Peace Studies and Practice
Journal of the Society of Peace Studies and Practice

2024 Edition, Vol. 13, No. 1
Pp 77-86

EFFECT OF NEIGHBOURHOOD INSECURITY ON CHILDREN IN AJIBODE COMMUNITY OF IBADAN, OYO STATE, NIGERIA

Professor Ruth O. Adio-Moses
&
Ohita Princess Asije

Abstract
The challenge of insecurity in Nigeria has led to individuals making personal security arrangements to protect themselves and their families. Urban and rural neighbourhoods are meant to be safe for children to play around with their friends and feel free without fear, but this has not been the case in recent times in Nigeria. Children are not spared from the growing threat of neighbourhood insecurity as reports show that they are no longer safe in their homes, communities and schools. Their exposure to crimes such as rape, assault, kidnapping, indiscriminate killings, thuggery, burglary, presence of hoodlums, theft, drug and sex abuse, banditry, armed robbery, juvenile delinquency, ethnic conflict and militancy have dare consequences with the resultant effect on them. The effects of insecurity have been studied and documented by various researchers but literature on the effects of insecurity on children especially in the study area is scarce. This study therefore examined the effect of neighbourhood insecurity on children in the Ajibode community of Ibadan, Oyo State. Three objectives guided this descriptive survey, and a multistage sampling technique was used to select 126 parents with children between the ages of 6 to 12 as respondents. A questionnaire was used for data collection and descriptive statistics was used to analyse the data collected. The research findings indicated that neighbourhood insecurity greatly affects children physically, psychologically and psychosocially. In recommendation, parents and children should be educated on how to recognise different security threats and their early warning signs and how to protect themselves. The government should take an active and holistic role in curbing neighbourhood insecurity by tackling the root causes of insecurity and by providing youth-friendly community counselling services.

KeyWords: Neighbourhood Insecurity, Effects of Neighbourhood Insecurity, Insecurity and Children

Introduction

A secure environment fosters optimal productivity and positively impacts citizens' physical and mental health. Globally, insecurity remains a challenge, with modern governments continually seeking new strategies for ensuring safety. Nigeria is a densely populated country facing a significant crime rate despite extensive security efforts. Crimes such as kidnapping, assassinations, armed robbery, killings by terrorist groups, rape, and various forms of assault are prevalent. Ogunsanya (2021) stated that insecurity has plagued Nigeria since its independence in 1960, evolving through different forms of violence. Neighbourhood insecurity has recently intensified, creating widespread fear regarding the safety of lives and properties. The high rate of insecurity has prompted Nigerian citizens to adopt personal security measures to protect their neighbourhoods.

Akanji (2022) noted that individuals and communities are taking unorthodox steps to safeguard themselves. Over the past decade, neighbourhoods in Nigeria have faced political violence, arms proliferation, kidnapping, rape, tribal wars, and killings by terrorist groups. Crimes like thuggery, burglary, theft, banditry, homicide, drug dealing, and armed robbery plague many neighbourhoods (Baumann and Friehe, 2013). This insecurity affects residents' satisfaction, pleasure, and happiness within their neighbourhoods, making them fear for the safety of their children (Ceccato and Wilhelmsson, 2020). Children in Nigeria have not been spared from the horrors of insecurity. Schools and homes, which should be safe havens, are increasingly dangerous. Incidents of incest, paedophilia, assault, and kidnaping have been reported nationwide. Northern Nigerian schools have become terrorist targets, leaving children in constant fear. Human Rights Watch (2016) reported the abduction of 276 schoolgirls by Boko Haram in April 2014, with about 219 remaining in captivity. Subsequent abductions, such as the kidnaping of over 100 girls from Dapchi, Yobe State in February 2018 (BBC, 2018), have devastated families and communities. Neighbourhood insecurity significantly impacts children's physical, psychological and psychosocial development. This article investigates the effects of neighbourhood insecurity on children through research, offering recommendations for the government and stakeholders to protect children in the Ajibode Community of Ibadan, Oyo State.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The growing threat of neighbourhood insecurity affects children even more because they are no longer safe in their homes, neighbourhoods, or schools. They come into contact with crimes including terrorism, kidnapping, assault, and rape. Residents of the community experience dread and anxiety as a result of neighbourhood insecurity. The Ajibode community in Ibadan, Oyo State is facing a security challenge that threatens the development and well-being of children due to high levels of neighbourhood insecurity. Children who grow up in unstable neighbourhoods have poor mental health and depression from an early age (Theall et al, 2017). An atmosphere of dread and instability is created by incidences like kidnapping, armed robbery, assaults, and terrorist operations continuing despite numerous security measures. This insecurity not only impacts the physical safety of children in the neighbourhood but also profoundly impacts their psychological and social development.

