



PEDAGOŠKA FAKULTETA
UNIVERZA V MARIBORU

Violence in school

Candidate: S. D.

Mentor: M. B.

Introduction

School violence is widely held to have become a serious problem in recent decades in many countries, especially where weapons such as guns or knives are involved. It includes violence between school students as well as physical attacks by students on school staff.

The main aim/purpose of my seminary paper is...

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Violence

Violence is the expression of [physical](#) or [verbal force](#) against self or other, compelling action against one's [will](#) on [pain](#) of being [hurt](#).^{[2][3][4]} Worldwide, violence is used as a tool of [manipulation](#) and also is an area of concern for law and culture which take attempts to suppress and stop it. The word *violence* covers a broad spectrum. It can vary from between a physical altercation between two beings where a slight injury may be the outcome to [war](#) and [genocide](#) where millions may die as a result.

Psychology and sociology

See also: [Aggression](#)

The causes of violent behavior in humans are often topics of research in [psychology](#) and [sociology](#). Neurobiologist Jan Volavka emphasizes that for those purposes, “violent behavior is defined as overt and intentional physically aggressive behavior against another person.”^[5]

Scientists don't know whether to disagree or agree on whether violence is inherent in humans. Among prehistoric humans, there is archaeological evidence for both contentions of violence and peacefulness as primary characteristics.^[6]

Since violence is a matter of perception as well as a measurable phenomenon, psychologists have found variability in whether people perceive certain physical acts as 'violent'. For example, in a state where execution is a legalised punishment we do not typically perceive the executioner as 'violent', though we may talk, in a more metaphorical way, of the state acting violently. Likewise understandings of violence are linked to a perceived aggressor-victim relationship: hence psychologists have shown that people may not recognise defensive use of force as aggressive or violent at all, even in cases where the amount of force used is significantly greater than in the original aggression.^[7]

[Riane Eisler](#), who describes early cooperative, egalitarian societies (she coins the term "gylanic", as it is widely agreed that the term matriarchal is inaccurate), and [Walter Wink](#), who coined the phrase “the myth of redemptive violence,” suggest that human violence, especially as organized in groups, is a phenomenon of the last five to ten thousand years.^[citation needed]

The “violent male ape” image is often brought up in discussions of human violence. Dale Peterson and [Richard Wrangham](#) in “Demonic Males: Apes and the Origins of Human Violence” write that violence is inherent in humans, though not inevitable. However, William L. Ury, editor of a book called "Must We Fight? From the Battlefield to the Schoolyard—A New Perspective on Violent Conflict and Its Prevention” debunks the "killer ape" myth in his book which brings together discussions from two Harvard Law School symposiums. The conclusion is that “we also have lots of natural mechanisms for cooperation, to keep conflict in check, to channel aggression, and to overcome conflict. These are just as natural to us as the aggressive tendencies.”^[8]

James Gilligan writes violence is often pursued as an antidote to shame or humiliation.^[9] The use of violence often is a source of pride and a defence of honor, especially among males who often believe violence defines manhood.^[10]

Stephen Pinker in a [New Republic](#) article “The History of Violence” offers evidence that on the average the amount and cruelty of violence to humans and animals has decreased over the last few centuries.^[11]

Gender and Crime

"Criminological studies have traditionally ignored half the population: Women are largely invisible in both theoretical considerations and empirical studies. Since the 1970s, important feminist works have noted the way in which criminal transgressions by women occur in different contexts from those by men and how women experiences with the criminal justice system are influenced by gendered assumptions about appropriate male and female roles. Feminists have also highlighted the prevalence of violence against women, both at home and in public."^[12]

Of all crimes reported in 2006, 76.2 percent of arrestees were men and also there was a huge imbalance in the ratio of men to women in prison. In 2004, women only made up 7.1 percent of the prison population.^[13]

Crimes against women

Men are overwhelmingly the aggressors in certain categories of crime such as [domestic violence](#), sexual harassment, sexual assault, and rape. Women are mostly the victims in these categories. It is estimated that women are one quarter of the victims of violence at some point.
[clarification needed][14]

Youth and Crime



Official crime statistics reveal high rates of offense among young people. These offenses include rape, assault, and theft. About 34 percent of all offenders arrested for criminal offenses in 2006 were under the age of twenty-one (Federal Bureau of Investigations 2007b). Rising crime rates are often directly related to the moral breakdown among young people and vandalism, school truancy, and drug use, which illustrates societies increasing permissiveness.

