

# Violence Against Children Surveys: Data for Action



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National Center for Injury Prevention and Control  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

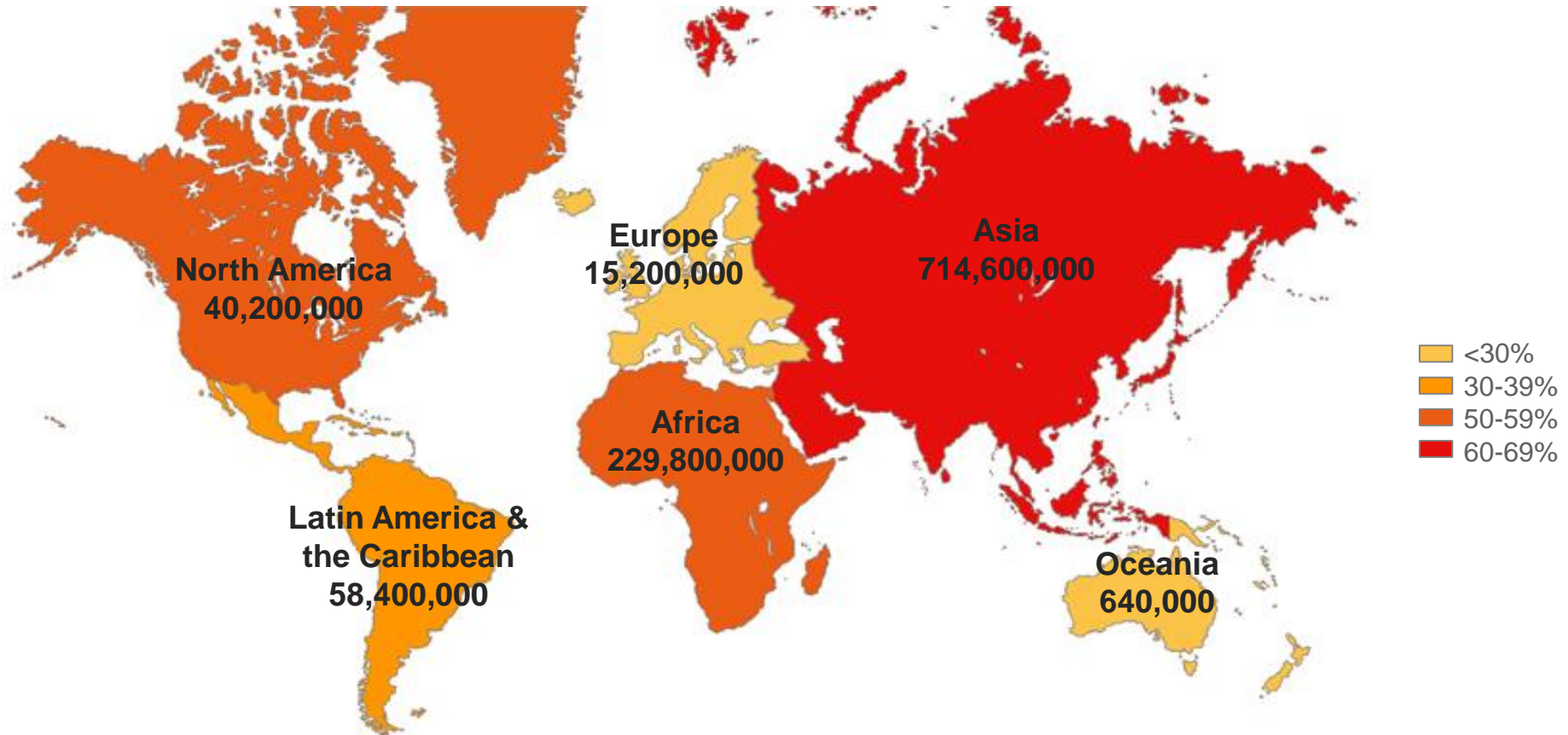


# IMAGINE IF...



# Minimum Numbers of Children < 18 Years Experiencing Past-Year Sexual, Severe Physical, or Emotional Violence, 2014

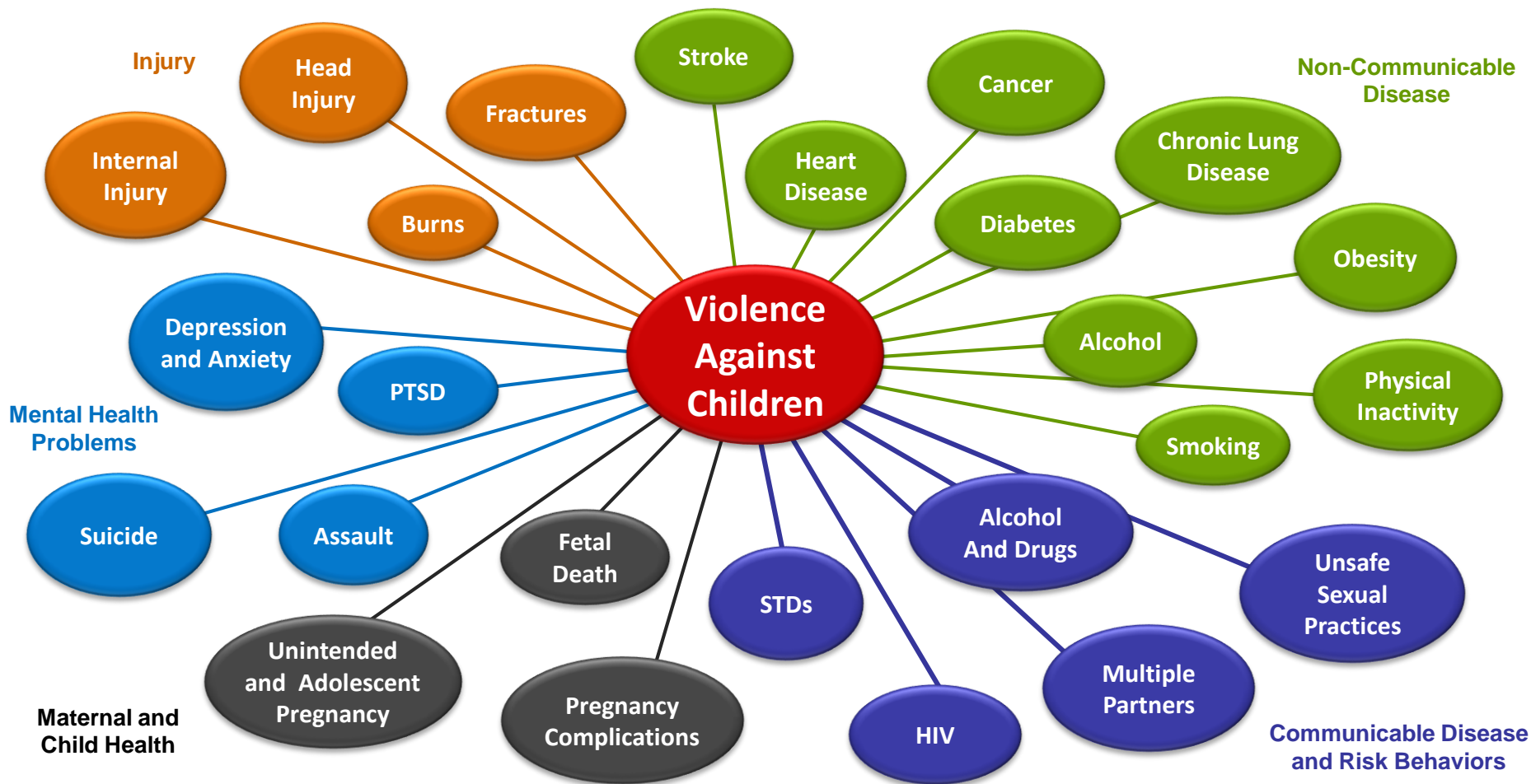
> 1 Billion Children



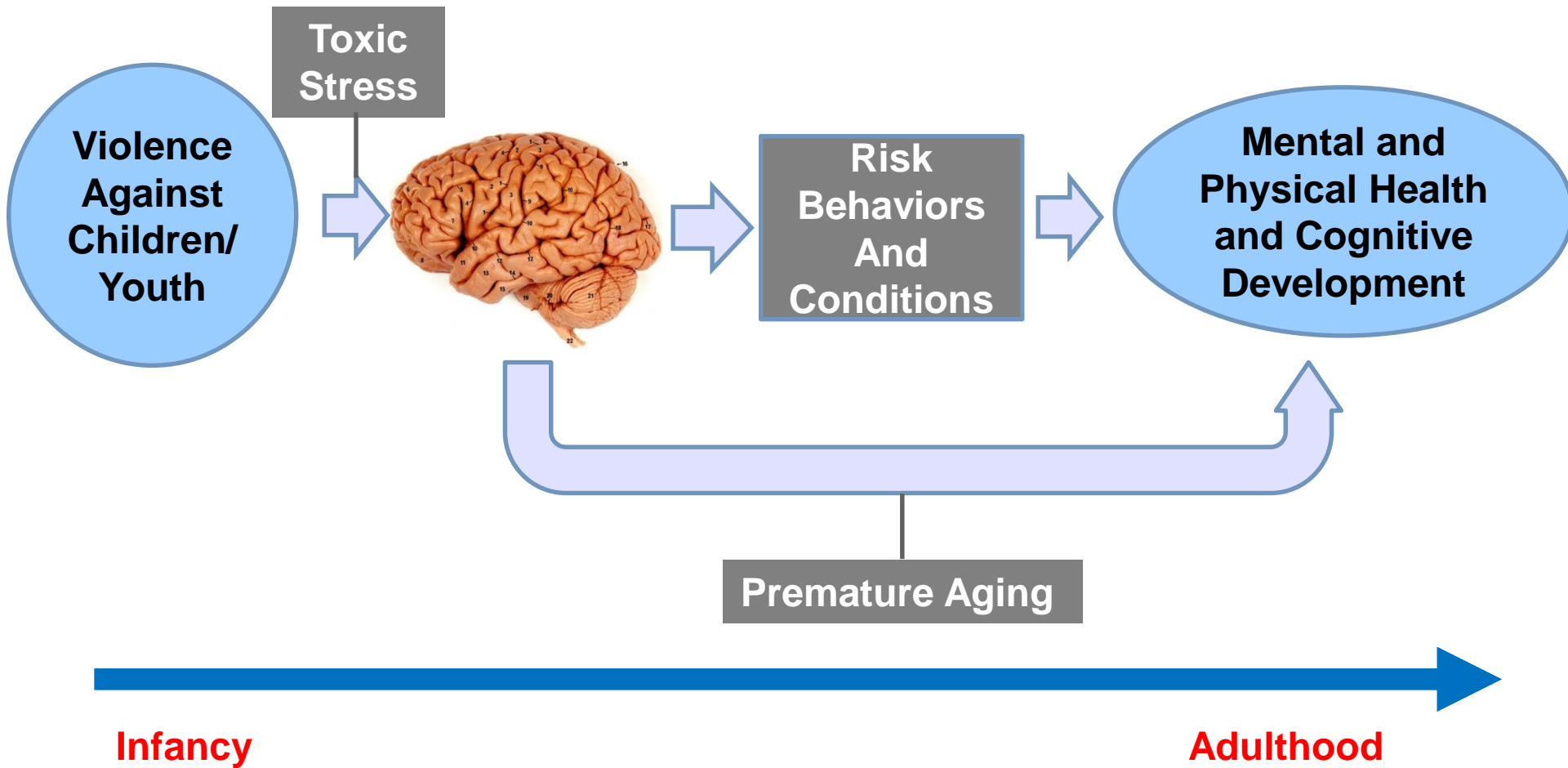
Source: Hillis S, Mercy JA, Amobi A, Kress H. Global prevalence of past-year violence against children: A systematic review and minimum estimates. *Pediatrics* 2016;137(3): e20154079



