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**Title:** Violence and unintentional injuries in Tabriz high schools – A Global School based student Health Survey (GSHS) based study

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**Abstract:** Background: Unintentional injuries are a major cause of death and disability among young children. Each year about 875,000 children under the age of 18 die from injuries worldwide and 10 to 30 million have their lives affected by injury. Even victims of bullying experience increased stress and a reduced ability to concentrate, and are at increased risk for substance abuse, aggressive behaviors and suicide attempts. The purpose of the GSHS is to provide accurate data on health behaviors and protective factors among students to help countries develop priorities, establish programmes, and advocate for resources for school health and youth health programmes and policies; establish trends in the prevalence of health behaviors and protective factors for use in evaluation of school health and youth health promotion. Assessing the prevalence of violence and unintentional injuries is a part of this survey which has been done in Tabriz high schools in order to determine their prevalence and related factors.

**Method:** A cross-sectional survey was done by a cluster sample design to produce a representative sample of 400 students in first year of high school. Data collection was conducted for three months. Data was collected in such a way that student confidentiality was upheld by allowing for anonymity and voluntary participation as research ethics requirements. Students completed the self-administered questionnaire. The students were asked about any violence, bullying, unintentional injuries in last school year.

**Results:** Among respondents, 21% had corporal punishment which among them 31% was in school and 69% was done by parents. Percentage of students who had a physical fight once or more in last 12 months was 27% which it was significantly more in boys than girls. Fourteen percent of students were bullied on one or more days during the past 30 days. Among students who were bullied, 16% were bullied most often by being hit, kicked, pushed, shoved around, or locked indoors and 40% making fun of with dirty jokes, comments, or gestures. Physical injury due to traffic accidents was reported by 27% of students, 26% of all students did not use safety belts. There was no special education about violence and unintentional injuries in school in 58% of cases.

**Conclusion:** The prevalence of violence and injuries is more than expected in high schools of Tabriz and there is a need to introduce interventions and intensive educational programs to reduce the injuries.

**Keywords:** violence, unintentional injury, school health

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