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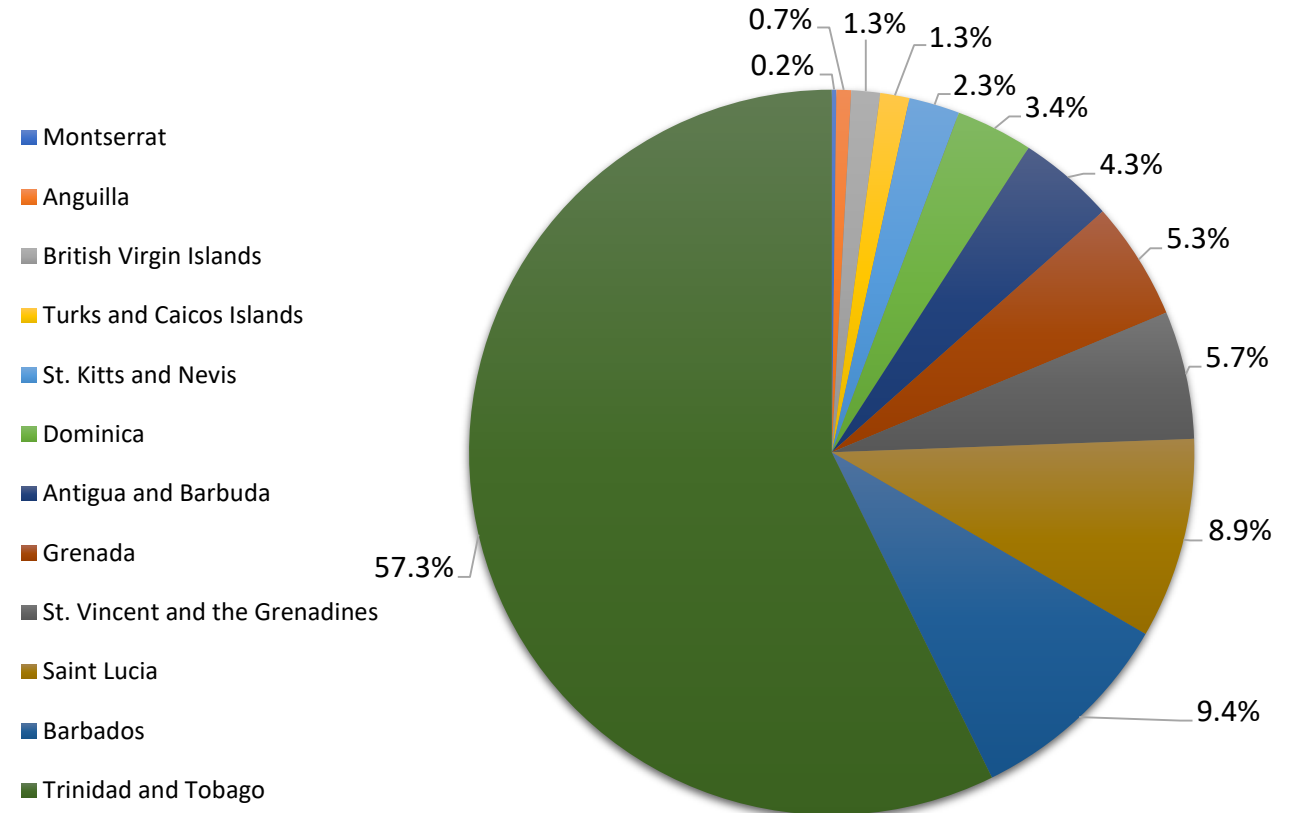
18 June 2020

## Violence Against Children (VAC) in the Eastern Caribbean Area

# Eastern Caribbean Area (ECA) overview

- The ECA consists of 12 islands: 8 Independent States and 4 UK Overseas Territories
- Collectively the ECA population is about 2.3 million, of which 26% are children (>576,000).
- Of this total (576,000), approximately 292,000 are boys and 284,000 are girls.