According to the American Psychological Association (2024), children raised in violent and unsafe neighbourhoods are more likely to develop brain dysfunction that affects them academically and behaviour-wise. The lack of a safe environment affects children's ability to thrive academically and socially, leading to long-term detrimental effects on their mental health and overall well-being. This paper investigates how neighbourhood insecurity affects children in the Ajibode community of Ibadan, Oyo state aiming to provide comprehensive insights and recommendations for mitigating these adverse effects and improving the safety and security of the community.

RESEARCH AIM AND OBJECTIVES

The research paper aims to investigate the effect of neighbourhood insecurity on children in the Ajibode Community of Ibadan, Oyo state. To achieve this, the paper has the following objectives:

1.To identify the physical effects of neighbourhood insecurity on children in the Ajibode community of Ibadan, Oyo state.

2. To assess the psychological effects of neighbourhood insecurity on children in the Ajibode community of Ibadan, Oyo state.

3. To examine the psychosocial effects of neighbourhood insecurity on children in the Ajibode community of Ibadan, Oyo state.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1.How does neighbourhood insecurity affect children physically in the Ajibode community of Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria?

2.What are the psychological effects of

neighbourhood insecurity on children in the Ajibode community of Ibadan, Oyo state?

3.What are the psychosocial effects of neighbourhood insecurity on children in the Ajibode community of Ibadan, Oyo state?

LITERATURE REVIEW

The rate of insecurity in Nigerian neighbourhoods is seen through frequent reports of Boko Haram insurgents in the north and northeast, banditry, kidnapping, religious killings and illegal mining in the northwest, ritual killings, kidnapping, armed robbery, cybercrimes, farmer-herder crisis, domestic violence in the south-west and east (Abalogu and Okolo, 2022). Several factors have contributed immensely to the level of insecurity in Nigeria. Some of these factors affect the daily lives of parents and children in neighbourhoods. Factors such as:

Poverty and Unemployment:
There has been an increase in the rate of poverty and unemployment especially among youths in the country. This rise has allowed many to turn to criminal activities as a solution to poverty. Idowu (2021), opined that youth unemployment can be linked to violent crimes in the country. This linkage suggests that the continuous inequitable distribution of wealth in the country will lead to constant insecurity.

Insufficient Security Coverage:
According to Achumba et al., (2013), there is a shortage of armoury and weapons for the police to tackle crimes thereby causing low coverage of security personnel in crime hotspots. The police-to-public ratio is also below the international expected standard. This implies that there is a shortage of police to combat insecurity in the country.

Organized Criminal Groups:
There is the presence of several organized criminal groups in Nigeria that perpetuate violence leading to insecurity. Groups like ethno militia, religious fanatics, secret cults and politically motivated thuggery. These groups have greatly impacted neighbourhoods causing children to live in fear.

Neighbourhood insecurity has become a prevalent issue affecting several aspects of children's lives, particularly in areas with high crime rates and socio-economic challenges. They are exposed to crimes such as rape, assault, kidnapping and terrorism. These security challenges significantly affect children's physical, psychological, and social well-being (Abidoye,2021). These effects include:

Physical Effects
Neighbourhood insecurity affects children physically and they often exhibit numerous physical health problems. According to Fernandez et al., (2024), chronic exposure to violence and crime can lead to somatic symptoms such as headaches, stomachaches, and sleep disturbances in children. These symptoms are a direct result of stress-related physical manifestations from living in a state of constant fear. The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that children in conflict zones or high-crime areas are more prone to health issues stemming from stress and anxiety, this indicates that there is a relationship between neighbourhood insecurity and physical health problems.

Other researchers like Theall et all, (2017) noted a correlation between neighbourhood insecurity and biological stressors in children, the study further concluded that exposure to neighbourhood insecurity in children results in negative health effects. Children are exposed to physical harm while living in insecure neighbourhoods. These harms may end up in injuries caused by violence during armed robberies, kidnappings, and assaults (Lopez-Tamayo et al., 2022).

