CASES video presentation – transcript

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| 1 | Thank you for your interest in the CASES project. This is a short video to provide a summary overview of the project and some of the headline findings and conclusions.This video complements other resources the team have developed.  |
| 2 | You can access all the CASES resources, including the general report, using this QR code or through the CPSS pages on the Edge Hill University website.  |
| 3 | The CASES-Project is built on a collaborative partnership of universities, research institutes and sport organisations. The project was led by Edge Hill University in partnership with the University of Wuppertal (Germany, co-lead). CASES is funded by the European Union (Erasmus+ programme for sport). Sport England also contributed additional funding.Alongside our other sport partners, *German Sport Youth* and *World Athletics*, we will continue to share our work with the sector as we delve further into the data produced by this study. |
| 4 | A key feature of the project was to disseminate the findings to the sport sector. Therefore, during November 2021, the team delivered six national symposia in each of the partner countries and one international symposium hosted by World Athletics in Monaco.Most events took place online, but some partners were able to deliver in-person events. |
| 5 | The national symposia focused on the national level data.This presentation focuses on the overall, combined data. |
| 6 | Turning to the research, our study was guided by the question: **What is the prevalence of interpersonal violence against children (who are active in organized sport) inside and outside sport?**This question enabled us to compare the volume of experiences *within* a sport context against experiences outside the sport context.We also framed additional sub-questions relating to the characteristics of ‘victims’, ‘perpetrators’, and other characteristics of the experience. We don’t include these data in this presentation, but this can be accessed via the main report, and the additional CASES resources.In order to answer these questions, the CASES team designed a questionnaire that was then administered online by the international market research company IPSOS MORI.  |
| 7 | The total CASES sample consists of 10,302 respondents (across six countries and seven national contexts (this includes two samples in Belgium). This is one of the largest samples, possibly *the* largest, ever studied internationally on this topic in sport.IM provided samples matched by age and gender. Respondents were aged from 18-30 with an average age of 24. Whilst this is not a random sample, IM provide panels that ensure all communities and demographics are appropriately represented. |
| 8 | Respondents were asked a range of questions about their sports participation.For example, in relation to *level* of sports participation, the majority were either *Recreational* or *Local Club* level participants.About a quarter had competed at a higher level, with 7% competing at the national level and 2% at the international level. |
| 9 | So now we look at some of the key findings based on the combined data. |
| 10 | This graph shows each national context or country. Data relating to experiences ‘inside sport’ are shown in the top, dark shaded bar. **Total sample=10,302:**Overall then:75% of respondents reported at least one experience of IVAC *inside* sport.82% of respondents reported at least one experience of IVAC *outside* sport. |
| 11 | Same graph:Therefore, overall, the prevalence of interpersonal violence against children inside sport is broadly similar across national contexts.*Inside sport*, interpersonal violence against children (across all categories) varies from 70% in Austria (lowest) to 80% in Belgium Brussels-Wallonia (highest). |
| 12 | Despite the rates of interpersonal violence against children inside sport, 85% of respondents rated their *overall experience of sport* as either ‘good (42%) or ‘very good’ (43%). **Adults who played sport in their youth are overwhelmingly positive about their overall experience of sport.**This is a very positive outcome for the sport sector … however it may also suggest that interpersonal violence is, to some degree, normalized within sport. |
| 13 | The graph shows experiences ‘inside sport’ in the dark shaded top bar, compared to outside sport, in all categories.So the prevalence of specific categories of interpersonal violence against children **inside** **sport** varies.The most common experience was * *psychological violence* (65%);
* followed by *physical violence* (44%);
* *neglect* (37%);
* and *non-contact sexual violence* (35%);
* the least common experience inside sport was *contact sexual violence* (20%).

