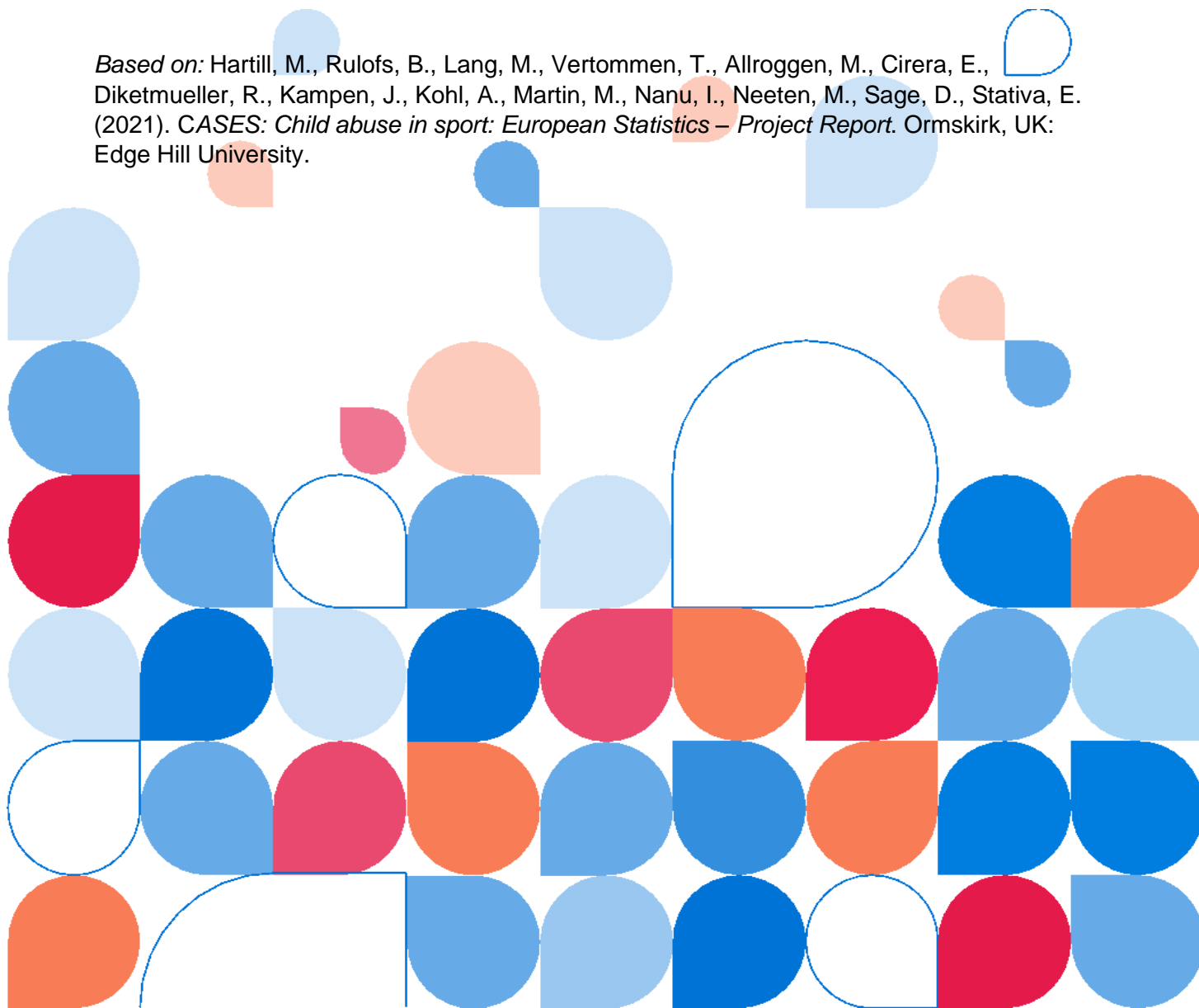


# CASES: NATIONAL REPORT

## The prevalence and characteristics of interpersonal violence against children inside and outside sport in **Belgium**

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# CONTENTS

<b>List of Abbreviations.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>The Partnership.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>1.Introduction .....</b>	<b>8</b>
1.1 European Context.....	8
1.2 European Sport Context.....	8
1.3 The National Context .....	9
1.4 The CASES Project .....	10
<b>2. Methodology.....</b>	<b>11</b>
2.1 Research Questions .....	11
2.2 Definitions.....	11
2.2.1 Interpersonal violence .....	11
2.2.2 Sport.....	13
2.3 Respondents.....	13
2.4 The instrument.....	13
2.4.1 Development of the questionnaire .....	13
2.4.2 Operationalising criteria for 'violent' experiences .....	14
2.4.3 Central items/questions .....	15
2.4.4 Dynamics and constellations of IVACS.....	16
2.5 Procedure .....	17
2.5.1 Testing .....	17
2.5.2 Translation.....	17
2.5.3 Sampling .....	18
2.5.4 Ethical considerations.....	18
2.5.5 Fieldwork.....	19
2.5.6 Data processing and quality control .....	19
2.5.7 Statistical procedure .....	20
<b>3. Results .....</b>	<b>21</b>
3.1 Introduction and Sample .....	21
3.2 Characteristics of Sport Participation .....	21
3.3 Prevalence of Interpersonal Violence Against Children .....	24
3.3.1 Overall Interpersonal Violence Against Children.....	24
3.3.2 Neglect.....	27
3.3.3 Psychological Violence.....	30
3.3.4 Physical Violence .....	33