# Violence Against Children Is Costly and Destructive



# Violence Damages Body Via Impact on the Brain



# Violence Against Children Surveys (VACS)



Photo by Nadia Todres



# Completed, Planned, and Potential Violence Against Children Surveys (VACS)

## ● Completed

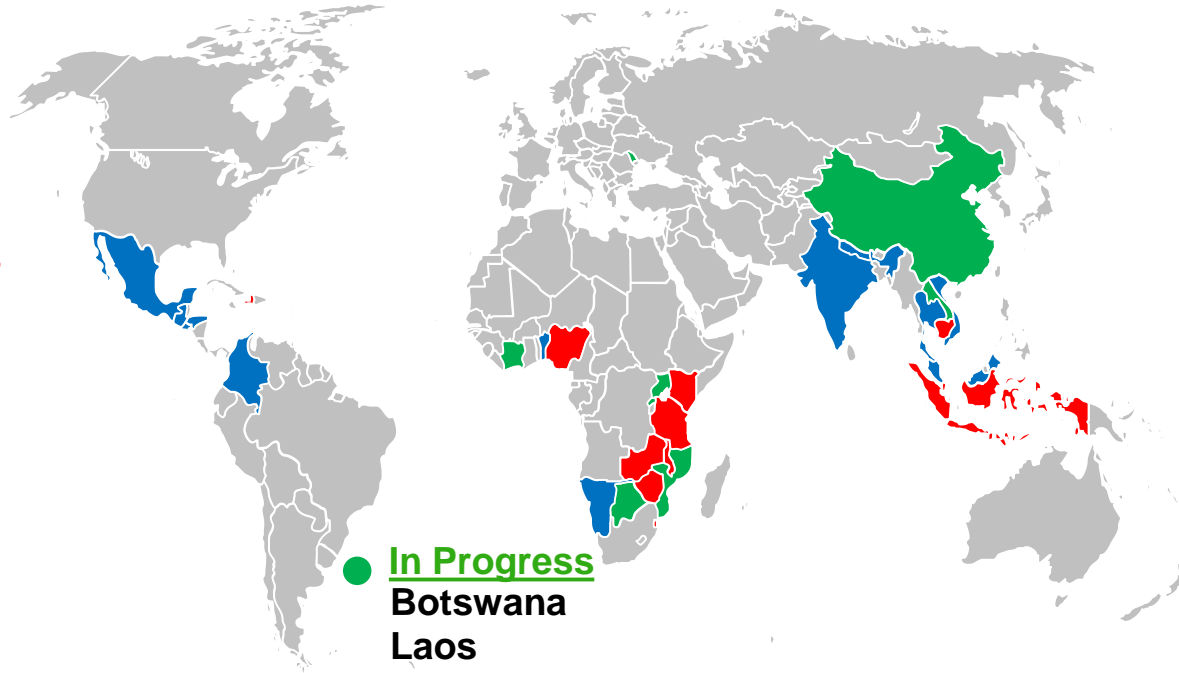
Cambodia  
Haiti  
Indonesia  
Kenya  
Malawi  
Nigeria  
Swaziland  
Tanzania  
Zambia  
Zimbabwe

## ● In Progress

Botswana  
Laos  
Mozambique  
Rwanda  
Uganda  
Cote d'Ivoire  
China

## ● Potential

Benin  
Colombia  
Guatemala  
El Salvador  
Honduras  
India  
Malaysia  
Mexico  
Moldova  
Namibia  
Nepal  
Thailand  
Vietnam



# Together for Girls

## A Unique Public-Private Partnership





# VACS Addresses Key Issues

- ❑ **MEASURES** violence and its' **IMPACT** on children's lives with a strong gender lens
- ❑ Uses data to foster **POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT AND PROGRAMMING** to prevent and respond to violence against children



Photo by Nadia Todres

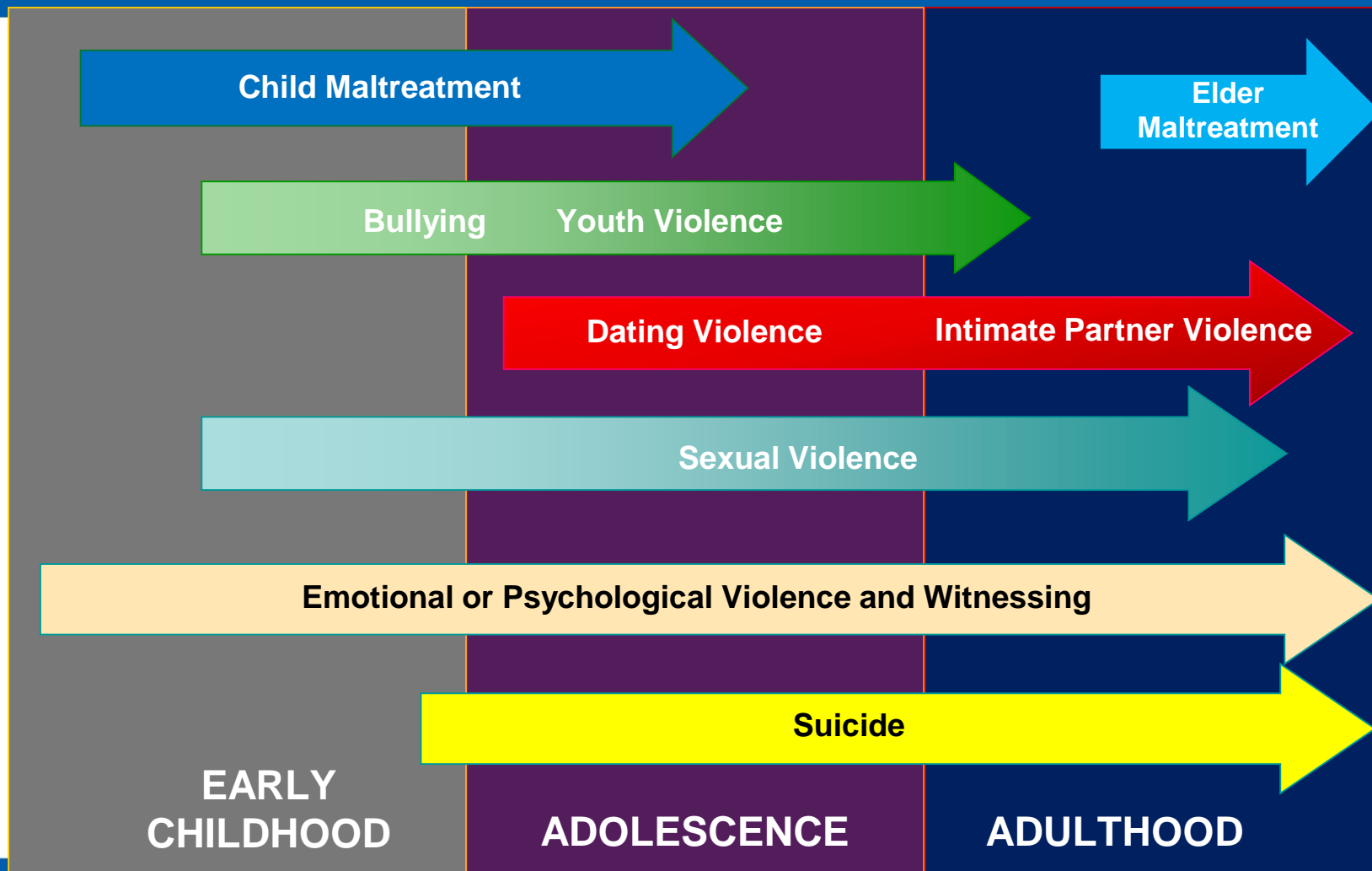


# VACS Methods

- ❑ National household survey
- ❑ Three-stage cluster sample survey design
- ❑ Randomly select one eligible female or male aged 13-24 years in each household
- ❑ Swaziland – girls only; All subsequent surveys both girls and boys
- ❑ Surveys carried out by in-country institutions
- ❑ Extensive efforts to protect child respondent



# Violence Across the Lifespan



# Strengthening the VACS for Monitoring the Association Between Violence and HIV in Girls

- ❑ Incorporation of HIV biomarkers
- ❑ Adding questions on sexual partners and transactional sex
- ❑ Sample stratification by those regions in which girls are at highest risk of acquiring HIV
- ❑ Triangulation with other HIV-related surveys that provide subregional data (e.g., HIA, DHS)



