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Progress of Children and Adolescents towards the SDGs in Latin America and the Caribbean 2024: Where are we?

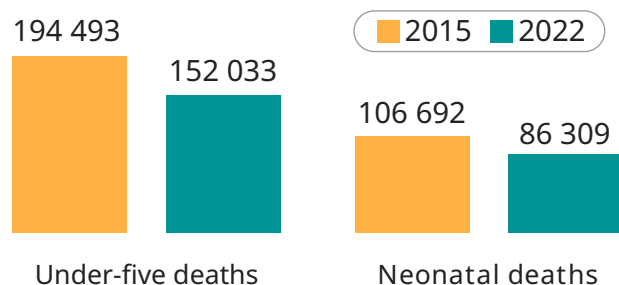


Health



Child mortality SDG 3.2.1 and SDG 3.2.2 2022

The number of deaths among children under the age of 5 decreased by 22% between 2015 and 2022.



16 under-five

deaths per 1 000
live births SDG 3.2.1



9 neonatal

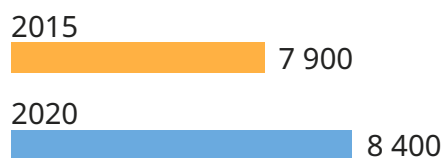
deaths per 1 000
live births SDG 3.2.2

Maternal mortality

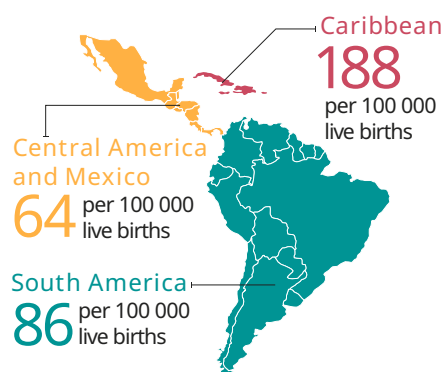
SDG 3.1.1 2020

Latin America and the Caribbean is the only region where maternal mortality has not decreased since 2000.

On the contrary, the number of maternal deaths increased by 6%, and the maternal mortality rate rose from 75 to 88 per 100 000 live births between 2015 and 2020.



The maternal mortality rate is three times higher in the Caribbean than in Central America and Mexico.



Each day, on average:

416 children under 5 years old die 2022

236 newborns under one month old die 2022

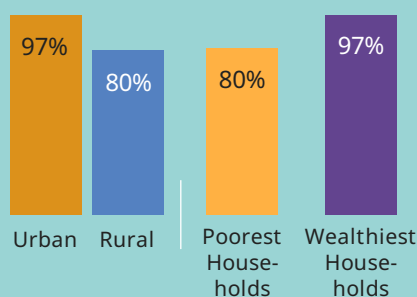
23 mothers die due to pregnancy or childbirth complications 2020

Delivery care SDG 3.1.2

2017 - 2023

The proportion of women whose deliveries are assisted by a skilled birth attendant reaches 95%. However...

1 in 5 women living in rural areas and the poorest households lacks that opportunity.



Adolescent sexual health

Adolescent Birth Rate

SDG 3.7.2 2024

Latin America and the Caribbean ranks **second** in adolescent birth rate among all regions worldwide.

Adolescents aged 15 to 19 years:

Regional:

51 per 1 000 adolescents

Global:

41 per 1 000 adolescents

Adolescents aged 10 to 14 years:

Regional:

2.3 per 1 000 adolescent

Global:

1.5 per 1 000 adolescents

Health

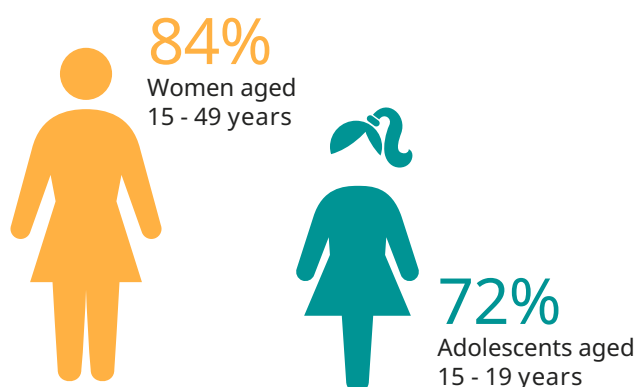


Adolescent sexual health SDG 3.7.1

Modern contraceptive methods

2017 - 2023

Adolescents aged 15 to 19 are less likely to use modern family planning methods compared to adult women.