Distribution children <18 in ECA



Source: Population and Housing Census 2010-2011

# Three main types of VAC in the ECA

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- Sexual violence against girls and boys
- Corporal punishment against girls and boys
- Peer on Peer Bullying (physical & verbal; cyber bullying)

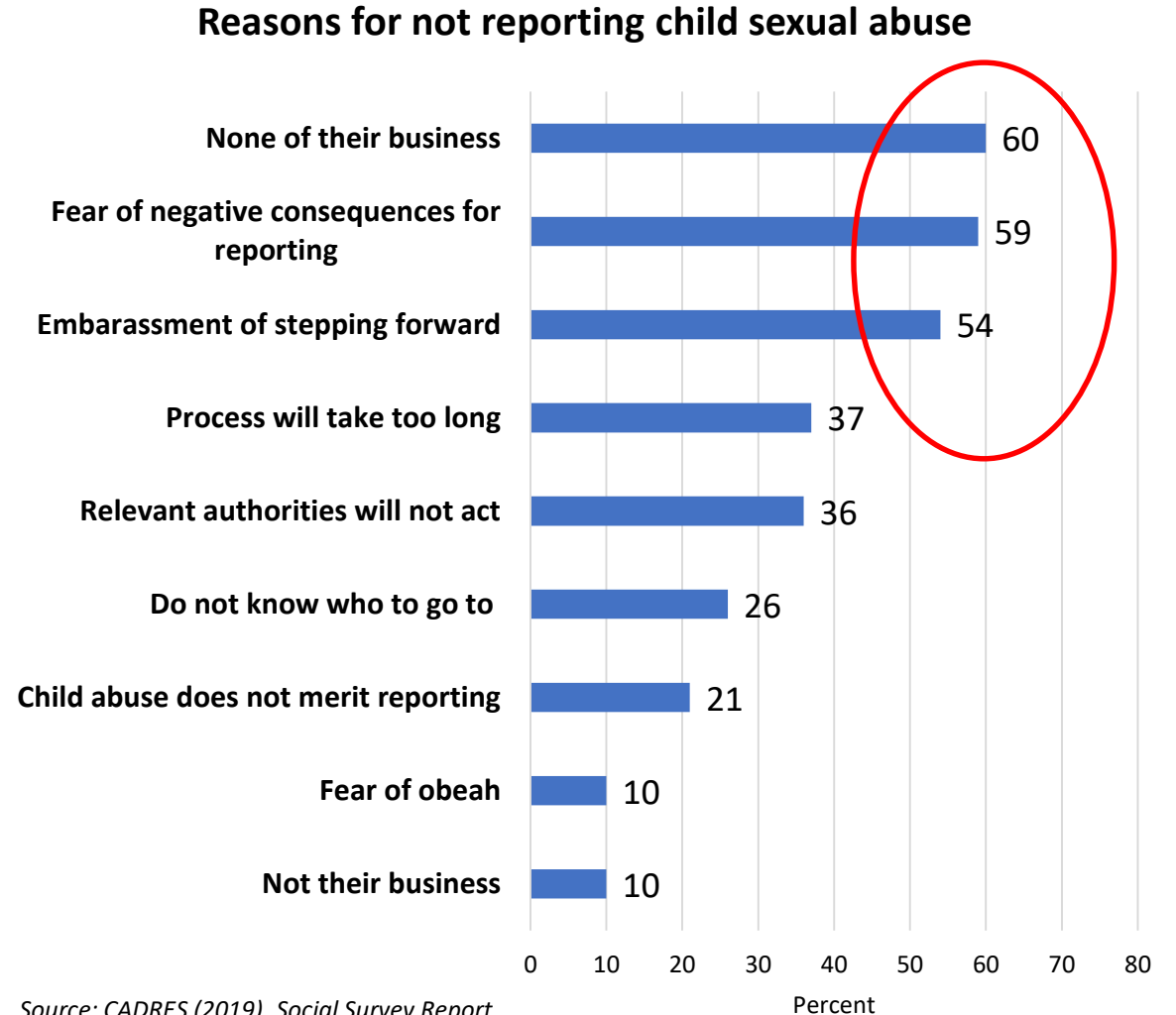
# Sexual violence against girls and boys

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# Sexual violence against girls and boys

- About 2,600 cases of child sexual abuse were reported in a single year in the ECA (7 countries), representing 35% of all categories of reports
- 61% of persons would report the incident, 27% would seek help for the child
- Most common reasons for not reporting: belief that it is none of their business (60%), fear of negative consequences (59%), and embarrassment of stepping forward (54%).
- Occurs within the 'circle of trust'.

