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2017

VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN SURVEY

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND GENERAL DIRECTORATE
OF STATISTICS AND CENSUS

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EL SALVADOR

VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN SURVEY

2017



EL SALVADOR VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN SURVEY, 2017.

The Ministry of Justice and Public Security led all aspects of the El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS) with inputs from institutional members of the Technical Working Group. The General Directorate of Statistics and Census of El Salvador (DIGESTYC), advised on survey design, provided the survey sample, and contributed to fieldwork implementation. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provided technical assistance, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in El Salvador coordinated the study and directed the implementation strategy.

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The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

CDC authors conducted weighting and data analysis in support of this report and co-wrote the report with inputs from IOM, USAID, and the Government of El Salvador including the Technical Working Group and specifically the National Council of Childhood and Adolescence (CONNA). The authors consulted with partners and the government of El Salvador 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 El Salvador and do not reflect an endorsement of the CDC or the U.S. Government.

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SECTION B: KEY TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

The definition of violence used in this report is the official definition of the World Health Organization¹. The classification of types of violence below correspond to operational terms used for this survey to measure the different expressions of violence and are based on several questions in the survey. These terms do not constitute legal terms as defined in the country.

VIOLENCE

“Violence” means any form of physical, emotional or mental injury or violence, neglect, maltreatment and exploitation, including sexual violence. Violence is the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, 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.

1. SEXUAL VIOLENCE

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:

1.1.1. Unwanted Sexual Touching:

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^a. Touching in a sexual way without permission includes fondling, pinching, grabbing, or touching on or around the participant’s sexual body parts.

1.1.2. Unwanted Attempted Sex:

If anyone ever tried to make the participant have sex^a 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 and tricks.

1.1.3. Coerced or Alcohol Facilitated Sex:

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

a. Sex or sexual intercourse: Includes vaginal, oral or anal penetration.

1.1.4. Physically Forced Sex:

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

2. PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

Physical violence is defined as the intentional use of physical force with the potential to cause death, disability, injury or harm. 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 may 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 whether (1) a romantic partner, boyfriend/girlfriend, or spouse (2) a person the participant’s own age (3) a parent, adult caregiver, or other adult relative (4) an adult in the community ever committed three types of physical violence:

- Punched, slapped, kicked, whipped, lashed or poked the participant with an object.
- Choked, smothered, tried or attempted to drown, or burned the participant intentionally.
- Cut or threatened the participant with a knife, gun, or other weapon.

3. EMOTIONAL VIOLENCE

Emotional violence in childhood is defined as a pattern of verbal behavior over time or an isolated incident that is not developmentally appropriate or supportive and that has a high probability of damaging a child’s mental health or his/her physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development.

For the VACS, the definition of childhood emotional violence included the participant being told the following by parents, adult caregivers or other adult relatives:

- The participant was not loved or did not deserve to be loved.

- The participant was told they wished s/he had never been born or were dead.
- The participant was ridiculed or put down, for example told that they were stupid or useless.

SECTION C: LIST OF ACRONYMS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
CDC	United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CI	Confidence Interval(s)
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
MJSP	Ministry of Justice and Public Security
DIGESTYC	General Directorate of Statistics and Census – El Salvador
EAs	Enumeration Areas
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HoH	Head of Household
IOM	International Organization for Migration
PSUs	Primary Sampling Units
RSE	Relative Standard Error
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
STIs	Sexually Transmitted Infections
TfG	Together for Girls
UN	United Nations
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VACS	Violence Against Children Survey(s)
WHO	World Health Organization
YRBS	Youth Risk Behavior Survey

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS:

The following summary highlights key findings from the El Salvador VACS. More detailed results are described in the text. In general, the El Salvador VACS includes a comprehensive set of data representing the experiences, assets, and risks of young people in El Salvador. These findings describe a complex situation of the experiences of young people but also contribute to identifying opportunities to address factors that can prevent such experiences. The VACS results include several notable findings that provide critical insights into the experiences of Salvadorian youth.

1. Violence is associated with significant health problems, including mental distress, excessive alcohol use, smoking, self-harm and suicidal ideation, and STIs.
2. Sexual violence resulted in pregnancy for almost 10 % of victims of physically forced or coerced or alcohol-facilitated sex.
3. Experiencing violence in childhood was significantly associated with violence perpetration, documenting the cycle of violence that is learned and often occurs in families and communities.
4. Females 18-24 whose parents migrated for 6 months or more in childhood were more vulnerable to physical violence as were males and females ages 13-17 who witnessed violence in the home in the last 12 months.
5. Close to one-fifth of females and over one-quarter of males agree that corporal punishment is an acceptable disciplinary practice.
6. While child marriage has been illegal since August 2017, about 9 % of girls reported marrying before age 18. It is possible that many of the persons who were minors and reported being married, did so before the passage of the law.
7. About one out of five males and one out of three females experienced any type of violence. This represents a substantial portion of Salvadorian youth.
8. More than two out of five females (42 %) and about one out of three males (34 %) did not continue their education beyond primary school. However, very few respondents reported never attending school.
9. Food insecurity is common among youth in El Salvador, experienced by over 27 % of young people.
10. Parental migration was also common in childhood, and fathers typically migrated before youth became age 10 thus increasing their vulnerability at a critical age.
11. As consistent with global data, females in El Salvador are more likely to experience sexual violence than males. The most common perpetrators of the first incidents in childhood were family members, and they typically took place in a home – either the perpetrator's or the victim's, but a high proportion also occurred in school.
12. Similar to sexual violence experiences, many victims of physical violence did not tell anyone about their experiences, and very few sought or received services. A very low proportion of males sought these services.
13. Physical violence was the most common type of violence experienced in childhood, affecting about 20 % of females and males. More females than males experienced physical violence by a parent or adult caregiver, and more males than females experienced physical violence by a peer.



SECTION 1

**INTRODUCTION AND
BACKGROUND**



SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1. BACKGROUND

El Salvador has a diversified economy and has seen moderate public health successes. At the social level, El Salvador has improved since the end of the civil war in 1992. During the five democratic elections since 1992, El Salvador has made progress in advancing human development, chiefly through improved access to public services. For example, there has been an increase in access to health sector facilities, especially by the poorest population – resulting in a notable reduction of under-5 mortality among children. Additionally, there has been a 17 % improvement in immunization coverage between 1990 and 2016 (now at 93 %)². During this period, the population’s access to piped water has increased to 89 % and access to sanitation has increased to 95 %³.

The country has also experienced improvements in access to education especially at the primary level, with a consequential increase in literacy – predominantly in urban settings. Overall, the country has decreased its social inequality indices (Gini coefficient) by 5 % between 2016 and 2017, mostly as a result of income increases amongst the poor. However, El Salvador remains one of the least unequal countries in Latin America in relation to income distribution.⁴ While economic growth has been persistently slow, a large proportion of resources into the economy of El Salvador come from remittances by expatriates.

Despite positive developments, the country continues to experience extremely high rates of community violence, mostly due to gang (“pandillas and maras”), activities and organized crime. In 2016, the country reported rates of homicide among women of 15.2 per 100,000 population, and among men of 154.8 per 100,000 population.⁵ In recent years the overall rates of homicide went from 60 per 100,000 population in 2017 to 51 per 100,000 population in 2018. These high rates of violence greatly threaten the well-being and safety of children,⁶ and make community work more difficult due to lack of safety in accessing certain areas. There are also indications that violence drives migration, as people and families seek to flee violent communities. Violence hampers economic development and reduces quality of life. Furthermore, the country is vulnerable to adverse natural events related to environmental degradation and climate change.

1.2. GLOBAL BURDEN AND CONSEQUENCES OF VIOLENCE

Violence against children is a global economic, social, human rights, and public health issue that harms millions of children and youth

each year. Violence is accompanied by significant negative health and social impacts throughout the lifespan. These consequences of violence can result in barriers to countries achieving progress on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)⁷. Estimates of past-year prevalence of violence against children and adolescents showed 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.⁸

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.⁹ This convention has been signed by 140 nations, including El Salvador. A body of research has conclusively established that the impact of violence against children and youth extends far beyond the victim. Families, communities and nations are affected, and its impact is felt across generations.¹⁰, ¹¹, ¹² Children who have experienced emotional, physical, or 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 increase a child’s susceptibility to a range of mental and physical health problems that can span into adulthood. These problems include non-communicable diseases (diabetes, cardiovascular disease), communicable diseases (STIs, HIV), mental health problems (anxiety, depression), and behaviors that increase risk for health issues (substance abuse, unprotected sex). Common health-related outcomes of sexual violence include unintended pregnancy and gynecological complications, infection with HIV and other STIs, mental health problems such as depression and post-traumatic stress, and social consequences such as stigma. Among adolescents and women, the frequency of pregnancy as a result of physically forced sex varies from five percent to eighteen percent, and younger victims of physically forced sex are often at increased risk for unintended pregnancies.¹⁰

Violence against children and youth is frequently underreported. Data on injuries treated at emergency health facilities, police reports, and official death statistics¹³ do not include complete information regarding physical, emotional, and sexual violence experiences. For these reasons, data from youth surveys can help fill in critical missing information about violence experiences that are not included in health, police, or death reports. This is especially critical for countries like El Salvador where community violence rates are high.

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

national 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. These studies emphasize that reliance on routinely collected data from health facilities and police is insufficient to design and monitor a comprehensive preventive plan addressing these forms of violence. To date, 19 countries, including El Salvador, have completed VACS data collection.

The El Salvador 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. 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, WHO 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.¹⁴ The seven strategies that INSPIRE encompasses are: **I**mplementation and enforcement of laws; **N**orms and values; **S**afe environments; **P**arent and caregiver support; **I**ncome and economic strengthening; **R**esponse and support services; and **E**ducation and life skills. These strategies aim to create the safe, nurturing environments and relationships that allow children and

youth to thrive. Furthermore, El Salvador – as part of the *End Violence* initiative – is one of the 23 existing *Pathfinder* countries. These *Pathfinder* countries have committed to accelerate goals aimed at preventing and reducing violence and consequently is in an advantageous position to respond with a coordinated national plan with support of the international community.

While scientific research on the prevalence and incidence of violence and exploitation of children, adolescents, and young adults has improved in the last decade in Latin America, there are still gaps in information and in the development of sustainable national-level information systems. The quest for quality, population-level data has tremendous potential to inform appropriate, strategic resource allocation, and public health strategies to prevent violence. This survey is an example of such efforts.

1.3. VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN EL SALVADOR

Community violence in El Salvador mainly impacts younger populations. In 2016, of the total number of homicides, children between ages 0-17 constituted 11.86 %, of the total number of homicides, and children 12-17 were 11.55 % of the total number of homicides¹⁵. Other reported events affecting children and adolescents in the country include adolescent pregnancies, sexual violence, and high rates of alcohol consumption among minors. Disciplinary tools in the country include commonplace use of physical punishment and emotional violence. The high rates of pregnancy among girls coupled with community violence are also linked to high rates of school dropout, as well as gang violence and migration.¹⁶

According to the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education, about 30 % of all pregnancies occur among adolescent girls. Furthermore, only a quarter of these girls return to school after pregnancy.¹⁷ There is a clear need to understand the risk factors for both adolescent pregnancies and non-return to school, including how violence against children and adolescents influences these rates. As a response to this problem, the country has developed a National Intersectoral Strategy for the prevention of pregnancy in girls and adolescents 2017 – 2027 led by the Ministry of Health¹⁸.

1.3.1. THE NEED TO LEARN MORE ABOUT VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN EL SALVADOR

In many countries, incidents of violence against children are rarely disclosed and therefore remain hidden, partly due to a culture of silence and shame. This is notable especially among males in El Salvador. Furthermore, in many cultures social norms purport the belief that violence against children in the home is a private affair, that physical violence is an acceptable means to discipline and educate children, and that children are expected to submit to the

will of their parents, teachers, religious leaders, and other elders and authority figures. Thus, law enforcement officials and others mandated to protect children do not always intervene or enforce the laws that *do* exist. Furthermore, children are reluctant to report incidents of violence, sometimes in fear of retribution against themselves or other family members, out of shame or guilt, or due to the belief that they merited such treatment or were in some way responsible.

The Government of El Salvador acknowledges that a lack of national comprehensive data on violence against children and youth has been a key challenge in planning, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating appropriate policies and programming on child protection. Underreporting of events highlights the existing lack of information and the government recognizes that this is a challenge to be solved¹⁹. To deal with this problem, the country has developed a national plan for violence prevention (*Plan El Salvador Seguro*)²⁰ as well as a national education strategy for the country (*Plan El Salvador Educado*)²¹. In addition, the country also has a mechanism for responding to violence through the National Children and Adolescent Protection System as well as a National Policy for the Integrated Protection of Children and Adolescents²². Still, the lack of sufficient and reliable data on violence against children is one of the most limiting factors for preventing sound informed programmatic decisions around the prevention of and response to violence by different stakeholders. Evidence to inform national planning, to more accurately identify priorities, and to monitor the impact of *all* forms of violence is urgently needed. The population-based data yielded by the El Salvador VACS can help inform priorities in child protection and child welfare and provide decision makers with national-level data on the magnitude and nature of violence against children and youth. Furthermore, population-based data can be used to identify potential risk and protective factors for violence in order to develop effective prevention strategies.

The El Salvador VACS is the first-ever nationally representative study to estimate the prevalence of sexual, physical, and emotional violence against children and youth in the country. The data from the El Salvador 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.

SECTION 2

**METHODOLOGY OF THE VIOLENCE
AGAINST CHILDREN AND YOUTH
SURVEY**



SECTION 2: METHODOLOGY OF THE VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN AND YOUTH SURVEY

The purpose of the El Salvador 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).

To achieve these purposes, the El Salvador VACS assessed the experiences of females and males ages 13-24, via a nationally representative household survey. Adolescents and youth ages 13-24 were selected because they can more reliably understand questions about and report experiences of childhood violence. Additional details on the sampling methodology are included in Appendix B: Supplementary Sampling Methods and Weights.

This survey has a strong human rights focus (based on the protection of the most vulnerable populations and striving for the respect of their rights), an inclusive focus aimed at addressing all of the population and a strong gender perspective with multiple ethical considerations applied so as to minimize revictimization of the interviewees. These principles were applied throughout the entire process of the design of the questionnaires, the training of the personnel for data collection, and the actual survey implementation. The following sections describe the procedures in the El Salvador VACS to ensure protection of participants, in addition to resources that provide detailed descriptions of ethical procedures embedded within VACS protocols.²³

2.1. SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

Through a collaboration between CDC, UNICEF, and TFG along with an expert consultation process, CDC developed a standardized global VACS core questionnaire. El Salvador, through the Technical Working Group, and key stakeholders who were familiar with the problem of violence against children and child protection, adapted the core questionnaire to the local and cultural context. The questionnaire drew questions and definitions from several validated survey tools, to (1) compare data on various measures with other studies as a useful validation, and (2) use measures that had already been field tested in other studies.

The demographics module asked of the study participants and the Head of Household interview included questions that assessed age, socio-economic status, marital status, work status, educational attainment, and living situation. The sexual behavior modules assessed current and past sexual behavior, risk-taking sexual behavior, age at *first* sex, relationship to *first* sexual partner, whether *first* sex

was wanted or forced, number of sexual partners ever and in the last 12 months, condom use, and pregnancy history. The sexual violence module included questions on the forms of sexual violence experienced as well as important information on the context of these incidents, such as the settings where sexual violence occurred and the perpetrator of violence. Some questions asked about *first* incidences of sexual violence, whereas others asked about the *most recent* event. Some of these questions were based on the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS)²⁴, Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)²⁵, the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS)²⁶, and the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health (Add Health)²⁷.

The participant questionnaire included approximately 300 questions and covered the following topics: demographics; parental relationships, education, general connectedness to family, friends and community; gender beliefs; 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; and violence disclosure, service-seeking and utilization of services. Additionally, the survey contained modules that were specific for El Salvador and the region. These included questions about sexual orientation, remittances, migration, bullying, online sex, and community violence. The questionnaire used in El Salvador was an adaptation of a core VACS questionnaire that was structured in a way that facilitates international comparisons. The adaptation to El Salvador takes into account local linguistic expressions as well as country-specific census classifications. For this adaptation, the Technical Working Group collaborated and included inputs from several ministries and other institutions such as the National Council on Childhood and Adolescence (CONNA), the General Directorate on Statistics and Census (DIGESTYC), The Salvadorian Institute for the Comprehensive development of Children and Adolescents (ISNA), the National Institute of Youth (INJUVE) and the Office of the Attorney General on the protection of Human Rights (PDDH) who formed a group of institutions that were consulted throughout the whole implementation process. The VACS participant questionnaire included numerous programmed skip patterns to route the interviewer to the logical sequence of questions based on participant responses. Given the complexity of the skip patterns and logic sequencing, electronic data collection eliminated routing error, reduced training on skip pattern sequencing and reduced data entry errors.

2.2. SURVEY PROCEDURES, INCLUSION CRITERIA, AND ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Because of the high rates of community violence in El Salvador, a careful community approach was designed that included getting municipal permissions to visit the different areas, in addition to ge-

ting help from community leaders in engaging and getting further agreement from community stakeholders in some high-violence communities (mostly in urban settings). The irregular activities hampering security in some areas, either prevented teams from visiting a percentage of the initially identified EAs or considerably reduced the time that teams had to complete surveys. Several measures were put in place to ensure the security of the survey teams and community alike. These included; a) visiting more households in certain EAs, b) increasing the number of teams in EAs where time for data collection was limited or restricted by gang-observed activities in some localities, c) improving security mechanisms for teams in order to avoid potentially dangerous situations (e.g. by exiting areas when gang or police activities were detected, or when alcohol consumption was observed), and d) extending by a week the data collection procedures during the implementation phase. For more details on the methodological implications of these strategies see Appendix B: Supplementary Sampling Methods and Weights.

During study implementation, data collection for females was conducted in different EAs than for males. During the data collection, a split sample approach was used. This strategy serves to protect the confidentiality of participants and eliminates the chance that a male perpetrator of violence and the female victim in the same community would both be interviewed. This means that geographical areas are randomly selected and in some, only women, or only men are interviewed respectively. The design also eliminates the chance that a female perpetrator and a male victim of sexual violence from the same community would both be interviewed in the selected EA.

Upon entering a randomly selected household, interviewers identified the head of household (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 permission 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 netbooks 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.

To be included in the survey, a participant had to be living in sampled households in El Salvador; be between the ages of 13 to 24 at the time of the survey; and be fluent in Spanish. Females and males

who did not 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. Those living or residing in institutions such as hospitals, prisons, nursing homes, and other similar institutions were not included in the survey because VACS was household-based. The survey is only representative at the national level. All geographical areas of the country were considered and selected randomly to achieve national representativeness.

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 a signature on a written consent form to allow interviewers to conduct the interview. Participants who were age 18 or older, emancipated persons under age 18, and minors who were married provided their own consent to participate in the survey.

When seeking permission from the HoH, interviewers described the study as “an opportunity to learn more about young people’s health, educational, and life experiences,” which is consistent with WHO ethical and safety recommendations regarding how surveys that contain questions on domestic violence should be introduced to the household. This introduction helped to ensure the safety and confidentiality of both participants and interviewers. Consistent with 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 complete, 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 assent form. This assent form 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. Each participant provided assent verbally, and the interviewer documented the assent by signing a written consent form. Participants who did not need parental permission provided proof of consent in the same manner.

To ensure privacy during the study, interviewers took thorough precautions. The interviewers conducted the interview in a safe and private location such as 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.

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 immediate assistance with the situation and/or counseling. Therefore, to respond to the needs of participants, there were multiple ways available to link participants to support through referral mechanisms. Evidence suggests that adult women find that talking about their experiences of violence is beneficial and appreciate having the opportunity to have a conversation about those experiences.²⁸ In addition, there is evidence that adolescents and young adults are willing to talk about their experiences of violence within a compassionate structure.⁹ In other words, social support can help to alleviate the stress of difficult emotions or experiences.

2.3. REFERRALS

Interviewers offered free, direct referrals to those who: 1) became upset during the interview, 2) felt unsafe in his or her current living situation, including in his or her home or community, 3) experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence in the past, 4) were under the age of 18 and exchanged sex for money, goods, or favors in the last 12 months, 5) reported being in immediate danger, or 6) requested help for violence, regardless of what was disclosed in the interview. If the participant met any of these criteria, the interviewer recorded contact information separately from survey responses and referred accordingly. Additionally, the interviewers provided all participants with a list of services, reflecting free programs, services, and amenities currently offered in El Salvador, in case they wanted to seek services on their own.

For this study, an acute case was defined as any participant who self-identifies as being in immediate danger. If a participant indicated to the interviewer that she or he was in immediate danger then the interviewer activated the response plan for acute cases. The interviewer immediately alerted her or his Team Leader to the situation and the Team Leader called the pre-identified contact at the service provider, immediately after the team left the selected community. Appropriate action plans for acute cases were conducted on a case-by-case basis in order to best respond to the individual situation and ensure that the participant was not placed in any additional danger. However, as a basis of action, the service provider made every effort to ensure that the child was offered immediate help and removal from the dangerous situation as well

as offered appropriate medical, psychosocial and legal service and program referrals. In the El Salvador VACS, 49 females and 36 males accepted the referral plan. For cases when the participants were in immediate danger, the service provider made every effort to reach the participant requiring referral within 72 hours. There were a total of 11 acute cases (6 females and 5 males).

The El Salvador VACS adhered to WHO recommendations on ethics and safety in studies of violence against women. Detailed information regarding the procedures and protocols used in VACS surveys to protect participants is available in the WHO recommendations²⁹. The National Ethics Committee on Research in Health of El Salvador (NECRH) and the CDC Institutional Review Board independently reviewed and approved the survey protocol to ensure appropriate protections for the rights and welfare of human research participants.

2.4. RESPONSE RATES AND DATA ANALYSIS

The overall response rate was 78.0 % for females and 75.0 % for males. For females, the household response rate (RR) was 87.1 %, and individual RR was 89.6 %. For males, the household RR was 89.1 % and individual response rate was 84.2 %. In the female sample 2,328 households were surveyed, of which 2,028 completed the household questionnaire. Within these households, out of 1,179 eligible female individuals a total of 1,056 completed the participant questionnaire. In the male sample 3,566 households were surveyed, of which 3,177 completed the household questionnaire. Within these households, out of 1,640 eligible male individuals a total of 1,380 males completed the participant questionnaire. For further details on response rates see Appendix B: Supplementary Sampling Methods and Weights.

Data were analyzed separately for participants ages 13-17 and 18-24 given differences in how childhood violence was defined in these age groups. Data from 13-17 year-olds generated estimates of the prevalence of violence experienced in the 12 months prior to the survey among children.^b 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 the recent experiences of adolescents and young adults, as well as the patterns and contexts of violence in El Salvador. Although the analyses distinguished results by sex and age group, all VACS participants responded to the same questions, except questions about pregnancy, which only applied to females.