Immunization

SDG 3.b.1

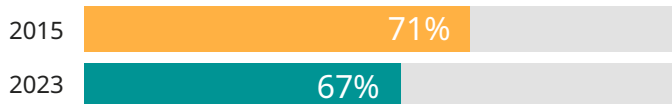
Nearly 2 out of 10 children have not received the third dose of the DPT vaccine (DPT3), and approximately 3 out of 10 lack the second dose of the measles vaccine (MCV2).

Vaccine coverage for both declined between 2015 and 2023.

DPT3 SDG 3.b.1

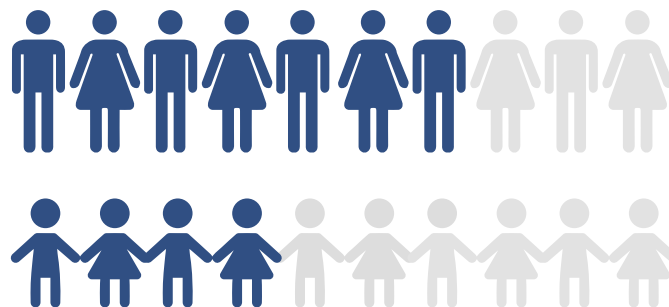


MCV2 SDG 3.b.1



Antirretroviral Therapy (ART) for children under 15 living with HIV 2023

Adults living with HIV are nearly twice as likely to receive ART compared to children under 15 years old living with HIV.



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Nutrition



Malnutrition in children under 5 years of age SDG 2.2.1 and SDG 2.2.2 2022

5.7 million children under the age of 5 are affected by **chronic undernutrition** (stunting) (12%).

4.2 million children under 5 are **overweight**, accounting for 9% of the population in this age group in the region.

Chronic undernutrition (Stunting) SDG 2.2.1



Overweight SDG 2.2.2



Changes in malnutrition rates

From 2015 to 2022, stunting remained stable. However, overweight prevalence among children under 5 slightly increased.

Chronic undernutrition (Stunting)



Overweight



Wasting

Nearly 2% of children under 5 are affected by wasting

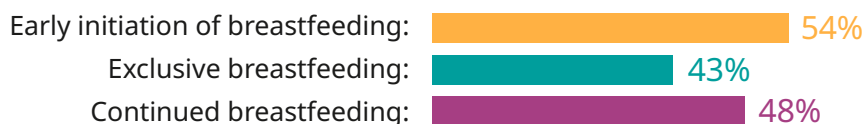
Minimum dietary diversity

Nearly 6 out of 10 children (62%) aged 6 months to 2 years consumed foods and beverages from at least five of the eight defined food groups during the previous day.

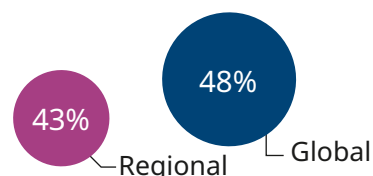


Breastfeeding 2016-2022

54% of children were breastfed within the first hour after birth (early initiation), and 43% received exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months. Nearly half of children between 1 and 2 years old continued to be breastfed (continued breastfeeding).



The percentage of infants under 6 months of age receiving exclusive breastfeeding in Latin America and the Caribbean falls below the global average.



Education



Early Childhood Education SDG 4.2.2 and SDG 4.2.4

1 in 10 children (9%) still do not participate in organised learning programmes one year before the official age of entry into primary education. SDG 4.2.2 2023



Only 19% of children under the age of 3 receive support from early childhood educational development programmes, but this figure increases 4 times at the pre-primary cycle. 2020



Education Levels Completion Rates SDG 4.2000 - 2023

While adolescent girls have slightly higher completion rates at all levels, these rates remain unacceptably low for the region.



