

# 2009 Tanzania VACS Public Data File

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## SUMMARY

The Violence Against Children Survey (VACS) is a national population-based household survey designed to measure experiences of emotional, physical and sexual violence prior to age 18 among females and males aged 13 to 24 years old. Additional data is collected on the context in which sexual violence occurs, the perpetrators of sexual, physical, and emotional violence, service seeking for sexual violence, and the relationship of sexual, physical, and emotional violence with current health. To collect socioeconomic information, the VACS also includes a short demographic survey administered to the head of selected households. The VACS is used to inform development and implementation of a country-led multi-sector policy and programmatic response to violence against children.

The 2009 Tanzania VACS was guided by a National Multi-Sectoral Task Force (MSTF) consisting of government ministries and partners from social welfare, the police and legal system, education, health care, and HIV/AIDS sectors and civil society. The study was coordinated by United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Tanzania Country Office with technical guidance and assistance provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS). The Tanzania VACS was designed to: (1) estimate the national prevalence of sexual violence, physical violence, and emotional violence against boys and girls prior to age 18; (2) identify risk and protective factors; (3) identify health consequences; (4) assess knowledge, and utilization of services available as well as barriers to accessing such services; and (5) identify areas for further research and provide information to guide strategies to prevent, identify and respond to violence against children. The Tanzania VACS questionnaire included questions on background characteristics, sexual experiences, knowledge and attitudes towards HIV and HIV testing, general connectedness to family, friends, and community, experiences of sexual violence, physical violence, and emotional violence, health consequences of violence, and service-seeking behaviors. The MSTF reviewed and adapted the VACS core questionnaire. The paper and pencil questionnaire was administered in Kiswahili during private face to face interviews. No personal identifiers were collected for the study.

The VACS survey design utilizes a "split sample" approach, such that the survey for females is conducted in different enumeration areas (EAs) than the survey for males. This approach serves to further protect the confidentiality of respondents and helps eliminate the chance that a violence perpetrator and victim in the same community would both be interviewed. In the first stage, 100 EAs were randomly selected per region and then randomly assigned to males (50 EAs) or females (50 EAs). In the second stage, households were randomly selected per EA using a systematic sampling approach. In the third stage, one eligible participant aged 13-24 years (male or female according to the EA sex designation) was selected among all households with at least one eligible member using the Kish method. The following assumptions were used to estimate the sample size for each of the 4 groups: 1) for females in mainland Tanzania: 95% confidence interval (CI), +/-2.6% margin of error, estimated prevalence of forced sexual violence against female youth of 10.0%, and a design effect of 1.8; 2) for males in mainland Tanzania: 95% CI, +/-2.0% margin of error, estimated prevalence of forced sexual violence against male youth of 5.0%, and a design effect of 2.0; 3) for females in Zanzibar: 95% confidence interval (CI), +/-2.6% margin of error, estimated prevalence of forced sexual violence against female youth of 10.0%, and a design effect of 1.9; and 4) for males in Zanzibar: 95% CI, +/-2.0% margin of error, estimated prevalence of forced sexual violence against male youth of 5.0%, and a design effect of 2.0. The estimated sample size of households for each group was then increased based on the number of the target population by household and estimated response rates.

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Field work for the survey was conducted from 6 November to 5 December, 2009. A total of 8,693 households were visited during the study; 2,104 female households and 2,338 male households on mainland Tanzania, and 2,020 female households and 2,231 male households on Zanzibar. Household response rates were 98.3% for females and 97.7% for males on mainland Tanzania, and 98.2% for females and 97.0% for males on Zanzibar. Overall, 3,739 interviews were conducted and were divided across the four groups in the following manner: 1) 908 females on Mainland Tanzania; 2) 891 males on Mainland Tanzania; 3) 1,060 females on Zanzibar; and 4) 880 males on Zanzibar. The individual response rate varied slightly across the four groups: 1) 95.4% for females on Mainland Tanzania; 2) 96.0% for males on Mainland Tanzania; 3) 94.6% for females on Zanzibar; and 4) 93.9% for males on Zanzibar. Overall response rates were 93.8% for females and males, each, on mainland Tanzania, and 92.9% for females and 91.1% for males on Zanzibar.

Due to the complex sample design, clustering, stratification and sample weights should be taken into account during data analysis in order to obtain proper point estimates and variances. Users of the Tanzania VACS Public Data File should use statistical software packages such as SAS, SPSS, SUDAAN, or Stata that have specific analytic procedures for complex survey designs. VACS uses a three step weighting procedure: (Step 1) computation of base weight for each sample respondent; (Step 2) adjustment of the base weights for non-response; and (Step 3) post-stratification calibration adjustment of weights to known population. Base weights were calculated which are inversely proportional to the overall selection probabilities for each sample respondent (Step 1). In Step 2, base weights were adjusted to compensate for the losses in the sample outcome due to non-response. In this step, household-level non-response adjustment was performed by using weighted data by province and sex. In the final stage of the weighting process (Step 3), calibration adjustment was done to adjust weights to conform to the 2002 Government of Tanzania national population census distribution by region, sex, and age group. The final weights assigned to each responding unit were computed as the product of the base weights, the nonresponse adjustment factors and post-stratification calibration adjustment factors. The final weights were used in all analyses to produce estimates of population parameters. Because this survey included complex skip patterns, users should keep track of the multiple skip patterns to ensure the correct denominator is being used for analysis. Further details on the Tanzania VACS methodology can be found in the country report '*Violence Against Children in Tanzania: Findings from a National Survey, 2009*' available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/vacs/vacs-reports.html>