Photo by Nadia Todres

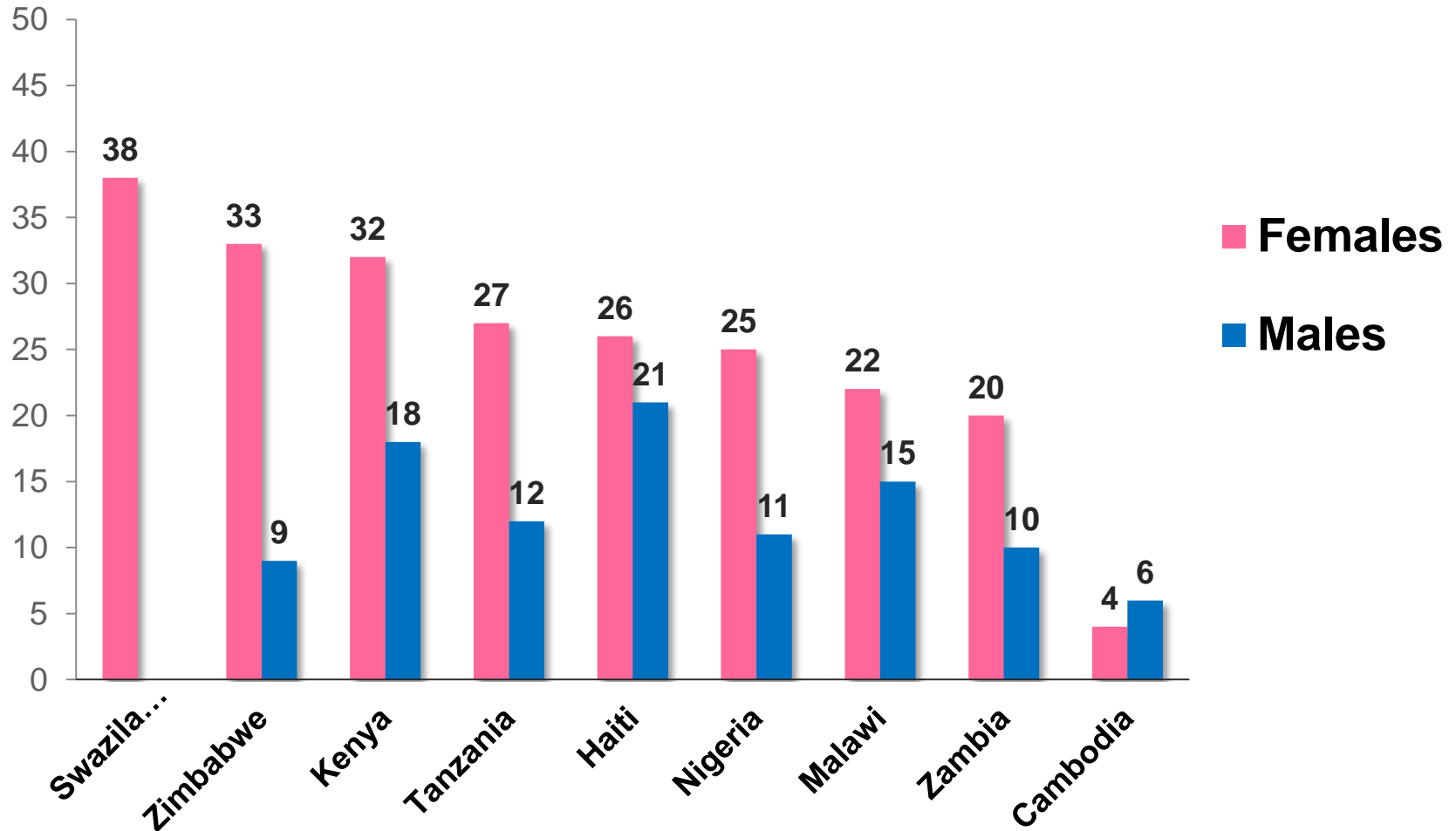
**Violence  
is  
Common  
in the Lives  
of Children**



Photo by Nadia Todres



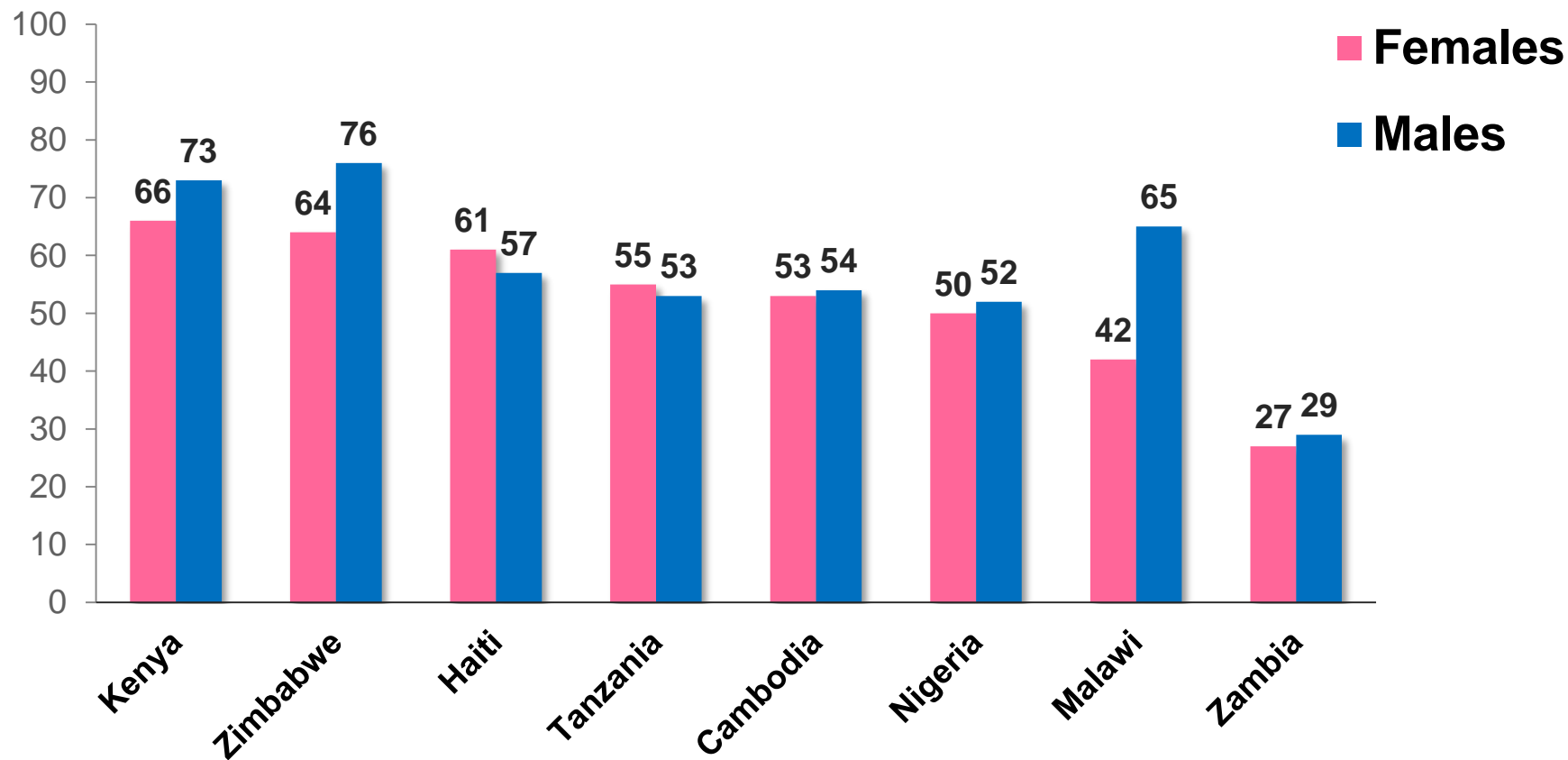
# Prevalence of Sexual Violence Prior to Age 18 Reported by Females and Males 18-24 Years of Age in Nine VACS Country Sites



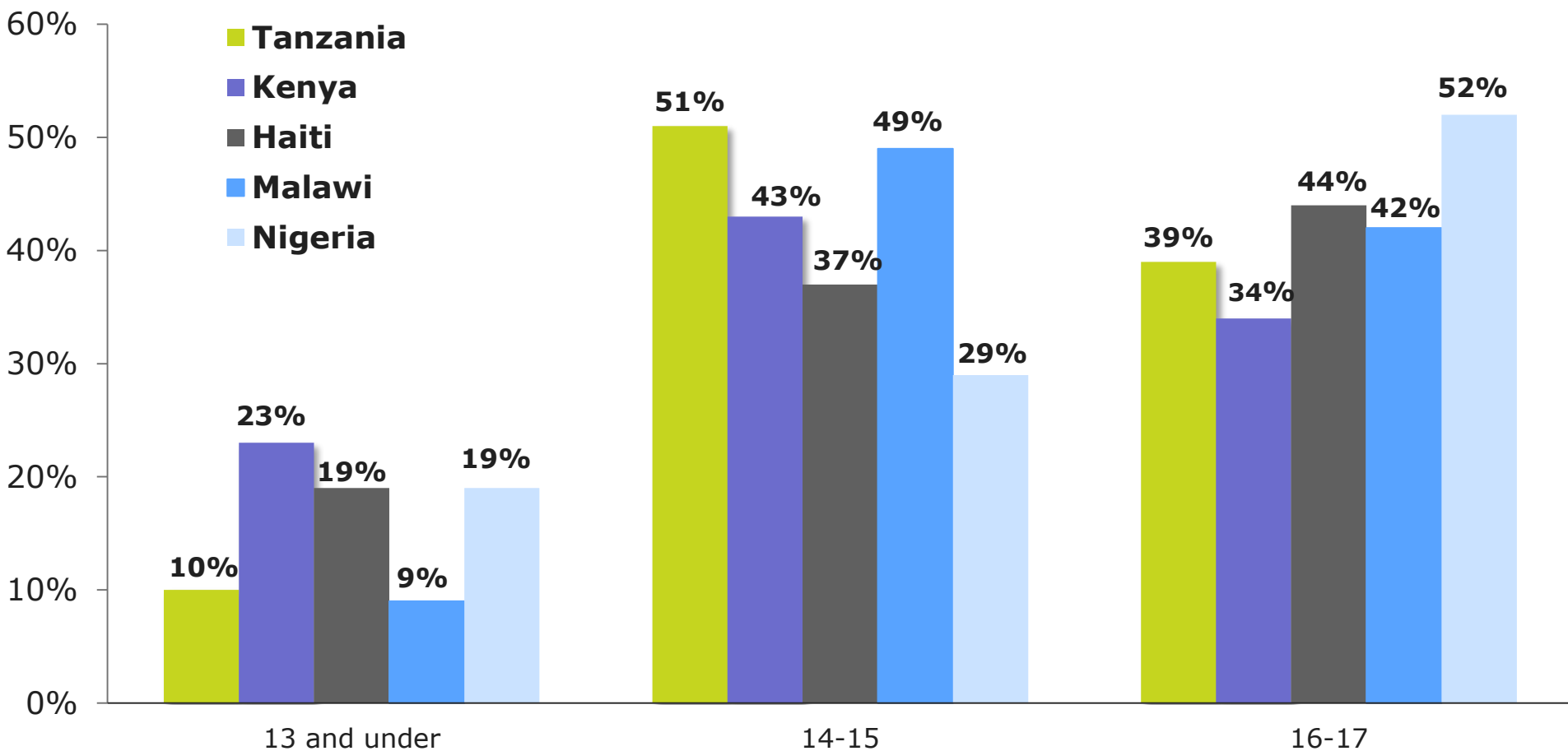
Only girls interviewed in Swaziland



# Prevalence of Physical Violence Prior to Age 18 Reported by Females/Males 18-24 Years of Age by Parents, Adult Caregivers, and Authority Figures in Eight VACS Country Sites