The mass murder at Columbine High School is an example of how moral outrage can deflect attention from larger issues. ^[15]

A recent case of youth crime was the slaying of [Ed Thomas](#), by Mark Becker in June 2009. Becker walked into a gym class in Iowa and shot his teacher six times, leaving him dead. Becker was charged with first degree murder, and pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity. He was found guilty, and that charge carries a life sentence in jail.

According to the book, *The Effects of Race and Family Attachment on Self Esteem, Self Control, and Delinquency*, children who are raised by both parents and receive proper affection are more than likely to grow into a non-violent individual. It is believed that a child needs to bond with their parents during the early ages of childhood. As a result, the child has a higher chance of not growing into a violent person. Many children who do not receive the affection they need from their parents often turn to other sources to fill that void with a common source being a gang.

Gang violence is something that has been around for decades. Many different individuals are apart of gangs, some with similar needs. The need to feel wanted or needed is common. 94% of the individuals who occupy gangs are male with 37% of those who are affiliated are under the age of 18. Of the 94% of those males who are affiliated with a gang, 47% are Hispanic and 31% are African-American. If you pay careful attention you will understand why this is. African American men occupy 10.4% of the prison system. These fathers locked away are unable to care for their children, leading them to continue the cycle. In 2000 there were 791,600 African American men in prison and 603,032 enrolled in college. In 1980, there were 143,000 black men in prison and 463,700 enrolled in college. These statistics have swayed the other way however. According to 2005 Census Bureau statistics, the male African-American population of the United States aged between 18 and 24 numbered 1,896,000. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, 106,000 African-Americans in this age group were in federal or state prisons at the end of 2005. If you add the numbers in local jail (measured in mid-2006), you arrive at a grand total of 193,000 incarcerated young Black males, or slightly over 10 percent. According to the same census data, 530,000 of these African-American males, or twenty eight percent, were enrolled in colleges or universities (including two-year-colleges) in 2005. That is five times the number of young black men in federal and state prisons and two and a half times the total number incarcerated. If you expanded the age group to include African-American males up to thirty or thirty five, the college attendees would still outnumber the prisoners.

Diagnosis of psychiatric disorder

The [American Psychiatric Association](#) planning and research committees for the forthcoming [DSM-V](#) (2012) have canvassed a series of new [Relational disorders](#) which include *Marital Conflict Disorder Without Violence* or *Marital Abuse Disorder (Marital Conflict Disorder With Violence)*.^[16] Couples with marital disorders sometimes come to clinical attention because the couple recognize long-standing dissatisfaction with their [marriage](#) and come to the [clinician](#) on their own initiative or are referred by an astute health care professional.

Secondly, there is serious violence in the marriage which is -"usually the husband battering the wife" .^[17] In these cases the emergency room or a legal authority often is the first to notify the [clinician](#). Most importantly, marital violence "is a major risk factor for serious injury and even death and women in violent marriages are at much greater risk of being seriously injured or killed ([National Advisory Council on Violence Against Women](#) 2000)."^[18] The authors of this study add that "There is current considerable controversy over whether male-to-female marital violence is best regarded as a reflection of male [psychopathology](#) and control or whether there is an empirical base and clinical utility for conceptualizing these patterns as relational."^[18]

Recommendations for clinicians making a diagnosis of *Marital Relational Disorder* should include the assessment of actual or "potential" male violence as regularly as they assess the potential for [suicide](#) in depressed patients. Further, "clinicians should not relax their vigilance after a battered [wife](#) leaves her [husband](#), because some data suggest that the period immediately following a marital separation is the period of greatest risk for the women. Many men will [stalk](#) and [batter](#) their wives in an effort to get them to return or punish them for leaving. Initial assessments of the potential for violence in a marriage can be supplemented by standardized interviews and questionnaires, which have been reliable and valid aids in exploring marital violence more systematically."^[18]

