



SEARCHLIGHT 2023

CHILDLIGHT ANNUAL FLAGSHIP REPORT

TECHNICAL NOTES

Project **A** _____

**A scoping review of the coverage
of studies measuring CSEA
victimisation prevalence globally**

A

A scoping review of the coverage of studies measuring CSEA victimisation prevalence globally

Technical Note

The authors conducted a scoping review searching English language databases for CSEA prevalence studies published during the period between 2010 and 2021.

This review employed three main search strategies including a comprehensive review of international databases for country and regionally specific studies, a search of grey literature websites and data sources, and outreach to key stakeholders and experts for sources of data, particularly grey literature.

The research team searched the following electronic databases for journal articles/reports that met the inclusion criteria: PubMed/Medline, PsycINFO (EBSCOhost), CINAHL-ebsco, ERIC and Google Scholar.

In addition, articles were hand reviewed from the following journals that are key in the field of child protection: 'Child Abuse and Neglect, 'Child Maltreatment, 'Child Abuse Review, and 'Journal of Interpersonal Violence.

Key grey literature sources include research done by international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), UN agencies and community-based organizations (CBOs),

as well as research reports from national government sources were searched. A thorough scan of key websites publishing violence against children's studies were completed in addition to liaising with WHO Violence Prevention Unit. This scan helped to identify both grey literature and organizations/individuals that may have links to grey literature. These websites were included but were not limited to:

- www.crin.org (and www.crin.org/bcn)
- www.endcorporealpunishment.org
- www.unicef-irc.org and other UNICEF websites
- Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- Save the Children
- Together for Girls
- ECPAT International

In addition, a review was undertaken of all nationally comparable data on the prevalence of violence against children such as Demographic Health Surveys (DHS), Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS), Global School-Based Health Surveys (GSHS), Health Behaviour in School-aged Children Study (HBSC), and Violence Against Children Survey (VACS).

The search terms for the academic databases for the study included all forms of violence against children but the sexual abuse specific search terms included the following: (child OR childhood OR children OR adolescents OR youth OR infants) AND ('maltreatment' OR 'violence' OR 'sexual abuse' OR 'sexual OR 'abuse') AND ('prevalence' OR 'incidence').

The authors, alongside a wider research team, is updating the search in order to produce global, regional and country specific prevalence estimates in 2024 and for this we will be adding specific search terms for child sexual exploitation and abuse as well as searching in multiple languages. Studies were only included in the analyses if they were representative at the national or at sub-

national levels and reported lifetime or past year prevalence estimates on any type of child sexual exploitation and abuse as identified by the UN Classification on Violence Against Children (UNICEF, 2023).

The total number of all forms of violence against children studies identified from databases and registers were 42,617 (after automatic de-duplication using Endnote). Studies were included if they reported an overall or gender-specific prevalence estimate of CSEA. Administrative data and repeated or duplicate studies were removed.

The authors then disaggregated studies by World Bank region (World bank, 2021) with the breakdown of countries identified below.

World Bank Analytical Classifications in 2021

	Low income n=27	Lower middle income n=55	Upper middle income n=55	High income n=80
1	Afghanistan	Angola	Albania	Aruba
2	Burundi	Benin	Argentina	Andorra
3	Burkina Faso	Bangladesh	Armenia	United Arab Emirates
4	Central African Republic	Belize	American Samoa	Antigua and Barbuda
5	Congo, Dem. Rep.	Bolivia	Azerbaijan	Australia
6	Eritrea	Bhutan	Bulgaria	Austria
7	Ethiopia	Côte d'Ivoire	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Belgium
8	Guinea	Cameroon	Belarus	Bahrain
9	Gambia, The	Congo, Rep.	Brazil	Bahamas, The
10	Guinea-Bissau	Comoros	Botswana	Bermuda
11	Liberia	Cabo Verde	China	Barbados
12	Madagascar	Djibouti	Colombia	Brunei Darussalam
13	Mali	Algeria	Costa Rica	Canada
14	Mozambique	Egypt, Arab Rep.	Cuba	Switzerland
15	Malawi	Micronesia, Fed. Sts.	Dominica	Channel Islands
16	Niger	Ghana	Dominican Republic	Chile