Completion rates in lower secondary education 2022

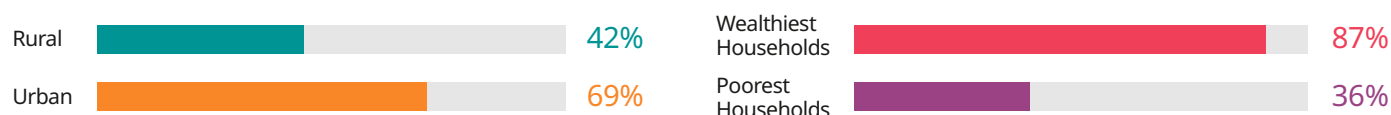
Adolescents living in rural areas and poor households are less likely to complete lower secondary education compared to their peers in urban areas and wealthier households.



Only one-third of countries report a completion rate above 70% in upper secondary education.

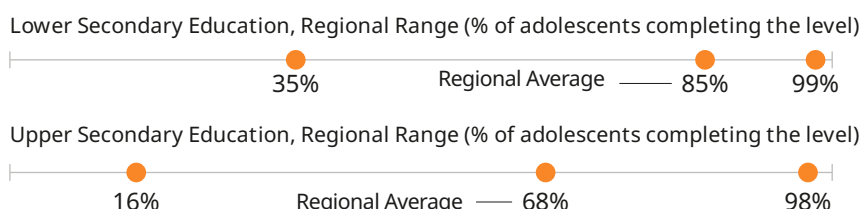
Completion rates in upper secondary education 2022

Adolescents from wealthier households and urban areas have nearly twice the likelihood of completing upper secondary education compared to their peers from poorer households and rural areas.



Regional disparities 2000 - 2023

Regional disparities are significant: in lower secondary education, the highest completion rate is nearly 3 times that of the lowest, while in upper secondary education, the gap increases to 6 times.



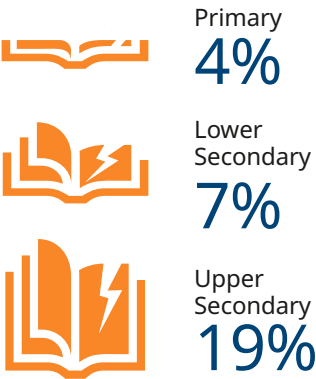
* The graph shows the percentages of the countries with available data that have the highest and lowest secondary school completion rates.



Education

Children and Adolescents Out of School SDG 4.1.4 2000 - 2024

The rate of children and adolescents out of school is nearly five times higher in upper secondary education than in primary education.



Regional disparities 2022

The disparities across countries in the region are significant. In some countries, the proportion of out-of-school children and adolescents is minimal, while in others, nearly half of the population of secondary school age is not in the education system.

Lower Secondary Education, Regional Range (% of out-of-school adolescents)



Upper Secondary Education, Regional Range (% of out-of-school adolescents)



* The graph shows the percentages of the countries with available data that have the highest and lowest proportion of adolescents out of school

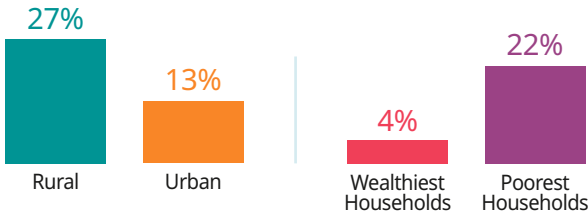
Lower secondary education 2022

In lower secondary education, the proportion of adolescents out of school is 3 times higher in rural areas than in urban areas and 8 times higher in the poorest households compared to the wealthiest.



Upper secondary education 2022

In upper secondary education, the rate in rural areas is double that of urban areas, and in the poorest households, it is 5.5 times higher than in the wealthiest households.





Child Protection

Birth registration

SDG 16.9.1 2024

The birth of 2 million children under the age of 5 has not been registered.

