

THE
REPUBLIC
OF MOLDOVA
VIOLENCE
AGAINST
CHILDREN
AND YOUTH
SURVEY

2019

MINISTRY OF HEALTH,
LABOUR AND SOCIAL PROTECTION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

2020

THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN AND YOUTH SURVEY, 2019

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and IMAS conducted the Violence Against Children and Youth Survey in the Republic of Moldova, with funding provided by United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The technical guidance and coordination of this study was provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

RECOMMENDED CITATION:

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and IMAS, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Violence Against Children and Youth in the Republic of Moldova: Findings from a National Survey, 2019. Chişinău, Moldova: Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection, 2019.

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of USAID, US Government, or the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

CDC authors conducted weighting and data analysis in support of this report and consulted with the government of the Republic of Moldova on evidence-based strategies to prevent violence against children and youth. Any policy recommendations contained within this document with regard to budget allocations or statutory changes are the recommendations of the government of the Republic of Moldova and do not reflect an endorsement of the CDC or the U.S. Government.

The report was designed by Casa Imago.

THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN AND YOUTH SURVEY,
2019



MINISTERUL SĂNĂTĂȚII,
MUNCII ȘI PROTECȚIEI SOCIALE
AL REPUBLICII MOLDOVA



CENTERS
FOR DISEASE CONTROL
AND PREVENTION



FORRE-

WORD

Violence against children and youth is a significant social problem with multiple economic, public health, justice, and education consequences, which impacts many aspects of a society. The Republic of Moldova is committed to achieving progress on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for all Moldovans. The 17 integrated SDGs were adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity.¹ Four out of the 17 SDGs address violence against children; specifically: SDG 3, ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages; SDG 4, ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all; SDG 5, achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; and SDG 16, promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. The Republic of Moldova has recognized the lack of comprehensive data on violence against children and youth as a significant barrier to stopping violence.

The Republic of Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS) 2019 was completed to gain a better understanding of violence against children and youth of the Republic of Moldova. This survey is the first-ever nationally representative household-based study to estimate

the prevalence of sexual, physical, and emotional violence against children and youth in the Republic of Moldova. This report includes recommendations on steps to end violence through changes in policies and programs. The Republic of Moldova is proud to be the first country in Eastern Europe to participate in VACS.

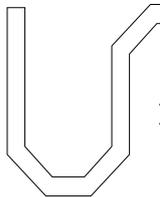
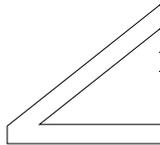
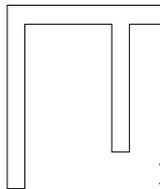
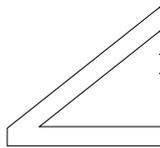
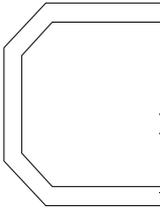
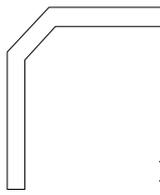
This work would not have been possible without the tireless dedication of several organizations. The VACS multi-sectoral task force (MSTF) was convened and chaired by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection (MHLSP) to oversee the implementation of the study and to ensure that the results lead to appropriate changes in policies and programs. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and MHLSP coordinated the implementation of VACS, and IMAS carried out the survey from October 2018 to February 2019. Other partners included the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

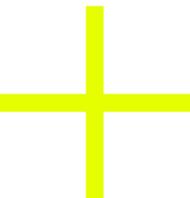
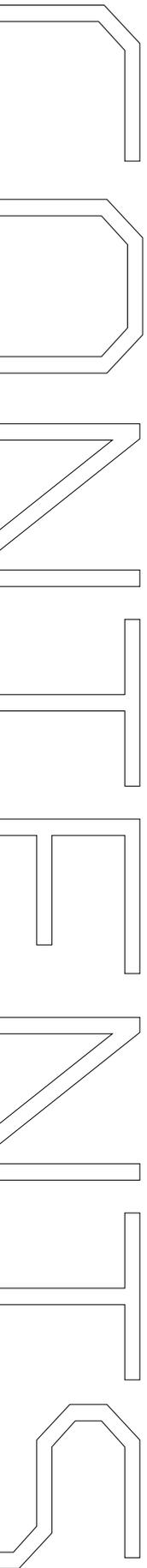
On behalf of the Republic of Moldova, I am honored to share with you the results of the Violence Against Children and Youth Survey as a major move toward a future free of violence.

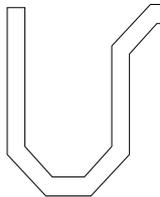
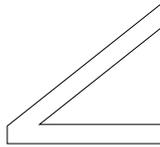
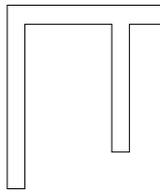
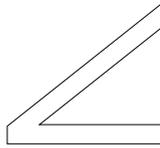
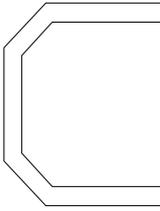
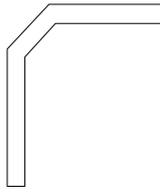
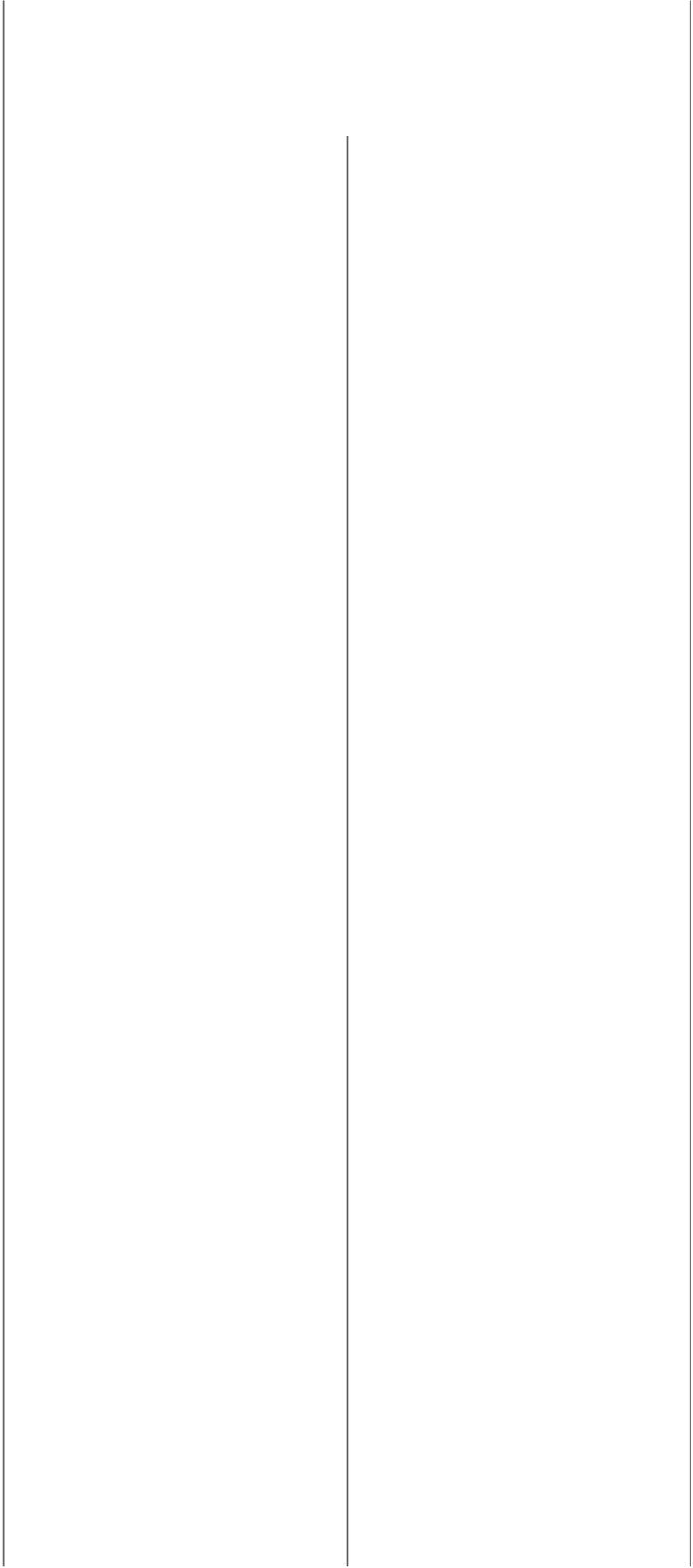


Viorica Dumbrăveanu,
Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection

Three vertical lines defining a large empty rectangular area, likely a placeholder for a drawing or diagram.







Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection: Lead Ministry

Multi-Sectoral Task Force Members

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in the Republic of Moldova	Centre for Assistance and Protection of Victims and Potential Victims of Trafficking (CAP) in Chisinau
Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection	Terre des Hommes Foundation in Moldova
International Organization for Migration (IOM), Mission to Moldova	National Center for Prevention of Abuse Against Children (CNPAC)
Ministry of Education, Culture and Research	Centre for Information and Documentation on Child Rights Moldova (CIDDC)
Ministry of Interior	Partnership for Every Child Moldova
General Police Inspectorate within the Ministry of Interior	Copil, Comunitate, Familie, CCF Moldova
Ombudsman for Child Rights	Lumos Moldova
National Council for Child Rights Protection	Keystone Moldova
National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) of the Republic of Moldova	Junior Achievement Moldova
Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) at the U.S. Embassy in the Republic of Moldova	International Center La Strada Moldova
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Moldova	Association for Child and Family Empowerment ("AVE COPIII")

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Doru Petruti
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U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): Technical Support

Lauren Anderson
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Caroline Stamatakis
Matthew Sanders
Marie Kaye Soletchi Seya-Sery
Elizabeth Swedo
Andrés Villaveces

According to the World Health Organization, violence is “the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, or another person, or against a group or community that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment or deprivation.”²

1

Sexual violence encompasses a range of acts, including completed non-consensual sex acts, attempted non-consensual sex acts, and abusive sexual contact. In this survey, questions were posed on four forms of sexual violence. Forms of sexual violence include:

If anyone, male or female, ever touched the participant in a sexual way without their permission but did not try to force the participant to have sex. Touching in a sexual way without permission includes fondling, pinching, grabbing, or touching on or around the participant’s sexual body parts.

If anyone ever tried to make the participant have sex¹ against their will but *did not* succeed. They might have tried to physically force the participant to have sex or they might have tried to pressure the participant to have sex through harassment, threats, or tricks.

If anyone ever pressured the participant to have sex, through verbal pressure, harassment, threats, or tricks, or participant was too drunk to say no to them and they *did* succeed in having sex with the participant.

If anyone ever physically forced the participant to have sex and *did* succeed in having sex with the participant.

2

Participants were asked about physical acts of violence perpetrated by four types of potential perpetrators:

- 1 Current or previous intimate partners, including a romantic partner, a boyfriend/girlfriend, or a spouse.
- 2 Peers, including people the same age as the participant *not* including a boyfriend/girlfriend, spouse, or romantic partner. These could be people the participant may have known or not known including siblings, schoolmates, neighbors, or strangers.
- 3 Parents, adult caregivers, or other adult relatives.
- 4 Adults in the community such as teachers, police, employers, religious or community leaders, neighbors, or adults the participant did not know.

For each perpetrator type, participants were asked about four measures of physical violence. Has (1) an intimate partner; (2) a peer; (3) a parent, adult caregiver, or other adult relative; (4) an adult in the community ever:

- Slapped, pushed, shoved, shook, or intentionally threw something at the participant to hurt them.
- Punched, kicked, whipped, hit/smash or beat the participant with an object.
- Choked, smothered, tried or attempted to drown, or burned the participant intentionally.
- Used or threatened the participant with a knife, gun or other weapon.

3

The behaviors measured for emotional violence varied according to the perpetrators. For emotional violence perpetrated by parents, adult caregivers or other adult relatives, participants were asked whether:

- The participant was told that they were not loved or did not deserve to be loved.
- The participant was told they (the perpetrator) wished they had never been born or were dead.
- The participant was made fun of or humiliated, for example told that they were stupid, ugly, or useless.

For emotional violence perpetrated by intimate partners, participants were asked if they had been treated the following way by a current or former romantic partner, boyfriend or spouse:

- Insulted, humiliated, or made fun of in front of others.
- Kept the participant from having their own money.
- Tried to keep the participant from seeing or talking to their family or friends.

- Kept track of the participant by demanding to know where the participant was and what the participant was doing.
- Made threats to physically harm the participant.
- Made threats to take away or hurt the participant's children or relatives.

For emotional violence by peers, participants were asked whether a person the participant's own age had done the following in the past 12 months:

- Made the participant feel scared or feel really bad because they were calling the participant names, saying mean things to the participant, or saying they did not want them around.
- Told lies or spread rumors about the participant or tried to make others dislike the participant.
- Kept the participant out of things on purpose, excluded the participant from their group of friends, or completely ignored the participant.

CDC	United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CI	Confidence Interval(s)
HoH	Head of Household
IOM	International Organization for Migration
MHLSP	Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection
MSTF	Multi-Sectoral Task Force
PSUs	Primary Sampling Units
RSE	Relative Standard Error
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
STIs	Sexually Transmitted Infections
TfG	Together for Girls
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VACS	Violence Against Children Survey(s)
WHO	World Health Organization

SELECTION

1.1.

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1.4.1.

1.1.

As in many other countries, violence against children and youth, including child sexual abuse and severe physical violence, remains a significant issue in the Republic of Moldova. Previously, qualitative and quantitative studies on violence against children in the Republic of Moldova show that children are at risk for, or becoming victims of, violence at home, in the community, and in schools.^{3,4}

The government of the Republic of Moldova acknowledges that the lack of data, particularly data on the national prevalence of violence against children and youth, has become one of the main challenges in planning, implementing and evaluating programs on child protection.

1.2.

Violence against children is a global economic, human rights, education, justice, and public health issue that affects millions of children and youth each year.⁵ Violence is accompanied by significant negative social impacts throughout the lifespan. These consequences of violence can result in barriers to countries in achieving progress on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).⁶ Estimates of prevalence of violence against children show that 50% or more of children in Asia, Africa, and North America experienced past-year violence, and that globally, one billion children ages 2-17 experienced such violence.⁷

According to the 1989 United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of the Child — Articles 19 and 34 — *all* children have the right to be protected against all forms of violence, exploitation, and abuse, including sexual violence and sexual exploitation.⁸ This convention has been signed by 140 nations, including Republic of Moldova. A body of research has conclusively established that the impact of violence against children and youth extends far beyond the victim. Consequences of violence affect families, communities, and nations across generations.^{9,10,11} Children who have experienced emotional, physical, and sexual violence can experience severe, acute to long-term health and social consequences. Neurobiological and behavioral research indicates that early

childhood exposure to violence can affect brain development and thereby increases the child's susceptibility to a range of mental and physical health problems that can span into adulthood. These problems include non-communicable diseases (e.g., diabetes, cardiovascular disease), communicable diseases (e.g., Sexually Transmitted Infections), mental health problems (e.g., anxiety, depression), and behaviors that increase risk for health issues (e.g., substance abuse, unprotected sex).

Violence against children and youth is prone to underreporting. Data on injuries treated at emergency health facilities, police reports and official death statistics do not include complete information regarding physical, emotional and sexual violence experiences.¹² For these reasons, data from youth surveys can help fill in critical missing information about violence experiences that are not included in administrative or public records.

1.3.

This Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS) reflects the leadership of the government of the Republic of Moldova through the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection (MHLSP) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), supported by the Multi-Sectoral Task Force (MSTF) in collaborative relationships with CDC. The MSTF was convened and chaired by the MHLSP specifically for the VACS in the Republic of Moldova. The MSTF includes representation from key relevant ministries of the government of the Republic of Moldova as well as national and international agencies. The MSTF was created to oversee the implementation of the study and to ensure that the results will be followed up with appropriate policies and programs. The MSTF includes technical officials from the participating ministries and other partners engaged in activities of the working group on VACS to provide cultural context to the adaptation of the study tools for the Republic of Moldova. The MSTF also promoted broad ownership from the most pertinent governmental and non-governmental agencies that are integral in organizing action around the survey results.

In 2006, then-UN Secretary General Kofi Annan called on all nations to begin tackling the epidemic of violence against children by collecting robust and generalizable data to inform policies and programming. Following this call, and under the umbrella of the Together for Girls (TfG) Initiative, several countries have undertaken VACS that yield nationally representative data on the burden of violence in childhood and among youth. Currently, much of what is known about violence against children can be found in these population-based surveys. Results from these surveys indicate that physical, sexual and emotional violence are rampant and undermine the health and wellbeing of children globally.^{13,14} To date, 25 VACS surveys, including the Republic of Moldova, have been completed or are in progress. The Republic of Moldova was the first country to conduct a VACS in Eastern Europe.

The Republic of Moldova VACS took place as part of the broader TfG partnership. TfG is a global partnership among national governments, UN agencies, and private sector organizations, working at the intersection of violence against children and youth and violence against women. Through data, nationally-led action, and advocacy, the partnership works to raise awareness, promote evidence-based solutions, and galvanize coordinated action across sectors to end violence against boys and girls, with a special focus on sexual violence against girls. The partnership was founded in 2009, following the ground-breaking, first-ever VACS in Eswatini (previously known as Swaziland).¹⁵ Since then, the partnership has grown to over twenty countries, working across three pillars of action: data, action, and advocacy. The TfG partnership envisions a world where every child, adolescent and young person is safe, protected and thriving, and supports countries to undertake research, program and policy response, and raise awareness to contribute to this vision.

To end violence against children and youth around the world, a unique public-private partnership of major stakeholder groups came together to focus their efforts with an objective of holding themselves accountable and working together to prevent and respond to violence. The Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children

(End Violence) was formed in 2015 and includes governments, UN agencies, international organizations, civil society organizations, faith groups, the private sector, philanthropic foundations, research practitioners, academics and children themselves. Major partners include the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)/World Health Organization (WHO), CDC, PEPFAR, TFG, UNICEF, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, USAID, and The World Bank. In 2016, End Violence released *INSPIRE: Seven Strategies for Ending Violence Against Children*, a technical package that includes evidence-based strategies with demonstrated success in preventing and responding to violence in childhood.¹⁶

The seven strategies that INSPIRE encompasses are: **Implementation and enforcement of laws; Norms and values; Safe environments; Parent and caregiver support; Income and economic strengthening; Response and support services; and Education and life skills.** These strategies aim to create the safe, nurturing environments and relationships that allow children and youth to thrive.

1.4.

In Eastern Europe, scientific research on the prevalence and incidence of violence and exploitation of children, adolescents, and young adults is still in its nascent stages in most countries, including the Republic of Moldova. However, the quest for quality, population-level data has tremendous potential to inform appropriate, strategic resource allocation, and both public health and social service strategies to prevent violence.

According to the UNICEF supported 2007 Violence Against Children in the Republic of Moldova study report, one in ten children experience some form of sexual abuse, four in ten children experience physical abuse, and one in five children experience emotional and psychological abuse.¹⁷ This survey, a collaboration between the Ministry of Education and Youth of the Republic of Moldova and the Ministry of Social Protection, Family and Child of the Republic of Moldova, also found about 10% of children had insufficient nourishment. According to the 2012 Republic of Moldova Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, 76% of children ages 2-14 years were subject to violent disciplinary measures, including physical punishment and psychological aggression.¹⁸

These studies show that violence against children in the Republic of Moldova is pervasive and requires immediate attention. Per these reports, those who are supposed to protect children (e.g., parents and guardians, other family members, and teachers and other adults in the community) are the ones committing violence against children.^{19,20}

A 2015 sociological study on the opinions and perceptions of Moldovans regarding domestic violence and child abuse points out social perceptions of the phenomena of violence and abuse. Four out of ten participants (43.6%) think that children are victims of emotional violence in the family, more than one third of the participants (36.2%) believe physical abuse occurs frequently

in families, and 20% of participants believe sexual abuse to be a frequent occurrence in Moldovan society.²¹ The Republic of Moldova's Ministry of Internal Affairs reports an increasing trend in sexual violence cases, which reached over 25% of the total number of registered offences against children in 2015.²²

A few organizations and universities have conducted various types of small-scale surveys on the effects of migration on children in the Republic of Moldova. Some of these findings suggest a link between migration and violence. According to a 2011 qualitative survey, the children and elderly explain

migration of family members as being determined by a number of factors (e.g., the intention to escape from poverty or to improve living conditions, lack of employment opportunities, and the lack of access to education for children).²³

However, no study has shown a link between parental migration and violence against children in the Republic of Moldova.

It is important to emphasize that little is known about the specific risk and protective factors for violence against children in the Republic of Moldova. While some qualitative studies in the Republic of Moldova provide information on the risks and impact on violence against children, they are mostly limited in scale and findings cannot be generalized.^{24,25}

The 2019 Republic of Moldova VACS is the first-ever nationally representative household-based study to estimate the prevalence of sexual, physical, and emotional violence against children and youth in the country.

The data from the Moldova VACS are intended to inform programs and policies to end all forms of violence against children and, in doing so, serve as an example to other countries in leveraging high-quality data to drive action to prevent violence and provide services to victims.

SELECTION

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The purpose of the 2019 Republic of Moldova VACS is to estimate [1] the prevalence of childhood violence (physical, sexual and emotional), defined as violence occurring before 18 years of age among 18-24-year-olds, and [2] the prevalence of violence in the 12 months prior to the survey among adolescents (ages 13-17) and young adults (ages 18-24).

2.1.

To achieve these aims, the Republic of Moldova VACS assessed the experiences of females and males ages 13-24 via a nationally representative household survey. The survey sample was stratified by sex: separate samples were drawn for males and females based on required sample size and consideration of response rates.

To obtain a nationally representative sample, the Republic of Moldova VACS used the 2014 Census and data from the 2016 Elections as the sample frame. The survey used a four-stage cluster sampling design. Separate Primary Sampling Units (PSUs) were selected for males and females.

In the first stage, 93 localities were selected from the 897 localities in the sample frame using probability proportional to size. In the second stage, 128 PSUs (64 female PSUs and 64 male PSUs) within the selected localities were selected using random selection. In the third stage, 25 eligible households were initially randomly selected in each PSU from a list of all eligible households in the PSU. A household was determined to be eligible if at least one 13-24-year-old was a household member.

During fieldwork there was a lower-than-anticipated number of completed interviews, due mostly to lower-than-anticipated household response rates, particularly in urban areas. In order to adapt to the low household response rates that affected achieving

the target sample size, the cluster size was increased to 50 households in the urban PSUs, and an additional 30 female PSUs and 30 male PSUs were selected and added to the sample, totaling 188 PSUs.

The additional PSUs were randomly selected within the 93 localities selected during the first stage of the sample design. In the fourth stage, one eligible 13-24-year-old participant was selected within each household. Additional details on the sampling and methodology are included in APPENDIX B: Supplementary Sampling Methods.

2.2.

VACS includes a core questionnaire for the Head of Household (HoH) as well as participant questionnaires (both a male and a female version) that are adapted for each country survey. The core VACS questionnaire was adapted for the Republic of Moldova 2019 VACS through a consultative process of key stakeholders and partners, led by the MSTF.

The participant questionnaire covered the following topics: demographics; parental relationships; education; general connectedness to family, friends and community; endorsement of traditional gender norms; perceptions of safety; witnessing violence in the home or community; sexual history and risk-taking behavior; experiences of physical, sexual and emotional violence; violence perpetration; pregnancy; health outcomes and risk behaviors; violence disclosure, service-seeking and utilization of services; and migration history. Additionally, the questionnaire

contained modules that were specific for the Republic of Moldova; these included questions about disability. Disability is self-reported by the participant in this survey; official disability status was not confirmed in the survey. All participants were asked about ever experiencing childhood violence in addition to experiences of violence in the past 12 months. For analysis purposes in this report, prevalence estimates of childhood violence were based on responses from participants ages 18 to 24 reporting on their experiences prior to age 18, whereas the estimates of current violence were based on responses from both participants ages 13-17 and 18-24 reporting on experiences occurring in the 12 months preceding the survey. This allowed for the examination of current patterns and contexts of childhood violence in the Republic of Moldova.

2.3.

To be included in the survey, a participant had to be living in selected households in the Republic of Moldova, be between the ages of 13 to 24 at the time of the survey and speak Romanian or Russian. The target population for this survey included individuals ages 13-24. The study relied on this age range because children younger than 13 years old typically do not have the maturity to be able to answer complex survey questions, including the more complicated questions on potential risk and protective factors. Furthermore, limiting the upper age range to 24 years helps reduce potential recall bias for childhood experiences or the inability to recall events in the past accurately.

Females and males who did not have the capacity to understand and/or respond to the survey questions due to a cognitive impairment or significant physical disability (e.g., severe hearing or speech impairment)

were ineligible to participate. Females and males who had other types of disabilities that did not preclude their participation in the interview were able to participate. Those living or residing in institutions such as hospitals, prisons, nursing homes, dorms, and other similar institutions were not included in the survey because VACS was household-based. During study implementation, upon entering a randomly selected household, interviewers identified the HoH, or the person acting as the HoH at the time, to introduce the study and determine eligibility of household members to participate.

Interviewers invited the HoH to participate in a short survey to assess the socio-economic conditions of the household. At that time, the HoH was asked to provide consent for the selected participant to complete the survey of their experiences. When there was more than one eligible participant, a participant was randomly selected using a program installed on the tablets used for data collection. If participants were not available for an interview, interviewers made every effort to schedule return visits to the household at times when the selected

participant would be available. However, if the selected participant was not available after three attempts, or if she or he refused to participate, the household was coded as a non-response regardless of whether another eligible participant existed in the household. In that case, neither the household nor the eligible participant were replaced.

2.4.

Data collection was done electronically using the Open Data Kit (ODK) program installed on data collection tablets running on Android operating system. Data collection was conducted in face-to-face computer assisted personal interviews (CAPI) by trained interviewers with selected eligible participants using a structured questionnaire. To ensure privacy during the study, interviewers took thorough precautions. The interviewers conducted the interview in a safe and private location (e.g., outside, or in an appropriate place in the home or yard). If the interview could

not be completed while the survey team was in the selected community, the interview was coded as incomplete. If the participant was not available after three attempts to contact her/him over the course of two days, the household was omitted and not replaced. The initial visit record form of the survey tool had a section that allowed the survey team to track incomplete interviews, as well as interviews that needed to be rescheduled. Data collection occurred from October 2018 to February 2019.

2.5.

The Republic of Moldova VACS adhered to WHO recommendations on ethics and safety in studies of violence against women.²⁶ The Research and Ethics Committee at the CDC Institutional Review Board and a Group of Experts from the Republic of Moldova reviewed

and approved the survey protocol to ensure appropriate protections for the rights and welfare of human research participants.

During the interview, participants could have recalled frightening, humiliating, or painful experiences, which could elicit a strong emotional response. Participants could also have recently experienced violence and desired counseling or immediate assistance with the situation. Therefore, to respond to the needs of participants, with the support of MHLSP, the MSTF developed a response plan and established multiple ways to link participants to support.

