

Violence against children in and around schools in Rwanda

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 Rwanda, and highlights key data gaps.

Bullying
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. Bullying data is not available.¹



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 indicates that 13% of females aged 15 to 19 **experienced sexual violence in their lifetime**, with 23% of these incidents perpetrated by teachers in 2014. Data for boys is not available.²



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



Is corporal punishment banned in these settings...³

Day Care

Schools

Home

Alternative Care

Yes

Some

No

Yes

Some

No

Yes

Some

No

Yes

Some

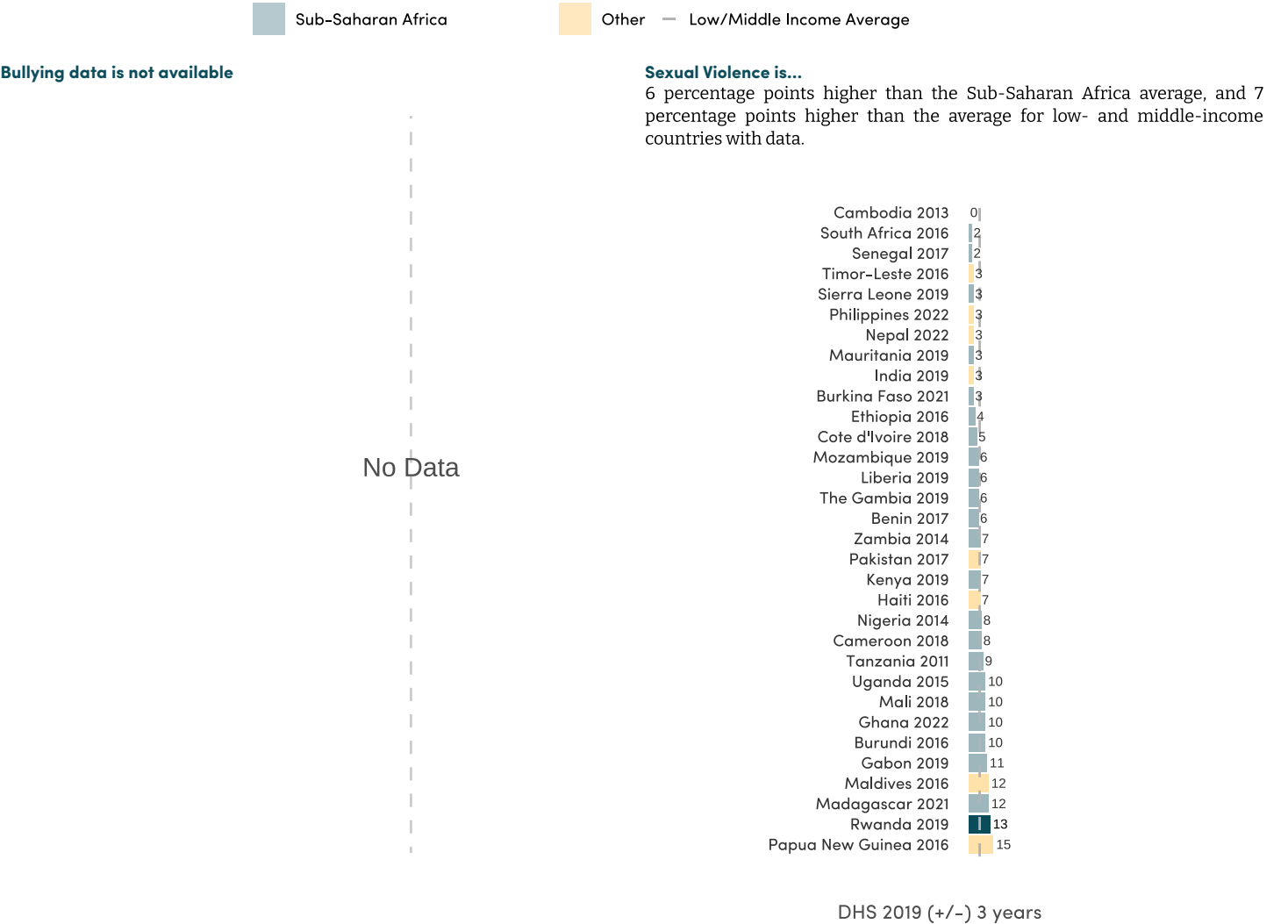
No

Data Gaps
DHS (2014, 2019) provides sexual violence data. 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)		✓		VACS	
Emotional (Peers)					
Sexual (Peers)		✓		VACS	
Sexual (Teachers)		✓		DHS, VACS	
Corporal Punishment (Teachers)		✓		DHS ^{2*} , VACS	
Corporal Punishment (Caretakers)					

Rwanda 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 data is not available

No Data

Sexual Violence is...

6 percentage points higher than the Sub-Saharan Africa average, and 7 percentage points higher than the average for low- and middle-income countries with data.

Cambodia 20130

South Africa 20162

Senegal 20172

Timor-Leste 20163

Sierra Leone 20193

Philippines 20223

Nepal 20223

Mauritania 20193

India 20193

Burkina Faso 20213

Ethiopia 20164

Cote d'Ivoire 20185

Mozambique 20196

Liberia 20196

The Gambia 20196

Benin 20176

Zambia 20147

Pakistan 20177

Kenya 20197

Haiti 20167

Nigeria 20148

Cameroon 20188

Tanzania 20119

Uganda 201510

Mali 201810

Ghana 202210

Burundi 201610

Gabon 201911

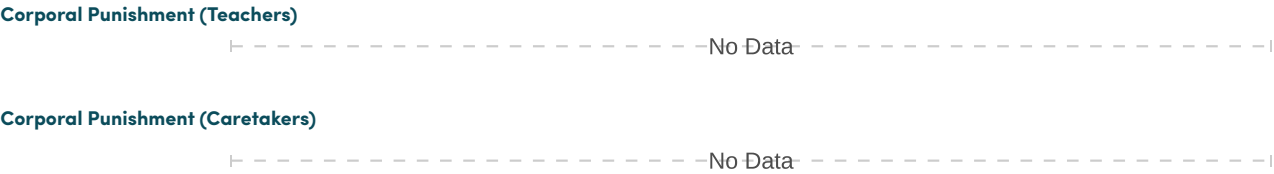
Maldives 201612

Madagascar 202112

Rwanda 201913

Papua New Guinea 201615

DHS 2019 (+/-) 3 years



- 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 Rwanda'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. Examples of surveys that include questions on bullying are PIRLS, PISA, TIMSS, and GSHS.
2. Calculations using DHS 2019. Surveys women aged 15 - 19. 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.
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.