Children under:

1 year:  91%

Children under:

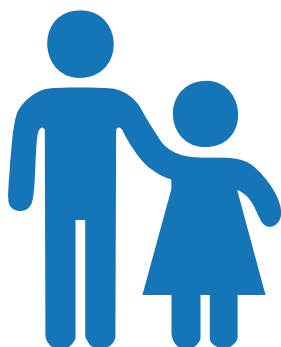
5 years:  95%

Child marriage/early unions

SDG 5.3.1 2015 - 2023

More than 1 in 5 women aged 20 to 24 were married or in a union before the age of 18.

In the last 25 years, there has been no significant progress in reducing the rates of child marriage and/or early unions.

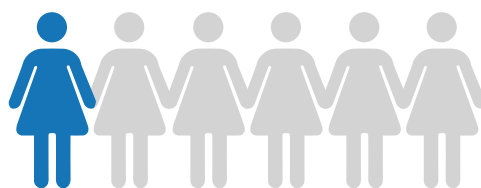


Before the Age of 15
4%

Before the Age of 18
21%

Sexual violence against children and adolescents

SDG 16.2.3 2024



More than 1 in 6 women (18%) have been victims of sexual violence involving physical contact before reaching 18 years of age.

Latin America and the Caribbean **rank third** globally in the prevalence of sexual violence during childhood.

Child labour

SDG 8.7.1 2015 - 2023



5% of children and adolescents are engaged in child labour.

Bullying

2011 - 2019



1 in 3 students (34%) aged 13 to 15 reports having experienced bullying at school.

Violent child discipline

SDG 16.2.1

2018 - 2023

The proportion of children under the age of 15 who experience physical or psychological aggression varies across countries in the region.

The difference in the prevalence of violent discipline among countries with available data in the region is more than double.

Violent Child Discipline, Regional Range.

* From the LAC countries with available data



Child Protection



Homicides among young people SDG 16.1.1 2021

Young men aged 15 to 29 are the group at highest risk of homicide, with an estimated rate of **54 victims per 100 000 men in this age range.**

The homicide rate is higher among men than women across all age groups. However, the proportion of homicides among women remains disproportionately high compared to the global average.



Children and adolescents in detention 2013 - 2023

Latin America and the Caribbean has the **second highest** rate of child and adolescent in detention in the world, exceeding the global average by more than double.



Regional: 63 detentions per 100 000 children under 18.



Global: 28 detentions per 100 000 children under 18.



Children in residential care institutions 2010 - 2023

158 000 children and adolescents live in residential care institutions.

Rate of children and adolescents in residential care



Regional: 85 per 100 000 children and adolescents in residential care.



Global: 102 per 100 000 children and adolescents in residential care.

Children and adolescents on the move 2020



1 in 10 migrant children live in Latin America and the Caribbean.



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Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Water and Sanitation in Households SDG 6.1.1

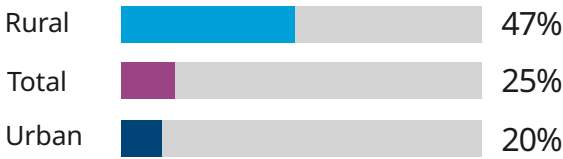
Safely Managed Drinking Water Services SDG 6.1.1 2022

More than 165 million people, lack access to safely managed drinking water.

Nearly half of the population living in rural areas lacks access to safe drinking water, and those who do have access face significant challenges regarding water quality.

Coverage of these services has not increased since 2015.

Percentage of the population without access to safe drinking water.



Water and Sanitation in Schools SDG 4.a 2023

Although coverage of basic water, sanitation, and hygiene services in schools has increased over the past decade, much still needs to be improved.

Percentage of schools:

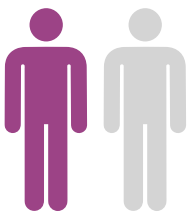


Urbanization 2022

8 out of 10 people (82%) live in urban areas.



Safely Managed Sanitation Services SDG 6.2.1a



1 in 2 people (49%) lack access to safely managed sanitation services.

Half of the population living in urban areas still does not have access to such services.

Percentage of people practicing open defecation SDG 6.2.1.c 2022

More than 8 million people continue to practice open defecation, exacerbating childhood issues such as malnutrition and anemia.

3 out of 4 of these persons, who reside in rural areas, engage in this practice.