Psychological Effects
Freeze (2019) highlights that children in areas that are susceptible to crimes are more likely to develop psychological problems like anxiety, depression, and emotional dysregulation. These psychological disturbances are compounded by the fear of violence, leading to chronic stress and trauma. Human Rights Watch (2016) documented the abduction of 276 schoolgirls by Boko Haram in Nigeria, illustrating the extreme psychological trauma children endure

in such environments. The prolonged exposure to violence not only affects their mental health but also impairs cognitive functions, leading to difficulties in academic performance and social interactions. Living in a neighbourhood where there are threats of violence and crime are rampant, children in these neighbourhoods experience heightened levels of anxiety, fear and frustration. Exposure to traumatic events such as witnessing violence, experiencing kidnaping, or other forms of assault can result in PTSD. Symptoms include flashbacks, nightmares, severe anxiety, and uncontrollable thoughts about the event.

Chronic exposure to a threatening environment can lead to depression in children which results in symptoms like persistent sadness, loss of interest in activities, changes in appetite and sleep patterns, and feelings of hopelessness (Pickles et al., 2020). Children living in insecure neighbourhoods may exhibit behavioural issues such as aggression, defiance, and hyperactivity. This can be a response to the stress and instability they experience, leading to difficulties in school and social interaction. Chronic stress and anxiety can negatively impact cognitive functions, including memory, attention, and decision-making skills.

Children in insecure environments may struggle academically due to these cognitive impairments. The constant fear and anxiety associated with living in an insecure neighbourhood can lead to sleep disorders such as insomnia or nightmares. Poor sleep can further exacerbate other psychological issues and impact overall well-being. Children in high-crime areas may struggle with emotional regulation. Exposure to traumatic events can result in heightened emotional responses, such as anger, sadness, or numbness, making it difficult for them to manage their emotions effectively (Smith and Pollak, 2020).

Psychosocial Effects

The social consequences of neighbourhood insecurity further exacerbate the challenges faced by children. Children in insecure environments often exhibit social withdrawal and a lack of trust in others, as noted by DiMaria (2020). This social isolation can hinder their development of healthy relationships and community engagement. Additionally, insecurity has a detrimental effect on academic performance. O'Brien, Hill and Contreras (2021) suggest that children exposed to violence and crime are more likely to miss school, have lower academic achievements, and exhibit behavioural problems. The stress and trauma from their environment disrupt their ability to concentrate and learn effectively, creating a cycle of educational disadvantage. Neighbourhood insecurity can lead to difficulties in forming and maintaining healthy social relationships. Children may develop trust issues, become overly cautious, or exhibit aggressive behaviour, which can alienate peers and hinder the development of positive social interactions (DiMaria, 2020). Constant exposure to violence and crime undermines children's sense of safety and stability. This insecurity can lead to a persistent feeling of vulnerability and fear, affecting their overall sense of well-being and security.

Insecure neighbourhoods can limit children's opportunities for community engagement. Fear of violence may prevent them from participating in community activities, sports, or social events, leading to social isolation and reduced community cohesion. The stress and anxiety associated with living in an insecure environment can negatively impact children's academic performance. Difficulty concentrating, increased absenteeism, and lack of motivation can result in lower educational attainment and limited future opportunities (O'Brien, Hill and Contreras, 2021). Living in a dangerous environment can affect children's self-esteem and identity formation. They may develop a negative self-image or feel powerless and insignificant, which can have long-term implications for their mental health and personal development.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This study employs a descriptive survey design to investigate the effects of neighbourhood insecurity on children in the Ajibode

community of Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria. Data was collected using a structured questionnaire distributed to the selected parents. The questionnaire included Likert scale items to measure the degree of agreement or disagreement with statements regarding their children's experiences and responses to neighbourhood insecurity. This format facilitated the quantification and statistical analysis of parents' observations.

Population of the Study
A total of 126 parents were selected, ensuring a sufficient sample size to achieve statistical significance and allow for meaningful analysis of the data collected.

