Child Helpline International (CHI) is the global network of child helplines in 136 countries (as of August 2012), which together receive **over 14 million contacts** a year from children and young people in need of care and protection. CHI supports the creation and strengthening of national toll-free child helplines worldwide, and uses child helpline data and knowledge to highlight gaps in child protection systems and advocate for the rights of children.
CHI's work is firmly grounded in the principles and values enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC), especially children’s right to privacy and protection from harm. To this end, all identifying details and information about individual children cited in this report have been removed or altered to protect them and to ensure their privacy.

This report is based on the analysis of information received from child helplines in the CHI network through CHI’s data questionnaire and the CHI VAC questionnaire. The conclusions and statements are based on this information and they do not capture the full scope of practices and policies of all countries and cases handled by child helplines and other child protection organisations at the national level.

The percentages in the cells of tables and graphs in this publication have been rounded to a maximum of two significant figures and do not make use of decimal notation. As a result, the percentages of the individual (sub-)categories do not always add up to one hundred percent, although the total percentage will show this figure.
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Executive Summary

In 2011, child helplines around the world received nearly 13.8 million contacts (not including website visits)* from children and concerned adults. Children contact child helpline voluntarily and directly to speak about the issues they face. These can be small and big, incidental or structural. No matter a child’s background, socio-economic status, ethnicity, religion, culture or location, child helplines listen, provide counselling and if needed referral to other child protection organisations. Where necessary, child helplines also provide additional services such as shelter, education, legal support, alternative care and rehabilitation.

As a result of their work, child helplines have access to unprecedented, unadulterated information about the problems of the world’s children. Since its foundation in 2003, Child Helpline International (CHI) has collected and collated this information - on the reasons why children contact child helplines - from its members worldwide. The Violence Against Children Report deals with contacts received by child helplines on abuse and violence suffered by children everywhere. CHI uses this and other such data reports to help highlight and make visible the problems children face.

This is the sixth edition of CHI’s Violence Against Children Report. It is based on data submitted by 101 child helplines for CHI’s annual data questionnaire and 71 child helplines for the dedicated CHI Violence Against Children questionnaire. This report outlines the different forms of abuse suffered by children, trends across Human Development Index (HDI) levels and regions, as well as information about the demographics of the victims and perpetrators and the relationships between them. The analysis presented brings the contacts that child helplines receive to life, providing critical insight and pivotal information for all those working toward better child protection.

* Including website visits, child helplines in the CHI network received 22.8 million contacts from children in need.
Abuse worldwide
One in seven contacts received by child helplines worldwide in 2011 dealt with a case of violence against children. This once again made abuse and violence one of the most common reasons worldwide for children to contact a child helpline. The five main forms of abuse seen were: physical abuse (29%), bullying (26%), sexual abuse (20%), neglect (14%) and emotional abuse (11%).

Of all of the contacts made to child helplines about abuse and violence against children, just under two thirds involved the abuse of girls and just over a third were about the abuse of boys. A large proportion of contacts on physical abuse was made by children whose gender identity could not ascertained. In 58% of the reported cases the perpetrator was indicated to be male, whereas in 42% of contacts female perpetrators were involved. The distribution of perpetrator gender varied according to the form of abuse. Half of the reported emotional abuses cases involved male perpetrators and half female perpetrators. In contrast, more than three quarters of the reported sexual abuse cases involved a male perpetrator.

Family violence
Family members remain the most common perpetrator group of abuse and violence against children. Overall, nearly two thirds of abuse cases recorded by child helplines in 2011 involved a member of the child’s family. In seven out of ten cases of neglect and physical abuse a family member was identified as being responsible. Members of a child’s immediate family (parents, siblings) were identified as the perpetrators of abuse of children in 40% of all of the abuse cases; extended family members (grandparents, aunts and uncles, cousins, etc.) were indicated to be responsible for 29% of cases; and in a further 28% of cases a member of mixed family (step- or foster parents) were involved.
Corporal punishment
Up to half of all physical abuse cases can be classified as corporal punishment (perpetrated by a parental or guardian figure). This indicates that corporal punishment remains a severe problem to be addressed. There is no difference in the proportion of cases of physical abuse by guardians in countries with a ban or without a ban on corporal punishment. Even in very high HDI level countries, where corporal punishment is illegal in most countries, the prevalence of this form of abuse is still high. A higher awareness and willingness to report corporal punishment could be a reason for the high proportion of contacts despite the existence of legislative bans.

Peer violence
In one third of all contacts on abuse a peer was the indicated perpetrator. A peer is a child or youth from a similar age group. Peer violence is not confined to bullying alone (for which peers were indicated to be the perpetrator in over half of the cases), but also sexual abuse (30% committed by peers), emotional abuse (31%), and neglect and physical abuse (both 19%).