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13 CLIMATE ACTION

Climate Change

Internal displacement due to natural disasters 2024

It is estimated that **3.2 million children and adolescents** are internally displaced due to hazardous natural events.

Commitment of the region to climate change



Of the 34 countries in the region that have submitted a Nationally Determined Contribution with commitments for climate change mitigation and adaptation, **only 12 meet all four child-sensitive criteria.**

Exposure of children and adolescents to climate change risks 2021

More than **169 million children and adolescents**, or 3 out of 4, are exposed to high climate risk.

55 million exposed to Water scarcity.

60 million exposed to Cyclones.

85 million exposed to Zika.

115 million exposed to Dengue.

45 million exposed to Heatwaves.

105 million exposed to Air pollution

Inequality in the impact of climate change



Latin American and the Caribbean countries account for **only 8% of global greenhouse gas emissions.** However, 9 of the 10 countries with the highest economic losses due to disasters, in terms of GDP percentage, are in this region, with 7 of them located in the Caribbean.

Climate financing for children



Between 2006 and 2023, the region received **18% of multilateral climate funds**, of which only 3.4% were allocated to addressing the needs of children.

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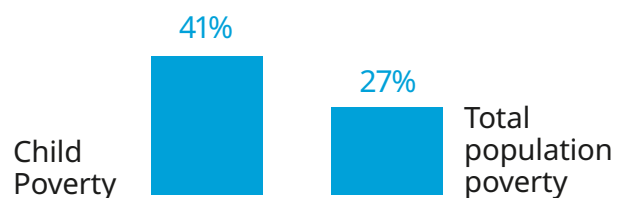
Equity and Inclusion



Child poverty *SDG 1.1.1* 2023

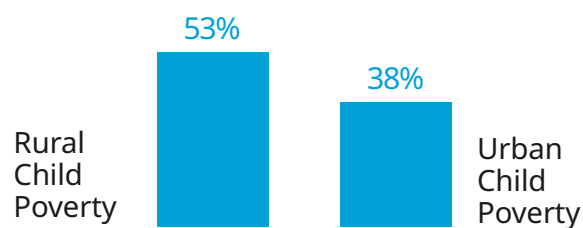
In 2023, 4 out of 10 children under the age of 15 live in poverty.

Children are disproportionately affected by poverty, with the child poverty rate for those aged 0 to 14 nearly twice as high as that of the general population.



Territorial disparities 2023

Children living in rural areas are 1.4 times more likely to live in poverty than those residing in urban areas.



Extreme Child poverty *SDG 1.1.2* 2023

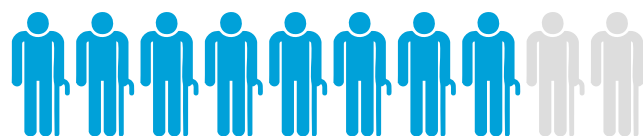
While 10% of the general population lives in extreme poverty, this percentage rises to **16%** among children under 15 years old.

Social protection *SDG 1.3.1* 2023

Less than half of the population under 15 years old receives at least one cash benefit for children or their families.

Social protection is primarily targeted at older populations. The percentage of people over 65 years old receiving social protection (79.3%) is almost double that of children under 15 years old (42.3%).

Older adults over 65 years old:



Children under 15 years old:





Equity and Inclusion

Public Expenditure Gap on Social Protection for Children SDG 1.3.1 2023

Less than 15% of GDP is allocated to social protection, of which only 0.8% is dedicated to social protection for children and adolescents.

Only 5% of total social protection spending is directed towards children and adolescents, despite them making up almost a quarter of the total population.

Children with disabilities

It is estimated that nearly **19.1 million** children and adolescents live with some type of disability, representing 10% of the population under 18 years old.

Maternity benefits SDG 5.4.1 2023

Only 3 out of 10 mothers with newborns receive maternity benefits.

Compliance with ILO recommendation:
The International Labour Organization recommends a minimum of 14 weeks of paid maternity leave. In the region:

10 countries do not comply with the recommendation.

5 countries comply with the recommendation.

5 countries exceed the recommendation by adhering to the broader recommendation of 18 weeks of maternity leave.