The statistical packages SAS (version 9.4) and R were used for data management and analysis to produce weighted point estimates and standard error calculations. Sample weights were applied to yield

b Referred to throughout this report as “past 12 months”

nationally representative estimates.^c When calculating the estimates for most measures, missing values were excluded from the analysis.

2.4.1. WEIGHTED PERCENTAGES

Specifically, sample weights were created and applied to each individual record in order to adjust for the probability of selection, differential non-response, and calibration to the census population accounting for cluster stage design to obtain accurate standard errors for each estimate.

2.4.2. DEFINITION OF UNRELIABLE ESTIMATES

Estimates with a Relative Standard Error (RSE) higher than 30 were considered unreliable in the VACS. An asterisk (“*”) is displayed in tables next to all unreliable estimates. Unreliable estimates should be interpreted with caution. Unreliable estimates are included in the tables, but not discussed in the Results section. We excluded some tabulations where both males and females had very low numbers rendering the information in the table unreliable as a whole. However, for other tables where data are unreliable we include them in the report because the lack of reliable data on the specific issues is informative.

2.4.3. DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ESTIMATES

The estimates in the El Salvador VACS are accompanied by a 95 % confidence interval. This range indicates that, for 95 in 100 samples completed in the same way as VACS, the true population prevalence of violence will be between the upper and lower confidence interval values. For example, if the expected sexual violence prevalence in El Salvador is 30 %, with a confidence interval of (26 – 34), this means that, if it was possible to survey all children in El Salvador at the same time, the VACS data estimate that between 26 % and 34 % of the total child and youth population of El Salvador have experienced sexual violence. In short, the confidence interval helps determine how effectively violence prevalence is measured and how to make inferences about the national population.

To evaluate whether differences between any groups or subgroups were statistically significant and not due to random variation, the confidence intervals (CIs) for point estimates were compared to determine whether they overlapped or not. The CI overlap method is a conservative method that determines statistical difference by comparing the CI for two estimates — if the CIs do not overlap then the estimates are considered “statistically different” and not due to random chance.

In summary, the 95 % CI is a statistical measure indicating the degree of confidence in the accuracy of 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) times the standard error of the prevalence estimate. Smaller CIs mean that the estimates are more precise, whereas wider confidence intervals indicate more variation in the sample data.

^c See Appendix B

SECTION 3

**CHARACTERIZATION AND
CONTEXTUALIZATION OF THE
SURVEYED POPULATION**



SECTION 3: CHARACTERIZATION AND CONTEXTUALIZATION OF THE SURVEYED POPULATION

This section presents selected background characteristics of the survey population in El Salvador by age, sex, education, age of head of household, orphan status, 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. Parents’ migration history refers to participants whose mother or father moved away for 6 months or more during the participant’s childhood (before age 18). Individuals’ migration history includes participants who moved away to another country for a period of time in childhood and then returned to El Salvador.

3.1. CHARACTERISTICS OF 18-24 YEAR-OLDS

Tables 3.1.1. through 3.1.4. include background characteristics of 18-24 year-olds. Slightly more than half of females (55.8 %) and nearly two out of three males (62.3 %) completed secondary school or higher. More than two out of five females (42.4 %) and one out of three males (34.0 %) completed primary school and did not continue their education. For females, the proportion of single or double orphans was 12.5 %, and for males, 14.0 %. About one out of three females (35.7 %) and nearly three out of five males (59.1 %) worked for money or other payment in the previous year. Nearly three out of ten females (29.6 %) and one out of three males (32.5 %) experienced food insecurity^d. Among females who worked in the past 12 months, the most common locations were at a family dwelling (32.0 %) or in the commercial or hospitality sector (30.4 %). For males who worked, the most common locations were categorized as “other” (including a farm/garden; different places; stalls; and pond/lakes/ rivers; 45.8 %) or a factory/workshop, mine/quarry, or construction site (31.2 %).

About one out of four females and one out of seven males ages 18-24 received remittances in the past 3 years (females, 23.6 %; males, 13.1 %), most commonly from the United States. Significantly more females than males received money from the United States. Significantly more females (13.8 %) than males (7.8 %) indicated their mother migrated for 6 months or more when they were children. Significantly more females (29.8 %) than males (17.9 %) indicated their father migrated. The average age when the mother first migrated was 7.4 for females and 9.5 for males, and the average age when the father first migrated was 6.2 for females and 7.9 for males. Few youth migrated abroad and returned to El Salvador (3.4 % of females and 3.6 % of males).

Nearly half of females (48.7 %) and nearly one out of four males (23.1 %) were married or lived with someone as if married. This difference was statistically significant. Child marriage was not uncommon among females; 19.3 % of females and 6.1 % of males married or cohabitated before age 18, also a statistically significant sex difference. This survey was conducted two months after the Legislative Assembly of El Salvador approved the repeal of paragraph 2 of article 14 of the Family Code, essentially forbidding child marriage and stipulating the age of 18 years as the minimum legal age for marriage. Given the short time between this legal modification and the survey data collection, it is possible that there were cases who reported being married before the law was repealed and others after it was repealed. More than two out of three females (67.1 %) and nearly two out of three males (62.1 %) had ever had sex; 39.6 % of females and 36.1 % of males had ever had sex before age 18. The mean age of first sex among those who had ever had sex was 16.8 for females and 16.7 for males.

3.2. CHARACTERISTICS OF 13-17 YEAR-OLDS

Tables 3.2.1 through 3.2.5 include background characteristics of 13-17 year-olds. Among females and males ages 13-17, more than three out of four completed primary school (76.2 % of females and 78.0 % of males). Current educational enrollment among adolescents was lower; 20.5 % of females and 14.3 % of males ages 13-17 were not enrolled in school. The most common reasons for not attending school for girls were that they did not like school (43.9 %) and the girls’ family did not have enough money for school or for supplies (29.6 %). For males, the most common reasons were that they did not like school (34.4 %), their family did not have enough money for school or for supplies (22.7 %), or they had to work (26.3 %).

Single or double orphanhood was experienced by 8.3 % of females and 10.4 % of males. Fewer than one out of ten females (8.0 %) and nearly one out of four males (23.9 %) worked for money or other payment in the past 12 months. For females, the most common locations of work were in commercial or hospitality (33.5 %), at a family dwelling (33.4 %), and other locations (29.2 %). For males, the most common locations were categorized as “other” (58.6 %) or a factory/workshop, mine/quarry, or construction site (25.1 %). More than one in four youth experienced food insecurity (27.0 % of females and 29.4 % of males). About one out of six females (16.5 %) and males (17.1 %) received remittances from abroad in the previous three years mostly from the United States.

Nearly one in ten females (9.2 %) and males (8.1 %) indicated their mother migrated or was internally displaced for 6 months or more.

^d Food insecurity exists when people have no physical or economic access at all times to sufficient, safe, and nutritional food, to satisfy their preferences and nutritional needs with the objective of having an active and healthy life.

The average ages of youth when their mothers migrated was 6.8 years for females and 7.6 years for males. One out of four females (26.8 %) and one out of five males (21.8 %) indicated their father migrated for six months or more. The average age of youth when their father migrated was 5.0 years for females and 5.4 years for males.

Less than one in ten females (8.6 %) were married or lived with someone as if married in adolescence. About one out of ten females (11.2 %) and one out of seven males (14.2 %) had ever had sex.

SECTION 4

**SEXUAL VIOLENCE:
PREVALENCE, PERPETRATORS,
AND SERVICE-SEEKING**



SECTION 4: SEXUAL VIOLENCE: PREVALENCE, PERPETRATORS, AND SERVICE-SEEKING

This section describes the prevalence and contexts of sexual violence against children in El Salvador. 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 before age 18 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 year (for those ages 13-17). Results of sexual violence are presented in Tables 4.1.1 through 4.2.10.

4.1. SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CHILDHOOD AMONG 18-24 YEAR-OLDS

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. Rates 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.

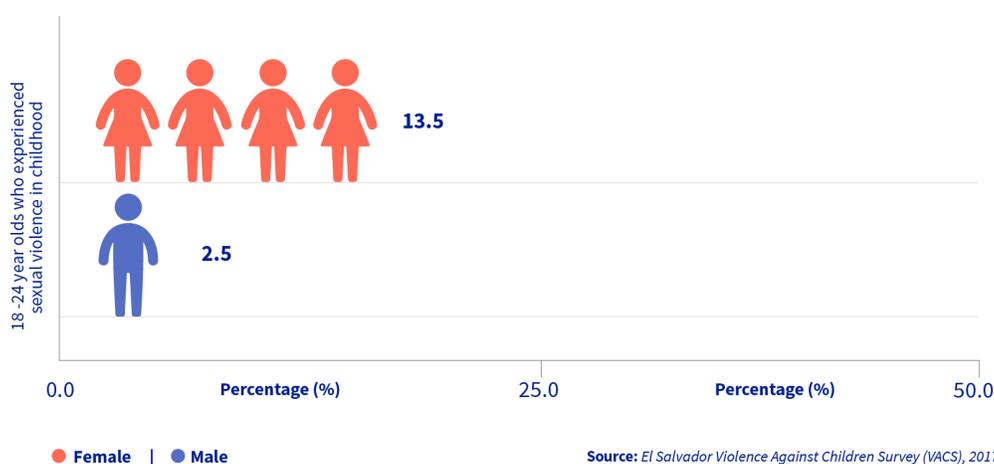


Figure 4.1. Prevalence of sexual violence prior to age 18, among 18-24 years olds – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

Significantly more females (13.5%) than males (2.5%) experienced sexual violence before age 18. Among females, 8.1% experienced unwanted sexual touching and 4.8% experienced unwanted attempted sex in childhood. There were too few cases of other forms of sexual violence against females to report reliable estimates by type. Among those who experienced any childhood sexual violence, 35.4% of females experienced the first incident at age 13 or younger, and 32.4% at age 16-17. For males, 67.6% experienced the first incident at age 16-17. The average age of the first experience of coerced or alcohol-facilitated or physically forced sex in childhood was 14.8 years old among females and 15.5 among males. Among females who experienced physically forced or coerced or alcohol-facilitated sex in childhood, over one third (35.4%) experienced the first incident at age 13 or younger and about a third (32.4%) at age 16-17. Among

youth who experienced childhood sexual violence, more than four out of five females (82.6 %) and almost two out of three males (62.3 %) experienced multiple incidents before age 18.

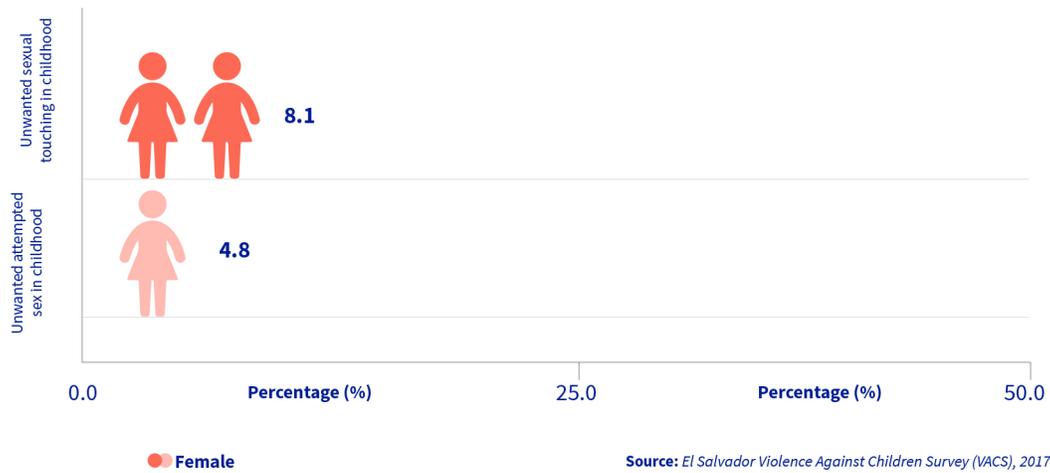


Figure 4.2. Prevalence of different types of sexual violence prior to age 18, among 18-24 year old females – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

4.1.1. PERPETRATORS OF THE FIRST INCIDENTS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CHILDHOOD AMONG 18-24 YEAR-OLDS

Among females, the most common perpetrator of the first incident of sexual violence was a friend, classmate, or neighbor (33.8 %), followed by a family member (23.9 %), and a current or previous intimate partner (18.7 %). For males, the most common perpetrators of the first incident were a friend, classmate, or neighbor (64.2 %). Among females ages 18-24 who experienced sexual violence in childhood, more than two out of three (65.0 %) indicated the perpetrator of the first incident was at least five years older. Among females who experienced childhood sexual violence, 11.6 % indicated that more than one perpetrator was present during the first incident.

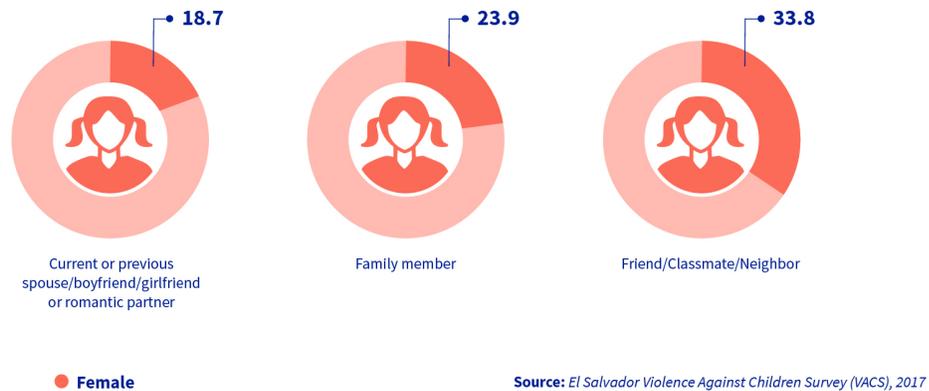


Figure 4.3. Perpetrators of first incidents of sexual violence, among females aged 18-24 years who experienced sexual violence prior to age 18 – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

4.1.2. CONTEXTS OF THE FIRST INCIDENTS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CHILDHOOD AMONG 18-24 YEAR-OLDS

Among females who experienced sexual violence, 54.4 % of the first incidents occurred in the morning, 34.1 % in the afternoon, and 24.4 % in the evening. The most common location of the first incident for females (70.0 %) and males (56.4 %) were the participant’s, perpetrator’s, or someone else’s home.

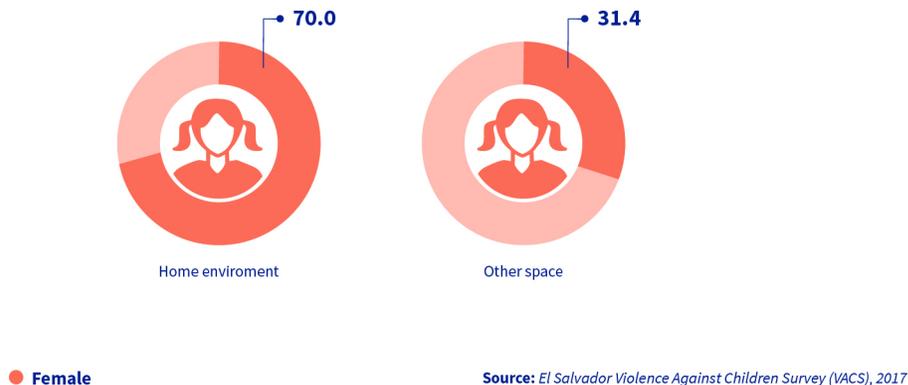


Figure 4.4. Location of first incident of sexual violence, among 18-24 year old females who experienced sexual violence prior to age 18 - El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

4.1.3. DISCLOSURE, KNOWLEDGE OF SERVICES, AND SERVICE-SEEKING FOR SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CHILDHOOD AMONG 18-24 YEAR-OLDS

Among females who experienced sexual violence in childhood, 72.9 % told someone about their experience, compared to 50.7 % of males. Females were most likely to tell a relative (78.8 %). Knowledge of services was relatively low; only 39.0 % of females who experienced childhood sexual violence knew of a place to go for help. Service access was also low, with 16.3 % of females seeking help, and 15.3 % of females receiving help. Females who did not seek services indicated that the most common reason for not disclosing or seeking services for sexual violence in childhood was that they did not think it was a problem (43.6 %). There were too few males who experienced sexual violence in childhood to yield reliable estimates of reasons for not seeking services.



Figure 4.5. Disclosure, knowledge of services, service seeking and receipt for any incident of sexual violence, among 18-24 year old females who experienced any sexual violence prior to age 18 - El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

4.2. SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS AMONG 13-17 YEAR-OLDS

In the past year, 6.6 % of females and 2.7 % of males ages 13-17 experienced sexual violence. Among females, 2.5 % experienced unwanted attempted sex in the past 12 months. Among youth who experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months, two out of three females (67.9 %) and males (67.8 %) experienced more than one incident. The mean age of first experience of sexual violence among females was 14.2, and for males was 14.0.



Figure 4.6. Prevalence of any sexual violence in the past 12 months, among 13-17 year olds – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

4.2.1. PERPETRATORS OF THE MOST RECENT INCIDENTS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE AMONG 13-17 YEAR-OLDS

Among females and males ages 13-17 who experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months, the most common perpetrator of the most recent incident was a friend, classmate or neighbor (females, 54.2 %; males, 75.2 %). Among females who experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months, nearly half (47.1 %) indicated the perpetrator of the most recent incident was at least five years older.

4.2.2. CONTEXTS OF THE MOST RECENT INCIDENTS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE AMONG 13-17 YEAR-OLDS

Among females who experienced sexual violence, 48.5 % experienced the most recent incident in the morning and 48.8 % in the afternoon. Among males, 52.4 % experienced the most recent incident in the morning, and 49.7 % in the afternoon.

4.2.3. DISCLOSURE, KNOWLEDGE OF SERVICES, AND SERVICE-SEEKING FOR SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS AMONG 13-17 YEAR-OLDS

About three out of four females (76.0 %) who experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months told someone about their experience. They were most likely to tell a relative (75.6 %). Too few females and males sought services or received services for sexual violence in the past 12 months to generate reliable estimates of source of service receipt or reasons for not seeking services.

SECTION 5

**PHYSICAL VIOLENCE:
PREVALENCE, PERPETRATORS,
AND SERVICE-SEEKING**



SECTION 5: PHYSICAL VIOLENCE: PREVALENCE, PERPETRATORS, AND SERVICE-SEEKING

This section describes the magnitude and contexts of physical violence against children in El Salvador.^e The perpetrators of childhood physical violence, the 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. For 18-24 year-olds who experienced childhood physical violence, the specific perpetrator of the first incident of physical violence is presented. For 13-17 year-olds who experienced physical violence in the past 12 months, the specific perpetrator of the most recent incident of violence is presented.

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. Tables 5.1.1 through 5.1.7 include findings related to physical violence in childhood among 18-24 year-olds, and Tables 5.2.1 through 5.2.8 include results for physical violence in the past 12 months among 13-17 year-olds. Table 5.3.1 includes results of witnessing violence in the home and in the community among 18-24 year-olds in childhood and 13-17 year-olds in the past 12 months.

5.1. PHYSICAL VIOLENCE IN CHILDHOOD AMONG 18-24 YEAR-OLDS

About one out of five (22.1 %) females and males (18.7 %) experienced physical violence before age 18. For most of these females (89.6 %) and males (92.6 %), the first incident was between the ages of 12-17, and 7.3 % of females and 6.5 % of males had the first experience between the ages of 6-11. About one in seven (14.3 %) females and one in fourteen (7.0 %) males experienced physical violence in childhood by a parent, adult caregiver, or other adult relative. This sex difference was statistically significant. Among 18-24 year-olds who had an intimate partner before age 18, 4.3 % of females experienced physical violence by an intimate partner. The prevalence of childhood physical violence by a peer was 8.7 % for females and 10.0 % for males.

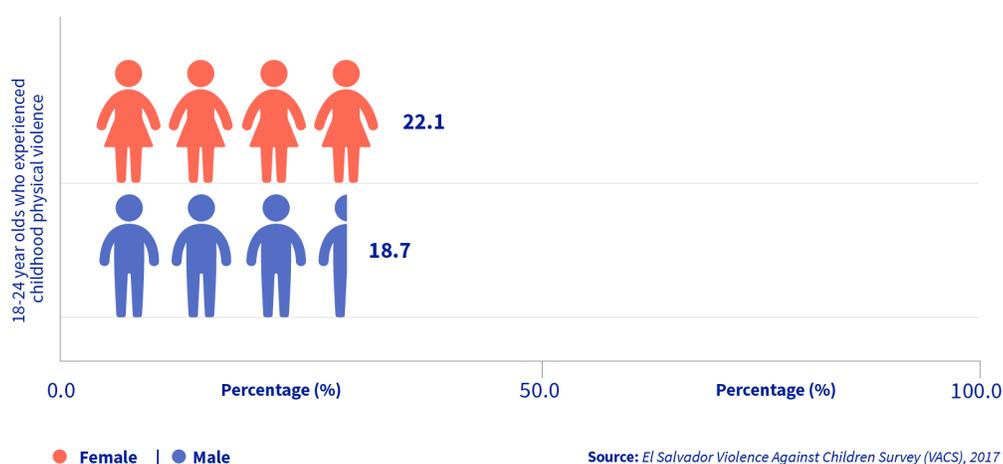


Figure 5.1. Prevalence of physical violence prior to age 18, among 18-24 year olds – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

^e See 'Key Terms and Definitions' in Section B

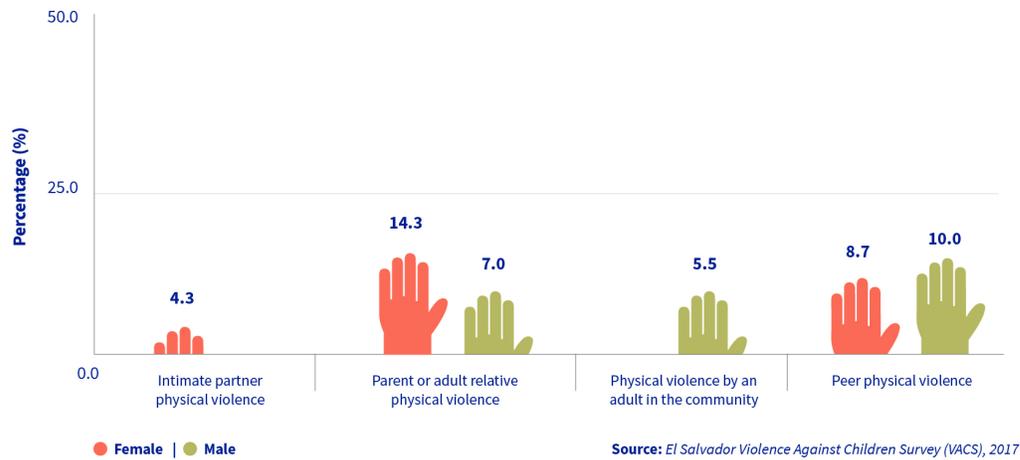


Figure 5.2. Prevalence of physical violence before age 18 by perpetrator, among 18-24 year-olds – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

5.1.1. DISCLOSURE, KNOWLEDGE OF SERVICES, AND SERVICE-SEEKING FOR PHYSICAL VIOLENCE IN CHILDHOOD AMONG 18-24 YEAR-OLDS

Among 18-24 year olds who experienced physical violence in childhood, 59.6 % of females and 46.7 % of males ever told someone about their experience. The people they most commonly told were a relative (females, 77.9 %; males, 77.1 %), followed by a service provider or authority figure for females (13.8 %) and a friend or neighbor for males (25.4 %). Nearly two out of five females (38.6 %) and males (39.3 %) knew of a place to go for help for physical violence. Among females, 10.2 % sought help for any experience of sexual violence, and 7.7 % received help. Females and males who did not seek services for physical violence in childhood most commonly indicated their reasons for not seeking services were that they did not think it was a problem (females, 49.6 %; males, 60.6 %).