Participants who met criteria for referrals were offered direct contact with a specialist at the time of the interview or the option to meet with the specialist at a later time or different location. At the end of every interview, all participants were provided a list of services.

The first step in the informed consent process was to seek consent from the HoH. For all selected eligible participants under 18 years old, the HoH provided verbal consent to allow interviewers to conduct the interview. Participants who were age 18 or older, emancipated persons ages 16-17, and minors who lived in a child-headed household provided their own consent to participate in the survey.

assent form (for minor participants) or a consent form (for adults, emancipated minors, and children living in a child-headed household). This assent/consent informed the participants that information they provided on the questionnaire was confidential and anonymous, and that their decision regarding participation was voluntary. Participants were told that if they chose to participate, information about their sexual activity, and their experiences with physical, sexual, and emotional violence would be asked. Participants were assured that the information they shared was confidential, identifying information would not be shared with anyone, and that they could skip any questions or end participation at any time. Participants age 13-15 received this instruction again before the sexual behavior section and were reminded that they could choose not to answer any question or skip the entire sexual behavior section at any time. Each participant provided assent or consent verbally. This was documented electronically in the survey tablets by the interviewer.

When seeking permission from the HoH, interviewers described the study as “an opportunity to learn more about the social welfare of children and young in the Republic of Moldova which include health, educational, and life experiences.” This approach is consistent with WHO ethical and safety recommendations regarding obtaining informed consent for participation in surveys that contain questions on domestic violence.²⁷ This introduction helped to ensure the safety and confidentiality of both participants and interviewers. According to the WHO guidelines, it was important to define the study in terms other than violence. The VACS adopted this guideline to inform HoHs as fully as possible about the content of the survey without risking possible retaliation against participants for their participation.

Once informed consent was obtained from the parent or HoH, the interviewer and the participant moved to a private location for the survey to ensure confidentiality. Following this important step, the interviewer read the contents of a verbal survey

2.6.

For females, the household response rate was 56.8% and the individual response rate was 83.4%, resulting in an overall response rate of 47.3%. For males, the household response rate was 55.6% and the individual response rate was 81.7%, yielding an overall response rate of 45.5%. In the female sample, 1,226 households were surveyed, with a total of 1,021 females completing the participant questionnaire. In the male sample, 1,197 households were surveyed, with 978 males completing the participant questionnaire. See Appendix B: Supplementary Sampling Methods for further details on how response rates were calculated.

Data were analyzed separately for participants ages 13-17 versus 18-24 given differences between these age groups in the time scope reported in the present report. Data from 13-17-year-olds generated estimates of the prevalence of violence experienced in the 12 months prior to the survey among adolescents.ⁱⁱ Data from 18-24-year-olds generated estimates of prevalence of violence experienced before age 18 (i.e., childhood violence) and in the 12 months prior to the survey among young adults. Estimates of the prevalence of violence in the past 12 months provided information about recent experiences of adolescents and young adults, as well as the patterns and contexts of violence in the Republic of Moldova. Although the analyses distinguished results by sex

Sample weights were created and applied to each individual record to adjust for the probability of selection, differential non-response, and calibration to the census population. SAS contains complex sample procedures that incorporate the weights and cluster stage design. Through the use of appropriate software that considers the complex sample design, accurate standard errors were produced for each estimate.

and age group, all VACS participants responded to the same questions, except questions about pregnancy, which only applied to females.

The statistical package SAS (version 9.4) was used for data management and analysis to produce weighted point estimates and standard error calculations. Sample weights were applied to all results to yield nationally representative estimates.ⁱⁱⁱ When calculating the estimates for most measures, missing values were excluded from the analysis.

Additional details on the weighting procedure are included in APPENDIX B: Supplementary Sampling Methods.

ⁱⁱ Referred to throughout this report as “past 12 months”
ⁱⁱⁱ See Appendix B

Estimates were considered unreliable based on the corresponding Relative Standard Error (RSE). RSE is calculated by dividing the standard error by the estimate and then multiplying by 100. As such, the RSE is affected by the magnitude of the estimate (i.e., the percentage or proportion) and the sample size. If sample weights are computed, as in VACS, then estimates are based on the weighted sample size.

Estimates with an RSE higher than 30% were considered unreliable in the Republic of Moldova VACS. An asterisk (“*”) is displayed in tables in place of all unreliable estimates. Weighted estimate of 100% with small denominators (<10 observations) were not shown (denoted by **) because these estimates were considered unreliable.

The estimates in this report are accompanied by a 95% confidence interval (CI). This is a statistical measure indicating how confident we can be in our point estimates, within a specified margin of error. The CIs are calculated as the Z-score for a normal distribution containing 95% of the values (1.96) multiplied by the standard error of the prevalence estimate. Smaller CIs mean that the estimates are more precise, whereas wider CIs indicate more variation in the sample data.

To evaluate whether differences between any groups or subgroups were statistically significant and not due to random variation, the CIs for point estimates were compared to determine whether they overlapped. The CI overlap method is a conservative method that determines statistical difference by comparing the CI for two estimates —

For all other weighted estimates of 100%, the 95% CI were not shown (denoted by NA) because the estimated standard error would be zero, and therefore, confidence intervals was inestimable. Unreliable estimates should be interpreted with caution. Unreliable estimates are included in the tables, but not discussed in the Results section. When the prevalence of an item is zero percent (0.0%), those results as are denoted as <0.1 in the tables and should be interpreted with caution. It should not be assumed that the prevalence of the item in the entire population is an absolute zero.

This 95% range indicates that, for 95 out of 100 samples completed in the same way as the VACS, the true population prevalence of violence will be between the upper and lower CI values. For example, if the expected childhood sexual violence prevalence in the Republic of Moldova is 30%, with a CI of 26% to 34%, this would mean that if we could survey all youth in Moldova, between 26% and 34% would report having experienced sexual violence in childhood.

if the CIs do not overlap then the estimates are considered “statistically different” and not due to random chance.

This section presents selected background characteristics of the survey population in Moldova by age, sex, education, age of head of household, death of one or both parents, disability, work experience, marital status, age at first marriage, sexual activity and migration experience.

“Married” refers to those who were ever married or ever lived with someone as if married, otherwise known as cohabitation. Participants were also asked about migration. Parent migration or internal displacement was defined as a circumstance whereby the participants’ mother or father moved to another country or to another geographic area of Moldova for six months or more when the participant was a child (before age 18). Participants who lived out of the country in childhood and had returned were considered those who had migrated and returned.

3.1.

TABLES 3.1.1. through 3.1.4. include background characteristics of 18-24-year-olds. Fewer than 1 in 10 females (9.2%) and males (9.4%) only completed primary school. Most young adults in Moldova completed secondary school or higher (females, 90.3%; males, 90.7%). The proportion of females who had lost one or both parents due to death was 15.0%, and for males, 7.0%. More than one in five females (21.5%) and one in six males (17.3%) had a functional disability in one or more domains. Common types of disabilities for both females (11.4%) and males (9.6%) were seeing impairments and problems remembering or concentrating (females, 9.8%; males 6.6%). Most females and males self-identified as heterosexual or straight (females, 99.9%; males, 98.9%).

Nearly half of females (47.6%) and nearly three out of five males (57.6%) worked for money or other payment in the previous year. Food insecurity was relatively common: 13.2% of females and 11.2% of males experienced food insecurity. About two out of five females (40.6%) and males (39.1%) received money or goods from abroad in the past three years, commonly from Russia (females, 14.5%; males, 9.2%) and Italy (females, 9.9%; males, 15.5%). Among those who received remittances, most of females (64.4%) and males (58.3%) decided by themselves how their remittances were used. Among females who worked in the past 12 months, common locations were at a formal office (27.7%), a shop or kiosk (18.7%), a restaurant/hotel/café/bar (17.7%), or at a factory or workshop (16.8%).

For males who worked, common locations were at a construction site (25.3%), a factory or workshop (20.4%), a restaurant/hotel/café/bar (15.9%), or a formal office (12.1%).

One out of four females (27.4%) and males (25.2%) indicated their mother migrated for six months or more when they were children, and 43.5% of females and 40.7% of males indicated their father migrated. Among females whose mother or father migrated, the average age was 10.7 years when their mother migrated and 9.0 years when their father migrated. Among males whose mother or father migrated, the average age of males was 11.6 years when their mother migrated and 10.3 years when their father migrated. Few youth migrated abroad and returned to Moldova (6.4% of females and 7.0% of males). Among those who migrated and had returned, 75.9% of females and 65.0% of males lived in Russia. Among those who lived abroad in childhood, the average age of migration was age 13.2 years for females and 14.1 years for males. During migration, the person who commonly traveled with both females (72.8%) and males (78.3%) was a parent. Common reasons for migration were related to economic, work, or school for both females (39.4%) and males (60.8%). Approximately half of males (51.9%) and females (47.3%) plan to migrate in the next three years. Common reasons for migration plans in the next three years are economic, work, or school opportunities for both males (94.1%) and females (83.1%).

More than two out of five females (45.3%) and one out of five males (21.3%) were married or lived with someone as if married. This difference was statistically significant. Child marriage was not common; 5.2% of females married or lived with someone as if married before age 18. The estimate for males who were married or lived with someone as if married before age 18 was not reliable. About three out of four females (76.9%) and males (77.7%) had ever had sex, but early sexual debut (first sex at or before age 15) was un-

common: 3.0% for females and 8.9% for males. The difference in prevalence of early sexual debut between females and males is statistically significant. The mean age of first sex for females was 18.0 years, and for males was 17.2 years. Males' sexual initiation was at a significantly younger average age than females.

3.2.

TABLES 3.2.1 through 3.2.5 include background characteristics of 13-17-year-olds. Among females and males ages 13-17, nearly all had completed primary school or higher (98.6% of females and 99.6% of males). Current educational enrollment among adolescents was also high; 95.5% of females and 92.7% of males ages 13-17 were enrolled in school. About one out of ten had lost one or both parents due to death (11.5% of females and 8.3% of males). About one in four females (25.8%) and one in five males (18.5%) had a functional disability in one or more domains. Common types of self-reported disability were difficulty seeing (females, 15.1%; males, 8.9%) and problems remembering or concentrating (females, 8.2%; males, 5.6%).

Significantly fewer females (11.5%) than males (22.8%) worked for money or another form of payment in the past 12 months. Fewer than one in ten youth experienced food insecurity (9.7% of females and 5.8% of males). About one out of four females (26.5%) and males (27.1%) received money or goods from abroad in the previous three years. For females, common sources of money or goods were Russia (10.1%), Italy (8.5%), and other European countries (6.1%). For males, common sources of money or goods were from other European countries (8.7%), other non-European countries (7.7%), Russia (6.2%), and Italy (4.4%). Among those who received remittances, parents commonly decide how the remittances are used both for females (56.2%) and males (54.3%).

The common reasons for not attending school among females were that they had graduated or were done with school (74.1%). Among the 7.3% of males who were not attending school, common reasons for not attending were that they had graduated or were done

with school (58.7%). Among females who worked for money or other payment, common locations were at a farm or garden (37.1%), or a restaurant/hotel/café/bar (25.4%). Among males who worked, common locations were at a farm or garden (31.9%), another location (20.8%), or a restaurant/hotel/café/bar (14.3%).

One in five females (19.0%) and males (19.1%) indicated their mother migrated or was internally displaced for six months or more. The average ages of youth when their mothers migrated was 8.9 years for females and 9.4 years for males. About two out of five females (44.2%) and males (37.1%) indicated their father migrated for six months or more. The average age of youth when their father migrated was 7.6 years for females and 7.9 years for males. Fewer than one in ten youth migrated in childhood and returned to Moldova: 8.9% of females and 7.5% of males. Among those who lived abroad, about half lived in Russia (females, 52.2%; males, 48.8%). Of those who migrated and returned, the average age of migration was 9.6 years for females and 7.6 years for males. During migration, the person who commonly traveled with both females (78.6%) and males (89.7%) was a parent. Common reasons for migration were related to economic, work, or school for both females (46.5%) and males (68.4%). Approximately one out of three females (31.0%) and one out of five males (27.0%) plan to migrate in the next three years. Common reasons for migration plans are economic, work, or school opportunities for both females (84.9%) and males (89.6%). The estimates of females and males who had been married or lived with someone as if married in adolescence were unreliable. Fewer than one in ten had ever had sex (females, 8.2%; males, 9.9%).

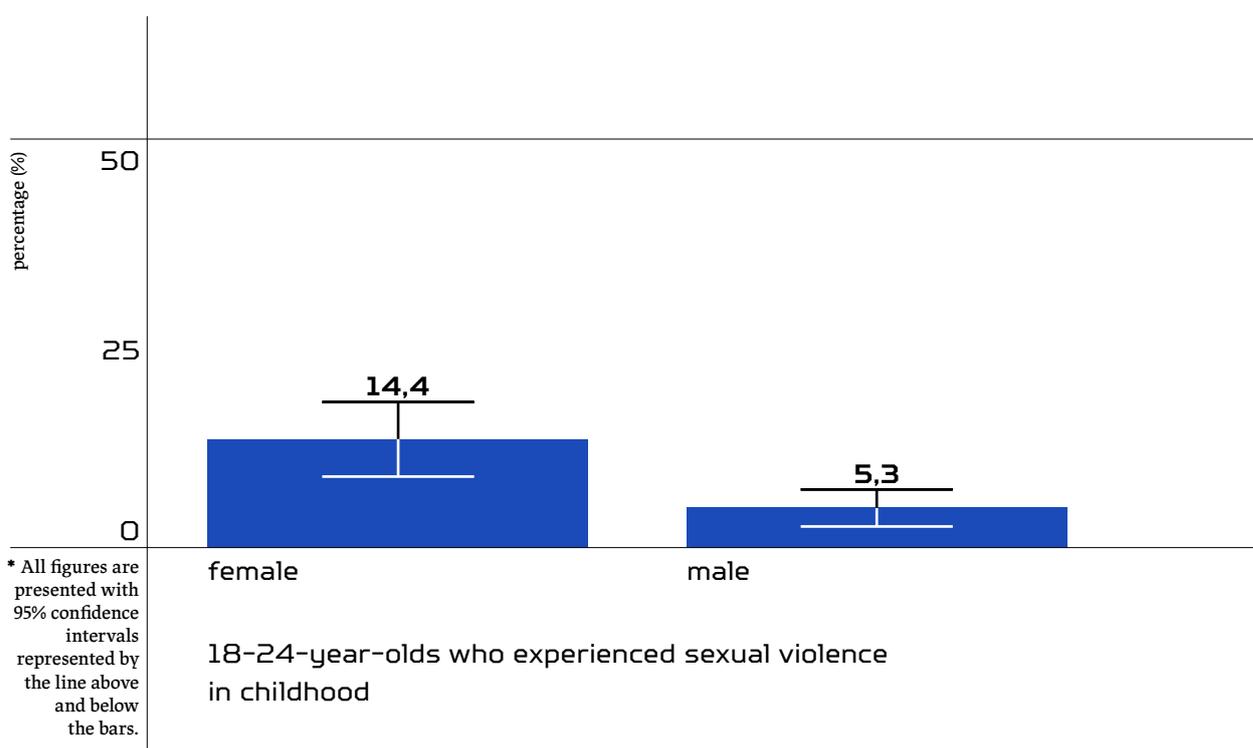
This section describes the prevalence and contexts of sexual violence against children and youth in Moldova. Four forms of sexual violence were included: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted forced sex, coerced or alcohol-facilitated sex, and physically forced sex. The section further describes context in which sexual violence occurs as well as service knowledge and utilization for experiences of sexual violence.

For each form of sexual violence, the perpetrator, context, and location of the first incident is reported among 18-24-year-olds, and the most recent incident among 13-17-year-olds. If a participant experienced multiple forms of sexual violence, such as unwanted sexual touching and unwanted attempted forced sex, she or he was asked about the perpetrator of the first or most recent incident of each form of violence. Since any participant could have provided up to four perpetrators (one perpetrator for the first or most recent incident of each form of violence experience), the total percentages of perpetrators may sum to more than 100%. All results presented are percentages of the total number who experienced sexual violence in childhood (for those ages 18-24) or experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months (for those ages 13-17).

4.1.

The prevalence of childhood sexual violence is presented in this section. The prevalence of each of the four forms of sexual violence are also described along with age at first experience of sexual violence and experiences of multiple incidents of sexual violence. Multiple incidents include more than one incident of the same form of sexual violence, more than one form of sexual violence, or both. Prevalence of unwanted first sex, including physically forced or coerced or alcohol-facilitated sex at sexual debut, are also presented. In some cases, the number of incidents of sexual violence for females and males were too small to generate reliable estimates for certain indicators. Results of sexual violence in childhood among 18-24-year-olds are presented in TABLES 4.1.1 through 4.1.12. About one in seven females (14.4%) and one in twenty males (5.3%) experienced sexual violence before age 18. The difference between females and males is statistically significant (FIGURE 4.1).

Among females, 11.8% experienced unwanted sexual touching; 5.2% of males experienced unwanted sexual touching. The estimates of females and males who experienced unwanted attempted sex; pressured, coerced, or alcohol-facilitated sex; or physically forced sex were unreliable. Among those who experienced any childhood sexual violence, 69.8% of females experienced the first incident at ages 16-17, and 21.7% at ages 14-15. For males, 68.8% experienced the first incident at age 16-17. Among youth who experienced childhood sexual violence, more than three out of five females (60.9%) and nearly nine out of ten males (88.2%) experienced multiple incidents before age 18.



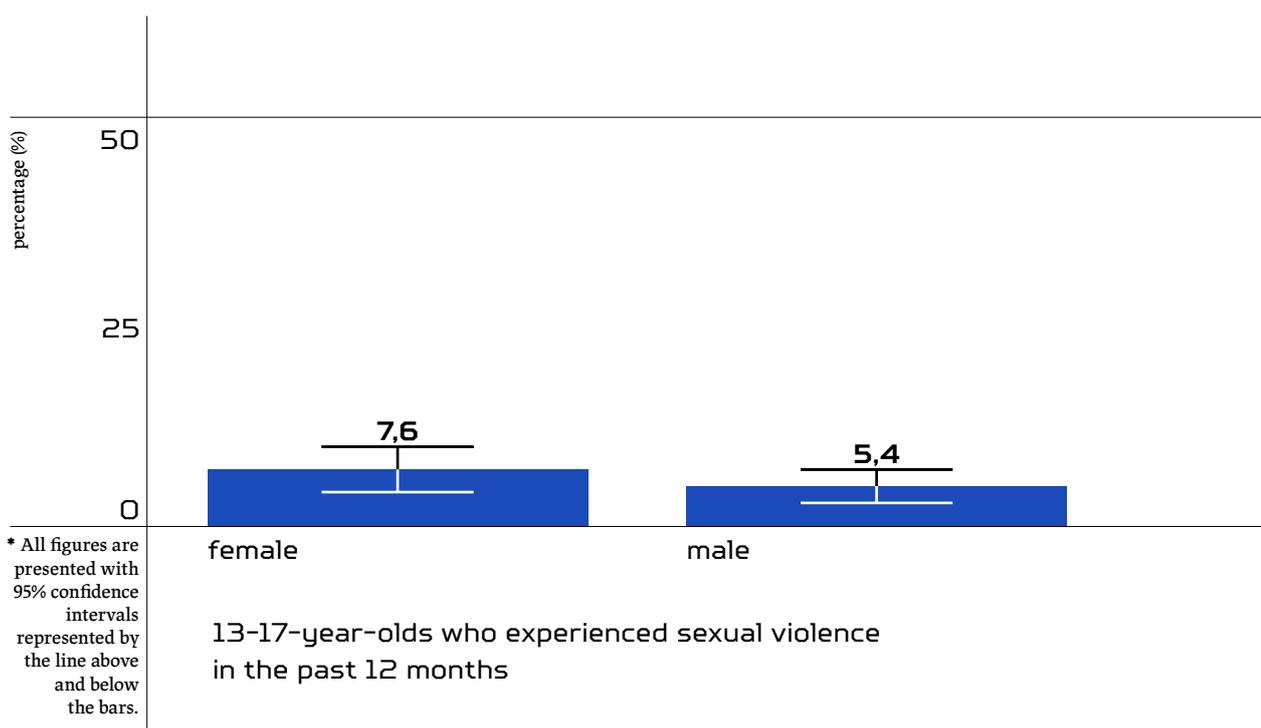
Source: Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

Among females, the most common perpetrator of the first incident of sexual violence was a stranger (25.6%). For males, the most common perpetrators were a friend (51.3%). Among females who experienced sexual violence in childhood, about three out of ten (31.3%) indicated the perpetrator of the first incident was at least five years older. This estimate was unreliable for males.

Among females and males, the most common locations of the first incidents of sexual violence were outside of the perpetrator's, victim's, or another person's home (females, 81.1%; males, 82.1%). For females, 48.1% of the first incidents occurred in the evening and 45.2% in the afternoon. This estimate was unreliable for males.

Among females who experienced sexual violence in childhood, 37.1% told someone about their experience. Females commonly told a relative (72.3%). These estimates were unreliable for males. Knowledge of services was moderately high: 61.9% of females and 43.4% of males who experi-

enced childhood sexual violence knew of a place to go for help. Estimates for service access were unreliable for both females and males. A common reason for not seeking services was that victims did not think it was a problem (females, 49.7%; males, 52.6%).



Source: Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

4.2.

Results of sexual violence in childhood among 13-17-year-olds are presented in TABLES 4.2.1 through 4.2.10. In the past year, 7.6% of females and 5.4% of males experienced sexual violence (FIGURE 4.2). Among 13-17-year-olds, 5.3% of females and 5.2% of males experienced unwanted sexual touching. Estimates of unwanted attempted sex; pressured, coerced, or alcohol-facilitated sex; and physically forced sex were unreliable for both females and males. Among youth who experienced

sexual violence in the past 12 months, 86.6% of females and 65.6% of males experienced more than one incident. About half of females (50.9%) and nearly three out of five males (59.5%) who experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months had the first experience of sexual violence at ages 14-15. Nearly two out of five males (38.8%) who experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months had the first experience of sexual violence at ages 16-17.

Among females ages 13-17 who experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months, the most common perpetrator of the most recent incident was a friend (36.2%). For males, the most common perpetrator was a classmate or schoolmate (43.7%). Among females, the most common locations of the most recent incident was at school (48.0%), and a location that was not a home or school (36.1%). For males, the most common locations of the most recent incident of sexual violence was another location that was not a home or school (37.7%), and school (36.9%). Two out of five female victims (40.9%) experienced the most recent incident in the evening and 34.3% in the afternoon. For males, 56.4% experienced the most recent incident in the afternoon and 30.5% in the evening.

About three out of five females (59.2%) and less than half of males (44.7%) who experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months told someone about their experience. Females were most likely to tell a spouse, live-in partner, boyfriend, or intimate partner (49.8%). The estimates of who was told were unreliable for males. Slightly less than half of females (47.3%) and three out of five males (60.2%) knew of a place to go for help about an experience of sexual violence. The estimates for service-seeking and service receipt were unreliable for females and males. Males who did not seek services indicated that they did not think it was a problem (54.7%). Estimates for reasons not to seek services were unreliable for females.

SELECTION

5.1.

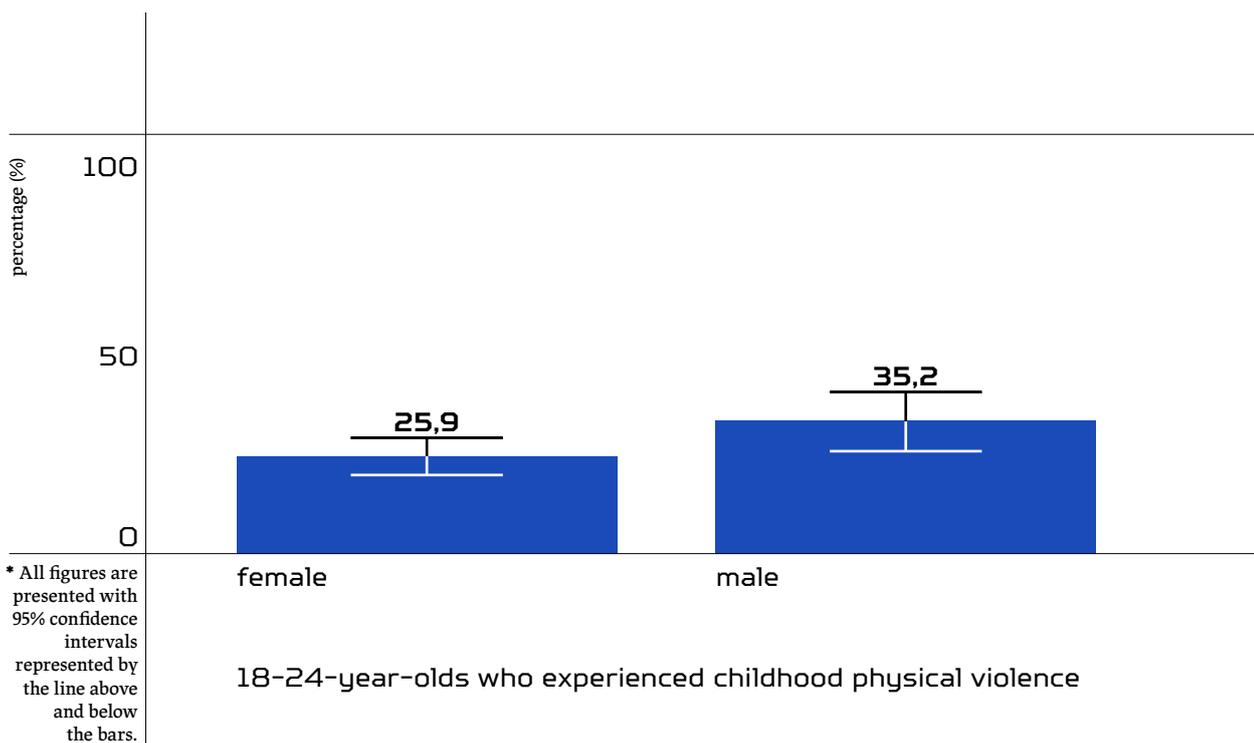
5.2.

5.3.

This section describes the **magnitude and contexts of physical violence** against children and youth in Moldova.^{iv} The perpetrators of childhood physical violence, injuries received and school missed as a result of violence, disclosure of violence, and knowledge and utilization of services are also described. Results include the overall prevalence of physical violence in childhood (before age 18) for 18-24-year-olds and in the past 12 months for 13-17-year-olds.

The prevalence of physical violence by four **types of perpetrators** is presented: (1) parents, adult caregivers, and other adult relatives; (2) intimate partners; (3) peers; and (4) other adults in the community.

Injuries from physical violence among 13-17-year-olds are also described. Such injuries include: cuts, scratches, bruises, aches, redness or swelling or other minor marks; sprains, dislocations, or blistering; deep wounds, broken bones, broken teeth, or blackened or charred skin; and permanent injury or disfigurement.



