

# A STATISTICAL SNAPSHOT OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE AND THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES (CEE/CIS)



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# USING DATA TO MAKE VIOLENCE VISIBLE

Evidence – in the form of reliable data – is key to unveiling the hidden nature of violence against children and beginning to erode its social acceptance. Robust data are also crucial in mobilizing resources and action, informing the development of policies, legislation and programmes and instituting a sound monitoring process to assess results and impact.

- **Prevalence estimates** are needed to draw the ‘big picture’ – the magnitude of the problem – while information on the family and the social environment in which children live can reveal factors that may increase or mitigate risk.
- **Insights into perceptions, attitudes, beliefs and cultural practices** pertaining to child abuse, perpetrators and victims can uncover the social norms that may explain the occurrence of violence and how people justify it.

- Solid **evidence of what works in terms of prevention and response** is also necessary in developing and implementing successful strategies to address the problem.
- **Administrative records** from the police department, child welfare agencies, the criminal justice system, doctors and hospital emergency rooms provide important accounts of the outreach of entities in charge of service delivery as well as basic information on the circumstances related to incidents of abuse.

Despite the wide-ranging types of data needed, information on violence against children remains sketchy in both coverage and scope. Several obstacles have affected the availability and quality of violence-related data, including methodological and ethical challenges as well as the lack of international standards for data collection, limited country capacity for data gathering and unsystematic investments in the production of comprehensive statistics on the subject.

## SELECTED EFFORTS TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN FROM THE REGION

In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, protocols for social workers, teachers, health professionals and police on how to detect, report and refer cases of violence have been launched at the national level and tested in 10 municipalities. The first Network of NGOs on Violence against Children has also been created to call attention to violence against children among both authorities and the public and is referring cases to relevant professionals.

In **Montenegro**, the Government adopted a Law on Protection from Family Violence and a corresponding strategy and protocol. It also formalized the work of local multidisciplinary teams for the protection of children from violence, abuse and neglect. A related study conducted in 2013 revealed some level of social tolerance for child sexual abuse, indicating that awareness-raising on the issue is also urgently needed.

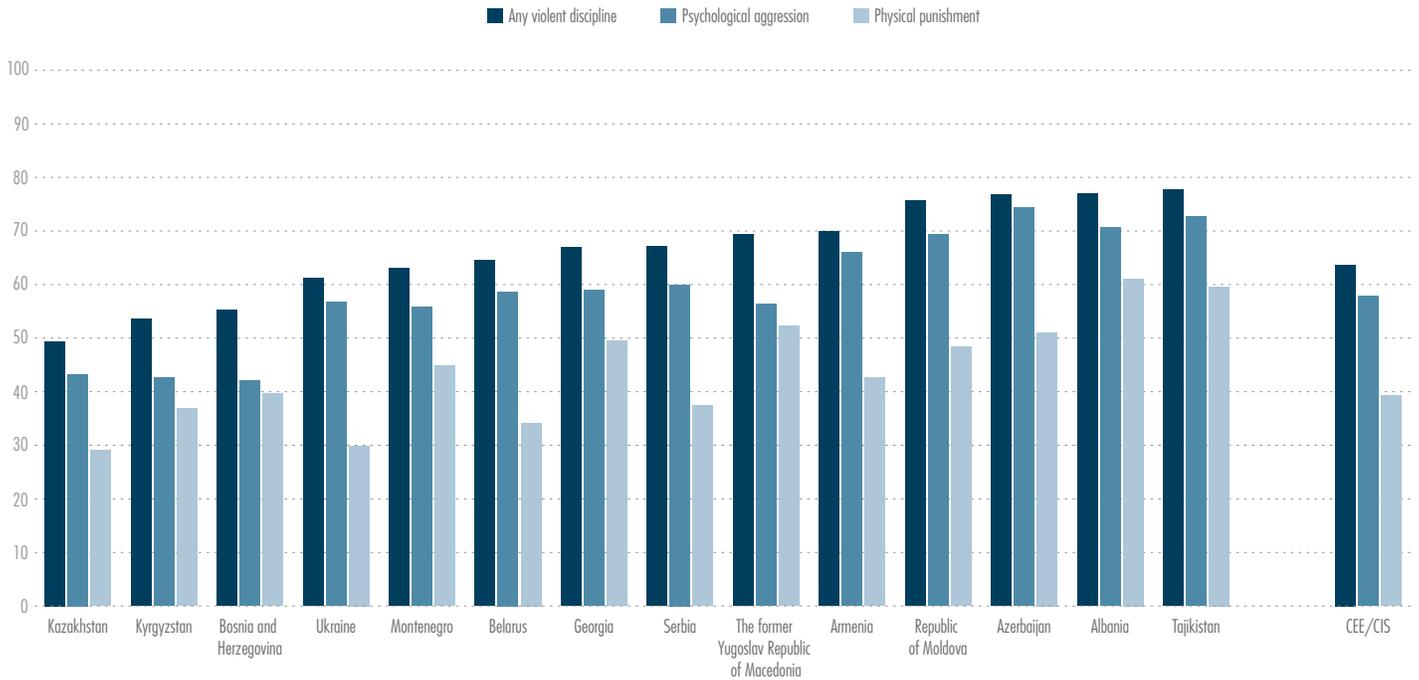
In **Serbia**, following a 2012 study on digital violence, UNICEF and a corporate partner initiated a social media campaign called ‘Choose Words, Prevent Hate’. Youth-led blogs and a Facebook page are reaching more than 11,000 people. UNICEF National Ambassadors have joined the campaign by blogging, tweeting and participating in selected events. A school-based programme on preventing digital violence is also under way in 10 schools.