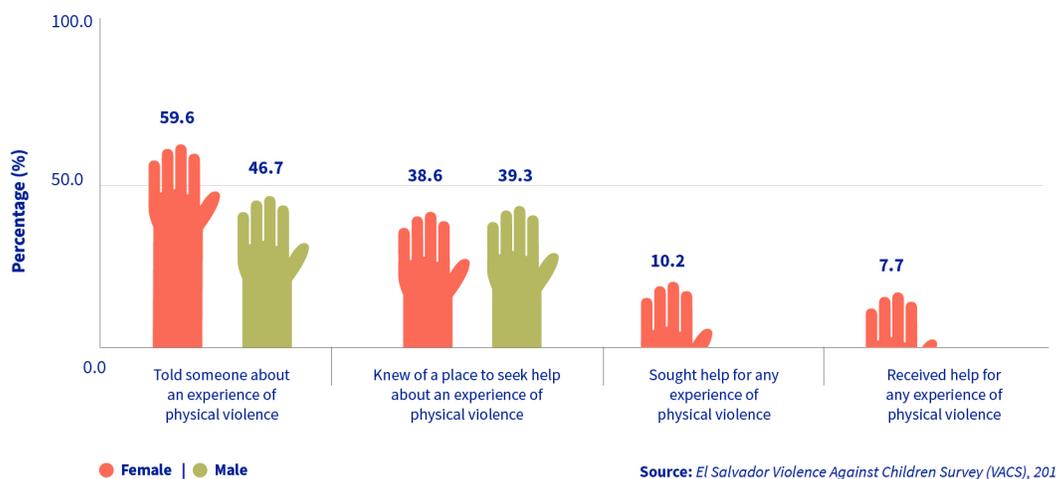


Figure 5.3. Disclosure, knowledge of services, service seeking and receipt for any incident of physical violence [1], among 18-24 year-olds who experienced physical violence before 18 – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

* Estimates for seeking help for any experience of physical violence or receiving help for any experience of physical violence among males are not shown because they are unreliable.

5.2. PHYSICAL VIOLENCE IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS AMONG 13-17 YEAR-OLDS

About one in ten females (11.8%) and males (10.5%) ages 13-17 experienced physical violence in the past 12 months. Nearly all females (97.8%) and males (97.2%) indicated the first incidents took place between ages 12-17. The prevalence of physical violence by a parent, adult caregiver, or other adult relative in the past 12 months was low for both females (2.8%) and males (1.8%). The prevalence of physical violence in the past 12 months by a peer was 8.0% for females and 6.8% for males.



Figure 5.4. Prevalence of physical violence in the past 12 months, among 13-17 year olds – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

About two out of five females (40.8%) and one half of males (49.8%) who experienced physical violence in the past 12 months experienced an injury from violence. Among those who experienced violence by a parent, adult caregiver, or other adult relative in the past 12 months, 56.5% of females received an injury. Among those who experienced physical violence by an adult in the community, 38.7% of males received an injury. Among those who experienced peer physical violence, 36.8% of females and 53.4% of males received an injury from physical violence in the past 12 months.

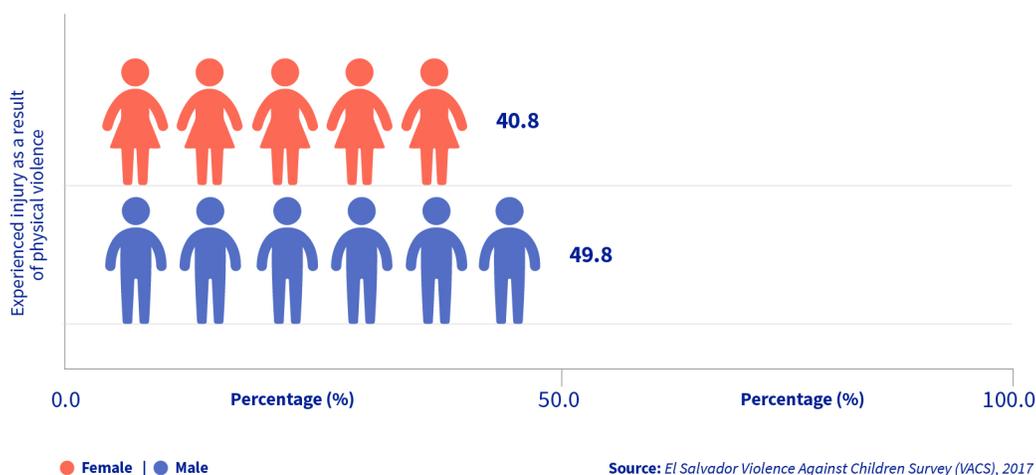


Figure 5.5. Prevalence of experiencing physical harm or injury as a result of the most recent experience of physical violence, among 13-17 year olds who experienced physical violence in the past 12 months – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

5.2.1. DISCLOSURE, KNOWLEDGE OF SERVICES, AND SERVICE-SEEKING FOR PHYSICAL VIOLENCE IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS AMONG 13-17 YEAR-OLDS

About two out of three females (63.5 %) and nearly three out of five males (58.8 %) who experienced physical violence in the past 12 months told someone about their experiences. Both females (78.8 %) and males (93.7 %) were most likely to tell a relative, followed by a friend or neighbor for females (19.5 %). About one in three females (38.1 %) and males (33.6 %) knew of a place to go for help. Females who did not seek services for physical violence indicated their reasons for not seeking services were that they were afraid of getting in trouble (32.2 %), they didn't think it was a problem (25.8 %), did not need or want services (17.4 %). These estimates were unreliable and should be interpreted with caution. Females also reported that they were afraid of being abandoned (9.2 %). This latter estimate was reliable. For males, the most common reason for not seeking services were that they did not think it was a problem (60.2 %).

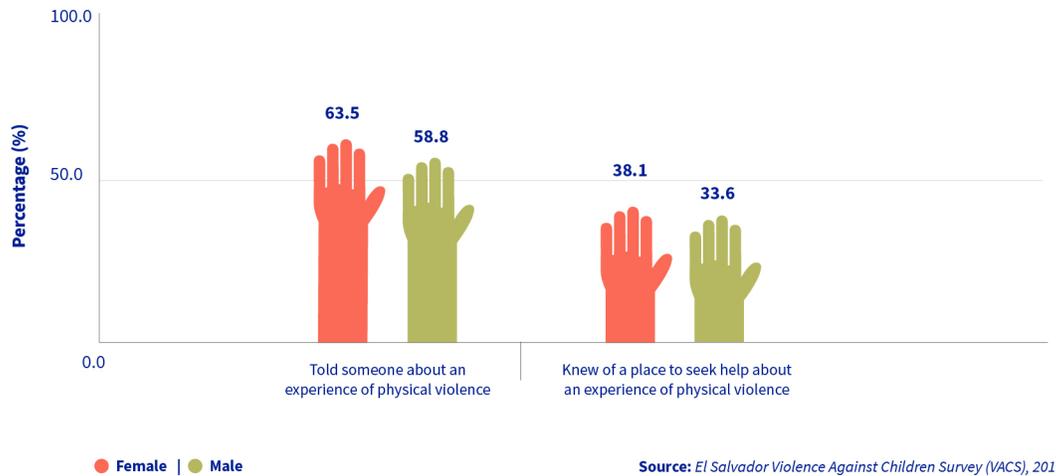


Figure 5.6. Service seeking and receipt for any incident of physical violence, among 13-17 year-olds who experienced physical violence in the past 12 months – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

5.3. WITNESSING PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

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 community included seeing anyone outside of the home and family environment get attacked.

About one out of four females (22.6 %) and 12.0 % of males ages 18-24 witnessed physical violence in the home before age 18, a statistically significant difference. More than one out of four females (28.0 %) and one out of five males (19.5 %) witnessed violence in the neighborhood or community before age 18. Among youth ages 13-17, 6.5 % of females and 2.7 % of males witnessed violence in the home in the past 12 months, and 14.1 % of females and 7.5 % of males witnessed physical violence in the neighborhood or community in the past 12 months. These differences between females and males were statistically significant.

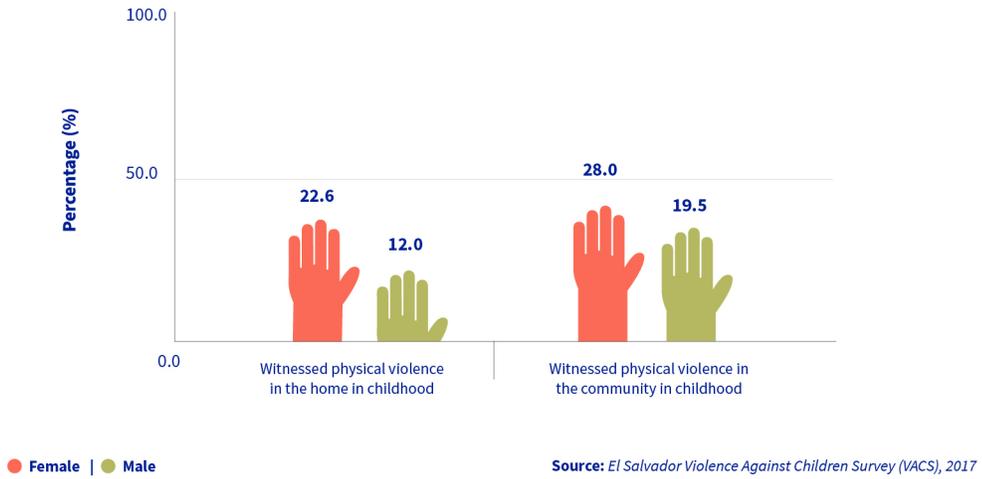


Figure 5.7. Percent of females and males aged 18-24 years who experienced witnessing any physical violence in the home and in the community prior to age 18 – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.



Figure 5.8. Percent of females and males aged 13-17 years who reported witnessing any physical violence in the home in the past 12 months – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

SECTION 6

EMOTIONAL VIOLENCE



SECTION 6: EMOTIONAL VIOLENCE

This section describes childhood experiences of emotional violence perpetrated by parents, adult caregivers, or other adult relatives. The specific measures of emotional violence include being told that they were not loved or did not deserve to be loved; being told someone wished they had never been born or were dead; or being ridiculed or put down, for example being told they were stupid or useless. Tables 6.1.1 and 6.2.1 include results of emotional violence.

Among 18-24 year-olds, 12.1 % of females and 4.0 % of males experienced emotional violence by a parent, adult caregiver, or adult relative before age 18. Females were significantly more likely than males to experience emotional violence in childhood. Among 13-17 year-olds, 8.1 % of females and 2.4 % of males experienced emotional violence by a parent, caregiver, or adult relative in the past year. Females were significantly more likely than males to experience emotional violence in the past 12 months.

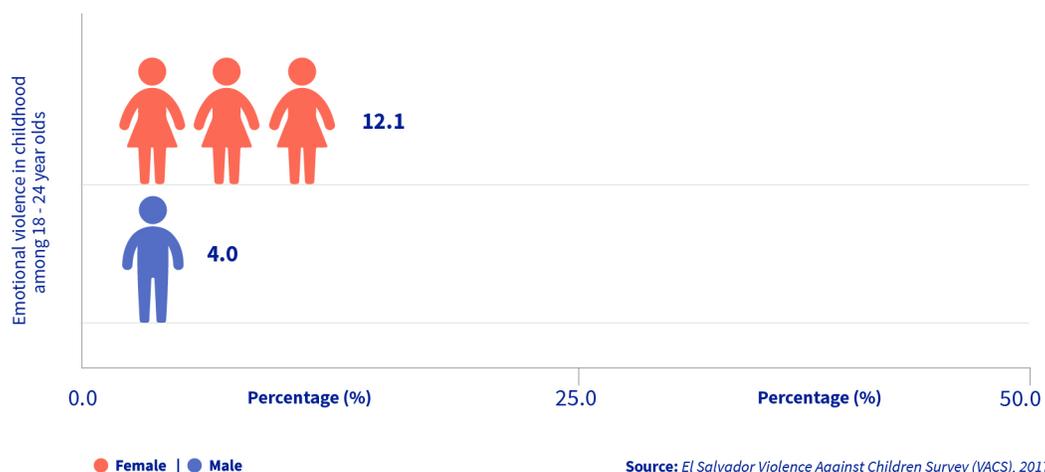


Figure 6.1. Prevalence of emotional violence by a parent, adult caregiver, or adult relative before age 18, among 18-24 year-olds – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.



Figure 6.2. Prevalence of emotional violence by a parent, caregiver, or adult relative in the past 12 months, among 13-17 year-olds – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

SECTION 7

RECENT SEXUAL AND PHYSICAL VIOLENCE AMONG YOUNG ADULTS



SECTION 7: RECENT SEXUAL AND PHYSICAL VIOLENCE AMONG YOUNG ADULTS

This section describes the sexual and physical violence victimization experienced in the past 12 months among young adults. Prevalence, perpetrators, and service-seeking for sexual and physical violence are included for 18-24 year-olds who experienced violence in the past year. The overall prevalence of sexual violence in the past 12 months among young adults is presented. The prevalence of each of the four forms of sexual violence are also described. Results related to sexual violence in the past 12 months among 18-24 year-olds are provided in Tables 7.1.1 through 7.1.8. Tables 7.2.1 through 7.2.6 include results of physical violence in the past 12 months among 18-24 year-olds.

7.1. SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS AMONG 18-24 YEAR-OLDS

In the past 12 months, 4.8 % of females and 1.6 % of males ages 18-24 experienced sexual violence. This difference was statistically significant. Among females, 2.5 % experienced unwanted attempted sex in the past 12 months. Among females and males who experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months, 88.1 % of females and 92.0 % of males experienced multiple incidents.

About half of females (51.6 %) who experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months perceived the perpetrators of the most recent incidents to be at least five years older than them. For 24.3 % of females who experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months, there was more than one perpetrator present during the most recent incident.

Among females ages 18-24 who experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months, about two thirds (62.3 %) told someone about an experience. Nearly half of females (47.7 %) knew of a place to go for help for sexual violence. There were too few cases of females and males who sought help and received help for sexual violence that occurred in the past 12 months to generate reliable estimates. Among females who did not seek services, the most common reason for not seeking services was that they were afraid of getting into trouble (46.7 %), and that they did not think it was a problem (40.4 %).

7.2. PHYSICAL VIOLENCE IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS AMONG 18-24 YEAR-OLDS

Among 18-24 year-olds, 7.1 % of females and 7.0 % of males experienced physical violence in the past year. The prevalence of physical violence in the past 12 months among females by an

intimate partner was 2.3 % and by a peer was 3.3 %. Among males, the prevalence by an adult in the community was 3.1 % and by a peer was 3.5 %. More than two out of three females (68.2 %) who experienced physical violence in the past 12 months were injured.

Three out of five females (63.0 %) and males (62.0 %) who experienced physical violence in the past 12 months told someone about their experience. Among those who disclosed, females (82.1 %) and males (69.8 %) most often told a relative. About half of females (53.3 %) and nearly two out of five males (38.8 %) knew of a place to seek help. Among females who did not seek services, the most common reason was that they did not think it was a problem (58.4 %).

SECTION 8

**OVERLAP OF TYPES OF VIOLENCE:
SEXUAL, PHYSICAL, AND
EMOTIONAL VIOLENCE**



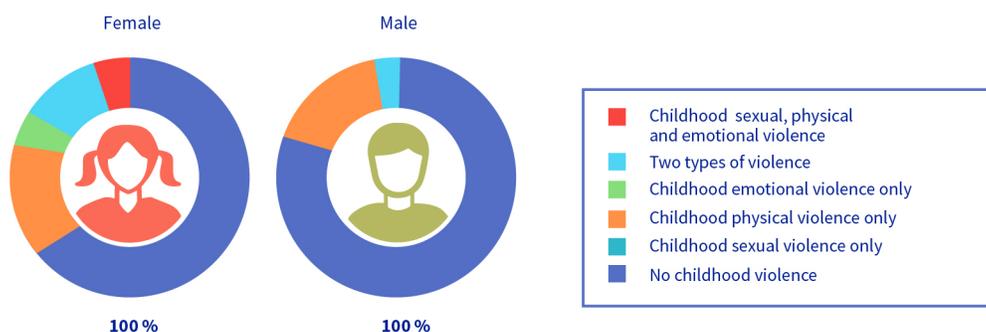
SECTION 8: OVERLAP OF TYPES OF VIOLENCE: SEXUAL, PHYSICAL, AND EMOTIONAL VIOLENCE

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 (*not* including sexual exploitation/transactional sex). Table 8.1.1 includes data on overlap of types of violence in childhood for 18-24 year olds, table 8.1.2 includes data on overlap of types of violence in the past 12 months among 13-17 year-olds and table 8.1.3 includes data on overlap among types of violence in the past twelve months for 18-24 year-olds.

8.1. OVERLAP OF TYPES OF VIOLENCE IN CHILDHOOD AND IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS AMONG 18-24 YEAR-OLDS

In this age group, about one in three females (32.0 %) and one in five males (21.4 %) experienced any violence before age 18, a difference that is statistically significant. However, there are differences between females and males in the types of violence experienced: 11.1 % of females and 15.3 % of males experienced physical violence only, and 3.9 % of females experienced emotional violence only in childhood. There was some overlap in violence experiences; 7.8 % of females and 3.3 % of males experienced two types of violence, a difference that was statistically significant; 3.6 % of females experienced all three types.

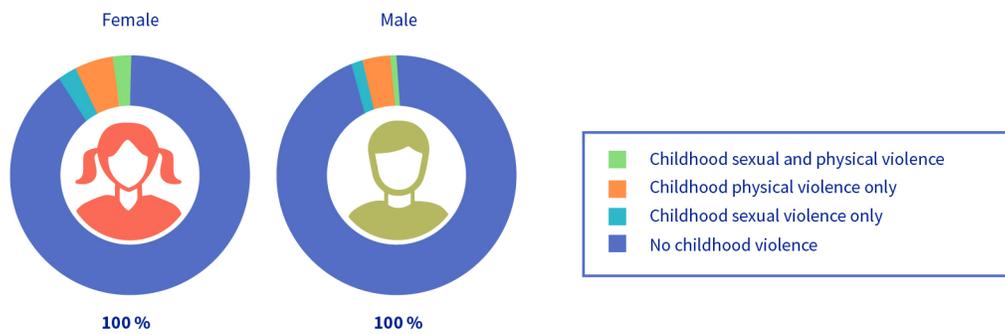


Source: El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017

Figure 8.1 Prevalence of different types of violence and multiple forms of violence experienced before age 18, among 18-24 year-olds – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

* Not all types of violence are depicted in this figure because of unreliable estimates

Nearly one in seven 18-24 year-old females (13.9 %) and one in ten males (8.9 %) experienced any violence in the past 12 months. During this time period, 2.5 % of females and 0.9 % of males experienced sexual violence only, 3.6 % of females and 6.1 % of males experienced physical violence only, and 1.3 % of females and 0.4 % of males experienced both physical and sexual violence in the past 12 months.



Source: El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017

Figure 8.2. Prevalence of different types of violence and multiple forms of violence experienced in the past 12 months, among 18-24 year-olds – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

* Emotional violence is not depicted in this figure because of unreliable estimates

8.2. OVERLAP OF TYPES OF VIOLENCE IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS AMONG 13-17 YEAR-OLDS

In this age group, one in five females (19.5 %) and 13.4 % of males experienced any violence in the past 12 months. Among youth in this age group, 8.3 % of males experienced physical violence only, 5.8 % of females experienced physical violence only, and 3.9 % of females experienced emotional violence only. With respect to overlap among types of violence, 5.3 % of females and 2.2 % of males experienced two types of violence.

SECTION 9

**HEALTH CONDITIONS ASSOCIATED
WITH SEXUAL, PHYSICAL, AND
EMOTIONAL VIOLENCE**



SECTION 9: HEALTH CONDITIONS ASSOCIATED WITH SEXUAL, PHYSICAL, AND EMOTIONAL VIOLENCE

This section describes health-related outcomes in young adulthood among 18-24 year-olds who experienced sexual, physical, and/or emotional violence in childhood 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; cigarette smoking in the past 30 days; drug use in the past 30 days; 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*). This section also describes pregnancy among females as a result of coerced or alcohol-facilitated or physically forced sex and missed school after sexual violence.

Mental health in the past 30 days was measured using the Kessler Psychological Distress Scale (K6), which consists of six questions that assess a person’s general emotional state in the past month. Each response is scored between zero (*none of the time*) and four (*all of the time*) and summed for a total possible score ranging between zero and twenty-four points. A score between five and twelve points indicates moderate mental distress and a score of thirteen points or higher indicates serious mental distress.

9.1. SEXUAL, PHYSICAL, AND EMOTIONAL VIOLENCE IN CHILDHOOD AND MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH AMONG 18-24 YEAR-OLDS

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.

Females ages 18-24 who experienced sexual violence in childhood were significantly more likely to have ever thought of suicide (31.0 % versus 5.7 %) than those who never experienced childhood sexual violence. Females ages 18-24 who experienced childhood physical violence were significantly more likely than those who did not experience physical violence in childhood to have mental distress in the past 30 days (77.7 % versus 46.5 %), ever intentionally hurt themselves (24.7 % versus 6.7 %), and have ever thought of suicide (22.4 % versus 5.2 %). Females ages 18-24 who experienced childhood emotional violence were significantly more likely to experience mental distress (80.2 % versus 48.2 %) and have ever thought of suicide (24.5 % versus 5.7 %). Among 18-24 year-old males, 41.9 % of those who experienced childhood physical violence and 39.9 % of those who did not experience such violence had mental distress in the past 30 days. This difference was not statistically significant. Males who experienced childhood emotional violence had significantly higher prevalence of mental distress in the past 30 days (66.1 % versus 39.2 %) than those who had not experienced emotional violence in childhood.