Teacher violence
Teachers were implicated in contacts made with child helplines about all forms of abuse. The legislative ban imposed by many countries on corporal punishment in schools seems to have had a positive impact. A decrease in the proportion of reported physical abuse cases perpetrated by teachers is apparent when comparing countries with a legislative ban to those without one (36% vs. 41%).
Violence Against Children

Care facility workers
Overall, one in twenty five contacts on abuse and violence against children involved a worker in a care facility. More than 90% of contacts on abuse involving care workers were made with child helplines in low HDI level countries. Physical abuse and sexual abuse were the most common forms of abuse involving care facility workers. When evaluating the effect of a ban on corporal punishment in care facilities, an apparent decrease in the proportion of physical cases involving care workers can be discerned. More information would be needed to form definite conclusions about a correlation between legislation and the incidence of physical abuse by care workers.

In 2011, an average child helpline in the CHI network registered 12 contacts on abuse and violence per day.

A note on HDI and geographic regions:
In this report CHI segments information according to the Human Development Index (HDI) and regions. In both cases the classifications used are recognised standards:

**HDI Levels**
The Human Development Index (HDI) was developed by the United Nations Development Programme as a way to categorise countries beyond their GDP (gross domestic product) per capita. Countries are classified according to four standard HDI levels: low, medium, high or very high. For more information please refer to the UNDP website - www.undp.org.

**Geographic Regions**
For programmatic and thematic purposes, CHI works in five geographic region, based on the UNICEF guidelines. The five regions are: Africa, the Americas and Caribbean, Asia Pacific, Europe and the Middle East and Northern Africa (MENA). For more information, visit the UNICEF website - www.unicef.org.
Recommendations

CHI Recommendations

Based on this and other CHI data-based publications, CHI makes the following three general recommendations for governments, policy-makers and all those involved in child protection:

A Governments and social service providers should recognise child helplines as vital parts of healthy child protection systems and formalise their partnerships through clear and strong protocols and agreements.

B Governments, policy-makers and those involved in child protection at all levels should recognise the essential information child helplines provide and use it to inform both policy and programmatic decisions.

C Appropriate resources, in line with their vital role in holistic child protection systems, should be allocated to child helplines.

UN Violence Against Children (UNVAC) Study Recommendations

The 12 basic recommendations issued by the UNVAC Study in 2006 are listed below. The recommendations are formulated for all stakeholders and states specifically to take action to prevent and combat violence against children:

1 Strengthen national and local commitment and action
2 Prohibit all violence against children
3 Prioritize prevention
4 Promote non-violent values and awareness-raising
5 Enhance the capacity of all who work with and for children
6 Provide recovery and social reintegration services
7 Ensure participation of children
8 Create accessible and child-friendly reporting systems and service
9 Ensure accountability and end impunity
10 Address the gender dimension of violence against children
11 Develop and implement systematic national data collection and research
12 Strengthen international commitment
Contributing Members

CHI wishes to thank everyone who has completed CHI’s data questionnaire and VAC questionnaire, or has contributed in another way to make this report possible.