In **Turkey**, children, NGOs and relevant ministries all took part in developing a draft Violence against Children National Strategy. In addition, 425 professionals from state services were trained to work together at the local level when intervening in violence against children cases. Through a series of 10 workshops, 182 NGO representatives from 30 cities were also equipped to advocate for and monitor systematic responses to violence against children.

# VIOLENT DISCIPLINE

## Around 6 in 10 children routinely experience violent discipline

Percentage of children aged 2 to 14 years who experienced any violent discipline, psychological aggression or physical punishment, in the past month

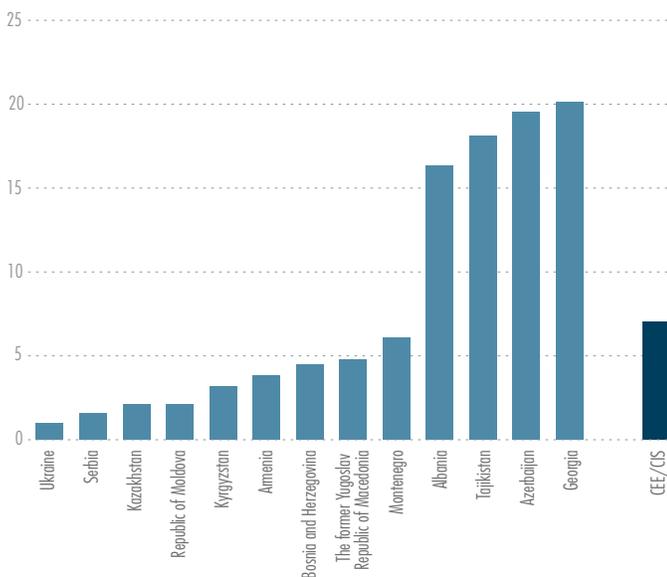


**Notes:** Data for Kyrgyzstan refer to children aged 3 to 14 years. Data for Belarus differ from the standard definition. The estimates for CEE/CIS are weighted averages based on comparable data from 14 countries, but are not representative of the regional population of children aged 2 to 14 years.

**Source:** UNICEF global databases, 2014, based on Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) and Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS), 2005-2012.

## Around one in five children experience severe physical punishment in Georgia

Percentage of children aged 2 to 14 years who experienced severe physical punishment in the past month

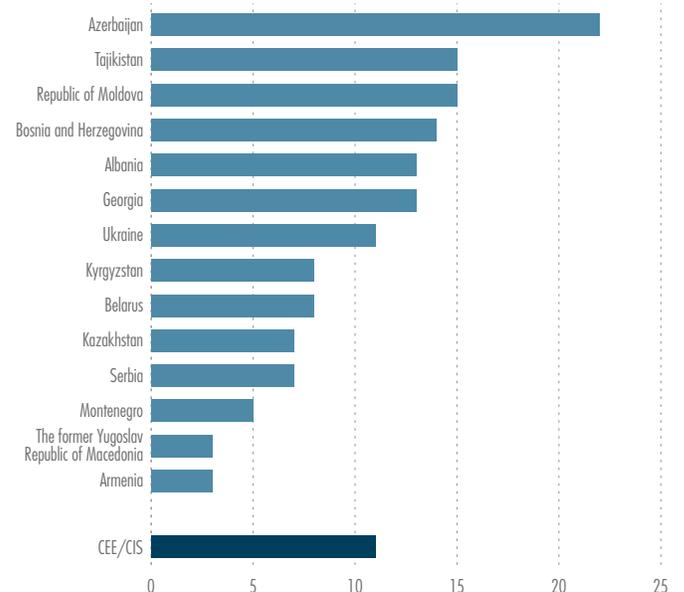


**Notes:** Data for Kyrgyzstan refer to children aged 3 to 14 years. The estimate for CEE/CIS is a weighted average based on comparable data from 13 countries, but is not representative of the regional population of children aged 2 to 14 years.