3.3.5 Non-Contact Sexual Violence (NCSV) .....	36
3.3.6 Contact Sexual Violence (CSV) .....	39
3.4 Prevalence of all CASES items .....	42
3.5 Characteristics of interpersonal violence against children: ‘most serious experience’	44
3.5.1 Age, frequency and duration of experience.....	44
3.5.2 Characteristics of ‘perpetrators’ .....	48
Number of perpetrators.....	48
Gender of perpetrators .....	49
Role and position of perpetrators .....	50
3.5.3 Context and location of violence experience.....	51
3.5.3.1 Organizational Context.....	51
3.5.3.2 Location .....	51
3.5.4 Disclosure.....	51
<b>4. Cross-national comparison .....</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>5. Summary and Discussion of Key Findings .....</b>	<b>57</b>
5.1 Prevalence of interpersonal violence against children (IVAC) inside sport and outside sport .....	57
5.2 Scope of CASES survey .....	57
5.3 Categories of IVAC inside sport and outside sport .....	58
5.3.1 Psychological violence .....	58
5.3.2 Physical violence .....	58
5.3.3 Neglect .....	59
5.3.4 Sexual violence .....	59
5.4 Gender.....	60
5.4.1 Rates of victimization for boys and girls.....	60
5.4.2 ‘Perpetrators’ .....	62
5.5 Prevalence of IVAC and level of sport participation .....	62
5.6 Organisational context of IVAC in sport.....	63
5.7 Disclosure .....	63
5.8 Overall experience of sport .....	65
<b>6. Limitations .....</b>	<b>66</b>
6.1 Temporal and cultural context of the survey sample .....	66
6.2 Methodology and sample .....	66
6.3 Age of consent.....	67
<b>7. Conclusion.....</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>8. General recommendations .....</b>	<b>70</b>

<b>References .....</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>Appendices .....</b>	<b>76</b>
1. Basic sample information for the total Belgian sample .....	76
2. Basic sample information for Flanders and Wallonia-Brussels .....	77
2.2 Belgium: Wallonia-Brussels .....	77
2.3 Belgium: Flanders .....	79
3. Prevalence Data: Item level .....	81
3.1 Inside sport .....	81
3.2 Outside sport .....	83
4. Sub-group differences: Characteristics of interpersonal violence against children: 'most serious experience' .....	85
4.1 Duration of experience per gender .....	85
4.2 Duration of experience(s) per participation level .....	86
4.3. Gender of perpetrators(s) and gender of respondent(s) .....	88
5. Questionnaires .....	89
<b>Contact details .....</b>	<b>93</b>

## List of Abbreviations

CASES	Child Abuse in Sport: European Statistics
CSV	Contact sexual violence
EACEA	Education, Audio-visual and Culture Executive Agency
EU	European Union
EHU	Edge Hill University
EPAS	Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport
IAAF	International Association of Athletics Federations (World Athletics)
IM	Ipsos MORI
IV	Interpersonal Violence
IVAC	Interpersonal Violence Against Children
NCSV	Non-Contact Sexual Violence
NGB	National Governing Body
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
WHO	World Health Organization