Figure 9.1 Prevalence of mental distress (moderate and serious) in the past 30 days and experiences of various types of violence prior to age 18, among 18-24 year old females – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.



Figure 9.2 Prevalence of mental distress (moderate and serious) in the past 30 days and experiences of physical and emotional violence prior to age 18, among 18-24 year old males – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

9.2. SEXUAL, PHYSICAL, AND EMOTIONAL VIOLENCE IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS AND MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH AMONG 13-17 YEAR-OLDS

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.

Significantly more females ages 13-17 who experienced sexual violence in the past year experienced mental distress in the past 30 days (75.9 % versus 46.3 %), ever intentionally hurt themselves (37.8 % versus 14.6 %), and ever thought of suicide (29.3 % versus 7.8 %). Males who experienced sexual violence in the past year were significantly more likely to have mental distress in the past 30 days (79.5% versus 42.0 %). 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 (73.9 % versus 45.1 %), having ever intentionally hurt themselves (39.2 % versus 12.8 %), and having ever thought of suicide (28.7 % versus 6.7 %). For males, there were significant differences for mental distress in the past 30 days (73.2 % versus 39.5 %). 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 (80.4 % versus 45.5 %), being a current smoker (12.1 % versus 2.1 %), having ever intentionally hurt themselves (37.6 % versus 14.2 %), and having ever thought of suicide (26.1 % versus 7.7 %).

9.3. PREGNANCY AS A RESULT OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND MISSING SCHOOL DUE TO VIOLENCE

Tables 9.3.1 through 9.3.3 include data on pregnancy as a result of sexual violence and missing school due to violence. Among females ages 13-24 who experienced physically forced or coerced or alcohol-facilitated sex, 9.2 % became pregnant as a result of that incident. Among 18-24 year-olds, 19.4 % of females missed school due to sexual violence in childhood, and 29.2 % of females and 10.4 % of males missed school due to physical violence in childhood, a difference that was statistically significant.

SECTION 10

**BELIEFS AND ATTITUDES ABOUT
GENDER AND VIOLENCE AND
VIOLENCE PERPETRATION**



SECTION 10: BELIEFS AND ATTITUDES ABOUT GENDER AND VIOLENCE AND VIOLENCE PERPETRATION

This section examines attitudes and beliefs related to violence. Questions assessed attitudes justifying the use of physical violence by husbands against their wives. All VACS 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.

The survey also examined the prevalence of certain beliefs toward the role of gender in sexual practices and intimate partner violence. Beliefs measured include: 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.

10.1. BELIEFS ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND TRADITIONAL GENDER NORMS

Findings related to attitudes about domestic violence and traditional gender norms are included in Tables 10.1.1 and 10.2.1. Among 18-24 year-olds, 4.0 % of females and 5.3 % of males indicated it was acceptable for a husband to beat his wife under one or more circumstances. Among 13-17 year-olds, 5.7 % of females and 5.2 % of males endorsed one or more reasons for domestic violence. Among 18-24 year-olds, significantly fewer females (25.6 %) than males (37.3 %) endorsed one or more traditional gender and sexual norms. Among 13-17 year-olds, significantly fewer females (37.3 %) than males (48.1 %) endorsed traditional gender and sexual norms.



Figure 10.1 Attitudes about the acceptance of domestic violence, among 18-24 year olds – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

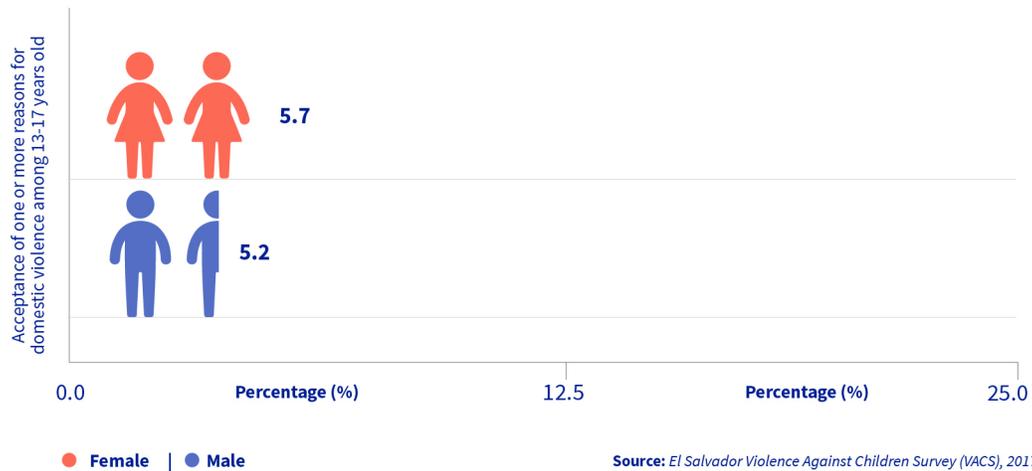


Figure 10.2. Attitudes about the acceptance of domestic violence, among 13-17 year olds – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.
 *All figures are presented with 95 % confidence intervals represented by the line above and below the bars.

10.2. PREVALENCE OF VIOLENCE PERPETRATION

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 against any victim, as measured by: 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, such as 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 by experiences of sexual violence and physical violence in childhood. 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 10.3.1 through 10.3.7 include results of violence perpetration.

Among 18-24 year-olds, significantly more females (8.2 %) than males (1.9 %) reported perpetrating physical violence. Females who experienced childhood sexual violence were significantly more likely than those who did not to have perpetrated physical violence (29.9 % versus 4.8 %). Females who experienced childhood physical violence were significantly more likely to have perpetrated physical violence than those who did not experience physical violence (26.1 % versus 3.1 %). Among 18-24 year-old males who experienced childhood physical violence, 8.3 % reported perpetrating physical violence. Among 13-17 year-olds, 4.5 % of females and 3.0 % of males perpetrated physical violence.

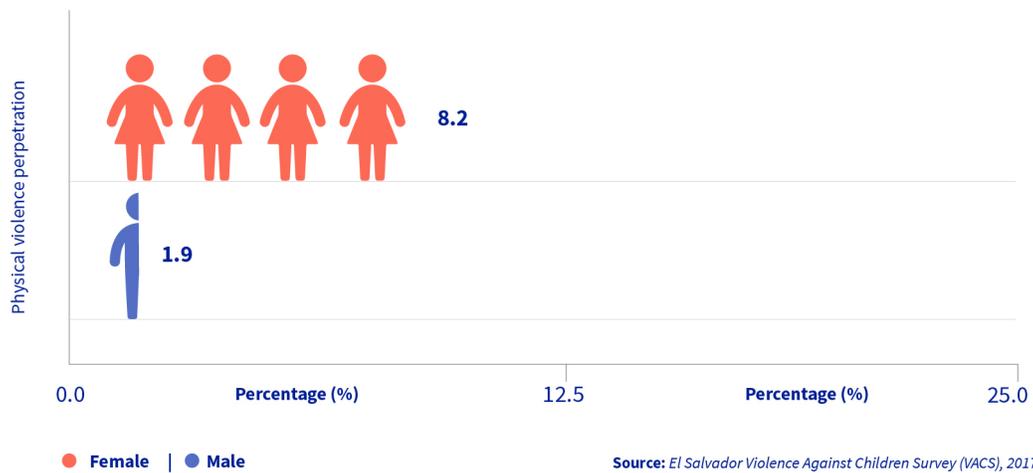


Figure 10.3. Prevalence of physical violence perpetration, among 18-24 year olds – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017. *All figures are presented with 95 % confidence intervals represented by the line above and below the bars.

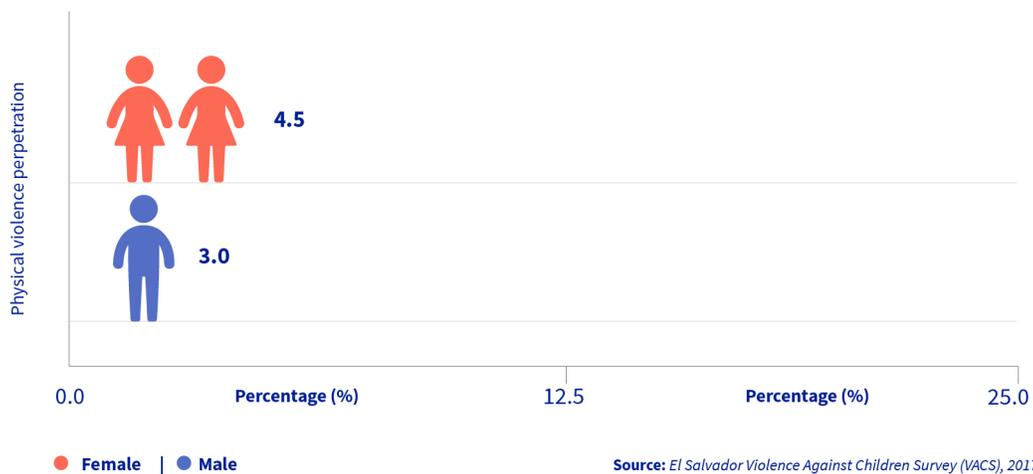


Figure 10.4. Prevalence of physical violence perpetration, among females and males 13-17 year olds – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

10.3. PREVALENCE OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE PERPETRATION

Violence perpetration against intimate partners, or intimate partner violence, including both forcing someone to have sex and physical violence, are 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 Tables 10.3.4 through 10.3.7.

Among females ages 18-24 who ever had a partner, 5.7 % ever perpetrated physical violence against an intimate partner. Among ever-partnered females, 18.7 % of those who experienced childhood sexual violence had perpetrated physical or sexual intimate partner violence, compared to 3.5 % of those with no childhood sexual violence, a statistically significant difference. For 13-17 year-olds, 5.6 % of ever-partnered females perpetrated physical violence towards a partner.

SECTION 11

**CHARACTERISTICS ASSOCIATED
WITH SEXUAL AND
PHYSICAL VIOLENCE**



SECTION 11: CHARACTERISTICS ASSOCIATED WITH SEXUAL AND PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

This section presents experiences of sexual and physical violence by characteristics of participants, including orphan status, identification as sexual minority (gay, lesbian, or bisexual), school attendance and completion, employment status, ever witnessing violence at home, marriage or cohabitation status, receiving remittances from abroad, and parents' migration history. Here, orphanhood refers to having lost one or both parents.

Table 11.1 includes results of characteristics of 18-24 year-olds by experience of sexual or physical violence in the last 12 months. Among those who identify as sexual minorities, 6.4 % of females experienced physical violence in childhood and 5.0 % experienced sexual violence in childhood. For males who are sexual minorities, 10.4 % experienced physical violence in childhood. Significantly more females who worked in the past 12 months experienced sexual violence (9.0 %) compared to those who did not work in the past 12 months. Though not significantly different, 8.5 % of females who were separated from one or both parents for 6 or more months in their childhood reported having experienced childhood physical violence, and 5.3 % of those who were not separated reported physical violence.

Table 11.2 includes results of characteristics of 13-17 year-olds by experience of sexual or physical violence in the past 12 months. Among females ages 13-17 who were orphans, 18.9 % experienced physical violence in the past 12 months. This was not significantly different than physical violence in the past 12 months among non-orphans (11.2 %). A significantly higher proportion of 13-17 year-old females who witnessed violence in the home reported experiences of physical violence in the last 12 months (36.1 % versus 10.2 %) than those who did not witness violence in the home. Males 13-17 years old who witnessed violence in the home in the last 12 months reported a significantly higher proportion of experiences of physical violence in the home (59.3 % versus 9.1 %) than those who did not witness violence in the home.

SECTION 12

INSPIRE INDICATORS



SECTION 12: INSPIRE INDICATORS

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. There are seven strategies included in INSPIRE. This survey provides data of indicators representing 6 of the INSPIRE strategies that can potentially be used for prevention interventions: **N**orms and values; **S**afe environments; **P**arent and caregiver support; **I**ncome and economic strengthening, **R**esponse and support services, and **E**ducation and life skills. Data on these indicators capture key opportunities to inform evidence-based interventions and approaches. The Response and support services indicators are included in the previous sections of the report that cover disclosure, service seeking, and service access among victims of sexual violence (Section 4) and physical violence (Section 5).

12.1. NORMS AND VALUES

Data on Norms and Values is included in Table N. Among 18-24 year-olds, significantly more males (26.0 %) than females (17.3 %) agreed it was necessary for parents to use corporal punishment to raise children. More males (7.8 %) than females (3.2 %) also agreed it was necessary for teachers to use corporal punishment. Significantly more males (37.3 %) than females (25.6 %) endorsed traditional norms about gender and sexuality.

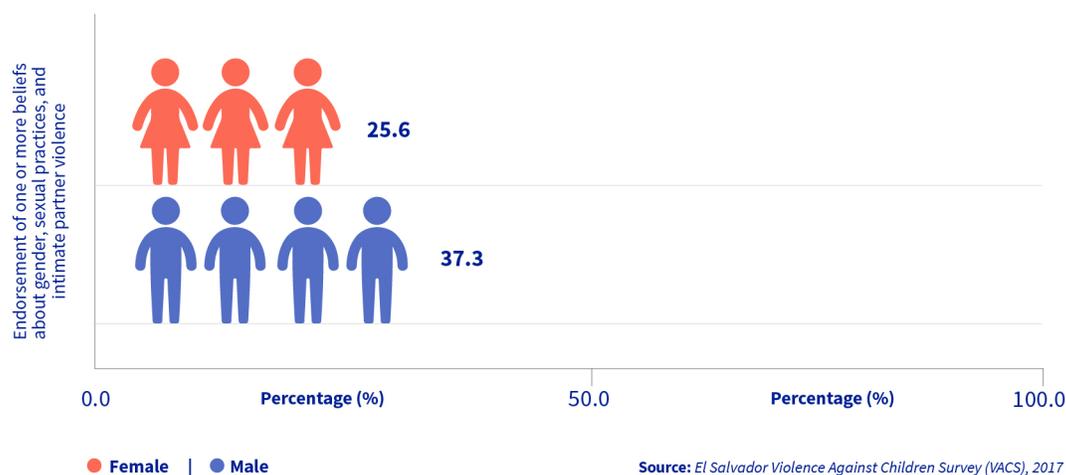


Figure 12.1. Beliefs about gender, sexual practices, and intimate partner violence, among 18-24 year olds – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

12.2. SAFE ENVIRONMENTS

Results of Safe Environments indicators is provided in Table S. When respondents indicated that they had experienced physical violence, they were asked whether they knew if the perpetrator of physical violence had also been involved in community violence. Among 13-17 year-olds who experienced peer physical violence in the past 12 months, about one in four females (24.4 %) indicated the perpetrator was also involved in community violence. There were too few 13-17 year-old males who experienced peer physical violence in the past 12 months by a perpetrator involved in community violence to report reliable estimates.

12.3. PARENT AND CAREGIVER SUPPORT

Table P includes data on Parent and Caregiver Supports. The indicator data for Parent and Caregiver Support indicate that parent-youth relationships are a significant protective factor for youth in El Salvador. Among 13-17 year-olds, 51.7 % of females and 39.7 % of males said their parents used positive discipline strategies in the past 12 months, a difference that was statistically significant. Nine out of ten females (90.8 %) and males (93.5 %) said they were close or very close to their mothers, and nine out of ten females (94.8 %) and four out of five males (79.9 %) indicated their parents had high parental monitoring and supervision. Finally, 73.4 % of females and 79.9 % of males said it was easy to talk to their mothers about something that was really bothering them. Physical discipline or verbal aggression were also common in El Salvador; 16.5 % of females and 9.7 % of males ages 13-17 indicated their parents used physical discipline in the past 12 months.

12.4. INCOME AND ECONOMIC STRENGTHENING

Tables I.1 and I.2 include results of indicators for Income and Economic Strengthening. The survey included questions about food insecurity (understood as insufficient food intake, either transitory, seasonal, or chronic), and about who makes economic decisions in the household, as indicators of Income and Economic Strengthening. Among 13-17 year-olds, more than one out of four females (27.0 %) and males (29.4 %) experienced food insecurity. The question about economic decisions assessed to what extent females or males ages 18-24 indicated that the wife or spouse has a say in how money is spent in the household. For females, 93.5 % indicated they have a say in how money is spent, but only 17.9 % of males said the wife or female partner has a say. The difference in perception of economic autonomy is notable between males and females and could reflect more traditional gender roles among males in particular.

12.5. EDUCATION AND LIFE SKILLS

Table E.1 and E.2 include results of Education and Life Skills. The programs and interventions in this strategy include both interventions aimed at increasing access to education, and also interventions that are typically delivered in educational settings that focus on life skills. For example, school-based interventions that address bullying, excessive alcohol use, and healthy relationship skills are included in this strategy. For these reasons, indicators of Education and Life Skills assess both engagement and participation in education, victimization, and risk behaviors. These indicators assess proximal effects of interventions addressing education and life skills as identified by INSPIRE. Among 13-17 year-olds, 79.5 % of females and 85.7 % of males were currently enrolled in school, 6.1 % of females and 15.8 % of males who ever had a drink had at least one episode of binge drinking in the past 30 days, 5.2 % of females and 7.6 % of males had been in a physical fight in the past 12 months, and 11.6 % of females and 12.0 % of males had experienced bullying in the past 30 days. Among 18-24 year-olds, 13.2 % of females and 12.4 % of males had early sexual debut, defined as first sex before age 15, one in four females (26.1 %) were pregnant before age 18, and one in ten females (9.1 %) were married before the age 18. The educational gap between women and men could represent existing gender inequalities that make it more difficult for women to access educational opportunities or be a consequence of assigning girls to more traditional household roles as described in the literature.

SECTION 13

**DISCUSSION AND PREVENTION
STRATEGIES**



SECTION 13: DISCUSSION AND PREVENTION STRATEGIES

The El Salvador VACS is the first nationally representative data on the prevalence and epidemiology of sexual, physical, and emotional violence among female and male youth in El Salvador. This report describes the burden, contexts, and health consequences for violence against children and adolescents. It also explores the overlap between sexual, physical, and emotional violence and the services sought and utilized for incidents of sexual and physical violence. The wealth of information provided by the VACS can guide prevention efforts that are uniquely adapted to the context of El Salvador.

13.1. PREVENTION STRATEGIES

The Government of El Salvador, civil society organizations, and international community partners held a Data to Action Workshop in San Salvador between November 14-16, 2018. Discussions in El Salvador included a wide variety of participants from multiple sectors. This event was co-organized by the Ministry of Justice and Public Security and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) with technical leadership by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and support from Together for Girls (TfG) and funding by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

A wide variety of themes emerged from a three-day multi-sectoral workshop focused on transforming VACS data into action for El Salvador. All participants agreed that these data will contribute to further guide ongoing plans aimed at developing a National Action Plan for the country. The institutions represented in this meeting agreed that the recommendations that follow will complement ongoing activities that have already been developed under the leadership of the National Council of Childhood and Adolescence (CONNA) with the aim of creating a National Action Plan for violence against children and youth in El Salvador. These activities are being developed in collaboration with other government partners such as the Ministries of Justice and Public Security, Education, Health, Work and Social Security, Government, Foreign Affairs, Economy, and institutions such as the Salvadorian Institute for the Integral Development of Childhood and Adolescence (ISNA), the Ombudsman for the Defense of Human Rights (PDDH), National Institute on Youth (INJUVE), Salvadorian Institute for the Development of Women (ISDEMU), the National Civil Police (PNC) with support from the Technical Secretariat on Planning (SETEPLAN). Additional support has been provided by UNICEF, UN Women, PAHO/WHO, UNFPA, UNDP, UNHCR, World Bank and a variety of non-government organizations that are key in themes related to children,

adolescents and youth including the Glasswing Foundation, Fundación EDUCO, Fundación Cristosal, German Cooperation (GIZ), International Justice Mission (IJM), Save the Children, International Rescue Committee (IRC), Whole Child International, Enterprises Foundation for Development (FEPADE), and Foundation for the Study on the Application of Law (FESPAD).

Discussions also focused on the identification of useful multi-sectoral strategies aimed at further strengthening existing child protective services, but also towards greatly improving primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention strategies that address violence against children. A mapping of existing violence prevention and control programs was discussed and contributed to identify areas of collaboration and areas where improved coordination is necessary. Progress on the development of a National Action Plan for El Salvador and the identification of milestones and a timeline will help define a clear roadmap for the country. All participants reviewed and discussed VACS results in detail as well as its methodological limitations and its applications in the context of other existing national information on violence. Participants further addressed programmatic and policy implications. Over the course of the workshop, participants also identified several high-level priorities that could be targeted for El Salvador. These priorities were mapped to specific INSPIRE strategies that could be developed, adapted or strengthened for the country. The following section describes the key points and suggestions that emerged from those discussions and from thematic tables representing: 1) justice, security and human rights, education, child protective services, and health. All tables had representatives of the Directorate of Statistics and Census (DIGESTYC), the institution that led the data collection in the country.

13.2. SPECIFIC PRIORITIES FOR PREVENTION

The multi-sector discussions identified a few key areas that should receive special attention in El Salvador based on the VACS data as well as on existing programs and interventions being developed or implemented locally. Priority themes included a reduction in **physical violence** perpetrated mostly by parents, caregivers and gang members against children and youth. Another priority was the reduction of **sexual violence** focused on strategies aimed at preventing violence in the home. In addition, for males, priority was placed on preventing all forms of violence in school environments. Addressing these forms of violence was discussed also as a key factor to reduce the **effects of violence on migration**, both external as well as internal displacement but also complemented by programs addressing **existing norms and values**. Further areas of priority included addressing **mental health and the consequences of emotional violence**, and **school absenteeism**. Several sectors and participants concurred with the importance of **strengthening**

child protective services by improving response programs and addressing individual, relational, and structural barriers to accessing these services.

Discussions between sectors emphasized the importance of identifying and focusing on five of the seven different INSPIRE^f strategies. The INSPIRE Handbook serves as a framework for implementing several policy and programmatic strategies. It is a publication coauthored by several international institutions that summarizes effective strategies aimed at preventing or reducing violence against children, adolescents and youth globally. The selected strategies were deemed as the best to address the above identified priorities. These strategies include addressing norms and values, creating safe environments, promoting more parent and caregiver support, strengthening response and support services by improving programs and addressing access to service barriers, and improving education and life skills with a strong focus on intimate partner violence.