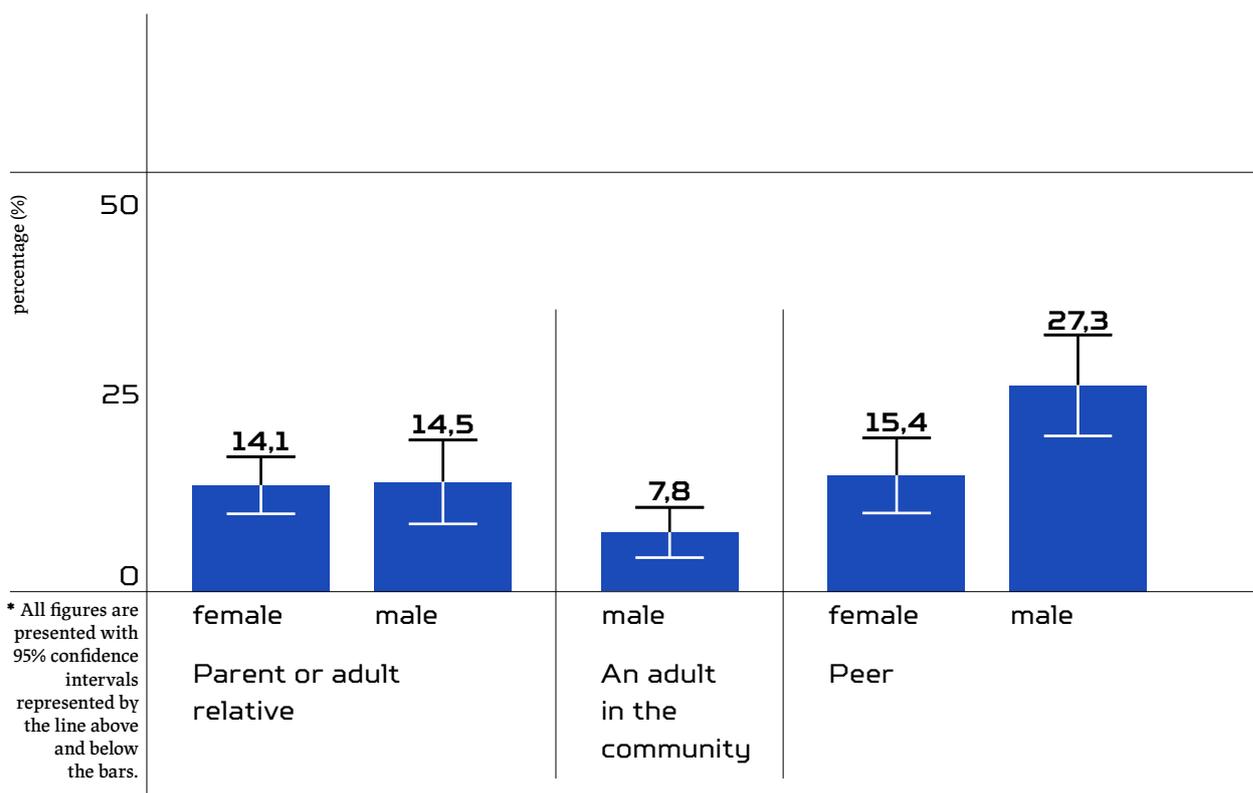
Source: Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

5.1.

TABLES 5.1.1 through 5.1.5 include findings related to physical violence in childhood among 18-24-year-olds. About one out of four females (25.9%) and one out of three males (35.2%) experienced physical violence before age 18 (FIGURE 5.1). More than half of females (57.0%) who experienced physical violence in childhood had the first incident at ages 12-17, and 42.4% had the first incident at ages 6-11. For males who experienced physical violence in childhood, more than three out of five (62.2%) had the first experience at ages 12-17, followed by ages 6-11 (31.7%). About one in seven females (14.1%) and males (14.5%) experienced physical violence in childhood by a parent, adult caregiver, or other adult relative. The estimates of physical violence by an intimate partner in childhood among those who had a partner were unreliable for females and males. The prevalence

of childhood physical violence by an adult in the community was 7.8% among males; this estimate was unreliable for females. Significantly more males (27.3%) than females (15.4%) experienced physical violence by a peer in childhood (FIGURE 5.2).

Among 18-24-year-olds who experienced physical violence in childhood, 48.7% of females and 51.8% of males told someone about their experience. The person they told was a relative (females, 75.3%; males, 60.7%), or a friend or neighbor (females, 17.6%; males, 37.6%). Three out of five females (63.3%) and seven out of ten males (72.8%) knew of a place to go for help for physical violence. The estimates for service-seeking and receipt of services were unreliable for females and males.

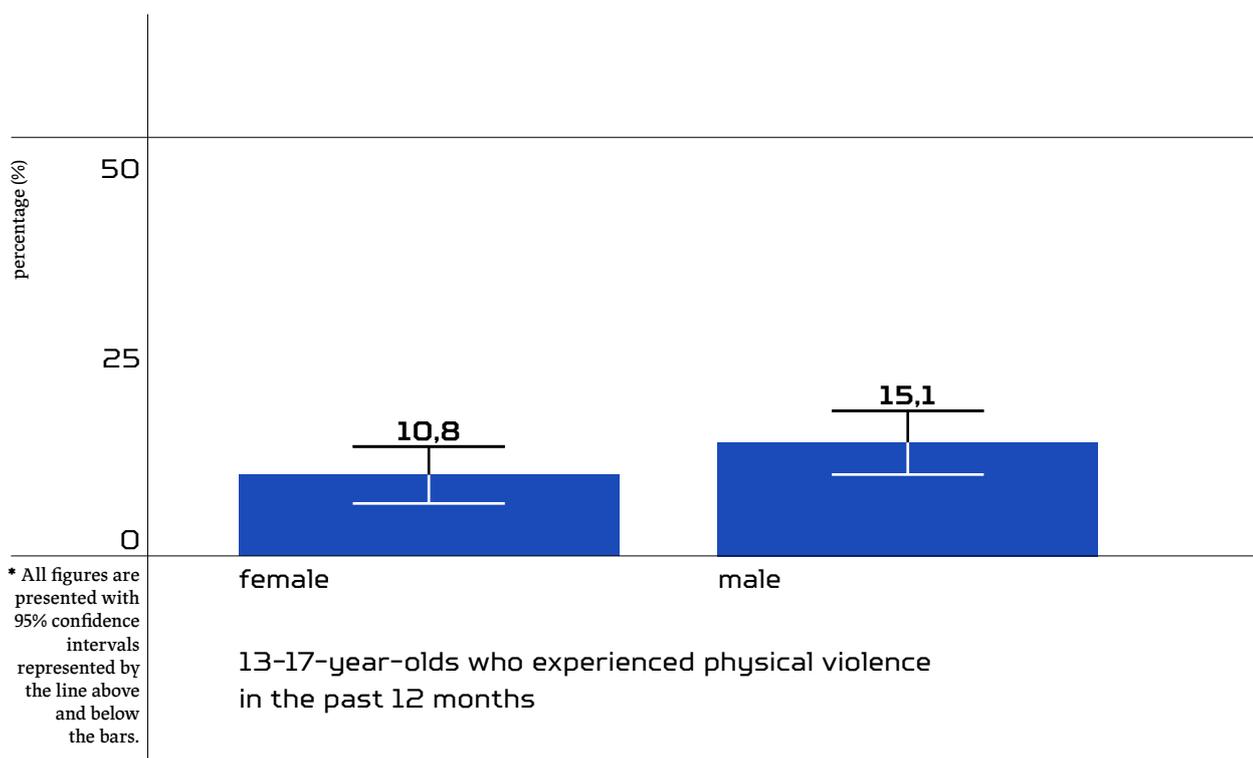


Source: Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

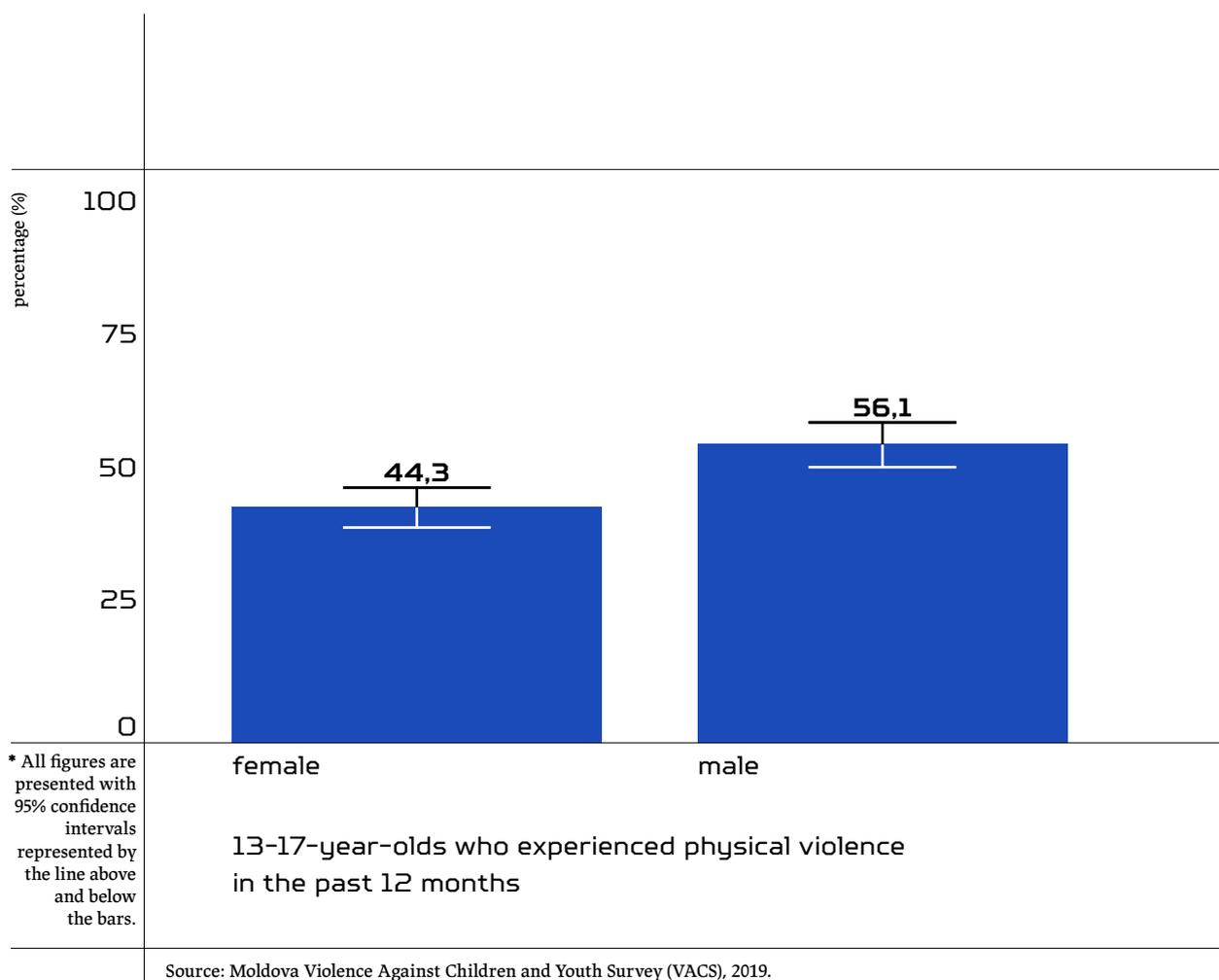
5.2.

TABLES 5.2.1 through 5.2.7 include results for physical violence in the past 12 months among 13-17-year-olds. About one in ten females (10.8%) and 15.1% of males ages 13-17 experienced physical violence in the past 12 months (FIGURE 5.3). Among those who experienced physical violence in the past 12 months, 71.2% of females and 51.4% of males had a first experience at ages 12-17 and 23.9% of females and 42.4% of males had a first experience at ages 6-11. Fewer than one in ten females (8.6%) and 12.7% of males experienced physical violence by a peer in the past 12 months. The estimates for physical violence by an intimate partner; a parent, adult caregiver, or other adult relative; or adult in the community in the past 12 months were unreliable. More than two out of five females (44.3%) and more than half of males (56.1%) who experienced physical violence in the past 12 months experienced an injury from violence (FIGURE 5.4).

More than half of females (55.7%) and nearly half of males (47.7%) who experienced physical violence in the past 12 months told someone about their experiences. Among those who told someone, 80.2% of females and 65.6% of males told a relative, and 29.1% of males told a friend or neighbor. More than three out of four females (77.5%) and more than four out of five males (83.2%) knew of a place to go for help about an experience of physical violence, and 9.3% of males sought help. The estimates for service-seeking and receipt of services for females and for receipt of service for males were unreliable. Some of the reasons for not seeking services for both females and males were that they did not think it was a problem (females, 49.8%; males, 47.8%), or they did not need or want to tell anyone (females, 28.2%; males, 38.7%).



Source: Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.



5.3.

Witnessing physical violence in the home was defined as seeing or hearing a parent punched, kicked, or beaten up by another parent or their boyfriend or girlfriend or seeing or hearing a sibling punched, kicked, or beaten by a parent. Witnessing physical violence in the neighborhood included seeing anyone outside of the home and family environment get attacked. TABLE 5.3.1 includes results of witnessing violence in the home and in the neighborhood among 18-24-year-olds in childhood and 13-17-year-olds in the past 12 months.

Among 18-24-year-olds, more than one out of three females (35.4%) and one out of five males (22.9%) ages 18-24 witnessed physical violence in the home before age 18. Three out of five females (59.9%) and nearly three out of four males (73.3%) witnessed violence in the neighborhood before age 18. Among youth ages 13-17, 8.0% of females and 4.2% of males witnessed violence in the home in the past 12 months, and 26.9% of females and 38.8% of males witnessed physical violence in the neighborhood in the past 12 months.

This section describes childhood experiences of emotional violence perpetrated by parents, adult caregivers, or other adult relatives; peers; and intimate partners. The specific measures of emotional violence by each perpetrator type are provided in SECTION B, Key Terms and Definitions. TABLES 6.1.1 through 6.2.2 include results of emotional violence.

6.1.

Among 18-24-year-olds, 10.6% of females and 8.9% of males experienced emotional violence by a parent, adult caregiver, or adult relative before age 18.

6.2.

Among 13-17-year-olds, 36.8% of females and 29.7% of males experienced emotional violence by any perpetrator in the past year. Among females, 3.8% experienced emotional violence by a parent, adult caregiver, or other adult relative; 35.2% experienced peer emotional violence; and 15.7% experienced intimate partner emotional violence in the past year. Among males, 27.1% experienced peer emotional violence and 12.9% experienced intimate partner emotional violence in the past year. The estimate of males who experienced emotional violence by a parent, adult caregiver, or other adult relative in the past year was unreliable.

This section describes the **sexual violence, physical violence, and intimate partner emotional violence** in the past 12 months among young adults. Prevalence and perpetrators violence are included for 18-24-year-olds who experienced violence **in the past year.**

7.1.

Results related to sexual violence in the past 12 months among 18-24-year-olds are provided in TABLES 7.1.1 through 7.1.3. In the past 12 months, 8.4% of females and 8.2% of males experienced sexual violence. The prevalence of unwanted sexual touching in the past 12 months was similar between females (7.7%) and males (6.9%). The estimates for unwanted attempted sex; pressured, coerced, or alcohol-facilitated sex; or physically forced sex in the past 12 months for females and males were unreliable.

Perpetrators of the most recent incidents of sexual violence experienced by females in the past 12 months were non-intimate partners (74.4%) and intimate partners (30.2%). For males, 84.4% of perpetrators were non-intimate partners.

7.3.

TABLE 7.3.1 includes results of emotional violence by an intimate partner in the past 12 months. Among females and males who had a partner, 13.1% of females and 22.1% of males experienced emotional violence by an intimate partner in the past 12 months.

7.2.

TABLES 7.2.1 through 7.2.5 include results of physical violence in the past 12 months among 18-24-year-olds. Among 18-24-year-olds, 7.9% of females and 11.8% of males experienced physical violence in the past year. Among females, 6.1% experienced physical violence by an intimate partner. The estimate for physical violence by a peer or by an adult in the community among females were unreliable. Among males, 7.1% experienced peer physical violence. The estimates of physical violence by an intimate partner or by an adult in the community among males were unreliable. Three out of five females (60.9%) and males (59.5%) who experienced physical violence in the past 12 months were injured.

More than half of females (55.0%) and more than two out of three males (62.1%) who experienced physical violence in the past 12 months told someone about their experience. Among those who disclosed, 64.1% of females and 67.5% of males told a relative. About two out of three females (68.3%) and males (66.3%) knew of a place to seek help about an experience of physical violence. The estimates for service-seeking and receipt of services were unreliable for females and males.

Although specific forms of violence have a distinctive nature and can occur in isolation, attempts to “categorize” violence can be somewhat artificial given that the boundaries between acts of violence often become blurred. For example, sexual violence is often inflicted through the use of physical violence and/or psychological intimidation, a form of emotional violence. This survey investigated overlaps in the three types of violence.

Overlaps could happen in one of two ways: [1] violence could occur simultaneously, such as when a youth is being emotionally and physically subjected to violence at the same time; and/or [2] violence could occur to the same youth, but at different points in time. The overlap of sexual, physical, and emotional violence experienced before age 18 are described here. In this section, “sexual violence” includes the four subtypes of sexual violence only.

8.1.

TABLES 8.1.1 and 8.1.2 include data on overlap of types of violence in childhood and in the past 12 months among 18-24-year-olds. In this age group, about one out of three females (36.8%) and males (37.6%) experienced any violence before age 18; 7.3% of females experienced sexual violence only, and 15.5% of females and 23.8% of males experienced physical violence only. The estimates of emotional violence by a parent, adult caregiver, or other adult relative only, among females and males, were unreliable. There was some overlap in violence experiences; 10.5% of females and 11.7% of males experienced two types of violence in childhood. The estimate of experiencing all three types of violence in childhood among females was unreliable.

More than one in six females (17.7%) and males (18.5%) ages 18-24 experienced any violence in the past 12 months. In this age group, 6.1% of females and 4.9% of males experienced sexual violence only, and 5.1% of females and 7.1% of males experienced physical violence only. The estimates of emotional violence by a parent, adult caregiver, or other adult relative and experiencing two forms of violence in the past 12 months among females and males were unreliable.

8.2.

TABLE 8.1.3 includes data on overlap among types of violence in the past 12 months for 13-17-year-olds. In this age group, one in six females (17.7%) and one in five males (19.2%) experienced any violence in the past 12 months. Among youth in this age group, 4.7% of females and 3.1% of males experienced sexual violence only, and 7.2% of females and 11.3% of males experienced physical violence only in the past 12 months. The estimates of emotional violence only in the past 12 months among females and males were unreliable. With respect to overlap among types of violence, 3.8% of females and 3.5% of males experienced two types of violence. The estimates of all three types in the past 12 months among females and males were unreliable.

This section describes health-related outcomes in young adulthood among 18-24-year-olds and in adolescence among 13-17-year-olds who experienced sexual, physical, and/or emotional violence compared to those who did not experience any violence. The health outcomes assessed include: mental distress in the past 30 days; binge drinking in the past 30 days; current smoker (cigarette smoking in the past 30 days); drug use in the past 30 days; intentional self-harm behaviors, suicidal ideation, and suicide attempts; and symptoms or diagnosis of STIs. Health outcomes that do not specify “in the past 30 days” may have occurred at any time in the person’s life (ever).

9.1.

TABLES 9.1.1 and 9.1.2 include results of health conditions and childhood sexual, physical, and emotional violence among 18-24-year-olds. Estimates for health conditions mentioned at the beginning of Section 9 were compared between 18-24-year-olds who did versus who did not experience sexual, physical, or emotional violence in childhood by sex. This section highlights significant differences by experience of violence.

Females ages 18-24 who experienced sexual violence in childhood were significantly more likely to have mental distress in the past 30 days than those who did not experience sexual violence in childhood (72.5% versus 49.7%). Males who experienced childhood physical violence were more likely to have mental distress in the past 30 days than those who did not experience childhood physical violence (58.7% versus 35.2%). Females ages 18-24 who experienced childhood emotional violence were significantly more likely to experience mental distress (83.3% versus 48.9%), be a current smoker (28.6% versus 7.8%) and have ever thought of suicide (36.2% versus 8.7%) than those who did not experience childhood emotional violence.

Males ages 18-24 who experienced childhood emotional violence had significantly higher prevalence of mental distress than those who had not experienced emotional violence in childhood (68.6% versus 40.9%). Information on estimates that were not significantly different or not reliable is available in TABLES 9.1.1 (for females) and 9.1.2 (for males)

9.2.

TABLES 9.2.1 and 9.2.2 include findings related to health conditions and sexual, physical, and emotional violence in the past 12 months among 13-17-year-olds.

For males, those who experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months were significantly more likely to have mental distress (66.0% versus 28.2%) and have engaged in binge drinking in the past 30 days (41.0% versus 6.4%) than those who had not experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months. There were significant differences between females ages 13-17 who experienced physical violence in the past 12 months and those who did not for mental distress in the past 30 days (75.2% versus 42.4%).

For males, those who experienced physical violence in the past 12 months were significantly more likely than those who did not experience physical violence in the past 12 months to engage in binge drinking in the past 30 days (21.6% versus 5.9%). Females ages 13-17 who experienced emotional violence in the past 12 months had significantly higher prevalence of mental distress in the past 30 days than those who did not experience emotional violence in the past 12 months (100.0% versus 43.8%). Males who experienced emotional violence in the past 12 months were significantly more likely to have mental distress in the past 30 days than those who

did not experience emotional violence in the past 12 months (80.0% versus 28.8%). Information on estimates that were not significantly different or not reliable is available in TABLES 9.2.1 (for females) and 9.2.2 (for males).

SECTION

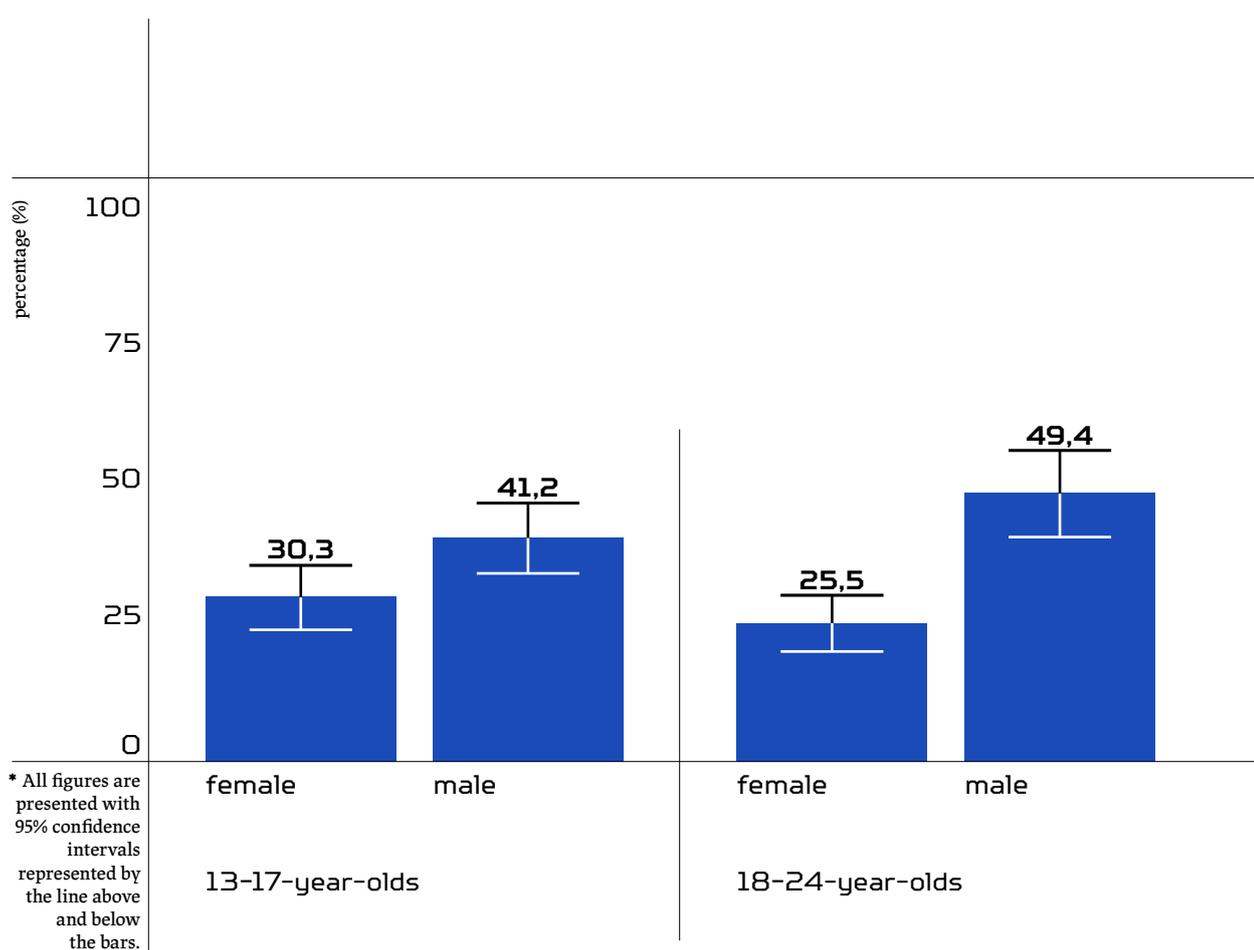
10.1.

10.2.

This section examines **attitudes and beliefs** related to violence. Questions assessed attitudes **justifying the use of physical violence** by husbands against their wives. In the domestic violence scale, participants were asked if it was right for a husband to hit or beat his wife under five different circumstances: if she goes out without telling him, if she does not take care of the children, if she argues with him, if she refuses to have sex with him, or if she is suspected of having an affair.

This section highlights **significant differences by experience of violence.**

The survey also examined the prevalence of traditional gender and sexual attitudes and attitudes about intimate partner violence. The scale that measures **traditional gender norms** includes: men, not women, should decide when to have sex; men need more sex than women; men need to have sex with other women even if they have a good relationship with their wife; women who carry condoms have sex with a lot of men; and a woman should tolerate violence to keep her family together.



Source: Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

10.1.

Findings related to attitudes about domestic violence and traditional gender norms are included in TABLES 10.1.1 and 10.1.2. Among 18-24-year-olds, 9.1% of females and 9.1% of males indicated it was acceptable for a husband to beat his wife under one or more circumstances. Among 13-17-year-olds, 11.2% of females and 13.8% of males endorsed one or more reasons for acceptance of domestic violence.

Among 18-24-year-olds, significantly fewer females (25.5%) than males (49.4%) endorsed one or more traditional gender and sexual norms.

Among 13-17-year-olds, 30.3% of females and 41.2% of males endorsed traditional gender and sexual norms (FIGURE 10.1).

10.2.

