexual abuse,
- Providing information on institutions and procedures sufficient to inform the family in cases of neglect and abuse.

Then, the “survey guide” including tips on how to pose questions and points to be careful about was shared with pollsters and each question was discussed in the light of this guide. Lastly, there was practical work to strengthen pollsters’ information and interviewing skills, together with a discussion on possible ethics questions and ethics rules to be observed.

Throughout the process of data collection, pollsters were given support relating to the content of questions and problems faced. Also, 40% of interview outcomes were checked either by supervisors in the field or by phone calls from the office.

## 2.4 / Research Ethics

In studies on violence against children many ethical debates arise due to the sensitivity of the issue. To respond to this, comprehensive work was carried out before launching this survey and a series of measures were adopted.

Firstly, international literature on the subject was reviewed and certain principles were adopted on the basis of the “Ethical and Safety Guidelines for Research on Domestic Violence against Women” published by the World Health Organization in 2001. Since there is no similar guiding text on violence against children, discussions found in the mentioned text were used. The issue was also brought up during feedback meetings with experts and their opinions were solicited.

In this context, the following decisions and measures were adopted and followed:

- a. **The safety of participants and the survey team is of utmost importance and this should be the guiding principle in all decisions taken under the research project.**

Considering the possibility that a research study titled “violence against children” may pose risks to the safety of participants and fieldworkers, the title of the research was changed to “Child Raising Attitudes in Turkey.”

- b. **Prevalence studies should be sound in methodological terms and the findings of recent studies should be used to minimize the case of under-reporting.**

Methodologically, the study was designed by keeping reporting as the principal consideration. Since earlier studies show that concrete and non-judgemental question types are responded to more easily, questions about violence were posed not through general concepts (i.e. being a victim of violence) but concrete behaviour. Also when training pollsters, specific importance was attached to methods that would enable freer responses from the participants, such as the way difficult questions were posed and reacted to.

- c. **Ensuring confidentiality is important both for participant safety and data accuracy.**

To ensure confidentiality, the survey aimed at ensuring that there was nobody else but the participant and the pollster in the space where the interview would take place. Also, personal responses of participants were not shared with others but examined in groups for statistical analysis. Questionnaire forms were kept in a safe place from data collection through entry.

- d. **The survey and field teams should be selected carefully, trained well on the subject and given support in the process.**

Persons collecting data in the field as pollsters were selected from amongst a group of experienced people working in this specific area for some time. As stated earlier, all pollsters were given 2-days training due to the sensitivity of the subject area. This training aimed to inform pollsters in a more detailed way about the subject and to help them avoid misleading participants while completing the questionnaire form

(particularly with respect to overlapping and diverging elements in forms of violence). Another aim was to ensure that pollsters avoid using any expressions that would put emphasis on the responsibilities of families or children.

**e. The methodology should include steps to ease possible challenges that parents may face because of taking part in the survey.**

Survey questions were articulated so as not to impose blame on persons, to avoid any accusatory language and to ensure that participants did not form expectations regarding any needs they may have or any actual threats they may be under. One of the basic ethical dilemmas of this type of survey is the declaration of an actual threat of violence. In this respect, ignoring a threat, directing the participant to complain about or report a threat and for the pollster to report a threat themselves are all debatable issues. In light of this, a brochure was supplied to pollsters to hand to participants in such cases. The brochure contains support and appeal mechanisms that parents may use in their localities as well as relevant contact information.

**f. The ethical responsibility of researchers and agencies extending financial support to researchers is to ensure that outcomes of any research are correctly understood and used to develop relevant policies and interventions.**

The primary objective of the survey is not only to expose the prevalence of violence against children and describe the problem, but also to contribute to policy development and relevant interventions by showing what kind of variables affect violent behaviour.. Thus, questions were formulated so as to identify personal, family related and environmental factors that lead to violent behaviour.

**g. Participants of the survey should be informed about the organisation conducting it and the objectives of the survey and their consent should be taken.**

As a way of taking consent, the “Study on Violence against Women in Turkey” conducted by the General Directorate of Women’s Status in cooperation with Hacettepe Population Studies Institute was taken as a model and a specific consent form was prepared for this survey.

### 3 / FINDINGS

In the context of the present survey designed to better understand the factors that affect the experience of neglect and domestic violence of children aged 0-8 year old children in Turkey, the term 'violence' is used by taking into account, as in relevant international literature, its dimensions of emotional violence, physical violence, sexual violence and neglect. To investigate each of these dimensions in detail, it was necessary to create sub-categories and highlight the different characteristics of each dimension. Table 11 summarizes this approach.

**Table 11.** Survey Definitions of Forms of Neglect of and Violence against Children

#### Neglect

- Not taking the child out for regular health check-ups during the first year following birth, doing this only when the child gets sick or no health check-up at all.
- The child passing time in playgrounds, sports areas, the school yards or in an internet café out of school hours and without an accompanying adult.
- The child watching TV for longer than 2 hours a day.
- The parent having no idea about any of his/her child's friends.
- The child having suffered a serious injury within the last year.
- The child staying at home accompanied only by another child under the age of 12 at least once and for a period longer than 1 hour within the last week.
- The child staying at home alone at least once and for longer than 1 hour within the last week.

#### Mild Emotional Violence (E1)

- Not responding to the child's needs for punishment purposes (forbidding the child to do something s/he likes or to see a friend, not speaking to him/her, leaving him/her hungry, not listening to him/her)
- Locking the child in a room
- Yelling, scolding
- Damaging the child's things or threatening to do so

#### Grave Emotional Violence (E2)

- Cursing, insulting
- Humiliating the child in front of others
- Threatening to abandon or kick out of home

#### Mild Physical Violence (P1)

- Slapping
- Throwing things at the child
- Pushing, shaking or pulling by the ear/hair

#### Grave Physical Violence (P2)

- Punching or hitting with something
- Kicking, dragging or beating
- Choking
- Burning a part of the body
- Threatening to use or actually using things like a knife, a firearm etc.

#### Sexual Abuse

- Using the child for satisfying the sexual needs and satisfaction of another person

#### Witnessing Violence

- The child witnessing domestic violence

The findings of the survey are presented in three parts. The first part presents basic findings on the frequency of violence. In the second part, findings are addressed in light of factors that affect each form of violence. The third part provides findings on the opinions about the prevalence of violence against children and methods of interventions.

### 3.1 / Prevalence of Domestic Violence against 0-8 Years Old Children

In this first part where findings on the prevalence of domestic violence against 0-8 years old children are shared, **the level of neglect, rates of emotional and physical violence against children and children's' witnessing of violence** are addressed with respect to basic factors such as sex, age group, urban/rural distinction and geographical regions. Since the survey yielded a very low rate of children victimized by **sexual abuse**, distributions in this regard are given only by sex and age group. At the end of this part, parents' opinions about the effects of their violent behaviour on their children by the forms of violence they state to have resorted can also be found.



### 3.1.1 / Neglect

One of the most important aspects of this research is to present findings on neglect by specifically asking about possible cases of neglect that index children in the age group 0-8 may face. Cases of neglect emerge when there is failure to provide conditions that allow for healthy development and protection of younger children in particular. In this context, Table 12 below shows cases of neglect and their frequency by age group, rural/urban distinction and sex of index child. Table 13 gives the distribution by region.

**Table 12.** Incidence of Neglect by Age Groups, Urban/Rural Distinction and Gender (%)

Incidence of Neglect	Total	Age 0-2	Age 2-5	Age 5-8	Urban	Rural	Female	Male
Not taking the child out for regular health check-ups during the first year following birth, doing this only when the child gets sick or no health check-up at all	3.6	3.1	2.6	4.8	2.9	4.9	3.0	3.8
The child passing time in playgrounds, sports areas, school yards or in an internet café out of school hours and without an accompanying adult	32.1	5.6	22.7	54.5	27.2	48.1	29.0	35.0
The child watching TV for longer than 2 hours a day	65.5	23.6	70.6	82.7	65.7	59.6	63.5	65.0
The parent having no idea about any of his/her child's friends	7.0	2.5	5.0	11.1	7.5	5.3	6.8	7.2
The child having suffered a serious injury within the last year	5.3	4.3	5.5	5.6	5.3	5.2	4.4	6.1
The child staying at home accompanied only by another child under the age of 12 at least once and for a period longer than 1 hour within the last week	8.1	4.7	8.2	14.1	8.2	6.8	7.3	8.4
The child staying at home alone at least once and for longer than 1 hour within the last week	5.7	2.8	4.3	10.4	6.7	5.5	6.0	6.9
Neglect Index (0-7) average*	1.3 (sd:1.0)	0.4 (sd:0.7)	1.2 (sd:0.9)	1.8 (sd:1.0)	1.2 (sd:1.0)	1.4 (sd:1.0)	1.2 (sd:1.0)	1.3 (sd:1.1)

\*For "neglect index" see p. 23.

Looking at the table above we see that the most common incidence of neglect is that where 'children watch TV for at least 2 hours a day'. While it is suggested, for healthy child development, not to expose small children aged 0-2 to TV in any way<sup>8</sup>, about 24% of index children in this age group watch TV for at least 2 hours a day. There is no significant rural/urban distinction in this regard.

The second most common incidence of neglect is that of 'children passing time out of the home without an adult companion'. Given that children in the age group 0-8 are not well

8 Zimmerman, F.J. & Christakis, D.A. (2005). Children's Television Viewing and Cognitive Outcomes. *Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine*, 159, 619-625.

equipped to protect themselves, this may be considered an important factor of neglect. For index children living in urban areas, it is relatively less common than rural children to pass time out of the home unaccompanied. This finding may be connected to differences between rural and urban daily life practices. As given in Table 13, this rate is the lowest in Mediterranean (25%) and Marmara (25%) regions and highest in Eastern Anatolia (44%) and Aegean (43%) regions. The rate is 35% for male and 29% for female children.

Another case in the context of neglect is ‘leaving children at home accompanied only by another child under the age of 12’. Responses suggest that children under the age of 8 may be left at home either alone or accompanied only by another child, leaving them prone to various hazards and accidents. 8% of children were, within the last week, left at home accompanied only by another child under age 12 at least once and for a period longer than 1 hour, while 6% were left all alone at least once and for a period longer than 1 hour. These rates do not show much variation with respect to children’s sex but do so with respect to regions. For both cases, the highest rate is seen in the Marmara region with 12% (Table 13).

**Table 13.** Incidence of Child Neglect by Region (%)

Incidence of Neglect	Marmara	Aegean	Mediterranean	Centre Anatolia	East Anatolia	S.East Anatolia	Black Sea
Not taking the child out for regular health check-ups during the first year following birth, doing this only when the child gets sick or no health check-up at all	2.5	6.2	3.1	0.7	6.0	5.1	1.5
The child passing time in playgrounds, sports areas, school yards or in an internet café out of school hours and without an accompanying adult	24.7	43.4	24.6	29.6	44.2	39.2	30.5
The child watching TV for longer than 2 hours a day	68.5	68.2	63.0	62.1	59.4	60.7	63.1
The parent having no idea about any of his/her child’s friends.	5.4	10.4	4.0	2.9	11.0	12.2	5.2
The child having suffered a serious injury within the last year	5.4	5.5	3.6	1.4	10.0	8.0	2.5
The child staying at home accompanied only by another child under the age of 12 at least once and for a period longer than 1 hour within the last week.	12.1	4.5	7.8	4.8	5.5	7.1	7.4
The child staying at home alone at least once and for longer than 1 hour within the last week.	12.0	5.2	4.0	3.0	3.6	6.5	1.8
Neglect Index (0-7) average*	1.3 (sd:1.1)	1.4 (sd:1.1)	1.1 (sd:0.9)	1.1 (sd:0.9)	1.4 (sd:1.0)	1.4 (sd:1.1)	1.1 (sd:0.9)

### Does a specific incidence of neglect suggest risks of other forms of neglect?

To explore interconnection, Table 14 starts from an incidence of neglect and checks to what extent others exist too. Accordingly, 48% of children not regularly taken to health check-up within the last 12 months are left alone unaccompanied by an adult; 32% have parents who do not know about their friends. 52% of children who, within the last week, stayed home accompanied only by another child under age 12 for at least 1 hour also stayed all alone for at least 1 hour. These findings clearly suggest that one specific form of neglect is an indicator of the existence of other forms of neglect.

**Table 14.** Cases of Multiple Neglect

	Not taking to health check ups	Staying out alone	TV for longer than 2 hours	Not knowing about his friends	Injury	Staying home with somebody under 12	Staying home alone
Not taking to health check ups (N=139%)	-	67 (%48.2)	102 (%75.6)	44 (%31.7)	6 (%4.3)	15 (%10.9)	8 (%5.8)
Staying out alone (N=1315%)	67 (%5.1)	-	1,059 (%81.1)	387 (%29.5)	74 (%5.6)	155 (%12.2)	136 (%10.5)
TV for longer than 2 hours (N=2636%)	102 (%3.9)	1,059 (%40.3)	-	666 (%25.3)	127 (%4.8)	243 (%9.5)	182 (%7.0)
Not knowing about his friends (N=287%)	44 (%5.5)	387 (%48.4)	666 (%83.6)	-	51 (%6.3)	88 (%11.3)	73 (%9.2)
Injury (N=216%)	6 (%2.8)	74 (%34.3)	127 (%60.2)	51 (%23.6)	-	25 (%11.8)	9 (%4.2)
Staying home with somebody under 12 (N=324%)	15 (%4.6)	155 (%47.8)	243 (%76.4)	88 (%27.2)	25 (%7.7)	-	151 (%51.9)
Staying home alone (N=265%)	8 (%3.5)	136 (%59.1)	182 (%80.2)	73 (%31.7)	9 (%3.9)	151 (%100.0)	-

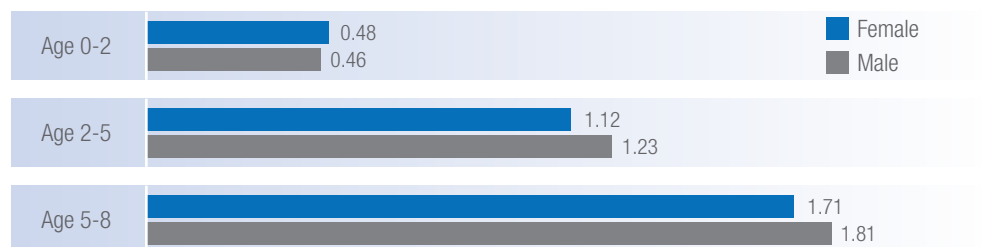
Note: Percentages above were calculated over the number of persons responding to both questions. Hence the number of persons in each differs along the cell.

### Neglect Index

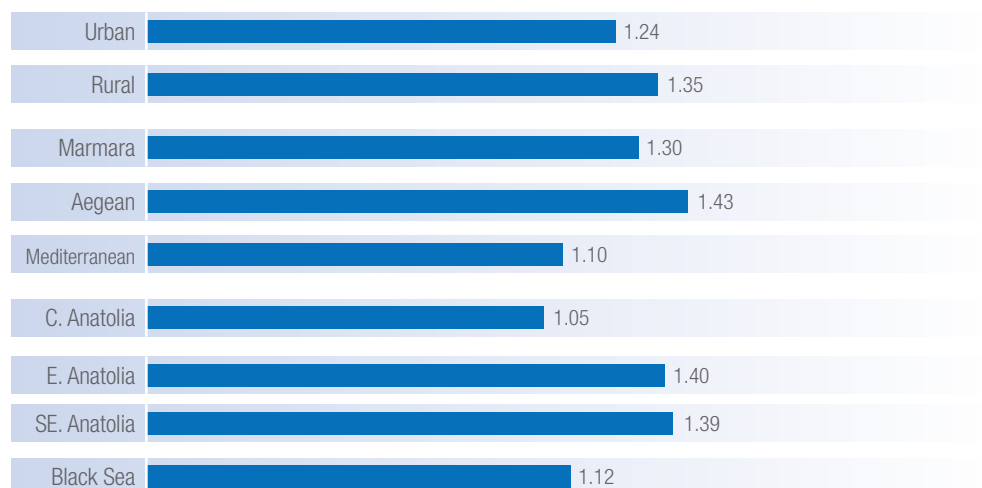
As discussed above, there are different forms of neglect and a cumulative effect may emerge when a child faces more than one form of neglect. Given this, a **neglect index** was developed on the basis of types of neglect mentioned above. Each neglect item is given 1 point and index points show the sum total of items whose existence is confirmed by the response “yes”. Accordingly, the higher the sum total is, the higher the level of neglect. Tables 12 and 13 give the distribution of comparative neglect index by age, gender and region. This distribution can also be seen in Charts 1 and 2. Findings suggest that the level of neglect gets higher as the child gets older. Keeping this in mind, the neglect

index does not vary according to the sex of the child and, in terms of regions; the level of child neglect is higher in Aegean, Eastern Anatolia and South-eastern Anatolia regions than in Central Anatolia, Mediterranean and Black Sea regions.

**Chart 1.** Averages of Child Neglect Index by Age Group and Gender



**Chart 2.** Distribution of Child Neglect Index by Urban/Rural Settlement and Geographical Region



### 3.1.2 / Emotional and Physical Violence

The leading objective of the survey is to identify factors that lay the ground for incidents of violence. Persons taking care of the child were asked how they behave in order to ‘teach the child what is right’ and how they approach cases when ‘the child behaves in a way to force their limits of tolerance.’ Hence, whether for educative purposes or a reaction given after irritating behaviour by the child, the rates of physical and physical violence against children are derived from responses given to these two basic questions.

Interviewees were first asked about the kinds of cases in which the child makes them angry. As can be seen in Table 15, index child behaviour that irritates parents (or that they experience difficulty in coping with) varies with respect to age. For children in the age group 0-2, such cases include refusing to eat, not going to sleep, waking parents up and crying without any reason, while for the age group 2-8 irritating cases are disobedience, making noise and making a mess.

**Table 15.** Child Behaviours Irritating Parents by Age Intervals of Children

Age 0-2		Age 2-5		Age 5-8	
Behaviour	%	Behaviour	%	Behaviour	%
Not eating/sleeping	39.0	Disobedience	63.7	Disobedience	62.6
Waking somebody up	35.8	Making noise	54.7	Making noise	53.2
Crying without reason	34.4	Messing up the house	54.1	Messing up the house	48.1
Making noise	33.4	Being too insistent	49.6	Being too insistent	45.1
Messing up the house	32.8	Not eating/sleeping	45.2	Not eating/sleeping	42.7
Disobedience	31.1	Fighting with a sibling/ friend	38.8	Spending too much time at the TV/computer	40.3
Being too insistent	26.1	Crying without reason	36.2	Fighting with a sibling/ friend	39.9
Damaging things	17.7	Spending too much time at the TV/computer	30.5	Not studying	37.5
Fighting with a sibling/ friend	14.8	Damaging things	27.1	Crying without reason	27.4
Spending too much time at the TV/computer	9.3	Waking somebody up	26.3	Lying	26.9
Causing others to complain	7.5	Causing others to complain	18.4	Damaging things	23.1
Lying	7.4	Lying	16.9	Causing others to complain	21.4
Not studying	4.3	Not studying	8.0	Waking somebody up	21.3

Note: Since families can mark more than one option in this question, totals may not add up to 100%. Rates in the table show, for each item, what percentage of caregivers to that particular age group considers it as a case forcing the limits of tolerance.

After identifying the cases that force the tolerance boundaries of caregivers, an initial open ended question about their responses to such cases within the last 12 months was asked. By asking what different responses were given in the family within the last 12 months, the aim was to obtain as many different types of response to the index child as possible. Following this, if not mentioned in response to open ended questions, it was asked whether the specific types of behaviour identified and grouped in Table 16 were adopted or not and the responses given were listed in the table in their order of frequency. As can be seen in the table, within the last 12 months, 86% of respondents state that they have displayed behaviour with limited positive effect such as “admonishing, managing the wrong by rewarding or just ignoring” in problematic situations. In the face of the same situations, 83% of participants behaved in a way contributing to the development of the child, such as, “asking the child why he/she behaved in that way and giving the child a choice by offering alternatives.” 74% of participants say they resort to mild emotional violence (E1) in these situations. 23% have, within the last 12 months,

resorted to mild physical violence (P1) in the face of the same situations. The proportion of those stating to have resorted to more extreme forms of emotional and physical violence is quite low (high level emotional violence (E2) – 4%, high level physical violence (P2) – 1%).

**Table 16.** Types and Rates of Reactions against Children's Annoying Behaviour (%)

Reactions	Total	Age 0-2	Age 2-5	Age 5-8	Urban	Rural	Female	Male
<b>BEHAVIOURS WITH NO POSITIVE IMPACT</b>								
Admonishing	86.1	49.2	94.5	98.9	86.4	85.0	85.3	86.8
Rewarding misbehaviour								
Condoning misbehaviour								
<b>BEHAVIOURS CONTRIBUTING TO DEVELOPMENT</b>								
Asking why he/she behaved that way, allowing the child to think about and express his/her views	82.9	43.5	90.7	97.5	83.4	81.1	82.8	83.0
Giving a choice by offering alternatives								
Parent telling his/her feelings about the situation								
<b>EMOTIONAL VIOLENCE (mild) (E1)</b>								
Forbidding the child to do something he/she likes or to see a friend he/she likes								
Being in a sulk (not letting him/her eat, not listening to the child, etc.), not responding to needs, locking the child in a room	73.7	38.6	80.7	86.8	74.5	71.0	72.5	74.8
Yelling, scolding								
Damaging his/her things or threatening to do so								
<b>EMOTIONAL VIOLENCE (grave) (E2)</b>								
Swearing, insulting								
Humiliating him/her in front of others	4.1	1.5	3.8	5.7	3.5	6.1	3.9	4.3
Threatening to abandon, kick out of the house, etc.								
<b>PHYSICAL VIOLENCE (mild) (P1)</b>								
Slapping or throwing things at	22.5	6.6	23.9	29.9	21.4	26.2	20.9	24.0
Pushing, shaking, pulling by the ear/hair								
<b>PHYSICAL VIOLENCE (grave) (P2)</b>								
Choking or burning a part of body	1.1	0.4	0.9	1.7	0.8	2.2	1.2	1.1
Threatening to use or actually using things like a knife, a firearm etc.								

Table 18 gives distribution by region of parents' responses to their children's annoying/irritating behaviour. Looking at tables 16 and 17 which give the distribution of resorting to mild physical violence by gender, urban/rural and region, we see the following: (1) while

the rate of resorting to mild physical violence (P1) is 21% in urban areas, it rises to 26% in rural areas; (2) while mild physical violence (P1) resorted to against a male child is 24%, it falls to 21% for girls; (3) resorting to mild physical violence (P1) is more common in Mediterranean (31%) and Black Sea (29%) regions and relatively less common in the Aegean Region (15%).

The rates of resorting to high level emotional (E2) and physical (P2) violence, on the other hand, are quite low. What must be kept in mind in these kinds of surveys is that stated rates of violence are most probably below actual rates. According to the survey, 4% of index children are exposed to high level emotional violence (E2) and only 1% experience high level physical violence (P2), as stated by respondents (Table 16). Looking at the distribution by region, we see that high level emotional violence (E2) is more common (11%) in south-eastern Anatolia than in other regions (Table 18). As to high level physical violence (P2) statements, it is the highest in Central Anatolia (3%).

#### Is neglect a processor of violence?

The literature frequently asserts that neglect is closely associated with violence.<sup>9,10</sup> In fact, this study too shows that the level of child neglect of participants who state that there is violence in the family is higher than others who state that they do not resort to violence (Table 17). This finding points to a possible relationship between neglect and violence. However, since questions related to neglect and violence were posed simultaneously during the study, the question of whether neglect is actually a processor of violence cannot be answered.

**Table 17.** Relationship between Levels of Violence against and Neglect of Children

		Neglect Index
Mild Emotional Violence (E1)	Not practiced	0.75 (sd:0.9)
	Practiced	1.45 (sd:1.0)
Grave Emotional Violence (E2)	Not practiced	1.24 (sd:1.0)
	Practiced	1.77 (sd:1.1)
Mild Physical Violence (P1)	Not practiced	1.18 (sd:1.0)
	Practiced	1.56 (sd:1.0)
Grave Physical Violence (P2)	Not practiced	1.26 (sd:1.0)
	Practiced	1.67 (sd:1.0)

- 9 Glaser, D. (2000). Child Abuse and Neglect and the Brain - A Review. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 41(1), 97-116.
- 10 Cicchetti, D., & Toth, S. L. (1995). A Developmental Psychopathology Perspective on Child Abuse and Neglect. *Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*, 34(5), 541-565.

**Table 18.** Distribution by Region of Reactions against Annoying Behaviour of Children (%)

Reactions	Marmara	Aegean	Mediterranean	Central Anatolia	East Anatolia	S.East Anatolia	Black Sea
<b>BEHAVIOURS WITH NO POSITIVE IMPACT</b>							
Admonishing	86.8	82.5	84.6	83.9	84.7	90.6	87.4
Rewarding misbehaviour							
Condoning misbehaviour							
<b>BEHAVIOURS CONTRIBUTING TO DEVELOPMENT</b>							
Asking why he/she behaved that way, allowing the child to think about and express his/her views	84.2	81.5	83.5	83.8	85.4	76.0	87.4
Giving a choice by offering alternatives							
Parent telling his/her feelings about the situation							
<b>EMOTIONAL VIOLENCE (mild) (E1)</b>							
Forbidding the child to do something he/she likes or to see a friend he/she likes							
Being in a sulk (not letting him/her eat, not listening to the child, etc.), not responding to needs, locking the child in a room	79.9	59.0	76.4	73.6	66.8	78.7	64.6
Yelling, scolding							
Damaging his/her things or threatening to do so							
<b>EMOTIONAL VIOLENCE (grave) (E2)</b>							
Swearing, insulting	1.4	3.1	5.4	2.0	5.0	11.1	1.2
Humiliating him/her in front of others							
Threatening to abandon, kick out of the house, etc.							
<b>PHYSICAL VIOLENCE (mild) (P1)</b>							
Slapping or throwing things at	19.9	15.2	30.6	20.2	20.8	25.0	28.6
Pushing, shaking, pulling by the ear/hair							
<b>PHYSICAL VIOLENCE (grave) (P2)</b>							
Choking or burning a part of body	0.3	2.2	0.0	3.2	0.7	2.3	0.6
Threatening to use or actually using things like a knife, a firearm etc.							