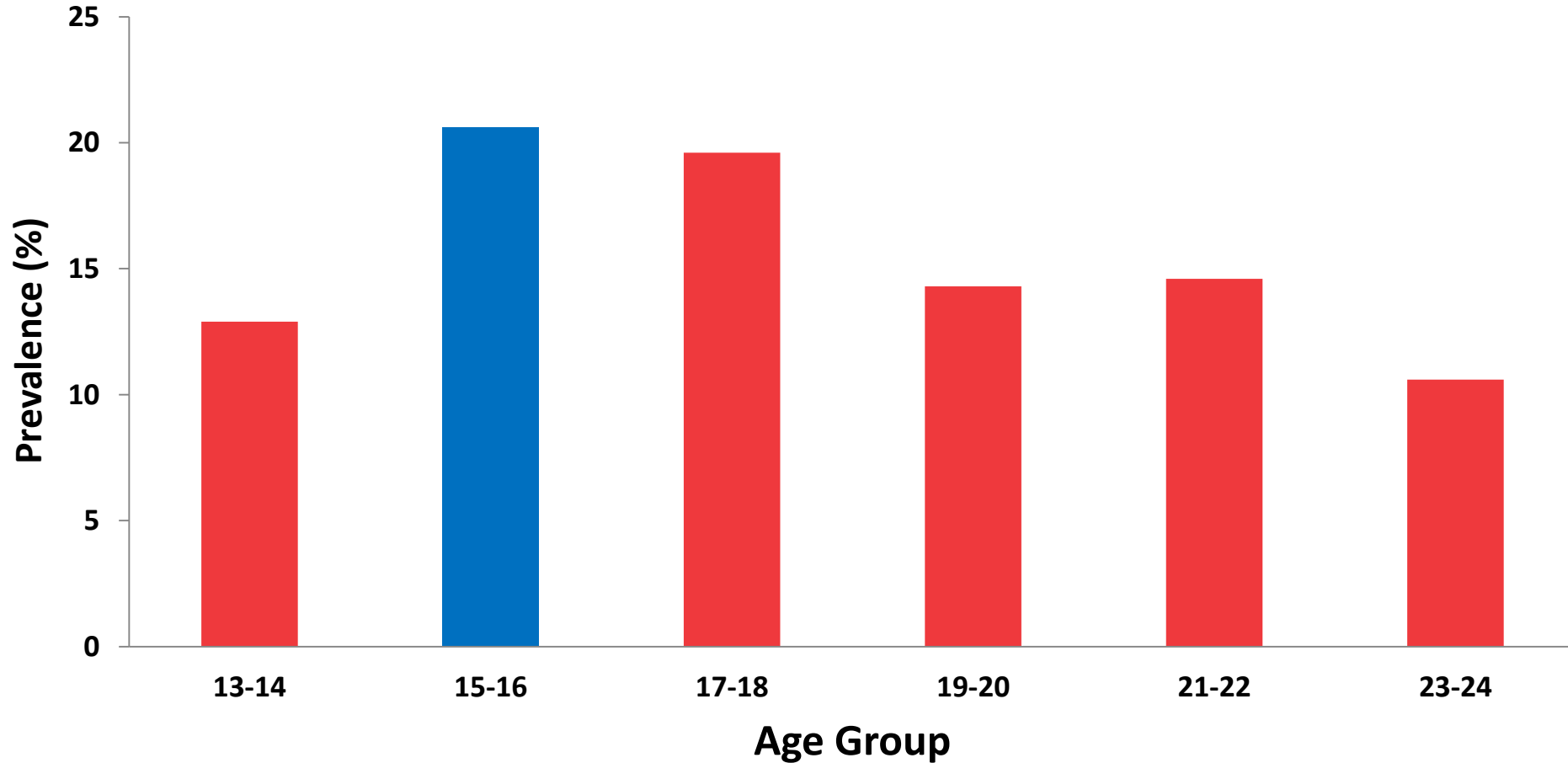


# Age of First Incident of Unwanted Completed Sex in Childhood, Reported by 18-24 Year Old Females

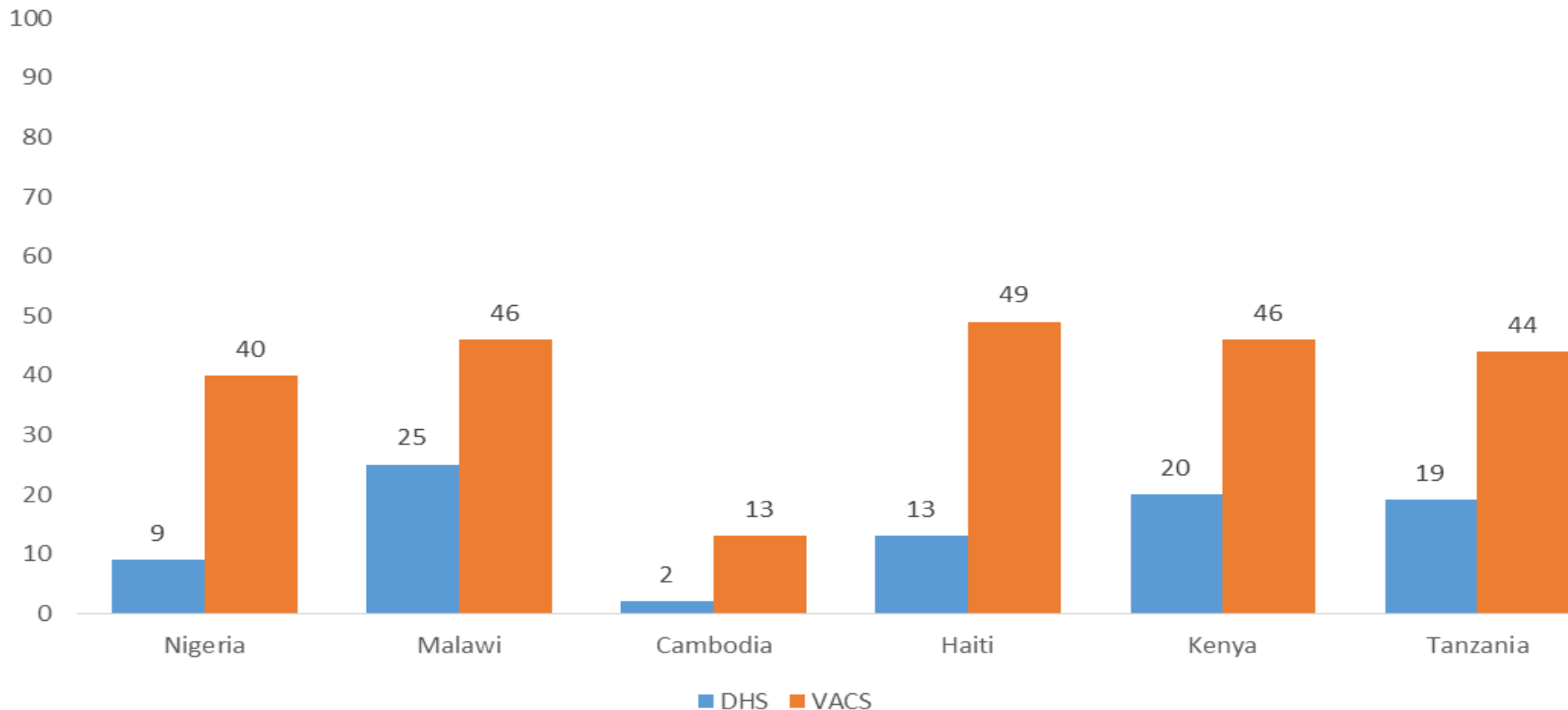




# Prevalence of 12-month Sexual Violence for Females by Age Group, Tanzania, 2009



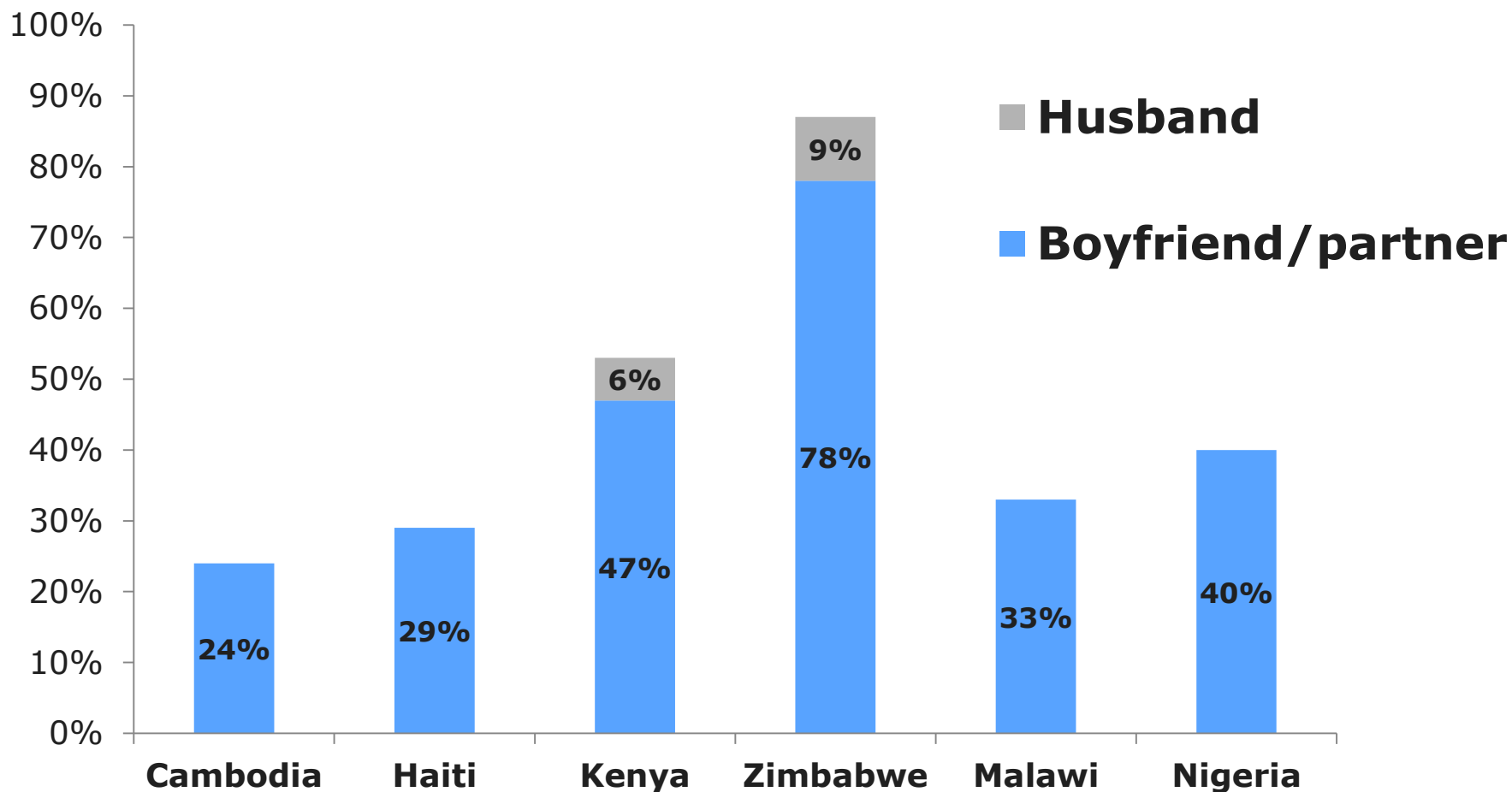
# Percent of Females 18-24 Years of Age Who Ever Experienced Sexual Violence: VACS versus DHS



