

COMPARING ABUSED CHILDREN WITH OTHER CHILDREN IN SAUDI ARABIA FOR POSSIBLE PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS

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Overview

- ⦿ Introduction
- ⦿ Child abuse in Saudi Arabia
- ⦿ Questions addressed in the study
- ⦿ Method of assessment for:
 - ⦿ Abused children
 - 1- Procedure
 - 2- Diagnosis
 - a- Interviews
 - b- Instruments
 - ⦿ Non-abused children
 - 1- Recruitment
 - 2- Instruments
- ⦿ Results
- ⦿ Conclusion

Introduction

- ⦿ A worldwide problem.
- ⦿ Concern for different countries.
- ⦿ Presented in different places
- ⦿ Types of abuse

Types of Abuse

⦿ Physical abuse:

- It is any kind of hitting, kicking, pinching, choking or burning of another person which causes them harm or injury.

⦿ Emotional abuse:

- Emotional abuse or psychological abuse is any threat or verbal torment by caregivers.

⦿ Sexual abuse:

- Child sexual abuse occurs when a child has an interaction or contact involving sexual stimulation with an adult or older child.

⦿ Neglect:

- Neglect occurs when child's needs are unmet.

Child abuse in Saudi Arabia

- ⦿ Not recognized in Saudi until last decade.
- ⦿ In 1990-2000, there were 11 case reports investigated.
- ⦿ From 2010-2012, there were 616 cases.
- ⦿ Protecting children from abuse in Saudi.

Questions addressed in the study

- ⦿ Do abused children differ from non-abused in anxiety?
- ⦿ Or in behaviour problems?
- ⦿ What types of anxiety do abused children have?
- ⦿ And what behaviour problems?

Abused children

1. Procedure

- Initial approval was required from the Department of Child Protection in Saudi Arabia and Ulster University.
- Psychologists and sociologists were contacted to identify and interview the abused children and their families.
- Consent forms were needed for each child before the assessment could begin.

Participants

- ◎ Sixty seven abused children and nineteen caregivers (parents or guardians) participated in the study.
- ◎ Girls (43) and boys (24).
- ◎ Mean of age was 12.1

2. Diagnosis

- ⦿ Two methods of diagnosis were used:
 - 1- interviews
 - 2- Using instruments:
 - ⦿ Spence Children's Anxiety Scale (SCAS) for children.
 - ⦿ Child Behavioural Checklist (CBCL) for caregivers.

Interviews

- ◎ Each child had two interviews:
 - 1- First one was about general life.
 - 2- The second one was about the problems he or she faced.
- ◎ Interviewing caregivers.

Instruments

- Spence Children's Anxiety Scale (SCAS)
 - SCAS is a self-report questionnaire to assess anxiety issues in children which includes subscales as follow:

SCAS Subscales

- ⦿ Generalized anxiety
 - E.g. worried, feeling afraid, shaky or worried about bodily pains
- ⦿ Social phobia
 - E.g. fears of going to school, public places or any social event
- ⦿ Separation anxiety
 - E.g. fears of being home alone, away from family or sleeping alone
- ⦿ Panic agoraphobia
 - E.g. breathless, dizziness or sudden reactions of fear
- ⦿ Obsessive-Compulsive disorder
 - E.g. repeated activities or repeated thoughts
- ⦿ Fear of physical injury
 - E.g. being scared of the dark, heights, flying, dogs etc...

Instruments

- Child Behavioral Checklist (CBCL)
 - CBCL is another questionnaire assess the behavior of children which includes eight subscales as follow:

CBCL Subscales

1. Anxious/Depressed

- E.g. feeling unloved, fearful or worthless

2. Withdrawn/Depressed

- E.g. sad, withdrawn, enjoys little

3. Somatic Complaints

- E.g. headaches or stomachache

4. Social Problems

- E.g. too dependent on others or feeling lonely

CBCL Subscales

5. Thought Problems

- E.g. hearing or seeing strange things

6. Attention Problems

- E.g. confused or inattentive

7. Rule-Breaking Behavior

- E.g. cheating, lying or stealing and sexual problems

8. Aggressive Behavior

- E.g. destroying things and attacking others

Non-abused children: Recruitment

- ⦿ Initial agreement were obtained from Imams (Imam is the one who leads prayers) in different areas of Riyadh.
- ⦿ Fifty seven children and 39 parents were participated.
- ⦿ Boys (28) and girls (29).
- ⦿ The mean age was 12.3