In the survey, emotional and physical violence against the child are addressed separately. However, since the index child may be exposed to several forms and levels of violence, the table below also examines cases where different forms of violence are present together. As can be seen in Table 19, 26% of participants state that they do not resort to any form of violence addressed in the survey. This means that 74% of children are exposed to at least 1 form of violence.

Table 20 gives detailed sub-refractions related to different forms of violence occurring together. It shows that 51% of participants state that the child was exposed to only one form of violence within the last year. The most commonly resorted form of violence is mild emotional violence (50%). Thus, half of the interviewees state that only mild emotional violence was used against the child within the last year. Less than 1% state that they resorted to mild physical violence only. As to multiple forms, 20% of participants state that the index child has been exposed to two forms of violence within the last year. 3% of participants say three forms of violence were resorted to against the child in the same period while those stating to have used all forms of violence remain at 0.5%.

**Table 19.** Comitative Forms of Violence against Children

	Number of Index Children (%)
No violence	1,061 (%25.9)
Exposed to at least 1 form of violence	3,040 (%74.1)
Exposed to at least 2 forms of violence	963 (%23.4)
Exposed to at least 3 forms of violence	133 (%3.2)
Exposed to at least 4 forms of violence	21 (%0.5)

**Table 20.** Comitative Forms of Violence against Children – Sub-refractions

	Number of Index Children (%)
Only 1 form of violence	2,077 (%50.6)
Only E1	2,060 (%50.2)
Only P1	16 (%0.4)
Only E2	1 (%0.0)
2 forms of violence together	830 (%20.2)
E1 and P1	774 (%18.9)
E1 and E2	53 (%1.3)
E1 and P2	2 (%0.0)
P1 and P2	1 (%0.0)
3 forms of violence together	112 (%2.7)
E1, E2 and P1	90 (%2.2)
E1, P1 and P2	20 (%0.5)
E1, E2 and P2	2 (%0.0)
4 forms of violence together	21 (%0.5)

### 3.1.3 / Sexual Abuse

During the survey, there was a high degree of sensitivity while posing questions about sexual abuse and the interviewee was respected if he/she did not want to answer. While a similar delicacy is also true for other forms of abuse, it is more so when it comes to sexual abuse, and the improbability of receiving responses to questions regarding sexual abuse needs to be taken into consideration.

In spite of these methodological difficulties, the survey found that 17 index children (8 females and 9 males) (0.4%) have been subject to sexual abuse within the last 12 months.

Of these children, one is aged 0-2, six are in the age interval 2-5 and ten are in 5-8. Seven of these cases were reported to an authority, 2 received counselling services, 3 were given physical and psychiatric treatment and one was taken under state protection.

As mentioned earlier, quantitative information given here is only from those who wanted to respond to the question. The question about sexual abuse was put in a refined way so as not to cause any disturbance. Questions were asked for only one index child and if there were other children in the family exposed to sexual abuse no information was gathered about them. Taking these into consideration, findings must be interpreted with caution.

### 3.1.4 / Witnessing Domestic Violence

Considering that children's witnessing of cases of violence is also important<sup>11,12</sup> interviewees were asked whether the index child witnessed any case of emotional or physical violence among family members or parents. Table 21 gives the rates of frequency of such situations

**Table 21.** Children as Witnesses of Domestic Violence

	Frequency Rate (%)	Rate of Witnessing by Index Child (%)
Emotional violence among family members	5.8	67.5
Physical violence among family members	4.0	67.1
Emotional violence against parents	4.0	53.7
Physical violence against parents	1.9	69.9

Children quite frequently witness violence among family members and violence towards either parent. In cases of emotional and physical violence among family members, the rate of the index child's witnessing of such cases is 67%. In case of emotional violence against a parent, the rate of witnessing is 54% and 70% in the case of physical violence against a parent.

As Table 22 below shows, 6% of index children in the survey witness at least one form of violence. Cases of witnessing increase as children are older. Distribution by age, sex, urban/rural and geographical region is given below in Tables 22 and 23.

<sup>11</sup> Kolbo, J. R., Blakely, E. H., & Engleman, D. (1996). Children Who Witness Domestic Violence: A Review of Empirical Literature. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 11(2), 281-293.

<sup>12</sup> Edleson, J. L. (1999). Children's Witnessing of Adult Domestic Violence. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 14(8), 839-870.

**Table 22.** Rates of Children Witnessing Domestic Violence by Age/Urban/Rural Settlement and Gender (%)

	Total	0-2 Age	2-5 Age	5-8 Age	Urban	Rural	Female	Male
Witnessing Violence (%)	6.0	2.9	6.6	7.3	6.4	4.9	5.9	6.2

**Table 23.** Rates of Children Witnessing Domestic Violence by Region (%)

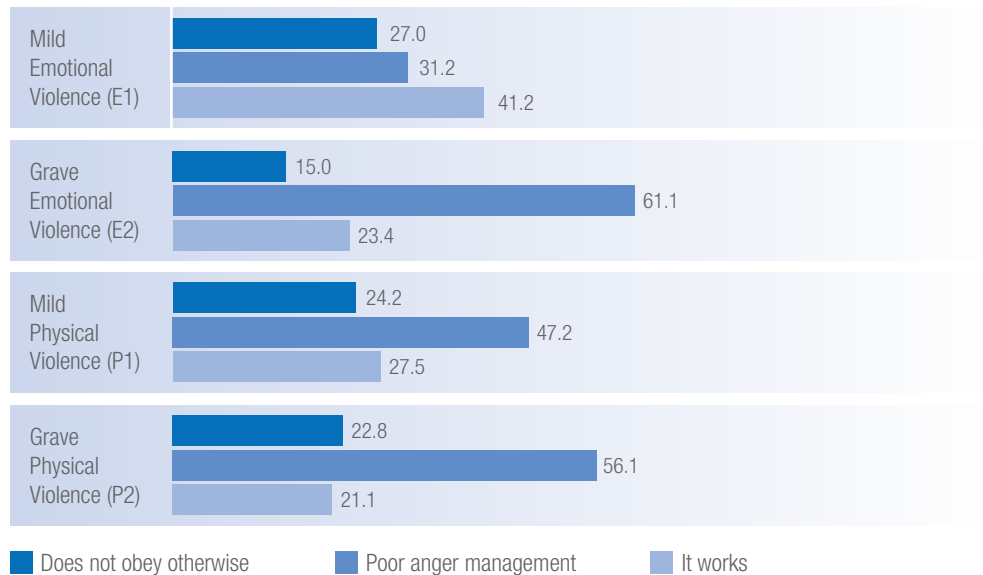
	Marmara	Aegean	Mediterranean	Central Anatolia	East Anatolia	S.East Anatolia	Black Sea
Witnessing Violence (%)	6.1	3.3	7.1	4.8	6.4	8.6	4.3

Witnessing violence does not vary with respect to the sex of the child, but it does with respect to age (Table 22). By region, the highest rate is in South-eastern Anatolia (9%) and the lowest in Aegean Region (3%) (Table 23).

### 3.1.5 / Parental Perceptions on Benefits/Harms of Violence against Children

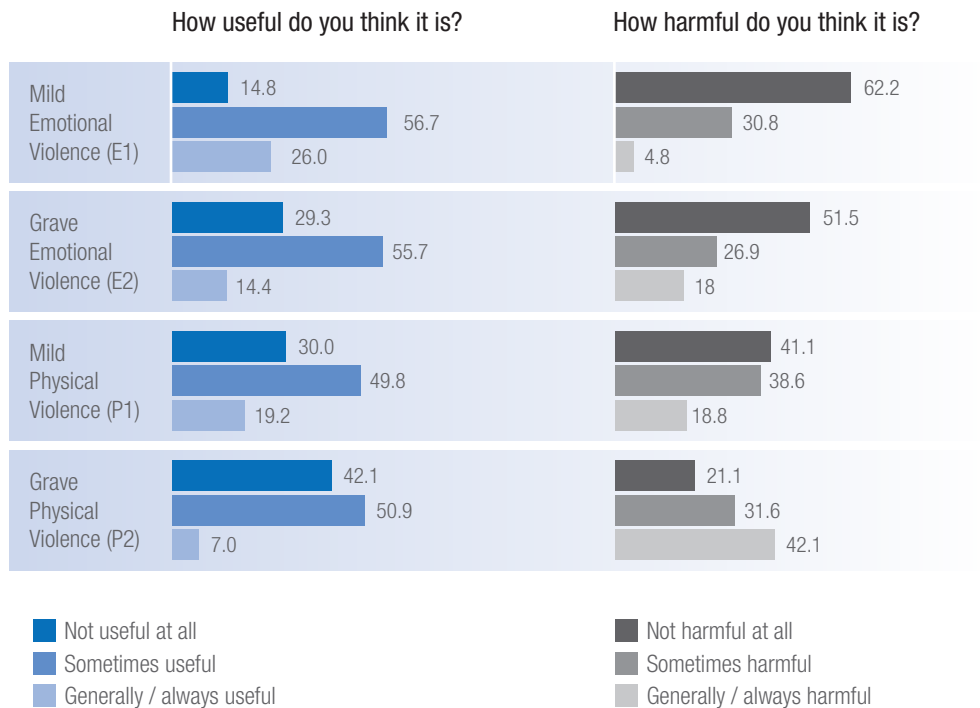
The parents who say that there is domestic violence against the index child in the family were asked about the reasons of such behaviour. The response is that perpetrators of violence ‘lose their temper’ or think that their violent behaviour ‘may help’ (Chart 3). These findings indicate that two different issues should be considered in addressing violence against children: The difficulty that the caregiver faces in controlling his/her feelings vis-a-vis the child and the importance of transforming these feelings to more constructive forms. It is also necessary to alter the concept that violence ‘may help’.

**Chart 3.** Reasons Stated by Type of Violence against the Child (%)



When asked to what extent their emotional or physical violence against the child helps, a large majority of participants' responses indicate that they hold the perception that such behaviour 'helps in some cases' (Chart 4). What is most striking here is that the perception that mild emotional (E1) or physical violence (P1) can 'work' may signal the acceptance of such violence. However, we also see that as the level of violence gets higher, the perception that this behaviour 'does not help at all' becomes more common.

Chart 4-5. Parental Perceptions of Use/Harm of Violence by Type of Violence (%)



Note: Asked to participants stating to have resorted to violent behaviour.

Similarly, participants were also asked what kind of harm such behaviour may give to children. According to responses, participants think that emotional violence would give 'no harm at all' or 'some harm' (Chart 5). In fact, there is the perception that emotional violence is not a form of violence and does not give any harm to the child. This finding confirms the commonness of mild emotional violence (E1). When it comes to the harms of physical violence, care givers think differently and they find low and high levels of physical violence (F1 and F2) more harmful than emotional violence.

### 3.2 / Factors Related to Domestic Violence against 0-8 Years Old Children

In the survey, factors assumed to affect child neglect and abuse are examined in seven basic conceptual groups. These groups are given below, starting from outer circle factors, to others which affect the child more directly:

1. Surrounding circumstances
2. Demographic characteristics
3. Economic status
4. Father support
5. Parental state of mental health
6. Parental experience of violence
7. Parental attitudes of child raising

This part of the report addresses these conceptual groups one by one. Firstly, indicators used for measuring each group are introduced and then the distribution of neglect index averages and rates of emotional/physical violence and witnessing violence is given by respective indicators. To understand the outcomes better, the average of each index is taken and the distribution of neglect, violence and witnessing of violence indicators are given in two categories as ‘under threshold’ and ‘above threshold.’

### 3.2.1 / Surrounding Circumstances

Circumstances surrounding the child and the family may directly affect their lives. Three basic indicators were used to better understand these surrounding circumstances:

- Means and facilities available in the neighbourhood
- Level of use of these means and facilities
- Surrounding risk conditions

**Table 24.** Means and Facilities Available in Neighbourhood

Means and Facilities	Rate of Availability (%)
Playground	63.5
Sports field	35.2
Community / family counseling / public training center	20.5
Youth center	12.0
Daycare center	61.6
Library	16.5
Study center	1.3
Health care center	88.3
Neighbourhood Means Index (average) (0-8)	3.1 (sd:1.9)

#### Means and Facilities Available in Neighbourhood

The first indicator used to better understand surrounding circumstances is the availability of means and facilities in the neighbourhood that families can easily reach on foot. Participants were asked about the availability of means and facilities listed in Table 24 below. One point is given to each available means and facility and a **neighbourhood means and facilities index** was derived from the total points.

Looking at the availability of means and facilities, we see a low general average. The most common facility in neighbourhoods is family health centers operated by the Ministry of Health. Other facilities that could respond to the psychosocial needs of families are rare. For instance, community centers exist in only 20% of neighbourhoods indicating how limited the means of families’ access to psychosocial support mechanisms are.

### State in Using Neighbourhood Facilities

When participants stated the availability of any of the means and facilities mentioned above, they were asked whether they had ever used it before. Table 25 below shows that existing facilities are rarely used even when they exist and it is mainly family health centers and playgrounds that are most used.

**Neighbourhood means and facilities utilization index** is derived by summing up those means and facilities used at least once and it also shows that the rate of utilization is low.

### Surrounding Risk Conditions

In order to better understand surrounding conditions, participants were lastly asked about risky conditions existing in their neighbourhood. Table 26 lists items related to these questions and overall rates of those stating the existence of such conditions. A **surrounding risk index** was developed by adding up these conditions. Higher index values mean higher number of neighbourhood risks as stated by participants.

### Surrounding Circumstances and Violence against Children

Indexes derived from three indexes whose details are given above are divided into two as 'low' and 'high' with respect to general average. Tables below show the distribution of child

**Table 25.** Rate of Using Means and Facilities in Neighbourhood

In cases where means and facilities EXIST	Overall Rate of Use (%)
Playground	87.0
Sports field	41.0
Community / family counseling / public training center	30.9
Youth center	23.0
Daycare center	34.2
Library	28.2
Study center	18.1
Health care center	96.6
Neighbourhood Means Index (average) (0-8)	1.92 (sd:1.2)

**Table 26.** Risk Factors in Neighbourhood

Risk factors	Overall existence (%)
Unhealthy physical environment (garbage, sewage waste, etc.)	21.8
Dangerous physical environment (traffic, open manholes, unsafe constructions, etc.)	26.3
Street fights / gangs	15.5
Demonstrations / clashes	6.9
Delinquency / drugs	9.8
Surrounding Risk Conditions Index (average) (0-5)	0.8 (sd:1.2)

**Table 27.** Surrounding Circumstances and Levels of Child Neglect

	Neglect Index
<b>Availability of Neighbourhood Means and Facilities</b>	
Low	1.3 (sd:1.1)
High	1.2 (sd:1.0)
<b>Use of Means and Facilities</b>	
Low	1.2 (sd:2.0)
High	1.3 (sd:1.0)
<b>Surrounding Risk Conditions</b>	
No risk	1.2 (sd:1.0)
Risk	1.3 (sd:1.1)

neglect, violence against children and witnessing of violence with respect to the level of each index.

As for the **neglect** index with respect to neighbourhood circumstances, the rates of availability and use of neighbourhood facilities and the statement of risk with respect to surrounding circumstances are close to one another, as shown in Table 27.

The relationship between the availability and utilization of means and facilities and statements about the use of *violence* against the child is rather complex. As can be seen in Table 28, statements about the use of mild emotional violence (E1) are more frequent in households utilizing neighbourhood means and facilities. The reverse of this holds true for high level emotional violence (E2). The availability and utilization of neighbourhood means and facilities do not seem to make much difference when it comes to resorting to physical violence at both levels (F1 and F2). A similar outcome is also valid with respect to the relationship between the availability and utilization of neighbourhood means and facilities and the index child's witnessing of violence (Table 28). A detailed study on contrasting findings relating to the utilization of neighbourhood means and facilities and different forms of violence would be useful in developing ideas on the active utilization of resources.

In the context of risks from surrounding environments, those participants stating to be living under no-risk conditions state that they resort to violence rarely (Table 28). In a similar vein, participants mentioning no risk in their surroundings state that cases where children witness violence are also rare.

**Table 28.** Surrounding Circumstances, Rates of Violence against Children and Children Witnessing Violence (%)

	Mild Emotional Violence (E1)	Grave Emotional Violence (E2)	Mild Physical Violence (P1)	Grave Physical Violence (P2)	Witnessing Violence
<b>Availability of Neighbourhood Means and Facilities</b>					
Low	71.1	5.0	23.3	0.9	6.0
High	75.7	3.3	21.9	1.2	6.1
<b>Use of Means and Facilities</b>					
Low	68.3	4.6	22.6	1.0	6.4
High	77.2	3.7	22.4	1.2	5.8
<b>Surrounding Risk Conditions</b>					
No risk	70.4	3.4	20.6	1.1	4.1
Risk	78.4	4.9	25.1	1.1	8.8

### Do parents who think there are risk factors in their surroundings take the relevant precautions?

A child passing time outside of the house unaccompanied by an adult is an item of neglect. Looking at whether this incidence varies with respect to risk perceptions of parents, the rates are similar (Chart 6). This finding suggests that parents who think there are risk factors in their neighbourhood fail to take relevant precautions to protect their children from these risks.

**Chart 6.** Children Staying Out Alone and Index Averages of Surrounding Risk Conditions



### 3.2.2 / Demographic Characteristics

Three basic indicators were used to better understand the relationship between some major family characteristics and experience of domestic violence.

- Education level of parents
- Number of children in the family
- Existence of a disabled household member

#### Parental Level of Education and Violence against Children

A mother's level of education plays a determining role in a child's development. In this survey too it was observed that there are significant disparities between the education level of fathers and mothers. In line with country averages, mothers in the survey have had, on average, 1.5 years shorter schooling than fathers (Table 29).

**Table 29.** Average Years of Schooling of Mothers and Fathers

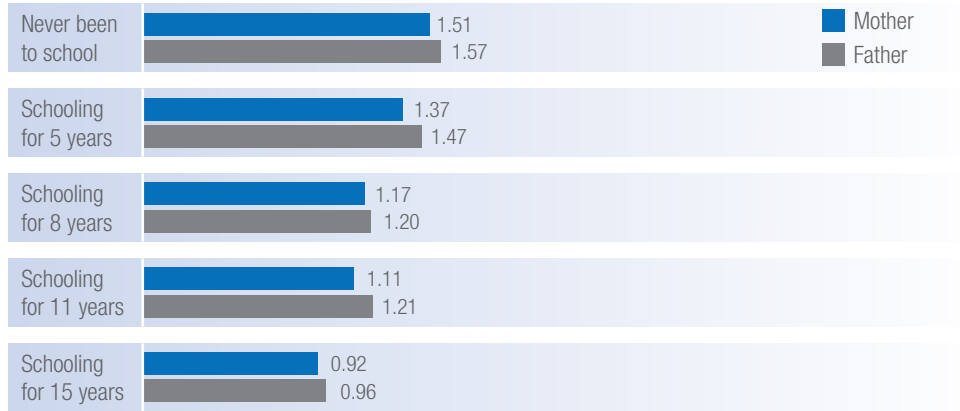
	Mothers Interviewed (n=3,026)	Fathers Interviewed (n=1,058)
Average years of schooling	7.0	8.6

The survey shows that there is a relationship between parental education level and cases of child **neglect**. As the educational level of mothers and fathers increases, there are lesser cases of child neglect (Chart 7).

Also, rates of emotional violence (E1 and E2) and physical violence (P1 and P2) against the child fall as the education level of fathers and mothers gets higher (Charts 8-9). However, it is important to stress here that charts given below are not rates of violence resorted to by mothers and fathers and it is not specified who resorts to violence against the child. Charts only show rates of violence against the index child that fathers and mothers state to have been resorted to by level of education.



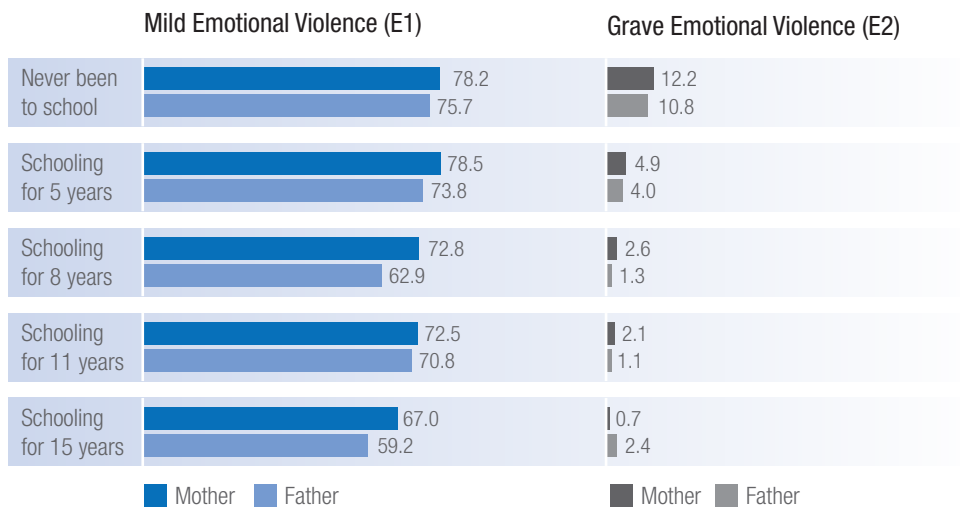
**Chart 7. Mother-Father Parental Educational Status and Levels of Child Neglect**



As can be seen in Chart 8, the rate of stated mild emotional violence (E1) is 78% (mothers) and 76% (fathers) in families where parents have never been to school or are primary school graduates. Corresponding rates are 67% for university graduate mothers and 59% for university graduate fathers. It is worth noting here that though violence falls as level of education rises, mild emotional violence (E1) is quite common.

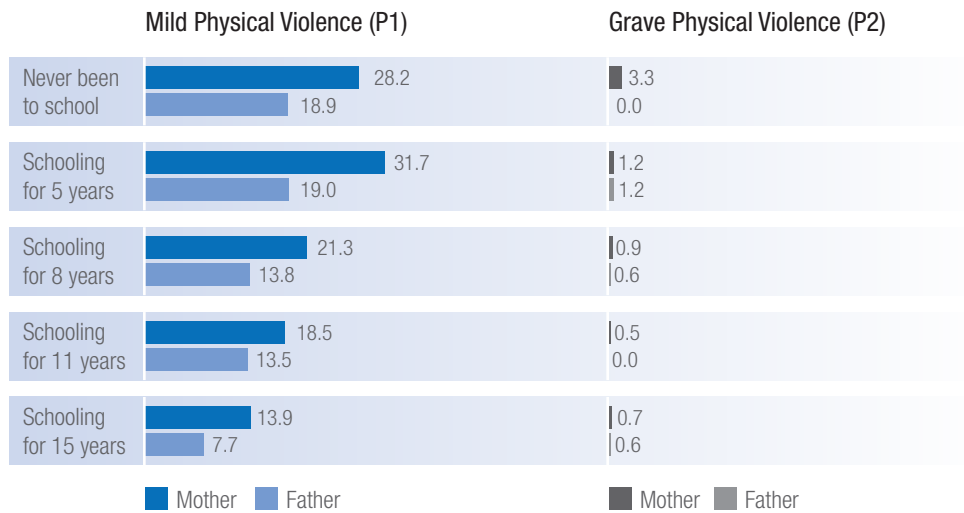
When it comes to high level emotional violence (E2) against the index child, the rates are 12% and 11% , respectively, for mothers and fathers who have never been to school and these rates tend to fall the longer the years of schooling is. It should be kept in mind here, however, that people who have had some schooling in which they have learned that violence against children is wrong will tend not to state such cases of violence. This point should be taken into account while making inferences from rates.

**Chart 8. Mother-Father Parental Educational Status and Mild/Grave Emotional Violence (E1/E2) Rates (%)**



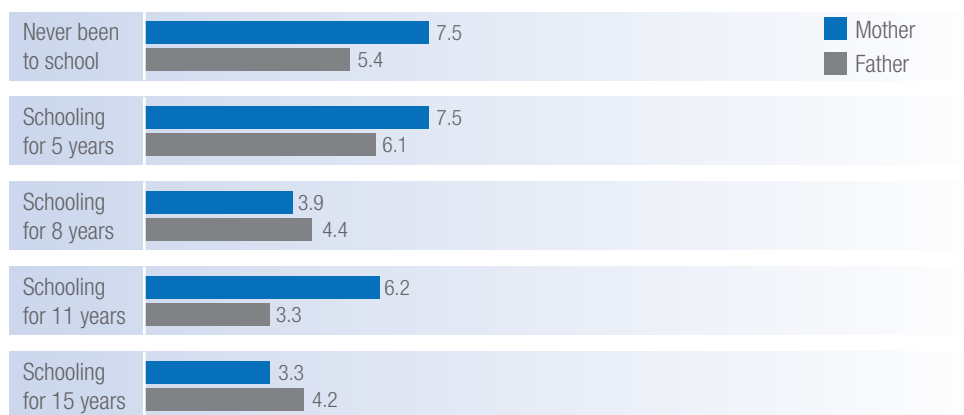
As can be seen in Chart 9, female caregivers in the survey state more cases of domestic violence against children. This holds true for all education levels. Looking at rates of stated mild physical violence (P1) we see a relationship between the level of education and the incidence of violence. However, relative to mothers who have never been to school, primary school graduate mothers stated more cases of mild physical violence (P1) against the index child. Looking at statements of high level physical violence (P2) against the index child, the highest rate is found in mothers who have never been to school.

**Chart 9.** Mother-Father Parental Educational Status and Mild/Grave Physical Violence (P1/P2) Rates (%)



In the context of the index child’s **witnessing** of violence, this is stated by 8% of mothers who have never attended school or who are primary school graduates, 3% of university graduate mothers, 5-6% of fathers who have never attended school or who are primary school graduates and 4% of university graduate fathers (Chart 10).