In regard to addressing all forms of violence, specific and potentially useful strategies to be adapted or emulated in the country included those focused on changing *norms and values* such as community mobilization programs, and gender norms programs. Complementary strategies focused on *parental and caregiver support* aimed at improving early child care. Other strategies identified as useful for creating safe environments included addressing interrupters of violence and focusing on environmental design as a crime prevention strategy with a special focus on school environments and settings. To address services and mental health, changes in norms and values could contribute to changing barriers to access but specific care and strengthening of services could benefit from implementing Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) with focus on improving mental health outcomes. Finally, to address intimate partner violence, programs focusing on women empowerment were identified as potentially useful. Other important aspects include capacity building interventions aimed at improving screening of violence among health, justice, and education personnel and amongst all personnel of institutions involved in child protective services in the country. Other key recommended strategies are also oriented at implementing more interventions for fostering positive discipline practices by parents. To consolidate these approaches, **multisector coordination** is essential. Coordinated mechanisms led by the National Council of Childhood and Adolescence (CONNA) will be important to define a road map for the country and will further strengthen current efforts to develop a national action plan for El Salvador.

With the intersectoral mechanisms in place, and the Salvadorian involvement as a pathfinder country for ending violence against children, a more coordinated design and implementation of policies, strategies, programs, and interventions for preventing and responding to violence against children may be achieved. These

efforts will be greatly improved with the support of civil society and the international community. The evidence-based and inclusive approach has the potential to be an effective tool for addressing this priority issue in El Salvador and contributing in a meaningful and long-lasting way to the countries' wellbeing and development.

13.3. STRENGTHS AND LIMITATIONS

The VACS is El Salvador's first nationally representative 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 was designed to ensure the data are nationally representative, and random sampling using a stratified three-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 circumstances of violence. The rich, contextualized data in the El Salvador 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 El Salvador 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 El Salvador.

There are also limitations that must be taken into account. Because the VACS involves a household 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, in a condition of forced internal displacement, 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 disability that prevented them from understanding or responding to the interview questions or from being interviewed in private. 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.

In El Salvador, community rates of violence are extremely high. Much of the community violence is generated by gang involvement or a combination of organized crime, gang involvement, and conflict with government police and military forces. Most of the areas affected by community violence are urban areas – though not

^f INSPIRE is available for free in Spanish from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) at: <http://iris.paho.org/xmlui/handle/123456789/33741>

exclusively. Visiting some communities, or EAs, with high rates of violence implied getting permission by both government as well as community stakeholders, and in many cases, these permissions were not always given. These restrictions limited the ability to either conduct interviews in an entire EA or limited the time for teams in the EAs. The areas that were not visited although few, are therefore not represented in this survey. For more details on the implications of this situations see appendix B: Supplementary Sampling Methods and Weights.

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 important contextual detail on certain violent events affecting participants. This approach is necessary to keep the survey at an acceptable length for participants. The VACS is also vulnerable 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. Finally, this survey only collected data at the national level. This precludes it from showing representative geographical differences related to violence at the departmental or municipal levels.

Another possible limitation is that some participants may not have been comfortable disclosing personal and sensitive life experiences with interviewers, 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 privacy and reduce the risk of retaliation for participation in the survey. Interviewers underwent extensive training on how to maximize respondent safety and 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 designed to facilitate respondent comfort and disclosure.

Together, these limitations indicate that the estimates in this report are likely undercounts. The true rates may be significantly higher. However, the data presented here provide a clear indication that violence against children in El Salvador is key problem that cross-cuts multiple governmental and social sectors.

13.4. CONCLUSIONS

The El Salvador VACS provides useful information addressing violence prevention efforts within the Salvadorian national context and by means of a diagnostic tool on a specific population group of adolescents of both sexes. The country support indicates a strong commitment to using the findings of the El Salvador VACS to make further gains in the prevention of violence against children in the country and to supplement existing programs.

The results highlight the opportunities for controlling and preventing violence against children and adolescents specifically addressing physical, sexual, and emotional violence and any manifestation of it through an intersectoral approach. The variety of interventions aimed at modifying legislation norms and values, addressing the physical environment, focusing on parents and caretakers, economic strategies, educational and life skills strategies, and strengthening of protective services are key to significantly reduce violence in these vulnerable populations.

The results of this survey give El Salvador an opportunity to be a leader in addressing the problem of violence against children, by focusing on immediate and longer-term prevention and response efforts. Furthermore, it strengthens the country's status as a pathfinder country of the *End Violence Against Children* partnership. It further enhances other violence prevention and response partnerships amongst multi-sectoral government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and international technical agencies. The following tables provide detailed results from the VACS in El Salvador.

APPENDIX



APPENDIX A: EL SALVADOR VACS DATA TABLES

3. BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS

Table 3.1.1. Background characteristics of 18-24 year-olds – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females % (95 % CI)	Males % (95 % CI)
Education status	Females (n=617)	Males (n= 661)
Never attended school or less than primary school	1.8 (0.7 - 2.9) *	3.7 (1.5 - 5.9) *
Primary school	42.4 (37.0 - 47.9)	34.0 (29.3 - 38.8)
Secondary school	41.7 (36.9 - 46.4)	48.1 (42.2 - 54.0)
Higher than secondary school	14.1 (11.0 - 17.3)	14.2 (10.4 - 17.9)
Age of head of household	Females (n=618)	Males (n=660)
30 years old or younger	37.4 (32.3 - 42.4)	26.7 (20.4 - 33.0)
31-50 years old	35.6 (30.1 - 41.2)	39.8 (34.6 - 45.0)
51+ years old	27.0 (22.8 - 31.2)	33.5 (28.4 - 38.5)
Orphan status before age 18	Females (n=597)	Males (n=641)
Not an orphan before age 18 years	87.5 (85.1 - 89.9)	86.0 (83.1 - 89.0)
Single/double orphan before 18 years	12.5 (10.1 - 14.9)	14.0 (11.0 - 16.9)
Socioeconomic indicators	Females (n=603)	Males (n=622)
Worked for money or other payment in the past 12 months	35.7 (31.6 - 39.7)	59.1 (53.2 - 65.0)
	Females (n=615)	Males (n=648)
Experiencing food insecurity	29.6 (25.5 - 33.7)	32.5 (26.8 - 38.2)
	Females (n= 617)	Males (n=663)
Remittances in the past 3 years		
Received money or goods from the United States	22.5 (17.6 - 27.3)	12.7 (9.2 - 16.3)
Received money or goods from Europe, Mexico, or Canada	1.1 (0.4 - 1.8) *	0.4 (0.0 - 0.8) *

Did not receive money or goods from another country 76.5 (71.7 - 81.3) 86.5 (82.9 - 90.1)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

Table 3.1.2. Location of work among 18-24 year-olds who have worked in the past 12 months – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females		Males	
	n [§]	% (95 % CI)	n [§]	% (95 % CI)
At family dwelling	71	32.0 (24.7 - 39.3)	27	6.0 (2.7 - 9.3)
Formal office	35	16.2 (9.5 - 22.9)	39	8.9 (5.7 - 12.2)
Factory/Workshop, Mine/Quarry, Construction site	32	11.9 (7.9 - 16.0)	132	31.2 (25.0 - 37.3)
Commercial/Hospitality [1]	65	30.4 (23.7 - 37.1)	38	8.1 (4.8 - 11.4)
Other [2]	20	9.5 (4.2 - 14.7)	173	45.8 (39.0 - 52.5)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Commercial/hospitality includes: shop/kiosk; and restaurant/hotel/café/bar.

[2] Other includes: farm/gardens; different places (mobile); fixed, street or market stall; and pond/lake/river.

n[§] Represents the number of individuals who worked in those locations.

Table 3.1.3. Migration history of 18-24 year-olds – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females % (95 % CI)	Males % (95 % CI)
Parents' migration history	Females (n= 592)	Males (n= 631)
Mother lived away for 6 months or more in childhood	13.8 (10.3 - 17.4)	7.8 (5.6 - 9.9)
	Females (n= 79)	Males (n= 55)
Mean age when mother moved away (among those whose mother lived away for 6 months)	7.4 (5.8-9.0) years	9.5 (7.5-11.4) years
	Females (n= 503)	Males (n= 552)
Father lived away for 6 months or more in childhood	29.8 (25.7 - 34.0)	17.9 (12.7 - 23.0)

	Females (n=143)	Males (n= 89)
Mean age when father moved away (among those whose father lived away for 6 months)	6.2 (5.1-7.3) years	7.9 (6.7-9.1) years
Individuals' migration history	Females (n= 618)	Males (n= 663)
Lived abroad and returned to El Salvador	3.4 (1.4 - 5.4)	3.6 (1.9 - 5.3)
	Females (n= 618)	Males (n= 663)
Lived in the United States and returned to El Salvador	0.8 (0.1 - 1.5)*	1.2 (0.3 - 2.2)
	Females (n= 23)	Males (n= 23)
Mean age when moved abroad (among those who lived abroad and returned to El Salvador)	13.1 (10.7-15.5) years	17.4 (15.8-19.0) years

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

Table 3.1.4. Relationship and sexual history of 18-24 year-olds – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females (n=618) % (95 % CI)	Males (n=664) % (95 % CI)
Ever been married or lived with someone as if married	48.7 (43.3 - 54.2)	23.1 (19.0 - 27.3)
	Females (n=618)	Males (n=664)
Married or lived with someone as if married before age 18	19.3 (15.5 - 23.0)	6.1 (3.9 - 8.3)
	Females (n=615)	Males (n=658)
Ever had sex [1]	67.1 (62.6 - 71.7)	62.1 (56.2 - 68.0)
	Females (n=609)	Males (n=637)
Had sex before age 18	39.6 (33.7 - 45.5)	36.1 (30.4 - 41.8)
	Females (n=411)	Males (n=409)
Mean age of first sex (among those who ever had sex)	16.8 (16.5-17.2) years	16.7 (16.4-17.0) years

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Sex includes vaginal, oral, or anal sex or the insertion of an object into your vagina or anus by someone else.

Table 3.2.1. Background characteristics of 13-17 year-olds – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females % (95 % CI)	Males % (95 % CI)
Education status	Females (n=437)	Males (n=716)
Never attended school or less than primary school	1.4 (0.2 - 2.6) *	2.1 (0.7 - 3.6) *
Primary school	76.2 (71.7 - 80.7)	78.0 (74.3 - 81.7)
Secondary school or higher	22.4 (17.7 - 27.1)	19.9 (16.4 - 23.4)
Age of head of household	Females (n=437)	Males (n=712)
30 years old or younger	8.4 (6.0 - 10.9)	7.6 (5.3 - 10.0)
31-50 years old	61.8 (57.7 - 65.8)	63.2 (58.9 - 67.5)
51+ years old	29.8 (25.4 - 34.2)	29.2 (25.5 - 32.9)
Current orphan status	Females (n=429)	Males (n=684)
Not an orphan	91.7 (89.6 - 93.8)	89.6 (87.0 - 92.2)
Single/double orphan	8.3 (6.2 - 10.4)	10.4 (7.8 - 13.0)
Socioeconomic indicators	Females (n=427)	Males (n=679)
Worked for money in the past 12 months	8.0 (5.4 - 10.6)	23.9 (19.2 - 28.6)
	Females (n=435)	Males (n=711)
Currently enrolled in school	79.5 (74.5 - 84.5)	85.7 (82.4 - 89.0)
	Females (n=432)	Males (n=697)
Experiencing food insecurity	27.0 (21.8 - 32.1)	29.4 (24.3 - 34.5)
Remittances in the past 3 years	Females (n=436)	Males (n=715)
Received money or goods from the United States	16.5 (11.9 - 21.1)	16.9 (12.7 - 21.1)
Received money or goods from Europe, Mexico, or Canada	0.0	0.2 (0.0 - 0.5)*
Did not receive money or goods from another country	83.3 (78.7 - 87.9)	82.9 (78.6 - 87.1)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

Table 3.2.2. School attendance among 13-17 year-olds and reasons for not attending school, among 13-17 year-olds who are not attending school – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females % (95 % CI)	Males % (95 % CI)
	Females (n=435)	Males (n=711)
Not currently attending school	20.5 (15.5 - 25.5)	14.3 (11.0 - 17.6)
Reasons for not attending school, among those who are not currently attending school		
	Females (n=63)	Males (n=77)
Violence in the neighborhood/ community or violence/bullying in the school	13.9 (4.6 - 23.2) *	9.0 (1.7 - 16.3) *
My family does not have enough money for school or supplies	29.6 (18.2 - 40.9)	22.7 (12.2 - 33.3)
I have to work	2.6 (0.0 - 7.4) *	26.3 (15.0 - 37.6)
I don't like the school	43.9 (34.5 - 53.3)	34.4 (24.2 - 44.5)
There is not a school nearby	5.9 (0.3 - 11.5) *	4.8 (0.0 - 10.2) *
School does not meet expectation	4.1 (0.0 - 8.4) *	2.8 (0.0 - 7.4) *

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

Table 3.2.3. Location of work among 13-17 year-olds who have worked in the past 12 months – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	n[§]	Females % (95 % CI)	n[§]	Males % (95 % CI)
At family dwelling	17	33.4 (19.6 - 47.3)	22	12.9 (6.5 - 19.3)
Formal office	1	2.7 (0.0 - 8.0) *	2	0.9 (0.4 - 1.3)
Factory/Workshop, Mine/Quarry, Construction site	1	1.2 (0.0 - 3.5) *	46	25.1 (14.8 - 35.3)
Commercial/Hospitality [1]	16	33.5 (17.7 - 49.3)	6	2.6 (0.3 - 4.8) *
Other [2]	10	29.2 (18.5 - 39.9)	116	58.6 (49.1 - 68.2)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Commercial/hospitality includes: shop/kiosk; and restaurant/hotel/café/bar.

[2] Other includes: farm/gardens; different places (mobile); fixed, street or market stall; and pond/lake/river.

n[§] Represents the number of individuals who worked in those locations.

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

Table 3.2.4. Migration history of 13-17 year-olds – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females % (95 % CI)	Males % (95 % CI)
Parents' migration history	Females (n=431)	Male (n=697)
Mother lived away for 6 months or more in childhood	9.2 (6.3 - 12.1)	8.1 (5.7 - 10.5)
	Females (n= 36)	Male (n=51)
Mean age when mother moved away (among those whose mother lived away for 6 months)	6.8 (4.8-.8.8) years	7.6 (6.1-9.0) years
	Females (n=387)	Male (n=605)
Father lived away for 6 months or more in childhood	26.8 (21.9 - 31.7)	21.8 (18.2 - 25.3)
	Females (n=95)	Male (n=113)
Mean age when father moved away (among those whose father lived away for 6 months)	5.0 (4.2-5.9) years	5.4 (4.4-6.5) years
Individuals' migration history	Females (n=438)	Males (n=716)
Lived abroad in childhood and returned to El Salvador	1.2 (0.3 - 2.1) *	1.1 (0.4 - 1.8) *
	Females (n=438)	Males (n= 716)
Lived in the United States and returned to El Salvador	0.4 (0.0 - 0.9)	0.4 (0.0 - 0.8)
	Females (n= 6)	Males (n= 10)
Mean age when moved abroad (among those who lived abroad and returned to El Salvador)	4.9 (0.4-9.3) * years	12.7 (10.7-14.7) years

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

Table 3.2.5. Relationship and sexual history of 13-17 year-olds – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females (n=438) % (95 % CI)	Males (n=716) % (95 % CI)
Ever been married or lived with someone as if married	8.6 (5.7 - 11.5)	2.9 (0.0 - 6.2) *
	Females (n=436)	Males (n=711)

Ever had sex [1]	11.2 (8.3 - 14.1)	14.2 (9.9 - 18.5)
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Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Sex includes vaginal, oral, or anal sex or the insertion of an object into your vagina or anus by someone else.

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

4. SEXUAL VIOLENCE: PREVALENCE, PERPETRATORS, AND SERVICE SEEKING

Table 4.1.1. Prevalence of sexual violence [1] before age 18, among 18-24 year-olds – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females (n=616) % (95 % CI)	Males (n=660) % (95 % CI)
Childhood sexual violence	13.5 (9.5 - 17.5)	2.5 (1.1 - 4.0)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

Table 4.1.2. Prevalence of different types of sexual violence [1] before age 18, among 18-24 year-olds – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females (n=613) % (95 % CI)	Males (n=658) % (95 % CI)
Sexual touching in childhood	8.1 (5.9 - 10.3)	1.3 (0.4 - 2.1) *
	Females (n=613)	Males (n=659)
Unwanted attempted sex in childhood	4.8 (3.6 - 5.9)	1.4 (0.3 - 2.4) *
	Females (n=615)	Males (n=657)
Coerced/alcohol facilitated sex [2] in childhood	4.8 (0.8 - 8.8) *	0.1 (0.0 - 0.4) *
	Females (n=615)	Males (n=660)
Physically forced sex in childhood	4.7 (0.7 - 8.7) *	0.1 (0.0 - 0.4) *

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

[2] Coerced or alcohol-facilitated sex includes: sex through verbal pressure, harassment, threats and tricks, or too drunk to say no to them.

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

Table 4.1.3. Age of the first experience of sexual violence [1], among 18-24 year-olds who experienced any sexual violence before age 18 – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females (n=69) % (95 % CI)	Males (n=18) % (95 % CI)
13 years or younger	35.4 (21.5 - 49.4)	13.1 (0.0 - 29.3) *
14-15 years	32.1 (9.2 - 55.0) *	19.4 (1.4 - 37.3) *
16-17 years	32.4 (19.5 - 45.4)	67.6 (44.3 - 90.9)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

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

Table 4.1.5. Mean age of the first experience of coerced/alcohol-facilitated or physically forced sex, among 18-24 year-olds who experienced coerced/alcohol-facilitated or physically forced sex before age 18 – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females (n= 18) Mean Age (95 % CI)	Males (n= 2) Mean Age (95 % CI)
Mean age of first experience of coerced/alcohol-facilitated [1] or physically forced sex in childhood	14.8 (13.9-15.7) years	15.5 (14.8-16.2) years

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Coerced or alcohol-facilitated sex includes: sex through verbal pressure, harassment, threats and tricks, or too drunk to say no to them.

Table 4.1.6. Age of the first experience of coerced/alcohol-facilitated or physically forced sex, among 18-24 year-olds who experienced coerced/alcohol-facilitated or physically forced sex before age 18 – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females (n=69) % (95 % CI)	Males (n=18) % (95 % CI)
13 or younger	35.4 (21.5 - 49.4)	13.1 (0.0 - 29.3) *
14-15	32.1 (9.2 - 55.0) *	19.4 (1.4 - 37.3) *
16-17	32.4 (19.5 - 45.4)	67.6 (44.3 - 90.9)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

Table 4.1.7. 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 – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females (n=70)	Males (n=17)
	% (95 % CI)	% (95 % CI)
Experienced multiple incidents of sexual violence in childhood	82.6 (73.8 - 91.4)	62.3 (37.0 - 87.6)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

Table 4.1.8. Prevalence of unwanted sex at first sexual experience, among 18-24 year-olds whose first sexual intercourse was before age 18 – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females (n=409)	Males (n=409)
	% (95 % CI)	% (95 % CI)
Unwanted sex at first sexual experience	9.9 (0.6 - 19.2) *	0.8 (0.0 - 1.8) *

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

Table 4.1.9. Perpetrators of the first incidents of sexual violence [1], among 18-24 year-olds who experienced sexual violence before age 18 – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females (n=69)	Males (n=17)
	% (95 % CI)	% (95 % CI)
Current or previous spouse/boyfriend/ girlfriend or romantic partner	18.7 (11.0 - 26.4)	14.8 (0.0 - 32.2) *
Family member	23.9 (13.2 - 34.6)	0.0
Friend/Classmate/Neighbor	33.8 (19.2 - 48.4)	64.2 (38.5 - 89.9)
Other [2]	34.2 (10.9 - 57.4) *	24.1 (1.7 - 46.4) *

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

[2] Other includes teacher, police/security person, employer, community/religious leader, stranger, or gang member.

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

Table 4.1.10. 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 – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

Perpetrator of sexual violence perceived to be 5 or more years older	Females (n= 63) % (95 % CI)	Males (n= 17) % (95 % CI)
Any sexual violence in childhood	65.0 (50.2 - 79.8)	29.3 (5.4 - 53.3) *
	Females (n= 18)	Males (n= 2)
Coerced/alcohol-facilitated or physically forced sex in childhood	63.3 (33.7 - 92.9)	49.2 (0.0 - 100.0) *

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

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

Table 4.1.11. Prevalence of more than one perpetrator during the first incident of sexual violence [1], among 18-24 year-olds who experienced sexual violence before age 18 – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females (n=71) % (95 % CI)	Males (n=17) % (95 % CI)
More than one perpetrator during the first incident of childhood sexual violence	11.6 (4.7 - 18.4)	6.8 (0.0 - 17.0) *

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

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

Table 4.1.12. Location of the first incident of sexual violence [1], among 18-24 year-olds who experienced sexual violence before age 18 – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females (n=69) % (95 % CI)	Males (n=18) % (95 % CI)
Home environment [2]	70.0 (57.5 - 82.5)	56.4 (32.5 - 80.3)
Other space [3]	31.4 (19.0 - 43.9)	49.2 (24.9 - 73.5)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

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

[3] Other space includes: road/street, lake, river or other body of water, field or other natural area, inside a car/bus, bar/restaurant/disco club, church, office, welcoming/detention center/migration stations, and other.

Table 4.1.13. Time of day [1] of the first incident of sexual violence, among 18-24 year-olds who experienced sexual violence before age 18 – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females (n=68) % (95 % CI)	Males (n=18) % (95 % CI)
Morning	54.4 (36.5 - 72.2)	41.6 (10.2 - 72.9) *
Afternoon	34.1 (19.9 - 48.3)	44.0 (15.6 - 72.4) *
Evening	24.4 (14.4 - 34.4)	21.0 (1.3 - 40.7) *
Late at night	0.0	0.0

Note: 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.