The authors can conclude with what they call "very recent information"^[19] on the course of violent marriages which suggests that "over time a husband's battering may abate somewhat, but perhaps because he has successfully intimidated his wife. The risk of violence remains strong in a marriage in which it has been a feature in the past. Thus, treatment is essential here; the clinician cannot just wait and watch."^[19] The most urgent clinical priority is the protection of the wife because she is the one most frequently at risk, and clinicians must be aware that supporting assertiveness by a battered wife may lead to more beatings or even death.^[19]

It is also important to this topic to understand the paradoxical effects of some sedative drugs.^[20] Serious complications can occur in conjunction with the use of sedatives creating the opposite effect as to that intended. [Malcolm Lader](#) at the [Institute of Psychiatry in London](#) estimates the incidence of these adverse reactions at about 5%, even in short-term use of the drugs.^[21] The paradoxical reactions may consist of [depression](#), with or without [suicidal tendencies](#), [phobias](#), aggressiveness, **violent behavior** and symptoms sometimes misdiagnosed as [psychosis](#).^{[22][23]}

[[edit](#)] Law

One of the main functions of [law](#) is to regulate violence.^[24]

Sociologist [Max Weber](#) stated that the state claims, for better or worse, a [monopoly on legitimate violence](#) practiced within the confines of a specific territory. [Law enforcement](#) is the main means of regulating nonmilitary violence in society. Governments regulate the use of violence through [legal systems](#) governing individuals and political authorities, including the

[police](#) and [military](#). Civil societies authorize some amount violence, exercised through the [police power](#), to maintain the status quo and enforce laws.

However, German political theorist [Hannah Arendt](#) noted: "Violence can be justifiable, but it never will be legitimate ... Its justification loses in plausibility the farther its intended end recedes into the future. No one questions the use of violence in self-defence, because the danger is not only clear but also present, and the end justifying the means is immediate".^[25] In the 20th century in acts of [democide](#) governments may have killed more than 260 million of their own people through [police brutality](#), [execution](#), [massacre](#), slave [labor camps](#), and through sometimes intentional [famine](#).^[26]

Violent acts that are not carried out by the military or police and that are not in [self-defence](#) are usually classified as [crimes](#), although not all crimes are [violent crimes](#). [Damage to property](#) is classified as violent crime in some jurisdictions but not in others. It is usually considered a less serious offense unless the damage injures, or potentially could injure, others. Unpremeditated or small-scale acts of random violence or coordinated violence by unsanctioned private groups usually are prosecuted. While most societies condone the killing of animals for [food](#) and [sport](#), increasingly they have adopted more laws against [animal cruelty](#).^[citation needed]

The [Federal Bureau of Investigation](#) classifies violence resulting in [homicide](#) into [criminal homicide](#) and [justifiable homicide](#) (e.g. self defense).^[27]

[[edit](#)] War

[War](#) is a state of prolonged violence, large-scale conflict involving two or more groups of people, usually under the auspices of government. War is fought as a means of resolving territorial and other conflicts, as [war of aggression](#) to conquer territory or loot resources, in national [self-defense](#), or to suppress attempts of part of the nation to [secede](#) from it.^[citation needed]

Since the [Industrial Revolution](#), the lethality of modern warfare has steadily grown. [World War I casualties](#) were over 40 million and [World War II casualties](#) were over 70 million.

Nevertheless, some hold the actual deaths from war have decreased compared to past centuries. In [War Before Civilization](#), Lawrence H. Keeley, a professor at the University of Illinois, calculates that 87% of [tribal societies](#) were at war more than once per year, and some 65% of them were fighting continuously. The attrition rate of numerous close-quarter clashes, which characterize [endemic warfare](#), produces casualty rates of up to 60%, compared to 1% of the combatants as is typical in modern warfare.^[28] Stephen Pinker agrees, writing that "in tribal violence, the clashes are more frequent, the percentage of men in the population who fight is greater, and the rates of death per battle are higher."^[29]

[Jared Diamond](#) in his award-winning books, [Guns, Germs and Steel](#) and [The Third Chimpanzee](#) provides sociological and anthropological evidence for the rise of large scale warfare as a result of advances in technology and city-states. The rise of agriculture provided

a significant increase in the number of individuals that a region could sustain over hunter-gatherer societies, allowing for development of specialized classes such as soldiers, or weapons manufacturers. On the other hand, tribal conflicts in hunter-gatherer societies tend to result in wholesale slaughter of the opposition (other than perhaps females of child-bearing years) instead of territorial conquest or slavery, presumably as hunter-gatherer numbers could not sustain empire-building.^{[[citation needed](#)]}

Religious and political ideology

Main article: [Religious violence](#)



[1819 anti-Semitic riots in Frankfurt](#). On the left, two peasant women are assaulting a [Jew](#) with pitchfork and broom. On the right, a man wearing spectacles, tails, and a six-button waistcoat, "perhaps a pharmacist or a schoolteacher,"^{[[301](#)]} holds another Jew by the throat and is about to club him with a truncheon. A contemporary engraving by Johann Michael Voltz.