**Chart 10.** Mother-Father Parental Educational Status and Rates of Children Witnessing Violence (%)



## Number of Children in the Family and Violence against Children

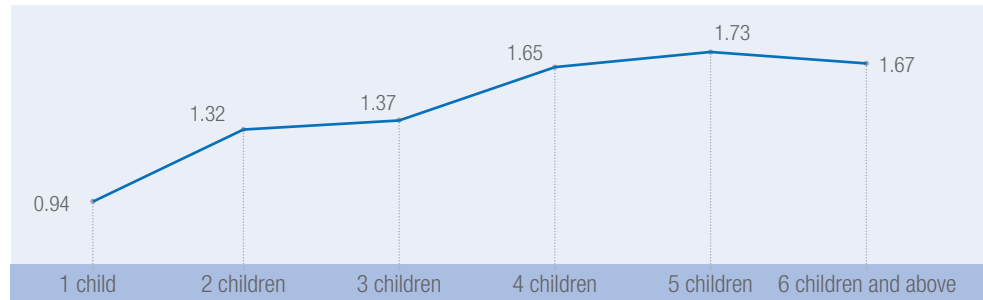
The number of children in the family is another demographic characteristic addressed in the survey. Table 30 gives the number of household members and children in interviewed families.

**Table 30.** Averages for the Number of Children and Household Members

Average number of children in the family	Average number of household members
2.3 (Min: 1, Max: 9)	4.5 (Min: 2, Max: 10)

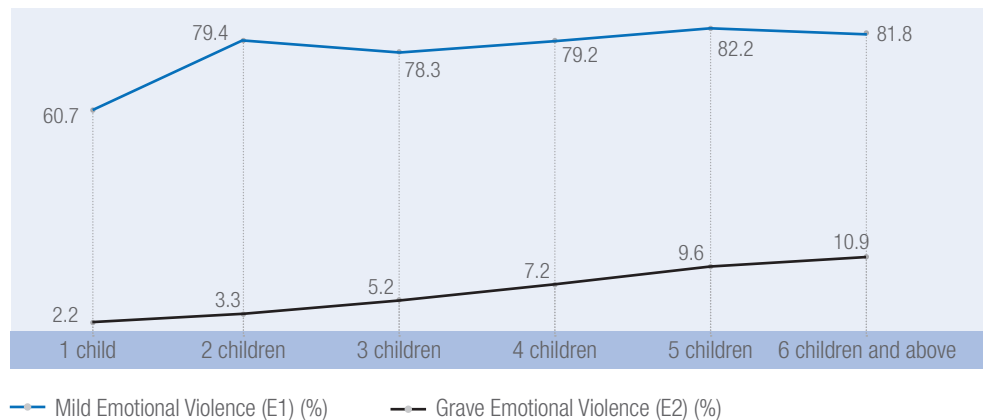
As can be seen in Chart 11, the level of child **neglect** is higher as the number of children in the family increases.

**Chart 11.** Number of Children in the Family and Child Neglect Index

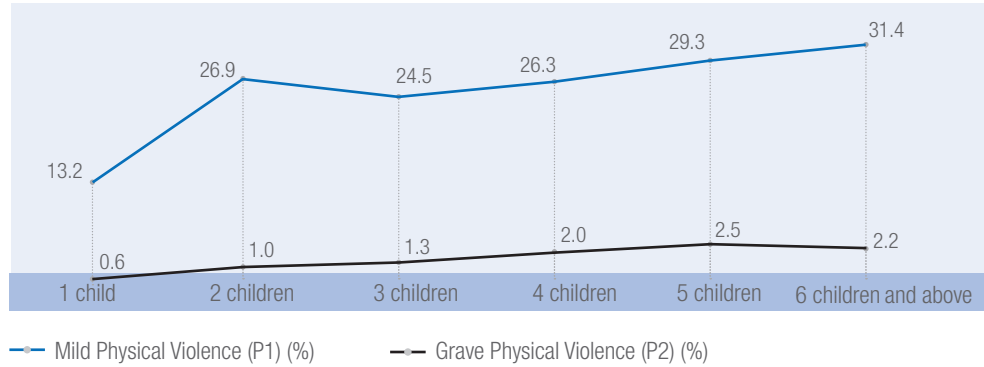


Meanwhile, the most apparent effect of the number of children is observed in rates of violence against children. Indeed, there is a 20% increase in mild emotional violence when the number of children increases from 1 to 2 (Chart 12). Similarly, mild physical violence (P1) rises from 13% to 27% when the number of children increases from 1 to 2 (Chart 13). Though their total rates are quite low, stated cases of high level emotional and physical violence (E2 and P2) also increases together with the number of children.

**Chart 12.** Number of Children in the Family and Emotional Violence (E1-E2) Rates (%)

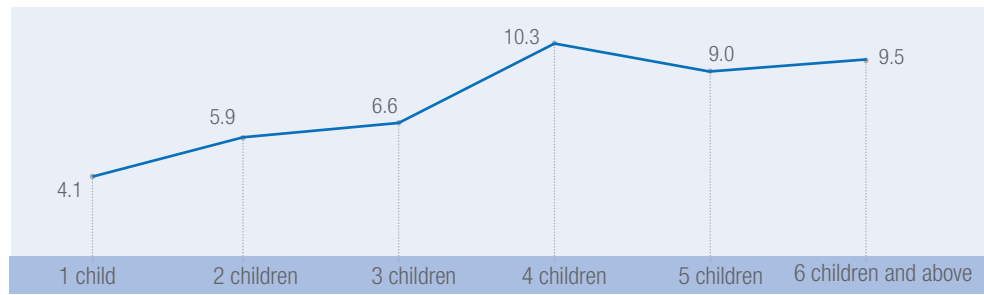


**Chart 13.** Number of Children in the Family and Physical Violence (P1-P2) Rates (%)



As is the case with emotional and physical violence, the rate of witnessing of violence by the child increases as there are more children in the family (Chart 14). While in cases where there is only one child in the family, stated cases of witnessing of violence is at the rate of 4%, this rate increases to 10% in families who have 4 or more children.

**Chart 14.** Number of Children in the Family and Rates of Children Witnessing Violence (%)



### Existence of a Disabled Family Member and Violence against Children

The last indicator of demographic characteristics is whether there is a disabled family member. The idea here was to observe whether extra burden on a family due to the presence of a disabled member has implications for the children, especially in cases where no sufficient support is extended. The level of neglect that the index child is exposed to is given below in Table 31 for families with and without a disabled member.

**Table 31.** Existence of a Disabled Family Member and Levels of Child Neglect

	Neglect Index
Disabled family member	
No	1.3 (sd:1.0)
Yes	1.4 (sd:1.0)

Another indirect consequence of the presence of a disabled family member is increased practices of emotional (E1 and E2) and physical (P1 and P2) violence against the index

child (Table 32). In households where no disabled member is present, the stated rate of mild emotional violence (E1) is 73%, increasing to 80% if there is, while mild physical violence (P1) rises from 21% to 30%. Similarly, high level emotional violence (E2) increases from 4% to 7% while high level physical violence (P2) increases from 1% to 3%.

**Table 32.** Existence of a Disabled Family Member and Rates of Violence against Children (%)

	Mild Emotional Violence (E1)	Grave Emotional Violence (E2)	Mild Physical Violence (P1)	Grave Physical Violence (P2)
<b>Disabled family member</b>				
No	73.2	3.9	21.9	1.0
Yes	80.2	6.8	30.2	2.5

Similarly, when there is a disabled family member, there are more statements that the index child **witnesses violence** (Table 33). While the general average for witnessing violence by the child is 6%, this rate doubles and increases to 12% in cases where there is a disabled member in the family.

**Table 33.** Existence of a Disabled Family Member and Rates of Children Witnessing Violence (%)

	Witnessing Violence
<b>Disabled family member</b>	
No	5.6
Yes	12.4

### 3.2.3 / Economic Status

The economic status of the family may affect relations with the child both directly and indirectly.<sup>13,14</sup> Thus, various questions were put to assess the economic status of families. Indicators inferred from these questions are as follows:

- Family's income level perception with respect to needs
- Family's health insurance coverage
- Fragile employment
- Child's material needs
- Family welfare level

#### Income Level Perception

Family perceptions related to present economic status constitute an important indicator. Since there is yet no sound income ranking in Turkey, questions on this were formulated on the basis of income/salary earned. Yet, economic deprivation is measured by whether a family is able to meet its needs. Therefore, the proportion of family income to

13 Brooks-Gunn, J. and Duncan, G.J. (1997). Effects of Poverty on Children. **The Future of Children**, 7 (2), 55-71.

14 Müderrisoğlu, S. (2010). Psikolojik Gelişim, Yoksulluk ve Hak-Temelli Yaklaşım: STK Uygulamalarında İlkelerden Yönteme Doğru. P. Uyan (Der.) İnsan Hakları İhlali Olarak Yoksulluk İçinde. Bilgi Üniversitesi Yayınları: İstanbul.

the needs of the family is considered as a better measure of actual circumstances that the family is facing. So, instead of asking families their incomes directly, items in Table 34 below were read out and families were asked to select the one that best describes their present situation. This gave families' perception of "income according to needs".

**Table 34.** Sample Distribution of Needs/Income Ratio Perception

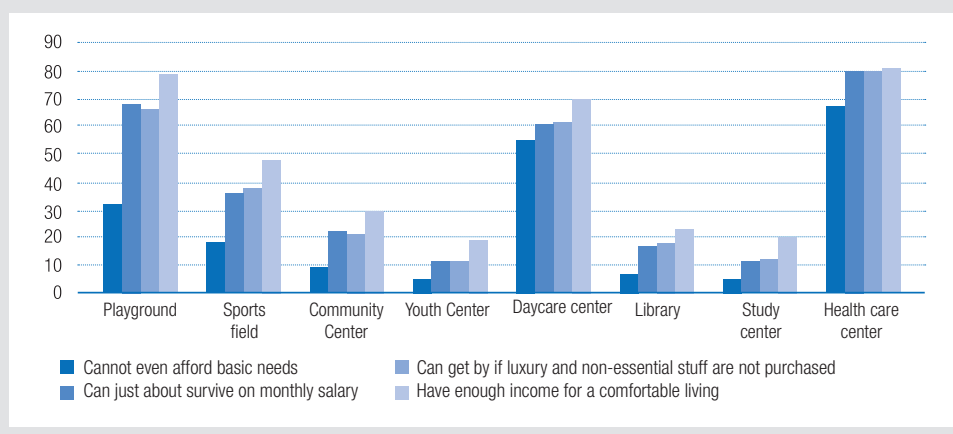
Needs/Income Ratio Perception	%
Cannot even afford basic needs	16.8
Can just about survive on monthly salary	44.4
Can get by if luxury and non-essential stuff are not purchased	25.6
Have enough income for a comfortable living	13.2

According to the table, 17% of the sample cannot meet even their 'most basic needs'. This rate is consistent with the outcomes of Poverty Surveys conducted by the TÜİK<sup>15</sup> and is considerably high. Furthermore, when the next group of families is added to this lowest one, we can see that over 61% of families experience severe financial difficulties. Nevertheless, it is the 17% suffering the most whose situation needs to be addressed immediately.

#### Do the needy have access to more opportunities?

The kind of support mechanisms available to the poorest families is important given that child-care support or institutional support like free daycare etc. is not commonly available to families in Turkey. Examining neighbourhood facilities, the most striking difference is observed in their distribution with respect to material means of families. This difference given in Chart 15 is important in showing the interaction between neighbourhood conditions and economic status. It is clear that supportive institutions in neighbourhoods where poorest families live are much rarer than in wealthier neighbourhoods. This means families living in the most difficult circumstances also receive the least support.

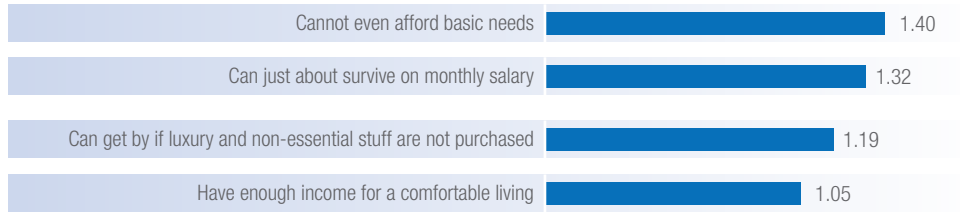
**Chart 15.** Economic Status and Availability of Neighbourhood Facilities (%)



<sup>15</sup> According to TÜİK Poverty Surveys, the rate of poverty in Turkey was 18.1% in 2009.

In light of the fact that the income status of families is also connected to their surrounding circumstances, Chart 16 gives the distribution of the perception of economic status and index of **neglect** of index child. According to this analysis, there is a fall in the level of child neglect as families' economic status improves.

**Chart 16.** Family Needs/Income Ratio and Child Neglect Index Averages



As the economic status of families improves, it is observed that there is a decrease in all forms of **violence** against children (Table 35). This difference is striking, particularly in the case of families 'unable to meet their most basic needs'. The point to note here is that as people develop the concept that violence against children is a bad thing they tend to avoid stating such cases of violence.

**Table 35.** Family Needs/Income Ratio and Rates of Violence against Children (%)

Family Needs/Income Ratio Perception	Mild Emotional Violence (E1)	Grave Emotional Violence (E2)	Mild Physical Violence (P1)	Grave Physical Violence (P2)
Cannot even afford basic needs	78.7	9.7	30.2	1.5
Can just about survive on monthly salary	75.0	3.2	23.5	1.0
Can get by if luxury and non-essential stuff are not purchased	70.7	2.9	18.1	1.5
Have enough income for a comfortable living	68.8	2.2	17.8	0.4

A similar picture can also be seen in the index child's witnessing of violence. It is found that children living in the poorest and most difficult environments witness cases of violence more frequently than those in families who are better off (Chart 17).

**Chart 17.** Family Needs/Income Ratio and Rates of Children Witnessing Violence (%)



### Does education reduce the effect of economic conditions in violence against children?

As can be seen in Table 36, for all income groups, the years of schooling in those resorting to violence is shorter than those in the same income group who do not resort to violence. This is true for almost all forms of violence.

**Table 36.** Average Years of Schooling by Needs/Income Ratio and Rates of Violence against Children

	Mild Emotional Violence (E1) (%)		Grave Emotional Violence (E2) (%)		Mild Physical Violence (P1) (%)		Grave Physical Violence (P2) (%)	
	Not resorting to	Resorting to	Not resorting to	Resorting to	Not resorting to	Resorting to	Not resorting to	Resorting to
Cannot even afford basic needs	4.3	4.2	4.4	2.7	4.3	4.0	4.3	2.8
Can just about survive on monthly salary	8.0	7.1	7.4	5.5	7.6	6.6	7.4	5.3
Can get by if luxury and non-essential stuff are not purchased	8.4	8.0	8.2	6.3	8.4	7.1	8.2	5.6
Have enough income for a comfortable living	10.8	9.6	10.0	6.5	10.4	8.1	10.0	5.0

### Family Health Insurance Status

Embedded in employment status and conditions, the ‘status of families in terms of social security’ is important for its direct and indirect implications on behaviour towards the child. 16% of the sample is out of coverage of any health insurance scheme. Looking at this from family income/needs ratio, we see that 40% of families unable to meet their basic needs also have no health insurance. This falls to 14% in the next income group. Given this and looking at levels of child **neglect**, we see that cases of high level neglect are more prevalent in families without health insurance (Table 37).

**Table 37.** Family’s Health Insurance Status and Levels of Child Neglect

	Neglect Index
Family Health Insurance Status	
Not covered	1.4 (sd:1.0)
Covered	1.2 (sd:1.1)

While the rate of high level emotional violence (E2) against the child is 7% in households without health insurance, it is 4% for those families who have health insurance. Looking at rates of mild physical violence (P1), this type of violence is 29% in households with no health insurance and 21% in others (Table 38).



**Table 38.** Family's Health Insurance Status and Rates of Violence against Children (%)

	Mild Emotional Violence (E1)	Grave Emotional Violence (E2)	Mild Physical Violence (P1)	Grave Physical Violence (P2)
Family Health Insurance Status				
Not covered	74.5	7.2	28.5	0.9
Covered	73.5	3.5	21.3	1.1

Finally, while index children's rate of **witnessing violence** in families without health insurance is 10%, it is 5% for families with health insurance (Table 39).

**Table 39.** Family's Health Insurance Status and Rates of Children Witnessing Violence (%)

	Witnessing Violence
Family Health Insurance Status	
Not covered	9.5
Covered	5.4

### Fragile Employment

4% of participants stated that they are employed in precarious jobs (seasonal, unpaid worker, etc.) or are unemployed (including those incapable of work due to health reasons). Statements of these families in this status regarding child **neglect, violence** against children and children's **witnessing** of violence are given in tables 40-42. The most apparent difference is seen in the rate of high level emotional violence (E2). The rate of stated high level emotional violence (E2) is 9% in precariously employed/unemployed families and 4% in others. There is no difference between the two groups in terms of children's witnessing of violence.

**Table 40.** Fragile Employment and Levels of Child Neglect

	Neglect Index
Fragile Employment Status	
Yes	1.3 (sd:1.0)
No	1.4 (sd:1.1)

**Table 41.** Fragile Employment and Rates of Violence against Children (%)

	Mild Emotional Violence (E1)	Grave Emotional Violence (E2)	Mild Physical Violence (P1)	Grave Physical Violence (P2)
<b>Fragile Employment Status</b>				
No	73.8	3.9	22.5	1.2
Yes	71.3	8.9	22.3	0.0

**Table 42.** Fragile Employment and Rates of Children Witnessing Violence (%)

	Witnessing Violence
<b>Fragile Employment Status</b>	
No	6.1
Yes	5.8

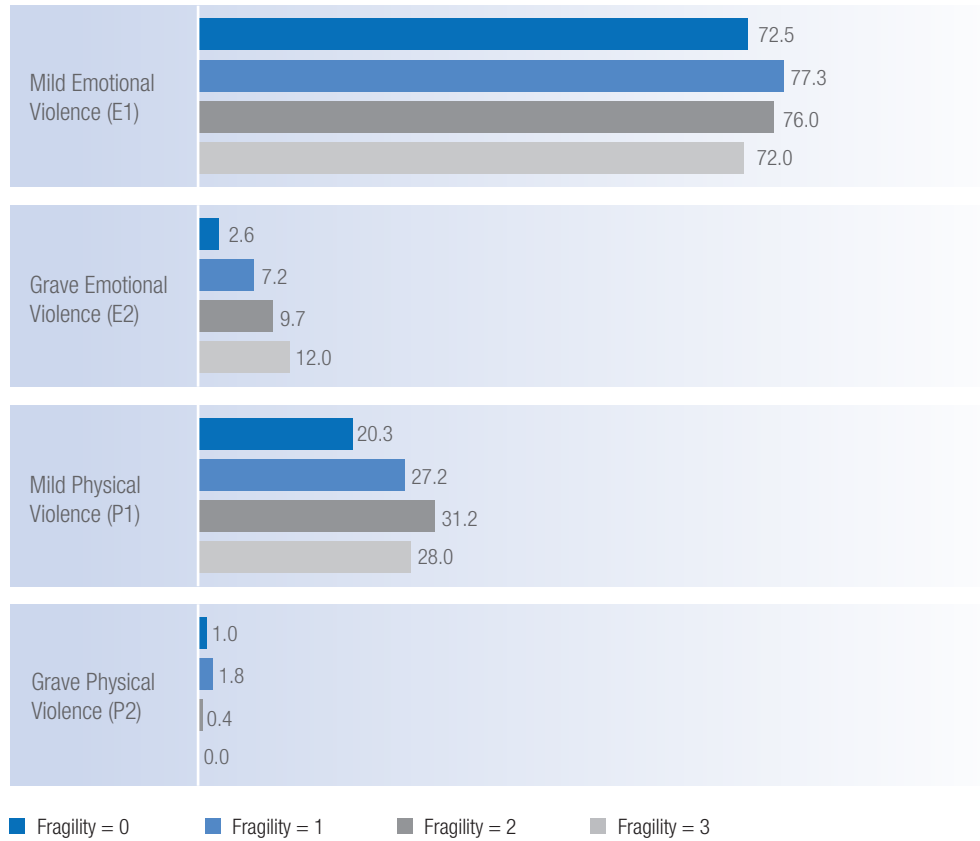
### Income Fragility

Since, as discussed above, economic circumstances are clearly a determining factor, an index was developed related to level of fragility which points to economic difficulties affecting life. The three elements listed below make families economically fragile. The level of fragility is higher when these three elements are present together. Thus, the **income fragility index** shows to what extent these three elements simultaneously exist. In other words, as the index increases, families get more and more economically fragile. Elements forming the index are:

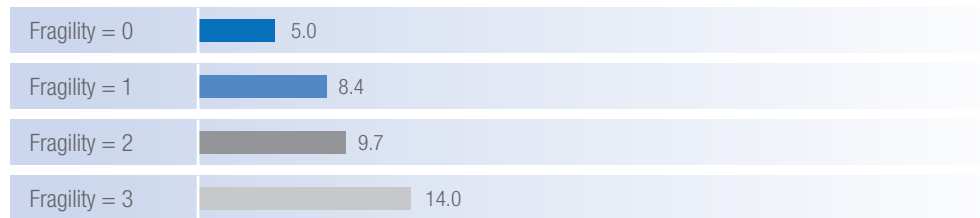
- Family is unable to meet its most basic needs (food, rent etc.)
- Family has no social security that covers health care
- Employment in precarious jobs or unemployment (seasonal employment, unpaid works, incapable of working or unemployed)

Examining the distribution of income fragility index together with that of rates of **violence** it can be seen that there is no linear relationship (Chart 18). Linear change can be observed only in rates of high level emotional violence (E2). However, index child's **witnessing** of violence increases together with level of fragility (Chart 19).

**Chart 18.** Income Fragility Level and Rates of Violence against Children (%)



**Chart 19.** Income Fragility Level and Rates of Children Witnessing Violence (%)



### Material Needs of the Child

A **child material needs index** was developed to find out whether children have basic materials that would indicate they are regarded as individuals and contribute positively to their development. The items included in the index are as follows:

- Own bed/cradle
- Own closet
- Age-appropriate toys

- Age-appropriate books
- Age-appropriate outfits

Necessary school supplies (not applicable to the age group 0-2) As can be seen in Table 43, urban households are more endowed with all of these items relative to rural households, thus urban children are luckier than their rural peers in having materials contributing to their development.

Another point is that only 73% of children have their own beds/cradles. It is interesting to note that this rate falls as children grow older. We also see that relatively few children have age-appropriate books.

**Table 43.** Material Needs of the Child (%)

What the child has	Overall	Urban	Rural	Age 0-2	Age 2-5	Age 5-8	Female	Male
Own bed/cradle	73.4	76.9	61.8	83.1	73.8	67.9	73.2	73.7
Own closet	54.0	59.1	36.9	56.4	54.3	52.4	55.3	52.8
Age-appropriate toys	83.1	87.4	68.8	77.3	88.8	81.4	82.8	83.5
Age-appropriate books	54.8	58.7	41.8	7.8	32.3	59.9	54.9	54.8
Age-appropriate outfits	96.6	97.1	94.8	96.6	97.0	96.3	96.9	96.4
Necessary school supplies	40.4	41.8	35.8	-	20.7	77.1	40.6	40.2

#### Do materials needs of the child change with respect to economic status of the family?

Looking at the availability of these materials in relation to a family's economic status from the point of a family's needs/income ratio perception, we see that in terms of the material needs index, children of families in difficult circumstances are significantly more disadvantaged than others (Table 44).