## The Partnership

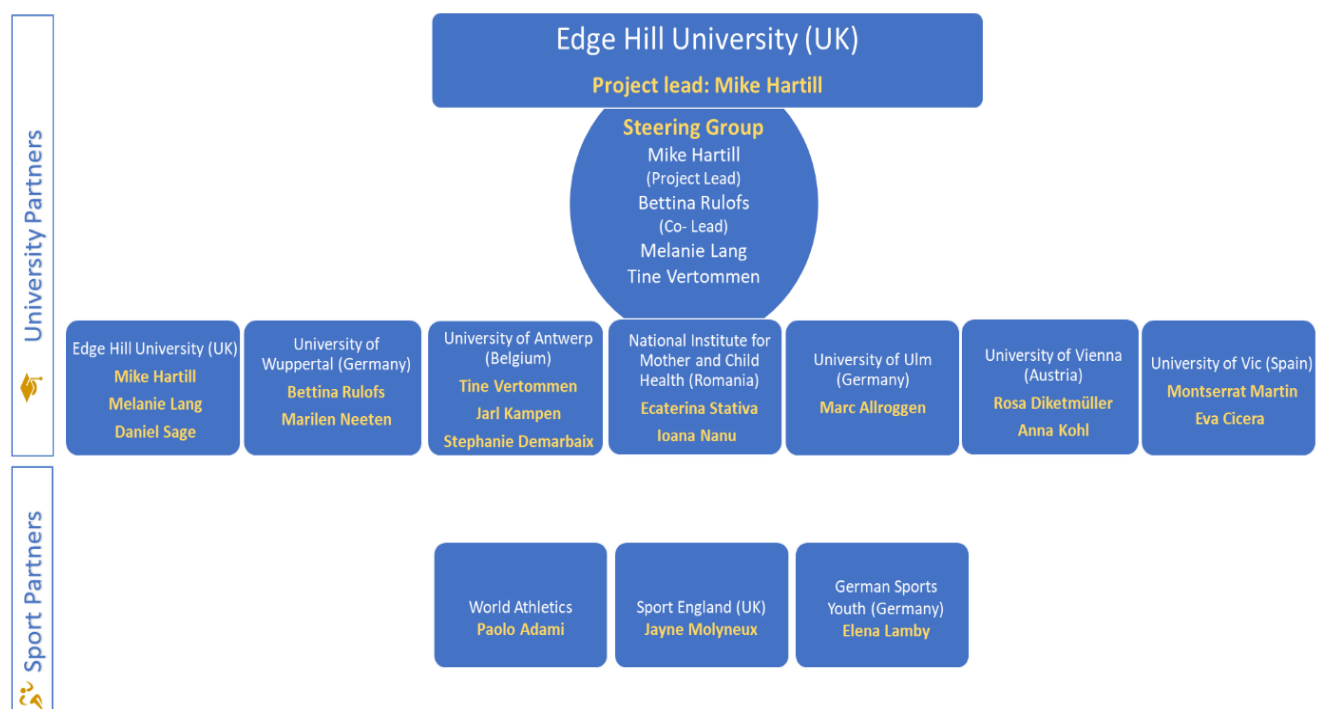
The CASES-Project is built on a collaborative partnership of universities, research institutes and sport organisations. The project was led by Mike Hartill at Edge Hill University in UK, who was supported by a steering group of Bettina Rulofs (co-lead, University of Wuppertal in Germany), Melanie Lang (Edge Hill University, UK) and Tine Vertommen (University of Antwerp, Belgium).

The survey on interpersonal violence in sport was applied in six European countries. Academics from seven universities and research institutes in those countries supported the project in each phase. Partners from three sport organisations – one international (World Athletics) and two national (Sport England and German Sports Youth) – consulted the project in order to increase transfer into the field of practical sport.

The Belgian partnership is represented by the Social Epidemiology and Health Policy research unit at the University in Antwerp. Dr. Tine Vertommen is coordinating the Belgian partnership, supported by Dr. Jarl Kampen, methodologist at StatUa, and Stephanie Demarbaix, trainee in Epidemiology. Professor Guido Van Hal acts as the supervisor of this project.

At the beginning, this study planned to focus on the sport population in Flanders only, as foreseen in the project proposal. The Belgian sample was supposed to consist of sport participants living in Flanders only. At the request of the General Administration of Sport at the Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles, the questionnaire was translated to French and implemented in an *additional* sample of 1472 adults living in Wallonia and Brussels.

**FIGURE 1: THE CASES PARTNERSHIP**



# 1. Introduction

Recent years have seen unprecedented attention on the abuse of children and athletes in sport. Strategic responses are critical and must be informed by robust evidence on the scale and nature of these abuses. The project “Child Abuse in Sport – European Statistics” (CASES) is designed to support this endeavour.

This report presents first key findings of the CASES study into the prevalence of interpersonal violence against children inside six European countries. It is designed to inform those working in the field of organised sport, sport management, sport politics and child protection. Further and more detailed publications will follow in academic publication formats. For more details on the results in the participating countries, respective country reports are published.

## 1.1 European Context

The European Parliament, the Council of the European Union, and the Council of Europe have all acknowledged that sport is a setting where children are at risk of violence and notes that progress in preventing such violence has been hampered by, among other things, a lack of robust data and research, including empirical work on the prevalence of violence against children (e.g. World Health Organisation, 2015).

Consequently, it is recommended that EU Member States conduct regular, robust studies into the prevalence of child maltreatment, including all forms of violence against children, and to ensure such studies focus not only on the various types of maltreatment but also on risk factors, age, gender and socio-economic determinants to better understand the scale and backgrounds of the problem and to inform future preventive programmes.

## 1.2 European Sport Context

Reference to sport as a setting where violence occurs and as an institution with responsibility for protecting those involved was first made in 1975 in the *European Sport for All Charter* (Council of Europe, 1975), which called for the introduction of methods “...to safeguard sport and sportsmen [sic] from exploitation for political, commercial or financial gain, and from practices that are abusive and debasing” (Council of Europe, 1975, Article 5). An updated version of the Charter later referred specifically to implementing steps in sport to prevent “sexual harassment and abuse, particularly of children, young people and women” (Council of Europe, 1992a, Article 1).