Table 4.1.14. Disclosure, service-seeking and receipt for any incident of sexual violence [1] and for coerced/alcohol-facilitated or physically forced sex, among 18-24 year-olds who experienced any sexual violence or coerced/alcohol-facilitated or physically forced sex before age 18 – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

Disclosure, service-seeking, and receipt of services for any incident of sexual violence

	Females (n=70) % (95 % CI)	Males (n=18) % (95 % CI)
Told someone about an experience of sexual violence	72.9 (61.4 - 84.4)	50.7 (29.2 - 72.1)
	Females (n=71)	Males (n=18)
Knew of a place to seek help about an experience of sexual violence	39.0 (24.4 - 53.5)	37.2 (10.1 - 64.3) *
Sought help for any experience of sexual violence (among those who knew of a place to seek help)	16.3 (7.8 - 24.7)	0.0
Received help for any experience of sexual violence	15.3 (7.6 - 22.9)	0.0

Disclosure, service-seeking, and receipt of services for any coerced/alcohol-facilitated or physically forced sex

	Females (n=18) % (95 % CI)	Males (n=2) % (95 % CI)
Told someone about coerced/alcohol-facilitated or physically forced sex	78.9 (60.0 - 97.9)	0.0

Knew of a place to seek help about coerced/ alcohol-facilitated or physically forced sex	31.4 (6.5 - 56.2) *	0.0
Sought help for any experience of coerced/ alcohol-facilitated or physically forced sex	21.4 (4.7 - 38.2) *	0.0
Received help for coerced/alcohol-facilitated or physically forced sex	21.4 (4.7 - 38.2) *	0.0

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

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

Table 4.1.15. Relationship with the person who was told about any incident of sexual violence [1], among 18-24 year-olds who experienced any sexual violence before age 18 and who told someone – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

Person who was told about sexual violence	Females (n=39) % (95 % CI)	Males (n=7) % (95 % CI)
Relative	78.8 (63.3 - 94.3)	53.2 (12.1 - 94.3) *
Spouse, boyfriend/girlfriend, romantic partner	5.3 (0.0 - 13.5) *	25.7 (0.0 - 59.6) *
Friend or neighbor	21.6 (5.1 - 38.1) *	21.2 (0.0 - 50.4) *
Service provider or authority figure [2]	1.1 (0.0 - 3.3) *	0.0

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

[2] Service provider or authority figure includes: NGO worker, teacher, employer, community leader, traditional healer, religious leader.

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

Table 4.1.16. Reasons for not seeking services for sexual violence [1], among 18-24 year-olds who experienced any sexual violence before age 18 and did not seek services – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

Reasons for not seeking services	Females (n=21) % (95 % CI)	Males (n=7) % (95 % CI)
Afraid of getting in trouble	30.2 (9.2 - 51.3) *	19.5 (0.0 - 53.3) *
Dependent on perpetrator	4.4 (0.0 - 13.0) *	0.0
Perpetrator threatened me	12.2 (0.0 - 25.3) *	0.0

Did not think it was a problem	43.6 (23.9 - 63.4)	53.3 (13.6 - 92.9) *
Did not need/want services	7.1 (0.0 - 17.1) *	27.3 (0.0 - 61.1) *
Services too far	2.4 (0.0 - 7.1) *	0.0

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

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

Table 4.2.1. Prevalence of any sexual violence [1] in the past 12 months, among 13-17 year-olds – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females (n=438) % (95 % CI)	Males (n=715) % (95 % CI)
Sexual violence in the past 12 months	6.6 (3.4 - 9.7)	2.7 (1.1 - 4.3)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

Table 4.2.2. Prevalence of different types of sexual violence [1] in the past 12 months, among 13-17 year-olds – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females (n=436) % (95 % CI)	Males (n=713) % (95 % CI)
Sexual touching in the past 12 months	4.8 (1.9 - 7.8) *	2.1 (0.7 - 3.5) *
	Females (n=437)	Males (n=715)
Unwanted attempted sex in the past 12 months	2.5 (1.1 - 3.8)	0.4 (0.0 - 1.0) *
	Females (n=437)	Males (n=713)
Coerced or alcohol-facilitated sex in the past 12 months	0.0	0.1 (0.0 - 0.3) *
	Females (n=436)	Males (n=713)
Physically forced sex in the past 12 months	0.2 (0.0 - 0.5) *	0.3 (0.0 - 0.8) *

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

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

Table 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 – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females (n=27)	Males (n=16)
	% (95 % CI)	% (95 % CI)
Experienced more than one incident of sexual violence	67.9 (47.6 - 88.3)	67.8 (34.5 - 100.0)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

Table 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 – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females (n=27)	Males (n=15)
	Mean (95 % CI)	Mean (95 % CI)
Mean age of first experience of sexual violence [1]	14.2 (13.3-15.1) years	14.0 (13.3-14.8) years

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

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

Table 4.2.5. Perpetrators of the most recent incidents of sexual violence [1], among 13-17 year-olds who experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females (n=27)	Males (n=16)
	% (95 % CI)	% (95 % CI)
Current or previous spouse/boyfriend/girlfriend or romantic partner	13.5 (0.3 - 26.7) *	20.7 (0.0 - 42.8) *
Family member	11.3 (0.0 - 22.6) *	0.0
Friend/Classmate/Neighbor	54.2 (27.9 - 80.4)	75.2 (54.0 - 96.4)
Other [2]	23.7 (6.5 - 40.9)*	0.0

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

[2] Other includes teacher, police/security person, employer, community/religious leader, stranger, or gang member.

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

Table 4.2.6. Perpetrators of sexual violence perceived to be 5 or more years older, among 13-17 year-olds who experienced sexual violence [1] in the past 12 months – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

Perpetrator of sexual violence perceived to be 5 or more years older	Females (n= 26) % (95 % CI)	Males (n= 14) % (95 % CI)
Any sexual violence in the past 12 months	47.1 (35.2 - 59.1)	7.3 (0.0 - 20.6) *
	Females (n= 2)	Males (n=3)
Coerced/alcohol-facilitated or physically forced sex in the past 12 months	53.4 (3.6 - 100.0) *	0.0

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

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

Table 4.2.7. Location of the most recent incident of sexual violence [1], among 13-17 year-olds who experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females (n=27) % (95 % CI)	Males (n=17) % (95 % CI)
Home environment [2]	39.7 (25.9 - 53.4)	34.2 (8.5 - 59.8) *
Other space [3]	63.0 (48.1 - 77.9)	61.7 (38.2 - 85.1)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

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

[3] Other space includes: road/street, lake, river or other body of water, field or other natural area, inside a car/bus, bar/restaurant/disco club, church, office, welcoming/detention center/migration stations, and other.

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

Table 4.2.8. 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 – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females (n=27) % (95 % CI)	Males (n=17) % (95 % CI)
Morning	48.5 (33.1 - 63.9)	52.4 (25.4 - 79.5)
Afternoon	48.8 (33.2 - 64.4)	49.7 (22.4 - 77.0)
Evening	7.0 (0.0 - 14.9) *	0.0

Late at night

0.0

0.0

Note: 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.

Table 4.2.9. Service-seeking and receipt for any incident of sexual violence [1] and for coerced/alcohol-facilitated or physically forced sex, among 13-17 year-olds who experienced any sexual violence or coerced/alcohol-facilitated or physically forced sex in the past 12 months—El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

Disclosure, service-seeking, and receipt of services for any incident of sexual violence

	Females (n=27) % (95 % CI)	Males (n=17) % (95 % CI)
Told someone about an experience of sexual violence	76.0 (60.4 - 91.6)	31.9 (3.4 - 60.4) *
Knew of a place to seek help about an experience of sexual violence	37.9 (10.0 - 65.9) *	46.9 (16.9 - 76.9) *
Sought help for any experience of sexual violence	14.8 (1.0 - 28.6) *	0.0
Received help for any experience of sexual violence	13.3 (0.0 - 27.2) *	0.0

Disclosure, service-seeking, and receipt of services for any coerced/alcohol-facilitated or physically forced sex

	Females (n=2) % (95 % CI)	Males (n=3) % (95 % CI)
Told someone about coerced/alcohol-facilitated or physically forced sex	53.4 (3.6 - 100.0) *	100.0 (100.0 - 100.0)
Knew of a place to seek help about coerced/alcohol-facilitated or physically forced sex	100.0 (100.0 - 100.0)	26.3 (0.0 - 76.5) *

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

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

Table 4.2.10. Relationship with the person who was told about any incident of sexual violence [1], among 13-17 year-olds who experienced any sexual violence in the past 12 months and who told someone – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

Person who was told about sexual violence	Females (n=17) % (95 % CI)	Males (n=6) % (95 % CI)
Relative	75.6 (54.8 - 96.5)	51.4 (0.0 - 100.0) *
Spouse, boyfriend/girlfriend or romantic partner	2.9 (0.0 - 8.7) *	0.0
Friend or neighbor	29.1 (8.5 - 49.6) *	48.6 (0.0 - 100.0) *
Service provider or authority figure [2]	9.3 (0.0 - 18.6) *	0.0

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

[2] Service provider or authority figure includes: NGO worker, teacher, employer, community leader, traditional healer, religious leader.

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

5. PHYSICAL VIOLENCE: PREVALENCE, PERPETRATORS, AND SERVICE SEEKING

Table 5.1.1. Prevalence of physical violence [1] before age 18, among 18-24 year-olds – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females (n=617) % (95 % CI)	Males (n=664) % (95 % CI)
Childhood physical violence	22.1 (17.9 - 26.2)	18.7 (14.3 - 23.1)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

Table 5.1.2. Prevalence of physical violence [1] before age 18 by perpetrator, among 18-24 year-olds – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females (n=545) % (95 % CI)	Males (n=533) % (95 % CI)
Intimate partner[2] physical violence	4.3 (2.8 - 5.9)	2.6 (0.8 - 4.4) *

	Females (n=615)	Males (n=662)
Parent or adult relative physical violence	14.3 (10.6 - 18.0)	7.0 (4.4 - 9.5)
	Females (n=617)	Males (n=664)
Physical violence by adult in the community	1.2 (0.2 - 2.2) *	5.5 (3.2 - 7.9)
	Females (n=615)	Males (n=664)
Peer physical violence	8.7 (5.9 - 11.5)	10.0 (7.1 - 12.9)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, 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.

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

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

Table 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 – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females (n=618)	Males (n=664)
	% (95 % CI)	% (95 % CI)
5 or younger	3.2 (1.3 - 5.1)	0.8 (0.2 - 1.5) *
6-11	7.3 (5.0 - 9.5)	6.5 (4.0 - 9.1)
12-17	89.6 (86.7 - 92.4)	92.6 (90.0 - 95.2)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, 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.

Table 5.1.4. Service-seeking and receipt for any incident of physical violence [1], among 18-24 year-olds who experienced physical violence before 18 – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females (n=121)	Males (n=122)
	% (95 % CI)	% (95 % CI)
Told someone about an experience of physical violence	59.6 (51.5 - 67.7)	46.7 (35.6 - 57.8)
Knew of a place to seek help about an experience of physical violence	38.6 (27.9 - 49.4)	39.3 (26.0 - 52.7)

Sought help for any experience of physical violence	10.2 (5.8 - 14.7)	5.8 (1.6 - 10.0) *
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Received help for any experience of physical violence	7.7 (3.7 - 11.7)	4.6 (0.7 - 8.5) *
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Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, 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.

Table 5.1.5. Relationship with the person who was told about any incident of physical violence [1], among 18-24 year-olds who experienced physical violence before age 18 who told someone – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

Person who was told about physical violence	Females (n=63) % (95 % CI)	Males (n=51) % (95 % CI)
Relative	77.9 (68.9 - 86.9)	77.1 (62.9 - 91.4)
Spouse, boyfriend/girlfriend or romantic partner	4.4 (0.0 - 10.1) *	2.1 (0.0 - 6.4) *
Friend/neighbor	14.1 (5.4 - 22.8) *	25.4 (11.0 - 39.8)
Service provider or authority figure [2]	13.8 (6.6 - 21.0)	8.8 (0.9 - 16.8) *

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

[2] Service provider or authority figure includes: NGO worker, teacher, employer, community leader, traditional healer, religious leader.

Note: Percents may sum to >100 % as categories not mutually exclusive.

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

Table 5.1.6. Reasons for not seeking services for physical violence [1], among 18-24 year-olds who experienced physical violence before age 18 and did not seek services – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

Reasons for not seeking services	Females (n=32) % (95 % CI)	Males (n=37) % (95 % CI)
Afraid of getting in trouble	26.8 (8.9 - 44.6) *	12.5 (1.3 - 23.7) *
Dependent on perpetrator	7.6 (0.0 - 15.9) *	0.0

Perpetrator threatened me	4.6 (0.0 - 11.3) *	3.9 (0.0 - 9.4) *
Did not think it was a problem	49.6 (26.6 - 72.6)	60.6 (36.5 - 84.7)
Felt it was my fault	2.5 (0.0 - 7.5) *	0.0
Did not need/want services	7.1 (0.0 - 15.1) *	17.8 (4.9 - 30.7) *
Services too far	1.9 (0.0 - 5.8) *	5.2 (0.0 - 14.6) *

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, 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.

Table 5.2.1. Prevalence of physical violence [1] in the past 12 months, among 13-17 year-olds – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females (n=436) % (95 % CI)	Males (n=716) % (95 % CI)
Physical violence in the past 12 months	11.8 (8.4 - 15.1)	10.5 (6.9 - 14.2)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

Table 5.2.2. Prevalence of physical violence [1] in the past 12 months by perpetrator, among 13-17 year-olds – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females (n=169) % (95 % CI)	Males (n=309) % (95 % CI)
Intimate partner [2] physical violence	0.0	0.6 (0.0 - 1.4) *
	Females (n=436)	Males (n=716)
Parent or adult relative physical violence	2.8 (1.2 - 4.3)	1.8 (0.8 - 2.8)
	Females (n=436)	Males (n=715)
Physical violence by adult in the community	1.5 (0.4 - 2.6) *	2.9 (1.6 - 4.2)
	Females (n=435)	Males (n=715)

Peer physical violence	8.0 (5.1 - 10.8)	6.8 (3.3 - 10.3)
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Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, 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.

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

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

Table 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 – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females (n=438) % (95 % CI)	Males (n=716) % (95 % CI)
5 or younger	0.9 (0.1 - 1.6) *	0.3 (0.0 - 0.7) *
6-11	1.3 (0.3 - 2.4) *	2.5 (1.2 - 3.7)
12-17	97.8 (96.6 - 99.1)	97.2 (95.9 - 98.6)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, 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.

Table 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 – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females (n=58) % (95 % CI)	Males (n=74) % (95 % CI)
Experienced injury as a result of physical violence in the past 12 months	40.8 (26.3 - 55.3)	49.8 (30.8 - 68.8)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

Table 5.2.5. 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, by perpetrator – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females (n=0) % (95 % CI)	Males (n=3) % (95 % CI)
Injured from intimate partner [2] physical violence	0.0	0.0

	Females (n=15)	Males (n=14)
Injured from parent or adult relative physical violence	56.5 (30.2 - 82.9)	37.6 (7.7 - 67.5) *
	Females (n=8)	Males (n=25)
Injured from physical violence by an adult in the community	19.6 (0.0 - 45.6) *	38.7 (18.6 - 58.8)
	Females (n=38)	Males (n=43)
Injured from peer physical violence	36.8 (17.9 - 55.7)	53.4 (27.1 - 79.7)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, 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.

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

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

Table 5.2.6. Service-seeking and receipt for any incident of physical violence [1], among 13-17 year-olds who experienced physical violence in the past 12 months – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females (n=59) % (95 % CI)	Males (n=75) % (95 % CI)
Told someone about an experience of physical violence	63.5 (52.9 - 74.2)	58.8 (42.2 - 75.4)
	Females (n=57)	Males (n=75)
Knew of a place to seek help about an experience of physical violence	38.1 (24.6 - 51.6)	33.6 (19.5 - 47.6)
	Females (n=57)	Males (n=75)
Sought help for any experience of physical violence	8.8 (1.4 - 16.3) *	13.1 (4.0 - 22.3) *
	Females (n=59)	Males (n=75)
Received help for any experience of physical violence	6.2 (0.0 - 13.2) *	12.2 (3.4 - 21.1) *

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, 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.

Table 5.2.7. Relationship with the person who was told about any incident of physical violence [1], among 13-17 year-olds who experienced any physical violence in the past 12 months who told someone – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

Person who was told about physical violence	Females (n=34) % (95 % CI)	Males (n=30) % (95 % CI)
Relative	78.8 (65.1 - 92.5)	93.7 (84.1 - 100.0)
Friend/neighbor	19.5 (9.1 - 30.0)	2.5 (0.0 - 7.7) *
Service provider or authority figure [2]	5.9 (0.0 - 14.7) *	10.8 (0.0 - 25.4) *

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

[2] Service provider or authority figure includes: NGO worker, teacher, employer, community leader, traditional healer, religious leader.

Note: Percents may sum to >100 % as categories not mutually exclusive.

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

Table 5.2.8. Reasons for not seeking services for physical violence [1], among 13-17 year-olds who experienced any physical violence in the past 12 months and did not seek services – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

Reasons for not seeking services	Females (n=17) % (95 % CI)	Males (n=20) % (95 % CI)
Afraid of getting in trouble	32.2 (8.9 - 55.6) *	13.3 (0.0 - 28.2) *
Embarrassed for self or my family	0.0	12.5 (0.0 - 30.6) *
Did not think it was a problem	25.8 (6.6 - 44.9) *	60.2 (34.0 - 86.4)
Felt it was my fault	15.4 (0.0 - 36.4) *	0.0
Afraid of being abandoned	9.2 (5.1 - 13.3)	0.0
Did not need/want services	17.4 (1.7 - 33.2) *	14.0 (0.0 - 33.2) *

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Physical violence includes: slapping, pushing, shoving, shaking, throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, 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.

Table 5.3.1. Prevalence of witnessing physical violence in the home [1] and in the community [2], among 18-24 year-olds before age 18 and among 13-17 year-olds in the past 12 months – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

Witnessed physical violence in childhood (among 18-24 year-olds)		
	Females (n=616)	Males (n=663)
	% (95 % CI)	% (95 % CI)
In the home	22.6 (18.2 - 27.0)	12.0 (9.1 - 14.9)
	Females (n=616)	Males (n=662)
	% (95 % CI)	% (95 % CI)
In the community	28.0 (23.2 - 32.8)	19.5 (15.2 - 23.8)
Witnessed physical violence in the past 12 months (among 13-17 year-olds)		
	Females (n=435)	Males (n=714)
	% (95 % CI)	% (95 % CI)
In the home	6.5 (4.0 - 9.1)	2.7 (1.5 - 3.8)
	Females (n=436)	Males (n=714)
	% (95 % CI)	% (95 % CI)
In the community	14.1 (11.3 - 17.0)	7.5 (4.0 - 10.9)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Witnessing physical violence in the home includes: hearing or seeing a parent or step-parent punch, kick or beat your other parent or step-parent or your brothers or sisters.

[2] Witnessing physical violence in the community includes: seeing someone get attacked outside of your home and family environment.

6. EMOTIONAL VIOLENCE

Table 6.1.1. Prevalence of emotional violence [1] by a parent, adult caregiver, or adult relative before age 18, among 18-24 year-olds – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females (n=597)	Males (n=656)
	% (95 % CI)	% (95 % CI)
Childhood emotional violence by a parent, caregiver, or adult relative	12.1 (9.2 - 14.9)	4.0 (2.2 - 5.7)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

Table 6.2.1. Prevalence of emotional violence [1] in the past 12 months by a parent, caregiver, or adult relative among 13-17 year-olds – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females (n=438)	Males (n=716)
	% (95 % CI)	% (95 % CI)
Emotional violence by a parent, caregiver, or adult relative in the past 12 months	8.1 (5.2 - 11.0)	2.4 (1.1 - 3.6)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

7. SEXUAL AND PHYSICAL VIOLENCE AMONG YOUNG ADULTS

Table 7.1.1. Prevalence of sexual violence [1] in the past 12 months, among 18-24 year-olds – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females (n=616)	Males (n=660)
	% (95 % CI)	% (95 % CI)
Sexual violence	4.8 (3.1 - 6.4)	1.6 (0.7 - 2.5)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

Table 7.1.2. Prevalence of different types of sexual violence [1] in the past 12 months, among 18-24 year-olds – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females (n=614)	Males (n=659)
	% (95 % CI)	% (95 % CI)
Unwanted Sexual touching	2.8 (1.0 - 4.6) *	1.3 (0.5 - 2.2) *
	Females (n=615)	Males (n=660)
Unwanted attempted sex	2.5 (1.3 - 3.6)	0.3 (0.0 - 0.7) *
	Females (n=616)	Males (n=658)
Coerced or alcohol-facilitated sex[2]	0.8 (0.3 - 1.2) *	0.1 (0.0 - 0.4) *
	Females (n=616)	Males (n=660)
Physically forced sex	0.6 (0.2 - 1.0) *	0.0

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

[2] Coerced or alcohol-facilitated sex includes: sex through verbal persuasion, harassment, threats and tricks, or too drunk to say no to them.

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

Table 7.1.3. Prevalence of experiencing more than one incident of sexual violence [1] in the past 12 months, among 18-24 year-olds who experienced at least one incident of sexual violence in the past 12 months – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females (n=28)	Males (n=13)
	% (95 % CI)	% (95 % CI)
Experienced multiple incidents of sexual violence in the past 12 months	88.1 (75.3 - 100.0)	92.0 (76.5 - 100.0)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

Table 7.1.4. Perpetrators of the most recent incidents of sexual violence [1], among 18-24 year-olds who experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females (n=28)	Males (n=13)
	% (95 % CI)	% (95 % CI)
Current or previous spouse, boyfriend/girlfriend or romantic partner	25.9 (7.2 - 44.7) *	47.3 (16.9 - 77.8) *
Family member	9.7 (0.0 - 22.3) *	0.0
Authority figure [2]	5.9 (0.0 - 14.1) *	0.0
Neighbor	11.5 (0.0 - 23.4) *	6.7 (0.0 - 19.9) *
Classmate/Schoolmate	0.0	7.8 (0.0 - 22.7) *
Friend	24.1 (7.6 - 40.5)	39.8 (10.9 - 68.8) *
Stranger	21.5 (14.3 - 28.8)	5.0 (0.0 - 15.0) *

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

[2] Authority figure: includes teacher, police/security person, employer, community/religious leader.