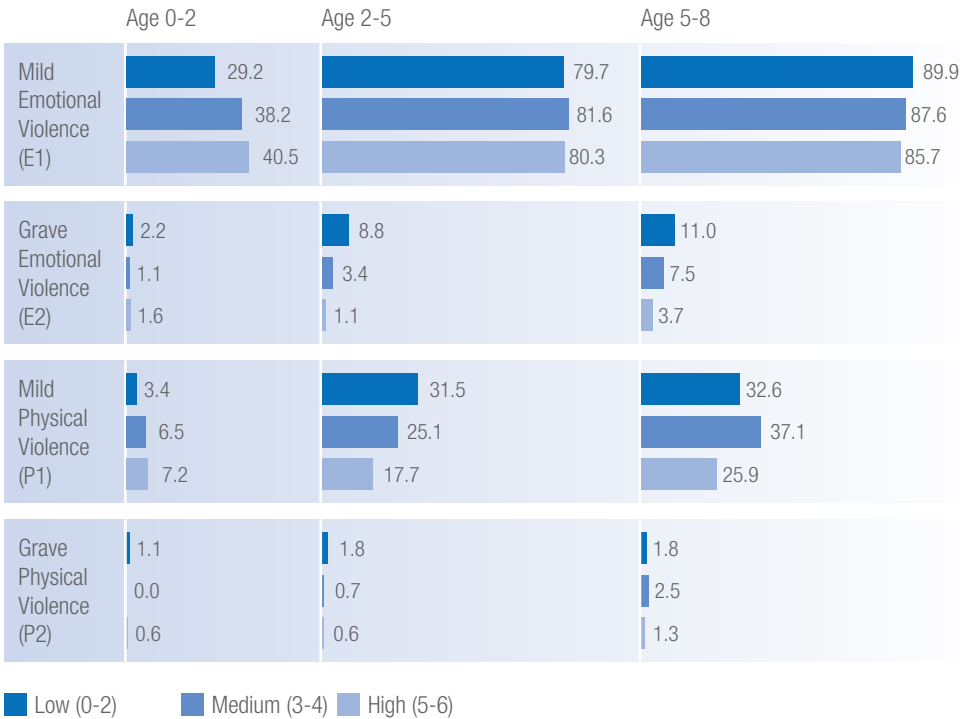
**Table 44.** Material Needs of the Child and Family Needs/Income Ratio Perception

	Cannot meet even afford basic needs (%)	Can get by on monthly salary (%)	Can get by if luxury and non-essential stuff are not purchased (%)	Have enough income to have a comfortable living (%)
Own bed/cradle	42.4	76.5	79.6	90.7
Own closet	18.9	55.6	61.0	79.6
Age-appropriate toys	52.2	87.3	89.6	95.9
Age-appropriate books	34.7	58.0	57.6	64.6
Age-appropriate outfits	90.4	97.2	98.6	98.7
Necessary school supplies	33.4	41.5	42.8	41.2

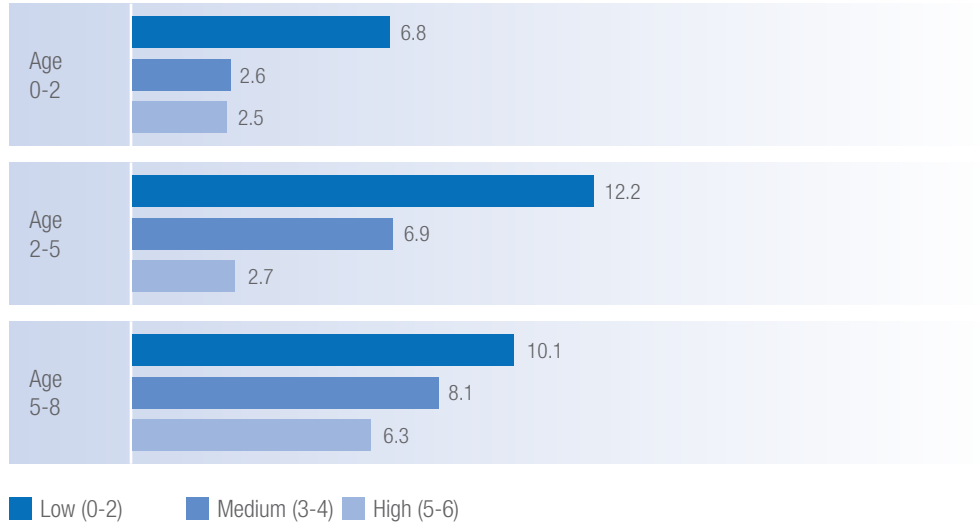
Age specific index points were calculated to take a closer look at a child’s material needs. The index was developed by assigning 1 point to each item and the item ‘necessary school supplies’ is excluded from the index for the age group 0-2. For this age group, a re-evaluation is made as ‘low’ (having only 1 of the items), ‘medium’ (having 2-3 items) and ‘high’ (having 4-5 items) after calculating the index score. A similar path was followed for the other two age groups. The only difference is that the item ‘necessary school supplies’ is included. The levels are set as follows: ‘low’ (having at most 2 of the items), ‘medium’ (having 3-4 items) and ‘high’ (having 5-6 items).

When the index is examined with respect to age groups, a varying profile is observed (Chart 20). Where the age group 0-2 is concerned, mild emotional (E1) and mild physical violence (P1) are stated more by families with ‘high’ level of material needs. As for the age group 2-5, high level emotional violence (E2) and mild physical (P1) violence are stated mostly by families with ‘low’ level of material needs. For mild emotional violence (E1), distributions by groups are similar. Finally for the age group 5-8, it is observed that lowest rates of violence are associated with families with ‘high’ level of material needs and the highest rates with families with ‘low’ and ‘medium’ level of material needs (Chart 24). Coming to index child’s witnessing of violence, highest rates are associated, for all age groups, with families with ‘low’ level of material needs (Chart 21).

**Chart 20.** Material Needs Index and Rates of Violence against 0-2 / 2-5 / 5-8 Year Old Children (%)



**Chart 21.** Child Material Needs Index and Rates of Witnessing Violence (%)



### Family Welfare Level

To assess the economic conditions of families, the “Household Durable Consumer Goods” index (**Welfare Index**) as given by the Demography and Health Survey (2008) was used. Table 45 below gives the rate of availability of each item.

**Table 45.** Rates of Availability of Welfare Index Items

Welfare Index Items	Availability (%)	Welfare Index Items	Availability (%)
Refrigerator	98.3	Paid TV services	14.4
Gas / electric oven	85.9	Satellite TV	75.2
Microwave oven	30.5	Video camera	15.8
Food processor / mixer / blender	57.8	DVD / VCD player	33.9
Dishwasher	56.8	Camera	32.9
Washing machine	97.5	Computer	45.3
Iron	93.8	Internet connection	35.8
Vacuum cleaner	92.1	Air conditioner	19.2
Telephone	33.2	Private car	30.7
Cell phone	97.7	Tractor	4.2
Television	88.6	Motorcycle	5.3
LCD-Plasma TV	34.4		

To see the relationship of the welfare index with rates of neglect and violence, the average welfare index is taken and those households below average are considered a “low

### Which one has priority? The child's material needs or luxury consumption?

Given the relationship between consumption goods that the family has as listed above and child's material needs as mentioned in the preceding part, Table 46 shows how some goods that the family has are prioritized over the basic needs of the child. As can be seen in the table, 14% of families with plasma TVs in their houses provide no separate bed for their child, 36% provide no age-appropriate books for the child and 56% fail to supply necessary school supplies.

**Table 46.** Family Welfare Level and Material Needs of the Child

Welfare Index Items that Family Has	Material Needs that the Child Has (%)					
	Own bed	Own closet	Age-appropriate toys	Age-appropriate books	Age-appropriate outfits	Necessary school supplies
Microwave oven	11.3	28.2	6.3	37.0	1.2	56.4
LCD-Plasma TV	13.5	28.2	8.0	35.9	1.5	56.3
Paid TV services	10.0	22.8	4.7	34.2	0.7	55.5
Satellite TV	24.6	43.0	14.5	43.3	2.7	59.0
Food processor / mixer / blender	12.6	28.6	5.8	34.9	1.1	55.5
Dishwasher	12.7	27.9	12.7	27.9	1.3	55.6
DVD / VCD player	12.5	26.3	5.2	33.9	0.9	56.8
Air-conditioner	25.5	39.7	15.6	42.8	2.0	57.9
Computer	13.0	26.6	5.7	32.5	1.1	53.1
Internet connection	10.8	22.6	4.7	30.6	0.8	52.4

welfare group” while others above it are “high welfare group”. Table 47 gives comparative levels of child **neglect** according to this grouping.

To see the relationship of the welfare index with rates of neglect and violence, the average welfare index is taken and those households below average are considered a “low welfare group” while others above it are “high welfare group”. Table 47 gives comparative levels of child neglect according to this grouping.

**Table 47.** Levels of Child Neglect by Welfare Index Groups

	Neglect Index
Welfare Index	
Low	1.4 (sd:1.1)
High	1.2 (sd:1.0)

**Table 48.** Rates of Violence against Children by Welfare Index Group (%)

	Mild Emotional Violence (E1)	Grave Emotional Violence (E2)	Mild Physical Violence (P1)	Grave Physical Violence (P2)
Welfare Index				
Low	75.3	5.6	26.1	1.4
High	72.1	2.6	18.9	0.8

Similarly, in the case of witnessing violence, the rate is higher (8%) in families with a lower welfare index than others with a higher index (4%) (Table 49).

### 3.2.4 / Father Support

Fathers' contribution to family life (household chores and childcare) is given importance in the relevant literature in terms of both their relations with the child and support they give to their wives.<sup>16, 17</sup> Fathers' support is assessed in this survey through three indicators:

- The father's contribution to household chores
- The father's contribution to childcare
- The father being away from home for employment

#### Fathers' Contribution to Household Chores and Childcare

Fathers' regular contribution to household chores and childcare is investigated through two questions. Table 50 below gives the average of responses that fathers gave to these questions.

**Table 50.** How Regularly the Father is Engaged in the Following?

Father's Contribution to Household Chores	Overall	Father's Contribution to Childcare	Overall
Cooking	3.6	Changing diapers (now or in the past)	3.4
Cleaning	3.3	Putting to sleep	9.7
Laundry	2.1	Feeding	9.5
House tidy up	3.9	Taking bath	6.9
Dishes	2.8	Playing	27.8
Grocery shopping	48.1	Taking a stroll	30.0
Taking care of children	41.6	Reading	8.3
		Dealing with kindergarten / school issues	12.4
		Homework	9.7

The **father's contribution to household chores index** and **father's contribution to childcare index** were developed by adding up the items that fathers stated they regularly contribute to according to Table 50. Index averages are given in Table 51. It appears that fathers' regular contribution to both household chores and childcare is at a very low level.

**Table 49.** Rates of Children Witnessing Violence by Welfare Index Group (%)

	Witnessing Violence
Welfare Index	
Low	7.7
High	4.4

16 Sarkadi, A., Kristiansson, R., Oberklaid, F., & Bremberg, S. (2008). Fathers' Involvement and Children's Developmental Outcomes: A Systematic Review of Longitudinal Studies. *Acta Paediatrica*, 97(2), 153-158.

17 Baruch, G. K., & Barnett, R. C. (1986). Consequences of Fathers' Participation in Family Work: Parents' Role Strain and Well-being. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 51(5), 983.



**Table 51.** Averages of Indexes of Father's Contribution to Household Chores and Childcare

Father's contribution to household chores index (0-7) average	1.1 (sd:1.3)
Father's contribution to childcare index (0-7) average	1.2 (sd:1.9)

Fathers' regular support to household chores and childcare varies by region. Table 52 gives the distribution by region. The lowest rates for both indicators are observed in South-eastern Anatolia.

**Table 52.** Father Support Index Averages by Region

	Marmara	Aegean	Mediterranean	Central Anatolia	East Anatolia	S.East Anatolia	Black Sea
Father's contribution to household chores	1.2 (sd:1.3)	1.0 (sd:1.8)	1.0 (sd:1.2)	1.2 (sd:1.4)	1.1 (sd:1.04)	0.7 (sd:0.9)	1.2 (sd:1.3)
Father's contribution to childcare	1.4 (sd:1.9)	1.4 (sd:2.2)	1.2 (sd:1.9)	1.2 (sd:2.1)	1.0 (sd:1.7)	0.6 (sd:1.3)	1.4 (sd:2.1)

**Do economic status and level of education affect fathers' support to household chores and childcare?**

Fathers' regular support to household chores and childcare increases as economic conditions get better and level of education rises (Tables 53-54). This can be interpreted over gender roles as associated with levels of education and welfare.

**Table 53.** Distribution of Father Support Indexes by Family Needs/Income Ratio Perception

	Cannot meet even most basic needs	Can just about get by on monthly salary	Can get by if expensive and unnecessary things are not purchased	Have Enough income to have a comfortable life
Father's contribution to household chores	0.7 (sd:1.0)	1.0 (sd:1.1)	1.2 (sd:1.3)	1.5 (sd:1.5)
Father's contribution to childcare	0.7 (sd:1.5)	1.0 (sd:1.7)	1.4 (sd:2.1)	2.0 (sd:2.3)

**Table 54.** Distribution of Father Support Indexes by Level of Education

	Never been to school	Schooling for 5 years	Schooling for 8 years	Schooling for 11 years	Schooling for 15 years
Father's contribution to household chores	0.5 (sd:0.7)	1.0 (sd:1.2)	1.0 (sd:1.1)	1.1 (sd:1.3)	1.7 (sd:1.7)
Father's contribution to childcare	0.5 (sd:1.2)	1.0 (sd:1.7)	1.1 (sd:1.7)	1.5 (sd:2.1)	2.1 (sd:2.6)

Looking at fathers' level of regular contribution to household chores and childcare and the neglect index, we see that average neglect is 1.3 in families where the fathers' regular contribution is low and 1.2 in families where this contribution is high (Table 55).

**Table 55.** Father's Support to Household Chores and Childcare and Levels of Child Neglect

	Neglect Index		Neglect Index
Father's support to household chores		Father's support to childcare	
Low	1.3 (sd:1.1)	Low	1.3 (sd:1.0)
High	1.2 (sd:1.0)	High	1.2 (sd:1.1)

High level emotional violence (E2) and low and high level physical violence (P1-P2) against the child are stated more rarely in households where fathers regularly support household chores and childcare (Table 56). Fathers' low level of support to household chores or childcare is a point of importance due to the indications of a heavier domestic work burden for mothers and poorer quality of fathers' domestic relations.

**Table 56.** Rates of Violence against Children by Fathers' Level of Support to Household Chores and Childcare (%)

	Mild Emotional Violence (E1)	Grave Emotional Violence (E2)	Mild Physical Violence (P1)	Grave Physical Violence (P2)
<b>Father's support to household chores</b>				
Low	73.4	5.0	24.0	1.5
High	74.3	2.0	19.5	0.3
<b>Father's support to childcare</b>				
Low	72.8	4.8	24.0	1.5
High	75.7	2.4	19.6	0.3

Lastly, while the rate of children witnessing violence is 4-5% in households where fathers support household chores and children, it is 7% in households where this support is low (Table 57).

**Table 57.** Rates of Children Witnessing Violence by Fathers' Level of Support to Household Chores and Childcare (%)

	Witnessing Violence (%)
<b>Father's support to household chores</b>	
Low	7.0
High	4.1
<b>Father's support to childcare</b>	
Low	6.6
High	4.6

### Father's Being Away From Home for Employment

Under the heading "father support" the last question was whether fathers are away from home at specific periods of the year for employment purposes. Responses show that 8.7%

of fathers are away from home at specific periods. As can be seen in Table 58, there are significant differences among regions in terms of this indicator. For example while 4% of fathers in the Aegean region have to be away from home for at least 1 month, 24% of fathers in South-eastern Anatolia are in this status..

**Table 58.** Fathers' Rates of Being Away for Employment by Region (%)

	Marmara	Aegean	Mediterranean	Central Anatolia	East Anatolia	S. East Anatolia	Black Sea
Father away from home at least 1 month a year	5.0	4.2	10.5	6.3	24.3	11.9	5.6

**Is income and education status related to father's being away from home?**

Fathers' state of having to be away from home for at least 1 month a year diminishes as levels of education and income rise (Table 59-60). This indicates that difficult situations for families exist simultaneously.

**Table 59.** Father's Absence from Home for Employment and Family Needs/Income Ratio Perception

	Cannot meet even most basic needs	Can just about get by on monthly salary	Can get by if expensive or unnecessary things are not purchased	Have enough income to have a comfortable life
Father away from home at least 1 month a year (%)	19.9	6.6	6.7	7.8

**Table 60.** Father's Absence from Home for Employment and Levels of Education

	Never been to school	Schooling for 5 years	Schooling for 8 years	Schooling for 11 years	Schooling for 15 years
Father away from home at least 1 month a year (%)	21.5	9.5	5.9	3.9	7.0

Tables 61-63 give rates of stated cases of neglect, violence and witnessing violence for the index child in households where fathers are away from home for at least 1 month a year. According to these tables, rates of stated cases of violence and witnessing violence may increase in families where fathers are away from home for some time.

**Table 61.** Father's Presence / Absence from Home and Levels of Child Neglect

	Neglect Index
Father at home	1.3 (sd:1.0)
Father away from home	1.4 (sd:1.1)

**Table 62.** Father's Presence / Absence from Home and Rates of Violence against Children (%)

	Mild Emotional Violence (E1)	Grave Emotional Violence (E2)	Mild Physical Violence (P1)	Grave Physical Violence (P2)
Father at home	73.5	4.0	22.2	1.2
Father away from home	76.9	5.6	26.8	0.8

**Table 63.** Father's Presence / Absence from Home and Rates of Children Witnessing Violence (%)

	Witnessing Violence
Father at home	5.5
Father away from home	7.7

### 3.2.5 / Parental Emotional Health

Two variables were used in the survey to address the emotional health and burden of the parent:

- Self-Evaluation Scale (SES)
- Traumatic incidence Index

#### Self-Evaluation Scale (SES)

The first variable used to assess the relationship between parental mental health and neglect of and violence against the child is the "Self-Evaluation Scale" developed by the World Health Organization (WHO-SES-20). In this scale, developed as an effective tool particularly in developing countries, the threshold value mostly used in international applications is to say "yes" to 8 or more items.<sup>18</sup> In this scale, a person responding "yes" to 8 or more questions is more likely to have some psychological/psychiatric problems than those who say "yes" to less than 8 questions. In this context, scores of participants from the Self-Evaluation Scale are grouped as "below" and "above" threshold. Table 64 below gives the resulting distribution.

**Table 64.** WHO Self-Evaluation Scale Average and Below-Above Threshold Distribution

WHO - Self-Evaluation Scale (SES)	
Average points	5.1 (sd:4.8)
Below threshold (0-7 points)	3058 participants – 74.6%
Above threshold (8-20 points)	1043 participants – 25.4%

<sup>18</sup> Harpham, T., Reichenheim, M., Oser, R., Thomas, E., Hamid, N., Jaswal, S., Ludermir, A. & Aidoo, M. (2003). Measuring Mental Health in a Cost-Effective Manner. *Health Policy and Planning*, 18(3), 344-349.

The indicator varies with respect to region. The lowest level is in Central Anatolia while Eastern Anatolia has the highest level (Table 65). As can be expected, there are less psychological health related symptoms as income level rises<sup>19, 20</sup> (Table 66).

**Table 65.** Distribution of WHO Self-Evaluation Scale Averages by Region

	Marmara	Aegean	Mediterranean	Central Anatolia	East Anatolia	S.East Anatolia	Black Sea
SES Average	5.1 (sd:4.5)	3.5 (sd:4.0)	5.8 (sd:5.0)	2.9 (sd:4.1)	7.0 (sd:5.2)	6.3 (sd:4.8)	4.8 (sd:4.2)

**Table 66.** WHO Self-Evaluation Scale Averages by Family Needs/Income Ratio Perception

	Cannot meet even most basic needs	Can just about get by on monthly salary	Can get by only if expensive or unnecessary items are not purchased	Enough income to have a comfortable life
SES average	7.4 (sd:5.4)	4.8 (sd:4.7)	4.6 (sd:4.3)	4.1 (sd:3.9)

Comparing groups below and above threshold with respect to child **neglect, violence** against children and children's **witnessing** of violence, it is found that rates of child neglect, mild emotional (E1), high level emotional (E2) and mild physical violence (P1) against children as stated by the group above threshold are higher than the group below threshold (Table 67-68). The most striking difference in these comparisons emerges in the index child's witnessing of violence. While the child's witnessing of violence as stated by the below threshold group is 4%, it is 23% in the above threshold group (Table 69).

**Table 67.** WHO Self-Evaluation Scale Threshold and Levels of Child Neglect

	Neglect Index
SES under threshold (0-7 points)	1.2 (sd:1.0)
SES above threshold (8-20 points)	1.4 (sd:1.1)

19 Belle, D. (1990). Poverty and Women's Mental Health. *American Psychologist*, 45(3), 385.

20 Poole, R., Higgs, R., & Robinson, C. A. (2013). *Mental Health and Poverty*. Cambridge University Press.

**Table 68.** WHO Self-Evaluation Scale Threshold and Rates of Violence against Children (%)

	Mild Emotional Violence (E1)	Grave Emotional Violence (E2)	Mild Physical Violence (P1)	Grave Physical Violence (P2)
SES under threshold (0-7 points)	71.4	3.3	18.8	1.1
SES above threshold (8-20 points)	80.3	6.4	33.4	1.2

**Table 69.** SES Self-Evaluation Scale Threshold and Rates of Children Witnessing Violence (%)

	Witnessing Violence
SES under threshold (0-7 points)	3.5
SES above threshold (8-20 points)	13.4

### Traumatic Events Index

The second indicator used for assessing the relationship between parental mental health and neglect of and violence against the child is the list of traumatic events that the participant experienced within the last 12 months. A **traumatic events index** was derived by adding up events in this list. Table 70 gives 9 items included in the list and their rates of frequency. According to this table, there are considerably few traumatic cases experienced and the one with the highest frequency is dismissal from work or unemployment (12%).

**Table 70.** List of Traumatic Events and Rates of Frequency

Traumatic events within the last 1 year	General (%)
Relationship difficulties	6.0
Separation / divorce	1.8
Layoff from work / unemployment	11.9
Bankruptcy	2.1
Serious illness / injury / accident	6.7
Custody / imprisonment	0.8
Death	2.5
Natural disaster / fire	1.3
Migration / moving to another city	4.2
Traumatic Incidence Index	0.4 (sd:0.8)

We observe that among these traumatic events, dismissal/unemployment in particular displays variation by region (Table 71). Relevant rates are 21% for Eastern Anatolia, 18% for the Mediterranean, 17% for South-eastern Anatolia and only 4% for Central Anatolia.

**Table 71.** Distribution of Traumatic Experiences by Region (%)

Traumatic events within the last 1 year	Marmara	Aegean	Mediterranean	Central Anatolia	East Anatolia	S.East Anatolia	Black Sea
Relationship difficulties	7.3	4.7	6.5	3.4	5.3	8.5	3.1
Separation / divorce	2.0	1.9	1.4	2.5	1.7	1.5	0.9
Layoff from work / unemployment	9.1	8.5	17.8	3.8	21.0	17.3	7.4
Bankruptcy	2.6	0.9	2.2	0.9	3.1	2.9	0.3
Serious illness / injury / accident	5.4	4.7	6.2	2.3	10.0	13.3	4.6
Custody / imprisonment	0.3	1.2	0.5	0.4	1.9	1.5	0.3
Death	2.2	3.6	0.7	1.4	2.6	5.4	1.2
Natural disaster / fire	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.7	4.3	1.9	0.6
Migration / moving to another city	3.8	6.2	1.4	6.3	4.1	3.2	6.8
Traumatic Incidence Index (0-9) Average	0.4 (sd:0.9)	0.3 (sd:0.7)	0.4 (sd:0.8)	0.2 (sd:0.8)	0.6 (sd:0.9)	0.6 (sd:1.0)	0.3 (sd:0.7)

Looking at traumatic events within the last year as distributed over the economic status of families, we see higher frequencies of such events as dismissal/unemployment, bankruptcy, parental conflicts, and serious illness/injury/accident among families with low economic status (Table 72).

**Table 72.** Distribution of Traumatic Experiences by Family Perception of Needs/Income Ratio (%)

Traumatic events within the last 1 year	Cannot meet even most basic needs	Can just about get by on monthly salary	Can get by if expensive and unnecessary things are not purchased	Enough income to have a comfortable life
Relationship difficulties	12.0	5.3	4.7	3.7
Separation / divorce	3.3	1.5	1.5	1.3
Layoff from work / unemployment	28.0	10.2	8.6	3.2
Bankruptcy	4.6	1.6	1.4	1.5
Serious illness / injury / accident	14.8	5.3	5.6	3.0
Custody / imprisonment	2.0	0.7	0.5	0.4
Death	4.1	1.9	3.0	1.5
Natural disaster / fire	2.8	1.0	1.3	0.4
Migration / moving to another city	3.8	4.6	4.1	3.9
Traumatic Incidence Index (0-9) Average	0.8 (sd:1.1)	0.3 (sd:0.8)	0.3 (sd:0.8)	0.2 (sd:0.5)

Tables 73-74 compare 'low' and 'high' groups formed on the basis of average traumatic events index with respect to **neglect**, **violence** and **witnessing** of violence. According to these tables, mild emotional (E1) and physical (P1) violence are stated more by the high trauma group. In this context, while mild emotional violence (E1) is 81% and mild physical violence (P1) is 32% among participants with high trauma index points, corresponding fig-

ures among families with low trauma index is 71% and 19%, respectively. Lastly, the index child's rate of witnessing violence is 13% for families with a high trauma index, and 4% for families with a low trauma index (Table 75).

**Table 73.** Traumatic Incidence Index and Levels of Child Neglect

	Neglect Index
<b>Traumatic Incidence Index</b>	
Low	1.2 (sd:1.0)
High	1.4 (sd:1.1)

**Table 74.** Traumatic Incidence Index and Rates of Violence against Children (%)

	Mild Emotional Violence (E1)	Grave Emotional Violence (E2)	Mild Physical Violence (P1)	Grave Physical Violence (P2)
<b>Traumatic Incidence Index</b>				
Low	71.3	3.4	19.4	1.0
High	80.9	6.0	31.6	1.5

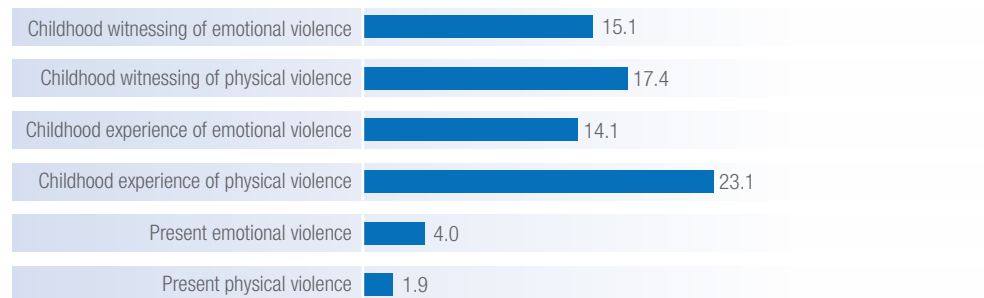
**Table 75.** Traumatic Incidence Index and Rates of Children Witnessing Violence (%)

	Witnessing Violence
<b>Traumatic Incidence Index</b>	
Low	3.5
High	13.4

### 3.2.6 / Parental Experience of Violence

The survey also covered parents' childhood experience and witnessing of emotional/physical violence and emotional or physical violence they have been exposed to within the last 12 months. If a participant has been exposed to violence within the last 12 months, he/she was asked whether the index child witnessed this case or not. Chart 22 reflects parents own experience of violence.

**Chart 22.** Parental Experience of Childhood and Present Day Violence (%)





### Do parental perceptions of the harms of violence change over time?

When parents who were exposed to emotional or physical violence in their childhood are asked whether this experience did them any harm, the majority say it was emotional violence that they felt harmed them more (Table 76). There is a contrast in findings here, given that the majority of participants think emotional violence in particular “gives no harm to children” (see Part 3.1.5).