Sampling Technique
A multistage sampling technique was used, incorporating networking, cluster sampling, and purposive sampling to select a sample of 126 parents of children aged 6 to 12. The focus on children aged 6 to 12 is based on the National Institute for Health's categorization of this age group as a critical period for cognitive and social development. During these years, children are particularly vulnerable to external stressors, and their developmental trajectories can be significantly influenced by their environment. Understanding the impact of neighbourhood insecurity on this specific age group provides valuable insights into the broader implications for their overall development and future well-being. This approach ensures a representative and manageable sample size, providing a robust basis for analysing the effects of neighbour hood insecurity on children. The data was sampled in three different stages as follows;

STAGE ONE
Networking:
Initially, informal networks were established by approaching landlords through the Landlord Association Forum in the Ajibode Community of Ibadan, Oyo state to identify and compile a list of households with children aged 6 to 12. This stage helped in gaining access to potential participants and ensured community engagement and trust.

STAGE TWO
Cluster Sampling:
The Ajibode community was divided into clusters based on residential areas. This method has helped to reduce travel time and logistical challenges while ensuring that all parts of the community were represented in the sample.

STAGE THREE
Purposive Sampling:
Within each cluster, parents of children aged 6 to 12 were purposively selected based on their willingness to participate and the specific age categorization of their children as defined by the National Institute of Health (NIH). The NIH categorizes children aged 6 to 12 as being in a critical developmental stage where external factors significantly impact their physical, psychological, and social well-being.

Data Analysis
The data collected was analyzed using descriptive statistics, including percentages to present the data. This analysis provided an overview of the prevalence and intensity of the effects of neighbourhood insecurity on children in the Ajibode community.

FINDINGS
OBJECTIVE ONE: To identify the physical effects of neighbourhood insecurity on children in the Ajibode community of Ibadan, Oyo state.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
My child frequently complains of physical ailments such as headaches or stomach aches	25.4%	9.5%	38.9%	18.3%
My child shows signs of fatigue or lack of energy during the day.	8.7%	19%	27%	36.5%
My child has had physical injuries as a result of violence in the neighbourhood	13.5%	9.5%	36.5%	19.8%
My child avoids playing outside or engaging in physical activities due to fear of violence.	15.1%	9.5%	31%	35.7%
My child has developed unhealthy eating habits	15.1%	15.9%	37.3%	23.8%

"My child avoids playing outside or engaging in physical activities due to fear of violence" was ranked highest with a majority of 66.7% of respondents agreeing with the assertion. The findings suggest that there is a concerning pattern where neighbourhood insecurity significantly impacts children's physical health and behaviour. 61.1% of parents agreed that their child developed unhealthy eating habits due to stress and fear impacting their physical health. These findings suggest that parents have noticed a pattern of physical ailments, fatigue, physical injuries, avoidance of outdoor activities, and unhealthy eating habits, suggesting that children in the Ajibode community are severely affected by the insecurity in their neighbourhood.

OBJECTIVE TWO: To assess the psycho logical effects of neighbourhood insecurity on children in the Ajibode community of Ibadan, Oyo state.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
My child frequently exhibits hei emotional responses such as anger or s	11.9%	8.7%	28.6%	34.1%
My child often appears anxious or about safety and security.	21.4%	12.7%	36.5%	19.8%
My child has difficulty regulatin emotions in stressful situations.	9.5%	15.9%	27.8%	35.7%
My child has trouble focusing on tasks and appears distracted	12.7%	10.3%	38.9%	21.4%
My child shows signs of nervous restlessness, particularly when dis neighbourhood safety.	15.9%	9.5%	28.6%	35.7%

"My child shows signs of nervousness or restlessness, particularly when discussing neighbourhood safety" ranked highest in agreement with 64.3% of parents responding positively to this assertion. This finding is supported by research conducted by Theall et al., (2017) which noted that children exposed to violence in their neighbourhoods are more likely to be psychologically vulnerable leading to heightened emotional responses. "My child has difficulty regulating their emotions in stressful situations" closely follows with 63.5% of parents agreeing to this assertion. These findings indicate that the insecurity in the neighbourhood has considerable psychological effects on children in the Ajibode community of Ibadan, Oyo state. Most parents agreed that their children often experienced heightened emotional responses, anxiety, difficulty regulating emotions, trouble focussing, and nervousness which indicates that a significant percentage of children in the Ajibode community are psychologically affected by their environment.