This section presents the prevalence of sexual and physical violence perpetration among 18-24 and 13-17-year-old females and males. Here, violence includes the physical violence measures of: punching, kicking, whipping, lashing, or poking with an object; choking, smothering, trying to drown, or intentionally burning; or using or threatening to use a weapon, (e.g., a knife, gun, screwdriver, softball bat, knobkerrie or other weapon). Similarly, sexual violence was asked about in terms of forcing a current or former intimate partner or someone else to have sex when they did not want to. This section also presents data on perpetration of violence and compared those who did versus those who did not experience sexual violence and physical violence in childhood by sex. Participants were asked if they had ever perpetrated these measures of violence, so it is not possible to determine when the perpetration happened in relation to timing of experiences of violence. TABLES 10.2.1 through 10.2.3 include results of violence perpetration.

Among 18-24-year-olds, 13.5% of females and 10.3% of males perpetrated physical violence. Females who experienced childhood sexual violence were significantly more likely to have perpetrated physical violence than those who did not (32.8% versus 10.3%).

Information on estimates that were not significantly different or not reliable is available in TABLE 10.2.2. Among 13-17-year-olds, 9.3% of females and 11.2% of males perpetrated physical violence. Females who experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months were significantly more likely to perpetrate physical violence than females who did not (29.4% versus 7.7%). Females who experienced physical violence in the past 12 months were significantly more likely to have perpetrated physical violence than those who did not (34.6% versus 6.2%). Information on estimates that were not significantly different or not reliable is available in TABLE 10.2.3.

Violence perpetration against intimate partners, or intimate partner violence, included both forcing someone to have sex and physical violence, as described in this section. As in previous sections, an intimate partner refers to a current or previous boyfriend, girlfriend, romantic partner, husband or wife, while ever partnered refers to someone who has ever had an intimate partner. Intimate partner violence perpetration results are provided in TABLE 10.3.1. Among females ages 18-24 who had a partner, 11.4% perpetrated physical or sexual violence against an intimate partner. This estimate was unreliable for males.

This section presents experiences of any violence in the past 12 months by characteristics of participants, including loss of one or both parents in childhood, competition of primary school, employment status in the past year, witnessing violence at home in childhood, marriage or cohabitation status, food insecurity, receipt of remittances in the past three years, separation from one or both parents for six months or more during childhood, and migration history in childhood.

11.1.

TABLE 11.1 includes results of characteristics of 18-24-year-olds by experience of sexual and physical violence in the past 12 months. Estimates for characteristics mentioned at the beginning of Section 11 were compared between 18-24-year-olds who did versus who did not experience sexual or physical emotional violence in the past 12 months by sex. Among 18-24-year-olds, females who witnessed violence in the home before age 18 were significantly more likely to experience violence in the past 12 months (27.3%) compared to those who did not witness violence at home (8.1%). Females who experienced food insecurity were more likely to have experienced any violence in the past 12 months than those who did not experience food insecurity (20.2% versus 5.8%). Males ages 18-24 who witnessed violence in the home before age 18 were significantly more likely to have experienced violence in the past 12 months than those who did not witness violence at home (31.9% versus 12.4%). Information on estimates that were not significantly different or not reliable is available in TABLE 11.2.1.

11.2.

TABLE 11.2 includes results of characteristics of 13-17-year-olds by experience of violence in the past 12 months. Among 13-17-year-olds, females who worked in the past year were more likely to have experienced violence than those who did not work (28.3% versus 14.4%). Females who witnessed violence at home within the past year were significantly more likely to have experienced violence in the past 12 months than those who did not witness violence at home (37.9% versus 14.0%). Information on estimates that were not significantly different or not reliable is available in TABLE 11.2.1.

SECTION

12.1.

12.2.

12.3.

12.4.

In 2016, the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children released *INSPIRE: Seven Strategies for Ending Violence Against Children*, a technical package that includes evidence-based strategies with demonstrated success in preventing and responding to violence in childhood.²⁸ There are seven strategies INSPIRE including:

Implementation and enforcement of Laws; Norms and values; Safe Environments; Parent and caregiver support; Income and economic strengthening, Response and Support Services; and Education and life skills. Data on these indicators capture key opportunities to inform evidence-based interventions and approaches.

12.1.

Data on norms and values are included in TABLE N. Among 18-24-year-olds, 8.2% of females and 12.6% of males agreed it was necessary for parents to use corporal punishment to raise children. The estimates of agreement with the necessity of corporal punishment by teachers among females and males were unreliable. About one in ten females (9.1%) and males (9.1%) endorsed accepting attitudes toward domestic violence. Domestic violence includes topics such as the acceptability of a husband beating his wife if she goes out without telling him, neglects the children, argues with him, refuses to have sex with him, or burns the food.

Significantly more males (49.4%) than females (25.5%) endorsed traditional norms about gender and sexuality. Traditional norms about gender and sexuality includes such topics as who should decide when to have sex, if there are acceptable conditions when a woman should be beaten, and whether or not a woman should tolerate violence to keep her family together.

12.2.

Parent and caregiver support

TABLE P includes data on parent and caregiver support. Positive parent-youth relationships are often protective factors for youth. Among 13-17-year-olds, 25.0% of females and 30.0% of males said their parents used positive discipline strategies in the past 12 months. Nine out of ten females (92.9%) and males (94.4%) said they were close or very close to their mothers, and eight out of ten females (85.2%) and males (81.5%) indicated it was easy to talk

to their mothers. More than nine out of ten females (93.1%) and males (94.1%) had parents who had high parental monitoring and supervision. Finally, 13.3% of females and 10.7% of males said their parents used physical discipline or verbal aggression in the past 12 months.

12.3.

TABLES I.1 and I.2 include results of indicators for income and economic strengthening. The survey included questions about food insecurity and who makes economic decisions in the household. Among 13-17-year-olds, fewer than one in ten females (9.7%) and males (5.8%) experienced food insecurity. The question about economic decisions assessed to what extent females who are married

or cohabitating indicated that they have a say in how money is spent in the household; 97.7% of females who were married or cohabitating indicated they have a say in how money is spent.

12.4.

TABLE E.1 and E.2 include results of education and life skills. Indicators of education and life skills assess both engagement and participation in education and the prevalence of risk behaviors. Among 13-17-year-olds, 95.5% of females and 92.7% of males were currently enrolled in school, and 6.1% of females and 8.3% of males had at least one episode of binge drinking in the past 30 days. Significantly more males (30.4%) than females (8.0%) indicated that they had been in a physical fight in the past 12 months.

Among 18-24-year-olds, significantly more males (8.9%) than females (3.0%) had early sexual debut, defined as first sex at or before age 15; 5.2% of females were pregnant before age 18, and 5.2% of females were married or cohabitating before age 18. The estimate of married or cohabitating before age 18 among males were unreliable. Substance misuse was relatively common: one out of ten females (9.9%) and nearly one out of two males (47.2%) were current smokers, and one out of five females (20.2%) and one out of two males (47.3%) engaged in binge drinking in the past 30 days. One out of four males (23.9%) engaged in a physical fight in the past 30 days. The estimate of physical fighting among females was unreliable. Results also suggest high levels of mental health problems

among young adults. About one out of two females (52.9%) and two out of five males (43.5%) experienced mental distress in the past 30 days. Additionally, 8.0% of females and 6.8% of males ever intentionally hurt themselves, 11.8% of females and 5.6% of males ever thought of suicide, and 45.6% of females who ever thought of suicide ever attempted suicide. The difference between females and males for having ever thought of suicide was statistically significant. The estimate of ever attempting suicide among males who experienced thoughts of suicide was unreliable. Among females, 7.2% had ever had a symptom or diagnosis of an STI, and 4.1% of males had ever had a symptom or diagnosis of an STI.

SELECTION

13.1.

13.2.

13.2.1.

13.3.

13.4.

13.5.

The 2019 Republic of Moldova VACS is the first nationally representative household-based survey on the prevalence of sexual, physical, and emotional violence among children and youth in the Republic of Moldova. This report describes the burden, contexts, and health consequences for violence against children, adolescents, and young adults. It also explores the overlap between sexual, physical, and emotional violence and the services sought and utilized for incidents of sexual violence and physical violence. The wealth of information provided by the VACS can guide prevention efforts that are uniquely adapted to the context of the Republic of Moldova.

13.1.

The government of the Republic of Moldova and partners invested in addressing violence against children and youth held a Data to Action Workshop in Chisinau, Moldova, on September 17-19, 2019. Discussions in the Republic of Moldova included a wide variety of participants from multiple sectors, including justice and law enforcement, health, and social services. The Republic of Moldova Data to Action (D2A) workshop was led by the Republic of Moldova government with assistance from IOM, the coordinating agency, USAID, CDC, WHO, and UNICEF.

The workshop provided a crucial link between data and action by asking stakeholders representing these sectors to interpret and respond to findings from the VACS. After reviewing findings on the burden of physical, sexual, and emotional violence against children and youth and the contexts in which this violence occurs, stakeholders developed three priority objectives that represent recommended areas where the country could focus its efforts for the development of a National Action Plan or for strengthening existing efforts on this topic in Moldova. These priorities were also aligned with evidence-based strategies in the INSPIRE technical package so as to better identify potentially useful interventions to apply.²⁹

A variety of sectors were represented at the D2A workshop. While some government institutions were missing, participating sectors included several key institutions from civil society that work closely with the government on different topics. Despite some of the missing government institutions, throughout the implementation process there was support and guidance by the central government and representatives participated in the workshop which will help to facilitate the recommendations from this report being translated into policies and interventions in the future.

All participants representing the multiple sectors reviewed and discussed VACS results in detail as well as its methodological strengths and limitations and its applications in the context of other existing national information, current policies, and current resources to prevent and respond to violence.

Over the course of the workshop, participants also identified and ranked three high-level priorities that could be targeted by the Republic of Moldova. These priorities were mapped to specific INSPIRE strategies that could be developed, adapted or strengthened for the country.

Multiple themes emerged from the three-day multi-sectoral workshop focused on transforming VACS data into action for the Republic of Moldova. All participants agreed that these data continue to guide ongoing efforts to develop a VACS Data to Action Plan for the country. The institutions represented in this meeting agreed that these recommendations complement ongoing activities led by MHLSP, and other ministries (e.g., the Ministry of Justice), with the aim of creating a Data to Action Plan to prevent and respond to violence against children and youth in the Republic of Moldova. However, additional desirable goals and interventions were also highlighted based on existing global evidence of what works. Government partners such as the Ministries of Justice, Education, and Finance, along with other invested partners have been encouraged to collaborate with the MHLSP to develop the final plan.

The D2A conclusions and recommendations will further be presented to the different government sectors and their corresponding institutions in order to strengthen the transition from data to policy in the country. Cementing a strong program and plan of action for the Republic of Moldova is key for attaining a sustainable effort aimed preventing and controlling violence against children, adolescents and youth. Additional activities aimed

at consolidating a plan of action for the country are desired and planned. These activities will take the conclusions and recommendations of the D2A workshop and with the government partners will contribute to translate key recommendations into actions consistent with the Republic of Moldova 2025 National Development Strategy.

UNICEF, WHO, and a variety of non-government organizations provided additional support to plan development and will continue to be key international and local partners. The following section describes the key points and suggestions that emerged from those discussions and from thematic tables representing the sectors of justice and law enforcement, social services, and health.

13.2.

Discussions were based on the VACS data and focused on identifying the most relevant INSPIRE strategies that should be prioritized in the Republic of Moldova. A total of ten priority indicators were identified. Each of the ten priorities were mapped with one or more INSPIRE strategy as indicated in FIGURE 13.2. Some sector tables selected the same priorities while another sector (social services) selected several priorities as part of integrated strategies to address a single priority issue. Specifically, social services selected three themes that included reducing child labour, reducing food insecurity, and increasing positive parental discipline as part of an integrated priority that would (represented as a single ranked number in the table) fulfill requirements of the law on social assistance. This same sector selected the acceptability of domestic violence and the endorsement of restrictive and harmful norms as two of the remaining key priorities to address violence in the home. The ten selected priority indicators for preventing or controlling violence against children and youth in the Republic of Moldova were:

- 1 Increase disclosure and use of services by victims of physical violence.
- 2 Reduce excessive alcohol consumption by youth ages 18-24 and 13-17.
- 3 Decrease the proportion of witnessing any violence in the community among youth ages 13-17.
- 4 Reduce the percentage of victims of violence that have suicidal thoughts.
- 5 Reduce child labour.
- 6 Reduce food insecurity among 13-17-year-olds.
- 7 Increase use of positive parental discipline by parents or caregivers.
- 8 Increase disclosure and use of services by victims of sexual violence.
- 9 Reduce acceptability of domestic violence.
- 10 Eliminate restrictive and harmful gender norms.

The summary of the mapped priorities by sector and INSPIRE strategy reveals *Education and Life Skills* as the most common linked strategy, followed by *Income and Economic Strengthening, Implementation and Enforcement of Laws, Norms and Values, Parent and Caregiver Support, Response and Support Services, and Safe Environments*. A focus on one strategy offers the opportunity to address multiple VACS priorities for the prevention of violence against children and youth in the Republic of Moldova. For example, focused effort using the *Education and Life Skills* strategy would address the following priorities: access and use of services by victims of sexual and physical violence, excessive use of alcohol among youth 13-17-year-olds, child labour among youth 13-17-year-olds, food insecurity among youth 13-17-year-olds, pressured/coerced or physically forced first sex, and acceptability of domestic violence.

VACS PRIORITY INDICATORS FOR THE PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN AND YOUTH	SECTOR REPRESENTED	RANKED PRIORITY ORDER WITHIN SECTOR	NUMBER OF SECTORS CHOOSING PRIORITY	LINKED INSPIRE STRATEGIES								
				I	N	S	P	I	R	E		
Increase disclosure and use of services by victims of physical violence	Multilateral (UN institutions) and bilateral agencies (PEPFAR)	1	2									
	Health	1										
Reduce excessive use of alcohol among 13-17-year-olds	Multilateral and bilateral agencies	2	3									
	Health	2										
	Justice	3										
Decrease the proportion of witnessing of any violence in the community among youth ages 13-17	Multilateral and bilateral agencies	3	3									
	Social Services	2										
	Justice	1										
Reduce the percentage of victims of violence that have suicidal thoughts	Health	3	1									
Reduce child labour among 13-17-year-olds*	Social Services	3	1									
Reduce food insecurity among 13-17-year-olds*	Social Services	3	1									
Increase use of positive parental discipline by parents or caregivers*	Social Services	3	1									
Increase disclosure and use of services by victims of sexual violence	Justice	2	1									
Reduce acceptability of domestic violence ^{††}	Social Services	1	1									
Eliminate restrictive and harmful gender norms ^{††}	Social Services	1	1									

NOTE

* These three priorities were proposed by social services as part of a package of measures addressing the law on social assistance.

^{††} These two priorities were proposed by social services as a strategy to address violence in the home.

INSPIRE represents seven violence against children strategies that stand for: **I**=Implementation and enforcement of laws; **N**=Norms and values; **S**=Safe environments; **P**=Parent and caregiver support; **I**=Income and economic strengthening; **R**=Response and support services; **E**=Education and life skills

13.3.

The multi-sector discussions identified key areas for special attention in the Republic of Moldova based on the VACS results as well as on existing programs and interventions under development or implemented locally. This information is useful for creating short-, medium-, and long-term objectives in the Republic of Moldova as a substrate for a National Action Plan for the prevention of violence against children and youth. This plan could also be aligned with existing or future development objectives set out by the government of the Republic of Moldova. The recommendations contained in the Data to Action Plan could also be aligned with the activities of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection aimed at strengthening its role on the generation of policies for the protection of family and children's rights, as well as with other linked activities in other ministries including, for example, normative acts (laws) within education and justice.

Priority themes included addressing response and **access to services** for victims of violence, especially victims of sexual violence. Next, sectors identified a series of INSPIRE strategies to prevent **excessive alcohol misuse** among youth.

Another priority identified by multiple sectors was to address **witnessing physical violence in the neighborhood** by youth. VACS data show witnessing violence in the neighborhood was common, for both girls and boys. Additional discussions by the sectors included the need to address **food insecurity, child labour, positive parental discipline, and disabilities** in the Republic of Moldova via the law of social assistance. VACS data suggest functional disabilities are common among both adolescents and young adults, and sectors agreed that discussions regarding additional interventions for this vulnerable group are necessary.

Several interventions were mapped with INSPIRE strategies and as potentially useful to be adapted, emulated, scaled up or strengthened in the country. All of the sectors towards the end of the workshop agreed on some specific strategies. For example,

on the *Implementation and Enforcement of Laws*, discussions focused on opportunities to explore laws that limit access to alcohol and prevent alcohol misuse. Laws which address the price of alcohol or limit the clustering of alcohol outlets, and legislation targeting violence in the education sector may substantially reduce perpetration of interpersonal violence in the Republic of Moldova. Also, the justice and law enforcement sector recommended adjustments of the legal framework on sexual offenses, in accordance with the provisions of the Istanbul Convention.

Sectors suggested strategies (e.g., *Norms and Values*) to change harmful social norms. Desired interventions included implementing community mobilization programs to better understand and increase knowledge of physical and sexual aggression in the home and in neighborhoods.

On the *Safe Environments strategies*, initial discussions focused on strategies aimed at creating safe environments in neighborhoods, communities, and schools. The evidence-based programs in this INSPIRE strategy address this priority through activities that create and sustain safe streets and other environments where children and youth gather and spend time. This strategy focuses on modifying communities' social and physical environment to foster positive behaviors. Sectors were specifically interested in approaches (e.g., "hotspots") to address the reduction of physical violence in neighborhoods. Specifically, the Cardiff Model recommended in INSPIRE would allow collection of data that predict patterns of violence and identification of violence hotspots.

On the *Parent and Caregiver Support* strategy, sectors recommended a review of existing practices such as the law on social assistance, family support service, parental education programs, and grandparent caregiver program. These current interventions need to be evaluated to assess their effectiveness.

The *Income and Economic Strengthening* strategy aims to improve families' economic security and stability, thereby reducing intimate partner violence and child maltreatment. This strategy can be a significant factor in addressing priorities (e.g., food insecurity), as well as providing evidence-based interventions to address domestic violence in the Republic of Moldova. Sectors also recommended further discussion on how this strategy may impact child labour issues in the Republic of Moldova.

The programs identified in the *Response and Support Services* strategy in INSPIRE could address this priority by highlighting evidence-based programs. These programs aim to improve access to good quality health, social welfare and criminal justice support services for all children who need them, including for reporting violence to reduce the long-term impact of violence. The sectors were specifically interested in approaches such as screening combined with interventions (e.g., the Hawaii Healthy Start program or the Safe Environment for Every Kid mentioned in the INSPIRE technical package). Existing practices in the Republic of Moldova include: home visiting programs; specialized services of multidisciplinary assistance (e.g., "Amicul," an integrated assistance service for child victims/witnesses of crimes); Barnahus, a specialized Professional Parenting Assistance for child victims/witnesses; rehabilitation programs for children who have committed crimes; and Children Helpline.

The *Education and Life Skills* strategy was highly emphasized. Sectors recommended reviewing and evaluating the effectiveness of some current Moldovan programs and practices including grandparent caregiver program, compulsory and optional curricula, education for society programs, early education programs, programs implemented by civil society organizations (e.g., child safety, Kiko and the Hand, 12+, Road to home, optional discipline, harmonious relationships in the family), and programs focused on developing life skills.

Sectors agreed that additional mapping of existing programs is needed to better identify gaps of current programs offered to these vulnerable groups. It will be key to identify existing programs and to evaluate those programs, when appropriate. Recent efforts to map some existing programs in the Republic of Moldova reveal that such

an exercise can be beneficial in guiding decisions on which services are available, extent of reach of these programs, and where coordination is needed. More collaboration and discussion between sectors are needed to ensure reach to these groups, in order to provide preventive interventions and services.

The Republic of Moldova VACS indicates protective factors (including use of positive discipline and high parental monitoring and supervision) that could be promoted. In the **home environment**, programs that strengthen positive connections and communication between children and parents can foster protective environments, particularly those exposed to risks outside the home. Parents and caregivers can serve as support systems to encourage children to seek services for post-violence care, if necessary.

VACS data reveal that children are frequently subjected to emotional and physical violence by their peers. Often, this violence leads to injury. Strengthening safe, supportive **school environments** can reduce peer-to-peer violence, especially peer emotional violence leading to online bullying. School interventions that foster dynamic, reciprocal communication between the home and schools have potential for increased reach compared to those focused on one setting.

At the **community and legislative level**, reducing food insufficiency for children and addressing harmful traditional gender norms related to domestic violence may be critical in the Republic of Moldova. To address childhood food insecurity, evidence-based income and economic strengthening strategies have demonstrated encouraging outcomes. Additional **system-wide measures** that address factors affecting migration and include a costing exercise can address the feasibility of strategies and initiatives.

13.4.

The VACS is the Republic of Moldova's first nationally representative household-based data on the burden of sexual, physical, and emotional violence against children and youth. There are important strengths and limitations to consider when interpreting the data. The sampling strategy ensured the data are nationally representative, and random sampling using a stratified four-stage cluster design allowed for calculation of weighted estimates. Another benefit of the survey is the level of detail obtained on the context of violence. For example, some surveys collect data on whether violence occurred, but few collect data on specific events of violence. The rich, contextualized data in the Republic of Moldova VACS can inform programmatic and policy strategies to address violence. Another strength of the VACS is that it relies on a core questionnaire that is consistent across countries. This allows for cross-country comparisons and facilitates interpretation of findings as they can be assessed within a global context. Most importantly, the process of planning the VACS – thorough engagement with the Republic of Moldova government agencies, partners, and stakeholders – can bolster country ownership of the data and results, encouraging efforts to use the data to prevent and respond to violence against children and youth in the Republic of Moldova.

There are also limitations that must be taken into account. Because the VACS involves a household-based survey, vulnerable populations have been excluded or missed, such as children residing in institutions, residential care, or justice systems, as well as those living on the street. Similarly, children and youth who are away from home to attend school, or living in dorms, or for other reasons would not have been available to participate in the survey. Children were also excluded from the study if they had a severe disability that prevented them from understanding or responding to the interview questions or from being interviewed in private. Children and youth who had other types of disabilities that did not preclude their participation in the interview were able to participate. Data on the proportion of individuals who had functional impairments

in one or more areas were included in the background characteristics section. Children residing outside of the home in vulnerable settings, or living with disabilities, could be at higher risk for violence. Future studies should address the burden of violence among these special populations. An additional limitation is that the survey only collects contextual information on the first and most recent episodes of each type of violence, when individuals reported multiple instances of a form of violence.

This potentially results in missing additional contextual detail on certain violent events affecting participants. This approach is necessary to keep the survey at an acceptable length for participants. Furthermore, this is a cross sectional study that does not capture all aspects of violence, including neglect. The survey measures components of neglect, (e.g., food insecurity and whether the participant was told they were loved or not by the parent or caregiver). Also, the VACS is subject to recall bias. Participants are asked to report retrospectively on experiences from their past. The study does not include participants over age 24 to maximize the participants' ability to recall events from childhood. However, there is still a chance that participants do not accurately recall the details of their experiences.

Another limitation is the Republic of Moldova VACS response rates. In recent years, household surveys have experienced declining response rates.^{30,31} Although the response rate in the Republic of Moldova VACS is adequate compared to methodological standards, it is relatively low compared to other VACS studies.³² The principal reason for this is due to low household response because of the inability to find eligible individuals residing in the home due to outside work or schooling and slightly higher than anticipated refusals.

Another possible limitation is that some participants may not have been comfortable disclosing personal and sensitive life experiences with strangers, thus providing an underestimate of the prevalence of violence. This may be especially true if the victim knew the perpetrator and/or the perpetrator was present in the home during the interview,

even though the survey was conducted in privacy. The survey was only conducted if interviewers could ensure complete privacy and reduce the risk of retaliation for participation in the survey. Interviewers underwent extensive training on how

to maximize rapport with participants. Finally, the survey moved through sensitive questions in a graduated manner to help comfort participants and facilitate trust-building with their interviewer. These strategies were in place to facilitate disclosure.

13.5.

The 2019 Republic of Moldova VACS provides powerful information that can be used to inform violence prevention efforts in the specific context of the Republic of Moldova. The dedication of the partners signifies a strong commitment to utilizing the findings of the Republic of Moldova VACS in order to make significant gains in the prevention of violence against children and youth in the Republic of Moldova.

The results of the survey offer an opportunity for the Republic of Moldova to lead the way in addressing the problem of violence against children and youth, by focusing on immediate and future prevention and response programs. Based on the Data to Action workshop, on existing country activities and the local context within the Government of Moldova and civil society, the participating sectors identified a series of additional recommendations that could improve, strengthen, or complement the existing normative framework of the country on issues pertaining to the prevention of violence against children and youth and the protection of children and families. These additional recommendations could facilitate further the development of the National Action Plan:

- Acknowledging that violence is preventable and using identified strategies to prevent violence experienced by youth.
- Fostering partnerships amongst multi-sectoral government agencies, non-governmental organizations and international technical experts is critical in the development and implementation of responses.
- Harmonizing existing government initiatives and normative processes related to violence against children and youth. These efforts could also include inputs from civil society and the international community.

- Monitoring and evaluating all interventions; these efforts could be strengthened within each sector but in collaboration with other sectors including justice, education, health, labour, and child protection.
- Integrating VACS results with other existing data systems, such as those addressing gender-based violence, child protection data, or family protection data.
- Building capacity amongst government personnel and service providers from all sectors to prevent violence including addressing norms and values among government service providers.
- Reducing inequalities in service provision between urban settings compared to rural or peripheral areas.
- Strengthening delivery of primary prevention throughout health, education, justice, and child protective services.
- Strengthening dissemination of violence prevention strategies by working with the media and through publications or academic institutions.
- Translating national normative frameworks to local or subnational levels for better implementation and contextualization of violence prevention interventions.

Overall, these additional recommendations could greatly enhance ongoing activities led by the Republic of Moldova and for the benefit of its population. Emphasis on approaches that are multi-sectoral is key for strengthening country responses. Overall, the results of this study contribute to enhance other violence prevention and response efforts currently being conducted in the Republic of Moldova.