**Table 76.** Parental Perceptions of Harm from Past Experience of Violence

	Emotional Violence	Physical Violence
Thinking it is harmful (%)	67.6	48.8

### Past Experience of Violence

There is little difference in male and female participants in terms of their childhood experience of violence. Findings in this part are given by taking into account the sex of participants. Tables 77-79 give rates of **neglect, violence** and **witnessing** of violence related to the index child by parents’ own history of violence. In general, those who experienced violence in their childhood state more cases of heavy neglect and mild emotional (E1) and physical violence (P1). As can be seen in Table 77, rates of neglect of the index child increase if the male caregivers have their own past experience of violence. This is not true for female caregivers.

**Table 77.** Parental History of Violence and Levels of Child Neglect

		Neglect Index			Neglect Index
Past Witnessing of Emotional Violence			Past Experience of Emotional Violence		
Female	No	1.3 (sd:1.0)	Female	No	1.3 (sd:1.0)
	Yes	1.2 (sd:1.0)		Yes	1.3 (sd:1.1)
Male	No	1.3 (sd:1.1)	Male	No	1.3 (sd:1.1)
	Yes	1.3 (sd:1.1)		Yes	1.4 (sd:1.3)
Past Witnessing of Physical Violence			Past Experience of Physical Violence		
Female	No	1.3 (sd:1.0)	Female	No	1.2 (sd:1.0)
	Yes	1.3 (sd:1.1)		Yes	1.3 (sd:1.1)
Male	No	1.3 (sd:1.1)	Male	No	1.2 (sd:1.1)
	Yes	1.4 (sd:1.2)		Yes	1.4 (sd:1.2)

Whether experiencing or witnessing emotional/physical violence in their childhood, parents once exposed to such cases state more cases of violence against the index child (Table 78).

A similar situation is also valid for the index child witnessing domestic violence. Index children in families with past experience of violence are significantly more likely to witness violence than the families having no such past experience (Table 79).

**Table 78.** Parental History of Violence and Rates of Violence against Children (%)

		Mild Emotional Violence (E1)	Grave Emotional Violence (E2)	Mild Physical Violence (P1)	Grave Physical Violence (P2)
<b>Past Witnessing of Emotional Violence</b>					
Female	No	74.4	4.5	23.5	1.3
	Yes	80.5	5.0	34.2	1.1
Male	No	67.8	2.4	13.3	0.5
	Yes	75.7	5.1	20.3	1.7
<b>Past Witnessing of Physical Violence</b>					
Female	No	73.6	4.2	22.5	1.1
	Yes	83.6	6.1	38.8	2.2
Male	No	67.0	2.5	12.7	0.4
	Yes	77.6	4.3	21.9	1.9
<b>Past Experience of Emotional Violence</b>					
Female	No	74.6	4.2	23.5	1.3
	Yes	78.2	6.3	35.2	1.0
Male	No	67.4	2.8	13.9	0.6
	Yes	76.0	3.3	16.9	1.1
<b>Past Experience of Physical Violence</b>					
Female	No	72.9	4.2	21.5	1.3
	Yes	83.3	5.6	38.8	1.3
Male	No	65.4	2.6	10.8	0.3
	Yes	78.2	3.6	23.7	1.6

**Table 79.** Parental History of Violence and Rates of Children Witnessing Violence (%)

Past Witnessing of Emotional Violence			Past Experience of Emotional Violence		
Female	No	4.5	Female	No	5.2
	Yes	18.4		Yes	14.9
Male	No	2.4	Male	No	2.9
	Yes	15.4		Yes	12.6
Past Witnessing of Physical Violence			Past Experience of Physical Violence		
Female	No	4.3	Female	No	4.5
	Yes	17.7		Yes	14.2
Male	No	3.2	Male	No	2.8
	Yes	10.5		Yes	9.2

## Present Experience of Violence

Rates of emotional or physical violence among family members are quite low (emotional violence within family: 6%; physical violence within family: 4%). Similarly, when asked about violence against themselves within the last 12 months, participants stated an extremely low number of cases. Only 4% of participants stated to have been exposed to emotional violence while those experiencing physical violence was only 2%. It is striking that these rates are far lower than those found by recent surveys conducted in Turkey.<sup>21</sup>

As can be seen in tables 80 and 81, index child related neglect and violence experiences of parents who are presently exposed to violence are higher than others who are not presently exposed to violence. This impact is valid throughout and it reveals strikingly that children of those presently exposed to violence are also under the risk of violence. For example, taking female participants who are presently exposed to violence, we see that their index child's rate of exposure to mild emotional violence (E1) is 86%, to high level emotional violence (E2) is 14%, to mild emotional violence (P1) is 50% and to high level physical violence (P2) is 4%. As to other female participants who are not presently exposed to emotional violence, these rates are, respectively, 75%, 4%, 24% and 1%. As to levels of violence stated by families of women who are presently exposed to physical violence, the rates mentioned above are 86%, 18%, 47% and 5%, while they are 75%, 4%, 25% and 1% for families of women who are presently not exposed to physical violence.

**Table 80.** Parents' Present Violence Experience and Levels of Child Neglect

		Neglect Index
<b>Present Experience of Emotional Violence</b>		
Female	No	1.2 (sd:1.0)
	Yes	1.5 (sd:0.9)
Male	No	1.3 (sd:1.1)
	Yes	1.6 (sd:1.0)
<b>Present Experience of Physical Violence</b>		
Female	No	
	Yes	
Male	No	
	Yes	

<sup>21</sup> According to the outcomes of the survey "Domestic Violence against Women in Turkey" (2009) conducted by the General Directorate of Woman's Status, 10% of women suffered physical violence and another 25% suffered emotional violence within the last 12 months from their husbands or partners.

**Table 81.** Parents' Present Violence Experience and Rates of Violence against Children (%)

		Mild Emotional Violence (E1)	Grave Emotional Violence (E2)	Mild Physical Violence (P1)	Grave Physical Violence (P2)
<b>Present Experience of Emotional Violence</b>					
Female	No	74.8	4.0	24.1	1.2
	Yes	85.6	13.7	49.6	3.6
Male	No	68.6	2.7	14.3	0.6
	Yes	91.3	8.7	26.1	4.3
<b>Present Experience of Physical Violence</b>					
Female	No	75.0	4.2	24.7	1.2
	Yes	86.4	18.2	47.0	4.5
Male	No	68.9	2.7	14.5	0.6
	Yes	84.6	15.4	23.1	7.7

Parents exposed to violence within the last 12 months also have higher rates of children witnessing cases of violence (Table 82).

**Table 82.** Parent's Present Experience of Violence and Rates of Children Witnessing Violence (%)

		Witnessing Violence
<b>Present Experience of Emotional Violence</b>		
Female	No	4.0
	Yes	60.9
Male	No	3.3
	Yes	68.2
<b>Present Experience of Physical Violence</b>		
Female	No	5.0
	Yes	75.8
Male	No	3.7
	Yes	83.3

### 3.2.7 / Parental Attitudes to Child Rearing

An important dimension of the survey was to explore the relationship between the frequency of child neglect and emotional/physical violence and parental attitudes to child raising. To this end, parental attitudes are examined in five distinct dimensions:

- Parents' relations with their children on the basis of "Parental Acceptance-Rejection Measurement"
- Responsibilities that are not age-appropriate given to children at home or outside
- Spending time with the child
- Harmony between parents
- Parents receiving training/counselling in child raising

#### Parental Acceptance-Rejection Questionnaire (PARQ)

The parental acceptance-rejection theory examines the dimension of the child's acceptance-rejection by the parent, which constitutes an important axis of the parent-child relationship between the parent and the child. In this first dimension related to parental

attitude of child raising, parents relations with their children are examined under the sub-scales ‘Warmth/Affection’, ‘Hostility/Aggression’, ‘Indifference/Neglect’ and ‘Undifferentiated Rejection’ on the basis of the “Parental Acceptance/Rejection Questionnaire” developed by Rohner and adapted into Turkish by Erkman<sup>22</sup>.

The sub-scale ‘Warmth/Affection’ looks at warmth in emotional ties between the parent and the child. It is considered that the higher the score in this sub-scale is, the higher the level of acceptance of the child by his/her parent. Contrastingly, the lower the score in this sub-scale is, the higher the level of rejection of the child by his/her parents. Parents with a high level of acceptance for their children love them, approve of their personality in general and attach importance to their children’s well-being and fields of interest. On the contrary, parents who tend to reject their children do not have positive feelings for them and regard them rather as a burden. Such parents tend to behave more distantly to their children and compare them with their peers in a negative way.

The ‘Hostility/Aggression’ sub-scale focuses on the extent of aggressive behaviour and attitude that the parent adopts towards his/her children. A higher point in this sub-scale means that the parent may be impatient, aggressive and nervous towards the child, say negative words and act harshly in physical terms.

Parents with a high point in the ‘Indifference/Neglect’ sub-scale may be disinterested, but not necessarily aggressive; may behave with disinterest or indifference to the child’s needs of assistance, interest and comfort; or do not keep promises they have given to their children. These parents are generally observed to be cold and indifferent towards their children.

The sub-scale ‘Undifferentiated Rejection’ evaluates parent’s rejectional behaviour towards the child.

The survey focused exclusively on parental attitudes towards their children, thus not addressing the perception of children towards their parents. Also, the survey used the PARQ-short form which has been tested for validity and reliability.<sup>23</sup>

Total points are obtained firstly by adding up scores in respective sub-scales other than ‘Warmth/Affection’, subtracting the score in ‘Warmth/Affection’ from 40 and adding the remaining to other scores.

Since the PARQ-short form was used in the survey, distributions are given over the Parq Total Score to obtain more reliable outcomes. For the survey sample, the PARQ total score average is 29.0 (sd: 5.6). Here, a higher total score points to a more problematic parental attitude. An attitude of rejection becomes more pronounced as the total score increases.

22 Anjel, M. & Erkman, F. (1993) **The Transliterated Equivalence, Reliability and Validity Studies of the Parental Acceptance-Rejection Questionnaire (PARQ) Mother-Form: A Tool for Assessing Child Abuse.** International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse & Neglect- Regional Conference, Ankara.

23 Anjel, M. & Erkman, F. (1993) **The Transliterated Equivalence, Reliability and Validity Studies of the Parental Acceptance-Rejection Questionnaire (PARQ) Mother-Form: A tool for Assessing Child Abuse.** International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse & Neglect- Regional Conference, Ankara.

As to the level of neglect of the index child according to PARQ scores, there is a higher level of neglect in families included in the group of high total scores (Table 83).

**Table 83.** Levels of Child Neglect By Parental Level of Acceptance/Rejection Rates

	Neglect Index
PARQ – Average Total Score	
Low	1.2 (sd:1.0)
High	1.4 (sd:1.1)

In terms of rates of **violence** against children, violence at all levels and in all forms is higher in families with higher scores (Table 84). While rates of mild emotional violence (E1), high level emotional violence (E2), mild physical violence (P1) and high level physical violence (P2) are, 69%, 3%, 19% and 1 % respectively in families with low scores, they are 81 %, 7%, 29 % and 2% in families with high scores.

**Table 84.** Violence against Children By Parental Level of Acceptance/Rejection Rates (%)

	Mild Emotional Violence (E1)	Grave Emotional Violence (E2)	Mild Physical Violence (P1)	Grave Physical Violence (P2)
PARQ – Total Score				
Low	69.4	2.6	19.0	0.6
High	81.4	6.7	28.7	2.1

Finally, looking at a child’s **witnessing** of violence, it is seen that this is higher in families with ‘high’ PARQ scores (Table 85).

**Table 85.** Children Witnessing Violence By Parental Level of Acceptance/Rejection Rates (%)

	Witnessing Violence
PARQ – Total Score	
Low	4.5
High	8.8

## Responsibilities Not Fit for Age

### Domestic Care Burden

An important indicator of parenting attitudes is the responsibilities given to children and whether these responsibilities are age-appropriate. Studies conducted in this field suggest that the home-based care burden of elderly female children is particularly heavy.<sup>24,25</sup>

24 TÜİK, Child Labour Survey Outcomes, 2012

25 Uyan-Semerci, P., Müderrisoğlu, S., Karatay, A., Ekim-Akkan, B., Kılıç, Z, Oy, B. and Ural, Ş. (2012). **Eşitsiz Bir Toplumda Çocukluk: Çocuğun İyi Olma Halini Anlamak.** Bilgi Üniversitesi Yayınları: İstanbul.

In the present survey, it was investigated whether the index child, despite his/her young age, was under a home-based care burden and from the responses given, the **child's home-based care burden index** was derived. Table 86 lists each item in the home-based care burden indicator with respect to age interval, gender and rural/urban environment. Table 87 gives the same distribution by region.

**Table 86.** Home-based Care Burden by Age Group of Children (%)

	Overall	Age 2-5	Age 5-8	Female	Male	Urban	Rural
Responsibility of taking care of younger sibling (feeding, putting to sleep, changing diapers, etc.)	4.2	2.4	5.8	4.6	3.8	3.7	5.9
Doing household chores like cleaning, dishes, laundry, cooking, etc. regularly	2.0	1.3	2.6	2.5	1.5	1.7	2.9
Taking care of the elderly or diseased in the household	1.0	0.4	1.3	0.8	0.9	0.7	1.4
Contributing to family income	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.3
Child's (0-4) Home-based Care Burden Index Average	0.1 (sd:0.3)	0.0 (sd:0.2)	0.1 (sd:0.4)	0.1 (sd:0.3)	0.1 (sd:0.3)	0.1 (sd:0.3)	0.1 (sd:0.4)

**Table 87.** Home-based Care Burden of Children by Region (%)

	Marmara	Aegean	Mediterranean	Central Anatolia	East Anatolia	S.East Anatolia	Black Sea
Responsibility of taking care of younger sibling (feeding, putting to sleep, changing diapers, etc.)	1.4	3.9	4.8	2.1	6.9	10.3	2.3
Doing household chores like cleaning, dishes, laundry, cooking, etc. regularly	0.9	0.3	6.0	0.5	2.1	3.7	1.1
Taking care of the elderly or diseased in the household	0.4	1.0	0.7	0.2	1.2	2.5	0.4
Contributing to family income	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Child's (0-4) Home-based Care Burden Index Average	0.0 (sd:0.2)	0.1 (sd:0.3)	0.1 (sd:0.4)	0.0 (sd:0.2)	0.1 (sd:0.4)	0.2 (sd:0.5)	0.0 (sd:0.2)

As can be seen in Table 86, the most frequently stated home care burden over children in the age group 0-8 is that they are responsible for ‘giving care to younger children’ (4%). Since the index child is only 0 to 8 years old, it is clear that their responsibility in caring for younger siblings is a heavy one. Looking at the table, we see that percentages are quite low. But it is remarkable that 4% of children, that is 133 children, are given this heavy responsibility. It is also observed that the home-based care burden is at a higher rate in urban environments than in rural ones. In particular, the rates of caring for younger siblings and elderly/ill family members are higher in the regions of Eastern and South-eastern Anatolia than in other regions (Table 87). Responsibility undertaken for daily household chores is at a higher rate in Mediterranean region.

In order to see the relationship between the home-based care burden of the index child and **neglect** and **violence** he/she is exposed to, the average of the care burden index was taken and two groups were formed as ‘below’ and ‘above’ this average. This analysis shows that the neglect index scores of children with heavier home-based care burden are higher (Table 88).

**Table 88.** Home-based Childcare Burden and Levels of Child Neglect

Neglect Index	
Home-based Childcare Burden Index	
Low	1.5 (sd:1.0)
High	1.8 (sd:1.1)

The relationship between the child’s home-based care burden and forms and levels of violence shows that index children with a heavier core burden are more exposed to mild emotional violence (E1), high level emotional violence (E2) and mild physical violence (P1) (Table 89). Similarly, as can be seen in Table 90, children with a ‘high’ burden of home care witness violence more frequently than others.

**Table 89.** Home-based Childcare Burden Level and Rates of Violence against Children (%)

	Mild Emotional Violence (E1)	Grave Emotional Violence (E2)	Mild Physical Violence (P1)	Grave Physical Violence (P2)
Home-based Childcare Burden Index				
Low	83.6	4.6	26.5	1.3
High	93.4	9.3	37.7	2.2

**Table 90.** Home-based Childcare Burden Level and Rates of Children Witnessing Violence (%)

Witnessing Violence	
Home-based Childcare Burden Index	
Low	6.7
High	11.0



Within the framework of the research, the **street working experience** of children were also assessed and it was found that among the index children 22 (12 females and 10 males, 0.7%) had worked in streets within the last 12 months. 12 children working in streets were in the age interval 2-5 and 10 in the group 5-8. The working in streets of children is not the special focus of the present survey. The sample selection and questions in the survey are not sufficient to depict the details of this particular experience. Figures given above just reflect that some children in the sample had worked in streets within the last 12 months.

### Spending Time with the Child

To look at parenting attitudes of parents from a positive window an indicator was developed on the basis of time that parents spend with their children. Table 91 below gives the items of this indicator and overall distribution. An interesting point here is that reading books and playing together make up a relatively small share in time sent with the child.

**Table 91.** Parents' Rates of Spending Time with the Child (%)

	Every day	1-2 days a week	Rarely	Never
Going to park together	14.1	41.9	19.4	24.5
Playing together at home	64.4	19.9	9.8	5.9
Talking to each other / chatting	49.4	16.7	11.6	22.2
Having meal together	89.6	5.4	1.6	3.4
Reading books/stories together	21.2	14.1	13.1	51.5

Interviews show that index children spend a far greater rate of time with their mothers compared to their fathers (Table 92).

**Table 92.** Mothers' and Fathers' Rates of Spending Time with the Child (%)

	Mother	Father
Going to park together	79.8	12.7
Playing together at home	72.4	11.9
Talking to each other / chatting	87.7	8.4
Having meal together	91.5	3.8
Reading books/stories together	71.7	18.5

Differing from other indexes developed for the survey, the **spending time with the child index** was developed by using a weight derived from the frequency of activities engaged in with the child. If any activity with the child takes place 'every day', 3 points are given. Two points is for activities that take place '1-2 days a week' and 1 point is for activities that take place 'rarely'. The index average obtained this way is 9.7 (in the interval 0-15).

There are two groups below and above this average. Using this indicator, tables below give forms and levels of **neglect** of and **violence** against the index child and rates of **witnessing violence**. Examining the level of neglect, contrary to expectations, the level of neglect in families spending more time with the child is higher (Table 93).

**Table 93.** Parents' Spending Time with the Child and Levels of Child Neglect

Neglect Index	
Spending Time with the Child Index	
Low	1.2 (sd:1.1)
High	1.4 (sd:1.0)

Table 94 shows that the index related to spending time with the child makes no difference in terms of rates of physical violence against the child. However, when it comes to emotional violence and its levels, findings diverge. The rate of mild emotional violence (E1) is higher in families of participants spending more time with their children. But the opposite is valid in high level emotional violence (E2). The fact that the variable of spending time with the child yields different results in terms of different forms of violence stands as an important issue worth investigating.

**Table 94.** Parents' Spending Time with the Child and Rates of Violence against Children (%)

	Mild Emotional Violence (E1)	Grave Emotional Violence (E2)	Mild Physical Violence (P1)	Grave Physical Violence (P2)
Spending Time with the Child Index				
Low	66.4	5.4	22.4	1.1
High	80.1	2.9	22.5	1.1

Lastly, as can be seen in Table 95, how much time parents spend with the child does not make much difference in the child's position as a witness of violence.

**Table 95.** Parents' Spending Time with the Child and Rates of Children Witnessing Violence (%)

Witnessing Violence	
Spending Time with the Child Index	
Low	6.4
High	5.7

## Harmony between Parents

Harmony between parents in matters related to parenting is essential. It may lead to stress when fathers and mothers in particular have inconsistent attitudes towards their children.<sup>26</sup> In this survey, the relationship between the level of harmony between parents and neglect of and violence against children is investigated. Table 96 below gives averages of the neglect **index** for parents who are in harmony or not in matters related to parenting.

Table 96. Levels of Child Neglect by the Level of Harmony Between Parents

	Neglect Index
<b>Harmony of Parents with Respect to Child Raising</b>	
In harmony	1.2 (sd:1.1)
Not in harmony	1.3 (sd:1.0)

The rates of stated mild emotional violence (E1) and physical violence (P1) to the child by couples stating not to be in harmony are higher than in couples in harmony (Table 97). In the first group the rate of mild emotional violence (E1) against the index child is 71% and physical violence (P1) is 19% whereas corresponding figures for the second group are 82% and 31%, respectively.

Table 97. Rates of Violence against Children by the Level of Harmony Between Parents (%)

	Mild Emotional Violence (E1)	Grave Emotional Violence (E2)	Mild Physical Violence (P1)	Grave Physical Violence (P2)
<b>Harmony of Parents with Respect to Child Raising</b>				
In harmony	70.6	3.6	19.1	1.1
Not in harmony	81.7	5.5	31.3	1.1

It is observed that the rate of children witnessing violence at home varies with respect to harmony between parents. The rate of children witnessing violence is 4% if parents are in harmony and 11% otherwise (Table 98).

Table 98. Rates of Children Witnessing Violence by the Level of Harmony between Parents (%)

	Witnessing Violence
<b>Harmony of Parents with Respect to Child Raising</b>	
In harmony	4.0
Not in harmony	10.8

26 Winsler, A., Madigan, A. L., & Aquilino, S. A. (2005). Correspondence Between Maternal and Paternal Parenting Styles in Early Childhood. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 20(1), 1-12.

### Parental Status in Receiving Training/Counselling Services in Child Raising

In the context of examining their child raising attitudes, participants were finally asked whether they participated in training or received counselling services in this field. In general, the rate of participation in such processes is 7%. The values of child neglect with respect to this variable are given below in Table 99, which do not suggest any significant difference.

**Table 99.** Parents' Status in Receiving Training/Counselling Services and Levels of Child Neglect

	Neglect Index
<b>Parents' Status in Receiving Training/Counselling</b>	
No training	1.3 (sd:1.1)
Received training	1.3 (sd:1.0)

Looking at rates of violence against children by parents' status in receiving training/counselling services, it is seen that mild emotional violence (E1), mild physical violence (P1) and high level physical violence (P2) against the index child are more prevalent among participants who have received such services (Table 100). A detailed elaboration of this surprising finding is not possible within the framework of the questions posed. Nevertheless, this finding may be construed as families' application to education/counselling services because of some serious problems and that these services could not respond to families' needs.

**Table 100.** Parents' Status in Receiving Training/Counselling Services and Rates of Violence against Children (%)

	Mild Emotional Violence (E1)	Grave Emotional Violence (E2)	Mild Physical Violence (P1)	Grave Physical Violence (P2)
<b>Parents' Status in Receiving Training/Counselling</b>				
No training	72.9	4.2	22.4	1.0
Received training	84.5	2.4	24.1	2.1

While the rate of children witnessing violence is 9% in families receiving training/counselling services, it is 6% in other families (Table 101).

**Table 101.** Parents' Status in Receiving Training/Counselling Services and Rates of Children Witnessing Violence (%)

	Witnessing Violence
<b>Parents' Status in Receiving Training/Counselling</b>	
No training	5.8
Received training	9.0

### 3.3 / Opinions about the Prevalence of Violence against Children and Methods of Intervention

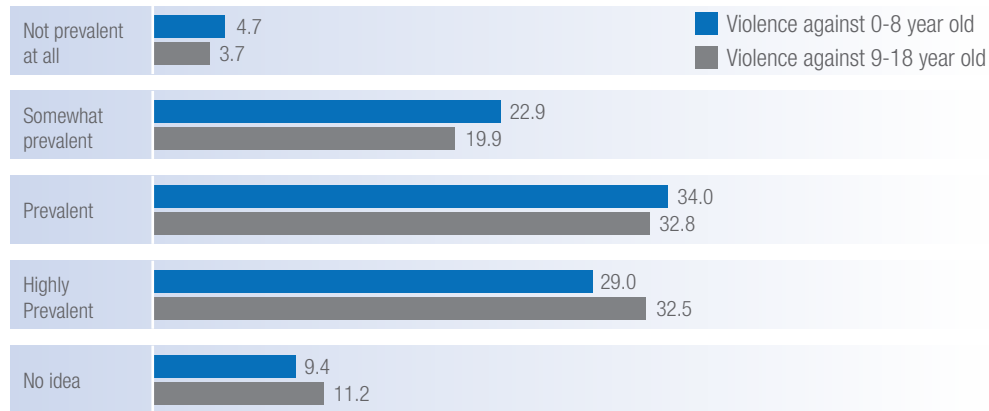
In the final part of the survey, participants were informed that the objective of the survey is to contribute to the development of child protection policies in Turkey; that their opinions on this issue are important and they were asked what they think about intervention processes.

In this context participants were first asked about their perception of the prevalence of violence against the child in Turkey and then their opinions of methods of intervention to violence observed.

#### 3.3.1 / Perceptions of the Prevalence of Violence against Children

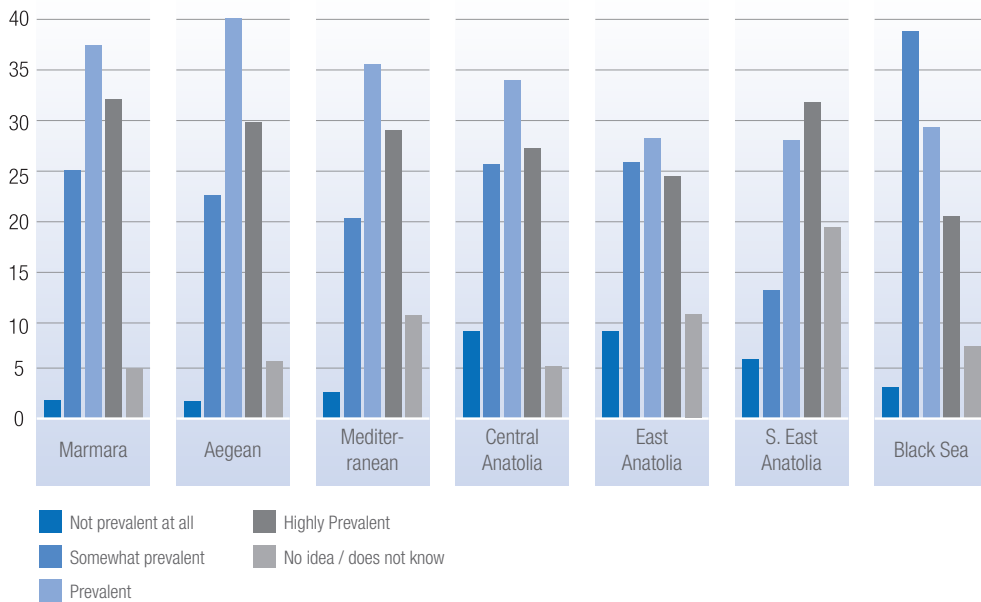
Questions put in this part are divided into two groups. In the first group participants were asked their views concerning the prevalence of violence against and sexual abuse of children in general and children in two age groups (0-8 and 9-18) in particular. As can be seen in Chart 23, participants think violence against children is common for both age groups.