- 110 for Families and Children (Jordan)
- 113 Protection Hotline (Taiwan P.R. China)
- 116 111 (Latvia),
- 116 111 Helpline for Children and Youth * (Poland),
- 116 111 Hannen- Jugendtelefon (Luxembourg),
- 123A10 * (Brazil),
- 147 Rat auf Draht (Austria),
- 199 Helpline (The Gambia),
- 2NDFLOOR Youth Helpline (USA),
- Acercatel (Mexico),
- Allo Fanantenena (Madagascar),
- ALO 116 * (Albania),
- Aparajeyo (Bangladesh),
- Arab Human Rights Foundation (Yemen),
- Bantay Bata 163 (Philippines),
- Bel123 (Suriname),
- Borne telefonen * (Denmark),
- Boys Town National Hotline (USA),
- BRIS (Sweden),
- California Youth Crisis Line * (USA),
- Centre Ginddi (Senegal),
- Child Emergency Hotline (People’s Republic China),
- Child Helpline 1412 (Maldives),
- Child Helpline 150 Union of Crisis Centres * (Kazakhstan),
- Child Helpline 16000 (Egypt),
- Child Helpline Nepal,
- Child Helpline UCRNN (Ghana) **,
- Child Helpline UCRNN * (Uganda),
- Child Helpline Vietnam,
- Child Helpline Service Azerbaijan *,
- Childline Botswana *,
- Childline Cambodia,
- Childline India Foundation,
- Childline Ireland,
- Childline Kenya,
- Childline Lesotho,
- Childline Malaysia *,
- Childline Montenegro,
- Childline Mozambique
- Childline Namibia *
- Childline Support Centre NPO (Japan),
- Childline Thailand *,
- Childline Trinidad & Tobago *,
- Childline Zimbabwe,
- Corpolatin (Colombia),
- Covenant House Nineline (USA),
- CWIP Nepal
- CYTP (Latvia),
- De Kindertelefoon (Netherlands),
- Don Bosco Lama Sarana (Sri Lanka),
- Fono Infancia (Chile),
- Fundacion Telefon pa Hubentud (Aruba),
- Get Connected * (United Kingdom),
- Halley Movement (Mauritius),
- HDI Child Helpline (Nigeria),
- Helpline 141 (Brunei Darussalam),
- Helpline Connection 116 111 (Greece),
- Helpline.org.pl * (Poland),
- Hotline Against Child Abuse (Hong Kong S.A.R.),
- Hrabri Telefon * (Croatia),
- Jordan River Foundation,
- Kids Help Phone (Canada),
- Kids Helpline (Australia),
- Kinder-en Jongerentelefoon * (Belgium),
- Lapsemure * (Estonia),
- Línea Azul (Uruguay),
- Línea 102, City of Buenos Aires (Argentina),
- Línea 102, Province of Buenos Aires * (Argentina),
- Madagasar Help Line for Children and Women Suffering from Violence and Abuse (Pakistan),
- NADA (Algeria),
- NADEL (Serbia),
- Natal * (Israel),
- National Child Abuse Hotline (USA),
- National Family Safety Programme * (Saudi Arabia),
- National Runaway Switchboard (USA),
- Nummer gegen Hummer * (Germany),
- Positive Connection * (Sint Maarten),
- Pro Juventute Beratung (Switzerland),
- Qatar Foundation for Children and Women Protection,
- Red Cross Helpline for Children and Youth * (Norway),
- Russian Association for child helplines *
- S.O.S. 1056 Smile of the Child * (Greece),
- Safernet (Brazil),
- Sawa Child Protection Helpline 121 (Palestine),
- Sedaye Yara * (Iran),
- SOS Crianca (Portugal),
- Social Service Department Sharjah (UAE),
- SOS Enfant en Détresse (Côte d’Ivoire),
- SOS Helpline for Children and Youth (Macedonia),
- SOS Telefon 1209 (Bosnia and Herzegovina),
- Stop It Now! (USA),
- Telefón pa Mucha i Hóben * (Curaçao),
- Teléfono ANAR Spain *
- Teléfono ANAR Mexico *
- Teléfono ANAR Peru,
- Telefono Azzurro (Italy),
- Telefonul Copilului * (Romania),
- Téléphone vert AGUIAS * (Guinee-Conakry),
- The Children and Youth Helpline (Finland),
- The Safety Line (Czech Republic),
- Tinkle Friend Helpline (Singapore),
- Tithandizane Child Helpline (Malawi),
- Vaiku Linija * (Lithuania),
- What’s Up (New Zealand),
- Youthline (New Zealand)

* data questionnaire only  ** VAC questionnaire only
One in seven contacts to child helplines was about abuse and violence.

(1) Shows the forms of abuse suffered by boys and girls separately per Human Development Index category.

(2) Shows the gender of the victim per form of abuse and gender of the perpetrator.

1 Form of abuse - Gender of victim and HDI levels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Form of Abuse</th>
<th>LOW HDI LEVEL</th>
<th>MEDIUM HDI LEVEL</th>
<th>HIGH HDI LEVEL</th>
<th>VERY HIGH HDI LEVEL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICAL ABUSE</td>
<td>29% 32%</td>
<td>42% 52%</td>
<td>46% 46%</td>
<td>18% 18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BULLYING</td>
<td>15% 17%</td>
<td>3% 3%</td>
<td>4% 12%</td>
<td>51% 61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEXUAL ABUSE</td>
<td>28% 18%</td>
<td>19% 6%</td>
<td>8% 6%</td>
<td>15% 7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMOTIONAL ABUSE</td>
<td>15% 14%</td>
<td>22% 21%</td>
<td>21% 11%</td>
<td>10% 8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEGLECT</td>
<td>13% 19%</td>
<td>14% 17%</td>
<td>21% 25%</td>
<td>5% 5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2 Gender of victim and gender of perpetrator per form of abuse

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Form of Abuse</th>
<th>BOY VICTIM</th>
<th>GIRL VICTIM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICAL ABUSE</td>
<td>41% 59%</td>
<td>40% 60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BULLYING</td>
<td>42% 48%</td>
<td>51% 49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEXUAL ABUSE</td>
<td>37% 13%</td>
<td>36% 14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMOTIONAL ABUSE</td>
<td>43% 17%</td>
<td>59% 44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEGLECT</td>
<td>48% 52%</td>
<td>54% 46%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) Shows the forms of abuse suffered by boys and girls separately per Human Development Index category.