Adolescent Girls



Number of adolescent girls

It is estimated that over 51.3 million adolescent girls, aged 10 to 19, live in Latin America and the Caribbean.



HEALTH

Adolescent birth rate

SDG 3.7.2 2024

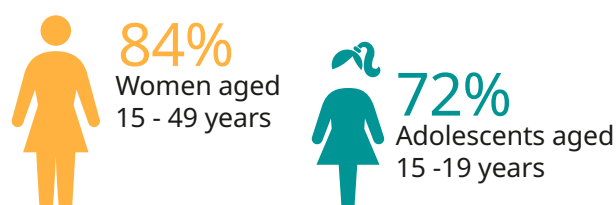
Latin America and the Caribbean rank **second** in adolescent birth rate among all regions worldwide.



Modern contraceptive methods

SDG 3.7.2 2017 - 2023

Adolescents aged 15 to 19 are less likely to use modern family planning methods compared to adult women.



Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine coverage

2023

Just over half of the girls who are supposed to receive the HPV vaccine according to the national schedule have received their final dose.

There are significant differences in coverage among countries in the region.

Regional range and average (% of adolescent girls who received the HPV vaccine)



The graph shows the percentages of the countries with available data that have the highest and lowest HPV vaccination coverage.

Mental health

2019

Nearly 8 million girls and adolescent aged 10 to 19 are living with a mental health disorder.

Percentage of adolescent girls with mental health disorders



EDUCATION

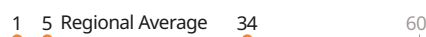
Adolescent girls out of school

SDG 4.1.4

2013 - 2022

The proportion of adolescent girls not attending school triples between the first and second cycle of secondary education.

Lower Secondary Education, Regional Range (% of out-of-school adolescent girls)



Upper Secondary Education, Regional Range (% of out-of-school adolescent girls)



* The graph shows the percentages of the countries with available data that have the highest and lowest proportion of adolescent girls out of school

Adolescents not in education, employment, or training (NEET)

2015 - 2023

1 in 5 adolescent girls aged 15 to 19 is neither studying, working, nor receiving training.



Adolescent Girls

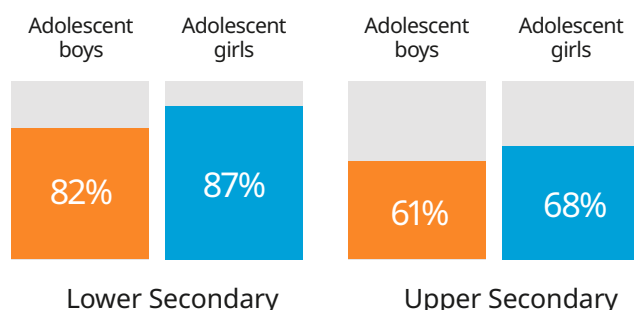


Completion rate SDG 4.1.2 2022

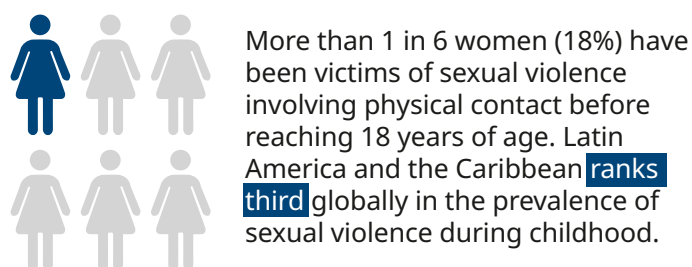


Nearly 9 out of 10 adolescent girls complete lower secondary education, but this drops to 7 out of 10 for upper secondary education.

Although adolescent girls have slightly higher completion rates than boys in both levels, the rates remain unacceptably low for the region.