**Chart 23.** Perceptions about the Prevalence of Violence against Children in Turkey (%)

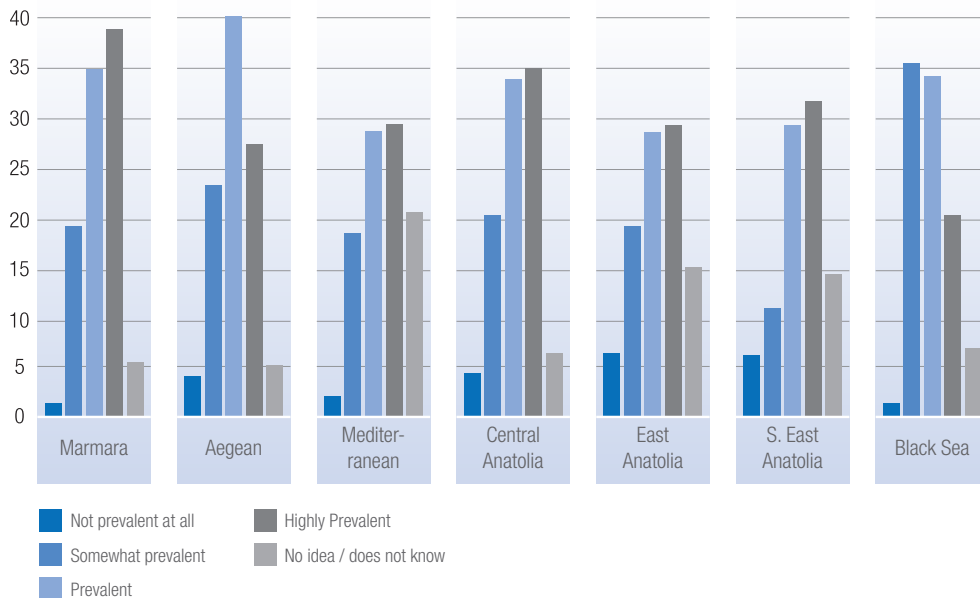


Examining perceptions about the **prevalence of violence against 0-8 years old children** by rural/urban difference and geographical region, it is found that 66% of participants living in urban areas think violence against 0-8 year old children is ‘quite’ or ‘highly’ prevalent. For rural participants, the rate is 54%. In terms of regional distribution (Chart 24), views about the prevalence of violence against children vary. The highest rates are observed in Marmara (70%) and Aegean (70%) regions and the lowest are in Black Sea (50%) and Eastern Anatolia (53%) regions.

**Chart 24.** Perceptions about the Prevalence of Violence against 0-8 Year Old Children by Region (%)



**Chart 25.** Perceptions about the Prevalence of Violence against 9-18 Year Old Children by Region (%)



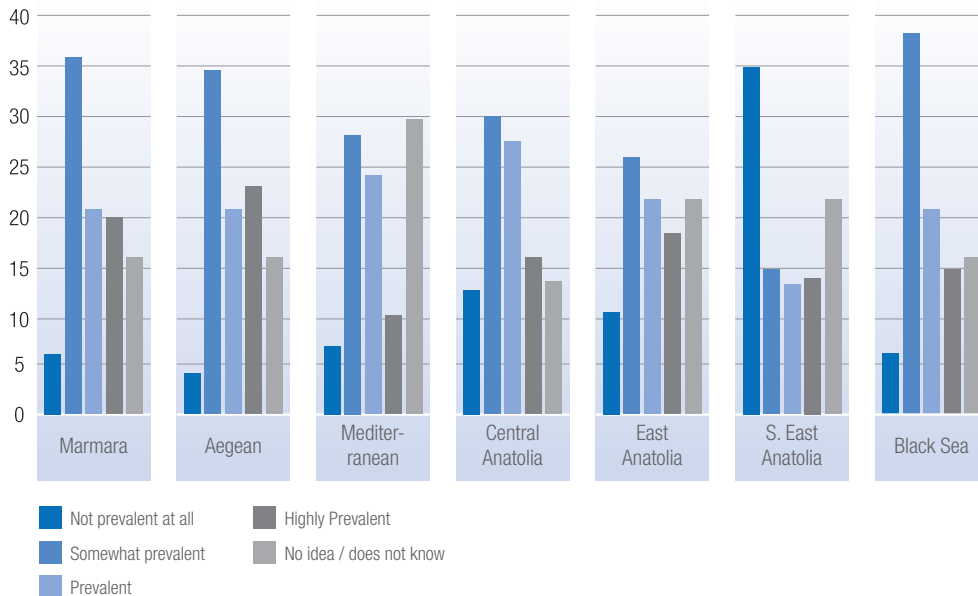
Perceptions about the **prevalence of violence against 9-18 year old children** present similar findings. Examining rural/urban difference and geographical regions, it is seen that 68% of urban participants think violence against 9-18 year old children is ‘quite’ or ‘highly’ prevalent. In rural areas the rate is 57%. In terms of regional distribution (Chart 25), views about the prevalence of violence against children vary. The highest rate is observed in

Marmara (74%) and the lowest rates in Black Sea (56%) and Eastern Anatolia (57%) regions.

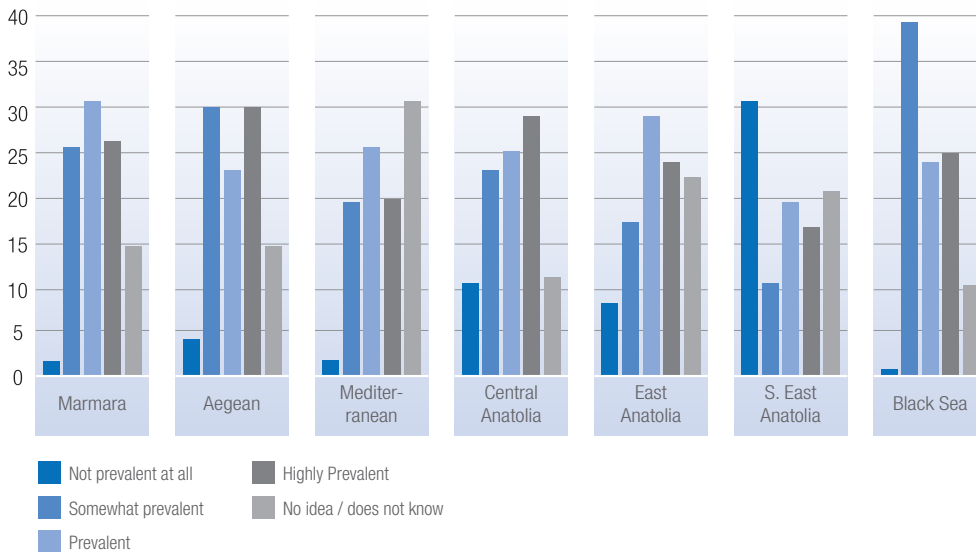
Ideas about the **prevalence of sexual abuse of 0 to 18 year old children** were asked again over two age intervals. According to participants, sexual abuse of children in age groups 0-8 and 9-18 is quite common. For the age group 0-8 the proportion of participants who think such cases are ‘quite’ or ‘highly’ prevalent is 38% and for the age group 9-18 is 51%. 40% of urban participants and 32% of rural participants think sexual abuse of 0 to 8 years old children is common. Proportions for the age group 9-18 are 53% in urban areas and 43% in rural areas.

Looking at the regional distribution of perceptions regarding the prevalence of sexual abuse of children in the age groups 0-8 and 9-18, we see that sexual abuse of older children is regarded as a relatively more common phenomenon. Charts 26-27 give the regional distribution of perceptions. While the perception that sexual abuse of 0 to 8 year old children is ‘quite’ or ‘highly’ prevalent reaches its highest rates in Aegean (45%) and Central Anatolia (44%) regions, the South-eastern Anatolia is the region where this rate is the lowest (27%). The perception that sexual abuse of 9 to 18 year old children is ‘quite’ or ‘highly’ prevalent reaches its highest rate in the Marmara (58%) region and has its lowest value again in South-eastern Anatolia (37%). It should be noted that a high proportion of female participants gave no response or replied ‘no idea’ to these questions.

**Chart 26.** Perceptions about the Prevalence of Sexual Abuse against 0-8 Year Old Children by Region (%)

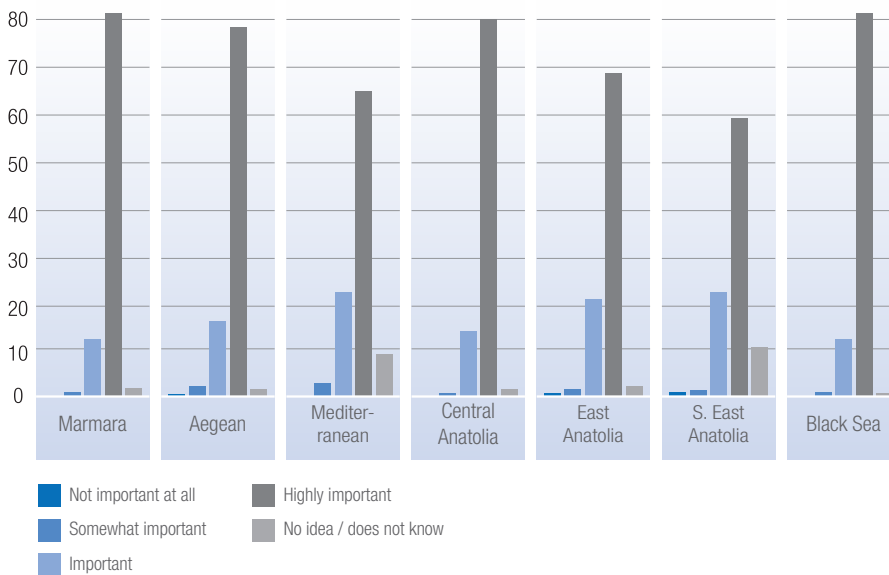


**Chart 27.** Perceptions about the Prevalence of Sexual Abuse against 9-18 Year Old Children by Region (%)



Participants were also asked about the importance they attached to violence against children as a problem in Turkey. Responses indicate that a large majority of participants (92%) think it is an ‘important’ or ‘very important’ problem. As for the urban/rural difference, 93% of participants living in urban areas and 87% of participants living in rural areas consider violence against children to be an ‘important’ or ‘very important’ problem. Chart 28 gives the regional distribution of responses.

**Chart 28.** Perceptions about the Importance of the Problem of Violence against Children in Turkey by Region (%)

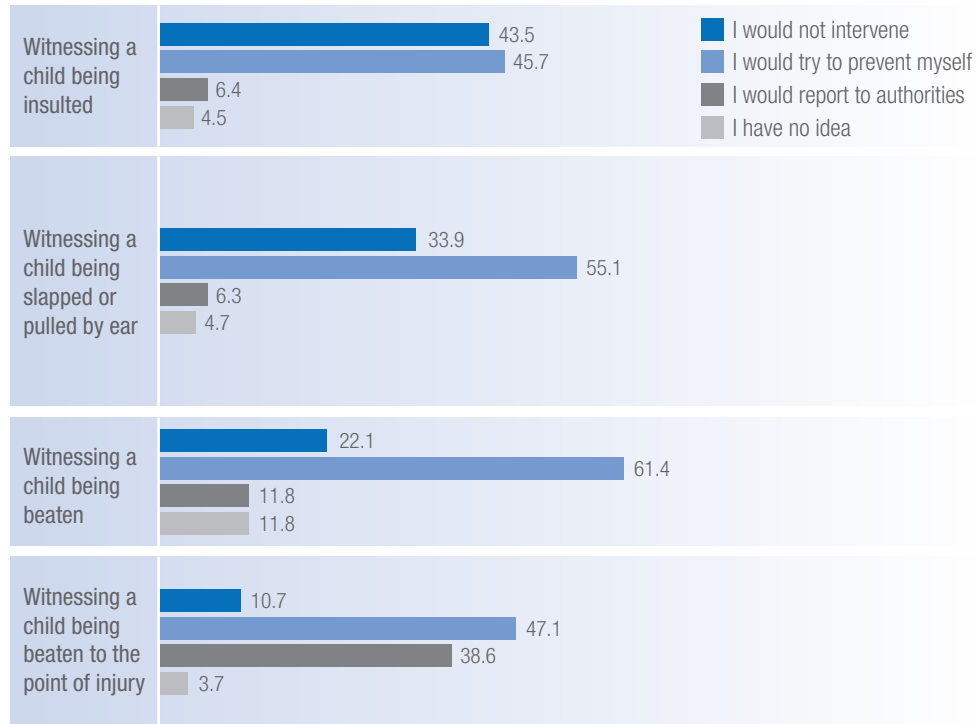




### 3.3.1 / Methods of Intervention to Violence Witnessed

With regard to intervention to cases of violence observed, participants were asked how they would react if they observed various forms and levels of violence against a child. As can be seen in Chart 29, the most frequent answer given is that ‘they would intervene’ if they observed violence against a child around and in their neighbourhood. In cases of mild physical violence, a significant number of respondents say ‘it is not correct for me to intervene’. As violent act gets more serious, the response is ‘to inform authorities’.

**Chart 29.** What Would You Do if You Witnessed a Child Being Subject to the Following Forms of Violence? (%)



Participants’ responses to this question were examined also with respect to their sex. As can be seen in Table 102, it is interesting that male and female participants gave similar responses especially in cases of mild physical violence.

**Table 102.** Methods of Intervention to Violence Witnessed by Sex of Participants (%)

	I would not intervene	I would try to prevent myself	I would report to authorities	I have no idea
<b>Witnessing a child being insulted</b>				
Female	43.7	45.0	6.5	4.8
Male	42.6	47.5	6.2	3.6
<b>Witnessing a child being slapped or pulled by ear</b>				
Female	33.9	54.7	6.3	5.0
Male	33.8	56.0	6.4	3.8
<b>Witnessing a child being beaten</b>				
Female	22.4	60.6	12.1	5.0
Male	21.5	64.0	10.9	3.7
<b>Witnessing a child being beaten to the point of injury</b>				
Female	11.2	44.8	39.8	4.2
Male	9.2	53.7	35.1	2.1

Tables 103-104 present the distribution of methods of intervening in cases of violence witnessed by rural/urban settlement and geographical region. It must be noted that responses ‘I intervene myself’ and ‘I inform authorities’ vary with respect to regions. As can be seen in Table 104, for example, there are significantly more participants in the Aegean Region who would ‘inform authorities.’

**Table 103.** Methods of Intervention to Violence Witnessed by Urban/Rural Distinction (%)

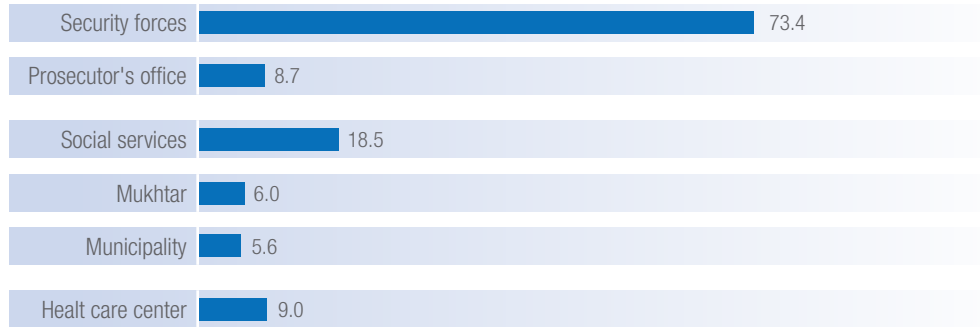
		Overall	Urban	Rural
<b>Witnessing a child being insulted</b>	I would not intervene	43.5	45.3	37.1
	I would try to prevent myself	45.7	44.6	49.3
	I would report to authorities	6.4	6.2	7.2
	I have no idea	4.5	3.9	6.3
<b>Witnessing a child being slapped or pulled by ear</b>	I would not intervene	33.9	34.4	32.3
	I would try to prevent myself	55.1	55.6	53.3
	I would report to authorities	6.3	5.8	8.3
	I have no idea	4.7	4.3	6.1
<b>Witnessing a child being beaten</b>	I would not intervene	22.1	22.2	22.0
	I would try to prevent myself	61.4	62.3	58.6
	I would report to authorities	11.8	11.5	12.6
	I have no idea	4.6	4.0	6.8
<b>Witnessing a child being beaten to the point of injury</b>	I would not intervene	10.7	10.9	10.1
	I would try to prevent myself	47.1	45.4	52.8
	I would report to authorities	38.6	41.0	30.4
	I have no idea	3.7	2.8	6.8

**Table 104.** Methods of Intervention to Violence Witnessed by Region (%)

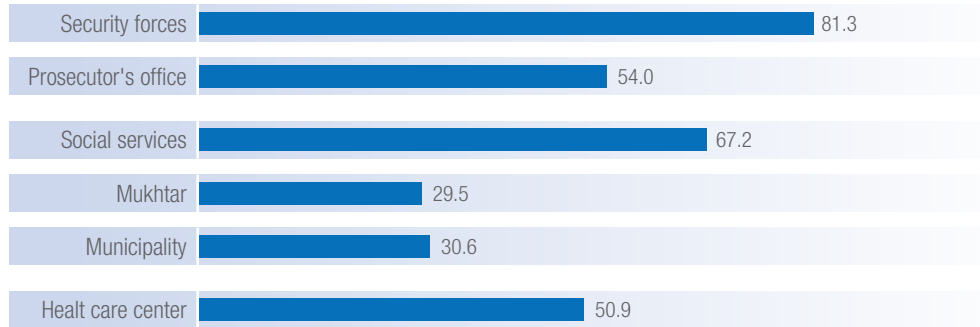
		Marmara	Aegean	Mediterranean	Centre Anatolia	East Anatolia	S. East Anatolia	Black Sea
Witnessing a child being insulted	I would not intervene	54.2	32.9	40.0	52.5	27.9	32.6	50.2
	I would try to prevent myself	38.4	53.1	43.8	39.3	65.2	48.1	46.5
	I would report to authorities	6.6	13.3	2.9	3.9	3.1	11.1	1.8
	I have no idea	0.8	0.7	13.2	4.3	3.8	8.2	1.5
Witnessing a child being slapped or pulled by ear	I would not intervene	40.5	25.1	33.0	41.4	23.4	25.2	40.9
	I would try to prevent myself	52.3	61.1	51.1	49.8	65.9	56.6	56.0
	I would report to authorities	6.2	13.3	3.3	3.8	3.1	11.4	1.5
	I have no idea	1.0	0.5	12.7	5.0	7.6	6.8	1.5
Witnessing a child being beaten	I would not intervene	24.5	16.4	20.3	28.0	18.6	19.3	24.3
	I would try to prevent myself	64.8	62.1	49.5	58.8	66.6	60.0	69.8
	I would report to authorities	9.3	21.3	21.2	8.6	5.7	12.5	4.3
	I have no idea	1.4	0.2	9.1	4.6	9.1	8.2	1.5
Witnessing a child being beaten to the point of injury	I would not intervene	16.1	5.0	7.1	11.6	10.0	9.9	5.5
	I would try to prevent myself	50.9	32.9	45.5	43.2	60.4	46.4	45.2
	I would report to authorities	32.0	60.9	44.7	41.1	20.5	35.1	48.6
	I have no idea	1.0	1.2	2.7	4.1	9.1	8.7	0.6

Following these questions, participants were asked which organisations and agencies they would apply to if they witnessed a child being subjected to violence in an open-ended way (i.e. without mentioning any organisation). Chart 30 shows responses given to this question. A great majority of respondents, (73%), said “security forces”, followed by ‘social services’ (19%). Chart 31 shows participants’ perceptions of the ‘usefulness’ of applying to these institutions.

**Chart 30.** Where Can You Apply to if You Witness a Case of Violence against A Child? (%)



**Chart 31.** Perceptions about the Usefulness of Applying to Institutions after Witnessing a Case of Violence against Children (%)



Tables 105-106 present institutions that would be applied to when witnessing a case of violence against the child and the ‘usefulness’ of such application by urban/rural distinction. There are significant differences among respondents in their vision of relevant institutions. Security forces and social services are cited less in rural areas relative to cities. In terms of ‘usefulness’, local headmen and municipalities are referred to more frequently in rural areas than urban.

**Table 105.** Institutions Stated as Applicable after Witnessing Violence against Children by Urban/Rural Distinction (%)

	Overall	Urban	Rural
Security forces	73.4	76.5	62.9
Prosecutor's office	8.7	8.7	8.5
Social services	18.5	20.0	13.8
Mukhtar	6.0	4.8	10.1
Municipality	5.6	5.4	6.1
Health care center	9.0	9.3	8.0

**Table 106.** Perceptions about the Usefulness of Institutions Applied to after Witnessing Violence against Children by Urban/Rural Distinction (%)

	Overall	Urban	Rural
Security forces	81.3	80.7	83.6
Prosecutor's office	54.0	53.8	54.8
Social services	67.2	67.9	64.9
Mukhtar	29.5	25.8	41.8
Municipality	30.6	28.6	37.4
Health care center	50.9	50.1	53.5

Looking at regional differences, the highest rate of applying to security forces is observed in the Aegean region and the lowest in South-eastern Anatolia. On the other hand, such institutions as prosecutor's office, courts, social services, headmen and municipalities come to the fore as appeal points in South-eastern Anatolia (Table 107). As to the perception regarding how useful these authorities are, security forces are regarded as useful

more commonly in the Aegean region. Central Anatolia regards prosecutors/courts, social services and headmen as useful relative to other regions whereas municipalities and health facilities are found useful in South-eastern Anatolia (Table 108).

**Table 107.** Institutions Stated as Applicable after Witnessing Violence against Children by Region (%)

	Marmara	Aegean	Mediterranean	Central Anatolia	East Anatolia	S.East Anatolia	Black Sea
Security forces	81.0	90.0	80.6	72.0	65.2	46.2	79.1
Prosecutor's office	50.1	10.0	6.2	8.2	8.8	19.6	2.8
Social services	24.0	20.1	11.1	21.3	12.4	20.4	8.9
Mukhtar	4.3	5.0	1.8	5.2	4.1	17.9	0.9
Municipality	4.5	5.2	1.4	3.2	3.1	17.6	0.6
Health care center	7.8	11.1	7.8	4.6	6.4	19.0	3.1

**Table 108.** Perceptions about the Usefulness the of Institutions Applied to after Witnessing Violence against Children by Region (%)

	Marmara	Aegean	Mediterranean	Central Anatolia	East Anatolia	S.East Anatolia	Black Sea
Security forces	76.2	89.6	84.2	84.1	81.4	82.4	77.5
Prosecutor's office	52.4	57.3	46.4	63.9	59.7	56.4	39.7
Social services	76.4	63.5	54.2	76.8	61.8	64.5	56.6
Mukhtar	24.9	30.6	19.2	38.9	37.0	35.1	24.6
Municipality	29.7	35.8	13.8	37.9	32.2	41.1	20.3
Health care center	49.7	51.4	41.3	53.8	51.8	61.2	44.3



## 4 / CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Information obtained as a result of the research on the prevalence, forms and especially causes of violence against 0 to 8 year old children is of value in shedding light upon road-maps to be drawn from now on.

Some findings obtained from the survey point to the need for more detailed surveys in some areas while others give an idea about policies that need to be changed. This part of the report is allocated to the suggestions of the survey team.

### 4.1 / Suggestions for Research

#### Study on Child Neglect

The research findings reveal that children are under high risk of experiencing behaviour that is considered neglect and these risks may vary with respect to region. For example, 65.5% of those taking part in the survey say their children watch TV for longer than 2 hours a day. This rate is 23.6% even for children 0 to 2 years old who should never be placed in front of a TV. As for failure to take the child regularly to health examinations within the first year after birth, the rates are 0.7% and 6.2% for Central Anatolia and Aegean regions, respectively.

These outcomes suggest that it is necessary to investigate the causes of neglect and factors affecting negligent behaviour (surroundings, accessibility of services, lack of information, traditions, etc.) separately. For example, leaving children alone at home is more common in the Aegean Region (12%). What lies behind this? Is it that nuclear families are relatively more dominant in this region and mothers have no one to take care of their children while they are out working or shopping? Or is it a lack of sufficient

information on childcare? Once answers are found to these questions it will be easier to decide whether more weight should be given to training or social support services. Meanwhile, there is also a need to understand what lies behind positive behaviour and attitudes. For example, most items under negligent behaviour are observed relatively less in the Black Sea region. So how do they eliminate associated risks? Such studies are important in disclosing the effects of socioeconomic policies on children.

Furthermore, outcomes of comparison of the child's material needs and family's needs/income ratio make it clear that studies on neglect are necessary. 9.3% of those who say they have income enough for comfortable living provide no separate bed/cradle for their children and 58.8% of the same group say their children do not have all the necessary school supplies. This outcome resembles the outcomes of TÜİK's 2009 poverty survey. According to the TÜİK survey, while the overall rate of poverty in Turkey is 18%, it climbs to 24% for children in the age group 0-6. This clearly points out to the need for studies investigating the importance and priority attached by families to meeting their children's needs.

It is suggested that the study on child neglect should contain the following:

- Perspectives on what child neglect is and what it covers;
- Causes of negligent behaviour towards the child;
- Relationship between negligent behaviour towards the child and how society perceives the child, women's status and family structure;
- Level of awareness of families on such matters as child development, needs of the child and risks that children face.