(2) Shows the gender of the victim per form of abuse and gender of the perpetrator.
Abuse Worldwide

Worldwide one in seven contacts in 2011 dealt with a case of violence against children. This means that once again abuse and violence was the most common reason for children to contact a child helpline.

Physical abuse was the most common form of abuse reported, accounting for 29% of all abuse and violence contacts, followed by bullying (26%), sexual abuse (20%), neglect (13%) and emotional abuse (10%). There is no clear correlation between the Human Development Index (HDI) level of a country and the form of abuse that is most commonly reported to child helplines. Physical abuse, sexual abuse and neglect are as common in very high and high HDI level countries as in low HDI level countries. Bullying on the other hand is more, and emotional abuse is less, common in very high HDI level countries compared to other HDI levels. This demonstrates that abuse is not limited to developing countries. Violence against children cuts across all cultures, societies and economic development levels.  

As in previous years, bullying is the most common form of abuse reported to child helplines in Europe (34%) and was reported relatively less in Africa and MENA (5% and 4% respectively). Physical abuse was the most common abuse form reported in the MENA region, accounting for over 40% of contacts. In Europe, Africa and Asia Pacific in ten contacts were about physical abuse. Only in the Americas and Caribbean was physical abuse reported relatively less. Sexual abuse was relatively more common in Africa than in other regions.

The five main forms of abuse were physical, bullying, sexual, neglect and emotional.

Physical abuse is the most common form of abuse reported for cases where the gender of a child was not recorded or a child did not want to reveal her or his identity. For cases where the gender was known on the other hand bullying was the most common form of abuse reported. Sexual abuse follows a similar pattern: for cases in which the gender of the child was not known, one in four cases dealt with sexual abuse. For contacts involving girls, one in five dealt with sexual abuse, while for contacts with boys, one in ten dealt with boys. Sexual abuse contacts are twice as likely to involve girls than boys. Bullying and physical abuse are also suffered relatively more by boys than other forms (with 41% of contacts on both forms involving boys).

Most abuse cases reported to child helplines involved a male perpetrator. Overall the proportion of reported abuse committed by male perpetrators is 58%. This partition is similar for all HDI levels. More than three quarters of sexual abuse cases reported to child helplines were committed by a male perpetrator. In reported cases of neglect and emotional abuse the majority of perpetrators were female (50% and 53% respectively).

Focusing on those contacts for which gender of the child was known, the overall ratio between girls and boys contacting a child helpline about abuse and violence was similar to previous years: two thirds of contacts involved girls, one third boys. Bullying and physical abuse are the most common forms of abuse suffered by girls, followed by sexual abuse (33%, 25% and 19% of contacts on abuse involving girls). Contrary to this, sexual abuse is the least common form of abuse suffered by boys (11%).

Female perpetrators mostly victimise girls, except for sexual abuse. Girls were bullied, physically abused, neglected and emotionally abused mostly by female perpetrators (50%, 51%, 54% and 56% respectively). The majority of perpetrators for cases involving boys were male for all forms of abuse.

On the regional level some variations in perpetrator-victim gender relationship occur. In some regions there are clear cross-gender relationships between the perpetrator and victim while in other regions same gender relationships exist for particular forms of abuse.
Most abuse is perpetrated by someone the child knows, often quite well.

3 Family relationship to victim per form of abuse

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Relationship</th>
<th>Immediate Family</th>
<th>Extended Family</th>
<th>Mixed Family</th>
<th>Not Family</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical Abuse</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bullying</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Abuse</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emotional Abuse</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neglect</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4 Gender of perpetrator by family relationship and gender of victim per form of abuse

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Relationship</th>
<th>Immediate Family</th>
<th>Extended Family</th>
<th>Mixed Family</th>
<th>Not Family</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical Abuse</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bullying</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Abuse</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emotional Abuse</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neglect</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5 Distribution of victim gender for all forms of abuse

- Physical Abuse: 23% girls, 77% boys
- Bullying: 25% girls, 75% boys
- Sexual Abuse: 22% girls, 78% boys
- Emotional Abuse: 50% girls, 50% boys
- Neglect: 50% girls, 50% boys

(3) The gender relationship between perpetrator and victim segmented by the family relationship between both.
(4) The form of abuse committed by female and male perpetrators distributed per family relationship status between victim and perpetrator.
(5) Shows the proportion of contacts on domestic violence and witnessing violence in relation to the five main forms of abuse.
Family Violence

“Stranger danger” is a phrase that does not apply to the majority of child abuse cases. Most abuse is perpetrated by a person known to the child, often well. Child helpline data indicates that family members are the most common perpetrator group of abuse and violence against children.

In two-thirds of the contacts made to child helplines a child’s family member was indicated to be the perpetrator of the abuse. Seven in ten cases of physical abuse involved a family member and in nearly eight out of ten reported cases of neglect a member of the child’s family was indicated to be the cause. The exception is bullying for which two thirds of the perpetrators were not related to the child.