Religious and political ideologies have been the cause of interpersonal violence throughout history.^{[[311](#)]} Ideologues often falsely accuse others of violence, such as the ancient [blood libel](#) against Jews, the [medieval](#) accusations of casting [witchcraft](#) spells against women, caricatures of black men as “violent brutes” that helped excuse the late nineteenth century [Jim Crow laws](#) in the United States,^{[[321](#)]} and modern accusations of [satanic ritual abuse](#) against day care center owners and others.^{[[331](#)]}

Both supporters and opponents of the twenty-first century [War on Terrorism](#) regard it largely as an ideological and religious war.^{[[341](#)]}

Vittorio Bufacchi describes two different modern concepts of violence, one the “minimalist conception” of violence as an intentional act of excessive or destructive force, the other the “comprehensive conception” which includes violations of rights, including a long list of human needs.^{[[351](#)]}

[Anti-capitalists](#) assert that [capitalism](#) is violent. They believe [private property](#), [trade](#), [interest](#) and [profit](#) survive only because police violence defends them and that capitalist economies need war to expand.^{[[361](#)]} They may use the term "[structural violence](#)" to describe the systematic ways in which a given social structure or institution kills people slowly by preventing them from meeting their basic needs, for example the deaths caused by diseases because of lack of medicine.^{[[371](#)]} [Free market](#) supporters argue that it is violently enforced state laws intervening

in markets - [state capitalism](#) - which cause many of the problems anti-capitalists attribute to structural violence.^[38]

[Frantz Fanon](#) critiqued the violence of [colonialism](#) and wrote about the counter violence of the "colonized victims."^{[39][40][41]}

Throughout history, most religions and individuals like [Mahatma Gandhi](#) have preached that humans are capable of eliminating individual violence and organizing societies through purely [nonviolent](#) means. Gandhi himself once wrote: "A society organized and run on the basis of complete non-violence would be the purest anarchy."^[42] Modern political ideologies which espouse similar views include pacifist varieties of [voluntarism](#), [mutualism](#), [anarchism](#) and [libertarianism](#).

[edit] Health and prevention

The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) defines violence as "Injury inflicted by deliberate means", which includes assault, as well as "legal intervention, and self-harm".^[43] The [World Health Organization](#) (["WHO"](#)) in its first *World Report on Violence and Health* defined violence as "the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment or deprivation."^[44]

WHO estimates that each year around 1.6 million lives are lost worldwide due to violence. It is among the leading causes of death for people ages 15–44, especially of males.^[45]

Recent estimates for murders per year in various countries include: 55,000 murders in [Brazil](#),^[46] 25,000 murders in [Colombia](#),^[47] 20,000 murders in [South Africa](#), 15,000 murders in [Mexico](#), 14,000 murders in the [United States](#),^[48] 11,000 murders in [Venezuela](#), 8,000 murders in [Russia](#), 6,000 murders in [El Salvador](#), 1,600 murders in [Jamaica](#),^[49] 1000 murders in [France](#), 500 murders in [Canada](#), and 200 murders in [Chile](#).^[50]

[edit] Sports violence

Sports violence is defined as a behavior which causes harm, occurs outside the rules of the sport, and is unrelated to the competitive objectives of the sport. Violence is most prevalent in team contact sports such as ice hockey, football, and rugby. Violence in sports are very dangerous at times Both in fabrication and reality, violence is integrated into sporting events. This was very prevalent in [Greece](#) during the Olympic games where [Wrestling](#) and [Boxing](#) was an entertaining sport, many people would fight to the death in these spectacles. An even more well known and notorious example is in [Rome](#) where [Gladiators](#) would fight animals and other [Gladiators](#) until someone was killed in the process, also in theatre a scene that called for a person to be killed in a violent manner, they would indeed kill an actor or a step-in. In [Asia](#), martial arts became both a sport and a way of life for followers. Currently, [Boxing](#), [Professional Wrestling](#), Various [Martial Arts](#) and [Mixed Martial Arts](#) are a set of violent sports that have become forms of entertainment worldwide.

