



7 Things to Know About the Impact of COVID-19 on Violence

1



The pandemic-induced reduction in income has increased stress levels within households and has led to an increase in some forms of domestic abuse, and children have been its major victims. Violent discipline of children overall has increased, especially the psychological demeaning and intimidation through shouting and name-calling.

2



Children, especially young girls, are more vulnerable to predators, particularly those in the household, without the physical safeguard that school provides. These predators include stepfathers and bored adolescent schoolboys.

3



The open acceptance of sexual abuse of underage girls from 12 years up by older men, in a situation of transactional sex, has allowed for this abuse to be exacerbated in a time of growing economic need as is experienced in the pandemic.

4



Physical intimate partner violence overall decreased in twice as many communities as those in which it increased. However, abusive verbal confrontations between couples at home have increased.

5



There was less street fighting in the first few months of the pandemic, most likely due to fear of contracting the virus through physical touch. After August street fighting in most communities reverted to pre-COVID-19 levels.

7



Property crimes decreased throughout 2020, though this may have been as much a factor of the pandemic as it was in keeping with the general downward trends of the past several years.

6



The pandemic has had virtually no impact on gang violence and shootings. This is in keeping with international findings that COVID-19 lockdown measures have reduced criminal violence only in countries with a relatively low homicide rate, and have had little impact on homicide driven by organized crime and gang violence.

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