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

Table 7.1.5. Perpetrators of sexual violence perceived to be 5 or more years older, among 18-24 year-olds who experienced sexual violence [1] in the past 12 months – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

Perpetrator of sexual violence perceived to be 5 or more years older	Females (n= 25) % (95 % CI)	Males (n= 13) % (95 % CI)
Any sexual violence	51.6 (37.4 - 65.8)	12.7 (0.0 - 30.6) *
	Females (n= 5)	Males (n= 1)
Coerced/alcohol-facilitated or physically forced sex	31.5 (2.2 - 60.8) *	0.0

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

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

Table 7.1.6. Prevalence of more than one perpetrator during the most recent incident of sexual violence [1], among 18-24 year-olds who experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females (n=26) % (95 % CI)	Males (n=14) % (95 % CI)
More than one perpetrator during the most recent incident of sexual violence	24.3 (10.1 - 38.4)	17.7 (0.0 - 40.2) *

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

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

Table 7.1.7. Service-seeking and receipt for any incident of sexual violence [1], among 18-24 year-olds who experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females (n=28) % (95 % CI)	Males (n=14) % (95 % CI)
Told someone about an experience of sexual violence	62.3 (47.8 - 76.7)	24.4 (1.0 - 47.9) *
Knew of a place to seek help about an experience of sexual violence	47.7 (31.7 - 63.7)	42.1 (11.9 - 72.3) *
Sought help for any experience of sexual violence	3.7 (0.0 - 11.2) *	0.0

Received help for any experience of sexual violence 3.7 (0.0 - 11.2) * 0.0

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

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

Table 7.1.8. Reasons for not seeking services for sexual violence [1], among 18-24 year-olds who experienced any sexual violence in the past 12 months and did not seek services – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

Reasons for not seeking services	Females (n=13)	Males (n=5)
	% (95 % CI)	% (95 % CI)
Afraid of getting in trouble	46.7 (23.3 - 70.1)	0.0
Perpetrator threatened me	6.3 (0.0 - 18.5) *	0.0
Did not think it was a problem	40.4 (18.0 - 62.8)	64.7 (19.5 - 100.0) *
Did not need/want services	6.6 (0.0 - 19.3) *	35.3 (0.0 - 80.5) *

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

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

Table 7.2.1. Prevalence of physical violence [1] in the past 12 months, among 18-24 year-olds – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females (n=617)	Males (n=664)
	% (95 % CI)	% (95 % CI)
Physical violence in the past 12 months	7.1 (4.6 - 9.5)	7.0 (4.7 - 9.4)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

Table 7.2.2. Prevalence of physical violence [1] in the past 12 months by perpetrator, among 18-24 year-olds – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females (n=545)	Males (n=664)
	% (95 % CI)	% (95 % CI)
Intimate partner [2] physical violence	2.3 (1.1 - 3.5)	1.1 (0.3 - 1.9) *

	Females (n=617)	Males (n=664)
Physical violence by an adult in the community	1.0 (0.2 - 1.8) *	3.1 (1.4 - 4.7)

	Females (n=616)	Males (n=664)
Peer physical violence	3.3 (1.6 - 4.9)	3.5 (1.9 - 5.1)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

[2] Among those who have an intimate partner.

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

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

Table 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 – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females (n=35)	Males (n=44)
	% (95 % CI)	% (95 % CI)
Experienced injury as a result of physical violence in the past 12 months	68.2 (49.8 - 86.5)	22.9 (6.7 - 39.1) *

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

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

Table 7.2.4. 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 – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females (n=36)	Males (n=44)
	% (95 % CI)	% (95 % CI)
Told someone about an experience of physical violence	63.0 (43.0 - 83.0)	62.0 (43.7 - 80.3)
Knew of a place to seek help about an experience of physical violence	53.3 (33.1 - 73.4)	38.8 (21.7 - 56.0)
Sought help for any experience of physical violence	11.5 (1.7 - 21.3) *	6.3 (0.0 - 14.5) *
Received help for any experience of physical violence	8.5 (1.8 - 15.2) *	6.3 (0.0 - 14.5) *

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

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

Table 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 – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

Person who was told about physical violence	Females (n=21) % (95 % CI)	Males (n=22) % (95 % CI)
Told a relative	82.1 (65.9 - 98.4)	69.8 (45.4 - 94.2)
Told a spouse, boyfriend/girlfriend or romantic partner	7.8 (0.0 - 19.5) *	0.0
Told a friend/neighbor	3.6 (0.0 - 10.7) *	30.3 (6.6 - 54.1) *
Told a service provider or authority figure [2]	24.2 (5.9 - 42.4) *	8.4 (0.0 - 21.0) *

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

[2] Service provider or authority figure includes: friend, neighbor, service provider or authority figure including NGO worker, teacher, employer, community leader, traditional healer, religious leader.

Note: Percents may sum to >100 % as categories not mutually exclusive.

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

Table 7.2.6. Reasons for not seeking services for physical violence [1], among 18-24 year-olds who experienced any physical violence in the past 12 months and did not seek services – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

Reasons for not seeking services for physical violence	Females (n=12) % (95 % CI)	Males (n=14) % (95 % CI)
Afraid of getting in trouble	13.2 (0.0 - 37.2) *	13.0 (0.0 - 27.9) *
Embarrassed for self or my family	0.0	4.8 (0.0 - 13.5) *
Perpetrator threatened me	16.1 (0.0 - 38.3) *	0.0
Did not think it was a problem	58.4 (30.7 - 86.1)	55.7 (20.6 - 90.8) *
Did not need/want services	12.3 (0.0 - 28.3) *	12.4 (0.0 - 30.2) *

Services too far

0.0

14.1 (0.0 - 37.6) *

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

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

8. OVERLAP OF TYPES OF VIOLENCE

Table 8.1.1. Prevalence of different types of violence and multiple forms of violence experienced before age 18, among 18-24 year-olds – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

Any violence	Female (n=618) % (95 % CI)	Male (n=664) % (95 % CI)
No childhood violence	68.0 (63.5 - 72.4)	78.6 (73.9 - 83.3)
Any childhood violence	32.0 (27.6 - 36.5)	21.4 (16.7 - 26.1)
One type of violence only	Female (n=618) % (95 % CI)	Male (n=664) % (95 % CI)
Childhood sexual violence [1] only	5.6 (1.6 - 9.7) *	1.1 (0.1 - 2.1) *
Childhood physical violence [2] only	11.1 (8.0 - 14.1)	15.3 (11.4 - 19.2)
Childhood emotional violence [3] only	3.9 (2.5 - 5.3)	1.5 (0.5 - 2.4) *
Multiple types of violence	Female (n=618) % (95 % CI)	Male (n=664) % (95 % CI)
Two types of violence	7.8 (5.4 - 10.2)	3.3 (1.7 - 4.9)
Childhood sexual, physical, and emotional violence	3.6 (2.6 - 4.7)	0.2 (0.0 - 0.5) *

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

[2] Physical violence includes: pushing, shoving, shaking, throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, using or threatening with a gun, knife, or other weapon by intimate partner, parent/adult relative, adult in the community 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, or being ridiculed or put down by a parent, adult caregiver, or other adult relative.

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

Table 8.1.2. Prevalence of different types of violence and multiple forms of violence, among 13-17 year-olds – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

Any violence	Female (n=438) % (95 % CI)	Male (n=716) % (95 % CI)
No violence	80.5 (76.0 - 84.9)	86.6 (82.8 - 90.4)
Any violence	19.5 (15.1 - 24.0)	13.4 (9.6 - 17.2)
One type of violence only	Female (n= 438) % (95 % CI)	Male (n= 716) % (95 % CI)
Sexual violence [1] only	3.8 (0.9 - 6.7) *	1.9 (0.6 - 3.3) *
Physical violence [2] only	5.8 (3.7 - 7.8)	8.3 (5.0 - 11.7)
Emotional violence [3] only	3.9 (2.1 - 5.8)	0.9 (0.0 - 1.8) *
Multiple types of violence	Female (n= 438) % (95 % CI)	Male (n= 716) % (95 % CI)
Two types of violence	5.3 (3.0 - 7.6)	2.2 (0.9 - 3.5)
Sexual violence and physical and emotional violence	0.8 (0.2 - 1.4) *	0.0

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

[2] Physical violence includes: pushing, shoving, shaking, throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, using or threatening with a gun, knife, or other weapon by intimate partner, parent/adult relative, adult in the community 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, or being ridiculed or put down by a parent, adult caregiver, or other adult relative.

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

Table 8.1.3. Prevalence of different types of violence and multiple forms of violence experienced in the past 12 months, among 18-24 year-olds – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

Any violence	Female (n=618) % (95 % CI)	Male (n=664) % (95 % CI)
No Violence	86.1 (82.2 - 89.9)	91.1 (88.5 - 93.6)
Any Violence	13.9 (10.1 - 17.8)	8.9 (6.4 - 11.5)
One type of violence only	Female (n=618) % (95 % CI)	Male (n=664) % (95 % CI)
Sexual Violence [1] only in the past 12 months	2.5 (1.2 - 3.8)	0.9 (0.2 - 1.7)
Physical Violence [2] only in the past 12 months	3.6 (1.8 - 5.4)	6.1 (3.9 - 8.4)

Two types of violence	Female (n= 618) % (95 % CI)	Male (n= 664) % (95 % CI)
Sexual Violence and Physical Violence	1.3 (0.5 - 2.2)	0.4 (0.0 - 0.9)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

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

9. HEALTH CONDITIONS ASSOCIATED WITH VIOLENCE

Table 9.1.1.1. 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 – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Mental distress in the past 30 days	Binge drinking in the past 30 days [4, 5]	Current smoker	Drug use in the past 30 days	Ever intentionally hurt themselves	Ever thought of suicide	Ever attempted suicide [6]	Symptoms/ Diagnosis of STI [7]
	% (95 % CI)	% (95 % CI)	% (95 % CI)	% (95 % CI)	% (95 % CI)	% (95 % CI)	% (95 % CI)	% (95 % CI)
Sexual violence in childhood								
n	71	38	71	71	71	70	24	71
Experienced sexual violence	61.1 (40.5 - 81.7)	27.1 (15.0 - 39.1)	9.5 (4.2 - 14.8)	1.8 (0.0 - 4.5) *	14.7 (5.7 - 23.6) *	31.0 (17.4 - 44.5)	54.9 (34.2 - 75.5) *	6.9 (1.8 - 12.0) *
n	545	147	544	543	545	545	29	545
No sexual violence	52.1 (47.7 - 56.4)	16.5 (10.0 - 22.9)	4.8 (2.3 - 7.2)	0.2 (0.0 - 0.6) *	10.1 (6.7 - 13.5)	5.7 (3.5 - 8.0)	55.5 (36.1 - 75.0)	2.5 (1.4 - 3.6)
Physical violence in childhood								
n	121	58	121	121	121	120	26	121
Experienced physical violence	77.7 (69.8 - 85.6)	28.0 (17.0 - 39.0)	8.3 (2.9 - 13.7) *	1.1 (0.0 - 2.7) *	24.7 (15.8 - 33.5)	22.4 (13.9 - 30.8)	64.1 (43.6 - 84.7)	5.8 (2.3 - 9.4) *
n	496	128	495	494	496	496	27	496
No physical violence	46.5 (41.3 - 51.6)	13.7 (7.2 - 20.2)	4.6 (2.3 - 6.8)	0.2 (0.0 - 0.7) *	6.7 (4.2 - 9.3)	5.2 (3.2 - 7.3)	45.2 (28.9 - 61.6)	2.3 (1.2 - 3.4)
Emotional violence in childhood								
n	71	34	71	71	71	70	17	71
Experienced emotional violence	80.2 (70.9 - 89.5)	25.2 (11.9 - 38.6)	7.9 (1.2 - 14.7) *	0.9 (0.0 - 2.8) *	18.7 (9.4 - 28.1)	24.5 (14.1 - 34.8)	36.0 (14.0 - 58.1) *	6.5 (1.3 - 11.7) *
n	526	144	525	524	526	526	28	526
No emotional violence	48.2 (43.0 - 53.4)	16.4 (9.6 - 23.2)	4.6 (2.4 - 6.7)	0.4 (0.0 - 0.9) *	5269.2 (5.7 - 12.6)	5.7 (3.4 - 8.1)	74.4 (57.6 - 91.1)	2.5 (1.4 - 3.6)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and coerced or alcohol-facilitated sex (through verbal pressure, harassment, threats and tricks, or too drunk to say no to them).
 [2] Physical violence includes: pushing, shaking, throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, using or threatening with a gun, knife, or other weapon by intimate partner, parent/adult relative, adult in the community or peer.

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

[4] Binge drinking pertains to having more four or more drinks of alcohol (for female) or five or more drinks (for male) in a row on at least one occasion during the past 30 days.

[5] Among those who had ever had a drink.

[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.

Table 9.1.2. Health conditions and health behaviors associated with sexual [1], physical [2], or emotional [3] violence before age 18, among 18-24 year-old males – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Mental distress in the past 30 days	Binge drinking in the past 30 days [4, 5]	Current smoker	Drug use in the past 30 days	Ever intentionally hurt themselves	Ever thought of suicide	Ever attempted suicide[6]	Symptoms/ Diagnosis of STI[7]
	% (95 % CI)	% (95 % CI)	% (95 % CI)	% (95 % CI)	% (95 % CI)	% (95 % CI)	% (95 % CI)	% (95 % CI)
Sexual violence in childhood								
n	18	16	17	17	18	18	2	18
Experienced sexual violence	59.2 (38.8 - 79.7)	13.5 (0.0 - 30.1) *	2.7 (0.0 - 8.1) *	5.1 (0.0 - 15.3) *	10.8 (0.0 - 23.0) *	12.6 (0.0 - 29.2) *	0.0	0.0
n	642	306	642	642	642	642	17	642
No sexual violence	39.9 (34.2 - 45.6)	26.9 (15.1 - 38.7)	14.0 (10.7 - 17.4)	1.0 (0.2 - 1.9) *	5.0 (3.1 - 6.9)	2.1 (1.0 - 3.3)	44.0 (16.2 - 71.9) *	0.3 (0.0 - 0.7) *
Physical violence in childhood								
n	121	77	121	121	121	121	7	121
Experienced physical violence	41.9 (30.2 - 53.6)	27.8 (17.9 - 37.7)	13.0 (7.3 - 18.7)	4.4 (0.6 - 8.2) *	7.8 (2.2 - 13.5) *	4.9 (1.2 - 8.5) *	25.4 (0.0 - 57.3) *	0.7 (0.0 - 1.9) *
n	541	247	540	540	541	541	12	541
No physical violence	39.9 (33.7 - 46.1)	25.9 (11.4 - 40.4)	13.9 (10.1 - 17.8)	0.4 (0.0 - 0.9) *	4.5 (2.8 - 6.3)	1.8 (0.6 - 3.0) *	46.0 (11.4 - 80.7) *	0.2 (0.0 - 0.5) *
Emotional violence in childhood								

n	29	20	28	28	29	29	2	29
Experienced emotional violence	66.1 (45.5 - 86.8)	40.6 (19.0 - 62.2) *	18.6 (4.6 - 32.6) *	0.0	16.7 (3.4 - 30.0) *	7.3 (0.0 - 16.7) *	0.0	0.0
n	625	300	625	625	625	625	15	625
No emotional violence	39.2 (33.5 - 44.9)	24.9 (12.7 - 37.1)	13.6 (10.2 - 17.0)	1.1 (0.2 - 2.0) *	4.7 (2.8 - 6.6)	1.9 (0.8 - 3.0)	44.1 (13.8 - 74.4) *	0.3 (0.0 - 0.7) *

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and coerced or alcohol-facilitated sex (through verbal pressure, harassment, threats and tricks, or too drunk to say no to them).
 [2] Physical violence includes: pushing, shoving, shaking, throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, using or threatening with a gun, knife, or other weapon by intimate partner, parent/adult relative, adult in the community or peer.

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

[4] Binge drinking pertains to having more four or more drinks of alcohol (for female) or five or more drinks (for male) in a row on at least one occasion during the past 30 days.

[5] Among those who had ever had a drink.

[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.

Table 9.2.1. Health conditions and health behaviors associated with sexual [1], physical [2], or emotional [3] violence, among 13-17 year-old females – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Mental distress in the past 30 days	Binge drinking in the past 30 days [4, 5]	Current smoker	Drug use in the past 30 days	Ever intentionally hurt themselves	Ever thought of suicide	Ever attempted suicide[6]	Symptoms/ Diagnosis of STI[7]
	% (95 % CI)	% (95 % CI)	% (95 % CI)	% (95 % CI)	% (95 % CI)	% (95 % CI)	% (95 % CI)	% (95 % CI)
Sexual violence in the past 12 months								
n	27	8	27	27	27	27	9	27
Experienced sexual violence	75.9 (57.5 - 94.4)	6.4 (2.3 - 10.4) *	1.6 (0.7 - 2.4)	0.0	37.8 (18.9 - 56.7)	29.3 (16.2 - 42.4)	83.2 (58.8 - 100.0)	0.0
n	411	61	409	409	411	410	30	410
No sexual violence	46.3 (41.6 - 51.1)	6.0 (0.7 - 11.3) *	3.0 (1.1 - 4.9) *	0.0	14.6 (11.2 - 18.0)	7.8 (6.3 - 9.3)	50.3 (37.4 - 63.3)	0.8 (0.3 - 1.2)
Physical violence in the past 12 months								

n	59	17	58	59	59	17	58
Experienced physical violence	73.9 (63.3 - 84.5)	13.4 (0.0 - 27.6) *	3.6 (0.0 - 7.6) *	0.0	28.7 (19.0 - 38.4)	64.9 (41.3 - 88.5) *	0.9 (0.0 - 2.6) *
n	377	52	377	376	376	22	641
No physical violence	45.1 (40.6 - 49.6)	4.2 (0.0 - 8.9)	2.8 (0.9 - 4.7) *	0.0	6.7 (5.0 - 8.3)	52.8 (37.2 - 68.4) *	0.7 (0.3 - 1.1)
Emotional violence in the past 12 months							
n	44	17	43	43	44	12	43
Experienced emotional violence	80.4 (68.5 - 92.3)	6.7 (0.0 - 13.6) *	12.1 (4.3 - 19.9)	0.0	26.1 (15.6 - 36.6)	72.2 (50.5 - 93.9) *	1.3 (0.0 - 3.8)
n	394	52	393	393	393	27	394
No emotional violence	45.5 (41.1 - 49.8)	5.9 (0.3 - 11.5)	2.1 (0.5 - 3.7)	0.0	7.7 (6.2 - 9.3)	52.7 (36.8 - 68.7)	0.7 (0.3 - 1.1)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and coerced or alcohol-facilitated sex (through verbal pressure, harassment, threats and tricks, or too drunk to say no to them).
 [2] Physical violence includes: pushing, shoving, shaking, throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, using or threatening with a gun, knife, or other weapon by intimate partner, parent/adult relative, adult in the community or peer.

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

[4] Binge drinking pertains to having more four or more drinks of alcohol (for female) or five or more drinks (for male) in a row on at least one occasion during the past 30 days.

[5] Among those who had ever had a drink.

[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.

Table 2.2.2 Health conditions associated with sexual violence [1] or physical [2] or emotional [3] violence, among 13-17 year-old males – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Mental distress in the past 30 days	Binge drinking in the past 30 days [4, 5]	Current smoker	Drug use in the past 30 days	Ever intentionally hurt themselves	Ever thought of suicide	Ever attempted suicide[6]	Symptoms/ Diagnosis of STI[7]
	% (95 % CI)	% (95 % CI)	% (95 % CI)	% (95 % CI)	% (95 % CI)	% (95 % CI)	% (95 % CI)	% (95 % CI)
Sexual violence in the past 12 months								

n	17	5	17	17	17	17	17	2	17
Experienced sexual violence	79.5 (57.1 - 100.0)	32.5 (0.0 - 75.7) *	0.0	0.0	14.8 (0.0 - 33.0) *	6.8 (0.0 - 17.0) *	100.0 (100.0 - 100.0) *	100.0 (100.0 - 100.0) *	17 0.0
n	698	86	697	697	698	698	14	14	698
No sexual violence	42.0 (36.7 - 47.4)	14.8 (6.7 - 22.9)	7.5 (5.0 - 10.1)	1.1 (0.3 - 2.0) *	9.4 (5.6 - 13.2)	2.0 (0.9 - 3.1)	29.6 (5.8 - 53.4) *	29.6 (5.8 - 53.4) *	0.2 (0.0 - 0.5) *

Physical violence in the past 12 months

n	75	18	75	75	75	75	1	75
Experienced physical violence	73.2 (61.2 - 85.2)	24.8 (3.6 - 46.0) *	10.0 (2.5 - 17.6) *	1.2 (0.0 - 3.5) *	31.8 (10.0 - 53.7) *	1.2 (0.0 - 3.5) *	0.0	0.0
n	641	73	640	640	641	641	15	641
No physical violence	39.5 (34.0 - 44.9)	14.0 (5.1 - 22.9) *	7.0 (4.5 - 9.5)	1.1 (0.3 - 1.9) *	6.9 (4.5 - 9.3)	22.2 (1.0 - 3.4)	38.0 (12.7 - 63.3) *	38.0 (12.7 - 63.3) *

Emotional violence in the past 12 months

n	16	2	16	16	16	16	2	16
Experienced emotional violence	91.5 (79.2 - 100.0) *	46.8 (0.0 - 100.0) *	19.0 (0.0 - 39.7) *	0.0	16.9 (1.8 - 32.0) *	9.5 (0.0 - 21.4) *	100.0 (100.0 - 100.0) *	100.0 (100.0 - 100.0) *
n	700	89	699	699	700	700	14	700
No emotional violence	41.8 (36.4 - 47.3)	14.9 (6.6 - 23.1)	7.0 (4.6 - 9.5)	1.1 (0.3 - 1.9)	9.4 (5.6 - 13.2)	1.9 (0.8 - 3.0)	28.0 (4.6 - 51.4) *	28.0 (4.6 - 51.4) *

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Sexual violence includes: unwanted sexual touching, unwanted attempted sex, physically forced sex, and coerced or alcohol-facilitated sex (through verbal pressure, harassment, threats and tricks, or too drunk to say no to them).
 [2] Physical violence includes: pushing, shoving, shaking, throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, using or threatening with a gun, knife, or other weapon by intimate partner, parent/adult relative, adult in the community or peer.

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

[4] Binge drinking pertains to having more four or more drinks of alcohol (for female) or five or more drinks (for male) in a row on at least one occasion during the past 30 days.

[5] Among those who had ever had a drink.

[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.

Table 9.3.1. Pregnancy as a result of coerced/alcohol-facilitated or forced sex, among 13-24 year-old females who experienced coerced/alcohol-facilitated or forced sex – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females (n=31)
	% (95 % CI)
Pregnancy as a result of coerced/alcohol facilitated [1] or forced sex	9.2 (0.0 - 18.5)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Coerced or alcohol-facilitated sex includes: sex through verbal pressure, harassment, threats and tricks, or too drunk to say no to them.

Table 9.3.2. Ever missed school as a result of sexual violence [1] – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

Missed school due to an experience of sexual violence	Females (n=70)	Males (n=18)
	% (95 % CI)	% (95 % CI)
18-24 year-olds who experienced any childhood sexual violence	19.4 (8.5 - 30.3)	11.1 (0.0 - 26.8) *
	Females (n=26)	Males (n=17)
13-17 year-olds who experienced any sexual violence	7.8 (0.6 - 15.0) *	15.7 (0.0 - 35.5) *

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

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

Table 9.3.3. Ever missed school as a result of physical violence [1] – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

Missed school due to an experience of physical violence	Females (n=121)	Males (n=122)
	% (95 % CI)	% (95 % CI)
18-24 year-olds who experienced any childhood physical violence	29.2 (21.5 - 37.0)	10.4 (4.8 - 15.9)
	Females (n=58)	Males (n=75)
13-17 year-olds who experienced any physical violence	13.0 (4.6 - 21.3) *	32.3 (10.6 - 54.1) *

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

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

10. BELIEFS AND ATTITUDES ABOUT GENDER AND VIOLENCE AND VIOLENCE PERPETRATION

Table 10.1.1. Sexual risk-taking behaviors in the past 12 months, among 19-24 year-olds who had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females % (95 % CI)	Males % (95 % CI)
Two or more sex partners in the past 12 months	n [§] = 6 2.3 (1.4 - 3.1)	n = 51 22.3 (9.7 - 35.0)
Infrequent condom use in the past 12 months [1]	n = 5 88.1 (65.6 - 100.0) *	n = 24 61.3 (32.8 - 89.9)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Infrequent condom use: never or sometimes use condoms in the past 12 months.