Criminal violence includes acts of violence that are extreme, severe and clearly not acceptable. This type of violence is seen as violating social norms of particular sports.

Child abuse

is the physical or psychological/emotional mistreatment of children^[citation needed]. In the United States, the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) define child maltreatment as any act or series of acts of commission or omission by a parent or other caregiver that results in harm, potential for harm, or threat of harm to a child.^[1] Most child abuse occurs in a child's home, with a smaller amount occurring in the organizations, schools or communities the child interacts with. There are four major categories of child abuse: [neglect](#), [physical abuse](#), [psychological/emotional abuse](#), and [child sexual abuse](#).

Different jurisdictions have developed their own definitions of what constitutes child abuse for the purposes of removing a child from his/her family and/or prosecuting a criminal charge. According to the *Journal of Child Abuse and Neglect*, child abuse is "any recent act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker which results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation, an act or failure to act which presents an imminent risk of serious harm".^[2]

Types

Child abuse can take several forms.^[3] The four main types are physical, sexual, psychological, and neglect.^[4]

Neglect

Main article: [Neglect](#)

Neglect is where the responsible adult fails to provide adequately for various needs, including physical (failure to provide adequate food, clothing, or hygiene), emotional (failure to provide nurturing or affection), educational (failure to enroll a child in school), or medical (failure to medicate the child or take him or her to the doctor).

Physical abuse

Main article: [Physical abuse](#)

Physical abuse is physical aggression directed at a child by an adult. It can involve striking, burning, bruising, choking or shaking a child. Shaking a child can cause a condition called [shaken baby syndrome](#), which can lead to intracranial pressure, swelling of the brain, diffuse axonal injury, and oxygen deprivation; which leads to patterns such as failure to thrive, vomiting, lethargy, seizures, bulging or tense fontanelles, altered breathing, and dilated pupils. The transmission of toxins to a child through its mother (such as with [fetal alcohol syndrome](#)) can also be considered physical abuse in some jurisdictions.

Most nations with child-abuse laws consider the infliction of physical injuries or actions that place the child in obvious risk of serious injury or death to be illegal. Beyond this, there is

considerable variation. The distinction between [child discipline](#) and abuse is often poorly defined. Cultural norms about what constitutes abuse vary widely: among professionals as well as the wider public, people do not agree on what behaviors constitute abuse.^[5]

Some human-service professionals claim that cultural norms that sanction physical punishment are one of the causes of child abuse, and have undertaken campaigns to redefine such norms.^[6]

The use of any kind of force against children as a disciplinary measure is illegal in 24 countries around the world.^[7] See [corporal punishment in the home](#) for more information.

Child sexual abuse

Main article: [Child sexual abuse](#)

Child sexual abuse (CSA) is a form of child abuse in which an adult or older adolescent abuses a child for sexual stimulation.^{[8][9]} Forms of CSA include asking or pressuring a child to engage in sexual activities (regardless of the outcome), [indecent exposure](#) of the genitals to a child, displaying [pornography](#) to a child, actual [sexual contact](#) against a child, physical contact with the child's genitals, viewing of the child's genitalia without physical contact, or using a child to produce [child pornography](#).^{[8][10][11]}

The effects of child sexual abuse include [depression](#),^[12] [post-traumatic stress disorder](#),^[13] [anxiety](#),^[14] propensity to [re-victimization](#) in adulthood,^[15] and physical injury to the child, among other problems.^[16] Sexual abuse by a family member is a form of [incest](#), and can result in more serious and long-term [psychological trauma](#), especially in the case of parental [incest](#).^[17] Child sexual abuse is also strongly connected to the development of [complex post-traumatic stress disorder](#) and [borderline personality disorder](#).^{[18][19]}