Since then, various European-level actors have established policies calling for action to prevent and manage violence and exploitation in sport. In the 2007 *White Paper on Sport*, the European Commission Member States and sports organizations cooperated on building a robust evidence base on the magnitude of the problem and on disseminating information on, among others, best practice for preventing and managing such exploitation.

The prevention and management of sexual violence against adult and child athletes also features prominently in European-level policy. For example, the *Resolution on the Prevention of Sexual Harassment and Abuse of Women, Young People and Children in Sport* (Council of Europe, 2000) and the *Resolution on Women and Sport* (European Parliament, 2002) urge European member states to develop national policies that define harassment and abuse in



sport and raise awareness of these behaviours. Meanwhile, the *Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse* (Council of Europe, 2007) called for better understanding of the extent of violence against children in and beyond sport and the introduction of measures to prevent and manage this.

The protection of minors from abuse is specifically highlighted in the EU Work Plan for Sport 2014-17 and according to the Council of Europe's Code of Sports Ethics:

Sports associations must protect children, young people and women against sexual harassment and abuse and exploitation ... [and] encourage national and international research to gain a better understanding of the complex problems surrounding the practice of sport by young persons, establish the scale of undesirable behaviour and identify the opportunities for promoting sports ethics.

(EPAS / Council of Europe: The Code of Sports Ethics - Beyond the rules of the game)

The EU Work Plan for Sport 2017-2020 identifies the objective of strengthening the evidence base for sport and identifies the integrity of sport, in particular promoting good governance including the safeguarding of minors as a key topic; indeed, Annex I of the Plan refers specifically to a study on the prevalence of child abuse in sport. The outputs of this project make a clear and significant contribution to the delivery of the Plan.

Quantitative data regarding the extent to which children are subjected to exploitation and abuse in sport is very thin on the ground. Sport organizations and national sport agencies have been reluctant to undertake such studies. Prevalence studies of interpersonal violence against athletes are now required across the international sport sector.

## 1.3 The National Context

Belgium is a federal state with a population of approximately 11.5 million people and comprising Dutch, French and German speaking communities. Belgian sports federations are commonly split into Flemish and French-speaking sections. As sport is organized separately inside each language community, policies differ across communities.

Violence and abuse in sport is a rather new topic in sport policy in Belgium. However, the topic of sexual violence in general is not. In 1996, the case of Belgian serial killer and child abuser Marc Dutroux drew public and political attention worldwide and was a catalyst for major changes in police investigation and legislation on child abuse. However, it was not until after the public disclosures of child sexual abuse in the Catholic Church, in 2010, that the context of sport was investigated in Belgium. The Flemish Minister of Sport announced the development and installation of a prevention policy, however, there were no official or public disclosures of sexual violence in sport from athletes or any data on prevalence.

In Flanders, the first prevalence study into interpersonal violence against children in sport was published in 2016 and found that 38% of adults experience psychological violence, 14% sexual violence and 11% physical violence, in sport, before the age of 18 (Vertommen et al., 2016). The findings also showed that physical violence is experienced more by boys, compared to girls. Psychological violence, including bullying, was reported equally by boys and girls. Sexual violence was reported more by girls, but with regard to the most severe types of contact sexual violence, there were no gender differences.

In Wallonia-Brussels, currently, no evidence on the magnitude of interpersonal violence in sport is available. The current study will be the first to report on this.

## 1.4 The CASES Project

The project aimed to develop insights pertinent to strategic efforts to prevent child abuse, exploitation and violence in sport and to develop resources for the sport sector that will support sport organizations to safeguard children's welfare.

To this end, the principal objective of the project was to collect scientifically robust evidence on the scale, dynamics and constellations of *interpersonal violence against children in sport* (IVACS). In undertaking this task, the CASES partnership fully acknowledges that abuse and violence does not only affect those under the age of 18 and that studies of adult experiences of violence in sport are also required.

## 2. Methodology

CASES surveyed six European countries using samples of individuals (n=1472) aged 18-30 years who had participated in sport during childhood. Samples were comparable by gender and age group (18-24, 25-30) of respondents. The survey focused particularly on the sport context but also collected comparative data for interpersonal violence outside of sport.

The necessary sample size is based on a power calculation to allow comparison between the respective genders and age groups (n=368) with an expected lowest prevalence of interpersonal violence in sport (contact sexual violence) of 4% (Confidence Interval 95%,  $\alpha = .05$ ;  $Z = 1.96$ ,  $d = .02$ ).

### 2.1 Research Questions

The study was guided by the central research question:

**What is the prevalence of interpersonal violence against children active in organised sport, inside and outside sport?**

Subsidiary questions were:

- What are the characteristics of 'victims'?
- What are the characteristics of 'perpetrators'?
- What are the further characteristics of the experience?
  - Frequency
  - Duration
  - Location
  - Organisational setting
  - Disclosure

### 2.2 Definitions

#### 2.2.1 Interpersonal violence

Violence is a complex and contested concept. Traditional or minimalist conceptions focus on physical force, but are criticized for failing to take 'account of the wider contexts of social relationships in which violence occurs, non-physical harms (especially psychological), and the possibility of violent outcomes that were not consciously intended' (Ray, 2011: 24).