In two thirds of contacts on abuse made to child helplines a member of a child’s family was involved.

For cases involving female perpetrators only, eight out of ten reported cases of emotional abuse, physical abuse and neglect were committed by a member of the family; seven out of ten of sexual abuse cases involved family; and over half of reported bullying cases involved a female member of the family. Three fourths of reported cases of neglect, physical abuse and sexual abuse (77%, 74% and 73% respectively) involving male perpetrators were committed by a member of the child’s family.

Family can be segmented into immediate family (parents and siblings); extended family (grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and nieces and nephews); and mixed family (step and foster family). 3 Focusing on contacts involving family members only, in four out of ten contacts a child’s immediate family member was indicated as the perpetrator (43%). For physical abuse this proportion was 50%, for neglect it was 53% and for sexual abuse 40%. Extended family members were involved in 29% of abuse cases. One third of reported emotional abuse cases were committed by members of the extended family (38%), 32% of bullying and 30% of sexual abuse cases reported to child helplines. In a further 28% of contacts, members of the extended family were involved. For physical abuse this proportion was 50%, for neglect it was 53% and for sexual abuse 40%.

The proportion of female perpetrators is higher amongst family members than non-related perpetrators (44% vs. 39%). The difference is especially significant for reported cases of emotional abuse and neglect. This gender partition is similar for both members of the child’s immediate family and the extended family. Male perpetrators account for 85% of reported contacts on sexual abuse involving members from mixed family. There are no distinct variations in the gender relationship between victim and perpetrator when comparing related and non-related perpetrators. 4

Domestic Violence

In addition to direct family involvement in the five main forms of abuse of children, child helplines have also received over 18,000 contacts on violence taking place in the family setting. These are cases of domestic violence or children witnessing violence in the home (but which are not directed at them per se). Such violence still very much affects the children involved and often leaves long-lasting impressions and emotional traumas. These contacts are not analysed in depth in this report as they are not registered under one of the five main forms of abuse.

Girls were involved in 59% of contacts on a child witnessing violence and 57% of contacts on domestic violence. Nearly all contacts on domestic violence were made in low and very high HDI level countries (45% and 40% respectively). Two thirds of contacts on children witnessing violence were made in very high HDI level countries (65%) and nearly one third were made in low HDI level countries. 5
Children have the right to grow up in an environment without violent and harmful punishments.

(6) Proportion of contacts on physical abuse involving guardians for boy and girl victims.

(7) The proportion of contacts on physical abuse involving guardians for both boy and girl victims in countries with and without a legislative ban.

### Gender of victims of physical abuse

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>World</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Guardian involvement in physical abuse

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Guardian</th>
<th>Not Guardian</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>World</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6a</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Family relationship to victim for physical abuse for cases involving guardian and non-guardians

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Relationship</th>
<th>Guardian</th>
<th>Not Guardian</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Immediate Family</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extended Family</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed Family</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Guardian</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Proportion of physical abuse perpetrated by guardian in countries with and without a legislative ban on corporal punishment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HDI Level</th>
<th>No Legislation</th>
<th>Legislative Ban</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very High</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* There were no medium HDI level countries with a legislative ban in this set of reporting child helplines.

### Proportion of female and male perpetrator guardians in countries with and without a legislative ban

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HDI Level</th>
<th>Perpetrator Guardian</th>
<th>Perpetrator Not Guardian</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very High</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Corporal Punishment

According to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, in its General Comment 8, corporal punishment is “… any punishment in which physical force is used and intended to cause some degree of pain or discomfort, however light. Most involves hitting ("smacking", “slapping”, “spanking”) children, with the hand or with an implement - a whip, stick, belt, shoe, wooden spoon, etc. But it can also involve, for example, kicking, shaking or throwing children, scratching, pinching, biting, pulling hair or boxing ears, forcing children to stay in uncomfortable positions, burning, scalding or forced ingestion (for example, washing children’s mouths out with soap or forcing them to swallow hot spices).”

In many countries, corporal punishment is a taboo topic as child rearing is regarded as a private matter for parents. However, every child has the right to grow up in an environment without violent punishment that leaves long lasting physical and emotional scars. To this end a growing number of countries around the world have a legislative ban on corporal punishment.

More than one third of contacts on physical abuse overall and four in ten cases of physical abuse of boys were committed by a parental figure, guardian or care giver of the child. This points to high levels of corporal punishment taking place globally, especially amongst boys. Six out of ten reported physical abuse cases involving guardians were committed by immediate family members (60%). For cases involving boys this proportion was two thirds (64%). One quarter of reported physical abuse cases involving guardians were committed by mixed family (27%) and one in seven by members of the extended family (13%).