APPENDIX



3.1.1. Background characteristics of 18-24-year-olds

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES		MALES	
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)		WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	
EDUCATION STATUS	FEMALES (n=492)		MALES (n=411)	
Never attended school or less than primary school	0.5	(0.0 - 1.2)*	<0.1 [§]	
Completed primary school	9.2	(5.5 - 12.8)	9.4	(5.7 - 13.0)
Completed secondary school	50.0	(42.6 - 57.5)	61.4	(56.1 - 66.6)
Higher than secondary school	40.3	(32.7 - 47.8)	29.3	(23.8 - 34.8)
PARENTAL LOSS DUE TO DEATH BEFORE AGE 18	FEMALES (n=475)		MALES (n=398)	
Did not lose one or both parents before age 18	85.0	(81.2 - 88.8)	93.0	(89.7 - 96.4)
Lost one or both parents before age 18	15.0	(11.2 - 18.8)	7.0	(3.6 - 10.3)
DISABILITY	FEMALES (n=494)		MALES (n=412)	
No functional disability in any domain	78.5	(72.4 - 84.6)	82.7	(78.0 - 87.4)
Disability in one or more domains	21.5	(15.4 - 27.6)	17.3	(12.6 - 22.0)
	FEMALES (n=493)		MALES (n=412)	
Hearing	1.8	(0.5 - 3.0)*	1.4	(0.1 - 2.7)*
	FEMALES (n=494)		MALES (n=412)	
Seeing	11.4	(7.7 - 15.1)	9.6	(5.7 - 13.6)
	FEMALES (n=494)		MALES (n=412)	
Remembering and concentrating	9.8	(5.1 - 14.4)	6.6	(3.7 - 9.5)
	FEMALES (n=493)		MALES (n=412)	
Walking and climbing	3.6	(1.7 - 5.5)	1.7	(0.4 - 3.1)*
	FEMALES (n=493)		MALES (n=412)	
Self-care	0.2	(0.0 - 0.4)*	0.8	(0.0 - 1.7)*
	FEMALES (n=492)		MALES (n=410)	
Functional impairment	1.0	(0.1 - 1.9)*	0.8	(0.0 - 1.7)*
	FEMALES (n=493)		MALES (n=411)	
Communicating	2.2	(0.7 - 3.6)*	5.7	(2.5 - 8.8)

	FEMALES	MALES
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS	FEMALES (n=492)	MALES (n=409)
Worked for money or other payment in the past 12 months	47.6 (39.7 - 55.6)	57.6 (49.9 - 65.3)
	FEMALES (n=493)	MALES (n=411)
Experienced food insecurity ^[1]	13.2 (9.2 - 17.3)	11.2 (6.6 - 15.7)
REMITTANCES IN THE PAST 3 YEARS	FEMALES (n=489)	MALES (n=402)
Did not receive remittances	59.4 (52.8 - 66.0)	60.9 (54.5 - 67.2)
Received money or goods from Russia	14.5 (10.9 - 18.0)	9.2 (6.5 - 11.8)
Received money or goods from Italy	9.9 (6.8 - 13.0)	15.5 (10.5 - 20.5)
Received money or goods from other European countries ^[2]	9.5 (5.6 - 13.4)	9.1 (4.7 - 13.5)
Received money or goods from other non-European countries ^[3]	6.7 (3.4 - 10.0)	5.4 (3.0 - 7.8)
PERSON WHO DECIDES HOW THE REMITTANCES ARE USED, among those who received remittances	FEMALES (n [†] =194)	MALES (n [†] =144)
Participant decides	64.4 (56.7 - 72.0)	58.3 (48.3 - 68.2)
Spouse/Concubine ^[4] /Boyfriend/Girlfriend decides	2.9 (0.2 - 5.6)*	<0.1 [§]
Parents decide	10.9 (5.0 - 16.8)	12.2 (6.2 - 18.1)
Someone else decides	0.1 (0.0 - 0.1)	0.6 (0.0 - 1.4)*
Participant decides jointly with someone	21.8 (15.5 - 28.1)	28.9 (19.0 - 38.9)
SEXUAL AND GENDER MINORITY STATUS^[5] among those who have had sex	FEMALES (n [†] =324)	MALES (n [†] =246)
Heterosexual or straight	99.9 (99.6 - 100.0)	98.9 (97.3 - 100.0)
Homosexual, gay, or lesbian	0.1 (0.0 - 0.4)*	0.7 (0.0 - 2.1)*
Bisexual	<0.1 [§]	0.4 (0.0 - 1.2)*

NOTE

CI confidence interval.

[1] Food insecurity includes: not having enough money for food or regular meals in the household.

[2] Other European Countries include: France, Germany, Great Britain, Romania, Ukraine, Greece, and Turkey.

[3] Other non-European Countries include: United States of America, Israel, Canada, and other.

[4] "Concubine" is a term used in Moldova to refer to a live-in partner.

[5] Sexual minority includes those identified as having had sex with members of the same or both sexes in the past 12 months.

* Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

§ Zero percent prevalence (0.0%) are denoted as <0.1 and should be interpreted with caution. It should not be assumed that the prevalence of the item in the entire population is an absolute zero.

3.1.2. Location of work, among 18-24-year-olds who have worked for money or other payment in the past year

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES			MALES		
	n [†]	WEIGHTED % [95% CI]		n [†]	WEIGHTED % [95% CI]	
FORMAL OFFICE	68	27.7	(16.8 - 38.5)	30	12.1	(6.0 - 18.2)
FACTORY/WORKSHOP	35	16.8	(7.3 - 26.4)	38	20.4	(11.4 - 29.4)
CONSTRUCTION SITE	0	<0.1 [§]		64	25.3	(15.6 - 35.0)
SHOP/KIOSK	39	18.7	(10.1 - 27.3)	13	5.8	(2.3 - 9.4)*
RESTAURANT/HOTEL/ CAFE/BAR	37	17.7	(10.3 - 25.1)	40	15.9	(10.4 - 21.5)
DIFFERENT PLACES (mobile)	17	6.3	(1.9 - 10.8)*	23	10.4	(6.3 - 14.6)
OTHER[1]	30	12.8	(5.9 - 19.7)	29	10.0	(5.8 - 14.3)

NOTE
 CI confidence interval.
 [1] Other includes: family dwelling (domestic work/foods for sale/handicraft products), farm/garden, and fixed, street or market stall.
 * Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.
 n[†] denotes numerator.
 § Zero percent prevalence (0.0%) are denoted as <0.1 and should be interpreted with caution. It should not be assumed that the prevalence of the item in the entire population is an absolute zero.

3.1.3. Migration history for 18-24-year-olds

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES		MALES	
	WEIGHTED % [95% CI]		WEIGHTED % [95% CI]	
PARENTS' MIGRATION HISTORY	FEMALES (n=466)		MALES (n=396)	
Mother lived away for 6 months or more in childhood	27.4	(22.5 - 32.2)	25.2	(19.2 - 31.1)
Age when mother moved away (among those whose mother lived away for 6 months)	10.7	9.4 -12.0)	11.6	(10.1 -13.0)
	FEMALES (n=413)		MALES (n=364)	
Father lived away for 6 months or more in childhood	43.5	(37.2 - 49.8)	40.7	(33.1 - 48.2)
Age when father moved away (among those whose father lived away for 6 months)	9.0	(7.7 -10.3)	10.3	(8.9 -11.7)

	FEMALES	MALES
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
INDIVIDUALS' MIGRATION HISTORY	FEMALES (n=492)	MALES (n=411)
Lived abroad in childhood	6.4 (2.9 - 9.9)	7.0 (4.0 - 10.1)
	FEMALES (n [†] =31)	MALES (n [†] =30)
Lived in Russia (among those who lived abroad in childhood)	75.9 (60.2 - 91.7)	65.0 (43.7 - 86.4)
Age when moved abroad (among those who lived abroad in childhood)	13.2 (11.1 - 15.3)	14.1 (12.1 - 16.0)
PERSON WHO TRAVELED WITH INDIVIDUAL DURING MIGRATION	FEMALES (n [†] =30)	MALES (n [†] =29)
Parent	72.8 (50.3 - 95.3)	78.3 (62.8 - 93.9)
Other relative	11.2 (0.0 - 24.1)*	13.1 (0.3 - 25.8)*
Partner	9.7 (0.0 - 24.7)*	<0.1 [§]
Other person ^[1]	6.3 (0.0 - 15.0)*	8.6 (0.0 - 17.9)*
REASON FOR MIGRATION	FEMALES (n [†] =31)	MALES (n [†] =29)
Family reunification	40.0 (15.8 - 64.3)*	34.4 (12.4 - 56.4)*
Health Reasons	1.6 (0.0 - 4.8)*	1.3 (0.0 - 3.8)*
Economic/Work/School	39.4 (23.0 - 55.9)	60.8 (38.2 - 83.5)
Forced by other circumstances	18.6 (0.0 - 43.4)*	3.5 (0.0 - 10.4)*
Marriage	0.4 (0.0 - 1.2)*	<0.1
PLANS TO MIGRATE	FEMALES (n=421)	MALES (n=356)
Plans to migrate in the next 3 years	47.3 (38.8 - 55.8)	51.9 (45.3 - 58.5)
REASON FOR MIGRATION PLANS	FEMALES (n [†] =191)	MALES (n [†] =190)
Family Reunification	12.7 (6.5 - 18.9)	1.1 (0.0 - 2.3)*
Economic/Work/School	83.1 (75.6 - 90.5)	94.1 (89.9 - 98.3)
Other reason ^[2]	4.2 (1.6 - 6.8)*	4.8 (0.9 - 8.8)*

NOTE
 CI confidence interval.
 [1] Other person includes: other acquaintance and nobody/
 traveled alone.
 [2] Other reason includes: health reasons, forced by violence in family
 or community, forced by other circumstances, marriage,
 or political situation.
 * Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted
 with caution.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals
 of the age group and sex with a valid response.
 n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.
 § Zero percent prevalence (0.0%) are denoted as <0.1 and should be
 interpreted with caution. It should not be assumed that the prevalence
 of the item in the entire population
 is an absolute zero.

3.1.4. Relationship and sexual history of 18-24-year-olds

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES (n=485)	MALES (n=403)
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
EVER BEEN MARRIED OR LIVED WITH SOMEONE AS IF MARRIED	45.3 (38.4 - 52.2)	21.3 (15.3 - 27.2)
	FEMALES (n=485)	MALES (n=400)
MARRIED OR LIVED WITH SOMEONE AS IF MARRIED BEFORE AGE 18	5.2 (2.7 - 7.8)	0.4 (0.0 - 1.0)*
	FEMALES (n=464)	MALES (n=362)
EVER HAD SEX^[1]	76.9 (71.3 - 82.6)	77.7 (72.9 - 82.5)
	FEMALES (n=451)	MALES (n=342)
HAD SEX AT AGE 15 OR YOUNGER	3.0 (1.3 - 4.8)	8.9 (4.9 - 12.9)
	FEMALES (n [†] =335)	MALES (n [†] =263)
MEAN AGE OF FIRST SEX among those who ever had sex	18.0 (17.7 - 18.3)	17.2 (17.0 - 17.5)

NOTE
 CI confidence interval.
 [1] Sex includes: vaginal, oral or anal sex or the penetration of an object into your vagina or anus by someone else.
 n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.
 * Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

3.2.1. Background characteristics of 13-17-year-olds

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES	MALES
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
EDUCATION STATUS	FEMALES (n=529)	MALES (n=564)
Never attended school or less than primary school	1.4 (0.0 - 3.5)*	0.4 (0.0 - 0.9)*
Completed primary school or higher	98.6 (96.5 - 100.0)	99.6 (99.1 - 100.0)
	FEMALES (n=528)	MALES (n=566)
Currently enrolled in school	95.5 (92.7 - 98.2)	92.7 (89.3 - 96.1)
PARENTAL LOSS DUE TO DEATH	FEMALES (n=517)	MALES (n=557)
Did not lose one or both parents	88.5 (84.7 - 92.4)	91.7 (89.1 - 94.4)
Lost one or both parents	11.5 (7.6 - 15.3)	8.3 (5.6 - 10.9)
DISABILITY	FEMALES (n=530)	MALES (n=566)
No functional disability in any domain	74.2 (68.9 - 79.5)	81.5 (77.1 - 85.9)
Disability in one or more domains	25.8 (20.5 - 31.1)	18.5 (14.1 - 22.9)
	FEMALES (n=528)	MALES (n=561)
Hearing	3.6 (0.7 - 6.4)*	2.5 (0.4 - 4.5)*

	FEMALES (n=529)	MALES (n=565)
Seeing	15.1 (11.0 - 19.1)	8.9 (5.7 - 12.1)
	FEMALES (n=526)	MALES (n=564)
Remembering and concentrating	8.2 (5.2 - 11.1)	5.6 (2.6 - 8.5)
	FEMALES (n=526)	MALES (n=562)
Walking and climbing	3.0 (1.3 - 4.6)	1.6 (0.0 - 3.3)*
	FEMALES (n=530)	MALES (n=565)
Self-care	<0.1 [§]	1.5 (0.0 - 3.1)*
	FEMALES (n [†] =270)	MALES (n [†] =304)
Functional impairment, among those 15 and older	2.5 (0.2 - 4.7)*	2.4 (0.0 - 4.8)*
	FEMALES (n=528)	MALES (n=563)
Communicating	2.4 (0.6 - 4.3)*	5.5 (2.1 - 8.9)*
SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS		
	FEMALES (n=528)	MALES (n=563)
Worked for money or other payment in the past 12 months	11.5 (6.4 - 16.6)	22.8 (17.9 - 27.8)
	FEMALES (n=529)	MALES (n=565)
Experienced food insecurity ^[1]	9.7 (4.9 - 14.5)	5.8 (3.6 - 7.9)
REMITTANCES IN THE PAST 3 YEARS		
	FEMALES (n=510)	MALES (n=556)
Did not receive remittances	73.5 (67.6 - 79.3)	72.9 (68.4 - 77.5)
Received money or goods from Russia	10.1 (5.0 - 15.2)	6.2 (4.0 - 8.3)
Received money or goods from Italy	8.5 (5.6 - 11.5)	4.4 (2.2 - 6.6)
Received money or goods from other European countries ^[2]	6.1 (3.4 - 8.7)	8.7 (5.9 - 11.6)
Received money or goods from other non-European countries ^[3]	1.8 (0.5 - 3.1)*	7.7 (4.8 - 10.7)
PERSON WHO DECIDES HOW THE REMITTANCES ARE USED, among those who received remittances		
	FEMALES (n [†] =129)	MALES (n [†] =155)
Participant decides	17.5 (6.0 - 29.0)*	22.9 (13.6 - 32.2)
Spouse/Concubine ^[4] /Boyfriend/Girlfriend decides	<0.1 [§]	1.9 (0.0 - 4.9)*
Parents decide	56.2 (42.9 - 69.5)	54.3 (45.3 - 63.3)
Someone else decides	4.8 (1.3 - 8.4)*	1.5 (0.0 - 3.1)*
Participant decides jointly with someone	21.5 (9.9 - 33.1)	19.3 (10.5 - 28.1)

NOTE

[C]I confidence interval.

[1] Food insecurity includes: not having enough money for food or regular meals in the household.

[2] Other European Countries include: France, Germany, Great Britain, Romania, Ukraine, Greece, and Turkey.

[3] Other non-European Countries include: United States of America, Israel, Canada, and other.

[4] "Concubine" is a term used in Moldova to refer to a live-in partner.

* Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

§ Zero percent prevalence (0.0%) are denoted as <0.1 and should be interpreted with caution. It should not be assumed that the prevalence of the item in the entire population is an absolute zero.

3.2.2. School attendance among 13-17-year-olds and reasons for not attending school, among 13-17-year-olds who are not currently attending school

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES	MALES
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
	FEMALES (n=528)	MALES (n=566)
NOT CURRENTLY ATTENDING SCHOOL	4.5 (1.8 - 7.3)*	7.3 (3.9 - 10.7)
REASONS FOR NOT ATTENDING SCHOOL, among those who are not currently attending		
	FEMALES (n [†] =22)	MALES (n [†] =34)
Violence in the neighborhood/community/school	<0.1 [§]	<0.1 [§]
Participant/family does not have enough money for school or supplies	6.4 (0.0 - 15.2)*	4.1 (0.0 - 12.3)*
Participant has to work	9.6 (0.0 - 25.0)*	35.1 (12.1 - 58.1)*
Participant does not like school	9.8 (0.0 - 25.8)*	2.1 (0.0 - 5.4)*
Graduated or done with school	74.1 (49.7 - 98.5)	58.7 (34.2 - 83.2)

NOTE
 CI confidence interval.
 * Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.
 n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.
 § Zero percent prevalence (0.0%) are denoted as <0.1 and should be interpreted with caution. It should not be assumed that the prevalence of the item in the entire population is an absolute zero.

3.2.3. Location of work, among 13-17-year-olds who have worked for money or other payment in the past year

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES			MALES		
	n [†]	WEIGHTED %	(95% CI)	n [†]	WEIGHTED %	(95% CI)
AT FAMILY DWELLING (domestic work/foods for sale/ handicraft products)	10	15.8	(4.8 - 26.9)*	15	9.0	(3.6 - 14.3)
FARM/GARDEN	29	37.1	(20.1 - 54.1)	52	31.9	(19.3 - 44.5)
CONSTRUCTION SITE	0	<0.1 [§]		14	9.2	(2.5 - 15.9)*
RESTAURANT/HOTEL/CAFE/BAR	18	25.4	(13.9 - 36.9)	19	14.3	(5.9 - 22.6)
DIFFERENT PLACES (mobile)	6	10.0	(0.0 - 19.9)*	19	13.6	(7.4 - 19.8)
OTHER^[1]	10	11.7	(2.9 - 20.5)*	22	20.8	(10.3 - 31.3)

NOTE
 [1] Other includes: formal office, factory/workshop, shop/kiosk, fixed, street, or market stall.
 * Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

n[†] denotes numerator.
 § Zero percent prevalence (0.0%) are denoted as <0.1 and should be interpreted with caution. It should not be assumed that the prevalence of the item in the entire population is an absolute zero.

3.2.4. Migration history for 13-17-year-olds

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES	MALES
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
PARENTS' MIGRATION HISTORY	FEMALES (n=515)	MALES (n=552)
Mother lived away for 6 months or more	19.0 (13.2 - 24.7)	19.1 (14.6 - 23.7)
Age when mother moved away (among those whose mother lived away for 6 months)	8.9 (7.6 - 10.2)	9.4 (8.0 - 10.8)
	FEMALES (n=479)	MALES (n=517)
Father lived away for 6 months or more	44.2 (37.6 - 50.9)	37.1 (31.7 - 42.5)
Age when father moved away (among those whose father lived away for 6 months)	7.6 (6.9 - 8.2)	7.9 (7.1 - 8.6)
INDIVIDUALS' MIGRATION HISTORY	FEMALES (n=528)	MALES (n=563)
Lived abroad	8.9 (5.0 - 12.8)	7.5 (4.5 - 10.5)
	FEMALES (n [†] =55)	MALES (n [†] =46)
Lived in Russia (among those who lived abroad)	52.2 (37.9 - 66.5)	48.8 (24.3 - 73.3)
Age when moved abroad (among those who lived abroad)	9.6 (7.7 - 11.5)	7.6 (5.8 - 9.4)
PERSON WHO TRAVELED WITH INDIVIDUAL DURING MIGRATION	FEMALES (n[†]=52)	MALES (n[†]=46)
Parent	78.6 (63.6 - 93.7)	89.7 (79.7 - 99.7)
Other relative	17.2 (6.4 - 28.0)*	1.6 (0.0 - 4.0)*
Partner	<0.1 [§]	0.6 (0.0 - 1.8)*
Other person ^[1]	4.2 (0.0 - 10.0)*	8.1 (0.0 - 18.0)*
REASON FOR MIGRATION	FEMALES (n[†]=48)	MALES (n[†]=41)
Family reunification	41.1 (22.0 - 60.2)	17.7 (3.2 - 32.3)*
Health Reasons	2.4 (0.0 - 7.1)*	2.7 (0.0 - 8.2)*
Economic/Work/School	46.5 (29.0 - 64.0)	68.4 (52.5 - 84.3)
Forced by other circumstances	10.1 (0.0 - 22.2)*	11.1 (2.9 - 19.4)*

	FEMALES	MALES
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
PLANS TO MIGRATE	FEMALES (n=470)	MALES (n=487)
Plans to migrate in the next 3 years	31.0 (24.3 - 37.7)	27.0 (21.6 - 32.5)
REASON FOR MIGRATION PLANS	FEMALES (n[†]=130)	MALES (n[†]=139)
Family Reunification	7.0 (0.8 - 13.3)*	7.0 (2.2 - 11.9)*
Economic/Work/School	84.9 (76.4 - 93.3)	89.6 (84.1 - 95.1)
Other reasons ^[2]	8.1 (0.8 - 15.4)*	3.3 (0.6 - 6.0)*

NOTE
 CI confidence interval.
 [1] Other person includes: other acquaintance and nobody/
 traveled alone.
 [2] Other reason includes: health reasons, forced by violence in family
 or community, forced by other circumstances, marriage,
 or political situation.
 * Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted
 with caution.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals
 of the age group and sex with a valid response.
 n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.
 § Zero percent prevalence (0.0%) are denoted as <0.1 and should be
 interpreted with caution. It should not be assumed that the prevalence
 of the item in the entire population is an absolute zero.

3.2.5. Relationship and sexual history of 13-17-year-olds

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES (n=528)	MALES (n=560)
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
EVER BEEN MARRIED OR LIVED WITH SOMEONE AS IF MARRIED	2.7 (0.3 - 5.0)*	0.5 (0.0 - 1.3)*
	FEMALES (n=519)	MALES (n=539)
EVER HAD SEX^[1]	8.2 (3.9 - 12.6)	9.9 (7.0 - 12.8)

NOTE
 CI confidence interval.
 [1] Sex includes: vaginal, oral or anal sex or the penetration
 of an object into your vagina or anus by someone else.
 * Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted
 with caution.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals
 of the age group and sex with a valid response.

4.1.1. Prevalence of sexual violence^[1] before age 18, among 18-24-year-olds

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES (n=491)	MALES (n=408)
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
CHILDHOOD SEXUAL VIOLENCE	14.4 (9.5 - 19.3)	5.3 (2.8 - 7.9)

NOTE | CI confidence interval.
 [1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured, coerced, or alcohol-facilitated sex (through verbal pressure, harassment, threats, or were too drunk to say no to them).
 n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

4.1.2. Prevalence of different types of sexual violence^[1] before age 18, among 18-24-year-olds

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES (n=476)	MALES (n=390)
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
UNWANTED SEXUAL TOUCHING in childhood	11.8 (6.9 - 16.7)	5.2 (2.5 - 7.8)
	FEMALES (n=479)	MALES (n=396)
UNWANTED ATTEMPTED SEX in childhood	3.2 (1.2 - 5.2)*	1.1 (0.0 - 2.6)*
	FEMALES (n=486)	MALES (n=397)
PRESSURED, COERCED, OR ALCOHOL-FACILITATED SEX^[2] in childhood	0.3 (0.0 - 0.8)*	0.3 (0.0 - 0.9)*
	FEMALES (n=484)	MALES (n=403)
PHYSICALLY FORCED SEX in childhood	0.9 (0.0 - 1.8)*	0.7 (0.0 - 1.7)*

NOTE | CI confidence interval.
 [1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured, coerced, or alcohol-facilitated sex (through verbal pressure, harassment, threats, or were too drunk to say no to them).
 [2] Pressured, coerced, or alcohol-facilitated sex includes: verbal pressure, harassment, threats, or were too drunk to say no to them.
 * Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.
 n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

4.1.3. Age of first experience of sexual violence^[1], among 18-24-year-olds who experienced any sexual violence before age 18

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES (n [†] =59)	MALES (n [†] =25)
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
13 OR YOUNGER	8.6 (0.9 - 16.2)*	<0.1 [§]
14-15	21.7 (8.9 - 34.4)	31.2 (4.5 - 57.9)*
16-17	69.8 (54.7 - 84.8)	68.8 (42.1 - 95.5)

NOTE
 CI confidence interval.
 [1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured, coerced, or alcohol-facilitated sex (through verbal pressure, harassment, threats, or were too drunk to say no to them).
 * Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.
 § Zero percent prevalence (0.0%) are denoted as <0.1 and should be interpreted with caution. It should not be assumed that the prevalence of the item in the entire population is an absolute zero.

4.1.4. Prevalence of experiencing more than one incident of sexual violence^[1], among 18-24-year-olds who experienced at least one incident of sexual violence before age 18

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES (n [†] =56)	MALES (n [†] =18)
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
EXPERIENCED MULTIPLE INCIDENTS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CHILDHOOD	60.9 (43.3 - 78.4)	88.2 (74.0 - 100.0)

NOTE
 CI confidence interval.
 [1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured, coerced, or alcohol-facilitated sex (through verbal pressure, harassment, threats, or were too drunk to say no to them).

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

4.1.5. Prevalence of pressured, coerced, or alcohol-facilitated sex or physically forced sex at first sexual experience, among 18-24-year-olds whose first sexual intercourse was before age 18

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES (N [†] =121)	MALES (N [†] =144)
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
PRESSURED, COERCED, OR ALCOHOL-FACILITATED SEX OR PHYSICALLY FORCED SEX AT FIRST SEXUAL EXPERIENCE	1.1 (0.0 - 3.3)*	<0.1 [§]

NOTE
 CI confidence interval.
 * Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.
 n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

§ Zero percent prevalence (0.0%) are denoted as <0.1 and should be interpreted with caution. It should not be assumed that the prevalence of the item in the entire population is an absolute zero.

4.1.6. Perpetrators of the first incidents of sexual violence^[1], among 18-24-year-olds who experienced sexual violence before age 18

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES (n [†] =60)	MALES (n [†] =25)
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
current or previous SPOUSE/LIVE-IN PARTNER/ BOYFRIEND/GIRLFRIEND OR ROMANTIC PARTNER	15.2 (3.8 - 26.5)*	9.6 (0.0 - 21.7)*
CLASSMATE/SCHOOLMATE	18.9 (2.5 - 35.2)*	20.4 (0.0 - 41.9)*
FRIEND	24.3 (6.2 - 42.4)*	51.3 (25.9 - 76.7)
STRANGER	25.6 (14.9 - 36.3)	9.4 (0.0 - 21.7)*
OTHER^[2]	18.1 (0.0 - 36.9)*	13.0 (0.0 - 28.6)*

NOTE
 Percents may sum to >100% as some victims may have experienced multiple forms of sexual violence with each being a different perpetrator or may have experienced an incident of sexual violence that involved multiple perpetrators.
 CI confidence interval.
 [1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured, coerced, or alcohol-facilitated sex (through verbal pressure, harassment,

threats, or were too drunk to say no to them).
 [2] Other includes: family member, authority figure (teacher, police/security person, employer, community leader, religious leader), and neighbor.
 * Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.
 n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

4.1.7. Perpetrators of sexual violence perceived to be 5 or more years older, among 18-24-year-olds who experienced first incidents of sexual violence^[1] before age 18

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES (n [†] =60)	MALES (n [†] =25)
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
PERPETRATOR OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE PERCEIVED TO BE 5 OR MORE YEARS OLDER		
Any sexual violence in childhood	31.3 (18.2 - 44.4)	11.1 (0.0 - 27.5)*

NOTE
 CI confidence interval.
 [1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured, coerced, or alcohol-facilitated sex (through verbal pressure, harassment, threats, or were too drunk to say no to them).

* Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.
 n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

4.1.8. Location of first incident of sexual violence^[1], among 18-24-year-olds who experienced sexual violence before age 18

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES (n [†] =56)	MALES (n [†] =22)
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
HOME^[2]	21.5 (6.4 - 36.6)*	41.8 (15.8 - 67.8)*
OUTSIDE OF HOME^[3]	81.1 (66.8 - 95.5)	82.1 (65.4 - 98.9)

NOTE
 Percents may sum to >100% as some victims may have experienced multiple forms of sexual violence, which may have occurred at different locations.
 CI confidence interval.
 [1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured, coerced, or alcohol-facilitated sex (through verbal pressure, harassment, threats, or were too drunk to say no to them).