The forms in which violence manifests itself can be visible or insidious, sometimes difficult to perceive or recognise as such, both by the individual who manifests the behaviour and by the one who is subjected to it. The impact of violent behaviours on children, in particular, does not only depend on the form that behaviour takes, but on a series of contextual and personal factors that can aggravate the consequences.

As there are many behaviours with severe consequences, which are 'non-violent', even 'affectionate' (e.g. caressing, kissing, hugging), yet represent an abuse of trust rather than actions normally construed as violent, the terms *abuse*, *exploitation*, and/or *maltreatment* are

widely used to refer to harm to children. Thus, Article 19 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (United Nations, 1989) states that the child should be protected from:

*[...] all forms of physical or mental violence, injury and abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child.*

The World Health Organisation (WHO) describes the nature of violent acts as: 1) *physical* 2) *sexual* 3) *psychological* 4) *deprivation or neglect*<sup>1</sup> (Krug et al., 2002, p.6). Sethi et al. (2018, p.106) provide definitions for each type or category of violence. The WHO also separate violence into three distinct categories: *self-directed*, *interpersonal*, and *collective* violence.

*Interpersonal violence* (IV) refers to: a) *family and intimate partner violence* and b) *community violence*. *Family and intimate partner violence* refers to violence 'usually, though not exclusively, taking place in the home'. *Community violence* refers to 'violence between individuals who are unrelated, and who may or may not know each other, generally taking place outside the home' (Krug et al., 2002, p.6). This is a significant area of global health policy, thus, the WHO published a 'global plan of action' in 2016 'to strengthen the role of the health system inside a national multisectoral response to address interpersonal violence, in particular against women and girls, and against children' (WHO, 2016).

The CASES team chose to use this concept of *interpersonal violence against children* (IVAC) and to include all four types or categories of interpersonal violence. *Self-directed* and *collective* violence were excluded.

Our conceptualisation of IVAC was, therefore, broad and deliberately intended to include supposedly milder forms of violence, or acts that may not be considered as violent, such as inappropriate staring or leering, being made to feel inferior, or not providing positive feedback ('praise'). This decision may be criticised, however, the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child states:

*All forms of violence against children, however light, are unacceptable. [...] Frequency, severity of harm and intent to harm are not prerequisites for the definitions of violence. State parties may refer to such factors in intervention strategies in order to allow proportional responses in the best interests of the child, but definitions must in no way erode the child's absolute right to human dignity and physical and psychological integrity by describing some forms of violence as legally and/or socially acceptable. (UNCRC, 2011, p.8)*

Therefore, the CASES questionnaire purposely aimed to be as inclusive as possible. We would add that *all* items in the questionnaire represent experiences and/or behaviours that can have a deleterious and long-term impact on those who are subjected to them.

When studying interpersonal violence (IV) *in sport*, it is also necessary to distinguish behaviours or actions that are a normal and legitimate part of the game or activity, even though they may normally be described as 'violent', from that which oversteps the ethical mark (Brackenridge, 2010), in other words, deliberate or non-accidental IV. Accordingly,

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<sup>1</sup> Conceptualisations of child abuse make the same distinctions (e.g. the British governments statutory guidance in 'safeguarding' includes four main categories of abuse: physical, sexual, emotional abuse, and neglect, as well as exploitation and extremism (HM Government, 2018, p.106)).

'violence' occurring inside the bounds of prescribed constitutive rules (for example, punching in boxing and collisions in sports such as rugby or football) is not considered in this study.

### 2.2.2 Sport

We define *organised sport* as every recreational or competitive sporting activity that is voluntary, takes place inside the context of a club or organisation outside the school curriculum, and involves an element of training or instruction by an adult, including sport camps and organised extracurricular sporting activities at school. We exclude physical education (PE lessons), as governance for PE falls inside the education sector rather than the sport sector. We also exclude informal or casual sport activities (e.g. self-organised running and swimming) and other informal physical activities (e.g. dog-walking, gardening).

Whilst the focus of the study is the sport context, the underpinning principle is the prevention of child abuse (interpersonal violence against children) in all its forms and contexts. Therefore, to establish a meaningful picture of the interpersonal violence experienced by those who participate in sport (before age 18), it was important to survey respondents' experiences both inside *and* outside sport.

## 2.3 Respondents

The overall CASES study consists of a convenience sample, provided by the international research agency Ipsos MORI. An online questionnaire (described below) was completed by 1,472 adults (aged 18-30) in each partner country (Austria, Belgium, Germany, Romania, Spain, United Kingdom). Only respondents that took part in organised sport before the age of 18 were included in the survey. Interlocking quotas were set on *age* (18-24 years old and 25-30 years old) and *gender* to reach an equal split across the four categories.