The proportion of reported physical abuse in countries with a legislative ban is comparable to the proportion of reported physical abuse cases in countries without a ban (29% vs. 28%). One third of all physical abuse cases were reported to child helplines in countries with a legislative ban on all forms of corporal punishment by guardians and care givers. There is no correlation between the HDI level of a country and the proportion of physical abuse reported to child helplines.

There is no clear effect of legislative ban on the proportion of physical abuse reported to child helplines. Overall, the proportion of reported physical abuse cases involving guardians is significantly higher in countries with a legislative ban on corporal punishment than in those countries without a ban (75% vs. 47%). However, there is a correlation between the HDI level of a country and the effect of a legislative ban on corporal punishment as reported to child helplines. The proportion of contacts on physical abuse committed by guardians received by child helplines in countries with a high and very high HDI level with a ban decreased as compared to high and very high HDI level countries without a ban. The proportion of male perpetrators of corporal punishment decreases in countries with a ban compared to countries without a legislative ban. Simultaneously, the proportion of male perpetrators amongst non-guardians increased in countries with a ban.

There seems to be an inverse effect from legislation on the incidence of corporal punishment as reported to child helplines. At the same time the proportion of corporal punishment reported in high and very high HDI level countries with a legislative ban declined, but not of physical abuse in general. Whether these differences are due to a change in the incidence of corporal punishment or due to changes in the reporting levels needs more investigation.

Corporal punishment perpetrated by teachers and care facility workers are dealt with in the respective chapters on teacher and care facility worker violence.
Peers, including friends, siblings, cousins and nieces/nephews, can also be perpetrators of abuse and violence against children.

8 Proportion of abuse perpetrated by peers

8a Proportion of abuse committed by friends as a share of abuse committed by peers

9 Gender of peer perpetrator and gender of victim

9a Gender of victim of peer violence per form of abuse

10 Proportion of peer violence by family members
Peer Violence

Not all peer relationships are friendly or beneficial to a child. Friends and peers can also be the cause of abuse and violence. The Committee on the Rights of the Child, in its General Comment on article 19 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, has defined peer violence as “physical, psychological and sexual violence, often by bullying, exerted by children against other children, frequently by groups of children, which not only harms a child’s physical and psychological integrity and well-being in the immediate term, but often has severe impact on his or her development, education and social integration in the medium and long term.”

One third of abuse cases reported to child helplines involved a peer of the child as a perpetrator (31%). For bullying cases this was more than half of reported cases (55%), for sexual abuse and emotional abuse cases one third of contacts (30% and 31% respectively) and for neglect and sexual abuse one in five reported cases (both 19%).

Friends are an important peer group for children, but even friends are perpetrators of abuse. One in five cases of bullying involving peers were committed by friends (11% of total), more than one third of cases involving peers (35% of cases involving peers; 11% of total); three out of ten cases of neglect committed by peers (29% of cases by peers; 6% of total); one in five cases of physical cases perpetrated by peers (21% of cases involving peers; 4% of total) and one quarter of sexual abuse cases (26% of contacts committed by peers; 8% of total).

There is a correlation between the proportion of bullying involving peers and the HDI level of a country. In low HDI level countries, one third of contacts involved friends. In very high HDI level countries, nine out of ten contacts on bullying involved peers. On the other hand, the proportion of sexual abuse cases involving peers, decreases with increasing HDI level. In low HDI level countries, four out of ten contacts on sexual abuse involved a peer; in very high HDI level countries this was one out of ten.

Bullying is committed relatively more by peers not considered friends, than by friends (39% vs. 31%). Physical abuse also is committed relatively more by non-friends: 17% of cases are committed by friends, compared to 21% of cases perpetrated by non-friend peers. On the other hand, sexual abuse is perpetrated relatively more by friends compared to peers who are not friends (24% vs. 22%). Emotional abuse is significantly less perpetrated by non-friend peers than by friends.

A same gender relationships exists between victims and perpetrator, if they are considered friends of the victim, except for sexual abuse for which a cross-gender relationship exists. For cases committed by non-friend peers the gender relationship between perpetrator and victim is less clear; Similar to all perpetrator groups, for both neglect and sexual abuse, there is a cross-gender relationship. For other forms of abuse, a same-gender relationship exists for cases involving non-friend peers.

Peers can also be a member of a child’s family, such as cousins, nephews and siblings. Girls suffer the majority of emotional abuse, physical abuse and neglect committed by peers from those who are related to them. Six out of ten contacts of physical abuse of boys committed by peers involved a family member. For sexual abuse and bullying, most cases committed by peers were perpetrated by not-related peers. For emotional abuse there is a mixed pattern in which most boys suffer emotional abuse committed by peers that are not related and girls from peers that are related.

These differences clearly signal that the relationship that exists between a victim and the perpetrator influences the abuse taking place and therefore that abuse cannot be addressed or prevented with one size fits all programmes. Also, peers need to be considered as a perpetrator group not only as victims.
One in ten contacts on abuse involved a teacher as the perpetrator.

