

Childhood Polyvictimization and Kenyan Young Adult Health Outcomes



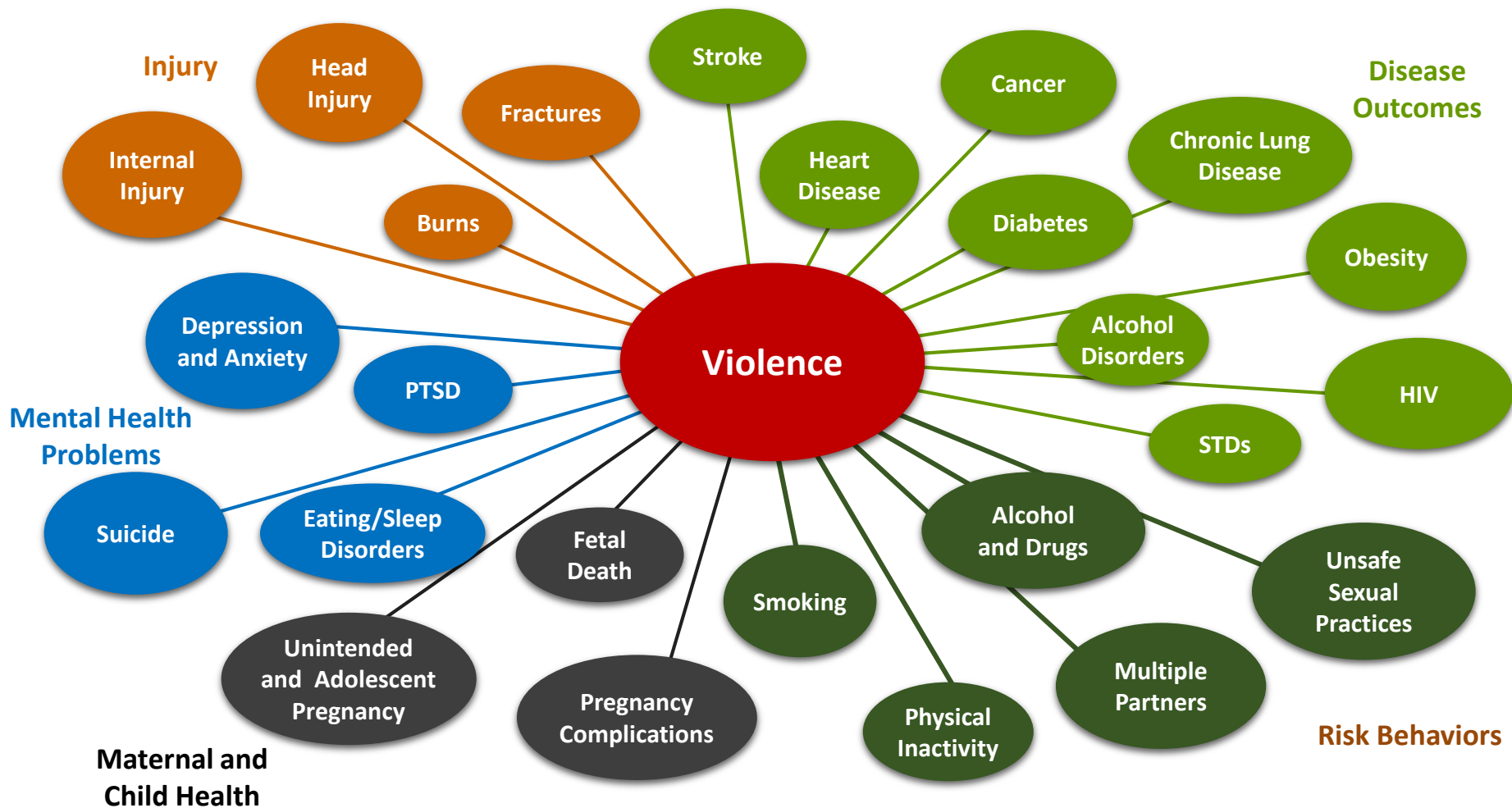
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Polyvictimization