**Source:** UNICEF global databases, 2014, based on DHS and MICS, 2005-2012.

## Around 1 in 10 adults believe that physical punishment is necessary to properly raise or educate a child

Percentage of adults who think that physical punishment is necessary to raise/educate children



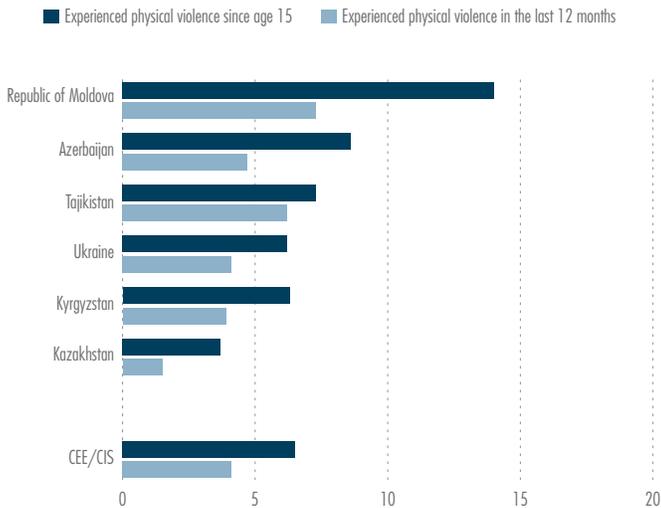
**Notes:** Data for Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro and Tajikistan refer to mothers/primary caregivers. Data for all other countries refer to any adult household member who responded to questions about child discipline. The estimate for CEE/CIS is a weighted average based on data from 14 countries with comparable data, but is not representative of the regional population of adults.

**Source:** UNICEF global databases, 2014, based on DHS and MICS, 2005-2012.

# PHYSICAL AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

## In most countries, less than 10 per cent of adolescent girls report incidents of physical violence

Percentage of girls aged 15 to 19 years who experienced any physical violence since age 15 and percentage of girls aged 15 to 19 years who experienced any physical violence in the last 12 months

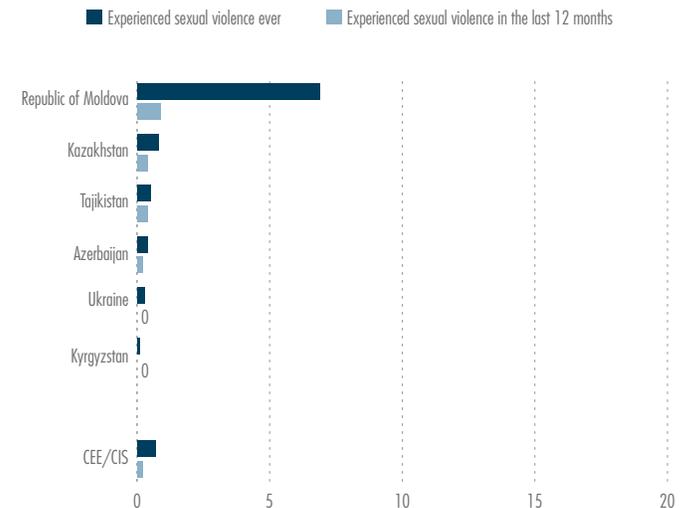


**Notes:** The estimates for CEE/CIS are weighted averages based on comparable data from 6 countries, but are not representative of the regional population of girls aged 15 to 19 years. Data for Kazakhstan are from MICS 2010-2011, which used an adapted version of the DHS module on domestic violence.

**Source:** UNICEF global databases, 2014, based on DHS and MICS, 2005-2012.

## With the exception of the Republic of Moldova, less than 5 per cent of girls report experiences of sexual abuse

Percentage of girls aged 15 to 19 years who ever experienced forced sexual intercourse or any other forced sexual acts (including in childhood), and percentage of girls aged 15 to 19 who experienced forced sexual intercourse or any other forced sexual acts in the last 12 months



**Notes:** The estimates for CEE/CIS are weighted averages based on comparable data from 6 countries, but are not representative of the regional population of girls aged 15 to 19 years. Data for Kazakhstan are from MICS 2010-2011, which used an adapted version of the DHS module on domestic violence. Zeroes appearing in the figure do not necessarily mean that there were no victims of sexual violence in these countries but rather that the estimates came to 0 after rounding.