Instruments used with non-abused children

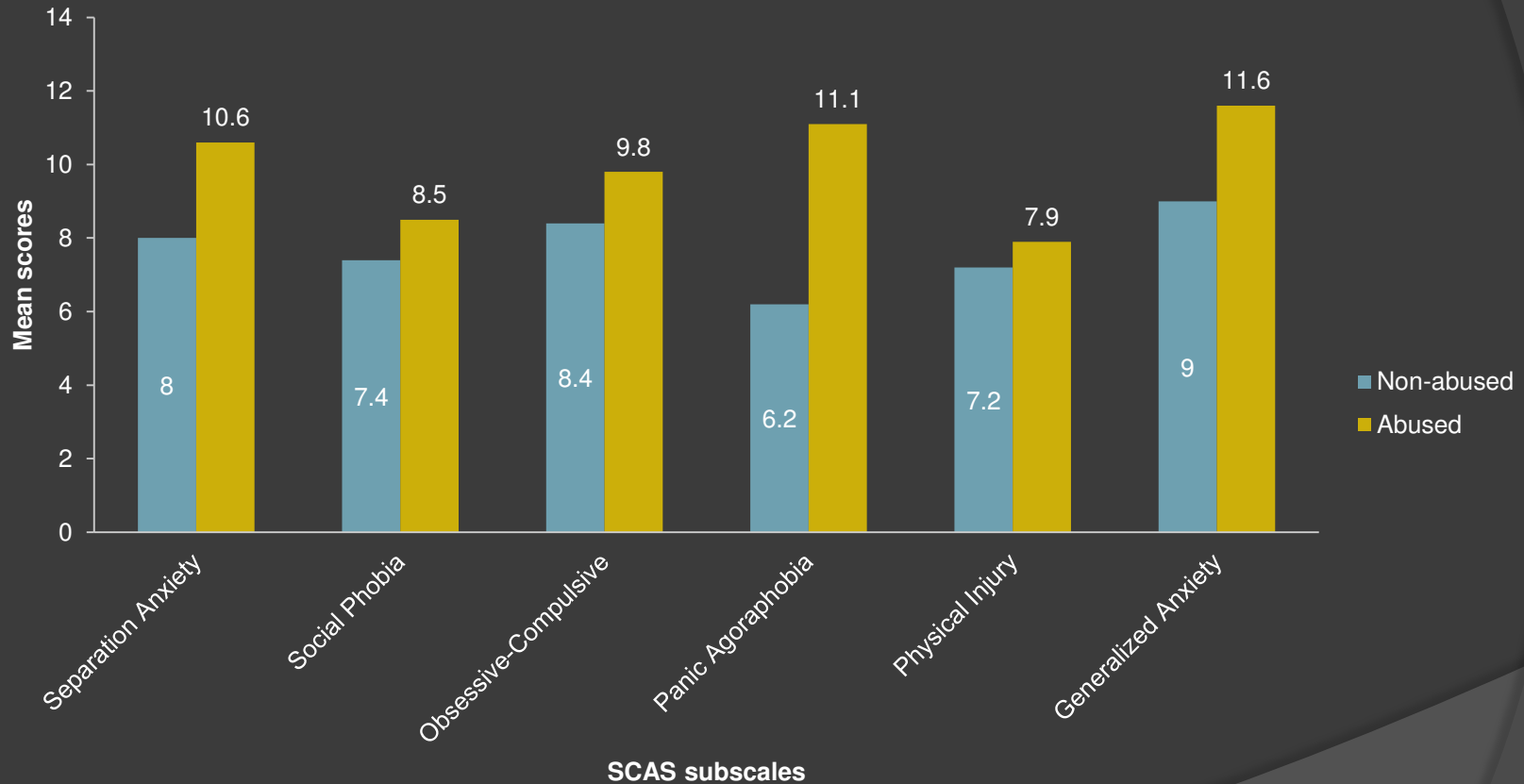
- ⦿ Instruments were the same ones that used with abused children which are:
- ⦿ Spence Children's Anxiety Scale (SCAS) for children.
- ⦿ Child Behavioural Checklist (CBCL) for caregivers.