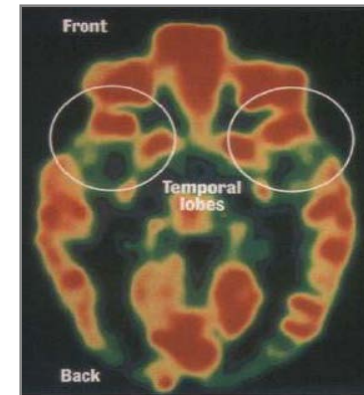
- Polyvictimization refers to the experience of multiple victimizations of different kinds
 - sexual abuse
 - physical abuse
 - emotional abuse
- Not just multiple episodes of the same kind of victimization.

Impact: Violence Against Children Causes Severe, Lifelong Consequences

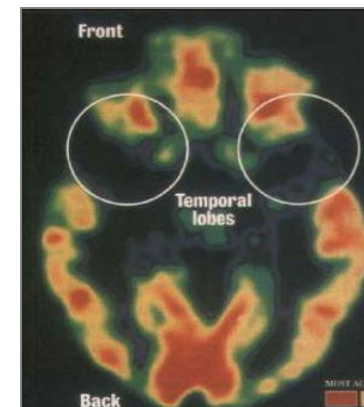


3 key concepts in early development

- Experiences help construct the brain architecture
- The interaction between “giving and receiving stimuli” transforms brain circuits
- Toxic stress interrupts healthy development

