

Human rights violations against children in urban post-coup Haiti



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Purpose of the Study

- A revolt by armed rebels overthrew the elected government on Feb. 29, 2004
- No reliable estimate of the number of human rights victims
- Anecdotal reports from NGO's, the media, etc, indicated that vulnerable populations -- including children -- were subjected to particularly high rates of human rights abuse.

Methods

- Random GPS Coordinate Sampling (RGCS) – 1500 households in Port-au-Prince metro area
- Invalid/impassible sites eliminated
- Final list: 1389 valid locations
- 51 refused to participate; 77 no adult household member; 1 removed from data set
- Response rate: 90.7% (1260 households, 5760 individuals)



Findings - Demographics

- 700,000 children in Port-au-Prince
- 38.4% age 19 or younger (n=2198)
- 53.5% of children not in school (n=910)
- Only 15.9% passed secondary school exams (n=596)



Findings – Child Laborers



- 35.4% of all children (95% CI 33.3% - 37.5%)
- 258,591 child laborers (95% CI 243251 – 273931)
- Girls are more likely than boys to work (OR 2.77; $p < .001$; 95%CI 2.27-3.39) 23.4% (+/- 2.8%) vs 45.9% (+/- 3.0%)
- Common occupations: domestic servants, market vendor, laundry, shoeshine, carwash, factory, porter (pote)

- Child laborers are less likely to attend school
- Students are less likely to be laborers ($p. < .001$) (2.34 OR) (1.92 - 2.86) (70.3% of working children are not in school; 74.7% of all students do not work)
- Boys are more likely to be in school than girls (OR 1.33) (1.11 - 1.60)
%boys in school = 46.4%
vs 39.4%

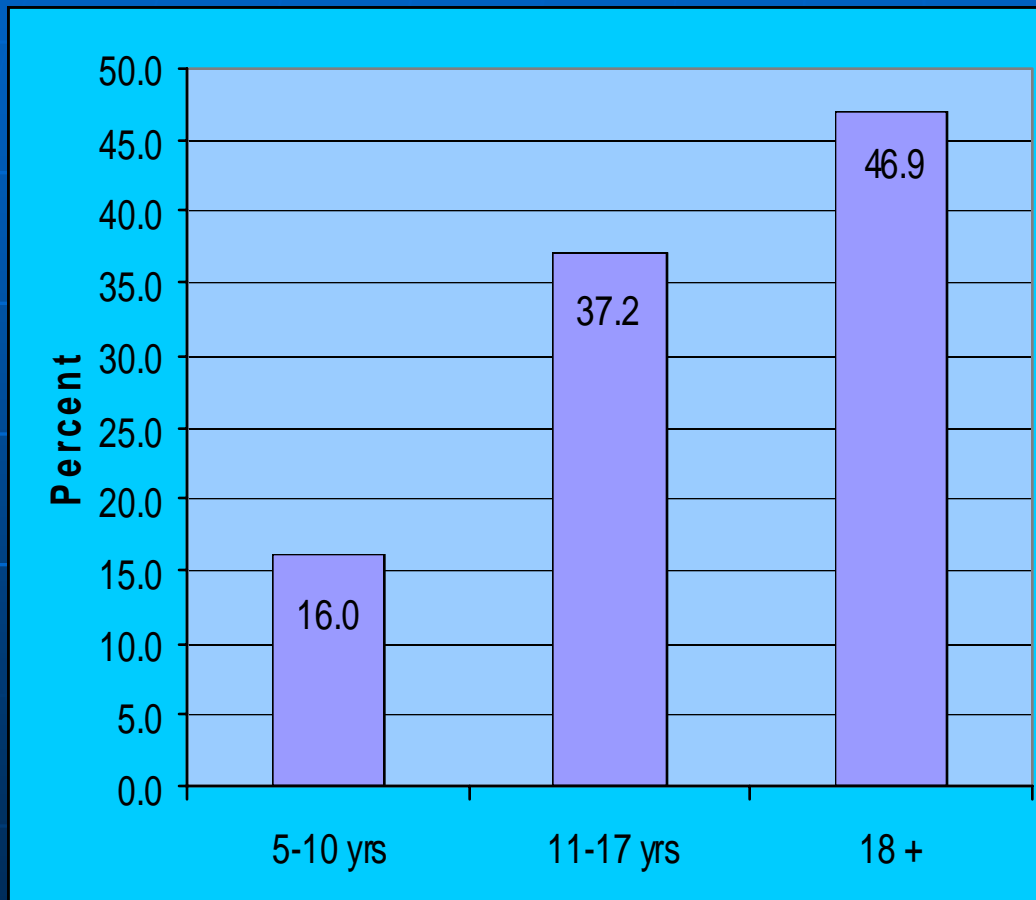


Findings – human rights violations

- Both crime and H.R. violations were common
- 8000 murders (95% CI 5000-12000)
- 35000 sexual assaults (95% CI 28000–41000)
- 21000 physical assaults (95% CI 11000–32000)
- 13000 arrests (95% CI 8000-17000)
- 11000 kidnappings & extrajudicial detentions (95% CI 6000-15000)



Findings – Sexual Assault



- 4.6% of all girls in the sample (95% CI 3.4-5.8)
- 53.1% of all victims were 17 or younger (95% CI 38.4 – 67.8)
- Majority of assaults included penetration (92.1%)
- Crude Rate: 2498 (95% CI 1806-3190) per 100,000 girls per year
- 19,000 sexual assaults of girls in Port-au-Prince during the 22 month study period (95% CI 14000-24000)

Findings – Sexual Assault



- *Restaveks* - higher sexual assault rate than other children
- 36.2% of all sexual assault victims
- Crude rate is 5209 per 100,000 *restaveks* per year
- Compared to other girls, relative risk of sexual assault for *restaveks* is 4.5

Findings – Detention & Arrest



- 3000 children arrested; CR = 228 per 100,000 per year
- Preventative detention: 22.2% of arrests (95% CI 14.8-29.7)
- Arrest warrant: 0
- Saw a judge within prescribed time period: 0
- Some children held with adults
- Lavalas/Lespwa RR 3.4

Findings – Abductions & Extrajudicial Detentions

- 1500 children kidnapped or detained
- CR 114 per 100,000 per year



Perpetrators



- Criminals: Most frequently cited as responsible for murders, sexual assaults, physical assaults, kidnappings, death threats and threats of physical violence.
- Police: 13.8% of sexual assaults (95% CI 6.3–21.3)
- Armed Anti-Lavalas groups: 37.9% of kidnappings & extrajudicial detentions (95% CI 15.5 – 60.3)
- Other perpetrators included UN troops, members or supporters of Lavalas, and undisclosed or unknown assailants.

Limitations

- Only households in Port-au-Prince
- Adult respondents reported on violations to children and other household members
- 77 excluded households
- Did not include homeless children
- Unable to obtain outside verification of claims
- Fear of repercussions

Conclusions

- Children lack access to education
- Child laborers, particularly restaveks, are vulnerable
- Human rights violations and crimes against children were common
- Develop services to meet medical, psychological & economic needs of survivors
- Responsive justice system needs to prosecute those who victimize children