Results

Results show that abused children have high level of anxiety problems in mean average than non-abused group

In SCAS

Differences between abused and non-abused children in SCAS



Comparisons between the total scores for all subscales in SCAS

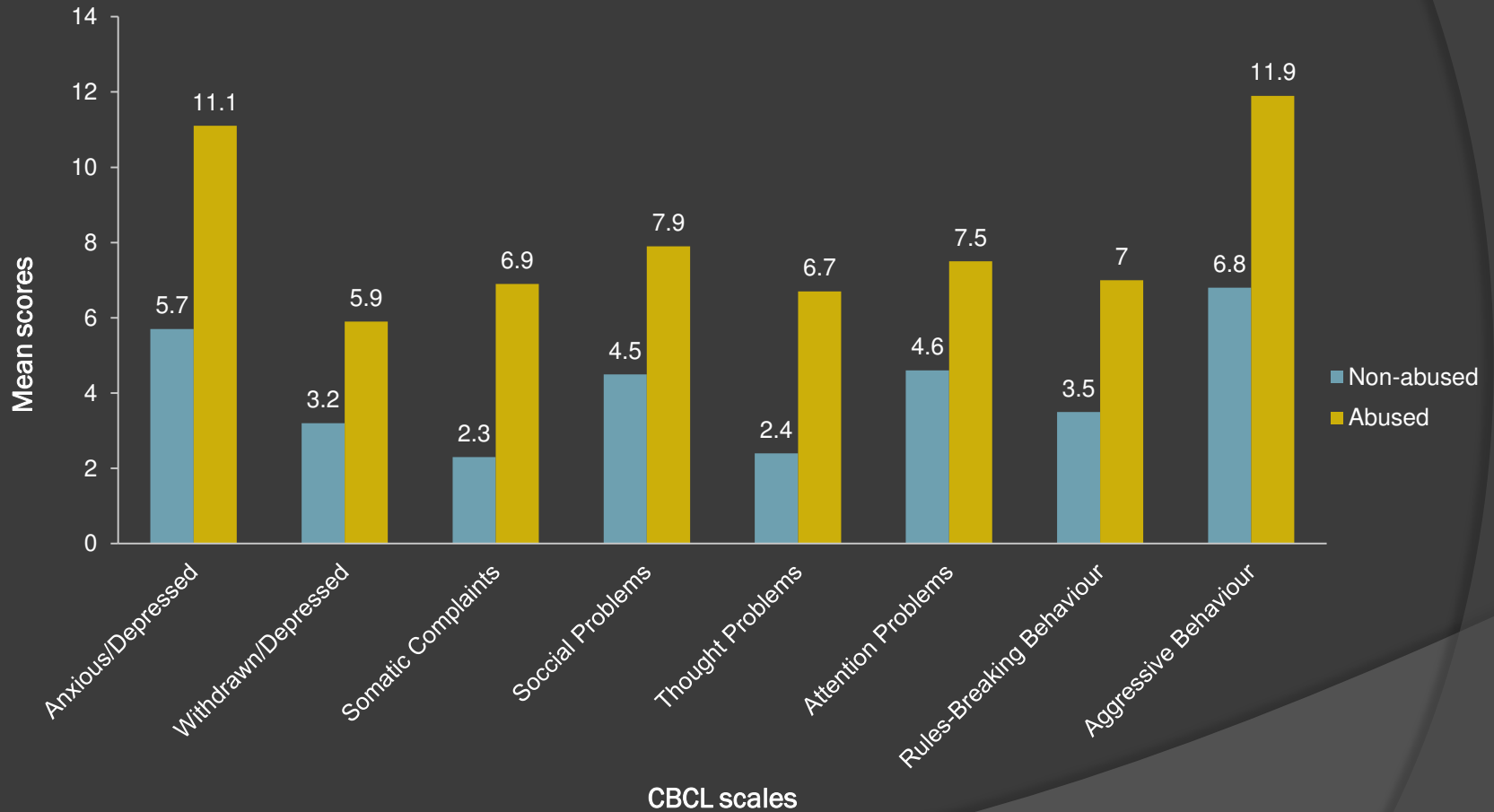
Age	Abused	Non-abused	Overall mean scores		T-test for equality of means		
			Abused	Non-abused	t	df	p
Boys aged 8-11	14	12	54.3	42	1.62	24	0.12
Boys aged 12-15	10	16	57.2	44.3	1.80	24	0.09
Girls aged 8-11	18	9	62.8	41.6	2.75	25	0.01
Girls aged 12-15	25	20	60.8	52.6	1.61	43	0.12