OBJECTIVE THREE: To examine the psychosocial effects of neighbourhood insecurity on children in the Ajibode Community of Ibadan, Oyo state.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
My child has difficulty making new friends.	15.1%	16.7%	38.1%	21.4%
My child avoids participating in community activities or events due to fear of violence.	9.5%	10.3%	29.4%	34.1%
My child often expresses distrust towards others.	20.6%	9.5%	37.3%	23%
My child shows signs of social withdrawal and prefers to stay at home.	10.3%	15.9%	34.1%	33.3%
My child is reluctant to engage with peers outside of school.	12.7%	10.3%	34.9%	26.2%

"My child shows signs of social withdrawal and prefers to stay at home" has the highest percentage of 67.3% of parents indicating that the neighbourhood insecurity has forced the majority of the children of the Ajibode community to isolate and stay indoors instead of playing outside with their peers. The findings show that neighbourhood insecurity has significant psychosocial effects on children in the Ajibode community. 61.1% of parents agreed that "My child is reluctant to engage with peers outside of school", indicating that the insecurity in the neighbourhood has instilled fear in children in the Ajibode community of Ibadan, Oyo state. A significant percentage of parents agreed that their children have experienced difficulty making new friends, avoidance of community activities, distrust towards others, social withdrawal, and reluctance to engage with peers demonstrating that many children are socially and emotionally affected by their immediate environment.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The physical effects of children in Ajibode Community suggest that insecurity can physically affect the well-being of children. Parents reported that their children experienced stress-related symptoms like headaches, fatigue, lack of sleep and even physical injuries as a result of the insecurity in their neighbourhoods. This study also showed the level of fear experienced by children as a result of insecurity with many refusing to play freely in their neighbourhoods thereby limiting their physical development.

The psychological effects of neighbourhood insecurity on children in the Ajibode community exposed how living in an unsafe environment impacts children's mental and emotional well-being. The data gathered showed that these effects don't go unnoticed. Constant exposure to these neighbourhood insecurities and violence not only results in short-term psychological issues but can also create long-term mental health challenges that last till adulthood. Psychological effects such as anger, sadness, anxiety, fear about safety, difficulty regulating emotions, trouble focusing, and signs of nervousness and restlessness, which should not be associated with children are unfortunately affecting the lives of children living in this neighbourhood.

Data has shown that insecurity affects children's social lives, impacting their social development. Things like social interactions, community participation, and peer relationships are becoming difficult because of insecurity. These psychosocial effects can result in isolation, loneliness, social anxiety, and difficulties in forming and maintaining friendships, both in childhood and adulthood. Neighbourhood insecurity impacts children's need for social events like community activities which provide opportunities for socialization and fun.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Following the above findings, this study has provided the following recommendations:

The Society of Peace Studies and Practice (SPSP), in collaboration with other neighbour hood stakeholders, should organize community workshops in the Ajibode Community of Oyo state, where parents and children are educated on how to recognise different security threats, their early warning signs, and how to protect themselves from harm.

The Society of Peace Studies and Practice (SPSP) in collaboration with the Ministry of Education should incorporate Social-emotional learning (SEL) into the curriculum for public schools in Oyo State to enable children to learn how to properly regulate their emotional responses and cope with stressful situations to manage the psychological effect of insecurity.

The government should take an active and holistic role in curbing neighbourhood insecurity by tackling the root causes of insecurity and by providing youth-friendly community counselling services for child victims of insecurity.

The government should encourage and support the formation of neighbourhood security groups that reduce the prevalence of neighbourhood insecurity in the Ajibode Community.

CONCLUSION

The neighbourhood insecurity effects on children in the Ajibode Community of Ibadan, Oyo state have been discovered to be physical, psychological and psychosocial, posing a threat to their overall development and growth. These effects are reflected in their emotional responses, anxiety levels, emotional regulation, concentration, and overall psychological well-being, highlighting the urgent need for interventions to address these issues and support the mental health of affected children. The overall health of children is important in ensuring that they achieve optimal brain development and function. This study has identified these neighbourhood insecurity effects on children as a prevalent issue and has provided recommendations to possibly tackle the problems of neighbourhood insecurity in the Ajibode Community of Ibadan, Oyo state. The welfare of every child is paramount and should not be taken lightly as they are the future of every society. The exposure of children to insecurity in their neighbourhoods opens a never-ending circle of abuse as these child victims may become perpetrators if not properly counselled. Therefore, the responsibility of neighbourhood security is on the government, the neighbourhood and the parents of children in Ajibode Community of Ibadan, Oyo state.