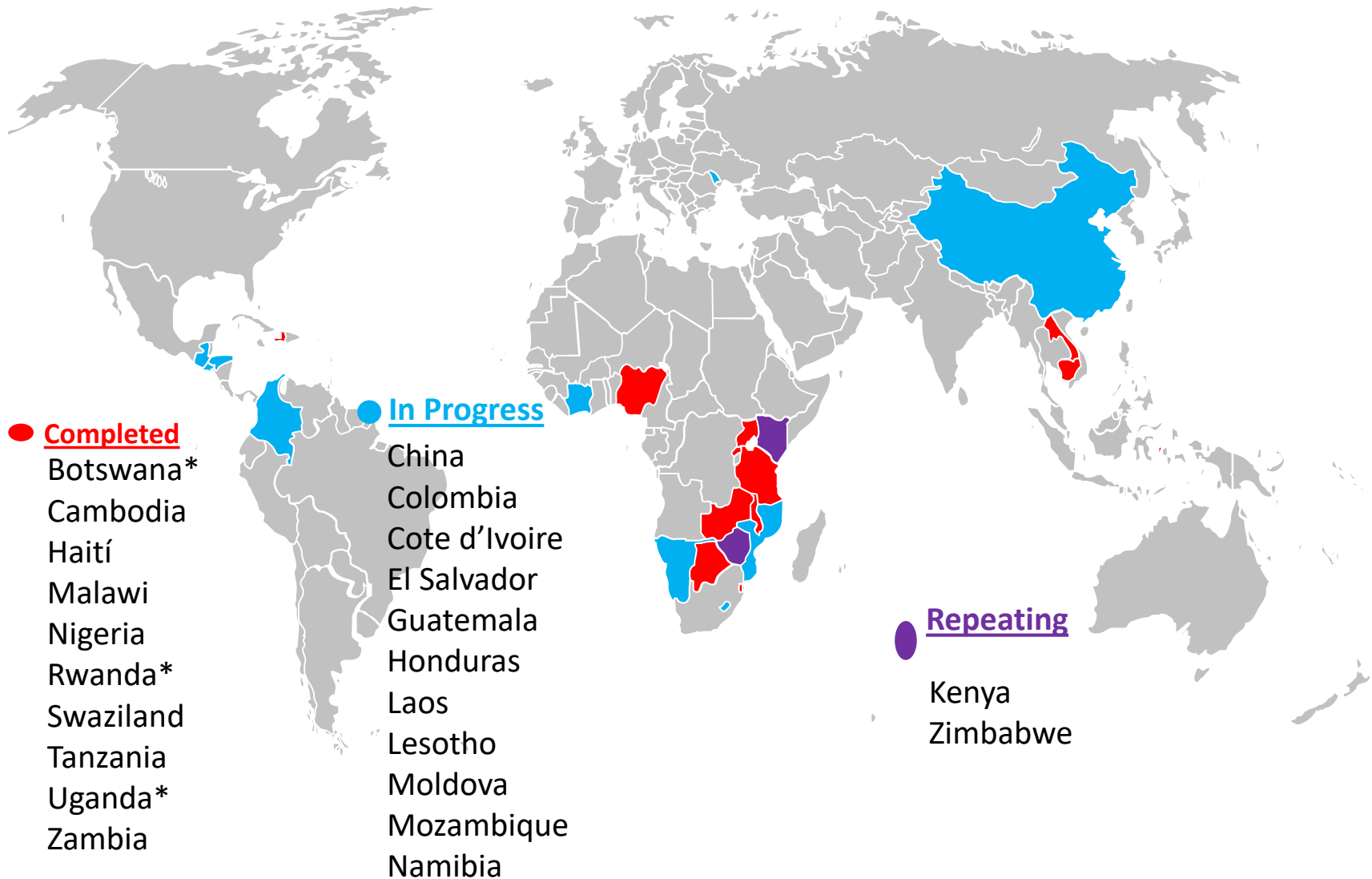


Healthy
brain



Brain
affected
by toxic
stress

Completed, In Progress, & Repeated VACS



*Countries have completed data collection. Reports are in development.



Kenya VACS Methods

- **National household survey**
- **Three-stage cluster sample survey design**
- **13-24 year old males & females**
- **Retrospective**
- **Surveys carried out by in-country institutions**
- **Extensive efforts to protect child respondents**





Outcome Variables

- Anxiety
- Depression
- Suicidal Thoughts
- Fair/Poor Health
- All are self-reported



Exposure variables

- Sexual Violence (SV)
- Physical Violence (PV)
- Emotional Violence (EV)
- Have enough money
- Orphanhood
- Polyvictimization= SV+PV; PV+EV; SV+EV; SV+PV+EV

Findings

- 75% of adults experienced some type of violence before age 18
 - physical violence being the most commonly reported type
- 33% females and males experienced more than one type of violence before age 18.



Logistic Regression Results: Females

	Anxiety	Depression	Suicidal Thoughts	Fair/Poor Health
Enough Money	-	0.5	-	0.5
2 Types of Violence	-	2.2	3.1	-
3 Types of Violence	3.1	2.9	5.5	-

Referent group is No Violence in Childhood

ORs presented are significant at $p < .05$

No significant associations for 1 type of violence

- No significant association

Decreases risk for the health condition

Increases risk for the health condition

Logistic Regression Results: Males

	Anxiety	Depression	Suicidal Thoughts	Fair/Poor Health
Enough Money	-	-	-	0.5
2 Types of Violence	2.2	-	6.8	2.5
3 Types of Violence	5.2	7.5	5.6	-

Referent group is No Violence in Childhood

ORs presented are significant at $p < .05$

No significant associations for 1 type of violence

- No significant association

Decreases risk for the health condition

Increases risk for the health condition

Discussion

- In comparison to no violence in childhood:
- Two or three types of violence in childhood is associated with anxiety, depression, and suicidal thoughts in young adults
- Among males, having two types of violence was significantly associated with fair/poor health
- Both males and females, having one type of victimization was not significantly associated with any of the assessed health outcomes



INSPIRE

7 Strategies to End Violence Against Children

I mplementation and enforcement of laws

N orms and value change

S afe environments

P arental and caregiver support

I ncome and economic strengthening

R esponse and support services

E ducation and life skills





Together to **INSPIRE**



**Closing Thoughts and
Questions**

