Overview

1. The United States has much higher violent rates than Canada.
   - US 12-14 year old children are 3 times as likely to fight as their Canadian peers.
   - US 4-11 year old children are at least 1.6 times as likely to bully as their Canadian peers.
2. More importantly, the US-Canada violence gap exists even among children as young as 4-5 years old.
3. 30% of US mothers start to work FULL-TIME within 3 months after birth, while only 9% of Canadian mothers do so.
4. Difference in post-birth maternal employment within the first 3 months explains about 6-15% of the US-Canada violence gap among children.

Measures of Violence

1. “Bullying”, 4-11 years old, mother-reported
   - “How often would you say that your child is cruel, bullies or is mean to others?”
2. “Fighting”, 12-14 years old, child self-reported
   - “During the past 12 months, about how many times have you fought with someone to the point where they needed care for their injuries (for example, because they were bleeding, or had broken bones)”

Data

Two large-scale longitudinal surveys conducted biennially between 1994 and 2004:
- US - National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 79 and its Child / Young Adult Supplement (NLSY 79)
- Canada - National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth (NLSCY)

Number of Observations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Bullying, 4-11 Years Old</th>
<th>Fighting, 12-14 Years Old</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>25,830</td>
<td>5,229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>12,864</td>
<td>4,444</td>
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</table>

US Violence Rates Are Much Higher Than Canadian Rates Regardless of Age Group or Gender

Initial Learning of Violence Retains Important Influence As Children Grow Up

Transition Probabilities of Bullying, Boys

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Bully</th>
<th>Not bully</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>0.61</td>
<td>0.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>0.51</td>
<td>0.49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Previous Explanations of the US-Canada Violence Gap

Compared to Canada, the United States has:
1. easier access to firearms;
2. a higher poverty rate;
3. more “non-intact” / lone-parent families;
4. more ethnically and racially heterogeneous population;
5. more large cities;
6. a violent “Southern” culture;
7. a violent culture.

But,

References


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