REFERENCES

Abalogu, D. M., & Okolo, E. A. (2022). Insecurity Challenges: Bane to National Development, the Nigeria Experience. Dialogue on Society and Development in Africa, 77. https://www.academia.edu/download/92740587/APAS_2022_SOCIETY_1.pdf#page=87

Achumba, I.C., Ighomereho, O.S. & Akpor-Robaro, M.O. (2013). "Security challenges in Nigeria and the implications for Business activities and sustainable development". Journal of Economics and Sustainable Development, vol. 4, No. 2, pp. 77-99. https://www. academia.edu/download/ 30633214/Security_Challenges_in_Nigeria_and_the_Implications_for_Business_Activities_and_Sustainable_Development.pdf

Abidoye, S. H., (2021). Insecurity and National Development: Nigeria at a Crossroad. Global Journal of Human-Social Science, 21(F2), 53–59. Retrieved from https://socialscienceresearch.org/index.php/GJHSS/article/view/3623

Akanji, O.(2022). Cities and crimes: Urbanisation and security conundrums in Ibadan, Nigeria. African Cities Journal, 3(2). https://africancitiesjournal.org/index.php/africancitiesjournal/article/download/122/38

American Psychological Association. (2024). Living in violent neighbourhoods affects children's brain development [Press release]. https://www.apa.org/news/press/releases/2024/02/violent-neighborhoods-brain-development

Baumann, F., & Friehe, T. (2013). Private protection against crime when the property value is private information. International review of law and economics, 35, 73-79. https://www.econstor.eu/bitstream/10419/71292/1/741452472.pdf

BBC, (2018). Nigeria Dapchi school kidnappings: What we know.https:// www.bbbc. com/news/world-africa-43197694

Ceccato, V., & Wilhelmsson, M. (2020). Do crime hot spots affect housing prices? Nordic journal of criminology, 21(1), 84-102. https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/2578983X.2019.1662595

DiMaria, L. (2020). When Social Withdrawal in Children Is a Problem: When Withdrawal May Signal Depression. Verywellmind. When Social Withdrawal in Children Is a Problem (verywellmind.com)

Fernandez, A., Askenazy, F., Zeghari, R., et al. (2024). Somatic and Posttraumatic Stress Symptoms in Children and Adolescents in France. JAMA Netw Open. 7(4):e247193. Somatic and Posttraumatic Stress Symptoms in Children and Adolescents in France | Pediatrics | JAMA Network Open | JAMA Network

Freeze, C.(2019). Adverse Childhood Experiences and Crime. FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin. -Adverse Childhood Experiences and Crime LEB (fbi.gov)

Human Rights Watch (2016). They set the classroom on fire. https://www.hrw.org/report/2016/04/11/they-set-classrooms-fire/attacks-education-northeastnigeria

Idowu, W. J. (2021). Insecurity and Nigeria's socio-economic development: A survey. Journal DOI: www. doi. org, 1(1). https://www.ijaar.org/articles/ijresd/v1n1/ijresd-v1n1-jan21-p1121.pdf

Lopez-Tamayo, R., Suarez, L., Simpson, D. et al. (2022). The Impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences and Community Violence Exposure on a Sample of Anxious, Treatment-Seeking Children. Journal Child Adol Trauma 15, 1081–1093. https://doi.org/10.1007/s40653-022-00447-4

O'Brien, D. T., Hill, N. E., & Contreras, M. (2021). Community violence and academic achievement: High-crime neighbourhoods, hotspot streets, and the geographic scale of "community". PLoS ONE 16(11): e0258577. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0258577

Ogunsanya, A. O. (2021). Exploring Citizen Security in the Nigeria Federated State: Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Agency in Perspective (Doctoral dissertation, Walden University). https://scholarworks.waldenu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=12095&context=dissertations

Pickles, D. M., Lihn, S. L., Boat, T. F., & Lannon, C. (2020). A Roadmap to Emotional Health for Children and Families With Chronic Pediatric Conditions. Pediatrics; 145 (2). https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2019-1324

Smith, K.E., & Pollak, S.D. (2020). Early life stress and development: potential mechanisms for adverse outcomes. J Neurodevelop Discord 12, 34. https://doi.org/10.1186/s11689-020-09337-y

Theall, K. P., Shirtcliff, E. A., Dismukes, A. R., Wallace, M., & Drury, S. S. (2017). Association Between Neighborhood Violence and Biological Stress in Children. JAMA pediatrics, 171(1), 53–60. https://doi.org/10.1001/jamapediatrics.2016.2321