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| **Strategies for reducing violence against children in Hue City, Vietnam** |
| **Background/Objectives**Researches indicate that Violence against Children (VAC) is prevalent worldwide, although there is limited evidence of the nature and effects of violence during pregnancy and in the early lives of children in low and middle-income countries. In central Vietnam, there is a particular need for information on gaps between the services needed for the prevention of, and response to, VAC, and what should exist. This research aims to (i) assess unmet practical needs in Hue for services and response to prevention of VAC and (ii) identify the most important system-level challenges of providing better services and response for child protection and prevention of VAC in Hue.**Methods**Our qualitative research was applied with primary methods included desk-review of recent information and data, and semi-structured interviews with 11 key informants who are professionals working in this field in Hue city in central Vietnam. The present assessment was based on INSPIRE framework for ending VAC from WHO.**Results**The city government offers various programmes to promote child protection and interventions for child victims of abuse including: medical care, psychological therapy, arrangement of temporary safe accommodation, separation of children from the environment or persons who threaten or impose violence and/or exploit children. Some significant achievements include efforts from the provincial Women’s Union in promoting gender equality, strategies to secure basic, adequate family income and provision of information and education to raise awareness in the community. However, due to lack of resources and evidence-based program evaluation, many services are not well-activated or are not used effectively (e.g. use of temporary shelters, uptake of mental health screening and psychological services, helpline). There is insufficient capacity in professional human resources and lacking of supportive policy for village collaborators to reach families with multiple vulnerabilities. **Discussion**To improve mother and child well-being in Hue city, multifaceted health and welfare policies should be supported to improve community – based services and response to child victims of violence. This findings supports calls to enhance existing programs to promote gender equality and raise awareness of the serious consequences if violence against pregnant women, new mothers and young children.**Keywords**Violence against children, Hue, Vietnam, pregnant women |