[2] Home includes: participant's, perpetrator's, or someone else's home.
 [3] Outside of home includes: on a road/street, school, inside a car/bus, lake, river, or other body of water, field or other natural area, sports field/recreative area, alcohol outlet (e.g. restaurant, bar, disco, club, etc.), and office.
 * Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.
 n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

4.1.9. Time of day^[1] of the first incident of sexual violence, among 18-24-year-olds who experienced sexual violence before age 18

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES (n [†] =56)	MALES (n [†] =23)
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
MORNING	5.9 (0.0 - 12.4)*	5.5 (0.0 - 12.7)*
AFTERNOON	45.2 (28.2 - 62.2)	41.1 (15.0 - 67.2)*
EVENING	48.1 (33.3 - 62.8)	42.0 (15.1 - 69.0)*
LATE AT NIGHT	3.5 (0.0 - 7.7)*	12.4 (0.2 - 24.7)*

NOTE | Percents may sum to >100% as some victims may have experienced multiple forms of sexual violence, which may have occurred at different times of the day.
CI confidence interval.
[1] Morning refers to sunrise-noon, afternoon refers to noon-sunset,

evening refers to sunset-midnight, and late at night refers to midnight-sunrise.
* Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.
n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

4.1.10. Disclosure, service-seeking and receipt for any incident of sexual violence^[1], among 18-24-year-olds who experienced any sexual violence

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES (n [†] =56)	MALES (n [†] =40)
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
TOLD SOMEONE about an experience of sexual violence^[2]	37.1 (17.0 - 57.1)	18.0 (3.1 - 33.0)*
	FEMALES (n [†] =102)	MALES (n [†] =64)
KNEW OF A PLACE TO SEEK HELP about an experience of sexual violence	61.9 (46.4 - 77.4)	43.4 (28.0 - 58.8)
SOUGHT HELP for any experience of sexual violence	4.9 (0.1 - 9.7)*	3.3 (0.0 - 8.7)*
RECEIVED HELP for any experience of sexual violence	3.6 (0.0 - 7.9)*	0.7 (0.0 - 2.0)*

NOTE | CI confidence interval.
[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured, coerced, or alcohol-facilitated sex (through verbal pressure, harassment, threats, or were too drunk to say no to them).

[2] Due to a skip error, some participants did not have the opportunity to answer this question and are categorized as missing.
* Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.
n[†] denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

4.1.11. Relationship with the person who was told about any incident of sexual violence^[1], among 18-24-year-olds who experienced any sexual violence and who told someone

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES (n [†] =16)	MALES (n [†] =5)
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
PERSON WHO WAS TOLD ABOUT SEXUAL VIOLENCE		
Relative	72.3 (52.0 - 92.5)	47.6 (0.0 - 97.7)*
Spouse, live-in partner, boyfriend/girlfriend, or intimate partner	27.7 (7.5 - 48.0)*	52.4 (2.3 - 100.0)*
Other ^[2]	<0.1 [§]	<0.1 [§]

NOTE | CI confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured, coerced, or alcohol-facilitated sex (through verbal pressure, harassment, threats, or were too drunk to say no to them).

[2] Other includes: friend or neighbor, service provider or authority figure (NGO worker, professor/teacher, employer, community leader, traditional healer, religious leader), and other.

* Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

§ Zero percent prevalence (0.0%) are denoted as <0.1 and should be interpreted with caution. It should not be assumed that the prevalence of the item in the entire population is an absolute zero.

4.1.12. Reasons for not seeking services for sexual violence^[1], among 18-24-year-olds who experienced any sexual violence and did not seek services

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES (n [†] =47)		MALES (n [†] =26)	
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)		WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	
REASONS FOR NOT SEEKING SERVICES				
Afraid of getting in trouble	8.5	(0.0 - 18.3)*	<0.1 [§]	
Embarrassed for self/family	18.0	(4.2 - 31.8)*	20.8	(0.0 - 41.9)*
Perpetrator threatened me	3.9	(0.0 - 10.7)*	<0.1 [§]	
Did not think it was a problem	49.7	(22.1 - 77.2)	52.6	(26.4 - 78.7)
Felt it was my fault	8.7	(0.0 - 20.1)*	<0.1 [§]	
Did not need/want to tell anyone	10.3	(0.2 - 20.5)*	26.6	(8.3 - 45.0)*
Other ^[2]	0.9	(0.0 - 2.5)*	<0.1 [§]	

NOTE | CI confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured, coerced, or alcohol-facilitated sex (through verbal pressure, harassment, threats, or were too drunk to say no to them).

[2] Other includes: could not afford services, dependent on perpetrator, afraid of being abandoned, afraid of community violence, and services too far away.

* Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

§ Zero percent prevalence (0.0%) are denoted as <0.1 and should be interpreted with caution. It should not be assumed that the prevalence of the item in the entire population is an absolute zero.

4.2.1. Prevalence of any sexual violence^[1] in the past 12 months, among 13-17-year-olds

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES (n=526)	MALES (n=561)
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
ANY SEXUAL VIOLENCE in the past 12 months	7.6 (4.5 - 10.6)	5.4 (3.1 - 7.7)

NOTE | CI confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured, coerced, or alcohol-facilitated sex (through verbal pressure, harassment,

threats, or were too drunk to say no to them).

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

4.2.2. Prevalence of different types of sexual violence^[1] in the past 12 months, among 13-17-year-olds

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES (n=519)	MALES (n=554)
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
UNWANTED SEXUAL TOUCHING in the past 12 months	5.3 (2.8 - 7.8)	5.2 (2.9 - 7.5)
	FEMALES (n=521)	MALES (n=556)
UNWANTED ATTEMPTED SEX in the past 12 months	1.4 (0.0 - 3.2)*	0.8 (0.1 - 1.6)*
	FEMALES (n=524)	MALES (n=559)
PRESSURED, COERCED, OR ALCOHOL-FACILITATED SEX in the past 12 months	0.2 (0.0 - 0.6)*	0.1 (0.0 - 0.3)*
	FEMALES (n=525)	MALES (n=557)
PHYSICALLY FORCED SEX in the past 12 months	2.2 (0.3 - 4.0)*	0.0 (0.0 - 0.1)*

NOTE | CI confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured, coerced, or alcohol-facilitated sex (through verbal pressure, harassment, threats, or were too drunk to say no to them).

* Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

4.2.3. Prevalence of experiencing more than one incident of sexual violence^[1], among 13-17-year-olds who experienced at least one incident of sexual violence in the past 12 months

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES (n [†] =42)	MALES (n [†] =28)
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
EXPERIENCED MORE THAN ONE INCIDENT OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE	86.6 (76.5 - 96.7)	65.6 (44.9 - 86.3)

NOTE CI confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured, coerced, or alcohol-facilitated sex (through verbal pressure, harassment, threats, or were too drunk to say no to them).

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

4.2.4. Age of first experience of sexual violence^[1], among 13-17-year-olds who experienced any sexual violence in the past 12 months

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES (n [†] =40)	MALES (n [†] =29)
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
13 OR YOUNGER	23.2 (5.5 - 40.9)*	1.7 (0.0 - 4.1)*
14-15	50.9 (30.7 - 71.0)	59.5 (38.5 - 80.5)
16-17	25.9 (9.1 - 42.7)*	38.8 (18.0 - 59.6)

NOTE CI confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured, coerced, or alcohol-facilitated sex (through verbal pressure, harassment, threats, or were too drunk to say no to them).

* Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

4.2.5. Perpetrators of most recent incidents of sexual violence^[1], among 13-17-year-olds who experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES (n [†] =41)	MALES (n [†] =28)
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
current or previous SPOUSE/LIVE-IN PARTNER/ BOYFRIEND/ GIRLFRIEND OR ROMANTIC PARTNER	31.4 (8.3 - 54.5)*	19.7 (4.8 - 34.6)*
CLASSMATE/SCHOOLMATE	26.0 (6.1 - 45.8)*	43.7 (18.6 - 68.8)
FRIEND	36.2 (15.4 - 57.1)	22.7 (6.6 - 38.9)*
STRANGER	11.9 (0.0 - 26.2)*	16.9 (0.3 - 33.5)*
OTHER^[2]	3.9 (0.0 - 10.9)*	<0.1 [§]

NOTE | Percents may sum to >100% as some victims may have experienced multiple forms of sexual violence with each being a different perpetrator or may have experienced an incident of sexual violence that involved multiple perpetrators.

CI confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured, coerced, or alcohol-facilitated sex (through verbal pressure, harassment, threats, or were too drunk to say no to them).

[2] Other includes: family member, authority figure, and neighbor.

* Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

§ Zero percent prevalence (0.0%) are denoted as <0.1 and should be interpreted with caution. It should not be assumed that the prevalence of the item in the entire population is an absolute zero.

4.2.6. Location of most recent incident of sexual violence^[1], among 13-17-year-olds who experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES (n [†] =43)	MALES (n [†] =31)
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
HOME^[2]	27.6 (8.1 - 47.1)*	25.4 (9.0 - 41.8)*
SCHOOL	48.0 (27.6 - 68.5)	36.9 (15.2 - 58.6)
OTHER^[3]	36.1 (17.6 - 54.7)	37.7 (16.8 - 58.6)

NOTE Percents may sum to >100% as some victims may have experienced multiple forms of sexual violence, which may have occurred at different locations.

CI confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured, coerced, or alcohol-facilitated sex (through verbal pressure, harassment, threats, or were too drunk to say no to them).

[2] Home includes: participant's, perpetrator's, or someone else's home.

[3] Other includes: on a road/street, inside a car/bus, lake, river or other body of water, field or natural area, sports field/recreative area, alcohol outlet (e.g. restaurant, bar, disco, club, etc.).

* Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

4.2.7. Time of day^[1] of the most recent incident of sexual violence, among 13-17-year-olds who experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES (n [†] =42)	MALES (n [†] =29)
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
MORNING	24.5 (6.3 - 42.8)*	12.8 (0.0 - 31.7)*
AFTERNOON	34.3 (15.3 - 53.2)	56.4 (36.1 - 76.8)
EVENING	40.9 (19.7 - 62.1)	30.5 (13.9 - 47.1)
LATE AT NIGHT	10.0 (0.0 - 22.2)*	6.4 (0.0 - 16.1)*

NOTE Percents may sum to >100% as some victims may have experienced multiple forms of sexual violence, which may have occurred at different times of the day.

CI confidence interval.

[1] Morning refers to sunrise-noon, afternoon refers to noon-sunset,

evening refers to sunset-midnight, and late at night refers to midnight-sunrise.

* Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

4.2.8. Disclosure, service-seeking, and receipt for any incident of sexual violence^[1], among 13-17-year-olds who experienced sexual violence

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES (n [†] =34)	MALES (n [†] =22)
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
TOLD SOMEONE about an experience of sexual violence^[2]	59.2 (39.5 - 78.9)	44.7 (18.4 - 71.0)
	FEMALES (n [†] =71)	MALES (n [†] =42)
KNEW OF A PLACE TO SEEK HELP about an experience of sexual violence	47.3 (31.7 - 62.9)	60.2 (41.7 - 78.6)
SOUGHT HELP for any experience of sexual violence	2.8 (0.0 - 7.5)*	3.8 (0.0 - 9.4)*
RECEIVED HELP for any experience of sexual violence	2.8 (0.0 - 7.5)*	3.8 (0.0 - 9.4)*

NOTE | CI confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured, coerced, or alcohol-facilitated sex (through verbal pressure, harassment, threats, or were too drunk to say no to them).

[2] Due to a skip error, some participants did not have the opportunity to answer this question and are categorized as missing.

* Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.
n[†] denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

4.2.9. Relationship with the person who was told about any incident of sexual violence^[1], among 13-17-year-olds who experienced any sexual violence and who told someone

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES (n [†] =16)	MALES (n [†] =9)
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
PERSON WHO WAS TOLD ABOUT SEXUAL VIOLENCE		
Relative	34.5 (10.8 - 58.1)*	50.8 (11.1 - 90.4)*
Spouse, live-in partner, boyfriend/girlfriend, or intimate partner	49.8 (21.9 - 77.7)	49.2 (9.6 - 88.9)*
Other ^[2]	15.7 (0.0 - 36.9)*	<0.1 [§]

NOTE | CI confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured, coerced, or alcohol-facilitated sex (through verbal pressure, harassment, threats, or were too drunk to say no to them).

[2] Other includes: friend/neighbor, service provider or authority figure (NGO worker, professor/teacher, employer, community

leader, traditional healer, religious leader).

* Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

§ Zero percent prevalence (0.0%) are denoted as <0.1 and should be interpreted with caution. It should not be assumed that the prevalence of the item in the entire population is an absolute zero.

4.2.10. Reasons for not seeking services for sexual violence^[1], among 13-17-year-olds who experienced any sexual violence and did not seek services

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES (n ⁺ =33)	MALES (n ⁺ =19)
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
REASONS FOR NOT SEEKING SERVICES		
Afraid of getting in trouble	4.6 (0.0 - 12.1)*	<0.1 [§]
Embarrassed for self/family	9.3 (0.0 - 23.4)*	5.3 (0.0 - 15.4)*
Could not afford services	<0.1 [§]	<0.1 [§]
Dependent on perpetrator	<0.1 [§]	<0.1 [§]
Perpetrator threatened me	<0.1 [§]	<0.1 [§]
Did not think it was a problem	41.9 (16.2 - 67.6)*	54.7 (27.5 - 81.8)
Felt it was my fault	<0.1 [§]	<0.1 [§]
Afraid of being abandoned	<0.1 [§]	<0.1 [§]
Did not need/want to tell anyone	44.2 (16.7 - 71.7)*	40.0 (11.9 - 68.2)*
Afraid of community violence	<0.1 [§]	<0.1 [§]
Services too far away	<0.1 [§]	<0.1 [§]

NOTE | CI confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured, coerced, or alcohol-facilitated sex (through verbal pressure, harassment, threats, or were too drunk to say no to them).

n⁺ denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

* Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

§ Zero percent prevalence (0.0%) are denoted as <0.1 and should be interpreted with caution. It should not be assumed that the prevalence of the item in the entire population is an absolute zero.

5.1.1. Prevalence of physical violence^[1] before age 18, among 18-24-year-olds

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES (n=494)	MALES (n=412)
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
CHILDHOOD PHYSICAL VIOLENCE	25.9 (20.8 - 30.9)	35.2 (27.3 - 43.0)

NOTE | CI confidence interval.

[1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, hitting/smashing, or beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown or burn intentionally, using or threatening with a knife, gun, or other weapon.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

5.1.2. Prevalence of physical violence^[1] before age 18 by perpetrator, among 18-24-year-olds

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES			MALES		
	n [†]	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)		n [†]	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	
INTIMATE PARTNER^[2] physical violence	12	2.5	(0.9 - 4.0)*	2	0.9	(0.0 - 2.3)*
PARENT, ADULT CAREGIVER, OR OTHER ADULT RELATIVE physical violence	69	14.1	(10.2 - 17.9)	54	14.5	(8.9 - 20.1)
ADULTS IN THE COMMUNITY physical violence	16	3.5	(1.3 - 5.8)*	29	7.8	(4.4 - 11.1)
PEER physical violence	67	15.4	(10.4 - 20.4)	103	27.3	(20.5 - 34.1)

NOTE | Percents may sum to >100% as some youth may experience violence from more than one person.

CI confidence interval.

[1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, hitting/smashing, or beating with an object, choking,

smothering, trying to drown or burn intentionally, using or threatening with a knife, gun, or other weapon.

[2] Among those who have an intimate partner.

* Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

n[†] denotes numerator.

5.1.3. Age of the first experience of physical violence^[1], among 18-24-year-olds who experienced any physical violence before age 18

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES (n [†] =113)	MALES (n [†] =131)
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
5 OR YOUNGER	0.6 (0.0 - 1.7)*	6.1 (0.1 - 12.0)*
6-11	42.4 (29.2 - 55.6)	31.7 (22.6 - 40.8)
12-17	57.0 (43.8 - 70.2)	62.2 (52.0 - 72.5)

NOTE | CI confidence interval.
 [1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, hitting/smashing, or beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown or burn intentionally, using or threatening with a knife, gun, or other weapon.
 * Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.
 n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup."

5.1.4. Disclosure, service-seeking, and receipt for any incident of physical violence^[1], among 18-24-year-olds who experienced physical violence

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES (n [†] =166)	MALES (n [†] =174)
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
TOLD SOMEONE about an experience of physical violence	48.7 (38.5 - 59.0)	51.8 (41.5 - 62.0)
	FEMALES (n [†] =163)	MALES (n [†] =167)
KNEW OF A PLACE TO SEEK HELP about an experience of physical violence	63.3 (53.3 - 73.3)	72.8 (61.9 - 83.7)
	FEMALES (n [†] =162)	MALES (n [†] =167)
SOUGHT HELP for any experience of physical violence	6.2 (1.6 - 10.7)*	7.5 (2.5 - 12.6)*
RECEIVED HELP for any experience of physical violence	4.3 (0.3 - 8.3)*	5.2 (1.0 - 9.3)*

NOTE | CI confidence interval.
 [1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, hitting/smashing, or beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown or burn intentionally, using or threat-
 ening with a knife, gun, or other weapon.
 * Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.
 n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup."

5.1.5. Relationship with the person who was told about any incident of physical violence^[1], among 18-24-year-olds who experienced any physical violence and who told someone

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES (n [†] =81)	MALES (n [†] =85)
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
PERSON WHO WAS TOLD ABOUT PHYSICAL VIOLENCE		
Relative	75.3 (62.2 - 88.5)	60.7 (47.6 - 73.9)
Friend/neighbor	17.6 (7.6 - 27.5)	37.6 (24.5 - 50.7)
Other ^[2]	7.1 (1.3 - 12.8)*	1.7 (0.0 - 3.7)*

NOTE CI confidence interval.

[1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, hitting/smashing, or beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown or burn intentionally, using or threatening with a knife, gun, or other weapon.

[2] Other includes: spouse, live-in partner, boyfriend/girlfriend

or intimate partner, service provider or authority figure (NGO worker, professor/teacher, employer, community leader, traditional healer, religious leader), and other.

* Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

5.2.1. Prevalence of physical violence^[1] in the past 12 months, among 13-17-year-olds

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES (n=530)	MALES (n=565)
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
PHYSICAL VIOLENCE IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS	10.8 (7.1 - 14.5)	15.1 (10.9 - 19.2)

NOTE CI confidence interval.

[1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, hitting/smashing, or beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown or burn intentionally, using or threatening with a knife, gun, or other weapon.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

5.2.2. Prevalence of physical violence^[1] in the past 12 months by perpetrator, among 13-17-year-olds

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES			MALES		
	n [†]	WEIGHTED % [95% CI]		n [†]	WEIGHTED % [95% CI]	
INTIMATE PARTNER^[2] physical violence	2	2.8	(0.0 - 6.4)*	4	1.5	(0.0 - 3.2)*
PARENT, ADULT CAREGIVER, OR OTHER ADULT RELATIVE physical violence	8	1.6	(0.3 - 3.0)*	6	1.8	(0.0 - 3.5)*
ADULTS IN THE COMMUNITY physical violence	2	0.8	(0.0 - 2.0)*	17	3.0	(1.1 - 5.0)*
PEER physical violence	48	8.6	(5.3 - 11.9)	75	12.7	(8.6 - 16.9)

NOTE
[1] Percents may sum to >100% as some youth may experience violence from more than one person.
CI confidence interval.

[1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, hitting/smashing, or beating with an object, choking,

smothering, trying to drown or burn intentionally, using or threatening with a knife, gun, or other weapon.

[2] Among those who have an intimate partner.

* Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

n[†] denotes numerator.

5.2.3. Age of first experience of physical violence^[1], among 13-17-year-olds who experienced any physical violence in the past 12 months

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES (n [†] =51)		MALES (n [†] =85)	
	WEIGHTED % [95% CI]		WEIGHTED % [95% CI]	
5 OR YOUNGER	4.9	(0.0 - 11.3)*	6.2	(0.0 - 14.6)*
6-11	23.9	(9.9 - 37.9)	42.4	(25.8 - 59.0)
12-17	71.2	(59.1 - 83.4)	51.4	(34.5 - 68.4)

NOTE
CI confidence interval.

[1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, hitting/smashing, or beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown or burn intentionally, using

or threatening with a knife, gun, or other weapon.

* Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

5.2.4. Prevalence of experiencing physical harm or injury as a result of physical violence^[1], among 13-17-year-olds who experienced physical violence in the past 12 months

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES (n [†] =55)	MALES (n [†] =87)
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
EXPERIENCED INJURY AS A RESULT OF PHYSICAL VIOLENCE IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS	44.3 (27.3 - 61.2)	56.1 (40.9 - 71.4)

NOTE | CI confidence interval.

[1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, hitting/smashing, or beating with an object, choking,

smothering, trying to drown or burn intentionally, using or threatening with a knife, gun, or other weapon. n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

5.2.5. Disclosure, service-seeking, and receipt for any incident of physical violence^[1], among 13-17-year-olds who experienced any physical violence

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES (n [†] =118)	MALES (n [†] =187)
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
TOLD SOMEONE about an experience of physical violence	55.7 (43.6 - 67.8)	47.7 (38.0 - 57.3)
	FEMALES (n [†] =116)	MALES (n [†] =182)
KNEW OF A PLACE TO SEEK HELP about an experience of physical violence	77.5 (66.7 - 88.4)	83.2 (77.8 - 88.7)
	FEMALES (n [†] =116)	MALES (n [†] =181)
SOUGHT HELP for any experience of physical violence	8.9 (3.1 - 14.6)*	9.3 (4.2 - 14.4)
RECEIVED HELP for any experience of physical violence	8.0 (2.6 - 13.5)*	7.0 (2.6 - 11.4)*

NOTE | CI confidence interval.

[1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, hitting/smashing, or beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown or burn intentionally, using or threat-

ening with a knife, gun, or other weapon. * Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution. n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

5.2.6. Relationship with the person who was told about any incident of physical violence^[1], among 13-17-year-olds who experienced any physical violence and who told someone

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES (n ¹ =63)	MALES (n ¹ =92)
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
PERSON WHO WAS TOLD ABOUT PHYSICAL VIOLENCE		
Relative	80.2 (67.1 - 93.4)	65.6 (51.4 - 79.8)
Friend/neighbor	15.1 (3.7 - 26.5)*	29.1 (15.8 - 42.4)
Other ^[2]	4.6 (0.0 - 11.0)*	5.3 (0.0 - 13.0)*

NOTE	CI confidence interval.	or intimate partner, service provider or authority figure (NGO worker, professor/teacher, employer, community leader, traditional healer, religious leader), and other.
	[1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, hitting/smashing, or beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown or burn intentionally, using or threatening with a knife, gun, or other weapon.	* Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.
	[2] Other includes: spouse, live-in partner, boyfriend/girlfriend,	n ¹ denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

5.2.7. Reasons for not seeking services for physical violence^[1], among 13-17-year-olds who experienced any physical violence and did not seek services

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES (n ¹ =69)	MALES (n ¹ =118)
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
REASONS FOR NOT SEEKING SERVICES		
Afraid of getting in trouble	19.9 (5.8 - 34.0)*	6.4 (0.0 - 13.3)*
Did not think it was a problem	49.8 (31.9 - 67.7)	47.8 (33.9 - 61.6)
Did not need/want to tell anyone	28.2 (15.0 - 41.4)	38.7 (25.0 - 52.5)
Other ^[2]	2.1 (0.0 - 5.0)*	7.2 (0.7 - 13.6)*

NOTE	CI confidence interval.	[2] Other includes: embarrassed for self/family, could not afford services, dependent on perpetrator, perpetrator threatened me, felt it was my fault, afraid of community violence, and services too far away.
	[1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, hitting/smashing, or beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown or burn intentionally, using or threatening with a knife, gun, or other weapon.	* Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.
		n ¹ denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

5.3.1. Prevalence of witnessing physical violence in the home^[1] and in the neighborhood^[2], among 18-24-year-olds before age 18 and among 13-17-year-olds in the past 12 months

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

WITNESSED PHYSICAL VIOLENCE IN CHILDHOOD (AMONG 18-24-YEAR-OLDS)		
	FEMALES (n=487)	MALES (n=407)
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
In the home	35.4 (28.1 - 42.7)	22.9 (16.8 - 28.9)
	FEMALES (n=455)	MALES (n=398)
In the neighborhood	59.9 (51.0 - 68.9)	73.3 (67.2 - 79.4)
WITNESSED PHYSICAL VIOLENCE IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS (AMONG 13-17-YEAR-OLDS)		
	FEMALES (n=519)	MALES (n=558)
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
In the home	8.0 (4.7 - 11.3)	4.2 (2.0 - 6.3)
	FEMALES (n=504)	MALES (n=543)
In the neighborhood	26.9 (19.9 - 33.8)	38.8 (31.4 - 46.2)

NOTE
 [1] Witnessing physical violence in the home includes: hearing or seeing a parent punch, kick or beat your other parent, their boyfriend or girlfriend, or your brothers or sisters.
 [2] Witnessing physical violence in the neighborhood includes: seeing someone get attacked outside of your home and family environment.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

6.1.1. Prevalence of emotional violence^[1] by a parent, adult caregiver, or adult relative before age 18, among 18-24-year-olds

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES (n=486)	MALES (n=403)
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
CHILDHOOD EMOTIONAL VIOLENCE BY A PARENT, CAREGIVER, OR ADULT RELATIVE	10.6 (6.7 - 14.5)	8.9 (5.4 - 12.5)

NOTE
 CI confidence interval.
 [1] Emotional violence includes: being told that you were unloved or did not deserve to be loved, being told that they wished you were dead or had never been born, being made fun of or humiliated, or threatening to get rid of you.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

6.2.1. Prevalence of emotional violence^[1] in the past 12 months, among 13-17-year-olds

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES (n=530)	MALES (n=566)
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
EMOTIONAL VIOLENCE IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS	36.8 (30.7 - 42.8)	29.7 (23.7 - 35.7)

NOTE
 CI confidence interval.
 [1] Emotional violence includes: any emotional violence by a parent, caregiver, or adult relative, or by an intimate partner or peer.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

6.2.2. Prevalence of emotional violence in the past 12 months by different perpetrator types, among 13-17-year-olds

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALE (n=530)	MALE (n=566)
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
PARENT, CAREGIVER, OR ADULT RELATIVE emotional violence in the past 12 months^[1]	3.8 (1.9 - 5.7)	2.7 (0.8 - 4.6)*
	FEMALES (n=529)	MALES (n=565)
PEER emotional violence in the past 12 months^[2]	35.2 (29.4 - 41.1)	27.1 (21.3 - 32.9)
	FEMALE (n ⁺ =121)	MALE (n ⁺ =160)
INTIMATE PARTNER emotional violence in the past 12 months^[3], among those who ever had an intimate partner	15.7 (7.2 - 24.2)	12.9 (6.0 - 19.8)

NOTE CI confidence interval.