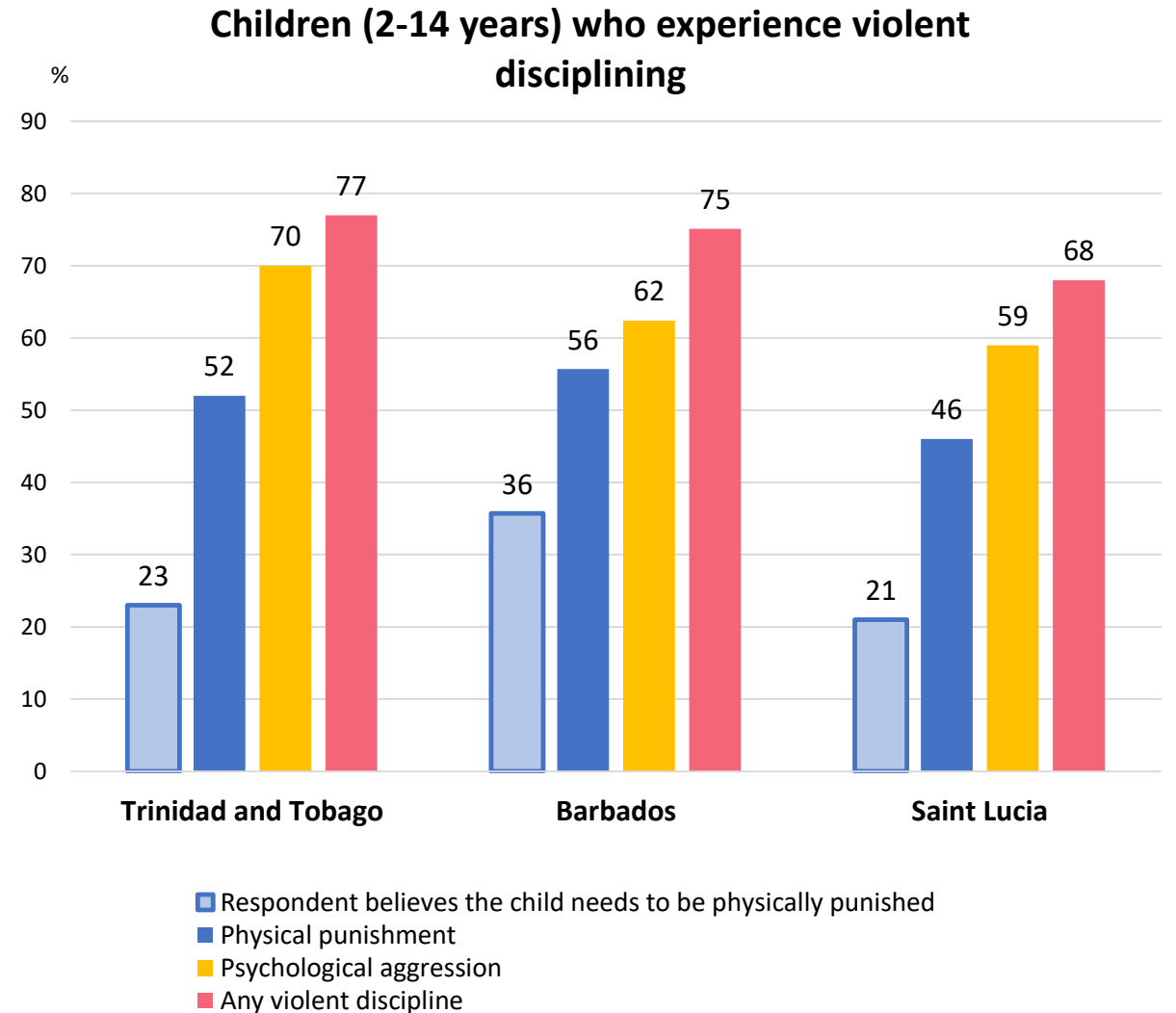


# Violent disciplining of children

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# Violent disciplining of children

- 70% of children in TNT, BAR and SLU experienced some form of violence as a means of disciplining.
- 5 out of 10 children experienced physical punishment and 6 or more out of 10 experienced psychological aggression.
- Only a quarter of caretakers in TNT and in SLU, and one third in BAR believe that a child needs to be physically punished for disciplining.