Following a specific request from the Walloon sport authorities, two samples were taken in Belgium: one with Dutch-speaking citizens living in Flanders, and one with French speaking citizens living in Brussels or Wallonia.

The current report focusses on both Belgian samples, consisting of 1472 participants in Flanders and 1472 participants from Wallonia-Brussels.

## 2.4 The instrument

The research instrument was an online self-report questionnaire structured around the four main categories of abuse or interpersonal violence: *physical*, *psychological*, *sexual*, and *neglect*. Sexual violence was further divided into two categories: *contact sexual violence* (CSV) and *non-contact sexual violence* (NCSV).

### 2.4.1 Development of the questionnaire

The CASES study is based on an online questionnaire for adults (aged 18 to 30) that enquires about their experiences in sport prior to age 18. The questionnaire was specifically developed by the CASES-consortium for the aim of this study and is based on previous research that has documented and described abuse and interpersonal violence in sport since

the 1990s. Previous similar research, such as Alexander et al. (2011), Vertommen et al. (2017; 2020) and Ohlert et al. (2018) were particularly influential in the questionnaire design.

### 2.4.2 Operationalising criteria for ‘violent’ experiences

A significant challenge in the development of the questionnaire was to operationalise the broad definition of *interpersonal violence* into concrete items exploring the respondents’ experiences inside and outside sport. The instrument had to capture the range of experiences included by the *United Nation’s Convention on the Rights of the Child* (UNCRC) inside a concise survey. Therefore, the impulse to gather all the data considered important, valuable and meaningful had to be tempered against the need to produce a questionnaire that respondents would be able and willing to complete in a reasonable timeframe. In this regard, the design had to take particular account of individuals who may have many experiences to report and ensure that the questionnaire was not overly onerous for such respondents.

It was also crucial that the questionnaire was suitably contextualised to the sport sector so that respondents were sensitised to IVAC *inside sport*. At the same time – since a comparison to experiences *outside sport* was also part of the study-aims – the questionnaire items also had to be compatible with general, non-sport-specific fields.

Guided by the principles of the UNCRC and aligned with international standards on child welfare and children’s rights, the survey items do not necessitate a ‘perpetrator’ who *intentionally* harms another individual. Rather the questionnaire is designed to capture not only overtly violent or abusive acts against children, but also behaviour and experiences that may be normalised or tolerated, inside sport (and other) contexts, and which, as a consequence, may well not be considered as violent or harmful by the individual or ‘victim’ at the time of experience. Therefore, the concept of (self-perceived) *violence* or *abuse* was not the primary criteria for respondents to consider. Instead, the survey sensitised respondents to include experiences they felt to be ‘negative or harmful’. Respondents were then offered a range of scenarios inside each category of IVAC. Therefore, the introduction to the main items in the questionnaire stated:

“The next questions ask about your childhood and experiences that are generally considered to be negative or harmful for young people.”

The preamble to each battery of questions then sensitized the respondent to the particular area of IVAC using the following statements:

*Physical violence:*

Sometimes people can do things that hurt us physically when we are children.

*Psychological violence:*

Sometimes, people can do or say things which hurt our feelings or have a negative or harmful emotional impact when we are children.

*Neglect:*

Sometimes the people that are responsible for caring for us when we are children do not do look after us in the way that they should.



### *Sexual violence:*

Sometimes people can do or say negative or harmful things of a sexual nature when we are children. These may have been unwanted at the time, or you may now feel that they were inappropriate.

## 2.4.3 Central items/questions

A total of 35 items were developed in order to gather data on four types of IV or 'abuse'. These were grouped into five categories and each category included a number of items or scenarios for respondents to consider: *neglect* (6 items), *psychological violence* (9 items), *physical violence* (5 items), *non-contact sexual violence (NCSV)* (9 items), and *contact sexual violence (CSV)* (6 items).

Table 1 provides an abridged version of the 35 items. In Appendix 5, the full items in Dutch and French can be found.

**TABLE 1: OVERVIEW OF ITEMS DESCRIBING EXPERIENCES OF INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE**

Category of interpersonal violence	Content of the item (for full items see <a href="#">Appendix 4</a> )
Neglect	1. Inadequate support
	2. Inadequate medical care
	3. Inadequate supervision
	4. Inappropriate equipment
	5. Absence from school
	6. Unsafe conditions
Psychological violence	7. Humiliations
	8. Criticism about appearance
	9. Ignored or excluded
	10. Not praised for efforts (praise withheld)
	11. Verbal aggression/abuse
	12. Unrealistic expectations
	13. Initiation games/rites (non-physical)
	14. Verbal threats about performance
	15. Expulsion from team/club/group
Physical violence	16. Exercise as a punishment
	17. Initiation games/rites
	18. Taking supplements
	19. Playing while injured or at harmful intensity
	20. Physical assault
Non-contact sexual violence (NCSV)	21. Sexual comments
	22. Sexual looks
	23. Sexual images (viewing)
	24. Sexual images (production)
	25. Sexual images (sharing)
	26. Undressing for others
	27. 'Flashed' at (in person)
	28. 'Flashed' at (online)
	29. Sexual games/initiation rites (non-contact)
	30. Kissing