Sexual violence against children and adolescents SDG 16.2.3 2024



Adolescents living in internal displacement 2022

Nearly half a million adolescent girls aged 10 to 19 live in internal displacement in Latin America and the Caribbean due to conflicts and violence

CHILD PROTECTION

Violent child discipline SDG 16.2.1

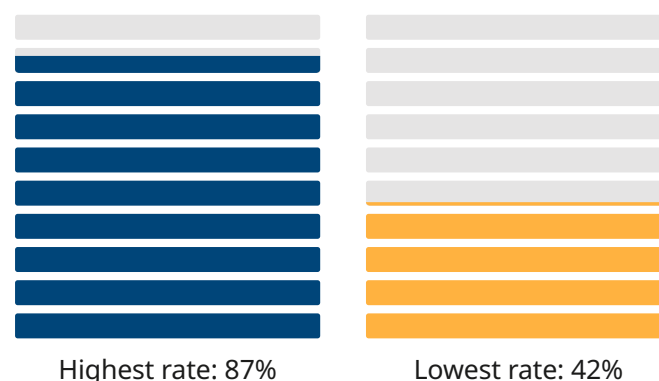
2018 - 2023

The proportion of children under the age of 15 who experience physical or psychological aggression varies across countries in the region.

The difference in the prevalence of violent discipline among countries with available data in the region is more than double.

Violent Child Discipline, Regional Range

* From the LAC countries with available data



Child marriage/early unions SDG 5.3.1 2015 - 2023

More than 1 in 5 women aged 20 to 24 were married or in a union before the age of 18.

In the last 25 years, there has been no significant progress in reducing the rates of child marriage and/or early unions.



Migrants and refugees 2020

More than 900 000

adolescent girls aged 10 to 19 are international migrants and/or refugees in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Data sources

1. Health

1.1 Child Mortality

- *Global and Regional Data for SDG Indicators: Statistical Annex (2024)*, ONU, at unstats.un.org
- *Under-five Mortality Database (2024)*, UNICEF, WHO, World Bank Group, UN DESA (UN IGME), at data.unicef.org

1.2 Maternal Mortality

- *Global and Regional Data for SDG Indicators: Statistical Annex (2024)*, ONU, at unstats.un.org
- *Trends in maternal mortality 2000 to 2020 (2023)*, UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, World Bank Group, UNDESA/Population Division, at who.int/publications/
- *Maternal Mortality Database (2023)*, UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, World Bank Group and UNPD (MMEIG), at data.unicef.org

1.3 Delivery Care

- *Global and Regional Data for SDG Indicators: Statistical Annex (2024)*, ONU, at unstats.un.org
- *Maternal and Newborn Health Coverage Database (2023)*, UNICEF, at data.unicef.org

1.4 Adolescent Sexual Health

- *Global and Regional Data for SDG Indicators: Statistical Annex (2024)*, ONU, at unstats.un.org
- *Maternal and Newborn Health Coverage Database (2023)*, UNICEF, at data.unicef.org

1.5 Immunisation

- *Global and Regional Data for SDG Indicators: Statistical Annex (2024)*, ONU, at unstats.un.org
- *Immunization Coverage Database (2024)*, WHO, UNICEF (WUENIC), at data.unicef.org

1.6 HIV

- *Global HIV Statistics Fact Sheet (2024)*, UNAIDS, at unaids.org

2. Nutrition

2.1 Malnutrition

- *Global and Regional Data for SDG Indicators: Statistical Annex (2024)*, ONU, at unstats.un.org
- *Child Malnutrition Database (2023)*, UNICEF, WHO, World Bank Group (JME), at data.unicef.org

2.2 Breastfeeding

- *Infant and Young Child Feeding Database (2023)*, UNICEF, at data.unicef.org

3. Education

3.1 Early childhood education

- *Global and Regional Data for SDG Indicators: Statistical Annex (2024)*, ONU, at unstats.un.org
- *Informe Regional: Monitoreo ODS4 (2022)*, UNICEF, UNESCO, CEPAL, at repositorio.cepal.org
- *UIS Database (2024)*, UNESCO, at data.uis.unesco.org

3.2 Education levels completion rates

- *Global and Regional Data for SDG Indicators: Statistical Annex (2024)*, ONU, at unstats.un.org
- *Completion Rates Database (2022)*, UNICEF, at data.unicef.org
- *The State of the World's Children report: Statistical Appendix (2024)*, UNICEF, at data.unicef.org