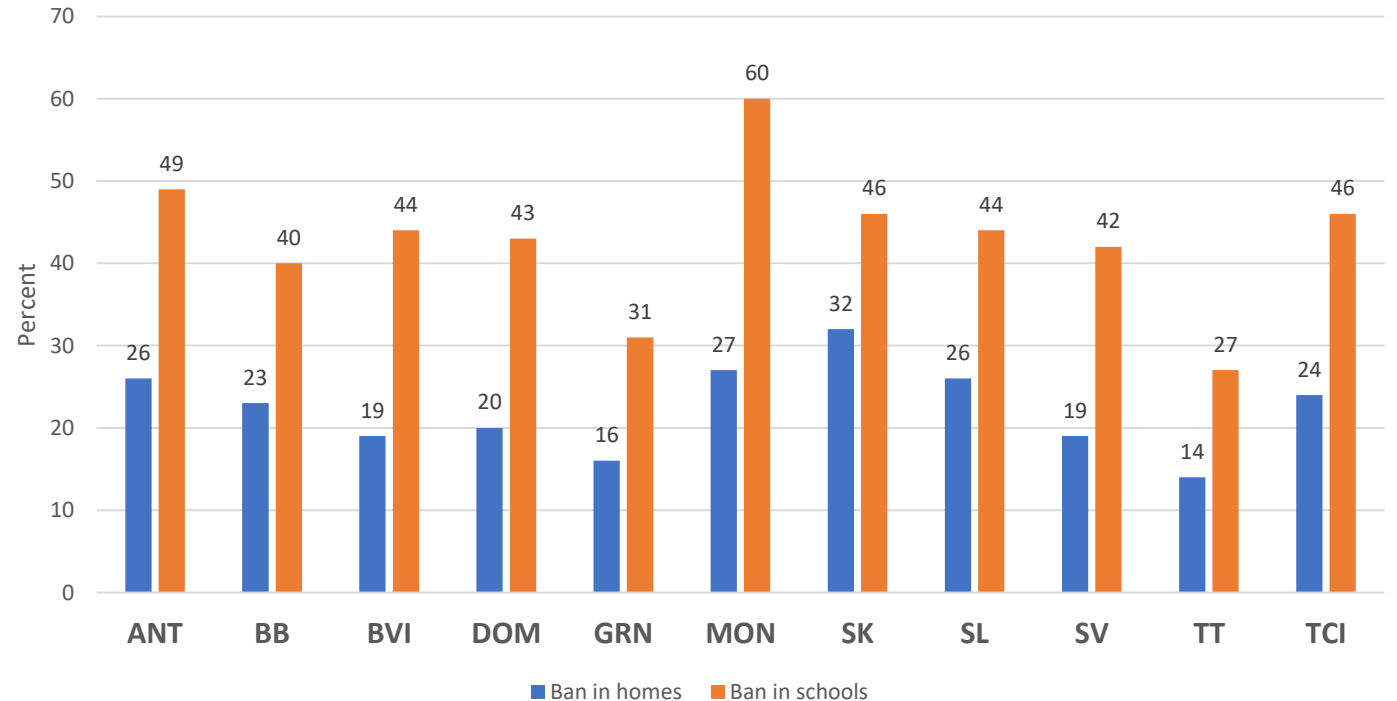


Source: Barbados 2012 MICS, Saint Lucia 2012 MICS, Trinidad & Tobago 2012 MICS.

# Corporal punishment against girls and boys

- On average, more persons in ECA countries and territories support the banning of corporal punishment in schools (44%) compared to those who support its ban in homes (22%).
- Governments have been most proactive in banning the use of corporal punishment as a sentence, than in any other setting.

Support for banning corporal punishment in homes and schools (2016-2019)



*Sources:*

CADRES (2019). Social Survey Report - Anguilla, Antigua, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, St. Vincent  
CADRES (2016). Knowledge and Attitudes Among Adults and Children on Gender-Based Violence in Trinidad and Tobago  
Public Opinion Survey on Child Safeguarding in Montserrat, 2017  
Social Survey, Public Opinion Survey on Child Safeguarding in British Virgin Islands, 2017



# Legal Status of Corporal Punishment

Country	Six Settings for Banning of Corporal Punishment					
	Home	Alternative Care	Day Care	Schools	Penal Institutions	Sentencing
<b>Anguilla</b>	No	No	Some	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Antigua &amp; Barbuda</b>	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
<b>Barbados</b>	No	No	Some	No	No	No
<b>British Virgin Islands</b>	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
<b>Dominica</b>	No	No	Some	No	No	No
<b>Grenada</b>	No	Some	No	No	No	Yes
<b>Montserrat</b>	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
<b>St. Kitts &amp; Nevis</b>	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
<b>St. Lucia</b>	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
<b>St. Vincent &amp; the Grenadines</b>	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
<b>Trinidad and Tobago</b>	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Turks &amp; Caicos Islands</b>	No	No	No	No	No*	Yes