Approximately 15% to 25% of women and 5% to 15% of men were sexually abused when they were children.^{[20][21][22][23][24]} Most sexual abuse offenders are acquainted with their victims; approximately 30% are relatives of the child, most often brothers, fathers, mothers, uncles or cousins; around 60% are other acquaintances such as friends of the family, babysitters, or neighbors; strangers are the offenders in approximately 10% of child sexual abuse cases.^[20]

Psychological/emotional abuse

Main article: [Emotional abuse](#)

Out of all the possible forms of abuse, emotional abuse is the hardest to define. It could include name-calling, ridicule, degradation, destruction of personal belongings, [torture](#) or destruction of a pet, excessive [criticism](#), inappropriate or excessive demands, withholding communication, and routine labeling or [humiliation](#).^[25]

Victims of emotional abuse may react by distancing themselves from the abuser, internalizing the abusive words, or fighting back by [insulting](#) the abuser. Emotional abuse can result in

abnormal or disrupted [attachment disorder](#), a tendency for victims to blame themselves ([self-blame](#)) for the abuse, [learned helplessness](#), and overly passive behavior.^[25]

Consequences of physical abuse

Children who are physically abused are likely to receive bone fractures, particularly rib fractures,^[53] and may have a higher risk of developing cancer.^[54]

Prevention

April has been designated Child Abuse Prevention Month in the United States since 1983.^[55] U.S. President [Barack Obama](#) continued that tradition by declaring April 2009 Child Abuse Prevention Month.^[56] One way the [Federal government of the United States](#) provides funding for child-abuse prevention is through Community-Based Grants for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (CBCAP).^[57]

Resources for child-protection services are sometimes limited. According to Hosin (2007), "a considerable number of traumatized abused children do not gain access to protective child-protection strategies."^[58] Briere (1992) argues that only when "lower-level violence" of children ceases to be culturally tolerated will there be changes in the [victimization](#) and police protection of children.^[59]

Treatment

A number of treatments are available to victims of child abuse.^[60] Trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy, first developed to treat sexually abused children, is now used for victims of any kind of trauma. It targets trauma-related symptoms in children including [post-traumatic stress disorder](#) (PTSD), [clinical depression](#), and [anxiety](#). It also includes a component for non-offending parents. Several studies have found that sexually abused children undergoing TF-CBT improved more than children undergoing certain other therapies. Data on the effects of TF-CBT for children who experienced only non-sexual abuse was not available as of 2006.^[60]

Abuse-focused [cognitive behavioral therapy](#) was designed for children who have experienced physical abuse. It targets externalizing behaviors and strengthens prosocial behaviors. Offending parents are included in the treatment, to improve parenting skills/practices. It is supported by one randomized study.^[60]

Child-parent psychotherapy was designed to improve the child-parent relationship following the experience of domestic violence. It targets trauma-related symptoms in infants, toddlers, and preschoolers, including PTSD, aggression, defiance, and anxiety. It is supported by two studies of one sample.^[60]

Other forms of treatment include group therapy, play therapy, and art therapy. Each of these types of treatment can be used to better assist the client, depending on the form of abuse they have experienced. Play therapy and art therapy are ways to get children more comfortable with therapy by working on something that they enjoy (coloring, drawing, painting, etc.). The design of a child's artwork can be a symbolic representation of what they are feeling,

relationships with friends or family, and more. Being able to discuss and analyze a child's artwork can allow a professional to get a better insight of the child.^[61]

Ethics

One of the most challenging ethical dilemmas arising from child abuse relates to the parental rights of abusive parents or caretakers with regard to their children, particularly in medical settings.^[62] In the United States, the 2008 New Hampshire case of [Andrew Bedner](#) drew attention to this legal and moral conundrum. Bedner, accused of severely injuring his infant daughter, sued for the right to determine whether or not she remain on life support; keeping her alive, which would have prevented a murder charge, created a motive for Bedner to act that conflicted with the apparent interests of his child.^{[63][64][62]} Bioethicists [Jacob M. Appel](#) and [Thaddeus Mason Pope](#) recently argued, in separate articles, that such cases justify the replacement of the accused parent with an alternative decision-maker.^{[65][62]}

Organizations

There are organizations at national, state, and county levels in the United States that provide community leadership in preventing child abuse and neglect. The National Alliance of Children's Trust Funds and Prevent Child Abuse America are two national organizations with member organizations at the state level.