### **Impact Study of Family Training Programmes**

Very few (7%) parents participating in the survey state that they utilize family training/counselling services. There is no difference in terms of negligent behaviour between those who participate in training programmes and others who do not. With respect to behaviour that is considered as emotional and physical violence, it is interesting to note that the use of emotional or physical violence is stated more by those who received training. While 72.9% of those not receiving family training/counselling services state the use of mild emotional violence, it is 84.5% for those who received training/counselling services. High level physical violence, on the other hand, is stated by 1.0% of those not receiving family training/counselling services and by 2.1% of others who have. Thinking in broad terms, it can be said that either these trainings/counselling services were not so effective or these families state more and openly since they are better informed. Investigating which is true is important in developing a new strategy for family training. The same outcome also points out to the need for checking the effectiveness of family training. Further information on the accessibility, effectiveness and perceptions in this field will contribute significantly to the expansion of family training programmes.

### **Study on Sexual Abuse of Children**

It is possible that studies aiming to disclose the prevalence of sexual abuse may not actually be successful in doing so. The present survey came across very few statements



on the existence of this phenomenon. Among those that were stated, there were even fewer cases reported to official authorities or that sought support (17 cases 7 were reported to the authorities, 2 sought counselling support, 5 benefitted from rehabilitation services and the victim of 1 case was taken under protection). Given this, it is suggested to plan for a special study on this issue.

The present survey shows once more that it is a difficult and ethically problematic mission to investigate the prevalence of sexual abuse through surveys. Hence, the purpose of the survey should be to explore the perception of society about sexual abuse, their reflexes and the extent to which services to victims of sexual abuse are effective and known by people.

### **Study on Level of Information about Child Protection Services**

A large majority of survey participants state that they would intervene themselves if they witness a child suffering violence. The second preference is not to intervene. The third is to report the event to authorities. Taking a case where a child is being seriously beaten to point of injury, 53.7% of male and 44.8% of female participants say they would intervene themselves. 35.1% of males and 39.8% of females would inform authorities; and 9.2% of males and 11.2% of females think it would not be correct to intervene. Only 12.1% of females and 10.9% of males state that they would inform authorities if they see a child being beaten. Such preferences vary significantly with respect to region.

Yet, as far as any child protection system is concerned, it is essential that citizens feel responsible for being aware of and reporting any case of child neglect or abuse.

For those who would report a case, the authority they choose to report it to is interesting. We see that the majority (73.4%) would report the case to security forces followed by just 18.5% saying they would report it to social services

Given this, firstly the reasons why people who witness abuse choose not to report it must be explored and, at the same time, the reporting process and its effectiveness must be evaluated through a survey conducted with those who do report and others benefiting from relevant services.

### **Study on the Distribution of Roles and Responsibilities within Family**

The survey shows that even children under the age of 8 may be given such responsibilities as caring for younger siblings (4.2%), engagement in household chores (2.0%) and elderly care (1.0%). It is probable that these responsibilities get heavier as the child grows older. On the basis of responsibilities assigned at very early years, they may seriously hinder or negatively affect a child's development. Meanwhile, survey outcomes show that fathers' who take responsibility in household chores do not make a significant difference to levels of child neglect and abuse. Since only a few males do take on such responsibilities in the home, it is not possible to make sound inferences from the existing data. It is, therefore, suggested that a study on family roles should cover the following two issues:

- The relationship between the distribution of roles and responsibilities within the family and the family's socioeconomic status, the child's means to exercise his/her rights (education, health, etc.) and negligent-abusive behaviour;
- Under which circumstances fathers take on more responsibility; the types of responsibilities undertaken; attitudes to other roles and responsibilities of fathers who undertake more responsibility in household chores; the relationship between the role of the father in the family and violence against the child.

### **Study on Family Income and Support Services**

The relationship between the economic status of families and neglect and abuse marks the importance of economic support to parents with children. In the context of needs/income assessment, 78.7% of those in difficulty to meet their basic needs also state to be resorting to mild emotional violence against their children. This rate falls to 68.8 among others who have sufficient income. Similarly, the rate falls from 1.5% to 0.4% when it comes to high level physical violence. Looking at rates of violence against the child from the angle of welfare level, we see that the rate of high level emotional violence is 5.6% in families with a low welfare index and 2.6% in families who are better off. For high level physical violence corresponding rates are 1.4% and 0.8%.

The weight of responsibilities assigned to the child by the family points to the importance of investigating the means that families have and how they use these means. To be used in the planning of the minimum wage, child benefits and support services, any study on this issue should cover the following:

- The lowest limit for family income; minimum standards of child welfare; the cost of these standards;
- Benefits of family support services; accessible family support services; characteristics of families having no access to these services; ways of utilizing services; impact of services on the life quality of families and children;
- Contribution of social assistance schemes to child welfare and measures to be taken to increase this contribution.

While conducting this study it may also be beneficial to investigate the reason why income fragility index affects high level physical violence.

### **Study on Perceptions of Anti-Violence Campaigns and News**

It is interesting to note that while an overwhelming majority (91.6%) of participants regard violence against children as an extremely important problem, they state very few cases of such violence in their own life. This suggests that individuals develop a perception of violence against the child as if it is something that exists out of their own life and practices. There are many campaigns to stop violence. Investigating the impact on violent behaviour and perceptions of violence of such campaigns, as well as of media news about violence will shed light upon the methods and discourses to be used in new campaigns.

## 4.2 / Policy Suggestions

### Parent Training Programmes

Findings that the survey obtained in the following fields mark the importance of family training:

- The proportion of parents who receive any training or counselling services related to parenting skills (the survey shows that it is only 7%);
- The higher risk of violence to children by parents whose rejecting attitude towards their children is more pronounced (i.e. in the survey, while the rate of mild emotional violence is 69.4% for parents with low PARQ score, it is as high as 81.4% for others with high PARQ scores);
- High rates of negligent behaviour including not taking the child to regular health examinations (3.6%), leaving the child alone at home for longer than 1 hour (5.7%), leaving the child in front of the TV for at least 2 hours a day (65.5%) and letting the child spend time alone in such places as parks, playgrounds etc. (32.1%);
- Even when environmental risks are perceived and given importance, parents still let their children spend time unaccompanied out of the home (environmental risks index is 0.83 for parents not letting their children out alone and 0.76 for others who do);
- The weight of ineffective responses (86.1%) and violent behaviour (mild emotional violence 23.7%) as ways of reacting to the child's annoying/irritating behaviour;
- The tendency to allocate resources to respond to the child's needs as derived from comparing welfare index items to the child's material needs (9.3% of parents without any economic difficulty say their children have no separate bed of their own and 58.8% say their children's school supplies are not fully provided);
- Differences in statements of violence against the child with respect to harmony between parents (while the rates of mild emotional violence and physical violence are 70.6% and 19.1%, respectively, for parents stating to be in harmony, these rates are 81.7% and 31.3% for others not in harmony).

These findings point out to the need for accessible and evidence based training programmes in parenting. Behaviour which irritates parents varies with the age of the child. For the age group 0-2, refusing to eat, waking up and crying without any reason are the most irritating kinds of behaviour for parents. After the age of 2, irritating behaviour include disobedience, making noise and messing things around. This pattern points to the need for training programmes to improve parents' skills in caring for children at different ages.

These programmes should at least cover the following:

- Childhood period needs, risks and ways of protection;
- Understanding problematic behaviour of children and adolescents; methods of discipline to support the development of the child; communication within the family;
- Consistence among parents in issues related to the education of the child (harmony).

At present there are several parent training programmes in Turkey. Considering universal developments in this area, evaluation of the effectiveness of programmes implemented, making them accessible to all and offering different alternatives which respond to different needs are needed for progress and improvement. It must also be ensured that training in this field comprises methods that consolidate positive attitudes and skills, such as providing parents with counselling opportunities following short-term training and spreading training over time and refreshing them so as to respond to the needs of growing children.

Findings of the survey related to fathers also underline the importance of training programmes specially designed for fathers. Fathers' state of being away from home for employment has its marked effects on rates of emotional and physical violence. The rate of mild emotional violence which is 76.9% when the father is away falls to 73.5% when he is at home. For high level emotional violence corresponding rates are 5.6% and 4.0% and for mild physical violence 26.8% and 22.2%. However, the rates of high level physical violence go up when fathers are at home. Among those stating that the father is away from home for longer than 1 month, 0.8% state high level physical violence, whereas the rate is 1.2% when fathers are at home. It is, therefore, important to include fathers as well in family training programmes.

### Family Counselling Services

Parents who stated the existence of violent behaviour against the child in the family were asked some questions geared towards understanding the reasons behind such behaviour. "Inability to control temper" appears as an important factor in responses given. When high level emotional violence is concerned, losing temper accounts for 61.1% of such acts. It has a share of 47.2% in cases of mild physical violence and 56.1% in high level physical violence. This state of affairs underlines the importance of developing skills in self-control and dealing with feelings of anger in a more constructive and positive way. Consequently, the availability of counselling and rehabilitative services imparting self-control skills are as important for all family members as learning about positive discipline methods. Units that have family counselling and rehabilitation services must be enlarged parallel to the population in question. If these services are to be prioritized, the following survey findings may be used:

- The risk of violence increases as the level of education of parents falls. While 12.2% of mothers who have never been to school state use of high level emotional violence, it drops to 2.6% among those who have 8 years of schooling and to 0.7% among those who have been to school for 15 years.
- It is observed that there is interaction between the economic status of families and violence. The survey also shows that the means of poorest families to utilize support services are more limited than other families. For instance, while 30% of those stating to have a fairly adequate income say there is a community center in their neighbourhood, this rate remains under 10% among those families who say they are unable to meet their basic needs.

Based on these findings, plans can be made to ensure that families with economic problems and low education levels are prioritized in the delivery of counselling and family support services. However, in spite of marked regional disparities, violence against children cannot be defined as a problem specific to a region or socio-economic group. This is supported by the fact that violence is prevalent at each economic level and characteristics of social environment are overly influential with respect to child neglect and abuse as shown by the survey. Thus, the major target should be to expand family training, counselling and support services throughout the country.

### **Family Support Services**

Findings related to family practices that negatively influence the development of children such as the home-based care burden (taking care of smaller siblings: 4.2% and household chores: 2.0%) signify the need for family support services. It is observed that there is also relationship between the existence of a disabled member in the family and violence against the child. Indeed, while mild emotional violence is stated at the rate of 73.2% when there is no disabled family member, it is 80.2 when there is. High level physical violence increases from 2.5% to 10% with the presence of a disabled family member. In cases where there are too many children, a single parent, working parents and existence of disabled or elderly family members that make childcare more difficult for parents, there must be alternatives like the provision of caregivers and the extension of care services to enable parents to allocate more time to themselves. At the same time, in each case where family support services are extended (i.e. care for the disabled, elderly etc.), paying special attention to children in families concerned in social reports to be prepared must be an integral part of policies to prevent child neglect and abuse.

It is also observed that traumatic events experienced within the last year are more common among those having difficulty in meeting their basic needs. For example, in the group comprising families saying they are unable to meet their basic needs, the rate of serious conflict between couples is 12% and the rate of dismissal from work is 28%. In the group stating a comfortable subsistence income, on the other hand, these rates are 3.7% and 3.2%, respectively. While the rate of child's witnessing violence is 3.5% in families with a low traumatic event index, it is 13.4% in families with a high index value. This data signifies the importance of planning family support services through a preventive approach.

### **Basic Income Guarantee**

Delivery of social assistance as conditional upon family's lack of any source of income, setting of minimum wage below the poverty line and keeping social assistance below the minimum wage are all policies that should be reconsidered in the context of efforts to prevent child neglect and abuse. The survey shows that there is a significant and direct relationship between the economic status of families and cases of neglect and abuse. Taking family needs/income ratio and rates of violence against children together, we see that the rate of mild emotional violence is 78.7% for families unable to meet their

basic needs whereas it is 68.8% for others with better economic status. Where high level physical violence is concerned, there is a decrease from 1.5% to 0.4%.

The economic status of the family is also related to other factors that have their clear impact on violence against children. There is an inverse relationship between economic status and utilising means and facilities existing in surrounding environments. For those unable to meet their basic needs, access to means and facilities (playgrounds, daycare centers, health centers, community centers, etc.) is more problematic.

Similarly, there is also a link between economic status and parents' mental state of health. As the income status of families improves there is a decrease in symptoms of mental health. In terms of SES (self-evaluation scale) used for assessing parental state of mental health, the scale average is 7.4 for those unable to meet their basic needs and 4.1 for those with no difficulty in subsistence.

All these clearly show that realizing the right of the child to have his/her family supported to enjoy a minimum standard of living is at the core of combating violence against children. While economic status *per se* is not itself the only cause of violence and not even the most influential factor when combined with others; it is still important as the background of many factors directly leading to violence.

Thus, basic income guarantee must be provided to all families with children; child benefits and minimum wage must be set by taking due account of the number of children in families and these must be combined with other benefits (i.e. income support, incentives and rights) while focusing on other factors influencing violence against the child (i.e. mental health, education, neighbourhood means and facilities, etc.).

### **Social Assistance Policies**

The survey shows that low income and education status, too many children or crowded households are all factors contributing to neglect and abuse. Since these factors are also interrelated, children's needs must always be the top priority while designing and delivering social support services to families. For whatever reason a family may enjoy support, social assistance and benefits must be organized according to needs of the child and how he/she may be affected in this process.

In addition to this, according to survey findings, the rate violence against the child is 73.2% in families with no disabled member and 80.2% in families with a disabled member. The rate of mild emotional violence increases from 21.9% to 30.2%, high level emotional violence from 3.9% to 6.8% and physical violence from 1.0% to 2.5%. As for the rate of witnessing violence, it is 5.6% when there is no disabled family member and 12.4% when there is. This makes one point clear: Social assistance policies supporting families gain particular importance when families have elderly/disabled member in need of care and there is need for a model that also considers children when developing elderly/disabled support schemes.

In this context, the provision of materials necessary for children's welfare must have a priority in social assistance to be provided for the child. The survey shows that a significant

number of children (26.6%) have no bed of their own – which is considered a serious risk in the context of sexual abuse. 59.6% of children do not have all their necessary school supplies and 45.2% have no age-appropriate books. Making a comparison between welfare index items and the child’s material needs, we see, for example, that 86.5% of families with a plasma TV do not provide their children with a separate bed, and 43.7% of the same group fail to provide school supplies in full. Given this, social assistance should not be envisaged only in cash terms but also give due consideration to children’s other material needs.

### **Social Service Units**

The survey reveals that factors such as past experience of violence, poverty, low level of education and present violence against one of the parents lay the ground for neglect and abuse. It is one of the important duties of the State, in terms of preventing violence, to deliver services designed to detect and eliminate such risks early on. Yet, social services in this field are accessible to only 20.5% of population and of those who have access, only 30.9% actually utilize these services. The strategies for development suggested in this part of the report should all eventually be made available. Thus, fulfilment of the obligation of early detection and prevention requires that social services are organized by giving due account to the smallest administrative unit (neighbourhood).

### **Education Policies**

The relationship between parents’ level of education and the statement of violence lays the ground for many suggestions. The survey shows that the average years of schooling is 7.0 for mothers and 8.6 for fathers. The rate of high level emotional violence among mothers who have never been to school is 12.2%, dropping to 2.6% with of 8 years of schooling and to 0.7% with 15 years of schooling. Looking at the relationship between education, economic status and violence, we see that longer years of schooling reduces all forms of violence against the child and for all economic status levels.

As a future investment, preventing school dropouts and alternatives like catch-up education are necessary to ensure that all children complete 12 years of schooling. As part of a longer-term strategies basic education programmes geared to building and improving life and conflict solving skills should be introduced.

### **Pro-natalist Policies**

The survey shows that the number of children in a family and the number of household members have their significant effect on the incidence of neglect and violence. For example, the incidence of high level emotional violence consistently increases together with the number of children in a family. While stated high level emotional violence is at the rate of 2.2% in families having only 1 child, it rises to 3.3% when there are 2 children, 5.2% in 3 children and reaches 9.6% if the family has 5 children. In light of these findings, the government policy envisaging at least 3 children per family needs to be re-considered. Data shows that too many children lead to violence. What needs to be done here is

either to pre-assess and provide services needed when families have at least 3 children or to assess the means of the state to provide these services and articulate population policies accordingly.

### **Support Services to Victims of Abuse**

Although the survey shows higher rates of mild emotional violence relative to others, the rates of sexual abuse and high levels of physical and emotional violence are nevertheless alarming given the total population of the country. There are too many children under serious risk of sexual abuse. 0.4% of survey participants stated sexual abuse of the index child. Considering that there are 10 million children in Turkey in the age group 0-8, this means approximately 40,000 children. The rate of high level physical violence is 1.1% as stated and this corresponds to 110,000 children. Figures get much bigger when forms of mild physical violence and emotional violence are added. It is of importance to diversify, expand and make accessible support services for victims under current serious threat of danger. Helplines, counselling services and shelters lead the list of services that should be provided.

These services are also important in terms of long-term policies, since the survey shows that there is a relationship between parents' past experience of violence and violence against the child. In general, it is observed that those caregivers with their past experience of violence state more cases of neglect and emotional and physical violence. For example, 21.5% of mothers having no experience of physical violence in their childhood state to be resorting to mild physical violence whereas the rate is as high as 38.8% among mothers having such experience during their own childhood.

### **Mental Health Services**

The survey shows that the risk of the child to be exposed to violence increases if parents have their mental problems and their own past or present experience of violence.

The Self-Evaluation Scale is used in assessing parental state of mental health on the basis of which groups may be formed as "below" and "above" a specific threshold. Comparing the groups below and above threshold with respect to neglect of and violence against the child and the child's witnessing of violence we find the following: High level emotional violence is 3.3% for the below threshold group and increases to 6.4% for the other group. The rates of the child's witnessing of violence are 3.5% and 13.4%, respectively, for both threshold groups.

This risk draws attention to the importance of mental health services. These services are not easily accessible to the entire population. There is a need to make mental health services accessible in terms of both quality and cost.

According to survey findings, while statements of mild emotional violence against the child are at rate of 72.9% among mothers suffering no physical violence in their childhood, this rate is 83.3% among mothers with such experience during their childhood. In terms of statements of mild physical violence, the rate is 21.5% in the first group and 38.8% in the second.



The rate of stated emotional violence is 75% among mothers who have no experience of physical violence but 86.4% among mothers currently facing physical violence. In terms of past physical violence, 24.7% of mothers in the first group state using mild physical violence and this increases to 47% in the second group. As for fathers, the rate of statement of physical violence is 14.5% among those with no present experience of physical violence, but increases to 23.1% for those who have present experience of physical violence.

It is observed that there is a relationship between mother's and/or father's past or present exposure to violence and violence against the child. Although this relationship varies with respect to the form of violence and sex of the person exposed to violence, unless there is an exception, it always poses an important risk that the child is under threat. The only exception is that statements of violence against the child decrease if stated by women who, in their past, witnessed or were exposed to high level physical violence. This exception aside, in all other cases, parents with childhood experience of violence mention more cases of physical or emotional violence against their children than those who have no such experience. It is also observed that fathers' past or present experience of violence has a higher effect than that of mothers on resorting to violence against the child. In terms of rehabilitation services, therefore, special attention must be given to male children who suffered or witnessed violence.

Again in terms of rehabilitation services, another important issue that these figures expose is that witnessing violence is as influential as direct exposure to violence. 67% of fathers who say they had no witnessing of violence during their childhood say they resort to mild emotional violence whereas this rate increases to 77.6% among fathers who witnessed cases of violence during their childhood.

### **Recognizing the Witnessing of Violence as a Case for Protection**

The survey shows that children witnessing domestic violence are more likely to suffer violence themselves. It is understood that if there are cases of domestic violence, children witness such cases. It is stated that children witness 67.1% of cases of domestic violence and 69.9% of cases of physical violence against a parent. Children witness more of such cases as they grow older. The rates for age groups 0-2, 2-5 and 5-8 are 2.9%, 6.6% and 7.3%, respectively.

These findings bring to the fore actions necessary to not only protect children from physical violence, but to notice and prevent the potential of domestic violence. If domestic violence is a reality, mechanisms in charge of combating this phenomenon must act in a way which is conscious of the risk of violence to a child even if that child has so far not suffered any violence. This requires a series of efforts:

- The ability to benefit from protective services in domestic violence cases should not only be limited to victims. The witnessing of violence too should be considered as a case for protection.

- There must be service principles in place that take into due account a child's special situation when reporting all cases of domestic violence.
- Services geared to preventing domestic violence (i.e. helplines, shelters, various support services, etc.) must be expanded and made more effective.
- Professionals working with victims of domestic violence must be offered the opportunity to specialise in the impacts on children of such cases. Given the existence of domestic violence and the impact of a child's witnessing of such cases on physical violence, priority needs to be given to initiatives of shorter-term strategies to assign special importance to the child.

### Early Warning System

The interrelationship between the items of neglect signifies the importance of noticing in time any negligent behaviour. For example, 48% of children who are not regularly taken for health checks within the first 12 months after birth spend time out of home unaccompanied by an adult. For 32% of these children it is stated that none or very few of their friends are known to their parents. This shows that neglect in a specific field gives some idea of the risk of neglect in other fields.

The survey also shows that the level of neglect of the index child by participants stating the existence of violence at home is higher than the level of neglect by those stating no domestic violence. This suggests a possible relationship between neglect and violence. For example, while the neglect index is 0.75 among those not stating mild emotional violence, it is 1.45 in others. It is, therefore, possible to conclude that the failure to take a child to regular health check-ups can be considered a sign and the phasing-in of a social services support scheme which also examines other factors can make it possible to identify other areas of neglect and potential abuse, and to adopt measures accordingly.

Some other clues provided by the survey have the potential to be used in an early warning system. For example, children with a heavier burden of home-based care are more exposed to violence and the witnessing of cases of violence. While 4.6% of children with a reasonable burden of home-based care are exposed to high level emotional violence, this rate is 9.3% for those with a heavier home-based care burden.

### Data Collection System

Data from the survey are based on the statements of parents about violence resorted to against the index child during a specific period of time. It can be said that these statements may not fully reflect the actual situation. To reveal the actual situation, it is absolutely necessary to devise an effective data collection system while developing risk assessment, reporting and intervention mechanisms in child services. In cases that are observed, reported, intervened in, solved within the protection system or transferred to the judiciary, data which enables the tracking of current figures, as well as causes and consequences must be recorded and a research mechanism developed to base analyses on these data.

## PARTICIPANT CONSENT FORM: A

### Consent Form for Child Rearing Practices in Turkey Survey

This form was prepared for mothers, fathers or other adults who are PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE for the care of children aged 0-8 years and who volunteer to participate in this survey.

**Key Researcher:** Assoc. Prof. Serra Müderrisoğlu

**Institution:** Boğaziçi University, Department of Psychology

**Contact:** Tel: (0212) 359 73 24

E-mail: serra@boun.edu.tr

**Field Research Team:** Frekans Research

**Contact:** Tel: (0212) 225 00 00

E-mail: frekans@frekans.com.tr

#### EXPLANATION:

Good Morning / Good Afternoon,

My name is . . . . ., I work for Frekans Research. A survey is being conducted on child rearing practices in Turkey, under the leadership of Assoc. Prof. Serra Müderrisoğlu, faculty of Boğaziçi University Department of Psychology.

This is a nationwide survey. We believe that this survey is important for improving the services provided to children and families in Turkey. Similar researches are conducted globally and results are used to improve services.

We are interviewing 4,000 persons from various provinces in Turkey. We randomly selected your household for this survey. We would like to conduct an interview with you that will last around 40 minutes. This is a private interview; I would like to indicate that all your responses will be confidential and your name or contact info will not be shared with others. You may skip the questions that you do not want to answer or end the interview at any point.

We would appreciate if you participate in this survey as your views are very valuable and important for us. Your participation and sharing your experiences with us will contribute to the improvement of services for children and families.

Do you agree to continue with the interview?

AGREED			DID NOT AGREE	
If agreed,			If did not agree,	
ASK IF THE RESPONDENT HAS ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SURVEY. PROVIDE NECESSARY INFORMATION. GO SOMEWHERE PRIVATE AND START INTERVIEW.			THANK THE RESPONDENT FOR TAKING THE TIME AND FINISH THE INTERVIEW.	
<b>TO BE COMPLETED BY THE INTERVIEWER.</b>				
I CONFIRM THAT I INFORMED THE RESPONDENT ABOUT THE QUESTIONNAIRE AND ENSURED HER/HIS CONSENT.				
<b>SIGNATURE</b>		<b>DATE</b>		



RESEARCH  
ON DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE  
AGAINST  
CHILDREN  
AGED 0-8 YEARS  
IN TURKEY

Frkans Research Tel: (0-212) 2968590	CHILD REARING PRACTICES SURVEY [PRIMARY RESPONSIBLE ADULT FOR CHILD CARE]	CLUSTER NO	ROW NO	QUESTIONNAIRE NO
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### A. DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

ARE YOU THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBLE PERSON FOR CHILDREN AGED 0-8 YEARS AT HOME?  
1- NO → ASK FOR THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBLE PERSON, OTHERWISE FINISH THE INTERVIEW. 2- YES → CONTINUE WITH THE INTERVIEW

Index Child	No	Name  (for every member of the household)	Relationship to the respondent  (1) Spouse (2) Daughter/son (3) Parent (4) Parent-in-Law (5) Relative Other (Indicate), ...	Children's status  (1) Biological (2) Adopted (3) Foster child (Ask only for children)	Gender  (1) Male (2) Female	Date of birth  Day / Month / YEAR	AGE if year of birth unknown  AGE (Indicate)	School completed / attended (if student)  (1) Never went to school / primary education not completed (2) Preschool drop-out (3) Elementary school drop-out (4) Elementary school (5 Years) (5) Primary school drop-out (6) Primary school (8 years) (7) Secondary school drop-out (8) Secondary school (9) High school drop-out (10) High school (11) University drop-out (12) University and higher	If drop-out, what grade?  (Indicate)	Employment status  (1) Employed full-time (40+ hrs. per week) (2) Employed part-time (3) Seasonal employment (4) Non-paid family worker (at family business, farm, etc.) (5) Housewife (6) Retired (7) Student (8) Unemployed but has income (rent, etc.) (9) Unemployed (10) Unable to work due to illness, etc.
	Respondent		Herself/himself							
2	2nd									
3	3rd									
4	4th									
5	5th									
6	6th									
7	7th									
8	8th									
9	9th									
10	10th									

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**B. CHILDREN LIVING AWAY FROM HOME**

**B.0** What is your relationship to [IC].....?

1	His/her mother
2	His/her father
	Other (Indicate).....

**B.1** Do you have any children (under 18 years of age) living outside of the household?

1	Yes
2	No → SKIP TO B3

**B.2** If yes, would you tell me their age, gender and where they live?

Age	Gender (1) Male (2) Female	Where s/he lives (1) With a relative (2) With another family (foster family, adopted, etc.) (3) Dormitory / residential school (4) Residential institution (5) Other (Indicate.....)