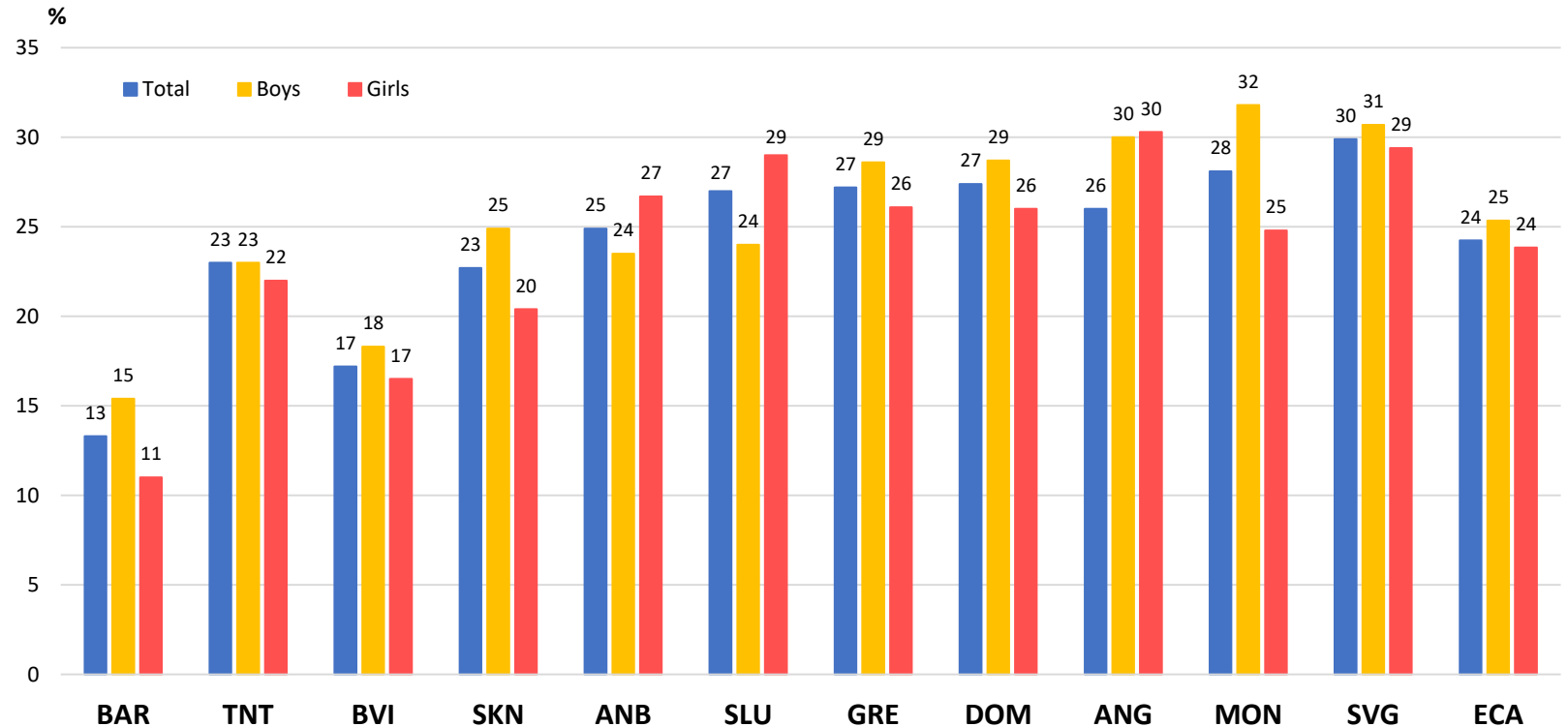
# Peer on Peer Bullying

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# Peer on Peer Bullying

- 1 in 4 secondary school children in ECA countries and territories experienced bullying on at least one day during the past month.
- Bullying rate ranges from 13% in BAR to 30% in SVG, and bullying by sex is a mixed pattern across Eastern Caribbean countries.
- In the Caribbean of students 13-15 years old, 25% have been harassed, 38.5% have been involved in physical fights, and have been physically attacked.