**Source:** UNICEF global databases, 2014, based on DHS and MICS, 2005-2012.

## In Armenia, boys are about 4 times more likely to engage in physical fights than girls

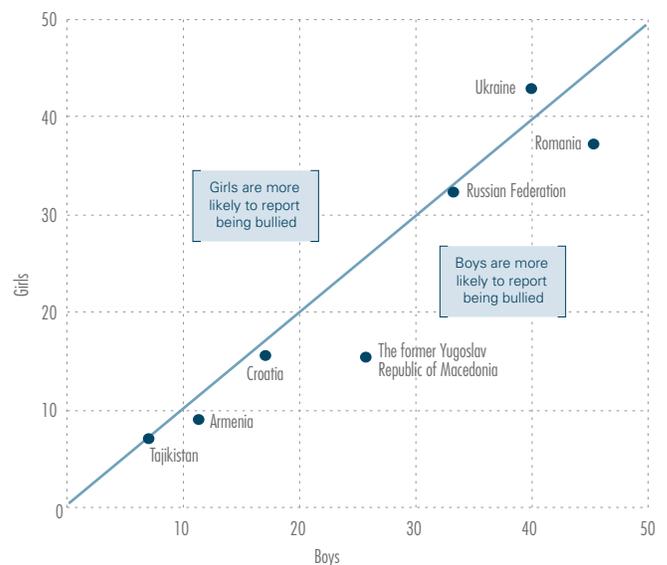
Percentage of adolescents aged 13 to 15 years who reported being in a physical fight one or more times during the past 12 months, by sex

	Boys	Girls
Armenia	80	21
Croatia	55	22
Romania	60	23
Russian Federation	51	23
Tajikistan	30	13
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	48	15
Ukraine	58	21

**Source:** Health Behaviour in School-aged Children Study (HBSC), 2009/2010 and Global School-based Student Health Survey (GSHS), 2006.

## In most countries, girls and boys are equally likely to report being recently bullied

Percentage of adolescents aged 13 to 15 years who reported being bullied at least once in the past couple of months, by sex

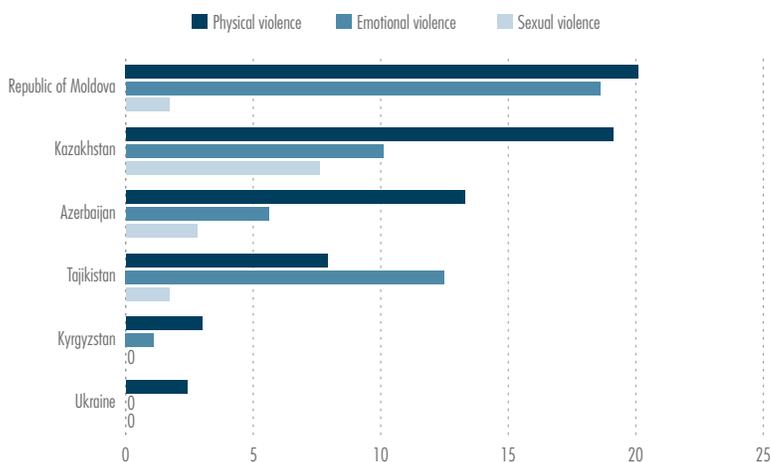


**Source:** HBSC, 2009/2010 and GSHS, 2006.

# INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AMONG ADOLESCENTS

## In most countries, physical violence is the most commonly reported form of partner violence

Percentage of girls aged 15 to 19 years who ever experienced any physical, sexual or emotional violence committed by their husbands or partners



**Notes:** Data for Ukraine are based on 25-49 unweighted cases. Data for Kazakhstan are from MICS 2010-2011, which used an adapted version of the DHS module on domestic violence. Zeros appearing in the figure do not necessarily mean that there were no victims of partner violence in these countries but rather that the estimates came to 0 after rounding.