(11) FORMS OF ABUSE INVOLVING GIRLS OR BOYS COMMITTED BY TEACHERS SEGMENTED PER HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX CATEGORY.

(12) GENDER OF VICTIMS FOR CASES INVOLVING TEACHERS.

(13) PROPORTION OF CONTACTS ON PHYSICAL ABUSE INVOLVING TEACHERS SEGMENTED BY VICTIM GENDER FOR BOTH COUNTRIES WITH AND WITHOUT A LEGISLATIVE BAN ON CORPORAL PUNISHMENT BY TEACHERS.

11 Proportion of abuse suffered at the hand of teachers

12 Gender of perpetrator per form of abuse and gender of victim

13 Proportion of physical abuse involving teachers in countries with and without a legislative ban on corporal punishment
Teacher Violence

School is one of the most important places in a child’s life and the key to untold opportunities. Ideally, school will be a place where a child can focus unhindered on learning and growth, blossoming as a result into well-equipped citizens of the world. Unfortunately, data collected by child helplines indicates that school is not always a place of joy and learning for all children. In addition to peer bullying that can also take place in schools, a significant proportion of the cases of abuse and violence against children recorded by child helplines in 2011 involved teachers as the indicated perpetrator.

Teachers were indicated as the perpetrators of abuse and violence against children in one in ten contacts on abuse received by child helplines. One in seven contacts on physical abuse involved a teacher; 12% of contacts on bullying involved a teacher; 10% of contacts on both sexual abuse and emotional abuse involved a teacher.

Teachers, both male and female, in general are more likely than other perpetrator groups to bully and physically abuse a student, while they are less likely to sexually abuse a student. There are no significant differences between male and female teachers in these distributions.

Teacher violence is reported mostly in low HDI level countries: 85% of all abuse involving teachers was reported to child helplines in low HDI level countries. The proportion of contacts involving teachers drops significantly with increasing HDI levels. Fourteen per cent of contacts on abuse in low HDI level countries involved a teacher, while in very high HDI level countries this was 3%. The proportion of contacts involving teachers drops significantly with increasing HDI level.

Neither female nor male teachers are more or less likely to abuse children than other males or females. The exceptions are neglect and emotional abuse for which more male teachers were indicated to be involved than female teachers as compared to other perpetrator groups.

Boys and girls are just as likely to be abused by a male teacher or a female teacher compared to other perpetrator groups. Overall, there are no variations in the gender relations between perpetrators and victims when comparing cases involving teachers or other perpetrator groups. For particular forms of abuse there are some differences. Contacts indicate that emotional abuse of girls is in general committed by female perpetrators but when the perpetrator is a teacher it is most often a male. A similar pattern emerges for cases of neglect of girls.

Many countries have imposed a ban on corporal punishment by teachers to protect children from abuse in the classroom and at school. More than one third of the reported physical abuse cases involving teachers were committed in countries that have a legislative ban on this practice. The proportion of reported cases of physical abuse involving teachers is somewhat lower in countries with a ban than in countries without a ban (36% vs. 41%). It not clear whether this is a consequence of reporting levels or from a change in incidence, and further study is needed in this area.
One in twenty five contacts on abuse worldwide involved a care facility worker as the perpetrator.

14 Proportion of abuse involving care workers

14a Gender of care worker perpetrator

14b Gender of victim and gender of care worker perpetrator

15 Form of abuse suffered from care workers and other perpetrator groups
Violence by Care Workers

Recommendation 8 of the original United Nations Violence Against Children Study report says that “...States should establish safe, well-publicized, confidential and accessible mechanisms for children, their representatives and others to report violence against children. All children, including those in care and justice facilities, should be aware of the existence of mechanisms of complaint. Mechanisms such as telephone helplines, through which children can report abuse, speak to a trained counsellor in confidence and ask for support and advice, should be established and the creation of other ways of reporting violence through new technologies should be considered”. Violence against children in care facilities is a real issue which need to be addressed.

One in twenty five contacts on abuse worldwide dealt with a case of abuse perpetrated by a worker in a care facility. Over 90% of contacts on abuse involving care facility workers were made in countries with low HDI levels. The proportion of contacts involving care workers varied between 4% for emotional abuse, bullying, neglect and 5% for sexual and physical abuse.

For most forms of abuse, similar gender relationships exist between care workers and victims compared to other perpetrator groups. There is stronger same-gender relationships overall however for contacts involving care workers compared to contacts involving other perpetrator groups. 16

The gender relationship between victim and perpetrator changes considerably in countries with a legislative ban. In countries with a ban, two thirds of abuse perpetrated by male care workers was against boys, as compared to 51% in countries without a ban. In countries with a ban nine out of ten cases of abuse involving female care workers were against girls.