Children (13-15 years) who experienced bullying



Source: 2016 Anguilla GSHS, 2009 Antigua and Barbuda GSHS, 2011 Barbados GSHS, 2009 British Virgin Islands GSHS, 2009 Dominica GSHS, 2008 Grenada GSHS, 2008 Monserrat GSHS, 2011 Saint Kitts and Nevis GSHS, 2018 Saint Lucia GSHS, 2018 Saint Vincent and the Grenadines GSHS, 2017 Trinidad and Tobago GSHS

# Gender Analysis on VAC

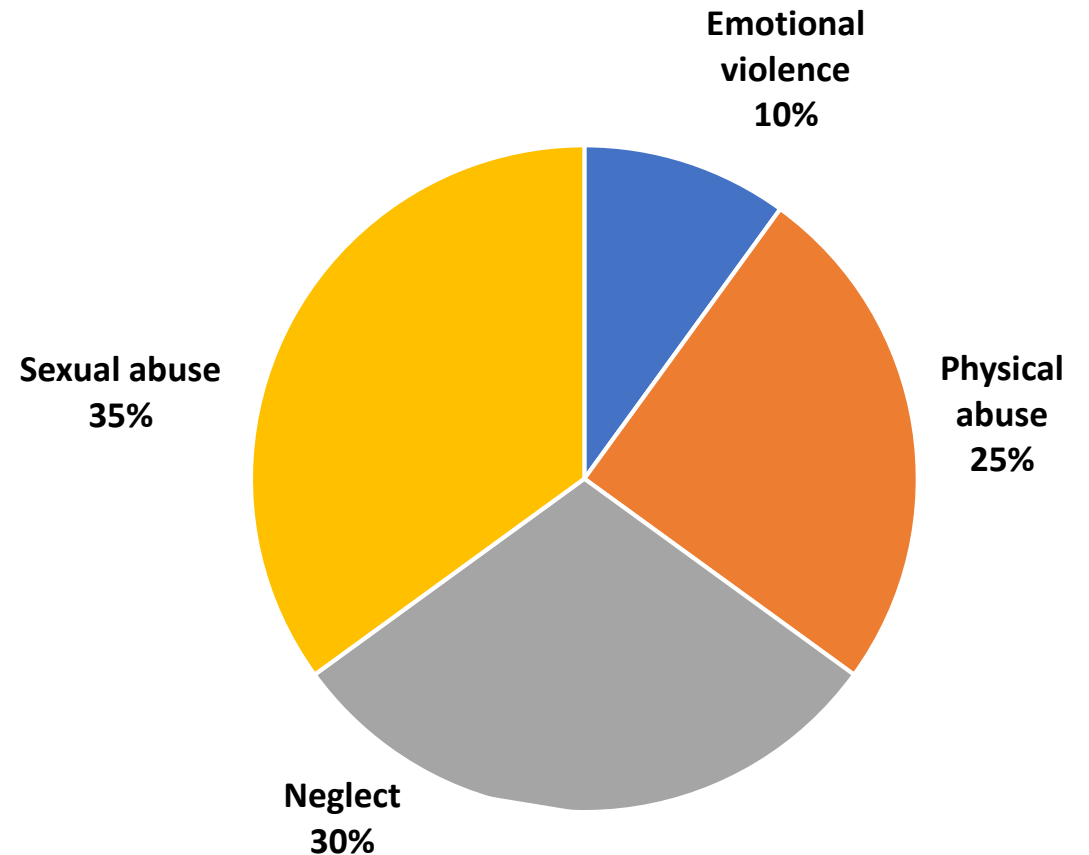
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# ECA Gender Analysis of VAC

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- Around 90% of sexual abuse victims were girls 12-16 age group. Virtually all perpetrators were male and known to the victim; around two thirds were the victim's boyfriend or a family member.
- Victims of child neglect and physical/emotional abuse are evenly split between girls and boys. Around 80% of the perpetrators were the mothers, nearly all of whom were single parents, and over half were unemployed.
- Almost all male inmates in Barbados reported receiving corporal punishment as children and slightly more than half witnessed violence against their mother.

Reported cases of child abuse in the ECA



# ECA Gender Analysis of VAC

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- UNESCO Study 2018 found that boys are more likely to be involved in physical fights, while girls suffer more cyberbullying.
- Cyberbullying appears to be growing exponentially and is one that generates a lot of concern.



# UNICEF Call To Action for Governments

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Record and review the **kinds of violence** faced by girls and boys



Identify the main **sites of violence** for both girls and boys



Note the main **perpetrators of violence** against girls and boys



Recognise the **link between violence against women** and violence against girls and boys



Acknowledge the **link between the involvement of male youth and men in crime** and its link to violence against girls and boys

For more information, please contact

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