Results

- Results show that abused children have high level of behavioural problems more than non-abused group

In CBCL

Differences between abused and non-abused children in CBCL



Comparisons between the total scores for all subscales in CBCL

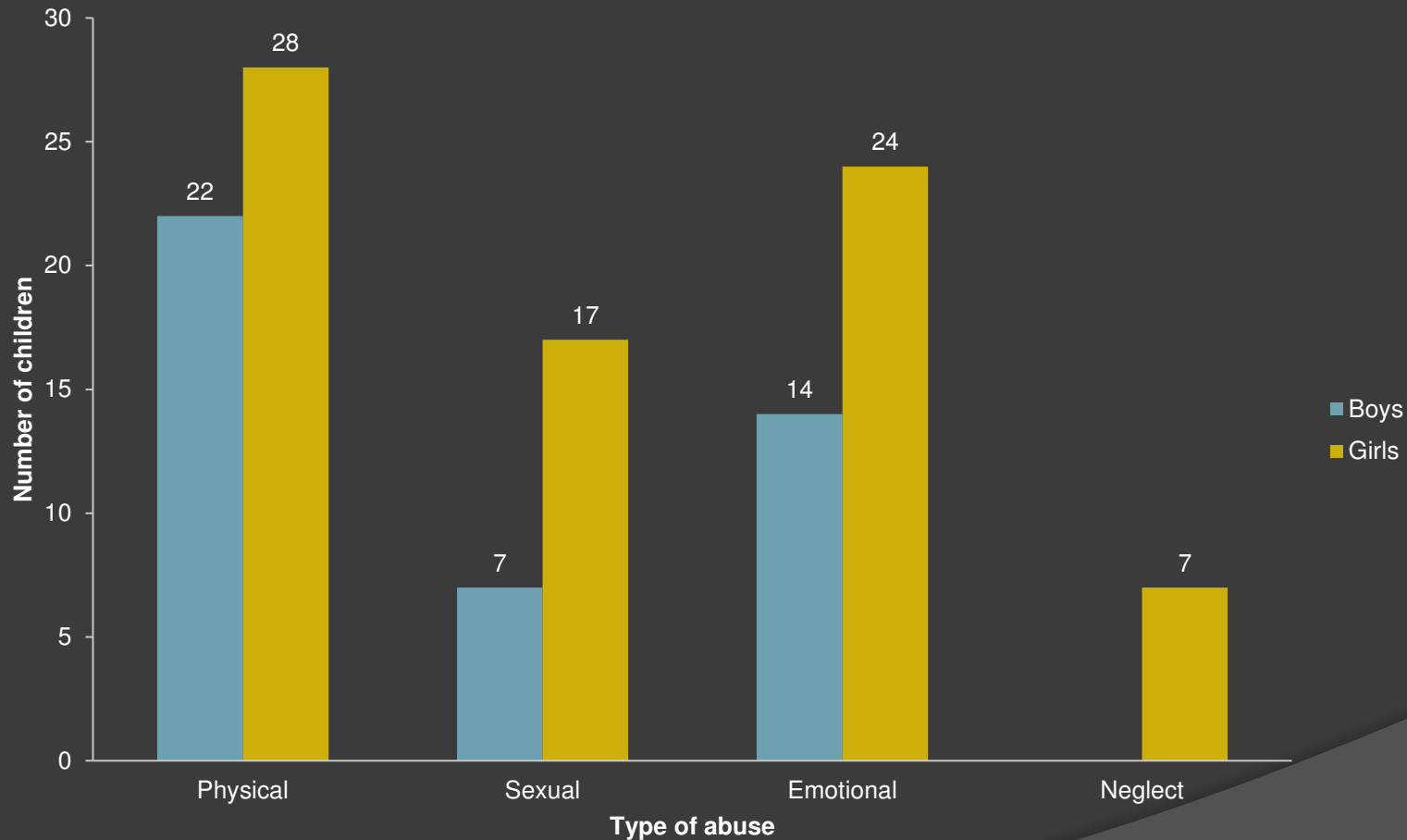
Ages	Abused	Non-abused	Overall mean scores		T-test for equality of means		
			Abused	Non-abused	T	df	p
Boys from 6-11	14	11	59.7	42.7	1.41	23	0.21
Boys from 12-18	10	14	71.8	28.5	3.33	11.24	0.01
Girls from 6-11	18	9	66.2	24.6	4.61	23.55	0.0001
Girls from 12-18	22	19	64.1	34.8	3.51	38.11	0.001