The pattern outside sport differs somewhat: psychological violence remains the most common category, but sexual violence (both forms) has a significantly higher prevalence. |
| 14 | This graph shows each category of violence for males and females.The dark shaded lower bar shows the data for males, and the striped bar shows the data for females.In all categories, men report more experiences in sport than women. However, we emphasise that the rates for both are high, and that whilst the difference is interesting, especially given the emphasis in public discourse in this area, our focus is on children as a whole and this is more important than any apparent differences revealed by a gender analysis.  |
| 15 | The prevalence of interpersonal violence against children is lowest for respondents whose highest level of participation was ‘recreational sport’ and highest for those who competed in international sport. Overall, the prevalence is 68% at the recreational level and 84% at the international level. The jump from recreational sport to local competitive sport, in particular, seems to increase the risk of experiencing violence. |
| 16 | Separating violence (or abuse) into specific forms allows more detailed insight. However, it is important to note that one individual can experience multiple forms of violence. We will explore the issue of ‘overlap’ in future publications, but this diagram illustrates the point well – as you can see, 18% of respondents experienced all forms of IVAC. |
| 17 | This table shows the range, within each category, and the country that is highest and lowest in that range. |
| 18 | We also asked whether respondents had disclosed their experience.The majority (28-46%) said that they did not disclose at all. Family, friends and peers were the most frequent contact-points to disclose, and only a small proportion (4-6%) chose to disclose to someone from the field of sport. |
| 19 | So in summary, CASES found that:1. The experience of interpersonal violence against children in sport is widespread and commonplace; but that
2. Adults who played sport in their youth are also overwhelmingly positive about their general experience of sport.

We also found that:1. The overall prevalence of interpersonal violence against children who participate in sport is marginally lower *inside* sport than outside sport, but it is higher for physical violence and neglect.
2. *Psychological* violence is the most prevalent form of IVAC; inside sport sexual violence is the least prevalent category, yet 20% still report experiencing contact sexual violence.
3. Prevalence inside sport is broadly similar across national contexts, but differences do exist; and
4. Prevalence *inside sport* is higher for boys than girls in all categories and countries.
5. Prevalence is lowest for respondents in recreational sport and highest for those who competed in international sport before age 18.
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| 20 | Conclusion  |
| 21 | CASES has demonstrated that IVAC in sport is **a serious and widespread problem** thatevidently persists in all countries involved in this study. We see no reason to believe that this problem is confined to these countries alone, although wider international data is clearly required.For some countries (inside and outside this project), **prevention responses** from the sport sector have, to varying degrees, been slow, narrowly focused, poorly resourced, and with little or no independent oversight or evaluation. In some countries, despite over 30 years of international research and advocacy in this field, alongside the testimony of many abused athletes, policy implementation has barely begun. A key feature of addressing abuse in sport is to ensure that strategy is informed, not just by what leaders and their organisations see or believe, but also by **independent and robust scientific evidence**. CASES makes an important contribution to the evidential picture that sport leaders, legislators and policymakers require in their efforts to improve the experience of sport for *all* children and athletes. Addressing interpersonal violence against children in sport requires **cultural change**. This requires persistent and sustained effort from all stakeholders. It also requires **strong, proactive leadership** within all national contexts and across the whole sport sector. We leave it to those with the authority to make such decisions to determine the extent and timing of such change and the resources required.  |
| 22 | We offer these conclusions and recommendations on the basis of our findings. However, we also want to recognise that some countries and organisations have already undertaken substantial action in this regard and recognise that the distance some countries and organisations have travelled in the protection and safeguarding of children in sport may make these recommendations more or less relevant. We also want to recognise the persistent endeavours of individuals within the sport sector who work tirelessly and selflessly to provide meaningful and safe opportunities for children and for the improvement of children’s lives. Interpersonal violence, or abuse in sport, did not begin recently. Rather, it has always been a feature of sport, as it has in society. There is, then, in all countries, a hidden history of abuse and violence against children, in sport and beyond. As one survivor of sexual abuse in sport said, “you have to shine a light on the problem – you have to let the light in”.Survivors of abuse in sport have been shining a light on the problem for some time now. We hope this research contributes to those efforts. Thank you. |
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