Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic Process on Violence against Children

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The COVID-19 pandemic is upending many aspects of children's lives around the world, putting them at risk of violence. With the spread of the disease and the associated economic and social effects, the violence may be further deepened. Similarly, the increase in children's computer usage time with distance education may lead to other forms of violence such as cyberbullying. In a study comparing child abuse and neglect before and after the closure of schools due to the pandemic, significant increases were found in the incidence of these cases, making a unique contribution to the existing literatüre. On the other hand, it has been reported that school closures and national quarantines, teachers and health workers who often detect and report cases of child maltreatment, no longer interact with children regularly, so that reporting of violence decreases and violence remains hidden, so caution should be exercised. For this reason, it was emphasized that the measures to stay at home will not mean a decrease in violence, and that the pandemic created a mask effect by keeping the violence secret. It is recommended that all professionals who work closely with children and families should be careful in terms of awareness, and to conduct research on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on violence against children.