Contact sexual violence (CSV)	31. Sexual touching
	32. Genital contact
	33. Oral sex
	34. Sexual penetration
	35. Sexual games/initiation rites (contact)

#### 2.4.4 Dynamics and constellations of IVACS

For respondents who indicated one or more experiences of interpersonal violence in sport before age 18, additional questions were presented. Where a respondent indicated more than one item inside a type of IV/abuse, they were asked to provide details for the 'most serious experience'. To operationalise this, respondents were asked to select 'the one experience that had the most impact on you, either physically or psychologically'.

**TABLE 2: OVERVIEW OF ITEMS RELATING TO MOST SERIOUS EXPERIENCE OF IVAC**

Respondent ('victim')	1. Age experience began (onset)
	2. Age experience stopped (cessation)
Experience (or incident)	3. Number of incidents (frequency)
	4. Total period of experience/victimisation (duration)
	5. Organisational type of sport setting (context)
	6. Specific sport location
Perpetrator(s)	7. Number of individuals involved
	8. Gender of individuals involved
	9. Role/Position of individuals involved
Reporting & Support	10. Disclosure and support sought by respondent



## 2.5 Procedure

### 2.5.1 Testing

The questionnaire was first developed in English and pre-tested by members of the UK research team with 30 male and female adult (over 18) native English speakers in the target age range and from a range of socio-economic backgrounds. This took the form of a 'say what you think' type trial, to allow the research team to check respondents' understandings of the questions. This prompted some amendments to improve clarity, mainly adjusting to lay language.

Following pre-testing, the project coordinator Edge Hill University (UK) published a tender for the online implementation of the questionnaire across the partner countries. Ipsos MORI (IM), a global leader in market research, were subsequently recruited to implement the questionnaire.

The move to an online format required further development of the questionnaire. In particular, IM advised and assisted in adapting the survey to be 'device agnostic'. Given the age of target audience (18-30 years), it was important that the survey be compatible with completion on a mobile phone. Therefore, some adjustments to question length and format were made.

The online version of the questionnaire was built by IM and hosted on their platform. A pilot of the UK survey was then completed with 300 respondents from Ipsos' IIS panel<sup>2</sup>. The aim of the pilot was to test questionnaire routing, survey length, to check for any questions with a high number of abandoned interviews or non-substantive answers ("don't know" or "prefer not to say"), and to look at use of the open text response box.

Pilot fieldwork took place between 28 August – 1 September 2020. The pilot version of the questionnaire included a broad question on each form of IV that routed respondents to more specific questions. Following the pilot survey, it was agreed to remove these questions. Furthermore, the routing of the questionnaire was optimised on the basis of the results of the pilot study.

### 2.5.2 Translation

The translation of the survey questionnaire, survey invitation, and privacy notice into Dutch was provided by the national research team and checked by an English linguist. The translation into French was provided by an external agency and approved by the ministry. Once translated, these were checked by the partners across the survey countries and a small number of changes were suggested and incorporated before the translations were finalised.

In order to ensure a translation that was as close as possible to the English original, the principle of back-translation was chosen, i.e. the questionnaire was back-translated into English by an independent third person who was a native speaker of English and also knew the local language of the respective country. Any deviations were discussed and adjusted by the whole team.

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<sup>2</sup> Ipsos Interactive Services Limited, or IIS, is a company with its registered address in the England at 3 Thomas More Square, London, E1W 1YW, under company number 3903040. IIS is part of the Ipsos worldwide group of companies.

### 2.5.3 Sampling

Sampling and data collection were performed by Ipsos Mori (IM). Members of the IM Panel are regularly invited to participate in various online surveys and receive small incentives (e.g., coupons for online shopping) in return for their participation. IM was responsible for compiling a well-balanced composition of the sample, so that it is as representative of the populations as well as possible.

IM contacted panel members aged 18-30, who were screened on the basis of whether they had participated in organised sport when under-18. During the fieldwork, interlocking quotas were set by gender and age-group (18-24 and 25-30 years-old), with the aim of reaching an equal distribution across the four categories. Although this form of quota sampling facilitated a sample as representative as possible in terms of age and gender, there are numerous disadvantages. Online panels for example, by definition, only reach those who have internet access, whilst recruitment into a panel in the first place is self-selective and likely to be biased towards particular demographic groups. Nevertheless, the sample is one of the largest – if not the largest- ever studied internationally on interpersonal violence in sport.

Panel members were invited to participate in the study by means of a briefing letter which contained information on the content of the questionnaire, a link to an informative website about the methodology of the study, a directory of counselling services, and a hyperlink to the actual CASES questionnaire.

### 2.5.4 Ethical considerations

Approval for the research protocol was obtained from the University of Antwerp (Reference SHW-20-59).