Other organizations focus on specific prevention strategies. The National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome focuses its efforts on the specific issue of preventing child abuse that is manifested as [shaken baby syndrome](#). [Mandated reporter](#) training is a program used to prevent ongoing child abuse.

International character of school violence

[\[edit\]](#) **Australia**

The Education Minister of the State of Queensland said in July 2009 that the rising levels of violence in schools were "totally unacceptable" and admitted that not enough had been done to combat violent behaviour. 55,000 students had been suspended in the state's schools in 2008, nearly a third of which were for "physical misconduct".^[1]

In South Australia, 175 violent attacks against students or staff were recorded in 2008.^[2]

[\[edit\]](#) **Belgium**

A recent study found that violence experienced by teachers in francophone Belgium was a significant factor in decisions to leave the teaching profession.^[3]

[\[edit\]](#) **Bulgaria**

Following "numerous reports over the past decade about school violence", the Education Minister in 2009 introduced stricter regulations about student behaviour, including inappropriate dress, being drunk, and carrying mobile phones. Teachers were to be given new powers to punish disruptive students.^[4]

[\[edit\]](#) France

The French Education Minister claimed in 2000 that 39 out of 75,000 state schools were "seriously violent" and 300 were "somewhat violent".^[5]

[\[edit\]](#) Japan

A survey by the Education Ministry showed that students at public schools were involved in a record number of violent incidents in 2007—52,756 cases, an increase of some 8,000 on the previous year. In almost 7,000 of these incidents, teachers were the target of assault.^[6]

[\[edit\]](#) Poland

In 2006, in response to the suicide of a girl after she was sexually molested in school, the Polish Minister of Education, [Roman Giertych](#), launched a "zero tolerance" school reform.^[7] Under this plan, teachers would have the legal status of [civil servants](#), making violent crimes against them punishable by higher penalties. [Head teachers](#) (equivalent to principals in the US) will be, in theory, able to send aggressive pupils to perform [community service](#) and these students' parents may also be fined. Teachers who fail to report violent acts in school could face a [prison sentence](#).^[8]

[\[edit\]](#) South Africa

The South African Human Rights Commission has found that 40% of children interviewed said they had been the victims of crime at school. More than a fifth of sexual assaults on South African children were found to have taken place in schools. Exposure to domestic violence, gangsterism, and drugs have had a substantial impact on student performance.^[9]

[\[edit\]](#) United Kingdom

A government inquiry in 1989^[10] found that 2 per cent of teachers had reported facing physical aggression.^[11] In 2007 a survey of 6,000 teachers by the teachers' trade union NASUWT found that over 16% claimed to have been physically assaulted by students in the previous two years.^[12] On the basis of police statistics found through a Freedom of Information request, in 2007 there were more than 7,000 cases of the police being called to deal with violence in schools in England.^[13]

In April 2009 another teachers' union, the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, released details of a survey of over 1,000 of its members which found that nearly one quarter of them had been on the receiving end of physical violence by a student.^[14]

In Wales, a 2009 survey found that two-fifths of teachers reported having been assaulted in the classroom. 49% had been threatened with assault.^[15]

[\[edit\]](#) United States

According to the U.S. [National Center for Education Statistics](#), school violence is a serious problem.^{[16][17]} In 2007, the latest year for which comprehensive data were available, a nationwide survey,^[18] conducted biennially by the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) and involving representative samples of U.S. high school students, found that 5.9% of students carried a weapon (e.g. gun, knife, etc.) on school property during the 30 days

antedating the survey. The rate was three times higher among males than among females. In the 12 months antedating the survey, 7.8% of high school students reported having been threatened or injured with a weapon on school property at least once, with the prevalence rate among males twice that as among females. In the 12 months antedating the survey, 12.4% of students had been in a physical fight on school property at least once. The rate among males was twice the rate found among females. In the 30 days antedating the survey, 5.5% of students reported that because they did not feel safe, they did not go to school on at least one day. The rates for males and females were approximately equal.

The most recent U.S. data^[19] on violent crime in which teachers were targeted indicate that 7 percent (10 percent in urban schools) of teachers in 2003 were subject to threats of injury by students. Five percent of teachers in urban schools were physically attacked, with smaller percentages in suburban and rural schools. Other members of school staffs are also at risk for violent attack, with school bus drivers being particularly vulnerable.^[20]