

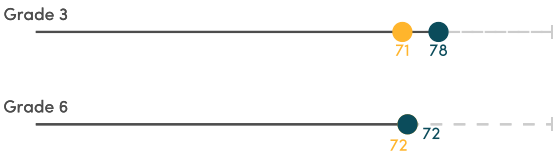
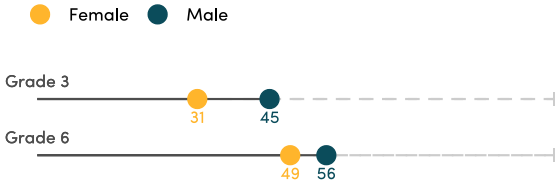
Violence against children in and around schools in El Salvador

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 El Salvador, 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. 38% of 3rd graders and 52% of 6th graders reported experiencing **physical bullying** during the school year.¹

Emotional bullying includes any form of isolating, rejecting, excluding from a group, or any other non-physical form of hostile treatment. 75% of 3rd graders and 72% of 6th graders reported experiencing **emotional bullying** during the school year.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 indicate 9% of children experienced sexual violence before the age of 18.²



Among those exposed to any form of sexual violence in their lives, 24% 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 (%)²

Female

Male

0

0

Caretakers who agree with using corporal punishment (%)³

Children 1 to 14

19

Children who experienced corporal punishment from caretakers (%)³

Children 1 to 14

42

Is corporal punishment banned in these settings...⁴

Day Care

Yes

Some

No

Schools

Yes

Some

No

Home

Yes

Some

No

Alternative Care

Yes

Some

No

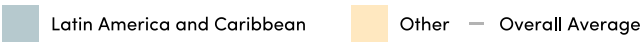
Data Gaps

ERCE 2019 and PISA 2022 provide information about physical and emotional bullying from peers. VACS 2017 covers child prevalence of physical and sexual violence by peers, parents, partners, and teachers, and emotional violence from parents. GSHS 2013 has data on student bullying. MICS 2014 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. ⁵ 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, GSHS	ERCE, PISA
Emotional (Peers)	✓	✓		VACS, GSHS	ERCE, PISA
Sexual (Peers)		✓		VACS	
Sexual (Teachers)	✓	✓		VACS	
Corporal Punishment (Teachers)	✓	✓		VACS	
Corporal Punishment (Caretakers)	✓	✓		MICS	

El Salvador Compared to Other Countries

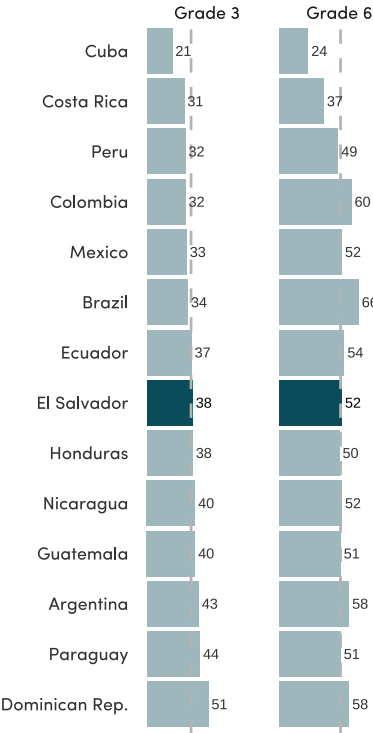
The graphs below include only countries with data from the same international survey, which means the data were collected from children of similar ages using the same questions. **Below are country averages.**



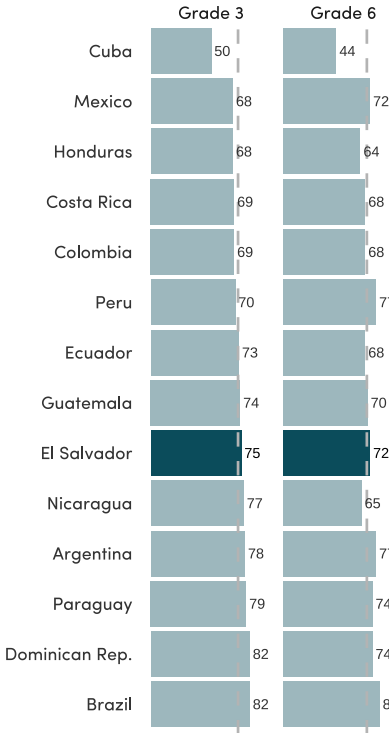
Physical Bullying is...
about the same as the Latin America and Caribbean average for 3rd graders, and 2 percentage points higher for 6th graders.

Emotional Bullying is...
2 percentage points higher than the Latin America and Caribbean average for 3rd graders, and 2 percentage points higher for 6th graders.

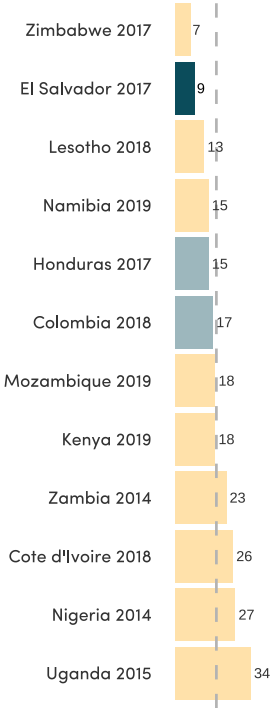
Sexual Violence is...
5 percentage points lower than the Latin America and Caribbean average, and 10 percentage points lower than the average for low- and middle-income countries with data.



ERCE 2019



ERCE 2019



VACS 2017 (+/-) 3 years

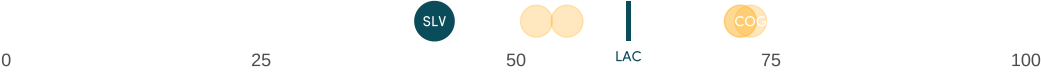
Corporal Punishment (Teachers)

Students who experienced corporal punishment from teachers (%) - VACS 2017 (+/-) 3 years



Corporal Punishment (Caretakers)

Children Aged 1 to 14 who reported experiencing corporal punishment (%) - MICS 5



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.⁶
- Country comparisons created with DHS, VACS, and GSHS data, include low- and middle-income countries within +/- 3 years of El Salvador'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.
- El Salvador participated in a [benchmarking exercise](#) with [Safe to Learn](#) to establish baselines and track progress on efforts to end violence in, around, and through schools.

Sources

- Calculations using ERCE 2019.
- Calculations using VACS 2017. Surveys ages 13 to 24.
- Calculations using MICS 2014.
- [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).
- [Evans, Hares, Smarrelli, and Wu](#). CGD 2023.
- [Smarrelli, Wu, Baago-Rasmussen, Hares, and Naker](#). CGD 2024.