[1] Emotional violence by parent, caregiver, or adult relative includes: being told that you were unloved or did not deserve to be loved, being told that they wished you were dead or had never been born or being ridiculed or put down.

[2] Emotional violence by peer includes: made scared or to feel really bad by being called names, saying mean things, or saying they didn't want you around; telling lies or spreading rumors about you, or tried to make others dislike you; being kept you out of things on purpose, excluded you from their group of friends, or completely ignored you.

[3] Emotional violence by an intimate partner includes: being insulted, humiliated, or made fun of in front of others; keeping you from having your own money; tried to keep you from seeing or talking to family or friends; keeping track of you by demanding to know where you were and what you were doing; made threats to physically harm you; made threats to take away or hurt your children or relatives.

* Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

n⁺ denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

7.1.1. Prevalence of sexual violence^[1] in the past 12 months, among 18-24-year-olds

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES (n=491)	MALES (n=408)
	WEIGHTED % [95% CI]	WEIGHTED % [95% CI]
SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS	8.4 (5.1 - 11.7)	8.2 (4.3 - 12.2)

NOTE CI confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured, coerced, or alcohol-facilitated sex (through verbal pressure, harassment, threats, or were too drunk to say no to them).

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

7.1.2. Prevalence of different types of sexual violence^[1] in the past 12 months, among 18-24-year-olds

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALE (n=480)	MALE (n=395)
	WEIGHTED % [95% CI]	WEIGHTED % [95% CI]
UNWANTED SEXUAL TOUCHING in the past 12 months	7.7 (4.7 - 10.8)	6.9 (3.6 - 10.2)
	FEMALES (n=481)	MALES (n=402)
UNWANTED ATTEMPTED SEX in the past 12 months	2.0 (0.3 - 3.7)*	1.7 (0.0 - 3.6)*
	FEMALES (n=488)	MALES (n=403)
PRESSURED, COERCED, OR ALCOHOL-FACILITATED SEX^[2] in the past 12 months	0.3 (0.0 - 0.8)*	0.3 (0.0 - 1.0)*
	FEMALES (n=486)	MALES (n=405)
PHYSICALLY FORCED SEX in the past 12 months	0.9 (0.0 - 2.0)*	1.2 (0.0 - 2.8)*

NOTE CI confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured, coerced, or alcohol-facilitated sex (through verbal pressure, harassment, threats, or were too drunk to say no to them).

[2] Pressured, coerced, or alcohol-facilitated sex includes: verbal pressure, harassment, threats, or were too drunk to say no to them.

* Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

7.1.3. Perpetrators of the most recent incidents of sexual violence^[1], among 18-24-year-olds who experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES (n [†] =28)	MALES (n [†] =20)
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
current or previous SPOUSE/LIVE-IN PARTNER/BOYFRIEND/GIRLFRIEND OR ROMANTIC PARTNER	30.2 (12.9 - 47.5)	23.7 (0.6 - 46.8)*
NON-INTIMATE PARTNER^[2]	74.4 (57.4 - 91.3)	84.4 (67.9 - 100.0)

NOTE | Percents may sum to >100% as some victims may have experienced multiple forms of sexual violence with each being a different perpetrator or may have experienced an incident of sexual violence that involved multiple perpetrators.

CI confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured, coerced, or alcohol-facilitated sex (through verbal pressure, harassment, threats, or were too drunk to say no to them).

[2] Non-intimate partner includes: family member, authority figure, neighbor, classmate/schoolmate, friend, neighbor, and stranger.

* Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

7.2.1. Prevalence of physical violence^[1] in the past 12 months, among 18-24-year-olds

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES (n=494)	MALES (n=412)
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
PHYSICAL VIOLENCE IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS	7.9 (5.4 - 10.5)	11.8 (7.2 - 16.3)

NOTE | CI confidence interval.

[1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, hitting/smashing, or beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown or burn intentionally, using or threatening with a knife, gun, or other weapon.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

7.2.2. Prevalence of physical violence^[1] in the past 12 months by perpetrator, among 18-24-year-olds

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES (n [†] =387)	MALES (n [†] =304)
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
INTIMATE PARTNER^[2] physical violence	6.1 (3.2 - 9.1)	4.9 (1.9 - 7.8)*
	FEMALES (n=493)	MALES (n=412)
ADULTS IN THE COMMUNITY physical violence	0.5 (0.0 - 1.3)*	0.4 (0.0 - 0.8)*
	FEMALES (n=493)	MALES (n=412)
PEER physical violence	2.6 (1.0 - 4.2)*	7.1 (3.8 - 10.3)

NOTE Percents may sum to >100% as youth may experience violence from more than one person.

CI confidence interval.

[1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, hitting/smashing, or beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown or burn intentionally,

using or threatening with a knife, gun, or other weapon.

[2] Among those who have an intimate partner.

* Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

7.2.3. Prevalence of experiencing physical harm or injury as a result of physical violence^[1], among 18-24-year-olds who experienced physical violence in the past 12 months

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES (n [†] =35)	MALES (n [†] =47)
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
EXPERIENCED INJURY AS A RESULT OF PHYSICAL VIOLENCE IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS	60.9 (41.8 - 80.0)	59.5 (41.0 - 78.0)

NOTE CI confidence interval.

[1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, hitting/smashing, or beating with an object, choking,

smothering, trying to drown or burn intentionally, using or threatening with a knife, gun, or other weapon.

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

7.2.4. Disclosure, service-seeking, and receipt for any incident of physical violence^[1], among 18-24-year-olds who experienced any physical violence in the past 12 months

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES (n [†] =35)	MALES (n [†] =47)
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
TOLD SOMEONE about an experience of physical violence	55.0 (34.7 - 75.2)	62.1 (45.0 - 79.1)
KNEW OF A PLACE TO SEEK HELP about an experience of physical violence	68.3 (47.3 - 89.3)	66.3 (47.6 - 85.0)
SOUGHT HELP for any experience of physical violence	4.9 (0.0 - 11.5)*	9.3 (0.0 - 19.9)*
RECEIVED HELP for any experience of physical violence	0.5 (0.0 - 1.5)*	9.3 (0.0 - 19.9)*

NOTE CI confidence interval.

[1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, hitting/smashing, or beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown or burn intentionally, using

or threatening with a knife, gun, or other weapon.

* Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

7.2.5. Relationship with person who was told about any incident of physical violence^[1], among 18-24-year-olds who experienced physical violence in the past 12 months who told someone

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES (n [†] =19)	MALES (n [†] =27)
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
PERSON WHO WAS TOLD ABOUT PHYSICAL VIOLENCE		
Told a relative	64.1 (33.2 - 95.0)	67.5 (43.6 - 91.3)
Other ^[2]	35.9 (5.0 - 66.8)*	32.5 (8.7 - 56.4)*

NOTE Percents may sum to >100% as some victims may have told multiple people about the same incident of physical violence or may have experienced physical violence from multiple people which they may have told different people about each incident.
CI confidence interval.

[1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, hitting/smashing, or beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown or burn intentionally, using or threatening with a knife, gun, or other weapon.

[2] Other includes: spouse, live-in partner, boyfriend/girlfriend, or intimate partner, service provider or authority figure (NGO worker, professor/teacher, employer, community leader, traditional healer, religious leader), friend/neighbor, or other.

* Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

7.3.1. Prevalence of emotional violence in the past 12 months by an intimate partner^[1], among 18-24-year-olds who ever had an intimate partner

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES (n [†] =387)	MALES (n [†] =304)
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
EMOTIONAL VIOLENCE BY AN INTIMATE PARTNER	13.1 (8.2 - 17.9)	22.1 (15.1 - 29.0)

NOTE CI confidence interval.

[1] Emotional violence by an intimate partner includes: being insulted, humiliated, or made fun of in front of others; keeping you from having your own money; tried to keep you from seeing or talking to family or friends; keeping track of you by demanding to know

where you were and what you were doing; made threats to physically harm you; made threats to take away or hurt your children or relatives.

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

8.1.1. Prevalence of different types of violence and multiple forms of violence experienced before age 18, among 18-24-year-olds

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

ANY VIOLENCE				
	FEMALE (n=494)		MALE (n=412)	
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)		WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	
No childhood violence	63.2	(57.0 - 69.4)	62.4	(54.8 - 70.0)
Any childhood violence	36.8	(30.6 - 43.0)	37.6	(30.0 - 45.2)
ONE TYPE OF VIOLENCE ONLY				
	FEMALE (n=494)		MALE (n=412)	
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)		WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	
Childhood sexual violence ^[1] only	7.3	(3.8 - 10.9)	1.0	(0.2 - 1.8)*
Childhood physical violence ^[2] only	15.5	(11.7 - 19.3)	23.8	(19.2 - 28.5)
Childhood emotional violence ^[3] by a parent, adult caregiver, or other adult relative only	1.8	(0.2 - 3.5)*	1.1	(0.0 - 2.1)*
MULTIPLE TYPES OF VIOLENCE				
	FEMALE (n=494)		MALE (n=412)	
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)		WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	
Two types of violence	10.5	(6.5 - 14.4)	11.7	(7.0 - 16.4)
Childhood sexual, physical, and emotional violence	1.7	(0.5 - 2.9)*	<0.1 [§]	

NOTE CI confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured, coerced, or alcohol-facilitated sex (through verbal pressure, harassment, threats, or were too drunk to say no to them).

[2] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, hitting/smashing, or beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown or burn intentionally, using or threatening with a knife, gun, or other weapon by intimate partner, parent, adult caregiver, or other adult relative, community member or peer.

[3] Emotional violence includes: being told that you were unloved or did not deserve to be loved, being told that they wished you were dead or had never been born, being made fun of or humiliated, or threatening to get rid of you by a parent, adult caregiver, or other adult relative.

* Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

§ Zero percent prevalence (0.0%) are denoted as <0.1 and should be interpreted with caution. It should not be assumed that the prevalence of the item in the entire population is an absolute zero.

8.1.2. Prevalence of different types of violence and multiple forms of violence experienced in the past 12 months, among 18-24-year-olds

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

ANY VIOLENCE		
	FEMALE (n=494)	MALE (n=412)
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
No Violence	82.3 (77.7 - 86.9)	81.5 (75.6 - 87.4)
Any Violence	17.7 (13.1 - 22.3)	18.5 (12.6 - 24.4)
ONE TYPE OF VIOLENCE ONLY		
	FEMALE (n=494)	MALE (n=412)
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
Sexual Violence ^[1] only in the past 12 months	6.1 (3.5 - 8.6)	4.9 (2.2 - 7.6)
Physical Violence ^[2] only in the past 12 months	5.1 (3.3 - 7.0)	7.1 (3.7 - 10.4)
Emotional Violence ^[3] by a parent, adult caregiver, or other adult relative only in the past 12 months	3.2 (0.7 - 5.7)*	1.8 (0.1 - 3.5)*
TWO TYPES OF VIOLENCE		
	FEMALE (n=494)	MALE (n=412)
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
Sexual Violence and Physical Violence	2.8 (0.7 - 5.0)*	4.8 (1.3 - 8.2)*

NOTE CI confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured, coerced, or alcohol-facilitated sex (through verbal pressure, harassment, threats, or were too drunk to say no to them).

[2] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, hitting/smashing, or beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown or burn intentionally, using or threatening with a knife, gun, or other weapon by intimate partner, parent, adult caregiver, or other adult relative, community member or peer.

[3] Emotional violence includes: being told that you were unloved or did not deserve to be loved, being told that they wished you were dead or had never been born, being made fun of or humiliated, or threatening to get rid of you by a parent, adult caregiver, or other adult relative.

* Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

8.1.3. Prevalence of different types of violence and multiple forms of violence experienced in the past 12 months, among 13-17-year-olds

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

ANY VIOLENCE				
	FEMALE (n=530)		MALE (n=566)	
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)		WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	
No violence	82.3	(77.8 - 86.8)	80.8	(76.1 - 85.5)
Any violence	17.7	(13.2 - 22.2)	19.2	(14.5 - 23.9)
ONE TYPE OF VIOLENCE ONLY				
	FEMALE (n=530)		MALE (n=566)	
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)		WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	
Sexual violence ^[1] only in the past 12 months	4.7	(2.5 - 6.8)	3.1	(1.3 - 4.8)
Physical violence ^[2] only in the past 12 months	7.2	(4.5 - 9.8)	11.3	(7.3 - 15.4)
Emotional violence ^[3] by a parent, adult caregiver, or other adult relative only in the past 12 months	1.8	(0.3 - 3.3)*	1.1	(0.0 - 2.3)*
MULTIPLE TYPES OF VIOLENCE				
	FEMALE (n=530)		MALE (n=566)	
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)		WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	
Two types of violence	3.8	(1.7 - 5.8)	3.5	(1.4 - 5.5)
Sexual violence and physical and emotional violence	0.3	(0.0 - 0.7)*	0.2	(0.0 - 0.5)*

NOTE | CI confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured, coerced, or alcohol-facilitated sex (through verbal pressure, harassment, threats, or were too drunk to say no to them).

[2] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, hitting/smashing, or beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown or burn intentionally, using or threatening with a knife, gun, or other weapon by intimate partner, parent, adult caregiver, or other adult relative,

community member or peer.

[3] Emotional violence includes: being told that you were unloved or did not deserve to be loved, being told that they wished you were dead or had never been born, being made fun of or humiliated, or threatening to get rid of you by a parent, adult caregiver, or other adult relative.

* Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

9.1.1. Health conditions and health behaviors by experience of sexual^[1], physical^[2], or emotional^[3] violence before age 18, among 18-24-year-old females

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	MENTAL DISTRESS IN THE PAST 30 DAYS	BINGE DRINKING IN THE PAST 30 DAYS ^[4]	CURRENT SMOKER	DRUG USE IN THE PAST 30 DAYS	EVER INTENTIONALLY HURT THEMSELVES	EVER THOUGHT OF SUICIDE ^[5]	EVER ATTEMPTED SUICIDE ^[6]	EVER HAD SYMPTOMS/DIAGNOSIS OF STI ^[7]
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CHILDHOOD								
Experienced sexual violence	72.5 (59.1-86.0)	30.8 (13.9-47.7)	23.1 (6.6-39.5)*	0.7 (0.0-2.2)*	13.4 (5.3-21.4)*	15.6 (6.8-24.5)	43.0 (8.1-77.9)*	14.7 (4.1-25.3)*
n†	60	60	60	60	59	59	11	60
No sexual violence	49.7 (42.7-56.7)	18.4 (13.2-23.6)	7.7 (4.4-11.1)	0.4 (0.0-1.0)*	7.1 (3.7-10.6)	11.2 (7.5-14.8)	46.2 (24.5-68.0)	6.0 (3.2-8.8)
n†	431	416	427	429	427	426	36	429
PHYSICAL VIOLENCE IN CHILDHOOD								
Experienced physical violence	65.9 (53.9-78.0)	27.2 (18.2-36.1)	16.3 (6.1-26.6)*	0.4 (0.0-1.2)*	10.8 (4.3-17.3)*	20.2 (10.7-29.8)	35.6 (10.9-60.3)*	10.2 (2.7-17.6)*
n†	119	115	119	117	116	116	21	119
No physical violence	48.3 (39.7-56.9)	17.8 (11.1-24.6)	7.7 (3.4-12.0)	0.9 (0.0-1.9)*	7.0 (3.2-10.9)	8.9 (5.3-12.5)	53.4 (28.0-78.8)	6.2 (2.9-9.5)
n†	375	363	370	375	372	371	26	372
EMOTIONAL VIOLENCE IN CHILDHOOD								
Experienced emotional violence	83.3 (70.7-95.9)	36.5 (22.4-50.7)	28.6 (15.8-41.4)	3.7 (0.0-9.0)*	13.6 (0.9-26.4)*	36.2 (19.0-53.4)	53.7 (24.7-82.8)	11.1 (1.2-21.1)*
n†	54	53	54	54	54	51	15	54
No emotional violence	48.9 (41.9-55.9)	18.5 (12.5-24.5)	7.8 (4.3-11.2)	0.4 (0.0 - 1.1)*	7.5 (4.0-11.0)	8.7 (5.4-11.9)	38.1 (16.2-60.1)	6.6 (3.3-9.9)
n†	432	418	428	431	427	429	31	429

ZI CI confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured, coerced, or alcohol-facilitated sex (through verbal pressure, harassment, threats, or were too drunk to say no to them).

[2] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, hit-

ting/smashing, or beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown or burn intentionally, using or threatening with a knife, gun, or other weapon.

[3] Emotional violence includes: being told that you were unloved or did not deserve to be loved, being told that they wished you were dead or had never been born, being made fun of or humiliated, or threatening to get rid of you by a parent, adult caregiver, or other adult relative.

[4] Binge drinking included drinking 4 or more drinks in one occasion.

[5] Suicide was defined as ever seriously considered ending your life.

[6] Among those who experienced thoughts of suicide.

[7] STI (sexually transmitted illness) symptoms include: genital sore/ulcer.

* Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

n† denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

9.1.2. Health conditions and health behaviors by experience of sexual [1], physical [2], or emotional [3] violence before age 18, among 18-24-year-old males

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	MENTAL DISTRESS IN THE PAST 30 DAYS	BINGE DRINKING IN THE PAST 30 DAYS [4]	CURRENT SMOKER	DRUG USE IN THE PAST 30 DAYS	EVER INTENTIONALLY HURT THEMSELVES	EVER THOUGHT OF SUICIDE [5]	EVER ATTEMPTED SUICIDE [6]	EVER HAD SYMPTOMS/DIAGNOSIS OF STI [7]
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CHILDHOOD								
Experienced sexual violence	60.3 (37.8-82.9)	40.7 (14.6-66.8)*	55.0 (32.6-77.4)	<0.1 [§]	14.2 (0.0-31.6)*	7.2 (0.0-17.2)*	<0.1 [§]	1.8 (0.0-5.6)*
n [†]	25	25	25	25	25	24	2	25
No sexual violence	42.3 (33.6-51.0)	47.8 (39.4-56.3)	47.0 (39.3-54.8)	2.1 (0.0-4.3)*	6.4 (3.3-9.6)	5.6 (2.7-8.4)	22.1 (0.8-43.4)*	4.3 (1.7 - 6.9)*
n [†]	383	364	381	381	381	377	23	381
PHYSICAL VIOLENCE IN CHILDHOOD								
Experienced physical violence	58.7 (46.3-71.1)	57.2 (43.7-70.8)	55.0 (42.3-67.7)	3.4 (0.0-7.0)*	7.9 (2.7-13.2)*	10.0 (4.0-16.0)*	33.1 (2.6-63.7)*	8.7 (2.6-14.7)*
n [†]	136	132	135	134	135	133	14	135
No physical violence	35.2 (26.9-43.6)	41.9 (32.9-50.9)	43.0 (34.8-51.2)	1.2 (0.0-2.8)*	6.2 (2.5-9.9)*	3.2 (1.2-5.3)*	<0.1 [§]	1.7 (0.0-3.8)*
n [†]	276	260	275	275	274	272	11	275
EMOTIONAL VIOLENCE IN CHILDHOOD								
Experienced emotional violence	68.6 (49.8-87.5)	67.2 (46.8-87.5)	43.5 (23.8-63.2)	4.2 (0.0-10.9)*	6.1 (0.0-14.4)*	20.1 (3.7-36.5)*	4.3 (0.0-13.5)*	2.2 (0.0-6.5)*
n [†]	40	38	40	40	39	39	7	39
No emotional violence	40.9 (32.4-49.4)	45.5 (36.5-54.4)	47.4 (39.7-55.0)	1.4 (0.0-3.5)*	6.2 (3.0-9.3)	3.6 (1.3-5.9)*	13.6 (0.0-38.3)*	4.0 (1.3-6.6)*
n [†]	363	346	361	360	361	357	16	362

CI confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured, coerced, or alcohol-facilitated sex (through verbal pressure, harassment, threats, or were too drunk to say no to them).

[2] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, hitting/smashing, or beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying

to drown or burn intentionally, using or threatening with a knife, gun, or other weapon.

[3] Emotional violence includes: being told that you were unloved or did not deserve to be loved, being told that they wished you were dead or had never been born, being made fun of or humiliated, or threatening to get rid of you by a parent, adult caregiver, or other adult relative.

[4] Binge drinking included drinking 4 or more drinks in one occasion.

[5] Suicide was defined as ever seriously considered ending your life.

[6] Among those who experienced thoughts of suicide.

[7] STI (sexually transmitted illness) symptoms include: genital sore/ulcer. * Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

§ Zero percent prevalence (0.0%) are denoted as <0.1 and should be interpreted with caution. It should not be assumed that the prevalence of the item in the entire population is an absolute zero.

9.2.1. Health conditions and health behaviors by experience of sexual^[1], physical^[2], or emotional^[3] violence among 13-17-year-old females

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	MENTAL DISTRESS IN THE PAST 30 DAYS	BINGE DRINKING IN THE PAST 30 DAYS ^[4]	CURRENT SMOKER	DRUG USE IN THE PAST 30 DAYS	EVER INTERNATIONALLY HURT THEMSELVES	EVER THOUGHT OF SUICIDE ^[5]	EVER ATTEMPTED SUICIDE ^[6]	EVER HAD SYMPTOMS/DIAGNOSIS OF STI ^[7]
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS								
Experienced sexual violence	66.1 (42.8-89.4)	25.4 (6.3-44.5)*	22.8 (2.5-43.0)*	4.7 (0.0-13.8)*	14.4 (1.3-27.5)*	23.6 (4.6-42.7)*	36.0 (0.0-75.7)*	2.1 (0.0-5.1)*
n†	45	43	45	45	45	44	10	45
No sexual violence	44.5 (36.7-52.3)	4.6 (1.8-7.4)*	1.0 (0.0-2.1)*	0.1 (0.0-0.2)*	8.9 (5.8-11.9)	5.6 (2.8-8.4)	24.2 (6.6-41.8)*	0.8 (0.0-1.8)*
n†	481	472	481	480	479	479	26	480
PHYSICAL VIOLENCE IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS								
Experienced physical violence	75.2 (55.2-95.1)	9.6 (1.7-17.5)*	4.9 (0.0-12.2)*	3.7 (0.0-10.3)*	16.4 (3.8-29.1)*	14.4 (4.0-24.9)*	18.5 (0.0-47.2)*	<0.1§
n†	55	54	55	55	54	54	7	55
No physical violence	42.4 (34.5-50.3)	5.7 (2.5-8.9)	2.4 (0.1-4.7)*	0.0 (0.0-0.1)*	8.4 (5.3-11.5)	6.1 (3.2-8.9)	29.7 (11.0-48.4)*	1.0 (0.0-2.1)*
n†	475	464	473	472	474	473	29	473
EMOTIONAL VIOLENCE IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS								
Experienced emotional violence	100.0 (N/A)	20.6 (0.0-41.8)*	<0.1§	<0.1§	31.2 (4.7-57.8)*	16.2 (0.0-33.0)*	32.6 (0.0-79.1)*	2.2 (0.0-6.6)*
n†	18	18	18	18	17	18	4	18
No emotional violence	43.8 (35.9-51.7)	5.6 (2.4-8.7)	2.8 (0.5-5.1)*	0.4 (0.0-1.2)*	8.4 (5.4-11.5)	6.6 (3.9-9.3)	26.7 (9.4-44.0)*	0.9 (0.0-1.8)*
n†	512	500	510	509	511	509	32	510

CI confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured, coerced, or alcohol-facilitated sex (through verbal pressure, harassment, threats, or were too drunk to say no to them).

[2] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, hitting/smashing, or beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown or burn intentionally, using or threatening with a knife, gun,

or other weapon.

[3] Emotional violence includes: being told that you were unloved or did not deserve to be loved, being told that they wished you were dead or had never been born, being made fun of or humiliated, or threatening to get rid of you by a parent, adult caregiver, or other adult relative.

[4] Binge drinking included drinking 4 or more drinks in one occasion.

[5] Suicide was defined as ever seriously considered ending your life.

[6] Among those who experienced thoughts of suicide.

[7] STI (sexually transmitted illness) symptoms include: genital sore/ulcer.

* Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

N/A 95% confidence interval is not shown because the estimated standard error is zero.

n† denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

§ Zero percent prevalence (0.0%) are denoted as <0.1 and should be interpreted with caution. It should not be assumed that the prevalence of the item in the entire population is an absolute zero.

9.2.2. Health conditions and health behaviors by experience of sexual^[1], physical^[2], or emotional^[3] violence among 13-17-year-old males

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	MENTAL DISTRESS IN THE PAST 30 DAYS	BINGE DRINKING IN THE PAST 30 DAYS ^[4]	CURRENT SMOKER	DRUG USE IN THE PAST 30 DAYS	EVER INTENTIONALLY HURT THEMSELVES	EVER THOUGHT OF SUICIDE ^[5]	EVER ATTEMPTED SUICIDE ^[6]	EVER HAD SYMPTOMS/DIAGNOSIS OF STI ^[7]
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS								
Experienced sexual violence	66.0 (47.3-84.7)	41.0 (18.6-63.5)	31.5 (12.0-50.9)*	<0.1 [§]	3.6 (0.0-10.7)*	3.2 (0.0-9.5)*	**	<0.1 [§]
n†	33	33	32	33	32	33		33
No sexual violence	28.2 (22.7-33.8)	6.4 (3.7-9.2)	7.8 (4.9-10.7)	<0.1 [§]	7.3 (3.4-11.2)	1.2 (0.1-2.2)*	57.0 (15.5-98.4)*	0.2 (0.0-0.6)*
n†	528	514	519	527	524	523	10	527
PHYSICAL VIOLENCE IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS								
Experienced physical violence	46.7 (32.9-60.5)	21.6 (11.1-32.2)	10.5 (2.4-18.5)*	<0.1 [§]	18.4 (2.7-34.1)*	0.3 (0.0-0.8)*	**	<0.1 [§]
n†	87	86	86	87	87	87		87
No physical violence	27.3 (21.5-33.0)	5.9 (3.3-8.5)	8.8 (5.4-12.2)	<0.1 [§]	5.1 (2.4-7.8)	1.4 (0.2 - 2.7)*	47.6 (5.2-90.0)*	0.3 (0.0-0.7)*
n†	477	465	469	477	473	473	10	477
EMOTIONAL VIOLENCE IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS								
Experienced emotional violence	80.0 (53.3-100.0)	7.4 (0.0-18.9)*	2.3 (0.0-7.3)*	<0.1 [§]	6.3 (0.0-19.8)*	6.3 (0.0-19.8)*	**	<0.1 [§]
n†	11	11	11	11	11	11		11
No emotional violence	28.8 (23.1-34.5)	8.3 (5.2-11.4)	9.2 (5.9-12.6)	<0.1 [§]	7.2 (3.5-10.8)	1.1 (0.1-2.2)*	41.1 (0.0-87.8)*	0.2 (0.0 - 0.6)*
n†	553	541	545	554	549	549	10	553

CI confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured, coerced, or alcohol-facilitated sex (through verbal pressure, harassment, threats, or were too drunk to say no to them).