Further Results

Results

obtained from the
interviews with abused
children

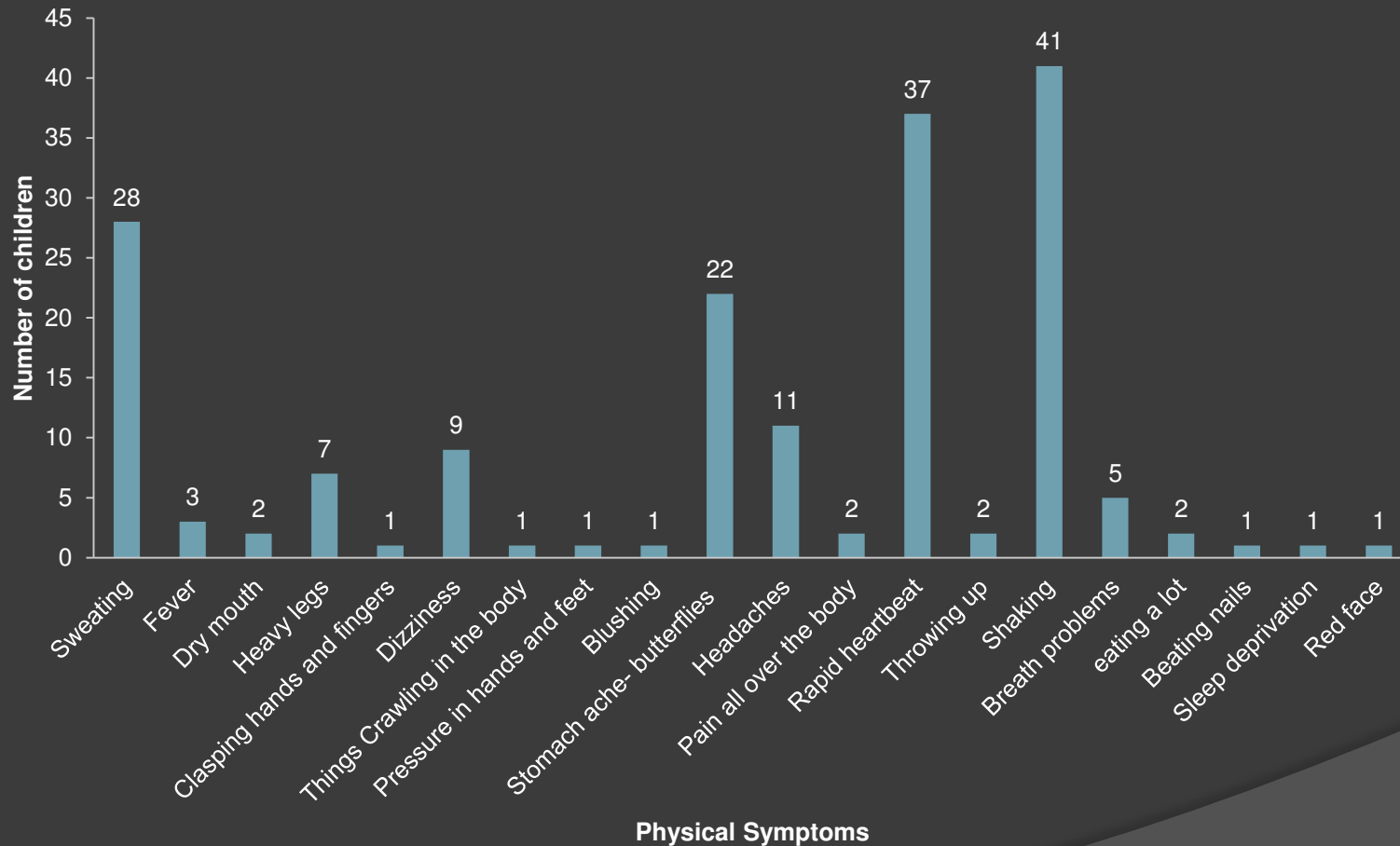
Further Results- Number of abused children in each type of abuse