[2] Transactional sex includes helping pay for things, gifts, food, school fees, or money in exchange for sex.

n[§] Represents the number of individuals 19-24 year olds who reported taking sexual risk behavior in the past 12 months.

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

Table 10.2.1. Attitudes about the acceptance of domestic violence [1] among 13-17 and 18-24 year-olds – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females % (95 % CI)	Males % (95 % CI)
Acceptance of one or more reasons for domestic violence, by age group		
	Females (n =437)	Males (n =716)
13-17 year-olds	5.7 (3.3 - 8.2)	5.2 (3.2 - 7.1)
	Females (n =618)	Males (n =663)
18-24 year-olds	4.0 (2.3 - 5.7)	5.3 (0.0 - 11.7)

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; is suspected of having an affair.

Table 10.2.2. Beliefs about gender, sexual practices, and intimate partner violence [1], among 13-17 and 18-24 year-olds – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females % (95 % CI)	Males % (95 % CI)
Endorsement of one or more beliefs about gender, sexual practices, and intimate partner violence, by age group		
	Females (n=437)	Males (n=712)
13-17 year-olds	37.3 (32.2 - 42.4)	48.1 (43.2 - 52.9)
	Females (n=618)	Males (n=664)
18-24 year-olds	25.6 (21.3 - 30.0)	37.3 (31.2 - 43.3)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Includes participants who endorsed one or more of the following: men decide when to have sex; men need more sex than women; men need other women; women who carry condoms are “loose;” women should tolerate violence to keep the family together.

Table 10.3.1. Physical violence [1] perpetration by age group – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females % (95 % CI)	Males % (95 % CI)
Physical violence perpetration		
	Females (n=437)	Males (n=716)
13-17 year-olds	4.5 (2.9 - 6.1)	3.0 (0.0 - 6.2)
	Females (n=617)	Males (n=664)
18-24 year-olds	8.2 (6.1 - 10.2)	1.9 (1.0 - 2.9)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

Table 10.3.2. Physical violence perpetration by experience of sexual violence [1] and physical violence [2] before age 18, among 18-24 year-olds – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

Physical violence perpetration by experience of childhood sexual violence		
	Females (n =71) % (95 % CI)	Males (n =18) % (95 % CI)
Experienced childhood sexual violence	29.9 (17.7 - 42.1)	10.6 (0.0 - 21.8) *
	Females (n =545)	Males (n =642)
No childhood sexual violence	4.8 (3.1 - 6.4)	1.7 (0.8 - 2.6)
Physical violence perpetration by experience of childhood physical violence		
	Females (n =121) % (95 % CI)	Males (n =122) % (95 % CI)
Experienced childhood physical violence	26.1 (18.5 - 33.7)	8.3 (4.2 - 12.3)
	Females (n =496)	Males (n =542)
No childhood physical violence	3.1 (1.5 - 4.7)	0.5 (0.0 - 1.0) *

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

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

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

Table 10.3.3. Physical violence perpetration by experience of sexual violence [1] and physical violence [2] in the past 12 months, among 13-17 year-olds – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

Physical violence perpetration by experience of sexual violence		
	Females (n =27) % (95 % CI)	Males (n =17) % (95 % CI)
Experienced sexual violence	0.0	13.8 (0.0 - 33.5) *

	Females (n =410)	Males (n =698)
No sexual violence	4.8 (3.1 - 6.5)	2.8 (0.0 - 5.9) *
Physical violence perpetration by experience of physical violence		
	Females (n =59)	Males (n =75)
	% (95 % CI)	% (95 % CI)
Experienced physical violence	9.1 (1.2 - 17.0) *	20.8 (0.0 - 45.1) *
	Females (n =377)	Males (n =641)
No physical violence	3.9 (2.5 - 5.3)	0.9 (0.2 - 1.7) *

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

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

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

Table 10.3.4. Intimate partner [1] violence perpetration [2], among 18-24 year-olds who ever had a partner – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females (n=545)	Males (n=534)
	% (95 % CI)	% (95 % CI)
Perpetrated physical intimate partner violence	5.7 (3.7 - 7.6)	0.9 (0.2 - 1.7) *

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Intimate partner includes: current or previous boyfriend, girlfriend, romantic partner, husband or wife.

[2] Violence includes: pushing, shoving, shaking, throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, using or threatening with a gun, knife, or other weapon, or forcing another person to have sex when they did not want to.

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

Table 10.3.5. Intimate partner [1] violence perpetration [2] by experience of sexual violence[3] or physical violence[4] before age 18, among 18-24 year-olds who ever had a partner – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females % (95 % CI)	Males % (95 % CI)
Intimate partner violence perpetration by experience of childhood sexual violence		
Experienced childhood sexual violence	n=66 18.7 (10.3 - 27.1)	n=18 2.5 (0.0 - 7.6) *
No childhood sexual violence	n=478 3.5 (1.5 - 5.5)	n=513 0.9 (0.1 - 1.7) *
Intimate partner violence perpetration by experience of childhood physical violence		
Experienced childhood physical violence	n=111 16.4 (9.8 - 23.1)	n=109 1.4 (0.0 - 3.4) *
No childhood physical violence	n=434 2.5 (0.8 - 4.2) *	n=425 0.8 (0.0 - 1.6) *

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Intimate partner includes: current or previous boyfriend, girlfriend, romantic partner, husband or wife.

[2] Violence includes: pushing, shoving, shaking, throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, using or threatening with a gun, knife, or other weapon, or forcing another person to have sex when they did not want to.

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

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

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

Table 10.3.6. Intimate partner [1] violence perpetration [2], among 13-17 year-olds who ever had a partner – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females (n=169) % (95 % CI)	Males (n=309) % (95 % CI)
Perpetrated physical intimate partner violence	5.6 (3.2 - 7.9)	0.5 (0.0 - 1.0) *

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Intimate partner includes: current or previous boyfriend, girlfriend, romantic partner, husband or wife.

[2] Violence includes: pushing, shoving, shaking, throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, using or threatening with a gun, knife, or other weapon, or forcing another person to have sex when they did not want to.

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

Table 10.3.7. Intimate partner [1] violence perpetration [2] by experience of sexual violence[3] or physical violence[4] in the past 12 months, among 13-17 year-olds who ever had a partner – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

Intimate partner violence perpetration by experience of sexual violence in the past 12 months		
	Females (n =18) % (95 % CI)	Males (n =11) % (95 % CI)
Experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months	0.0	0.0
No sexual violence in the past 12 months	6.2 (3.6 - 8.8)	0.5 (0.0 - 1.1) *
Intimate partner violence perpetration by experience of physical violence in the past 12 months		
	Females (n = 30) % (95 % CI)	Males (n = 47) % (95 % CI)
Experienced physical violence in the past 12 months	7.0 (0.0 - 16.6) *	1.0 (0.0 - 2.9) *
No physical violence in the past 12 months	5.3 (3.2 - 7.5)	0.4 (0.0 - 0.9) *

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Intimate partner includes: current or previous boyfriend, girlfriend, romantic partner, husband or wife.

[2] Violence includes: pushing, shoving, shaking, throwing something to hurt, punching, kicking, whipping, beating with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, using or threatening with a gun, knife, or other weapon, or forcing another person to have sex when they did not want to.

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

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

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

11. CHARACTERISTICS ASSOCIATED WITH VIOLENCE

Table 11.1. Characteristics of 18-24 year-olds by experience of sexual [1] and physical [2] violence in the past 12 months – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	n	Females % (95 % CI)	n	Males % (95 % CI)
Violence and orphan status (lost one or both parents in childhood)				
Sexual violence, among orphans before age 18	107	4.6 (1.0 - 8.2) *	107	0.4 (0.0 - 1.1) *
Sexual violence, among non-orphans	495	5.0 (3.1 - 6.9)	538	1.9 (0.8 - 3.0)
Physical violence, among orphans before age 18	107	11.5 (2.3 - 20.6) *	108	6.4 (1.1 - 11.8) *
Physical violence, among non-orphans	495	6.4 (3.9 - 8.9)	541	7.2 (4.5 - 9.9)
Violence and school attendance				
Sexual violence, among youth who completed primary school or less	12	0	20	0
Sexual violence, among youth who completed secondary school or more	586	4.9 (3.1 - 6.7)	610	1.3 (0.5 - 2.2) *
Physical violence, among youth who completed primary school or less	12	0	20	0
Physical violence, among youth who completed secondary school or more	587	6.2 (4.2 - 8.1)	614	7.3 (4.8 - 9.7)
Violence and working for money or other payment in the past 12 months				
Sexual violence, among youth who worked for money	208	9.0 (4.4 - 13.6)	371	1.5 (0.3 - 2.8)
Sexual violence, among youth who did not work for money	393	2.6 (1.0 - 4.2)	247	1.9 (0.4 - 3.5)
Physical violence, among youth who worked for money	208	7.0 (2.7 - 11.3)	371	7.5 (4.6 - 10.4)
Physical violence, among youth who did not work for money	394	6.9 (4.1 - 9.7)	248	6.0 (2.6 - 9.3)
Violence and witnessing violence at home				
Sexual violence, among youth who witnessed violence in the home before age 18	126	5.7 (1.9 - 9.5) *	90	3.8 (0.3 - 7.4) *
Sexual violence, among youth who did not witness violence in the home before age 18	489	4.5 (2.8 - 6.2)	569	1.3 (0.3 - 2.2) *
Physical violence, among youth who witnessed violence in the home before age 18	126	15.6 (5.8 - 25.4) *	90	12.7 (4.4 - 21.1) *
Physical violence, among youth who did not witness violence in the home before age 18	490	4.6 (2.6 - 6.5)	573	6.3 (3.9 - 8.6)

Violence and marriage or cohabitation				
Sexual violence, among youth who are married or cohabitating	314	3.8 (1.9 - 5.7)	175	0.3 (0.0 - 0.8) *
Sexual violence, among youth who are unmarried and not cohabitating	302	5.7 (2.2 - 9.1) *	485	2.0 (0.8 - 3.1)
Physical violence, among youth who are married or cohabitating	314	5.5 (2.8 - 8.2)	176	7.8 (2.7 - 13.0) *
Physical violence, among youth who are unmarried and not cohabitating	303	8.5 (4.2 - 12.8)	488	6.8 (4.3 - 9.3)
Violence and food or material insecurity				
Sexual violence, among youth who experienced food or material insecurity	463	4.8 (2.7 - 6.8)	510	1.1 (0.1 - 2.0) *
Sexual violence, among youth who did not experience food or material insecurity	153	4.8 (1.5 - 8.1) *	149	3.6 (0.9 - 6.2) *
Physical violence, among youth who experienced food or material insecurity	463	7.0 (4.2 - 9.7)	513	6.9 (4.4 - 9.5)
Physical violence, among youth who did not experience food or material insecurity	154	7.4 (4.0 - 10.8)	150	7.5 (2.3 - 12.8) *
Violence and sexual minority status[3]				
Sexual violence, among youth who identify as sexual minorities	1	0	7	7.7 (0.0 - 23.2) *
Sexual violence, among heterosexual youth	354	5.0 (3.0 - 7.1)	346	2.2 (0.5 - 3.9) *
Physical violence, among youth who identify as sexual minorities	1	0	7	24.5 (0.0 - 64.3) *
Physical violence, among heterosexual youth	354	6.4 (4.0 - 8.7)	346	10.4 (6.3 - 14.6)
Violence and receipt of remittances in the past 3 years [4]				
Sexual violence, among youth who received remittances	151	4.4 (1.2 - 7.7) *	103	0.6 (0.0 - 1.8) *
Sexual violence, among youth who did not receive remittances	464	4.9 (2.5 - 7.3)	556	1.7 (0.7 - 2.8) *
Physical violence, among youth who received remittances	151	7.1 (2.7 - 11.4) *	103	8.8 (2.7 - 14.9) *
Physical violence, among youth who did not receive remittances	465	7.1 (3.9 - 10.3)	560	6.8 (4.4 - 9.2)
Violence and separation from mother or father for 6 months or more in childhood [5]				
Sexual violence, among youth who were separated from one or both parents	188	3.9 (1.4 - 6.5) *	110	3.9 (0.0 - 8.1) *
Sexual violence, among youth who were not separated	415	5.1 (3.1 - 7.1)	539	1.2 (0.4 - 2.0) *
Physical violence, among youth who were separated from one or both parents	188	8.5 (3.9 - 13.2)	110	11.0 (4.1 - 17.9) *

Physical violence, among youth who were not separated 416 5.3 (2.6 - 7.9) 543 6.4 (3.9 - 8.9)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

[2] Physical violence includes: punching, slapping, kicking, whipping, lashing, poking with an object, choking, smothering, trying to drown, burning intentionally, using or threatening to use a gun, knife, screwdriver, softball bat, knobkerrie, gun, or other weapon.

[3] Sexual minority includes those who identify as homosexual/gay/lesbian or bisexual.

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

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

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

12. INSPIRE INDICATORS

Table N. Norms and values related to violence among 18-24 year-olds – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017

	Females (n=614) % (95 % CI)	Males (n=657) % (95 % CI)
Agreement with necessity of corporal punishment by parents	17.3 (13.9 - 20.7)	26.0 (21.6 - 30.3)
	Females (n=613)	Males (n=660)
Agreement with necessity of corporal punishment by teachers	3.2 (1.7 - 4.7)	7.8 (4.9 - 10.7)
	Females (n=618)	Males (n=663)
Attitudes about the acceptability of domestic violence	4.0 (2.3 - 5.7)	5.3 (0.0 - 11.7) *
	Females (n=618)	Males (n=664)
Beliefs about gender, sexual practices, and intimate partner violence	25.6 (21.3 - 30.0)	37.3 (31.2 - 43.3)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

Table S. Perpetrators of violence in the past 12 months who were also involved in community violence among 13-17 year-olds who experienced violence in the past 12 months – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017.

	Females (n= 34) % (95 % CI)	Males (n= 44) % (95 % CI)
Perpetrator of peer physical violence was also involved in community violence	24.4 (11.6 - 37.2)	42.0 (12.3 - 71.7) *

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

Table P. Parent and caregiver support and parent-youth relationships among 13-17 year-olds – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017

	Females (n=437) % (95 % CI)	Males (n=716) % (95 % CI)
Positive parental discipline by parents	51.7 (47.9 - 55.5)	39.7 (34.4 - 45.1)
	Females (n=418)	Males (n=682)
Closeness between mother and youth	90.8 (88.1 - 93.6)	93.5 (91.5 - 95.4)
	Females (n=409)	Males (n=665)
Easy to talk to mother	73.4 (68.5 - 78.3)	79.9 (75.8 - 83.9)
	Females (n=409)	Males (n=706)
Parent monitoring and supervision	94.8 (92.8 - 96.8)	79.9 (75.8 - 83.9)
	Females (n=437)	Males (n=716)
Physical discipline or verbal aggression by parents/caregivers in the past 30 days	16.5 (12.5 - 20.5)	9.7 (6.2 - 13.2)
	Females (n=433)	Males (n=715)
Exposure to violence against mother or stepmother in the past 12 months	3.5 (1.5 - 5.6)	1.2 (0.4 - 1.9) *

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

Table I.1 Income and economic strengthening among 13-17 year-olds – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017

	Females (n=432) % (95 % CI)	Males (n=697) % (95 % CI)
Food insecurity	27.0 (21.8 - 32.1)	29.4 (24.3 - 34.5)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

Table I.2 Income and economic strengthening among married or cohabitating 18-24 year-olds – who worked in the past 12 months - El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017

	Females (n=104) % (95 % CI)	Males (n=134) % (95 % CI)
Women’s economic empowerment: decision-making among married or cohabitating women who worked for money or other payment in the past 12 months	93.5 (90.2 - 96.7)	NA
Men economic empowerment of partners: partner or both make decision about how money earned will be used, among married or cohabitating men who worked for money or other payment in the past 12 months	NA	17.9 (8.3 - 27.4)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

Table E.1 Education and life skills among 13-17 year-olds – El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017

	Females (n=435) % (95 % CI)	Males (n=711) % (95 % CI)
Current school enrollment	79.5 (74.5 - 84.5)	85.7 (82.4 - 89.0)
	Females (n=69)	Males (n=91)
Binge drinking in the past 30 days [1]	6.1 (1.4 - 10.7)	15.8 (7.8 - 23.9)
	Females (n=437)	Males (n=716)
Physical fighting in the past 12 months	5.2 (3.5 - 6.9)	7.6 (4.9 - 10.4)
	Females (n=437)	Males (n=716)
Bullying victimization in the past 30 days	11.6 (9.0 - 14.2)	12.0 (9.2 - 14.8)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

[1] Binge drinking pertains to having four or more drinks of alcohol (for female) or five or more drinks of alcohol (for male) in a row on at least one occasion during the past 30 days; among those who ever had a drink.

**Table E.2 Education and life skills among 18-24 year-olds –
El Salvador Violence Against Children Survey (VACS), 2017**

	Females (n=411) % (95 % CI)	Males (n=409) % (95 % CI)
Early sexual debut: first sex before age 15	13.2 (7.1 - 19.3)	12.4 (9.0 - 15.7)
	Females (n=416)	NA
Early pregnancy: pregnant before age 18	26.1 (21.2 - 31.1)	NA
	Females (n=71)	Males (n=23)
Child marriage: married before age 18	9.1 (0.1 - 18.2)	4.6 (0.0 - 13.1) *

Note: CI = confidence interval.

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

APPENDIX B: SUPPLEMENTARY SAMPLING METHODS

The El Salvador Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS) was a nationally representative household survey of all non-institutionalized (i.e. only populations living in households), females and males ages 13-24 years designed to produce national estimates of childhood sexual, physical, and emotional violence.

B.1. STUDY DESIGN AND SAMPLING

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 either to reduce potential recall bias for childhood experiences, or the inability to recall events in the past accurately.

B.2. STAGES OF SELECTION

The sampling frame was originally compiled by the General Directorate of Statistics and Census (DIGESTYC, in Spanish *Dirección General de Estadística y Censos*) based on the 2007 national census. The master frame for the El Salvador VACS included 10,055 enumeration areas (EAs) out of 12,423 from the census. The EAs in the master frame were selected to be representative of the country. The VACS utilized a three-stage stratified sample design. In the first stage, a total of 281 EAs were selected randomly from the master frame; 94 were assigned to be female EAs and 187 were assigned to be male EAs.

In the second stage, the sampling plan was to select a fixed number of 27 households using equal probability systematic sampling within each EA. This was accomplished in approximately 48 % of the sample. EAs that were considered small (e.g. those with a total of less than 50 households overall), were excluded from the study to protect participants' confidentiality because of the low geographic dispersion. However, during fieldwork there were inconsistencies in how the households were sampled, due mostly to community violence in certain EAs throughout the country. This situation either prevented teams from visiting those EAs affected by violence or restricted the time that teams had to complete the surveys within them. As a consequence of these security issues, about 27 % of the sampled EAs had fewer than 27 households sampled (in addition to EA loss). In order to control the cost of the survey and as a way to adapt to the security situation that affected fieldwork as well as to protect

the survey teams, a decision was made to sample more than 27 households in the remainder of the EAs (approximately 24 % of EAs). This situation means that when weighing the data, the estimations will be biased towards those convenient-to-reach individuals. In this survey, 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. These probabilities take into account (1) varying household selection probabilities and (2) non-response adjustments due to sample loss (e.g. loss of EAs). In the last stage, one eligible participant (female or male depending on the selected EA) 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 PROCEDURE

Applying sample weights in data analysis compensates for the differences in probability of selection of individuals who completed VACS. The sample weights allow inferences to be drawn about the total population of children and youth in an approximately unbiased way. With weighting, each individual participant "represents" a number of other individuals in the population, based on their probability of selection during the sampling procedure. 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 rates in the sample; and (Step 3) post-stratification calibration adjustment of weights to known population totals.

B.3.1. BASE WEIGHT

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 EAs, gender specification, selection of households, and selection of eligible individuals.

B.3.2. NON-RESPONSE WEIGHT

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 EAs, households, and participants. The EA-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 gender (female/male) and department in El Salvador.

B.3.3. EA-LEVEL RESPONSE RATE

Although 281 EAs were selected for the survey, due to violence and gang activity, interviewers were not allowed to enter 43 of the selected EAs. Of those, 8 were female EAs and 35 were male EAs. The fact that surveyors were not allowed to enter these areas was treated as EA-level non-response, essentially equivalent to a refusal at the community level. These missing EAs were entered as missing in the non-response weighting procedure. The EA-level weighting-class adjustment was computed as one divided by the weighted EA response rate for each weighting-class. Furthermore, there were 9 EAs (2 female and 7 male) where interviewers were not able to complete any surveys because they had a low number of eligible individuals in the selected households (approximately 1.22 per EA, with three having zero eligible individuals). Thus, these EAs were dropped from analysis.

B.3.4. HOUSEHOLD-LEVEL RESPONSE RATE

Using the household disposition codes, the household-level response rates were computed separately for each weighting-class using the formula below.

$$\text{Individual-Level Response Rate} = \frac{[1]}{([1]+[2]+[3]+[4])}$$

Where:

- [1] = Completed household survey, 1 person selected
- [2] = Completed household survey, no eligible in household
- [3] = Unoccupied/Abandoned
- [4] = No one home
- [5] = Demolished
- [6] = Household refusal

The corresponding household-level weighting-class adjustment was computed as one divided by the weighted household response rate for each weighting-class.

B.3.5. PERSON-LEVEL RESPONSE RATE

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.

$$\text{Household-Level Response Rate} = \frac{[1]+[2]}{([1]+[2]+[4]+[6])}$$

Where:

- [1] = Completed individual survey
- [2] = Selected participant refusal
- [3] = Incomplete
- [4] = Not available
- [5] = Does not speak study language/disability

B.3.6. POST-STRATIFICATION WEIGHT

In the final stage of the weighting process (Step 3), calibration adjustment was done to adjust weights to conform to the 2007 population census data distributed by sex. Weighting-classes for post-stratification were formed using gender (female/male) and department of El Salvador, as in the case of the non-response weights.

B.3.7. FINAL 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).

B.3.8. STATISTICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Statistical significance in this survey is based on the comparison of the confidence intervals around two estimates. When the confidence intervals do not overlap it is considered that they are statistically significant.

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