



# Prevalence of Violence Against Children with Intellectual Disabilities

– plans for a pilot study in Upper Secondary School for Pupils with Intellectual Disabilities

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## Background

Children with disabilities are at a significantly higher risk of being victims of violence and abuse compared to children without disabilities<sup>1,2</sup>. Despite this, there is dearth of research addressing the prevalence of violence and abuse aimed at children with intellectual disabilities, both internationally and in Sweden as most research studies on self-reported prevalence of violence and abuse doesn't include this group.

To gain knowledge of violence victimization among children with intellectual disabilities, they must be included in research studies and allowed to answer questions about violence and abuse that are adapted to their individual needs.

1. Jones, L., Bellis, M. A., Wood, S., Hughes, K., McCoy, E., Eckley, L., Officer, A. (2012). *Prevalence and risk of violence against children with disabilities: A systematic review and meta-analysis of observational studies*. *Lancet*, 380(9845), 899-907.

2. Svedin, C.G., Landberg, Å., & Jonsson, L. (2023). *Mer utsatta än andra - om våld och övergrepp mot barn med funktionsnedsättningar*. Stiftelsen Allmänna Barnhuset.



## Aims and methods

The aim of the study is twofold: One aim is to develop and evaluate a survey, information package, and study procedures for the target group. The second aim is to investigate the prevalence of various forms of violence against children with intellectual disabilities. The study will be carried out in two phases.

### Phase 1

- » Adaptation of a national survey on violence and abuse in Sweden for students with mild intellectual disabilities. The adaptation process has been carried out in collaboration with experts and persons with intellectual disabilities.
- » Development of an information package aimed at students with mild intellectual disabilities, containing information about violence and abuse.
- » Pre-pilot study with five students with mild intellectual disabilities, aimed at gaining insight into the validity and usability of the survey and information package. The information gained from the pre-pilot study will be used to revise the survey and information package.
- » Pilot study with 50 students with mild intellectual disabilities. The results from this study will be published in a national report and in scientific publications.

### Phase 2

- » The second phase will include further adapting these materials to suit the needs of children with moderate intellectual disabilities, validating these materials and carrying out data collection with a small group of participants.

## Expected results

It is expected that the results obtained from this research study will provide insight into both the required adaptation process of surveys and data collection materials on violence and abuse for the target group, as well as preliminary data on the prevalence of violence and abuse.



## Recommendations

- » Methods and materials should be adapted to enable the inclusion of children with intellectual disabilities in research studies.
- » The adaptation process can be facilitated by collaboration with experts and researchers across multiple fields and areas of expertise.
- » Adaptation of methods and materials should include persons with intellectual disability to ensure social validity.

### » Contact

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