3.3 Out-Of-School rates

- *Out-of-School Rates Database (2022)*, UNICEF, at data.unicef.org
- *The State of the World's Children report: Statistical Appendix (2024)*, UNICEF, at data.unicef.org

4. Child Protection

4.1 Birth registration

- *The Right Start in Life: Global levels and trends in birth registration (2024)*, UNICEF, at data.unicef.org

4.2 Sexual violence against children and adolescents

- *When Numbers Demand Action: Confronting the global scale of sexual violence against children (2024)*, UNICEF, at data.unicef.org

4.3 Child marriage/early unions

- *Child Marriage Database (2024)*, UNICEF, at data.unicef.org

4.4 Child labour

- *Child Labour Database (2024)*, UNICEF, at data.unicef.org

4.5 Bullying

- *Bullying Database (2024)*, UNICEF, at data.unicef.org

Data sources

4.6 Violent child discipline

- *Violent Discipline Database (2024)*, UNICEF, at data.unicef.org

4.7 Homicides among young people

- *Global Study on Homicide: Homicide and Organized Crime in Latin America and the Caribbean (2023)*, UNODC, at unodc.org

4.8 Children and adolescents in detention

- *Children in Detention Database (2024)*, UNICEF, at data.unicef.org

4.9 Children in residential care institutions

- *Children in Residential Care Database (2024)*, UNICEF, at data.unicef.org

4.10 Children and adolescents on the move

- *Child Migration Data (2024)*, UNICEF, at data.unicef.org

5. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

5.1 Water and sanitation in households

- *Global and Regional Data for SDG Indicators: Statistical Annex (2024)*, ONU, at unstats.un.org
- *Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Database (2024)*, UNICEF, WHO (JMP), at data.unicef.org

5.2 Water and sanitation in schools

- *Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Database (2023)*, UNICEF, WHO (JMP), at data.unicef.org

5.3 Urbanization

- *Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Database (2024)*, UNICEF, WHO (JMP), at data.unicef.org

6. Climate Change

- *Climate Mobility and Childhood Report (2024)*, UNICEF, at data.unicef.org
- *Children's Climate Risk Index (2021)*, UNICEF, at unicef.org/reports

- *Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and Child Sensitivity Data Platform (2024)*, UNICEF, at ndcsforeverychild.unicef.org
- *The Human Cost of Disasters: An overview of the last 20 years 2000-2019 (2020)*, UNDRR, at reliefweb.int

7. Equity and Inclusion

7.1 Child Poverty

- *CEPALSTAT - Statistical Databases and Publications (2023)*, CEPAL, at statistics.cepal.org

7.2 Social Protection

- *World Social Protection Report (2023)*, ILO, at ilo.org/publications
- *World Social Protection Database (2023)*, ILO, at social-protection.org

7.3 Maternity Benefits

- *World Social Protection Database (2023)*, ILO, at social-protection.org
- *Maternidad y Paternidad en el Lugar de Trabajo en América Latina y el Caribe (2024)*, UNICEF, at unicef.org/lac/informes

8. Adolescent Girls

8.1 Demographics

- *Data Portal Population Division (2024)*, United Nations, at population.un.org

8.2 Adolescent Sexual and reproductive health

- *Global and Regional Data for SDG Indicators: Statistical Annex (2024)*, ONU, at unstats.un.org
- *Maternal and Newborn Health Coverage Database (2023)*, at data.unicef.org

8.3 Immunisation

- *HPV Immunization Coverage Database (2024)*, WHO, UNICEF (JRF), at data.unicef.org

8.4 Mental health

- *Fotografía Estadística de la Situación de las Adolescentes en América Latina y el Caribe (2023)*, UNICEF, at unicef.org

8.5 Out-Of-School rates

- *Out-of-School Rates Database (2022)*, UNICEF, at data.unicef.org

Data sources

8.6 Completion rate

- *Completion Rates Database (2022)*, UNICEF, at data.unicef.org

8.7 Adolescents not in education, employment, or training (NEET)

- *The State of the World's Children report: Statistical Appendix (2024)*, UNICEF, at data.unicef.org

8.8 Violent child discipline

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