

# Violence against children in and around schools in Iraq

Violence against children is preventable, and the education sector can play a critical role in driving change through schools and school systems. This note summarizes the state of school related violence in Iraq, and highlights key data gaps.

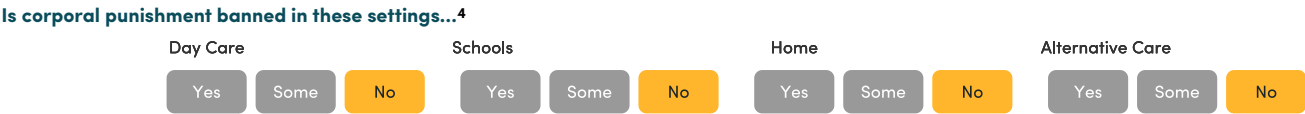
**Bullying** refers to repeated emotional or physical aggressive behaviours including any form of isolating, rejecting or excluding from a group, or hitting, kicking, pushing by peers. GSHS 2012 indicates 29% of students experienced **bullying in the last 30 days**.<sup>1</sup>



**Sexual Violence** takes different forms, and includes non-consensual completed or attempted sexual contact or acts of a sexual nature that do not involve physical contact, and any form of coercion into sexual situations.<sup>2</sup>



**Corporal Punishment** refers to any form of punishment involving physical force intended to cause pain or discomfort.



**Data Gaps** GSHS 2012 has data on student bullying. MICS 2018 provides data on corporal punishment by caretakers. MICS can be broken down by disability status, while other data cannot be disaggregated by LGBT+ or disability status.<sup>5</sup> The table below denotes where data is available.

Type of Violence	Aged 6 to 12	Aged 13 to 22	2008 - 2012	2013 - 2018	2019 or after
Physical (Peers)	✓	✓	GSHS		TIMSS
Emotional (Peers)		✓	GSHS		TIMSS
Sexual (Peers)					
Sexual (Teachers)					
Corporal Punishment (Teachers)					
Corporal Punishment (Caretakers)	✓	✓		MICS	

# Iraq Compared to Other Countries

The graphs below include only countries with data from the same international survey, which means the data were collected from children of similar ages using the same questions. **Below are country averages.**

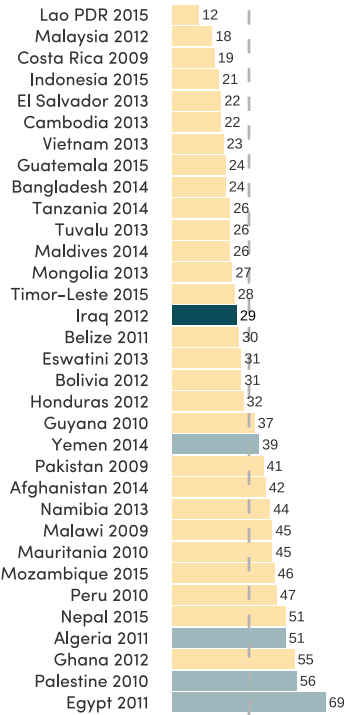


### Bullying is...

19 percentage points lower than the Middle East and North Africa average, and 4 percentage points lower than average for low- and middle-income countries with data.

### Bullying data by type is not available

### Sexual Violence data is not available



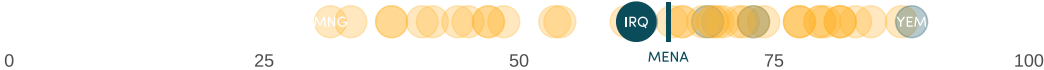
GSHS 2012 (+/-) 3 years

### Corporal Punishment (Teachers)



### Corporal Punishment (Caretakers)

Parents who reported using corporal punishment against Children Aged 1 to 14 (%) - MICS 6



### Notes

- International surveys cover different forms of violence and do not use a standard definition of violence.
- This brief covers international survey data. We recommend complementing it with national surveys (e.g., household surveys) when available.
- The violence figures included in this brief are likely an underestimate, as many victims do not disclose their experiences of violence.<sup>6</sup>
- Country comparisons created with DHS, VACS, and GSHS data, include low- and middle-income countries within +/- 3 years of Iraq's survey round. Graphs created with MICS, TIMSS, PIRLS, PISA, PISA-D, and ERCE, include low- and middle-income countries with data on the same survey round.

### Sources

1. Calculations using GSHS 2012. Surveyed students are in Standards 7 and 8.
2. Data for sexual violence against children includes VACS, DHS, and PISA-D.
3. Calculations using MICS 2018.
4. [End Corporal Punishment of Children](#), data accessed 2024. Note: "Some" represents cases where prohibition is stated for specific provisions (eg., [forms of corporal punishment or school levels](#)). Alternative Care refers to cases where a child's primary caregiver is not their parents (eg. foster care).
5. [Evans, Hares, Smarrelli, and Wu](#). CGD 2023.
6. [Smarrelli, Wu, Baago-Rasmussen, Hares, and Naker](#). CGD 2024.