# Childhood Exposure to Violence Contributes to Perpetration



# Percentage of Females Reporting First Sexual Violence Incident Prior to Age 18 was Perpetrated by a Boyfriend/partner or Husband



# Odds of Perpetrating Sexual Violence as a Young Man by the Number of Childhood Exposures to Different Types of Violence, Malawi 2013

**Childhood**  
Exposures to  
*Violence*

Perpetration **sexual** IPV  
(N=450)

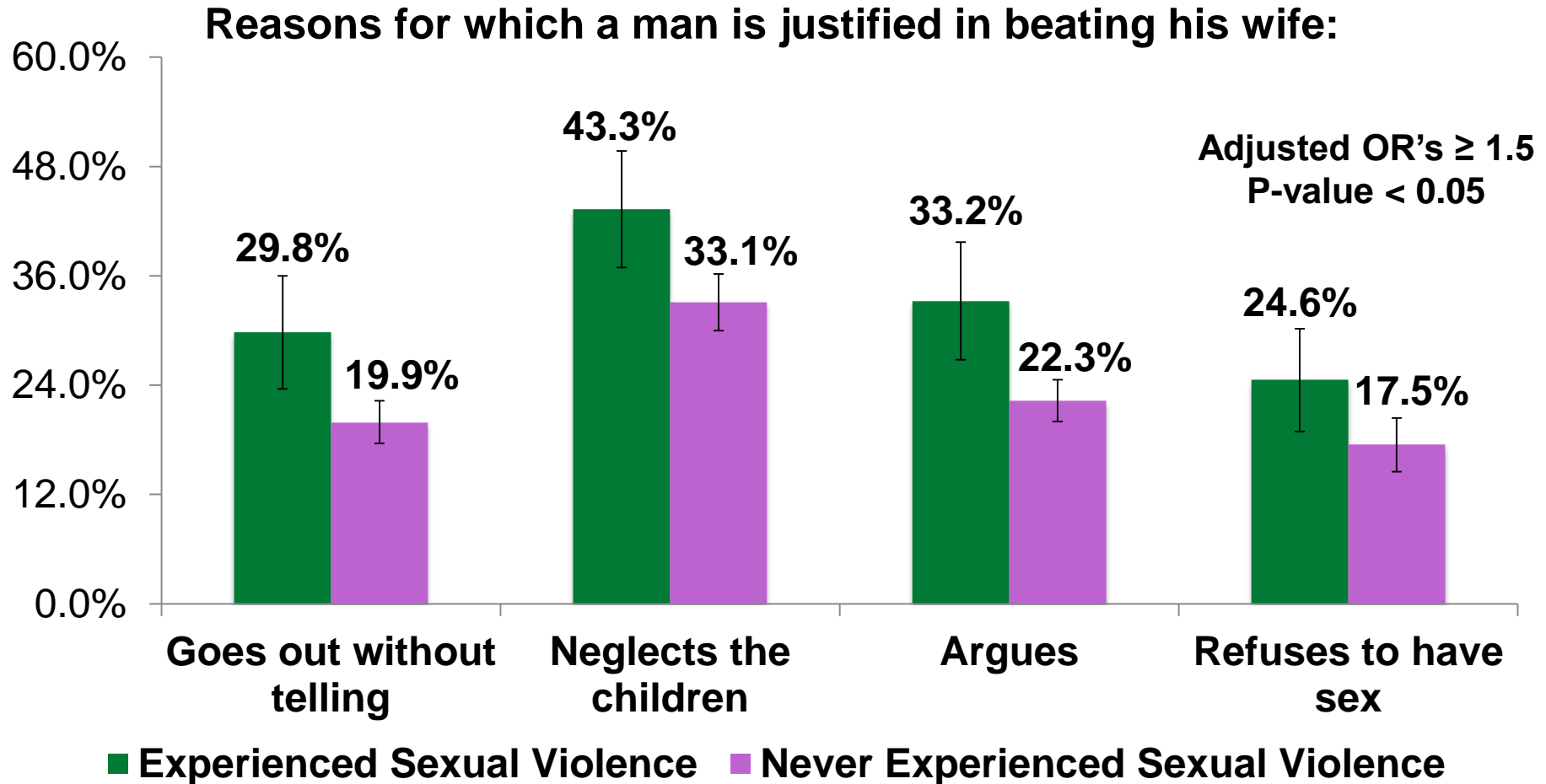
	OR*	95% CI	aOR* <sup>1</sup>	95% CI
None	ref		ref	
One	1.2	0.4-3.5	1.2	0.4-3.4
Two	1.5	0.6-3.6	1.4	0.6-3.4
Three	4.1	1.6-10.1	3.7	1.5-9.5
<b>Four or more</b>	4.9	1.9-12.4	<b>4.3</b>	1.7-11.3

\* p-value <0.05

<sup>1</sup> Adjusted for close with father (1=yes)



# Influence of Male Childhood Exposure to Sexual Violence on Gender Norms: Haiti, Kenya, and Cambodia



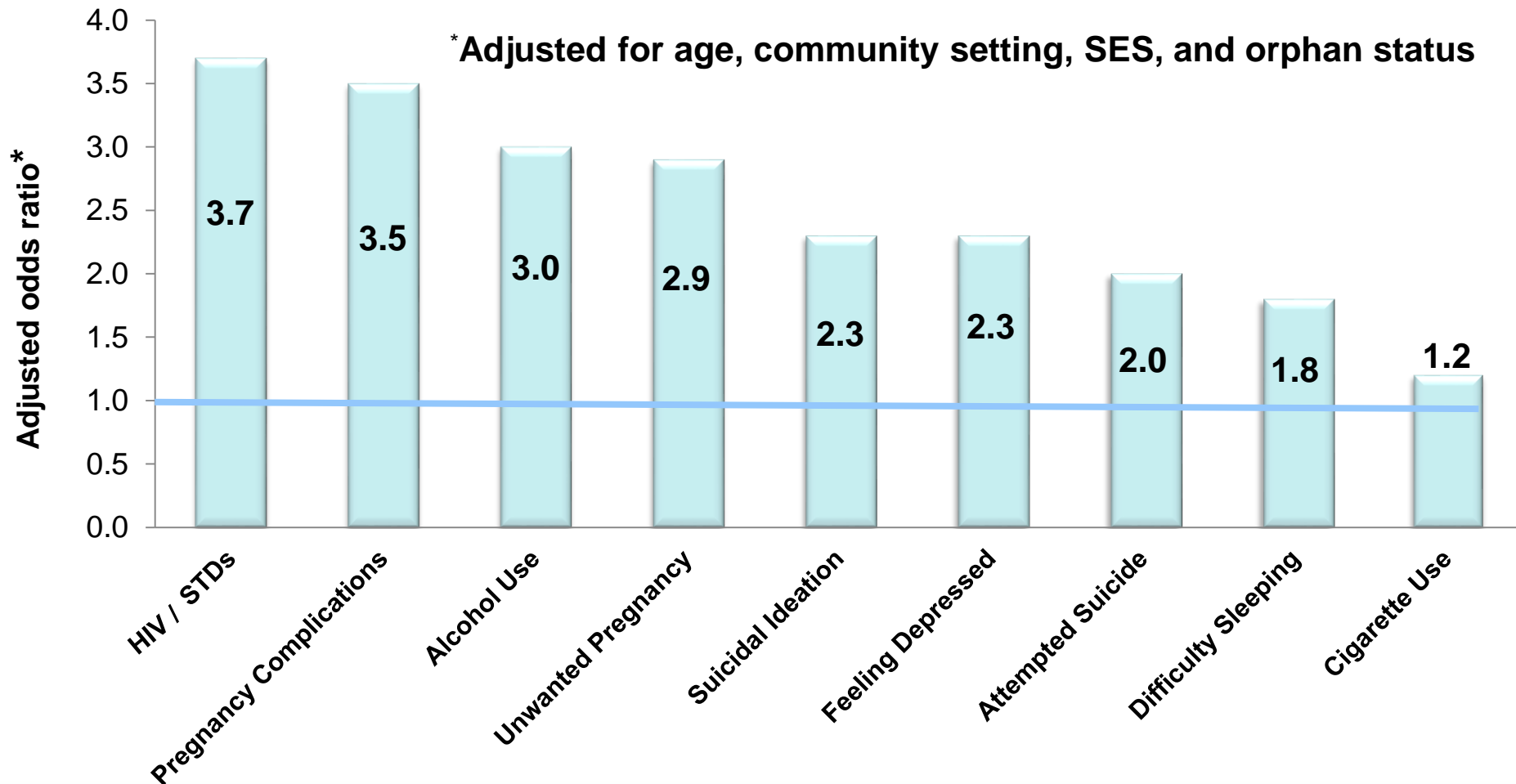
# Violence Impacts the Health of Our Children



Photo by Nadia Todres



# Association Between Childhood Sexual Violence and Selected Health Conditions, Females 13 to 24 Years of Age, Swaziland, 2007



Source: Reza A, et al. Sexual violence and its health consequences for female children in Swaziland: a cluster survey study. *Lancet* 2009;373(9679):1966-72 .

