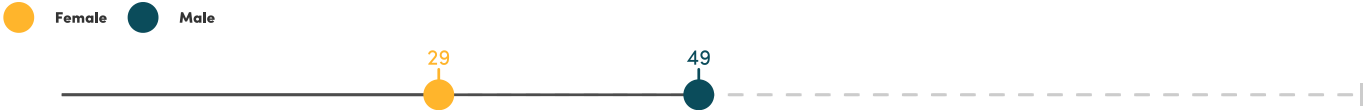


Violence against children in and around schools in Sri Lanka

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 Sri Lanka, 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 2016 indicates 39% of students experienced **bullying in the last 30 days**.¹



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.²



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

Students who experienced corporal punishment from teachers (%)



Caretakers who agree with using corporal punishment (%)



Children who experienced corporal punishment from caretakers (%)



Is corporal punishment banned in these settings...³



Data Gaps GSHS 2016 has data on student bullying. Data cannot be broken down by disability or LGBTQ+ status.⁴ 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	GSHS	
Emotional (Peers)		✓	GSHS	GSHS	
Sexual (Peers)					
Sexual (Teachers)					
Corporal Punishment (Teachers)					
Corporal Punishment (Caretakers)					

Sri Lanka 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.**

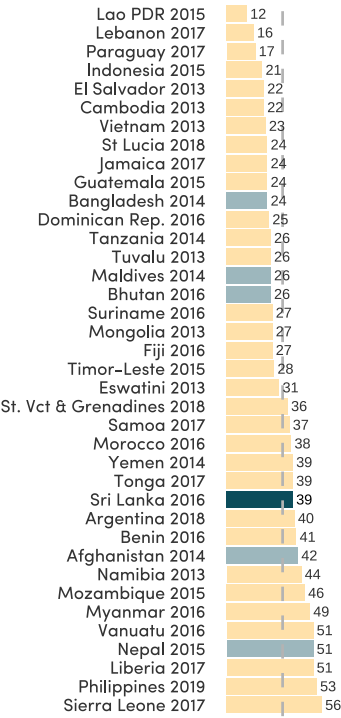


Bullying is...

4 percentage points higher than the South Asia average, and 7 percentage points higher than average for low- and middle-income countries with data.

Bullying data by type is not available

Sexual Violence data is not available



No Data

No Data

GSHS 2016 (+/-) 3 years

Corporal Punishment (Teachers)

No Data

Corporal Punishment (Caretakers)

No Data

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.⁵
- Country comparisons created with DHS, VACS, and GSHS data, include low- and middle-income countries within +/- 3 years of Sri Lanka'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.
- Sri Lanka participated in a benchmarking exercise with [Safe to Learn](#), which establishes a baseline to monitor progress in ending violence against children in and around schools. Results are forthcoming.

Sources

1. Calculations using GSHS 2016. Surveyed students are in Standards 7 and 8.
2. Data for sexual violence against children includes VACS, DHS, and PISA-D.
3. [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).
4. [Evans, Hares, Smarrelli, and Wu](#). CGD 2023.
5. [Smarrelli, Wu, Baago-Rasmussen, Hares, and Naker](#). CGD 2024.