**B.3** Are there any other children you look after in your household?

1	Yes
2	No → SKIP TO C1

**B.4** If yes, would you tell me their age and gender?

Age	Gender (1) Male (2) Female

**C. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

**C.1** House ownership status

1	Own house
2	Rented
3	Not own house but does not pay rent
	Other (Indicate) .....



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**C.2** How many rooms are there in your house including the living room (kitchen and bathroom excluded)? (if there are 3 bedrooms and 1 living room, indicate as “4”)

Indicate:.....

**C.3** How many rooms in your household are used for sleeping? Include the living room into this number if used regularly for sleeping.

Indicate:.....

**C.4** Which of the following exists in your neighborhood (within walking distance)? Have you ever been there?

	Existence?			Been there?	
	Yes	No	Doesn't know	Yes	No
Playground	1	2	98	1	2
Sports field	1	2	98	1	2
Internet house	1	2	98	1	2
Community / family counseling / public training center	1	2	98	1	2
Youth center	1	2	98	1	2
Daycare center	1	2	98	1	2
Library	1	2	98	1	2
Study center	1	2	98	1	2
Health care center / family health center	1	2	98	1	2

## D. STRESS FACTORS

**D.1** Is there anyone in your house with disabilities or in need of care/protection?

1	Yes	
2	No	→ SKIP TO D3

**D.2** If yes, who? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS)

1	Child with disabilities
2	Adult with disabilities
3	Elderly
4	Child with chronic illness
5	Adult with chronic illness
	Other (Indicate) .....

**D.3** To what extent the father (if father is being interviewed, himself) / your spouse / your partner contribute to the daily housework?

	Never	Sometimes	Regularly	Not alive / separated / single
Cooking	1	2	3	4
Cleaning	1	2	3	4
Laundry	1	2	3	4
House tidy up	1	2	3	4
Dishes	1	2	3	4
Grocery shopping	1	2	3	4
Taking care of children	1	2	3	4

**D.4** To what extent the father (if father is being interviewed, himself) / your spouse / your partner contribute to child care?

	Never	Sometimes	Regularly	Not alive / separated / single
Changing diapers (now or in the past)	1	2	3	4
Putting to sleep	1	2	3	4
Feeding	1	2	3	4
Taking bath	1	2	3	4
Playing	1	2	3	4
Taking a stroll	1	2	3	4
Reading	1	2	3	4
Dealing with kindergarten / school issues	1	2	3	4
Homework	1	2	3	4

**D.5** How compatible do you think you are with your spouse / your partner in disciplining your children?

1	We are compatible, we respect each other's rules
2	We are compatible but we sometimes contradict with each other in front of children
3	We are not usually compatible with each other
	Other (Indicate) .....



**D.6** I will now read you several events that may be quite stressful. Have you experienced any of the following in your family within the last 1 year?

	Yes	No
Relationship difficulties	1	2
Separation / divorce	1	2
Layoff from work / unemployment	1	2
Bankruptcy	1	2
Serious illness / injury / accident	1	2
Custody / imprisonment	1	2
Death	1	2
Natural disaster / fire	1	2
Migration / moving to another city	1	2
Has any other major event happened?	1	2
If yes, (Indicate).....		

**D.7** There is a list of symptoms below that people suffer from time to time. Please indicate which of the following symptoms you suffered during the last 4 weeks.

	Yes	No
Do you often have headaches?	1	2
Is your appetite poor?	1	2
Do you sleep badly?	1	2
Are you easily frightened?	1	2
Do your hands shake?	1	2
Do you feel nervous, tense or worried?	1	2
Is your digestion poor?	1	2
Do you have trouble thinking clearly?	1	2
Do you feel unhappy?	1	2
Do you cry more than usual?	1	2
Do you find it difficult to enjoy your daily activities?	1	2
Do you find it difficult to make decisions?	1	2
Is your daily work suffering?	1	2
Are you unable to play a useful part in life?	1	2
Have you lost interest in things?	1	2
Do you feel that you are a worthless person?	1	2
Has the thought of ending your life been on your mind?	1	2
Do you feel tired all the time?	1	2
Do you have uncomfortable feelings in your stomach?	1	2
Are you easily tired?	1	2
(In general) Do you feel hopeful about the future?	1	2



**D.8** Which of the following describes better your family's current financial situation considering your income and expenditures?

1	We often cannot even afford our basic needs like food or rent
2	Our income is just enough for us to get by
3	We have enough income not considering luxury and non-essential stuff
4	We have enough income for a comfortable living

**D.9** Are you concerned with any of the following in your neighborhood considering your children's safety?

	Yes	No
Unhealthy physical environment (garbage, sewage waste, etc.	1	2
Dangerous physical environment (traffic, open manholes, unsafe constructions, etc.)	1	2
Street fights / gangs	1	2
Demonstrations / clashes	1	2
Delinquency / drugs	1	2
Other (Indicate) .....		

## E. INDEX CHILD

**Attention!** Record the name of the **"Index Child"** [IC] ..... that you determined at the beginning of the interview and give the explanation provided in the guide. Mark down the age of the index child (check the table). Use the real name of the index child in related questions.

**E.1** Age of the index child [IC].....

1	0-24 months
2	25-60 months
3	61-96 months

**E.2** Where was [IC]..... born?

1	At home without assistance
2	At home assisted by a health provider
3	At a health facility / hospital
	Other (Indicate).....



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**E.3** Which of the following describes better the postnatal care for [IC].....?

1	Received regular health care and fully vaccinated
2	Skipped several health checks / received health care only when sick
3	Never received health care / never been to a health facility

**E.4** Which of the following does [IC]..... own?

	Yes	No
His/her own bed/cradle	1	2
His/her own closet	1	2
Age-appropriate toys	1	2
Age-appropriate books	1	2
Age-appropriate outfits	1	2
Necessary school supplies	1	2

**E.5** Where does [IC]..... sleeps?

1	In his/her room alone → SKIP TO E8
2	In a room with his/her sibling
3	In the same room with his/her parents
4	In a room with another adult (grand parent, aunt, uncle, etc.)
5	In a common area (living room, etc.)
	Other (Indicate):.....

**E.6** Does [IC] ..... regularly sleep in the same bed with another person such as a parent or sibling?

1	Yes
2	No → SKIP TO E8

**E.7** If yes, with whom?

Indicate:.....

**E.8** Are [IC].....'s parents alive?

	Alive	Dead	2 → SKIP TO F1
MOTHER	1	2	
FATHER	1	2	

**E.9** If [IC].....'s parents are both alive, do they live together?

1	They live together
2	Divorced → SKIP TO F1
3	Separated but not divorced → SKIP TO F1

**E.10** Ask if [IC].....'s parents are both alive and live together) Does [IC] ..... 's father spend long time away from home for work etc. related reasons?

1	No or rarely
2	1-2 months per year
3	3-6 months per year
4	More than 6 months per year

## F. CHILD REARING ATTITUDES

**F.1** Who takes care of [IC]..... most of the time? Please indicate separately for day and evening/night.

	Day	Evening/Night
Mother	1	1
Father	2	2
Other relative	3	3
Daycare center	4	4
Baby-sitter	5	5

**F.2** How often does [IC]..... do the following accompanied by at least one adult family member?

	Frequency	Most commonly with whom?
	1-Everyday 2-One-two days per week 3-Once a month 4-Never	1-Mother 2-Father 3-Older sibling 4-Babysitter 5-Another adult in the household
Going to park together		
Visiting neighbors / relatives together		
Go shopping together		
Going to farm together		
Playing at home together		
Doing homework together		
Talking to each other / chatting		
Having meal together		
Watching together a TV programme that [IC] likes		
Reading books / stories together		



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**F.3** Where does [IC]..... spend time except for the house unaccompanied by an adult?

	Yes	No
Playground	1	2
Street	1	2
Sports field	1	2
Schoolyard outside of school hours	1	2
Internet house	1	2
Other (Indicate) .....		

**F.4** How many hours in a day does [IC]..... spend watching TV?

Indicate:.....(hours)

**F.5** How much do you know [IC].....'s friends?

1	I don't know any of them
2	I don't know most of them
3	I know some of them
4	I know all of them
5	S/he does not have friends

**F.6** Have you or your spouse (or the other adult responsible for taking care of [IC]..... together with you) participated to any parent training or counseling program?

1	I have participated
2	My spouse / other adult has participated
3	We have participated together
4	We have not participated → SKIP TO G1

**F.7** If you have, what kind of training / counseling you have received?

Indicate:.....

## G. INDICATORS

**G.1** Parents use certain methods to teach children the right behavior. I would like to learn which methods are used with [IC]..... in your household to teach him/her the right behavior and what you think about these methods.

	G.1.A	G.1.B	G.1.C	G.1.D
	How often is this method used?	How often is this method used?	How useful do you think this method is?	Do you think this method does [IC] any harm?
	(1) Never – DO NOT ASK G1B,C,D (2) Rarely (3) Sometimes (4) Often	(1) You (2) Other adult responsible for taking care of [IC] (3) Older brother / sister (4) Another adult in the household (5) Babysitter	(1) Not useful at all (2) Sometimes useful (3) Generally / always useful (98) No idea (DO NOT READ) (99) No answer (DO NOT READ)	(1) None (2) Some (3) A lot (98) No idea (DO NOT READ) (99) No answer (DO NOT READ)
<b>Method</b>				
A	Communicating in a way that allows for his/her self-expression			
B	Explaining what is right and wrong (advising)			
C	Comparing to others, criticizing			
D	Refusing to speak to him/her, telling him/her s/he is not loved			
E	Shouting or yelling			
F	Giving time-out (asking him/her to think about what s/he has done wrong for a certain amount of time in his/her room, etc. and telling him/her to stop doing the wrong thing	(if 2 or 3) Average duration .....		
G	Punishing (forbidding something s/he likes, not allowing to leave his/her room, etc.)			
H	Beating up (hitting, slapping, shaking, pulling ear, etc.)			

**G.2** There are certain things that children do annoying or angering the parents. Which of the following behavior(s) of [IC] ..... you find difficult to deal with?

	Yes	No
Not listening / not obeying	1	2
Lying	1	2
Not doing homework	1	2
Making noise	1	2
Waking you up	1	2
Damaging things	1	2
Messing up the house	1	2
Fighting with his/her siblings / friends, damaging their things, not sharing his/her toys, etc.	1	2
Causing others to complain	1	2
Not eating or sleeping	1	2
Spending too much time in front of TV / computer	1	2
Not stopping crying / crying for no reason	1	2
Insisting to get something done (persistent crying, throwing himself/herself on the floor, etc.)	1	2
Other (Indicate) .....		

**G.3** What kind of responses has [IC]..... received when s/he did things annoying or angering you or other adults within the last 1 year?

	G.3.A	G.3.B	G.3.C	G.3.D	G.3.E	
	How often is this method used?	Who uses this method most often?	Why do you think this method was used?	How useful do you think this method is?	Do you think this method does [IC] any harm?	
Check if mentioned by the interviewer	(1) Never – DO NOT ASK G3B,C,D,E (2) Rarely (3) Sometimes (4) Often	(1) You (2) Other adult responsible for taking care of [IC] (3) Older brother / sister (4) Another adult in the household (5) Babysitter	(1) Because [IC] does not obey otherwise (2) Due to poor anger management (3) Because it is believed to be useful (4) Due to pressure from others to use this method Other (Indicate).....	(1) Not useful at all (2) Sometimes useful (3) Generally / always useful (98) No idea (DO NOT READ) (99) No answer (DO NOT READ)	(1) None (2) Some (3) A lot (98) No idea (DO NOT READ) (99) No answer (DO NOT READ)	
	Method [ANKETÖRİ] GÖRÜŞÜLEN KİŞİNİN AÇIK UÇLU OLARAK SÖYLEDİĞİ YÖNTEMLERİ YAN KOLONA İŞARETLEYİN, SÖYLENMEYEN HER BİR GRUPTA BAŞLIĞI İÇİN YÖNTEMLERİ TEK TEK OKUYUP HER GRUPTA İÇİN CEVAP ALIN					
	1	Asking the reasons behind, giving the opportunity to think and express his/her opinion				
	2	Giving him/her something else to do				
	3	Expressing feelings (what you have done made me feel sad, etc.)				
	4	Advising				
5	Rewarding the wrong behavior					
6	Tolerating the wrong behavior					
01						
02						





**G.4** Have you experienced **threatening, insulting, humiliating** attitudes among family members in your household within the last 1 year?

1	Yes	
2	No	→ SKIP TO G8
99	NA	→ SKIP TO G8

**G.5** If yes, among / towards whom? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS)

1	Among parents
2	Towards another adult in the household
3	Towards another child in the household
4	Towards a younger child by an older child
5	Towards an adult by a child
99	NA

**G.6** If yes, how often?

1	Everyday
2	One-two days per week
3	Once a month
4	Rarely
99	NA

**G.7** If yes, does [IC]..... witness these attitudes?

1	Yes
2	No
99	NA

**G.8** Have you experienced behaviors like **slapping, hitting, throwing** something to each other among family members in your household within the last 1 year?

1	Yes	
2	No	→ SKIP TO G12
99	NA	→ SKIP TO G12

**G.9** If yes, among / towards whom? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS)

1	Among parents
2	Towards another adult in the household
3	Towards another child in the household
4	Towards a younger child by an older child
5	Towards an adult by a child
99	NA



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**G.10** If yes, how often?

1	Everyday
2	One-two days per week
3	Once a month
4	Rarely
99	NA

**G.11** If yes, does [IC]..... witness these behaviors?

1	Yes
2	No
99	NA

**G.12** Was there a time in the past 1 year that [IC]..... was seriously injured (burns, broken bones, cuts, etc.)?

0	No
	..... times

**G.13** (Do not ask if IC is between 0-24 months) Has [IC]..... worked on streets (weighing, selling tissues / water, collecting garbage, etc.) within last 1 year?

1	Yes
2	No

**G.14** Is [IC]..... given the following responsibilities? (Do not ask if IC is between 0-24 months)

	Yes	No
Responsibility of taking care of his/her younger sibling (feeding, putting to sleep, changing diapers, etc.)	1	2
Doing household chores like cleaning, dishes, laundry, cooking, etc. regularly	1	2
Taking care of the elderly or diseased in the household	1	2
Contributing to family income	1	2
Other (Indicate) .....		

**G.15** Adults sometimes have to leave the children alone in the house to go shopping, etc. How many times within the last 1 week was [IC]..... left under the supervision of another child (under 12 years of age) for more than 1 hour?

Indicate:.....

**G.16** How many times within the last 1 week was [IC]..... left alone for more than 1 hour?

Indicate:.....

**H. PROTECTION OF CHILDREN**

I now want to ask your opinion about a more sensitive and difficult issue. As you know, children sometimes get exposed to different sexual behaviors or situations.

**H.1** How prevalent do you think these behaviors or situations are in Turkey against children **0-8 years of age**?

1	Not prevalent at all
2	Somewhat prevalent
3	Fairly prevalent
4	Highly prevalent
99	No idea / does not know

**H.2** How prevalent do you think these behaviors or situations are in Turkey against children **9-18 years of age**?

1	Not prevalent at all
2	Somewhat prevalent
3	Fairly prevalent
4	Highly prevalent
99	No idea / does not know

**H.3** What do you do to protect [IC]..... against these types of behaviors or situations?

Indicate:.....  
.....

**H.4** Has [IC]..... experienced any such behavior or situation that you felt uncomfortable within the last 1 year?

1	Yes	
2	No	→ SKIP TO I1
99	NA	→ SKIP TO I1

**H.5** If yes, what happened?

Indicate:.....  
.....

**H.6** If yes, who did this was someone [IC].....

1	Knows
2	Does not know

**H.7** If yes, what happened after?

Indicate:.....



### H.8 If yes, has any of the following happened afterwards?

	Yes	No
Official reporting	1	2
Counselling	1	2
Physical and mental health treatment	1	2
Protection by the State	1	2

## I. ADULTS' HISTORY

### OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS DURING CHILDHOOD

I.1 Did you witness **threatening, insulting, humiliating** attitudes among family members in your household during your childhood?

1	Yes	
2	No	→ SKIP TO I.3
99	NA	→ SKIP TO I.3

I.2 If yes, among / towards whom? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS)

1	Among your parents
2	Among your mother and siblings
3	Among your father and siblings
4	Among your mother and/or father and your grandparents
5	Among your siblings
	Other (Indicate) .....

I.3 Did you witness behaviors like **slapping, hitting, throwing something** to each among family members in your household during your childhood?

1	Yes	
2	No	→ SKIP TO I.5
99	NA	→ SKIP TO I.5

I.4 If yes, among / towards whom? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS)

1	Among your parents
2	Among your mother and siblings
3	Among your father and siblings
4	Among your mother and/or father and your grandparents
5	Among your siblings
	Other (Indicate) .....

## AGAINST HERSELF/HIMSELF DURING CHILDHOOD

**I.5** I now will ask you some questions about your own experiences during childhood. Were you exposed to any **threatening, insulting, humiliating** attitudes by your family members during your childhood?

1	Yes	
2	No	→ SKIP TO I.7
99	NA	→ SKIP TO I.7

**I.6** If yes, do you think these attitudes did you any harm?

1	Yes
2	No

**I.7** Were you exposed to any behaviors like **slapping, hitting, throwing something** to you by your family members during your childhood?

1	Yes	
2	Hayır	→ SKIP TO I.9
99	NA	→ SKIP TO I.9

**I.8** If yes, do you think these behaviors did you any harm?

1	Yes
2	No

## AGAINST HERSELF/HIMSELF CURRENTLY

**I.9** I now want to ask you some questions about your current experiences. Have you been exposed to any **threatening, insulting, humiliating** attitudes by your close relatives or family members (spouse, parents-in-law, older brother, etc.) within the last 1 year?

1	Yes	
2	No	→ SKIP TO I.12
99	NA	→ SKIP TO I.12

**I.10** If yes, how often?

1	Everyday
2	One-two days per week
3	Once a month
4	Rarely
99	NA



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**I.11** If yes, has [IC]..... ever witnessed these attitudes?

1	Yes
2	No

**I.12** Have you been exposed to any behaviors like **slapping, hitting, throwing something** to you by your close relatives or family members (spouse, parents-in-law, older brother, etc.) within the last 1 year?

1	Yes	
2	No	→ SKIP TO J.1
99	NA	→ SKIP TO J.1

**I.13** If yes, how often?

1	Everyday
2	One-two days per week
3	Once a month
4	Rarely
99	NA

**I.14** If yes, has [IC]..... ever witnessed these behaviors?

1	Yes
2	No

## **J. PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION STRATEGIES**

**J.1** What would you do if you witness a child in your neighborhood being exposed to the following by his/her family members?

	I would not intervene	I would try to prevent myself	I would report to the authorities	I have no idea
Insulting, yelling	1	2	3	98
Slapping, pulling ear	1	2	3	98
Hitting / shaking	1	2	3	98
Beating resulting in injury	1	2	3	98

**J.2** Where can you refer to if you witness a child being exposed to violence? (ATTENTION! THE OPTIONS WILL NOT BE SPELLED OUT, OPEN ENDED ANSWERS WILL BE MARKED IN THE TABLE BELOW)

	Mentioned	Not mentioned
Security forces (police, gendarmerie)	1	2
Prosecutor's office, court	1	2
Social services	1	2
Mukhtar	1	2
Municipality	1	2
Health care center	1	2
Other (Indicate) .....		

**J.3** Would referring to the following authorities be useful?

	Yes	No
Security forces (police, gendarmerie)	1	2
Prosecutor's office, court	1	2
Social services	1	2
Mukhtar	1	2
Municipality	1	2
Health care center	1	2
Other (Indicate) .....	1	2

**J.4** How prevalent do you think violence against children 0-8 years of age is in Turkey?

1	Not prevalent at all
2	Somewhat prevalent
3	Prevalent
4	Highly prevalent
99	No idea / does not know

**J.5** How prevalent do you think violence against children 9-18 years of age is in Turkey?

1	Not prevalent at all
2	Somewhat prevalent
3	Prevalent
4	Highly prevalent
99	No idea / does not know



**J.6** How important do you think the problem of violence against children is in Turkey?

1	Not important at all
2	Somewhat important
3	Important
4	Highly important
99	No idea / does not know

**J.7** What would be your suggestions for preventing harmful behaviors / violence against children?

.....

.....

.....

**J.8** There is a number of statements below describing the way parents sometimes act toward their children. Please answer each as “almost always true”, “sometimes true”, “rarely true” or “almost never true”.

	Almost always true	Sometimes true	Rarely true	Almost never true
I say nice things about my child.	1	2	3	4
I pay no attention to my child.	1	2	3	4
I make sure that my child trusts me.	1	2	3	4
I hit my child even when my child does not deserve it.	1	2	3	4
I see my child as a big nuisance.	1	2	3	4
I punish my child severely when I am angry.	1	2	3	4
I am too busy to answer my child’s questions.	1	2	3	4
I dislike my child.	1	2	3	4
I am really interested in what my child does.	1	2	3	4
I say unkind things to my child.	1	2	3	4
I pay no attention to my child when s/he asks for help.	1	2	3	4
I make my child feel wanted and needed.	1	2	3	4
I pay a lot of attention to my child.	1	2	3	4
I go out of my way to hurt my child’s feelings.	1	2	3	4
I forget important things my child thinks I should remember.	1	2	3	4
I make my child feel unloved if s/he misbehaves.	1	2	3	4
I make my child feel what s/he does is important.	1	2	3	4
I frighten or threaten my child when s/he does something wrong.	1	2	3	4
I care about what my child thinks, and like my child to talk about it.	1	2	3	4
I feel other children are better than my child no matter what s/he does.	1	2	3	4
I let my child know s/he is not wanted.	1	2	3	4
I let my child know I love him/her.	1	2	3	4
I don’t pay attention to my child unless s/he bothers me.	1	2	3	4
I treat my child gently and with kindness.	1	2	3	4



## K. OTHERS

### K.1 Marital status

1	Married	
2	Single	→ SKIP TO K.3
3	Divorced	→ SKIP TO K.3
4	Widowed	→ SKIP TO K.3

### K.2 If married, is it his/her first marriage?

1	Yes
2	No

### K.3 Is your household covered by any health insurance such as SGK, Emekli Sandığı or BAĞ-KUR?

1	Yes
2	No

### K.4 Occupation of [TC].....'s

Mother's Occupation:..... Father's Occupation:.....

	Mother's Occupation	Father's Occupation
Servant at public or private sector	1	1
Worker at public or private sector	2	2
Self employed – specialized occupations (doctors, engineers, lawyers, etc.)	3	3
Salaried employee – specialized occupations (doctors, engineers, lawyers, etc.)	4	4
Self-employed – small/middle scale enterprise (commerce, trade, etc.)	5	5
Self-employed – large scale enterprise (import-export, factory owners, etc.)	6	6
High-level manager at public or private sector	7	7
Mid-level manager at public or private sector	8	8
Sportsman, craftsman, etc.	9	9
Agriculture / livestock sector	10	10
Retired	11	11
Housewife	12	12
Seeking employment, willing to work	13	13
Not employed, live on unearned income like rent-interest	14	14
Not alive	15	15
No answer	99	99



**K.5** Do you receive regular in kind / in cash / social assistance from a public institution like the governorship, municipality, social services, school, etc.?

1	Yes
2	No
99	NA

**K.6** Do you have the following in your household?

	Yes	No
Refrigerator	1	2
Gas / electric oven	1	2
Microwave oven	1	2
Food processor / mixer / blender	1	2
Dishwasher	1	2
Washing machine	1	2
Iron	1	2
Vacuum cleaner	1	2
Telephone	1	2
Cell phone	1	2
Television	1	2
LCD-Plasma TV	1	2
Paid TV services (Digiturk, D-smart, etc.)	1	2
Satellite TV	1	2
Video camera	1	2
DVD / VCD player	1	2
Camera	1	2
Computer	1	2
Internet connection	1	2
Air conditioner	1	2
Private car	1	2
Tractor	1	2
Motorcycle	1	2

Thank you very much for your time.

## Z. INTERVIEWER'S OBSERVATIONS

THIS PART IS TO BE FILLED OUT AFTER LEAVING THE HOUSEHOLD.

### Z.1 House characteristics

1	Zoned – luxurious
2	Zoned – ordinary
3	Squatter house
	Other (Indicate) .....





RESEARCH  
ON DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE  
AGAINST  
CHILDREN  
AGED 0-8 YEARS  
IN TURKEY

<b>RESPONDENT'S NAME-SURNAME</b>	
<b>PROVINCE</b>	
<b>DISTRICT</b>	
<b>VILLAGE</b>	
<b>STREET</b>	
<b>BUILDING NO</b>	
<b>APT NO</b>	
<b>TEL (HOME)</b>	( ..... )
<b>TEL (MOBILE)</b>	( ..... )

<b>INTERVIEWER'S NAME</b>	
<b>DATE OF INTERVIEW</b>	..... /..... /2013
I confirm that I conducted this interview with a person not known to me, according to the training provided by Frekans Research and ESOMAR rules; and the interview will be partially or fully checked by the supervisor.	
<b>SIGNATURE</b>	



RESEARCH  
ON DOMESTIC  
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