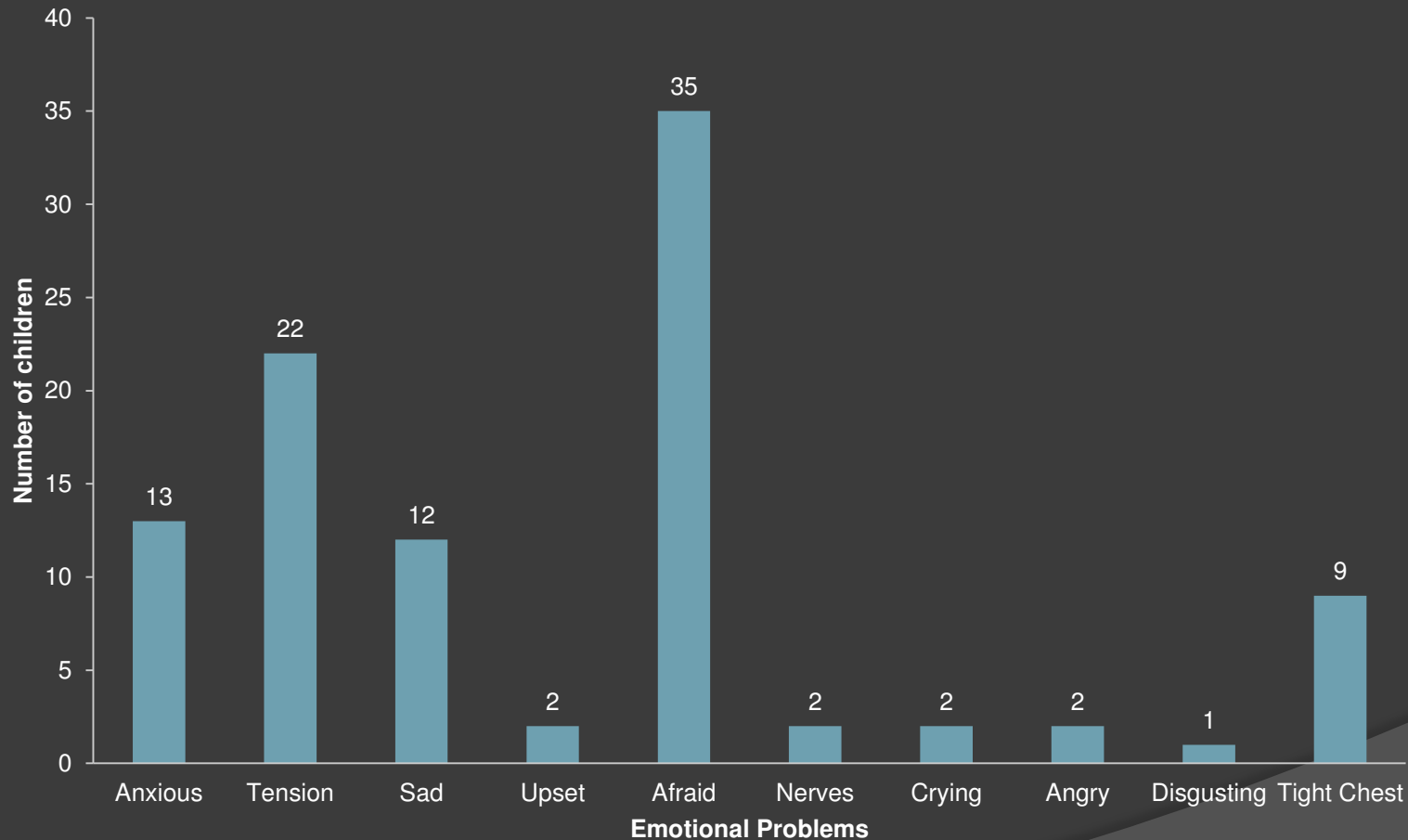
Further Results

Physical symptoms
and
Emotional complaints

Further Results- Physical symptoms in abused children



Further Results- Emotional complaints by abused children



Further Results

- ⦿ The most frequent perpetrator was the father (16), affecting 39 children.
- ⦿ The second frequent perpetrator was mother (4), affecting seven children.
- ⦿ The rest of perpetrators were various.

Conclusion

We conclude that abused and non-abused children in this study were seen to have a very high level of anxiety on SCAS except non-abused younger girls.

Conclusion

All abused children and younger boys of non-abused children seem to have high level of behavioural problems.

Conclusion

Services should address those types of psychological disorder that are common in Saudi children.

Thank you for your
attention

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