**Source:** UNICEF global databases, 2014, based on DHS and MICS, 2005-2012.

## Neglecting the children and demonstrating autonomy are the most commonly cited reasons for justifying wife-beating among both girls and boys

Percentage of girls and boys aged 15 to 19 years who think that a husband/partner is justified in hitting or beating his wife or partner under certain circumstances, by country and by reason

	If she goes out without telling him		If she neglects the children		If she argues with him		If she refuses sex with him		If she burns the food		Any of the five reasons	
	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys
Albania	14	23	18	23	11	19	7	17	4	3	24	37
Armenia	2	9	6	15	4	19	0.4	3	1	1	8	21
Azerbaijan	31	45	27	39	25	57	9	15	10	8	39	63
Belarus	1	0	3	3	1	0	0.1	0	0	0	3	3
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0	1	1	2	0.4	2	0	2	0	0.3	1	5
Georgia	1	n/a	4	n/a	2	n/a	1	n/a	1	n/a	5	n/a
Kazakhstan	2	9	8	8	3	7	0.4	4	1	1	9	14
Kyrgyzstan	16	27	19	35	13	15	3	8	4	8	25	40
Montenegro	3	n/a	6	n/a	3	n/a	1	n/a	1	n/a	6	n/a
Republic of Moldova	2	4	12	11	1	5	1	4	2	3	13	14
Serbia	1	1	2	4	0.3	2	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	2	6
Tajikistan	38	n/a	34	n/a	31	n/a	17	n/a	22	n/a	47	n/a
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	6	n/a	12	n/a	5	n/a	3	n/a	2	n/a	14	n/a
Turkey	n/a	n/a	16	n/a	17	n/a	6	n/a	5	n/a	30	n/a
Ukraine	0.1	0	2	2	0	0.2	0.4	0.2	0	0	2	2
Uzbekistan	54	45	52	38	42	38	13	8	23	8	63	63
CEE/CIS	21	21	20	19	17	19	6	5	8	4	28	30

**Notes:** n/a = not available. The estimate for CEE/CIS for girls is based on a subset of 16 countries covering 65 per cent of the regional population of girls aged 15 to 19 years. The estimate for CEE/CIS for boys is a weighted average based on comparable data from 11 countries, but is not representative of the regional population of boys aged 15 to 19 years. Data for Turkey differ from the standard definition.

**Source:** UNICEF global databases, 2014, based on DHS and MICS, 2002-2012.

## Additional findings on intimate partner violence

Information on violence committed by a partner of girls aged 15 to 19 who have ever been married is available from Reproductive Health Surveys in **Albania** (2002), **Georgia** (2010) and **Romania** (2004). Rates of partner physical violence and partner emotional violence among these girls were 11 per cent and 25 per cent in Albania, 5 per cent and 8 per cent in Georgia, and 16 per cent and 32 per cent in Romania, respectively. Less than 5 per cent of adolescent girls in all three countries reported being physically forced to have sexual intercourse by a husband or partner.

The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey conducted in **Belarus** in 2012 revealed that 15 per cent of ever-married girls between the ages of 15 and 19 had ever been exposed to any physical, psychological, economic or sexual violence at the hands of their husbands or partners.

A nationally representative survey on domestic violence conducted in **Turkey** in 2008 measured experiences of physical, sexual and emotional violence committed by partners of ever-married girls and women aged 15 to 59. Among those aged 15 to 24, over a third (35 per cent) reported experiences of physical or sexual violence committed by a husband or partner at some point in their lives, including 32 per cent who said they were physically victimized and 14 per cent who said they were sexually violated. An additional 37 per cent of girls and women in this age group said they experienced some form of partner emotional violence during their lifetimes.

Demographic and Health Surveys conducted in 2012 in **Kyrgyzstan** and **Tajikistan** included a question on whether ever-married females had ever hit, slapped, kicked or done anything else to physically hurt their husbands or partners when the men were not already beating or physically hurting them. In both countries, less than 1 per cent of girls aged 15 to 19 admitted to having initiated physical violence against their husbands or partners.

**Note:** For further details on the definitions used in the respective surveys cited here, please refer to pages 140-141 of: United Nations Children's Fund, *Hidden in Plain Sight: A statistical analysis of violence against children*, UNICEF, New York, 2014.



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This brochure was prepared by the Data and Analytics Section of the Division of Data, Research and Policy of UNICEF headquarters.

For information on the data contained in this brochure:  
UNICEF  
Data and Analytics Section  
Division of Data, Research and Policy  
3 United Nations Plaza  
New York, NY 10017, USA  
Tel: +1 212 326 7000  
Email: [data@unicef.org](mailto:data@unicef.org)  
[data.unicef.org](http://data.unicef.org)

For information on programmatic work on child protection in the region of CEE/CIS:  
UNICEF  
Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CEE/CIS)  
Palais des Nations  
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland  
Tel: +41 22 909 500  
Email: [ceecis@unicef.org](mailto:ceecis@unicef.org)  
<http://www.unicef.org/ceecis/>