Physical and sexual abuse were the most common forms of abuse perpetrated by workers in child care facilities.

Physical abuse is the most common form of abuse reported to child helplines for contacts involving care facility workers (one third of these contacts). One fifth of the contacts involving care workers were about sexual abuse. 15

For contacts involving male care workers, sexual abuse was the most common form of abuse reported (34%), followed by physical abuse (31%). When considering cases involving female care workers, physical abuse was the most common form reported (30%). Bullying was the second most common reported form of abuse by female care workers (24%).

Many countries around the world have banned corporal punishment in care facilities. The proportion of contacts on physical abuse involving care workers compared to all other perpetrator groups is significantly lower in countries with a legislative ban. In low HDI level countries where most contact on physical abuse by care workers are made, five times less physical abuse cases involving care facility workers are reported in countries with a legislative ban than in countries without a ban.

compared to 49% in countries without a legislative ban. The statistical basis for analysis is thin, however, and these latter comparisons need to be verified with more quantitative and qualitative research.
The Global Network of Child Helplines: Membership as of August 2012

Full members* 119 members in 100 countries

- Albania
- Algeria
- Argentina (2)
- Aruba
- Australia
- Austria
- Bangladesh
- Belgium
- Bosnia Herzegovina
- Botswana
- Brazil (2)
- Brunei
- Burma (Myanmar)
- Cambodia
- Canada
- Chile
- China
- Colombia
- Cote d’Ivoire
- Croatia
- Curacao
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Egypt
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Gabon
- Germany
- Greece (2)
- Guineas
- Conakry
- Hong Kong, S.A.R.
- Hungary
- Iceland
- India
- Indonesia
- Iran
- Ireland
- Iraq
- Italy
- Japan
- Jordan
- Kazakhstan
- Kenya
- Korea, South (2)
- Latvia (2)
- Lesotho
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Macedonia
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Malaysia
- Maldives
- Mauritius
- Mexico (2)
- Mongolia
- Namibia
- Nepal
- Netherlands
- New Zealand (3)
- Nigeria
- Norway
- Pakistan
- Palestine
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Philippines
- Poland (2)
- Portugal
- Qatar
- Romania
- Russia
- Saudi Arabia
- Senegal
- Serbia
- Singapore
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- South Africa
- Spain
- Sri Lanka (2)
- St. Martin
- Suriname
- Swaziland
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Taiwan, P.O.C.
- Tajikistan
- Thailand
- Togo
- Trinidad, Tobago
- U.S.A. (7)
- Uganda
- United Arab Emirates Sharjah
- United Kingdom (4)
- Uruguay
- Vietnam
- Yemen
- Zimbabwe

Associate members* 48 members in 42 countries

- Afghanistan
- Antigua, Barbuda
- Armenia
- Azerbaijan
- Bahamas
- Bahrain
- Belarus (2)
- Benin (2)
- Bhutan
- Bolivia
- Bulgaria
- Cameroon
- Costa Rica
- Côte d’Ivoire
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Ecuador
- El Salvador
- Egypt
- Georgia
- Guatemala
- Haiti
- Iraq
- Israel
- Jamaica
- Lebanon (2)
- Libya
- Liechtenstein
- Madagascar
- Maldives
- Montenegro
- Mozambique
- Panama
- Peru
- Palestine
- Qatar
- Romania
- Russian Federation
- Senegal
- Sudan
- Swaziland
- Switzerland
- Taiwan, P.O.C.
- Tajikistan
- Thailand
- Venezuela
- Yemen
- Zimbabwe

Countries that CHI is working closely with to start child helplines, and that fulfill the CHI associate membership criteria.

Countries with child helplines that fulfill the CHI membership criteria.

*For full details of individual members please visit www.childhelplineinternational.org

Disclaimers

CHI’s work is firmly grounded in the principles and values enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), especially children’s right to privacy and protection from harm. To this end, all identifying details and information about individual children cited in this report have been removed or altered to protect them and to ensure their privacy.

This report is based on the analysis of information received from child helplines in the CHI network through CHI’s data questionnaire and the CHI VAC questionnaire. The conclusions and statements are based on this information and they do not capture the full scope of practices and policies of all countries and cases handled by child helplines and other child protection organisations at the national level.

The percentages in the cells of tables and graphs in this publication have been rounded to a maximum of two significant figures and do not make use of decimal notation. As a result, the percentages of the individual (sub-) categories do not always add up to one hundred percent, although the total percentage will show this figure.
Child Helpline International (CHI) is the global network of child helplines in 136 countries (as of August 2012), which together receive over 14 million contacts a year from children and young people in need of care and protection. CHI supports the creation and strengthening of national toll-free child helplines worldwide, and uses child helpline data and knowledge to highlight gaps in child protection systems and advocate for the rights of children.