	Low income n=27	Lower middle income n=55	Upper middle income n=55	High income n=80
17	Korea, Dem. People's Rep.	Honduras	Ecuador	Curaçao
18	Rwanda	Haiti	Fiji	Cayman Islands
19	Sudan	Indonesia	Gabon	Cyprus
20	Sierra Leone	India	Georgia	Czech Republic
21	Somalia	Iran, Islamic Rep.	Equatorial Guinea	Germany
22	South Sudan	Kenya	Grenada	Denmark
23	Syrian Arab Republic	Kyrgyz Republic	Guatemala	Spain
24	Chad	Cambodia	Guyana	Estonia
25	Togo	Kiribati	Iraq	Finland
26	Uganda	Lao PDR	Jamaica	France
27	Yemen, Rep.	Sri Lanka	Jordan	Faroe Islands
28		Lesotho	Kazakhstan	United Kingdom
29		Morocco	Lebanon	Gibraltar
30		Myanmar	Libya	Greece
31		Mongolia	St. Lucia	Greenland
32		Mauritania	Moldova	Guam
33		Nigeria	Maldives	Hong Kong SAR, China
34		Nicaragua	Mexico	Croatia
35		Nepal	Marshall Islands	Hungary
36		Pakistan	North Macedonia	Isle of Man
37		Philippines	Montenegro	Ireland
38		Papua New Guinea	Mauritius	Iceland
39		West Bank and Gaza	Malaysia	Israel
40		Senegal	Namibia	Italy
41		Solomon Islands	Panama	Japan
42		El Salvador	Peru	St. Kitts and Nevis
43		São Tomé and Príncipe	Paraguay	Korea, Rep.
44		Eswatini	Romania	Kuwait
45		Tajikistan	Russian Federation	Liechtenstein
46		Timor-Leste	Serbia	Lithuania
47		Tunisia	Suriname	Luxembourg
48		Tanzania	Thailand	Latvia
49		Ukraine	Turkmenistan	Macao SAR, China

Low income n=27	Lower middle income n=55	Upper middle income n=55	High income n=80	
50		Uzbekistan	Tonga	St. Martin (French part)
51		Vietnam	Turkey	Monaco
52		Vanuatu	Tuvalu	Malta
53		Samoa	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	Northern Mariana Islands
54		Zambia	Kosovo	New Caledonia
55		Zimbabwe	South Africa	Netherlands
56				Norway
57				Nauru
58				New Zealand
59				Oman
60				Palau
61				Poland
62				Puerto Rico
63				Portugal
64				French Polynesia
65				Qatar
66				Saudi Arabia
67				Singapore
68				San Marino
69				Slovak Republic
70				Slovenia
71				Sweden
72				Sint Maarten (Dutch part)
73				Seychelles
74				Turks and Caicos Islands
75				Trinidad and Tobago
76				Taiwan, China
77				Uruguay
78				United States
79				British Virgin Islands
80				Virgin Islands (U.S.)

Note: The term country, used interchangeably with economy, does not imply political independence but refers to any territory for which authorities report separate social or economic statistics.

The authors also analysed the number of data points that disaggregated or measured prevalence estimates by sex.

Several limitations of this scoping review may exist including missing studies that may have been published in non-English, the exclusion of studies using more specific search terms related to child sexual exploitation and abuse, and the publication date excluding some of the most recent prevalence data initiatives (e.g., Disrupting Harm surveys). Furthermore, the study used the 2021 World Bank country list and future iterations should include updating the end date of the review and using the updated World Bank region list published on July 1, 2023.

Cited References

United Nations Children's Fund. (2023). *International Classification of Violence against Children*, UNICEF, New York.

World bank. (2021). *World Bank Country and Lending Groups*. World Bank: Data. <https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519-world-bank-country-and-lending-groups>

Technical Note references

See reference link for all included studies.

supported by

**HUMAN
DIGNITY
FOUNDATION**



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH