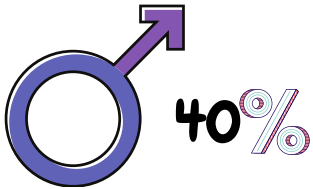




Demographics

#CovidUnder19: Life Under Coronavirus is an initiative to meaningfully involve children in responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. 26,258 children from 137 countries across all five UN regions responded to our survey.



GENDER

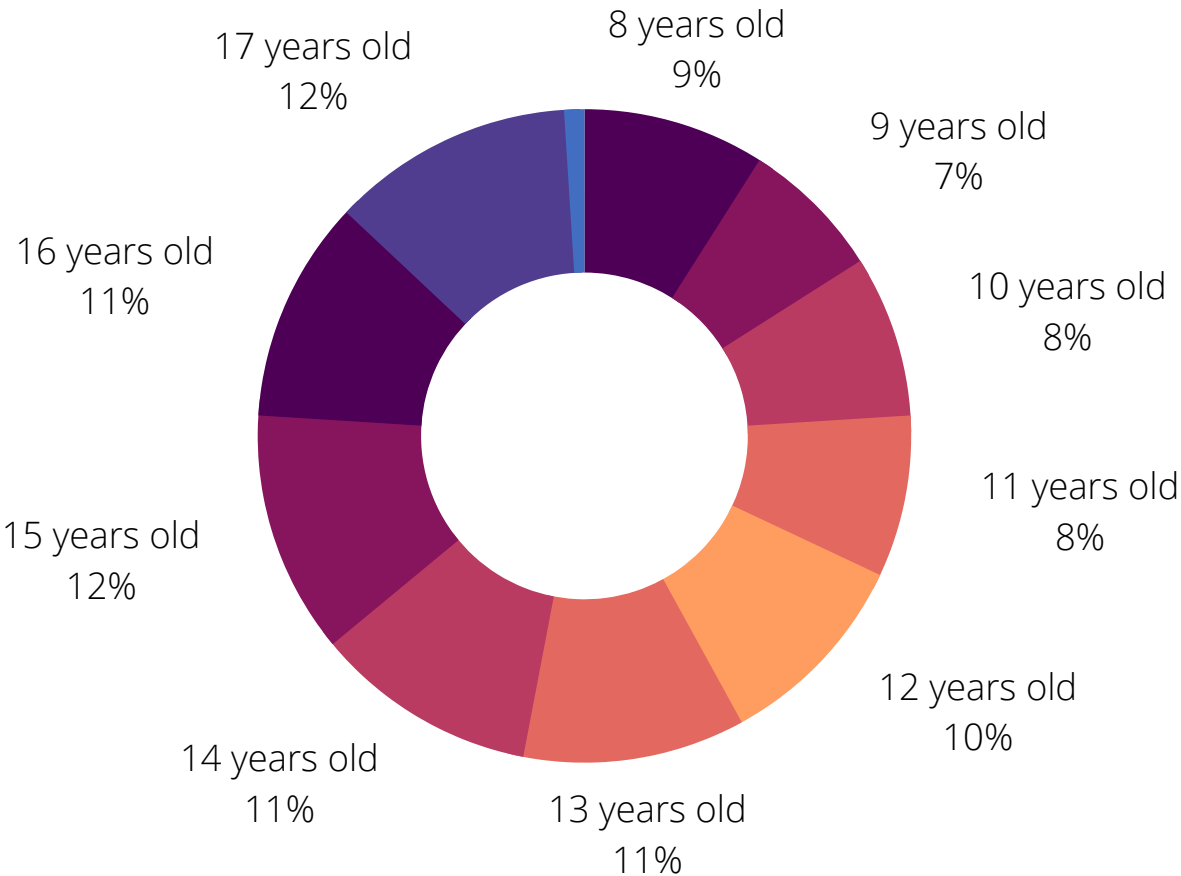
The majority of children identified as female (52%) with just over two fifths of all children identifying as male (40%). 5% of children identified as neither male or female and a minority (3%) did not want to answer the question



AGE

On average, children were 13 years old. However there was considerable variation. Ages ranged between 8 years old and seventeen years old.

Almost one-third (32%) of the total responses were from children between ages 8 and 11.

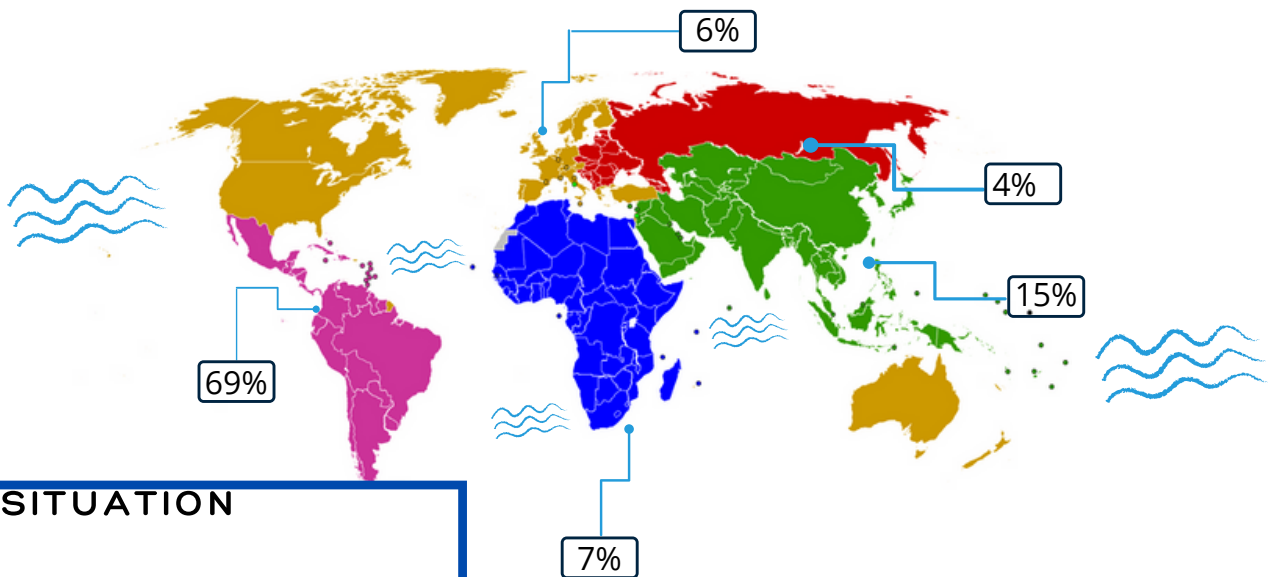




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UN REGIONS

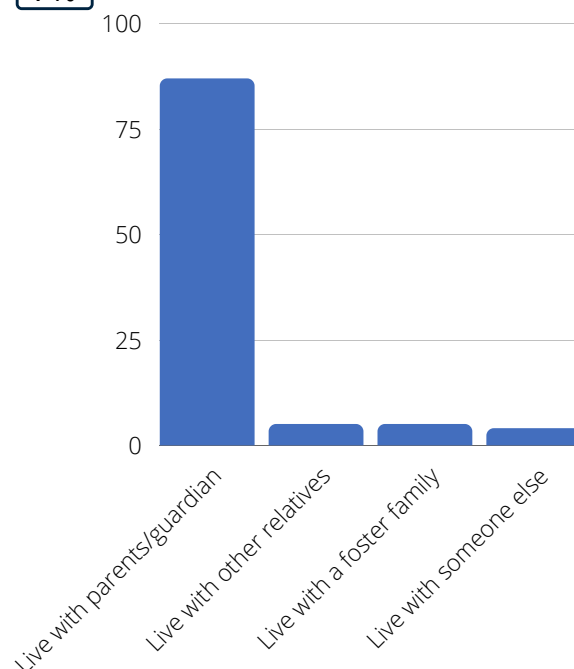
Children responded from across five UN regions including Africa (7%), Asia Pacific (15%), Eastern Europe (4%), Western European and other States (6%) and Latin America (69%).



LIVING SITUATION

Children aged over 11 years were asked about their living situation. Most children lived with their parents or guardians (87%). Some children lived with other relatives (5%). Other children lived in foster care (5%). A minority of children reported that they lived somewhere else (4%).

Children from Western European and other States (95%) and Latin America (90%) were most likely to report living with parents. Children from Asia Pacific were least likely (76%). These children were also most likely to report living in foster care (13%).



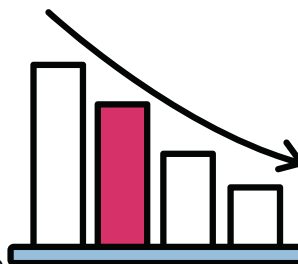


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WHERE CHILDREN LIVE

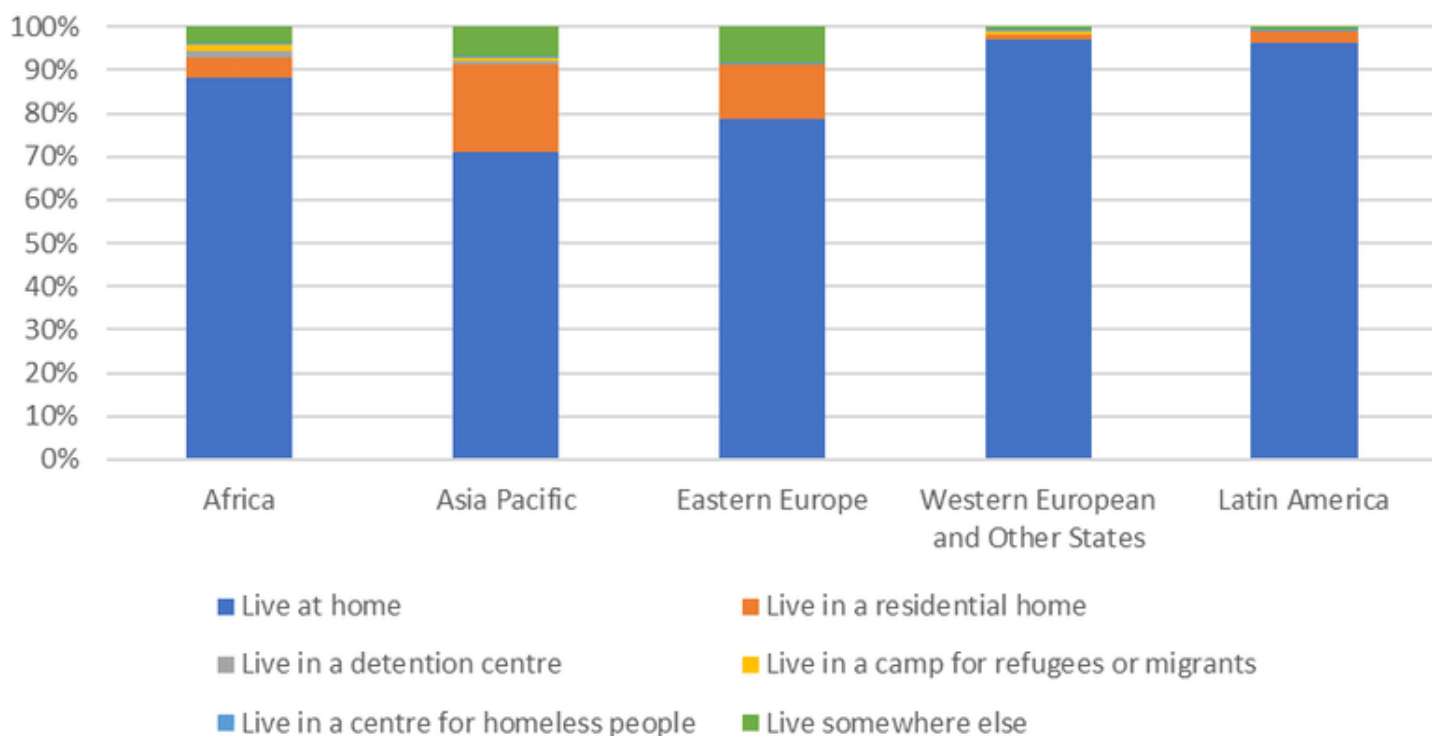
The majority of young people lived at home (91%).

6% of the children said that they lived in a children's residential home. The remaining children lived in a detention centre (<1%), a camp for migrants or refugees (<1%), a centre for homeless people (<1%) or 'somewhere else' (2%).



Children living in Western Europe and other States were most likely to report living at home (97%). Those living in the Asia Pacific region were least likely (71%). This was also the area where children were most likely to report living in residential care (20%).

Where children live





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MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH

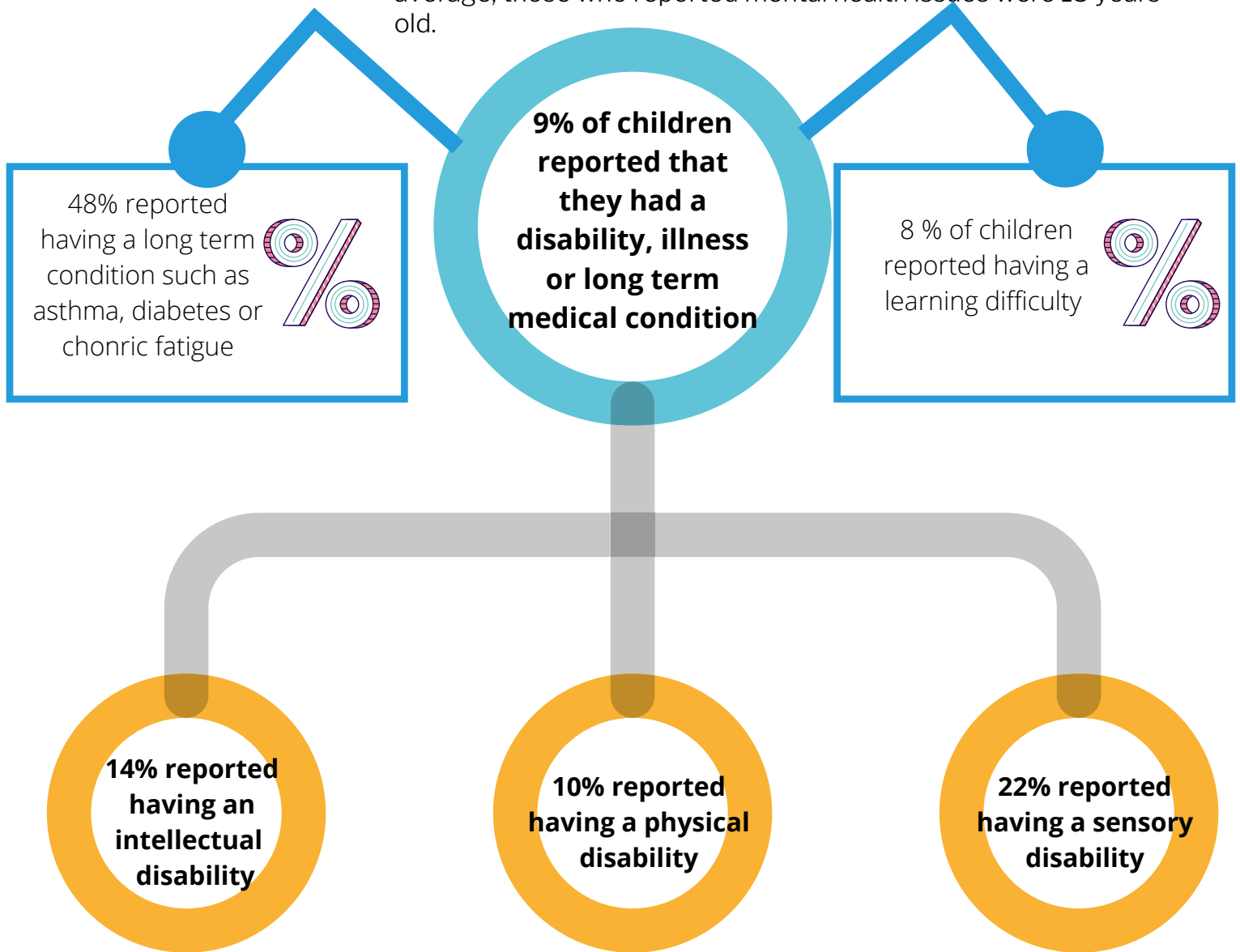


Children aged over 11 years were asked if they had a long-term disability, illness or medical condition and 9% said they did.

More than one-fifth (23%) of these children reported having a known mental health condition such as anxiety or depression.

Both non-binary children (28%) and girls (26%) were more likely to report having a known mental health condition than boys (16%).

There was a notable difference between the ages of children and self reported mental health issues. Older children were most likely to report mental health concerns than younger children. On average, those who reported mental health issues were 15 years old.





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**QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
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**CENTRE FOR
CHILDREN'S
RIGHTS**



**Economic
and Social
Research Council**



Representations of Children



UNCRC ARTICLE 2

In their analysis of compliance with the UNCRC, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child has noted that in some countries there is an **intolerance towards children and young people, particularly in the media**.

Article 2 of the UNCRC, states that children **should not be discriminated against in exercising their rights**. The survey showed some children felt discriminated against on the basis of their age during the Covid-19 pandemic. This was the case for children in some countries more than others.

MEDIA REPRESENTATION OF CHILDREN

We asked children across the world if they thought that children and young people were **represented better, worse or the same in the media** since the Coronavirus began. While many children felt that the media representation of them was better (24%) or the same (21%) as it had been before the outbreak of Coronavirus, 16% of children felt that children and young people were portrayed more negatively in the media.



Older children aged 13-17 years (17%) were more likely than younger children aged 11-12 years (11%) to feel the portrayal of children and young people had gotten worse since Coronavirus began.

Children in the United Kingdom and Ireland were more likely (34%) to feel the portrayal of children and young people had gotten worse since the pandemic began compared to children from other countries (15%).





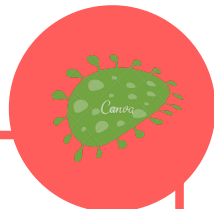
Representations of Children

WHAT WOULD YOU TELL GOVERNMENT TO DO?

Children in the survey were asked what advice they would give to government to help them make sure that children's rights are protected.

In some of their responses, children and young people across different countries raised **concerns about ways in which they were perceived and treated more negatively** or **discriminated against on the basis of age** during the Coronavirus crisis.

They were concerned about how they were viewed during the crisis, particularly relating to **blame** for spreading the virus. They were also angry about being **excluded** from public places and that the **sacrifices** they made hadn't be recognised.



VIEWS ON CHILDREN DURING CRISIS

Stop telling people we are vectors it hurts our feelings and make us sad I want to see my friends and my nana and grandad. (Boy, 8, Ireland)

I think the government should see that children are not dumb and easily manipulated. Some can have their own stand and think of new creative ways to face the crisis. Children should feel that trust and not feel like they have to remain silent. This would increase their confidence and motivated to report injustice. (Girl, 17, Bolivia)

"Children are not as clueless as you think they are. They have a voice, and no voice should be shut out. Being a child doesn't mean our voices are less credible, moreover, it should serve as an insight as to what the situation on sectors that you may have forgotten or have not given much importance is like." (Boy, 10, Philippines)

"Don't ignore children because they are young" (Boys, 8 South Korea)



Representations of Children



EXCLUSION FROM PUBLIC SPACES

Tell them that we need to go outside and do the same things like going into a shop like our Mom's and Dad's. Tell them that they said we were the problem in the spread of the virus but we are not & they still won't let us outside. (Girl, 11, Ireland)

Please tell the shops I'm not a germ infested brat like the man said so I can go into shops and help mum I miss being able to help her dad is always working and mum is stressed trying to get important stuff for us when shops give out and won't us in because I'm with her please send us some help we have a new baby and can't get all we need because shops think I'll make everyone sick by helping my mum. (Boy, 8, Ireland)

RECOGNISING CHILDREN'S SACRIFICES

I think that the president should take actions and thank the children of the U.S. and thank them for the sacrifices that they are making to help stop the spread of COVID-19. We, children, have made many sacrifices for this pandemic, and we have missed our friends, graduations and proms. Sometimes it will feel like we are being punished for this pandemic, when in reality, we are making sacrifices. I think that it would make many children feel appreciated and helpful if our city council members, mayors, governors, and even, the First Family would thank us, children, for our do help and sacrifices due to the virus. (Girl, 11, United States of America)

I didn't have the chance to graduate from high school, I can't have the prom night party and the tour with all of my friends, I have to cancel a lot of holiday plans, I really miss hanging out with my friends (Girl, 17, Indonesia)

The pandemic deprived me of my friends, my colleagues, of the possibility to go on holidays. And poverty, very high poverty, because my mother did not work. (Girl, 9, Moldova)

'My exams got cancelled and my prom too. Every year I attend a summer camp and that got cancelled to because we could not keep 1.5 meter distance. So this Corona crisis came completely at the wrong time because this year should be one of the best years of my life and now it is all ruined.' (Girl, 9, Holland)



Safety and Violence

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UNCRC ARTICLE 19



Article 19 of the [UNCRC](#) says that children have the right to be protected from all forms of violence including physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse.

Children were asked a range of questions on feelings of safety, exposure to violence and access to support. They were asked to compare their experiences since Coronavirus began, to those prior to it – were things better, the same or worse?

Many children reported feeling safer than, or as safe as, they had done before the pandemic, and many felt at no greater risk of violence. However, this was not the case for all children. The survey results demonstrate that some children are at increased risk of violence as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. This highlights groups that may require specific attention and support in protecting their right to safety and freedom from violence during periods of lockdown and global crises.



THE VIEWS OF THE CHILDREN'S ADVISORY GROUP

The Children's Advisory Group were presented with some of the comments left by children on their surveys which related to safety and violence. They identified four themes: safety at home/ where children live; safety online; the impacts of Covid-19 on mental health; dealing with the impact of Covid-19 on mental health. The first two topics are discussed in detail below, integrating some of the quotations the Advisory Group identified as important. In relation to mental health, their analysis revealed that for some children, home could be less safe during the pandemic due to feelings of isolation or feeling 'trapped' which could increase anxiety, depression and stress.



Safety and Violence

FEELING SAFE WHERE THEY LIVE



36% of children felt **safer at home** (or where they lived) since Coronavirus began; 56% reported feeling as safe as they had done prior to the pandemic.

Younger children, those aged 8-10 years, were the age group most likely to report feeling more safe at home or where they lived.

Some of those who reported feeling safer noted this was because indoors was the safest place to be during the pandemic. For others being at home meant they were less exposed to violence in communities and schools.

'I feel safe at home. Because of Covid-19 I feel unsafe outside the house' (Boy, 9, Pakistan)

'I didn't have to go outside and be bullied about the way I look and how I act'. (NB*, 13, UK)

'Previously my mother used to be outside home most of the times. Now she is always at home. I don't need to do household works. I'm spending time with my mother all day. As liquor shops are closed so case of domestic violence is less. Previously the male members became drunk and used to create nuisance within the family as well as community. But during lockdown, the male members are doing household work and outside work together.'
(Girl, 15, India)

*Children who did not identify with a binary gender are identified as NB throughout the report

FEELING LESS SAFE WHERE THEY LIVE



9% of children felt **less safe in their homes** or where they lived since the outbreak of Coronavirus.

Feeling unsafe was particularly high among some groups: almost one-quarter of **migrant children** (24%) and those living in a **detention centre, refugee camp or homeless centre** (23%) felt less safe at home/ where they lived, and 22% of children who were **seeking asylum** felt less safe at home/ where they lived.

ONLINE SAFETY



While the **majority** of children reported **feeling safer** (14%) or as safe (70%) online during Coronavirus, **17% reported feeling less safe**

Almost one in five children aged 8-10 years (19%) felt less safe online

'The online is sometimes unsafe and there are many anonymous messages who speak vulgar to you. I know how to report or block them but many don't. We need to make a change.' (Girl, 15, India)



Safety & Violence



EXPERIENCING VIOLENCE

Most children reported hearing, witnessing or experiencing **less violence** (52%), or the same levels of violence (39%), as they had done prior to the Coronavirus pandemic. This may reflect the high levels of community violence that some were previously exposed to (see above 'feeling safe').

9% of all children reported hearing, witnessing or experiencing **more violence**.

Some groups experienced higher levels of violence than others: 22% of children from **migrant communities**; 20% of children **living in a detention centre, refugee camp or homeless centre**; 20% of children **seeking asylum**; 19% of children who identify as **LGBTQ+**; and 14% of children with **disabilities** said they had heard, witnessed or experienced more violence than before the pandemic.

'I suffer domestic abuse because I'm a trans person. I don't have any support from my family, and I have no friends' (Girl, 17, Chile)

'I heard from my mother some of the children in the community have experienced violence such as forced for early marriages, other working too much because they spend more time at home while others are involved in casual work which is not safe for children especially now with covid in town' (Boy, 13, Tanzania)



HELP WHEN FEELING UNSAFE

Overall, **one-third (33%)** of children had **greater awareness of how to seek help** if they felt unsafe compared to before the pandemic. This was particularly the case for **younger children** (8-10 years) (41%) and **children living in residential care/ homes** (42%).

These findings may point to effective communication, information (Art. 17, UNCRC) and processes put in place to support these children at this time of crisis.



LESS HELP WHEN FEELING UNSAFE

11% of all children reported having **less knowledge of how to seek support** since the start of the pandemic. Some groups were more likely than others to say they had less knowledge of how to access help if worried or unsafe: 18% of children who identify as **LGBTQ+**; 21% of children **seeking asylum**; and **22%** of children identifying as belonging to **migrant communities reported less knowledge of how to access support since the start of the pandemic.**

37% of children who felt less safe at home or where they lived also reported having less knowledge, since the pandemic began, or how to get help or support if they needed it.

One in five (20%) children who reported feeling less safe at home or where they lived since Coronavirus began said that they 'never' had an adult they could talk to or contact if they needed support.

'In case of quarrels or violence in the family I cannot ask for help, because they cannot help me to go in another place. This is an issue, all the people are in quarantine. Many emergency phone numbers for certain issues are not working at the moment, or you keep calling and nobody answers.' (Girl, 10, Moldova)

'It's a fact that the cases of violence have increased during lockdown and its possible that a lot of children have experienced violence. Unfortunately, there wasn't enough information available to young people on how to deal with situations like these and who to reach out to for help' (Boy, 16, Greece)

WHAT WOULD YOU ASK GOVERNMENT TO DO?

Some children offered advice on how the government could protect children from abuse/violence. These are some of the things they said:

'Even though there is a pandemic going on there are people out there who experience abuse daily. The awareness, even in Canada and how to access the resources is not explains/told in the best way. Finding that information should be basic knowledge for any human being' (Girl, 16, Canada).

'Get Social Workers to check up on families and children, preferably those with any slight history of abuse. Provide children-specific guidelines for dealing with COVID-19'. (Boy, 17, Nigeria)

'Many children have abusive households all across the globe. Child physical abuse, mental abuse and also sexual abuse is very common. They thought of school as an escape way to stay away from their household. As the corona virus has arrived, they have to stay home and deal with the traumatic experiences. The government should try to make sure children have a way to call for help and to make sure households are protecting them.' (Girl, 14, Pakistan)

'Ensure that every child has a safe home that is not subject to violence' (Girl, 17, Greece)





Education

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UNCRC ARTICLE 28 & 29

Articles 28 & 29 of the [UNCRC](#) set out children and young people's rights to education. The Children's Advisory Group identified the [transformation of education](#) as a major theme across the data.

'I think that during quarantine, the schedule of every child changed for worse, starting with the education, communicating with friends, less time outside, alimentation, spiritual state etc. First of all, I want to mention the fact on-line classes did not have the effect and the degree of information and necessary knowledge due to the fact that a lot of children did not have the possibility (financial) to use the internet and the needed device, such as a phone or a laptop. Secondly, the on-line classes done on the mobile phone had a negative impact on our eyesight.' (Girl 14, Moldova)

Coupled with this was educational, social and emotional [disruption to children's school lives](#).

'I miss my classmates. In a classroom at school, I learn more than online, personal communication and feedback are very important for me.' (Girl, 14, Russia)

And the final theme that they identified was the significant [dissatisfaction at not being involved in decisions](#) around closing/opening schools and how best to deliver and access education on and offline.

'We should be allowed to voice our opinions on when schools should reopen. It is our future so it should be our choice.' (Girl 15 from South Africa)



SOME CHILDREN FIND THEIR EDUCATION BETTER DURING CORONAVIRUS

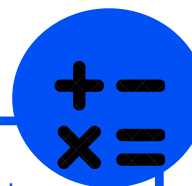
12% of children said their education was better during Coronavirus. Some children enjoyed learning at their own pace and pursuing their own interests while others were glad not to be in school so that they could avoid bullying.

'I like the online lessons; I have problems with anxiety, so being able to turn off my microphone and/or camera sometimes makes me feel much safer and makes it easier for me to pay attention. ..Personally, I've found that less extra murals and not having to spend time travelling leave me more time for hobbies and sleep, but this isn't universal - some of my friends say their workload has increased during lockdown.' (Girl, 15, South Africa)

'My teachers stopped verbally and mentally abusing me. I no longer get constantly bullied.' (Boy, 15, Ireland)



Education



MOST CHILDREN FOUND THEIR EDUCATION WAS BETTER BEFORE CORONAVIRUS

Most children (58% of 13-17 year olds and 68%) of children from migrant communities said their education was better before Coronavirus.

41% (rising to 64% of asylum seekers and 62% of migrant children) said that being able to get support from their teachers was better before Coronavirus.



PROBLEMS WITH ACCESSING EDUCATION ONLINE

Children with no access to internet (84%) or with poor internet access (69%) were much more likely to say that access to good education was better before the outbreak.

'I feel they need more to work on right to education. Seeing that I live in a rural community where it is hard to access internet.. It is a challenge to learn online' (Girl, 14, Zambia)

'I dislike the fact that the teachers specifically in my school gave a bunch of task not according to the schedule resulting to stress, migraine, and sleep deprivation. And for some subjects like math it's harder to understand since we are not directly taught by the teacher and the teacher dont even bother setting up an online meeting to teach us ' (Girl, 17, Indonesia)

'No typical school activities, nothing really. If schools are still closed, I am not sure how much of a decent education I will get from Zoom. This deeply worries me. Quite a number of zoom lessons are interrupted with teacher's having bad WiFi or audio problems, etc. I think online learning has its benefits, but I don't think it can be a primary source of education. I just wish us students were at least consulted ' (Girl, 16, Malta)

'I feel they need more to work on right to education. Seeing that I live in a rural community where it is hard to access internet.. It is a challenge to learn online' (Girl 14 Zambia)



Education



STRESS AND WORRY ABOUT EXAMS/GRADES

42% of children (and 54% of migrant children and asylum seekers) said that they were less confident that teachers would give them good grades for their studies due to Coronavirus.

