

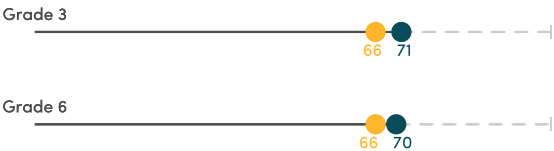
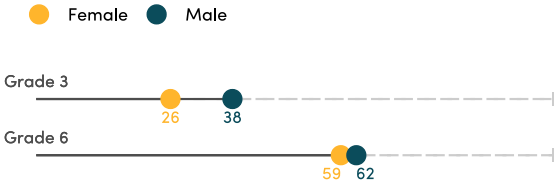
# Violence against children in and around schools in Colombia

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 Colombia, and highlights key data gaps.

## Bullying

**Physical bullying** refers to a pattern of repetitive aggressive behaviours involving hitting, kicking, pushing, and stealing or destroying personal belongings. 32% of 3rd graders and 60% of 6th graders reported experiencing **physical bullying in the last month**.<sup>1</sup>

**Emotional bullying** includes any form of isolating, rejecting, excluding from a group, or any other non-physical form of hostile treatment. 69% of 3rd graders and 68% of 6th graders reported experiencing **emotional bullying in the last month**.<sup>1</sup>



## Sexual Violence

**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. Available data indicate 17% of children experienced sexual violence before the age of 18.<sup>2</sup>



Among those exposed to any form of sexual violence in their lives, 13% occurred at school.



## Corporal Punishment

**Corporal punishment** refers to any form of punishment involving physical force intended to cause pain or discomfort. 0% of children reported experiencing corporal punishment from teachers.

Students who experienced corporal punishment from teachers (%) <sup>2</sup>

Female Male



Caretakers who agree with using corporal punishment (%)

No Data

Children who experienced corporal punishment from caretakers (%)

No Data

## Is corporal punishment banned in these settings...<sup>3</sup>

Day Care



Schools



Home



Alternative Care



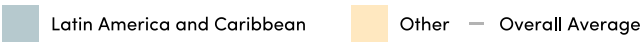
Data Gaps

ERCE 2019 and PISA 2022 provide information about physical and emotional bullying from peers.VACS 2018 covers child prevalence of physical and sexual violence by peers, parents, partners, and teachers, and emotional violence from parents. Data cannot be broken down by disability or LGBTQ+ status.<sup>4</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)		✓		VACS, ERCE, PISA	ERCE, PISA
Emotional (Peers)		✓		VACS, ERCE, PISA	ERCE, PISA
Sexual (Peers)	✓	✓		VACS	
Sexual (Teachers)	✓	✓		VACS	
Corporal Punishment (Teachers)	✓	✓		VACS	
Corporal Punishment (Caretakers)					

# Colombia 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.**



### Physical Bullying is...

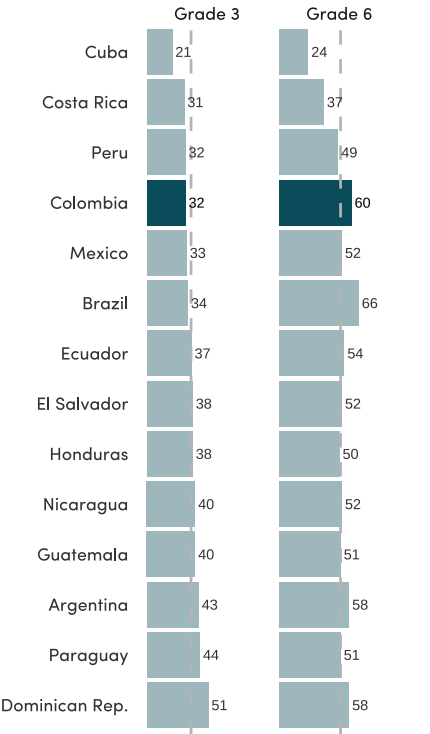
6 percentage points lower than the Latin America and Caribbean average for 3rd graders, and 10 percentage points higher for 6th graders.

### Emotional Bullying is...

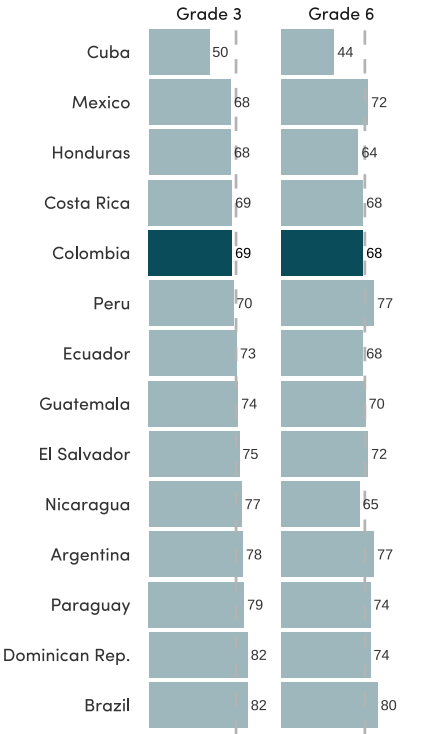
4 percentage points lower than the Latin America and Caribbean average for 3rd graders, and 2 percentage points lower for 6th graders.

### Sexual Violence is...

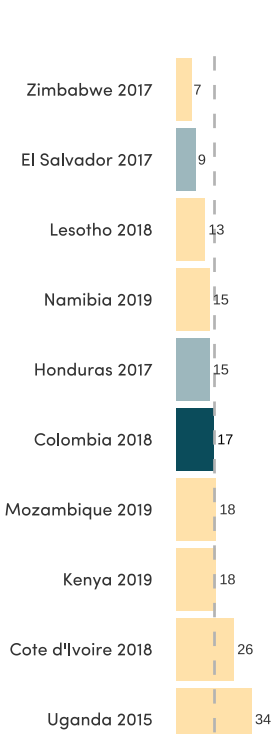
3 percentage points higher than the Latin America and Caribbean average, and about the same as the average for low- and middle-income countries with data.



ERCE 2019



ERCE 2019



VACS 2018 (+/-) 3 years

### Corporal Punishment (Teachers)

Students who experienced corporal punishment from teachers (%) - VACS 2018 (+/-) 3 years



### 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.<sup>6</sup>
- Country comparisons created with DHS, VACS, and GSHS data, include low- and middle-income countries within +/- 3 years of Colombia'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 ERCE 2019.
2. Calculations using VACS 2018. Surveys ages 13 to 24.
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. While DHS asks about teacher and peer perpetrators of physical violence, we exclude from our analysis as the age range does not reflect the period when children are most likely to experience corporal punishment. If the focus is on physical violence against women by teachers starting at age 15, DHS data can provide relevant insights.
6. [Smarrelli, Wu, Baago-Rasmussen, Hares, and Naker](#). CGD 2024.