

The prevalence of child abuse and its effect on the mental health

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The aim of this work was to study and identify the prevalence and forms of child abuse among children and its effect on mental health.

A sample of 304 children had been chosen randomly from children who are living in the suburban area in the south of Cairo; their age range is between 13 to 16. Assessment measures of abuse and neglect was administrated by using Childhood Traumatic Questionnaire (CTQ) (Bernestein and Fink, 1997). Base line axis I was obtained by trained psychiatrists conducting semi-structured clinical interview (ICD10 check list) for all subjects.

Results: Child abuse is present among 77.3% of the cases and 1.7% of the males and 15.7% of the females suffer from sexual abuse.

Conclusion: Abuse is one of the most disturbing experiences in child psychiatry. Children who have been physically or sexually abused exhibit many psychiatric disturbances.