'Some are not getting to join online classes because of no internet access and even some are getting to join it they are not having good studies as before and those whose examination was stopped by COVID-19 pandemic, their studying has so much stopped or they are being demotivated about exams.'
(Boy, 14, Nepal).



IMAGINE YOU COULD TALK TO GOVERNMENT...

Children told us they would tell government....

'I should tell you that our educators are strong and are not going to give up easily. They have created our new classrooms with the help of Google and Microsoft. I am worried about my friends who don't have access to these tool and will be left behind. But, you don't worry our global and local leaders will find some solutions for them too and we will help them to catch up their loss. Mark my words today - the day will come soon when we will again hug our teachers and play with our friends. JUST WATCH'.
(A letter to Covid from a girl aged 12, Canada)

'Start teaching door to door with a teacher with 4-5 children in group and provide ration to family at door with care of small children.' (Boy, 12, India)

'not everyone is able to educate themselves with the internet, but we all know that opening schools again is not about our education its so parents can go back to work. we all know it. If they actually cared about our education they would look at changing how schools are run and why we just get tested constantly but not actually learn anything' (Girl, 15, England).



Play, Rest & Leisure

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UNCRC ARTICLE 31



Article 31 of the UNCRC says that all children have the right to play, rest and leisure.

Our survey shows that some children enjoyed opportunities for free time during Coronavirus.

Lots of children missed their friends and were looking forward to playing together after lockdown.

WHAT IS BETTER DURING CORONAVIRUS



I get to play online: 36% of children said that this was better during Coronavirus.

Many children were enjoying the free time and opportunity to pursue their hobbies or pick up new ones:

'I listened to music. I learned foreign languages. I did yoga and meditation' (Girl 15, Albania).

'I really like the lockdown because I have had tons of time for me to do whatever I want.' (Girl, 16, Turkey)

WHAT WAS BETTER BEFORE CORONAVIRUS



'I get to play/spend free time as I like' - 41% said that it was better before Coronavirus. This increased for children aged 8-10 (46%), asylum seekers (58%) and children who identified as migrants (54%).

Lots of children were looking forward to seeing their friends and playing sports after lockdown restrictions lifted:

'Go out with my friends, go swimming and playing basketball' (Boy, 15, Rwanda)

'I get to spend time outside every day' - 65% (70% of 8-10 year olds) of children said it was better before Coronavirus



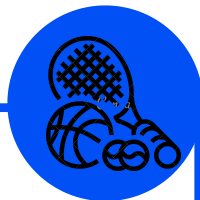
Play, Rest & Leisure



MISSING FRIENDS

56% (67% of children aged 8-10) said they were less able to speak to their friends. Many children said the worst thing about Coronavirus was missing their friends.

'Its all economy this economy that, and we are still told to social distance but you can do anything that costs money but you cant do anything that is free like just go to a friends house or to the skate park.. they just want us to spend money and pretend to care about our health and not spreading the virus' (Girl, 15, England)



MISSING SPORTS & ACTIVITIES

35% (46% of asylum seekers) said they got more physical exercise before Coronavirus and 31% said that they were getting more physical exercise during it. Many children said the worst thing about Coronavirus was missing their sports and activities.

'Please open our sports back up so we can go back to training. I want to go back to my gymnastics training' (Girl, 8, Ireland)

'I am missing out on all my favourite sports as don't own a swimming pool, a lacrosse pitch or netball hoops.' (Girl, 12, England)



IMAGINE YOU COULD TALK TO GOVERNMENT...

When we asked children what they would tell government they told us...

'Due to social distancing, we hardly go out. We need entertainment and play. If our government can stream a free child-friendly, eco-friendly version of Kids TV Channel. In this way, children can still enjoy their time at home. But right before that, the government must make sure every child in the country has access to electricity. Please.' (Girl, 17, Myanmar)

'Well a heads up to the schools would have been better. But i guess they also didn't know that is was going to be this big. I would have organised more sport things for children because every club closed down. Also i would've opened up the libraries for children who don't have a quiet place to study.' (Girl, 17, Netherlands)



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