[2] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, hitting/smashing, or beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown or burn intentionally, using or threatening with a knife, gun,

or other weapon.

[3] Emotional violence includes: being told that you were unloved or did not deserve to be loved, being told that they wished you were dead or had never been born, being made fun of or humiliated, or threatening to get rid of you by a parent, adult caregiver, or other adult relative.

[4] Binge drinking included drinking 4 or more drinks in one occasion.

[5] Suicide was defined as ever seriously considered ending your life.

[6] Among those who experienced thoughts of suicide.

[7] STI (sexually transmitted illness) symptoms include: genital sore/ulcer.

* Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

** Unreliable estimate, estimate is suppressed.

n† denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

§ Zero percent prevalence (0.0%) are denoted as <0.1 and should be interpreted with caution. It should not be assumed that the prevalence of the item in the entire population is an absolute zero.

10.1.1. Attitudes about the acceptance of domestic violence ^[1] among 13-17 and 18-24-year-olds

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES	MALES
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
ACCEPTANCE OF ONE OR MORE REASONS FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, BY AGE GROUP		
	FEMALES (n=526)	MALES (n=565)
13-17-year-olds	11.2 (6.9 - 15.6)	13.8 (9.1 - 18.4)
	FEMALES (n=494)	MALES (n=412)
18-24-year-olds	9.1 (5.3 - 12.8)	9.1 (5.5 - 12.7)

NOTE
CI confidence interval.
[1] Includes participants who endorsed one or more of the following: it is acceptable for a husband to beat his wife if she: goes out without telling him; neglects the children; argues with him; refuses

to have sex with him; burns the food.
n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

10.1.2. Beliefs about gender, sexual practices, and intimate partner violence ^[1], among 13-17 and 18-24-year-olds

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES	MALES
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
ENDORSEMENT OF ONE OR MORE BELIEFS ABOUT GENDER, SEXUAL PRACTICES, AND INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE, BY AGE GROUP		
	FEMALES (n=528)	MALES (n=565)
13-17-year-olds	30.3 (24.4 - 36.3)	41.2 (34.7 - 47.7)
	FEMALES (n=494)	MALES (n=412)
18-24-year-olds	25.5 (20.1 - 30.8)	49.4 (41.4 - 57.3)

NOTE
CI confidence interval.
[1] Includes participants who endorsed one or more of the following: men decide when to have sex; if someone insults a boy/man, he should defend his reputation with force if he needs to; there are times when a woman should be beaten; women who carry condoms

have sex with a lot of men; women should tolerate violence to keep the family together.
n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

10.2.1. Physical violence^[1] perpetration by age group

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES	MALES
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
PHYSICAL VIOLENCE PERPETRATION (EVER)		
	FEMALES (n=529)	MALES (n=564)
13-17-year-olds	9.3 (6.2 - 12.4)	11.2 (6.5 - 15.9)
	FEMALES (n=493)	MALES (n=412)
18-24-year-olds	13.5 (8.9 - 18.2)	10.3 (5.0 - 15.7)

NOTE | CI confidence interval.

[1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, hitting/smashing, or beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown or burn intentionally, using or threatening with a knife, gun, or other weapon.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

10.2.2. Physical violence^[1] perpetration by experience of sexual violence^[2] and physical violence before age 18, among 18-24-year-olds

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES	MALES
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
PHYSICAL VIOLENCE PERPETRATION (EVER) BY EXPERIENCE OF CHILDHOOD SEXUAL VIOLENCE		
	FEMALES (n [†] =60)	MALES (n [†] =25)
Experienced childhood sexual violence	32.8 (20.1 - 45.5)	12.3 (0.0 - 26.6)*
	FEMALES (n [†] =431)	MALES (n [†] =383)
No childhood sexual violence	10.3 (6.0 - 14.6)	10.3 (4.9 - 15.6)
PHYSICAL VIOLENCE PERPETRATION (EVER) BY EXPERIENCE OF CHILDHOOD PHYSICAL VIOLENCE		
	FEMALES (n [†] =119)	MALES (n [†] =136)
Experienced childhood physical violence	23.2 (11.6 - 34.8)	21.8 (11.3 - 32.4)
	FEMALES (n [†] =374)	MALES (n [†] =276)
No childhood physical violence	10.2 (5.9 - 14.4)	4.1 (1.3 - 6.9)*

NOTE CI confidence interval.

[1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, hitting/smashing, or beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown or burn intentionally, using or threatening with a knife, gun, or other weapon.

[2] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured, coerced, or alcohol-facilitated sex (through verbal pressure, harassment, threats, or were too drunk to say no to them).

* Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

10.2.3. Physical violence^[1] perpetration by experience of sexual violence^[2] and physical violence in the past 12 months, among 13-17-year-olds

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES	MALES
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
PHYSICAL VIOLENCE PERPETRATION (EVER) BY EXPERIENCE OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS		
	FEMALES (n [†] =45)	MALES (n [†] =33)
Experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months	29.4 (14.0 - 44.8)	21.5 (4.0 - 39.0)*
	FEMALES (n [†] =481)	MALES (n [†] =527)
No sexual violence in the past 12 months	7.7 (4.7 - 10.7)	10.6 (6.1 - 15.1)
PHYSICAL VIOLENCE PERPETRATION (EVER) BY EXPERIENCE OF PHYSICAL VIOLENCE IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS		
	FEMALES (n [†] =55)	MALES (n [†] =87)
Experienced physical violence in the past 12 months	34.6 (20.3 - 48.9)	26.6 (12.4 - 40.9)
	FEMALES (n [†] =474)	MALES (n [†] =477)
No physical violence in the past 12 months	6.2 (3.6 - 8.9)	8.4 (4.1 - 12.8)

NOTE
 CI confidence interval.
 [1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, hitting/smashing, or beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown or burn intentionally, using or threatening with a knife, gun, or other weapon.
 [2] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted

attempted sex, physically forced sex, and pressured, coerced, or alcohol-facilitated sex (through verbal pressure, harassment, threats, or were too drunk to say no to them).
 * Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.
 n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

10.3.1. Intimate partner^[1] violence perpetration^[2], among 18-24-year-olds who had a partner

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES (n [†] =387)	MALES (n [†] =304)
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
PERPETRATED INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE	11.4 (7.1 - 15.7)	5.2 (1.3 - 9.2)*

NOTE
 CI confidence interval.
 [1] Intimate partner includes: current or previous boyfriend, girlfriend, romantic partner, live-in partner, husband or wife.
 [2] Violence perpetration includes slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, intentionally throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, hitting, whipping, or beating with an object, choking, smothering,

trying to drown or burn intentionally, using or threatening with a knife, gun, or other weapon, or forcing a partner to have sex with you when they did not want to.
 * Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.
 n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

11.1. Characteristics of 18-24-year-olds by experience of sexual and physical violence in the past 12 months

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES			MALES		
	n†	WEIGHTED %	[95% CI]	n†	WEIGHTED %	[95% CI]
VIOLENCE AND LOSS OF ONE OR BOTH PARENTS IN CHILDHOOD						
Any violence among those who lost one or both parents	15	25.6	(13.4 - 37.7)	2	3.9	(0.0 - 10.3)*
Any violence among those who did not lose one or both parents	42	12.2	(7.9 - 16.5)	60	17.0	(11.1 - 22.8)
VIOLENCE AND SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IN CHILDHOOD						
Any violence among youth who completed primary school or less	11	21.7	(6.2 - 37.2)*	9	17.8	(11.8 - 23.8)
Any violence among youth who completed secondary school or more	50	13.9	(9.8 - 17.9)	57	16.6	(11.2 - 22.1)
VIOLENCE AND WORKING FOR MONEY OR OTHER PAYMENT IN THE PAST YEAR						
Any violence among youth who worked	32	16.2	(9.4 - 23.0)	42	17.8	(11.8 - 23.8)
Any violence among youth who did not work	29	13.2	(7.6 - 18.7)	23	15.2	(6.7 - 23.6)
VIOLENCE AND WITNESSED VIOLENCE AT HOME IN CHILDHOOD						
Any violence among youth who witnessed violence at home	41	27.3	(19.4 - 35.1)	27	31.9	(19.0 - 44.8)
Any violence among youth who did not witness violence at home	20	8.1	(3.5 - 12.7)	39	12.4	(7.6 - 17.2)
VIOLENCE AND MARRIAGE OR COHABITATION						
Any violence among youth who were ever married or cohabiting	29	14.8	(8.0 - 21.6)	15	20.9	(6.5 - 35.2)*
Any violence among youth who are unmarried and not cohabiting	32	14.7	(9.3 - 20.1)	51	16.2	(11.0 - 21.4)

	FEMALES			MALES		
	n [†]	WEIGHTED %	[95% CI]	n [†]	WEIGHTED %	[95% CI]
VIOLENCE AND FOOD INSECURITY						
Any violence among youth who experienced food insecurity	49	20.2	(14.6 - 25.8)	32	15.7	(9.7 - 21.8)
Any violence among youth who did not experience food insecurity	12	5.8	(2.4 - 9.2)	34	17.8	(9.7 - 25.9)
VIOLENCE AND RECEIPT OF REMITTANCES IN THE PAST 3 YEARS^[1]						
Any violence among youth who received remittances	26	13.2	(8.2 - 18.1)	33	23.7	(13.5 - 33.8)
Any violence among youth who did not receive remittances	35	15.6	(9.5 - 21.7)	33	12.8	(7.2 - 18.5)
VIOLENCE AND SEPARATION FROM MOTHER OR FATHER FOR 6 MONTHS OR MORE IN CHILDHOOD^[2]						
Any violence among youth who were separated from one or both parents	27	12.3	(7.8 - 16.8)	38	20.0	(11.9 - 28.1)
Any violence among youth who were not separated	33	16.4	(9.8 - 23.0)	27	13.9	(7.8 - 20.1)
VIOLENCE AND MIGRATION						
Any violence among youth who lived abroad in childhood	6	19.1	(0.0 - 39.4)*	5	25.5	(1.9 - 49.0)*
Any violence among youth who did not live abroad in childhood	55	14.3	(10.1 - 18.5)	61	16.1	(10.4 - 21.7)

NOTE | CI confidence interval.

[1] Received remittances includes those who received money or goods from other countries in the last 3 years.

[2] Separated from mother or father includes those whose mother or whose father lived away from them for at least 6 months before age 18.

* Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

n[†] denotes numerator.

11.2. Characteristics of 13-17-year-olds by experience of sexual and physical violence in the past 12 months

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES			MALES		
	n [†]	WEIGHTED %	[95% CI]	n [†]	WEIGHTED %	[95% CI]
VIOLENCE AND LOSS OF ONE OR BOTH PARENTS IN CHILDHOOD						
Any violence among those who lost one or both parents	12	30.7	(13.8 - 47.6)	6	8.8	(0.0 - 17.8)*
Any violence among those who did not lose one or both parents	74	14.4	(10.0 - 18.7)	100	19.2	(14.3 - 24.0)
VIOLENCE AND SCHOOL ATTENDANCE						
Any violence among youth not attending school	50	15.2	(10.3 - 20.1)	57	18.8	(13.0 - 24.5)
Any violence among youth attending school	37	16.9	(9.1 - 24.6)	50	17.4	(9.9 - 25.0)
VIOLENCE AND WORKING FOR MONEY OR OTHER PAYMENT IN THE PAST YEAR						
Any violence among youth who worked	18	28.3	(19.6 - 37.0)	31	27.5	(18.1 - 36.8)
Any violence among youth who did not work	69	14.4	(9.9 - 18.9)	76	15.5	(9.7 - 21.2)
VIOLENCE AND WITNESSED VIOLENCE AT HOME IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS						
Any violence among youth who witnessed violence at home	14	37.9	(19.4 - 56.3)	6	24.4	(0.0 - 50.5)*
Any violence among youth who did not witness violence at home	72	14.0	(9.7 - 18.3)	100	18.2	(13.3 - 23.0)
VIOLENCE AND MARRIAGE OR COHABITATION						
Any violence among youth who were ever married or cohabiting	5	50.2	(3.7 - 96.7)*	1	7.3	(0.0 - 25.1)*
Any violence among youth who are unmarried and not cohabiting	80	14.2	(9.8 - 18.7)	105	18.1	(13.5 - 22.7)

	FEMALES			MALES		
	n [†]	WEIGHTED % [95% CI]		n [†]	WEIGHTED % [95% CI]	
VIOLENCE AND FOOD INSECURITY						
Any violence among youth who experienced food insecurity	45	17.4	(11.2 - 23.6)	45	18.5	(11.2 - 25.8)
Any violence among youth who did not experience food insecurity	42	14.7	(9.6 - 19.9)	62	17.9	(12.9 - 22.9)
VIOLENCE AND RECEIPT OF REMITTANCES IN THE PAST 3 YEARS^[1]						
Any violence among youth who received remittances	32	20.3	(12.0 - 28.6)	38	20.1	(11.5 - 28.7)
Any violence among youth who did not receive remittances	52	13.6	(9.4 - 17.8)	68	17.7	(12.6 - 22.8)
VIOLENCE AND SEPARATION FROM MOTHER OR FATHER FOR 6 MONTHS OR MORE IN CHILDHOOD^[2]						
Any violence among youth who were separated from one or both parents	50	18.1	(11.0 - 25.3)	55	20.6	(13.7 - 27.5)
Any violence among youth who were not separated	36	13.0	(8.1 - 17.9)	51	16.5	(10.8 - 22.2)
VIOLENCE AND MIGRATION						
Any violence among youth who lived abroad	9	16.2	(4.7 - 27.7)*	5	6.2	(0.0 - 12.9)*
Any violence among youth who did not live abroad	36	6.8	(3.7 - 9.8)	28	5.3	(3.0 - 7.7)

NOTE

[CI] confidence interval.

[1] Received remittances includes those who received money or goods from other countries in the last 3 years.

[2] Separated from mother or father includes those whose mother or whose father lived away from them for at least 6 months before age 18.

* Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

n[†] denotes numerator.

N. Norms and values related to violence among 18-24-year-olds

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES (n=489)	MALES (n=401)
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
AGREEMENT WITH THE NECESSITY OF CORPORAL PUNISHMENT BY PARENTS	8.2 (4.7 - 11.7)	12.6 (8.3 - 16.9)
	FEMALES (n=491)	MALES (n=406)
AGREEMENT WITH THE NECESSITY OF CORPORAL PUNISHMENT BY TEACHERS	0.7 (0.0 - 1.6)*	1.6 (0.6 - 2.6)*
	FEMALES (n=494)	MALES (n=412)
ENDORSEMENT OF ATTITUDES ACCEPTING OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE^[1]	9.1 (5.3 - 12.8)	9.1 (5.5 - 12.7)
	FEMALES (n=494)	MALES (n=412)
ENDORSEMENT OF TRADITIONAL NORMS AND BELIEFS ABOUT GENDER, SEXUAL PRACTICES, AND INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE^[2]	25.5 (20.1 - 30.8)	49.4 (41.4 - 57.3)

NOTE CI confidence interval.

[1] Includes participants who endorsed one or more of the following: it is acceptable for a husband to beat his wife if she: goes out without telling him; neglects the children; argues with him; refuses to have sex with him; burns the food.

[2] Includes participants who endorsed one or more of the following: men decide when to have sex; if someone insults a boy/man, he should defend his reputation with force if he needs to; there are times when a woman should be beaten; women who carry condoms have sex with a lot of men; women should tolerate violence to keep the family together.

* Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted with caution.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

P. Parent and caregiver support and parent-youth relationships among 13-17-year-olds

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES (n=517)	MALES (n=558)
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
PARENTS' USE OF POSITIVE PARENTAL DISCIPLINE IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS	25.0 (18.9 - 31.1)	30.0 (22.4 - 37.6)
	FEMALES (n=510)	MALES (n=552)
CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH MOTHER	92.9 (89.0 - 96.7)	94.4 (91.7 - 97.1)
	FEMALES (n=514)	MALES (n=552)
EASY TO TALK TO MOTHER	85.2 (81.1 - 89.3)	81.5 (76.8 - 86.3)
	FEMALES (n=530)	MALES (n=565)
HIGH MONITORING AND SUPERVISION	93.1 (89.7 - 96.6)	94.1 (91.7 - 96.4)
	FEMALES (n=530)	MALES (n=566)
PHYSICAL DISCIPLINE OR VERBAL AGGRESSION BY PARENTS/CAREGIVERS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS	13.3 (8.4 - 18.3)	10.7 (7.1 - 14.3)

NOTE | CI confidence interval.
n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

I.1. Income and economic strengthening among 13-17-year-olds

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES (n=529)	MALES (n=565)
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
EXPERIENCED FOOD INSECURITY	9.7 (4.9 - 14.5)	5.8 (3.6 - 7.9)

NOTE | CI confidence interval.
n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

I.2. Income and economic strengthening among 18-24-year-olds

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES (n [†] =108)	MALES
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT: DECISION-MAKING AMONG MARRIED OR COHABITATING WOMEN	97.7 (95.3 - 100.0)	NA

NOTE | CI confidence interval.
n[†] denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

E.1. Education and life skills among 13-17-year-olds

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES (n=528)	MALES (n=566)
	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)	WEIGHTED % (95% CI)
CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN SCHOOL	95.5 (92.7 - 98.2)	92.7 (89.3 - 96.1)
	FEMALES (n=518)	MALES (n=552)
BINGE DRINKING^[1] IN THE PAST 30 DAYS	6.1 (2.9 - 9.4)	8.3 (5.3 - 11.3)
	FEMALES (n=529)	MALES (n=561)
IN A PHYSICAL FIGHT IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS	8.0 (4.9 - 11.1)	30.4 (24.8 - 36.1)

NOTE | CI confidence interval.
[1] Binge drinking included drinking 4 or more drinks in one occasion | n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

E.2. Education and life skills among 18-24-year-olds

Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS), 2019.

	FEMALES (n=451)	MALES (n=342)
	WEIGHTED % [95% CI]	WEIGHTED % [95% CI]
EARLY SEXUAL DEBUT: FIRST SEX AT OR BEFORE AGE 15	3.0 (1.3 - 4.8)	8.9 (4.9 - 12.9)
	FEMALES (n ¹ =340)	
EARLY PREGNANCY: PREGNANT BEFORE AGE 18, among those who have ever had sex	5.2 (2.2 - 8.1)	N/A
	FEMALES (n=485)	MALES (n=400)
CHILD MARRIAGE: MARRIED OR COHABITATING BEFORE AGE 18	5.2 (2.7 - 7.8)	0.4 (0.0 - 1.0)*
	FEMALES (n=478)	MALES (n=392)
BINGE DRINKING IN THE PAST 30 DAYS^[1]	20.2 (14.6 - 25.9)	47.3 (38.7 - 55.9)
	FEMALES (n=489)	MALES (n=410)
CURRENT SMOKER	9.9 (5.9 - 13.9)	47.2 (39.8 - 54.7)
	FEMALES (n=491)	MALES (n=410)
IN A PHYSICAL FIGHT IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS	3.4 (1.4 - 5.4)*	23.9 (17.8 - 29.9)
	FEMALES (n=494)	MALES (n=412)
MENTAL DISTRESS IN THE PAST 30 DAYS	52.9 (45.8 - 59.9)	43.5 (35.2 - 51.8)
	FEMALES (n=488)	MALES (n=409)
EVER INTENTIONALLY HURT THEMSELVES	8.0 (4.7 - 11.3)	6.8 (3.7 - 10.0)
	FEMALES (n=487)	MALES (n=405)
EVER THOUGHT OF SUICIDE^[2]	11.8 (8.6 - 15.0)	5.6 (2.9 - 8.3)
	FEMALES (n ¹ =47)	MALES (n ¹ =25)
EVER ATTEMPTED SUICIDE^[3] among those who experienced thoughts of suicide	45.6 (25.9 - 65.3)	20.6 (0.6 - 40.5)*
	FEMALES (n=491)	MALES (n=410)
EVER HAD SYMPTOMS/ DIAGNOSIS OF STI^[4]	7.2 (4.2 - 10.3)	4.1 (1.7 - 6.6)

NOTE

[1] CI confidence interval.

[2] Binge drinking included drinking 4 or more drinks in one occasion.

[3] Suicide was defined as ever seriously considered ending your life.

[4] Among those who experienced thoughts of suicide.

[4] STI (sexually transmitted illness) symptoms include: genital sore/ulcer.

* Unreliable estimate (RSE is > 30%), result should be interpreted

with caution.

n denotes the overall denominator and includes all individuals of the age group and sex with a valid response.

n¹ denotes the denominator of the analytic subgroup.

N/A Not applicable

APPENDIX

The 2019 Republic of Moldova Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS) was a nationally representative household survey of all non-institutionalized females and males ages 13-24 years designed to produce national estimates of childhood sexual, physical, and emotional violence.

B.1.

To calculate separate male and female prevalence estimates for violence victimization, the Republic of Moldova VACS used a split sample approach. This means that the survey for females was conducted in different PSUs than the survey for males. The split sample approach serves to protect the confidentiality of participants and eliminates the chance that a male perpetrator of a sexual assault and the female who was the victim of his sexual assault in the same community would both be interviewed. The design also eliminates the chance that a female perpe-

tor and a male victim of sexual violence from the same community would both be interviewed in the selected PSU.

The sampling frame was originally compiled by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and Central Election Committee (CEC) for the Census from 2014 and Elections from 2016. The master frame for the Republic of Moldova VACS included 897 localities and 1,981 PSUs from the census. The PSUs in the master frame were selected to be representative of the country.

B.2.

The VACS utilized a four-stage stratified sample design. In the first stage, 93 localities were selected from the national sampling frame using PPS. In the second stage, 128 PSUs with the selected localities were selected using random selection; 64 PSUs were assigned to be female PSUs and 64 were assigned to be male PSUs.

In the third stage, 25 households were selected using equal probability systematic sampling within each PSU. However, during fieldwork there was a lower-than-anticipated number of completed interviews, due mostly to lower-than-anticipated household response rates, particularly in urban areas. In order to adapt to the low household response rates that affected achieving the target sample size, the

cluster size was increased to 50 households in the urban PSUs, and an additional 30 female PSUs and 30 male PSUs were selected added to the sample, totaling 188 PSUs. The additional PSUs were randomly selected within the 93 localities selected during the first stage of the sample design. Sample weights were applied during data analysis that accounted for the probabilities of selecting individuals based on the actual results of the fieldwork, rather than the original sampling plan. In the last stage, one eligible participant (female or male depending on the selected PSU) was randomly selected from the list of all eligible participants (females or males) 13-24 years of age in each household and administered the questionnaire.

B.3.

Weighting is a method used to obtain parameters from the data set resulting from sampling in order to represent the total population. The VACS used a three-step weighting procedure: (Step 1) computation of base weight for each sample participant; (Step 2) adjustment of the base weights for differential non-response in the sample; and (Step 3) post-stratification calibration adjustment of weights to known population totals.

Base weights were calculated that are inversely proportional to the overall selection probabilities for each sample participant (Step 1). Calculations in this stage included probabilities of selection of PSUs, sex specification, selection of households, and selection of eligible individuals.

In Step 2, base weights were adjusted to compensate for the losses in the sample outcome due to non-response. In this step, non-response adjustments were made for PSUs, households, and participants. The PSU-level, household-level, and individual non-response adjustments were multiplied together, and the summed base weights for responding individuals was divided by the summed base weights for all eligible individuals, aggregated by weighting-classes. The weighting classes included sex (female/male), region, and type of region (urban/rural).

Although 188 PSUs were selected for the survey, due to security concerns, interviewers were not allowed to enter one of the selected PSUs. The fact that interviewers were not allowed to enter these areas was treated as PSU-level non-response, essentially equivalent to a refusal at the community level. The missing PSU was entered as missing in the non-response weighting procedure. The PSU-level weighting-class adjustment was computed as one divided by the weighted PSU response rate for each weighting-class.

Using the household disposition codes, the household-level response rates were computed separately for each weighting-class using the formula below. The corresponding household-level weighting-class adjustment was computed as one divided by the weighted household response rate for each weighting-class.

$$\text{HOUSEHOLD-LEVEL RESPONSE RATE} = \frac{[1]+[2]}{[1]+[2]+[4]+[6]}$$

WHERE:

- [1] = completed household survey, 1 person selected
- [2] = completed household survey, no eligible in household
- [3] = unoccupied or abandoned
- [4] = no one home
- [5] = demolished
- [6] = household refusal

Person-level non-response adjustment was performed by using individual-level response rate calculating formula by a combination of weighting-class variables. As with the household adjustment component, the person-level adjustment component was computed as one divided by the weighted person-level response rate for each weighting-class.

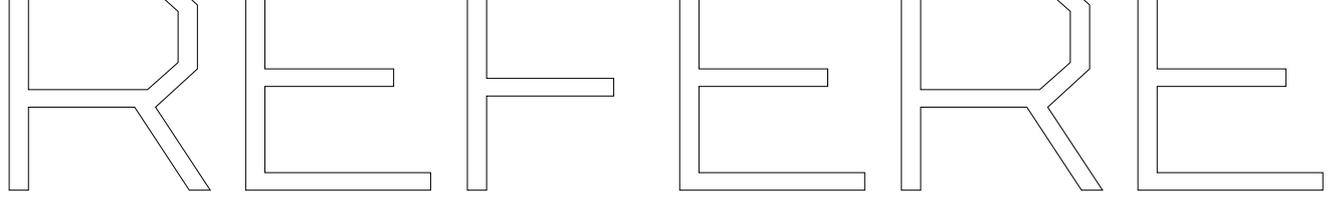
$$\text{INDIVIDUAL-LEVEL RESPONSE RATE} = \frac{[1]}{[1]+[2]+[3]+[4]}$$

WHERE:

- [1] = completed individual survey
- [2] = selected participant refusal
- [3] = incomplete
- [4] = not available
- [5] = does not speak study language/disability

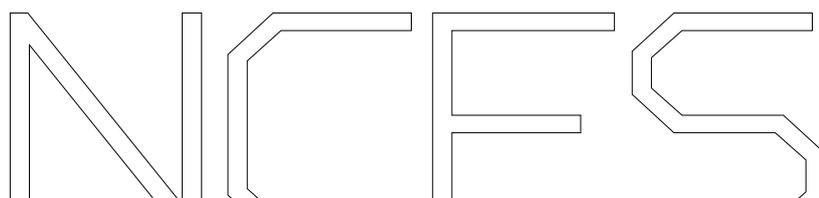
In the final stage of the weighting process (Step 3), calibration adjustment was done to adjust weights to conform to the 2014 population census data distributed by sex. Weighting-classes for post-stratification were formed using sex (female/male), region, and type of region (urban/rural) as in the case of the non-response weights.

The final weights assigned to each responding unit were computed as the product of the base weight, the non-response weight, and post-stratification weight for VACS participants. The final sample weights were used in all analyses to produce estimates of population parameters in SAS (version 9.4).



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2020