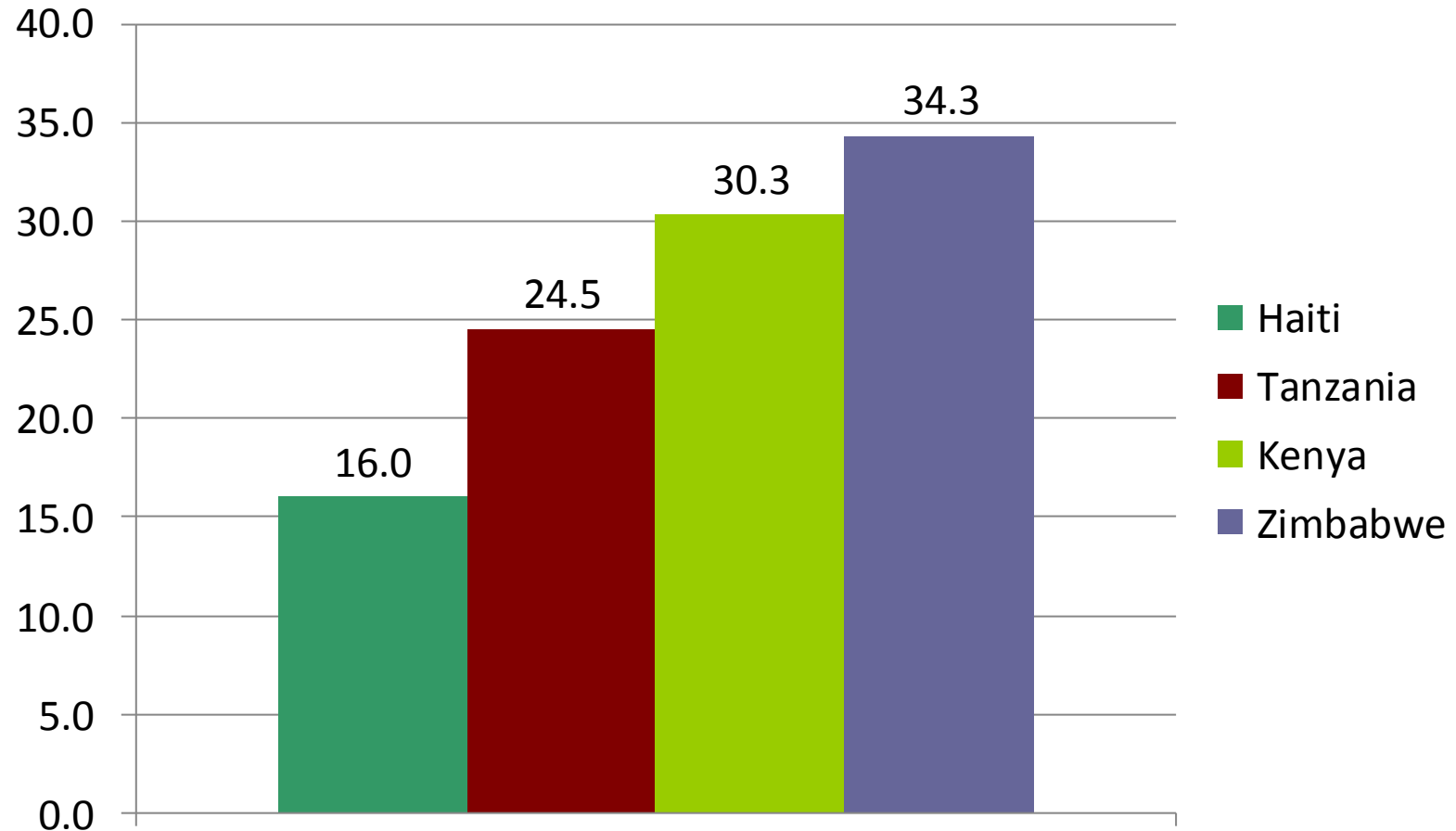
SES, Socioeconomic status

STDs, Sexually transmitted diseases

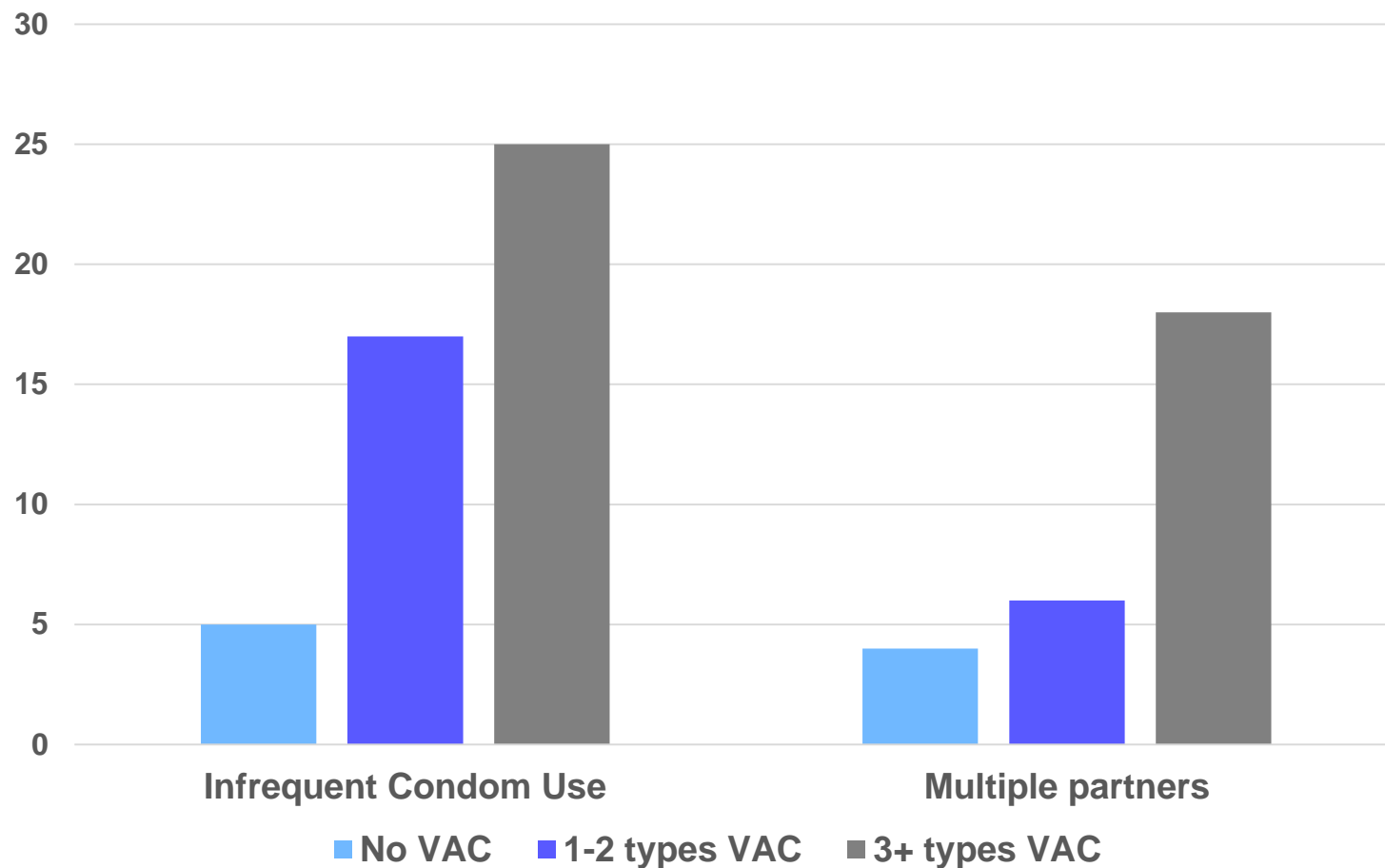




# Percentage of Females 18-24 Who Reported a Pregnancy Resulting from Forced and/or Coerced Sex Prior to Age 18 in Four VACS Country Sites<sup>+</sup>



# Number of Types of Violent Experiences and Prevalence of HIV Risk Behaviors in Past 12 Months among 19-24 year olds, Malawi, 2013



**Some Categories of  
Children are  
Especially Vulnerable  
to Violence**

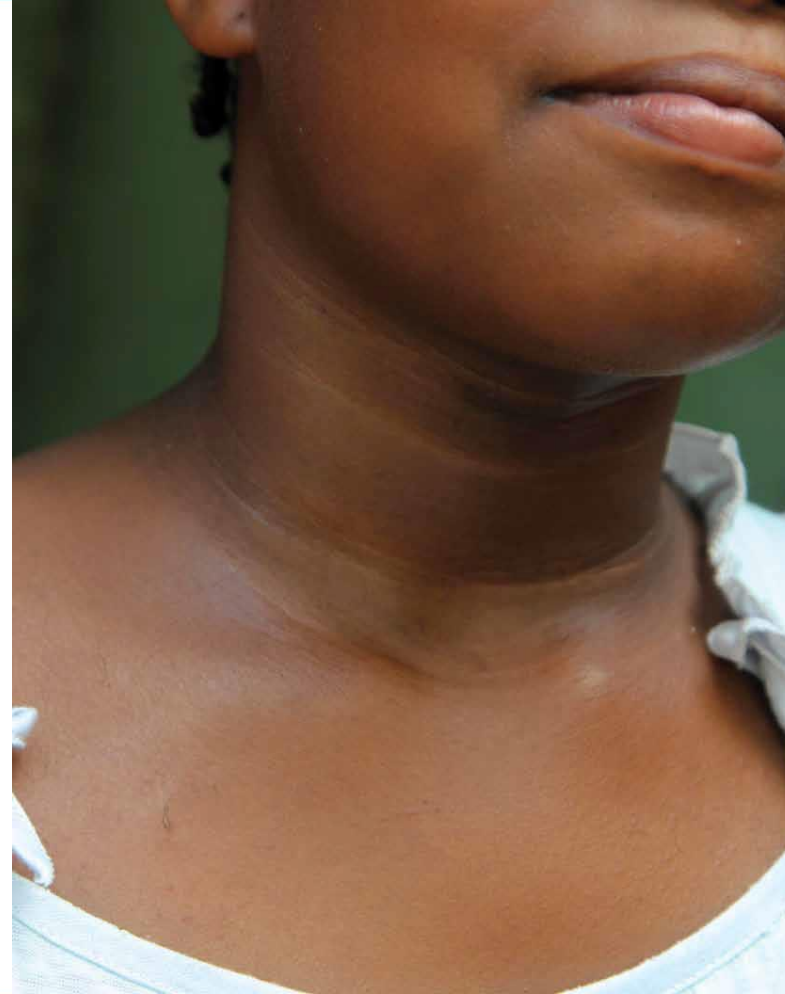
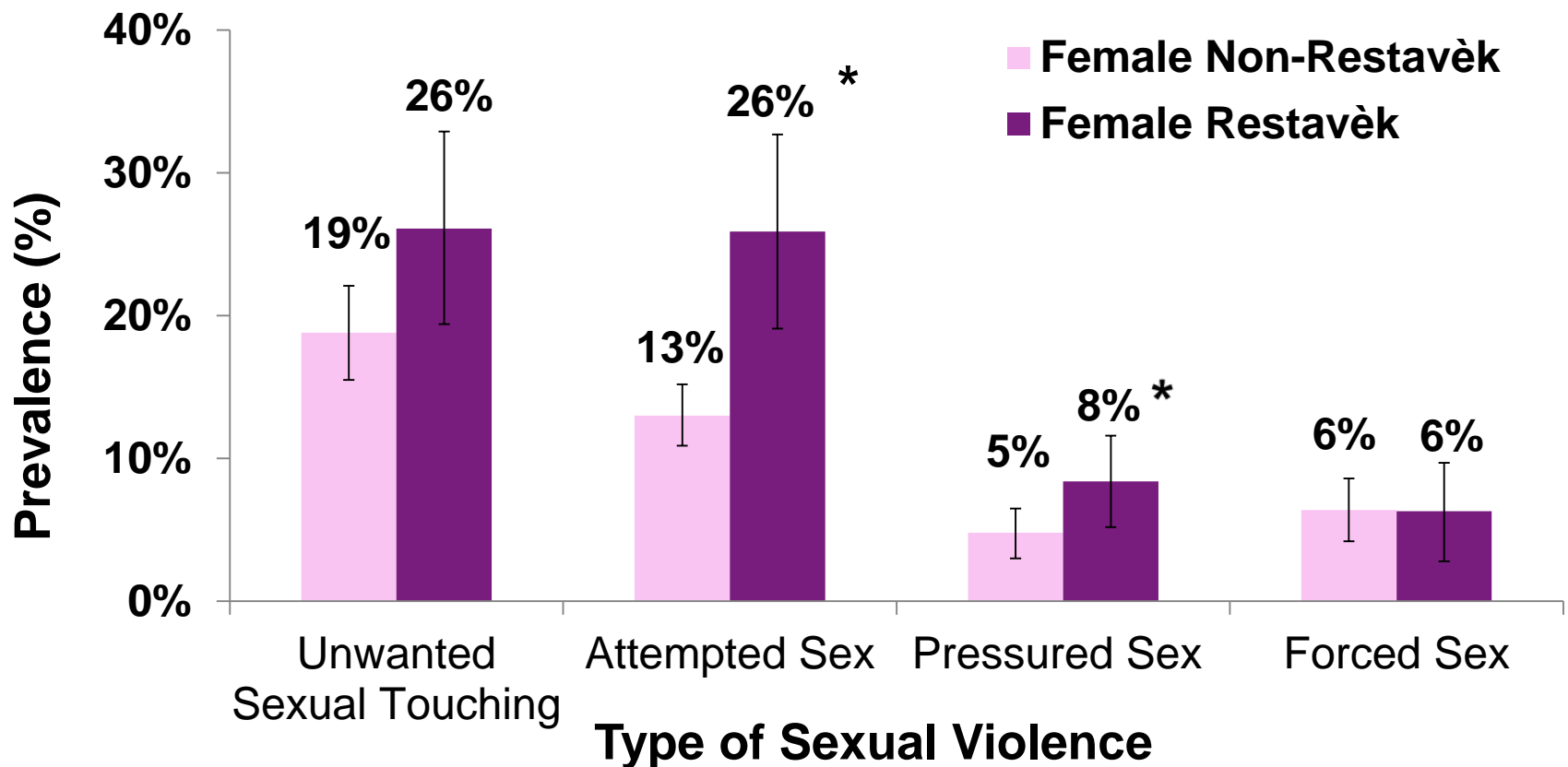


Photo by Nadia Todres



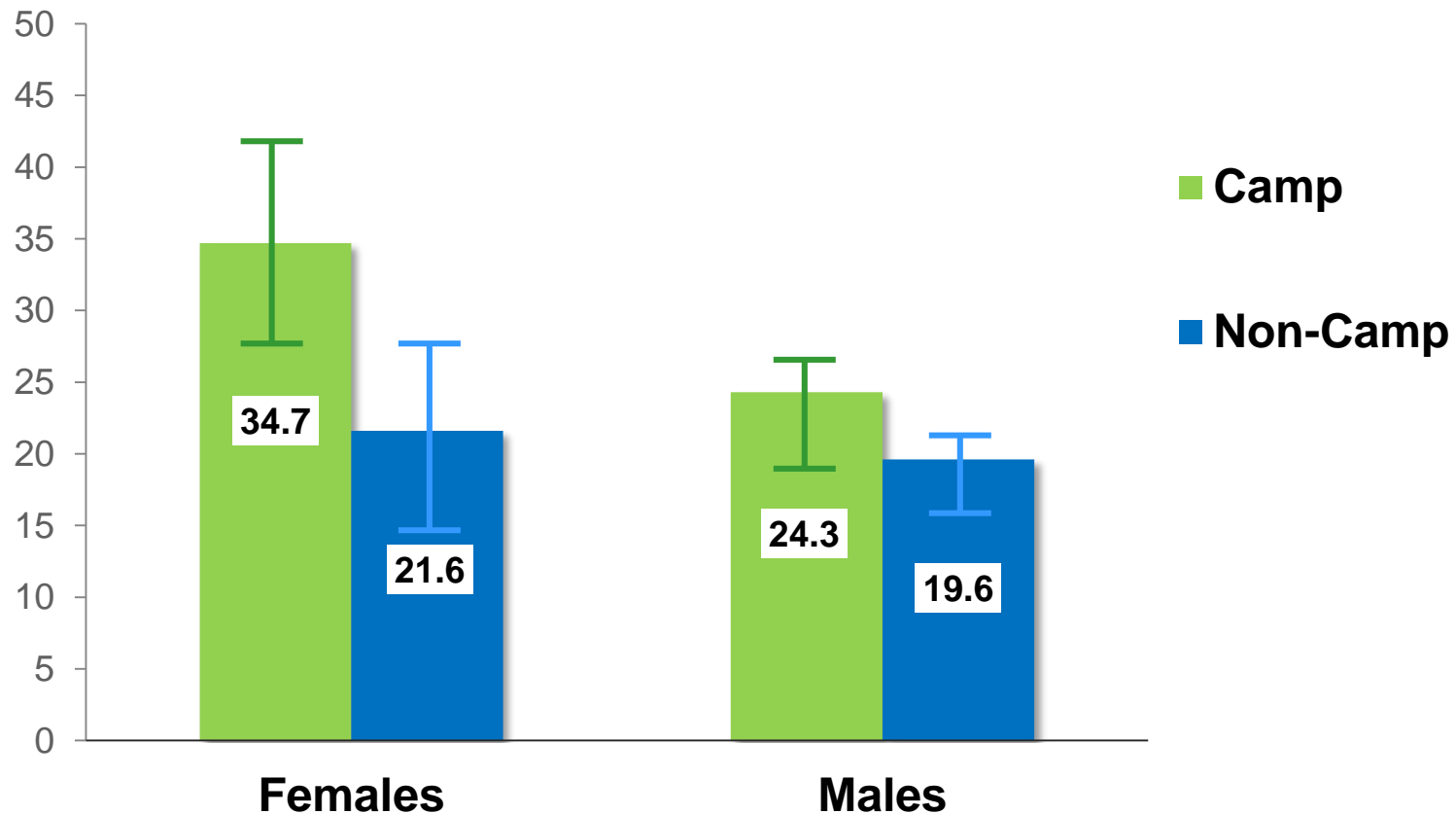
# Prevalence of Childhood Sexual Violence in Female Restavèks Compared to Non-Restavèks



\* Statistically significant,  $p < 0.05$



# Prevalence of Any Sexual Violence Prior to Age 18 Reported by Females and Males 13-24 by Camp Status, Post Quake Haiti, 2012+



+ Please do not share these data because data for this country has not been officially released.



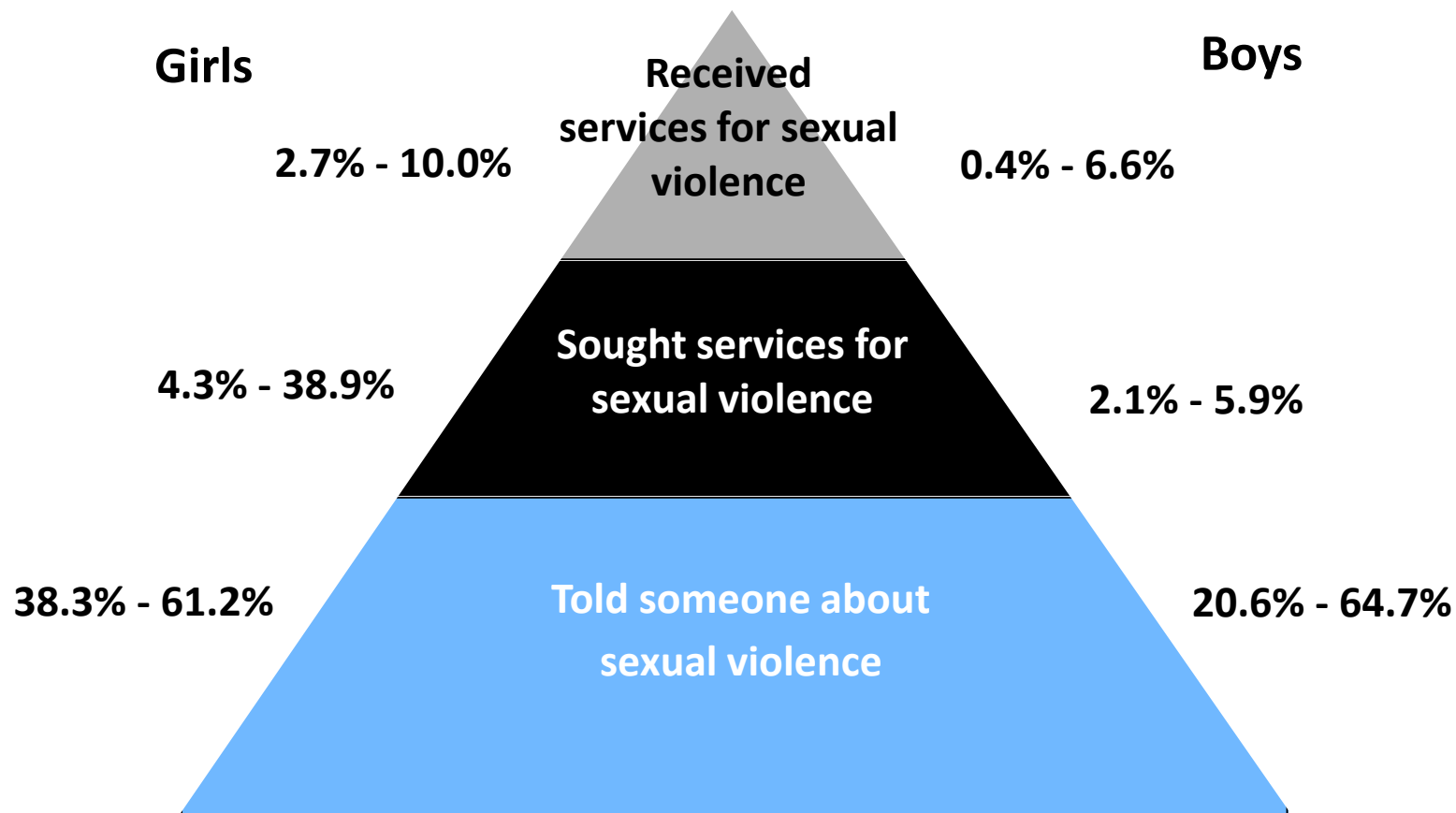
# Our Children Aren't Getting the Help They Need



Photo by Nadia Todres



# Disclosure and Service Usage by 18-24 year old Victims of Sexual Violence Prior to Age 18, VACS



# VACS Fosters Political Engagement and Programming

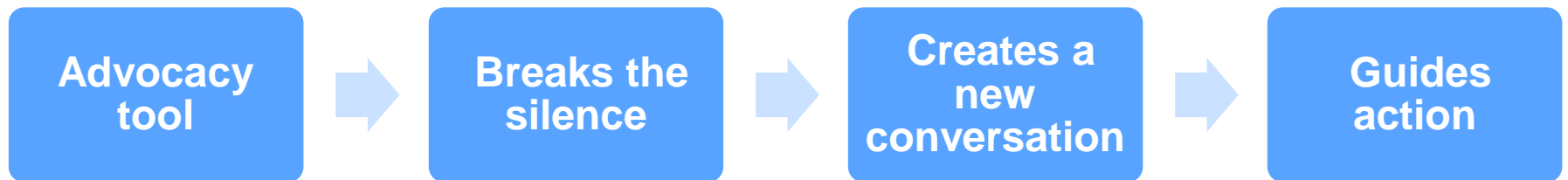
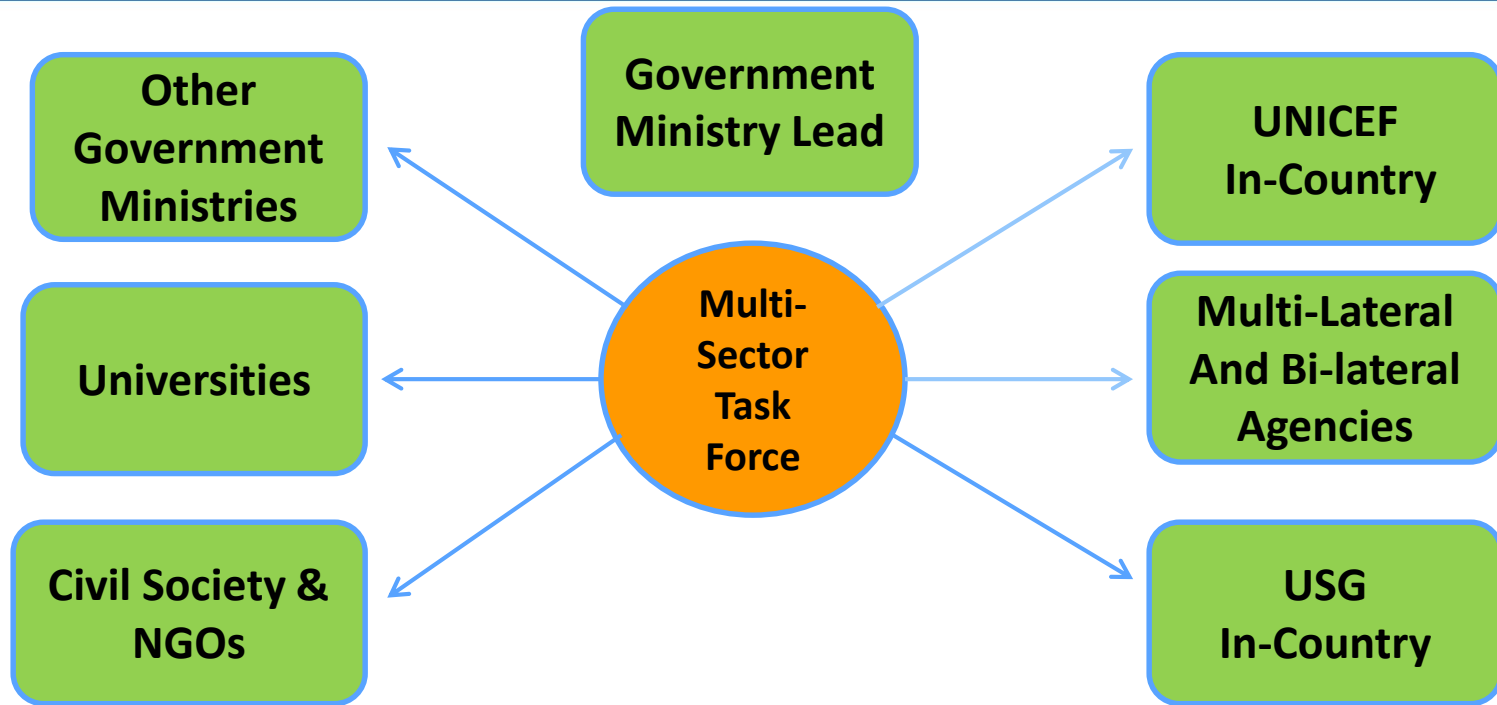


Photo by Nadia Todres





# VACS Catalyzes Action



# VACS Nigeria Coverage – September 2015

**“This is a historic day. A day when Nigeria stands up and says to our children – we commit to protecting you from violence.” – Nigerian President, Muhammadu Buhari**

Press Type	Number of articles/mentions
Online News	53
Television	9
Radio	7

\*Note: TV stations represented had a reach of > 60 million people and radio stations represented had a reach of > 10 million people.

**Nigeria: Over 60 Percent of Nigerian Children Abused Before 18 - Survey**

DAILY TRUST

16 SEPTEMBER 2015

**Nigeria: Violence Against Children Intolerable - Govt**

**Ban commends Nigeria on completion of VAC survey**

15 September 2015, 18:06

Abuja - UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has commended Nigeria for being the first country in West Africa to complete the survey on Violence Against Children (VAC).

This is contained in a statement signed by Geoffery Njoku, Media and External Relations Officer, UNICEF, in Abuja on Tuesday.

Santos Pais, Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG), said in the statement that the findings released in Abuja on Sept. 10 would enhance efforts to protect children.

"I welcome efforts by the Nigerian Government to end the invisibility of violence.



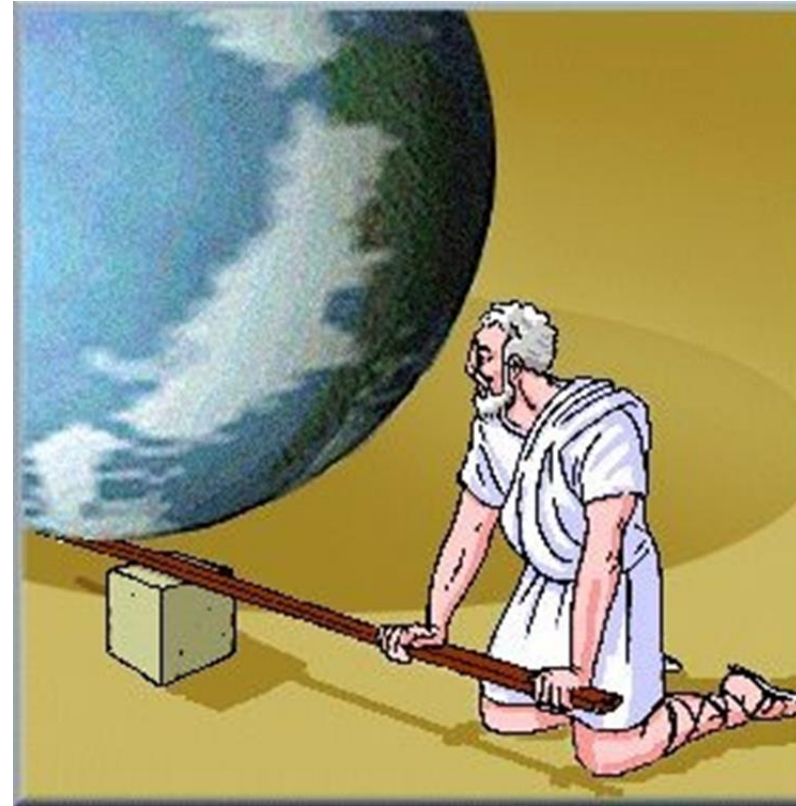
**Year of Action to End Violence Against Children Launched by President of Nigeria**

**Police Vow To Prosecute Perpetrators Of Violence Against Children**



# The Strategic Importance of Preventing Violence Against Children

- ❑ **Big Human Rights, Public Health, and Social Problem**
  - Influences many different health and social outcomes
  - Economic costs are substantial
- ❑ **Viable Prevention Programs and Policies Exist**
- ❑ **Scientifically Grounded**
- ❑ **Politically Feasible**



**“One of the most powerful ways  
to change the world  
is to make it better for kids.”**

**Jack P. Shonkoff  
National Scientific Council for the  
Developing Child**



# For more information

**Visit CDC's National Center for  
Injury Prevention and Control web site:**

**[www.cdc.gov/ncipc](http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc)**



# Disclaimer

**The findings and conclusions of this presentation have not been formally disseminated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and should not be construed to represent any agency determination or policy.**