Given the sensitive nature of the survey, considerable thought was given to the ordering of the questions while also ensuring respondents were clear on the different types of violence. The final questionnaire asked first about physical violence, followed by emotional violence, neglect, and finally sexual violence.

Respondents could only proceed after completing a consent page (see Appendix 5). This made it clear that the questionnaire covered 'sensitive matters such as abuse', participation was voluntary, responses were confidential, and that the survey could be paused or terminated at any point. Respondents were reminded of this throughout the questionnaire. For those questions considered to be of a particularly sensitive nature, an answer option 'prefer not to say' was offered.

A list of support services, bespoke for each region (Flanders, and Wallonia-Brussels), was provided through a link on every screen and at the end of the survey.

It had initially been planned to ask a series of follow-up questions for each specific item of violence experienced (frequency, duration, perpetrator details, location). However, after reviewing the scripted questionnaire, it became clear that this would result in a very long interview for those who had experienced multiple forms of violence. This increased the risk of harm to respondents, therefore, the questionnaire was revised so that the follow-up questions were only asked about the *most serious* experience, for each type of IVAC. This modification reduced the potential time burden significantly.

### 2.5.5 Fieldwork

The mainstage fieldwork involved a staggered approach to launching the survey in each country, as shown in Table 3. Fieldwork took place between 3 November and 14 December 2020, until the net response of 1472 was achieved.

**TABLE 3: FIELDWORK DATES BY REGION**

	Fieldwork start date	Fieldwork end date	Duration (days)
Flanders	03/11/2020	14/12/2020	41
Wallonia-Brussels	03/11/2020	22/11/2020	20

#### Achieved Quotas

Interlocking quotas were set on *age* and *gender* to reach an equal split across the four categories (18-24 years/25-30 years and male/female), as shown in Table 4.

**TABLE 4: ACHIEVED QUOTAS FOR MALES AND FEMALES IN BOTH AGE GROUPS**

Country	Male			Female			In another way / Prefer not to say			Total
	18-24	25-30	Total	18-24	25-30	Total	18-24	25-30	Total	
Wallonia-Brussels	368	352	720	368	368	736	9	7	16	1472
Flanders	368	356	724	368	368	736	6	4	10	1472

The survey allowed respondents to come back to the survey after leaving it open in their browser or exiting the website. Therefore, the overall mean length of interview is skewed by those who left the survey open for a long period of time before finishing the questions. Excluding those who took more than 45 minutes to complete the survey<sup>3</sup>, the average length of interview was about 12 minutes. Table 5 shows the average length of interview.

**TABLE 5: AVERAGE COMPLETION TIME**

Mean length of interview (minutes)	
Wallonia-Brussels	12.6
Flanders	12.3

Regarding the device used to access the online survey, 37.9 % of participants used a laptop or PC, 60.7 % a smartphone, and 1.5 % tablet.

### 2.5.6 Data processing and quality control

The production of survey data is an automated process based on the online survey script, which was designed, set-up and tested in advance of fieldwork. The final data files for each

<sup>3</sup> 95 per cent of interviews took less than 45 minutes.

country were checked by IM and the research team to ensure routing for each question had worked correctly and that respondents answered all relevant questions as intended. The data files were also 'cleaned' so that all datafiles were fully labelled, structured logically and included all relevant sample variables.

### 2.5.7 Statistical procedure

The primary aim of this study was to estimate the prevalence of interpersonal violence experienced by children who participate in sport. For the purpose of this first report descriptive statistics and chi-square tests are used to describe and detect possible differences in prevalence between countries, male and female respondents or between different levels of sport participation in the study population. Further possible differentiations, e.g. by age group, sexual orientation, ethnic background or (dis)ability of respondents are not explored in the scope of this first report. More detailed publications on these subgroups of the sample will follow.

In the statistical procedures, precision is defined here as the width of the 95% confidence interval (CI). In order to make the report readable for a general audience, detailed statistical parameters (e.g. chi square-results or p-values) are not reported. Whenever we use the term "significant" in the report, this means that the difference described, e.g. between countries, genders or the level of sport participation, is also a significant finding on the basis of statistical calculation procedures. Due to the sample size, statistical procedures reveal many differences between sub samples, which appear to be significant in a statistical sense, however, we focus on the differences that we consider relevant based on the statistics *and* the content and aim of our project. The statistical software package SPSS version 27 was used to analyse the data.

### 3. Results

This chapter presents the main findings of our survey of 2,944 respondents in Belgium. Two separate questionnaires were distributed: one in Flanders and one in Wallonia-Brussels.

#### 3.1 Introduction and Sample

The main demographic profile of the Belgian sample was as follows:

- **Age.** Respondents were aged 18-30, with an average age of 24.2 years.
- **Sex.** 49% (1,444) of respondents were male and 50% (1,472) were female. Less than 1% identified themselves as either 'in another way' (0.4%) or stated they 'prefer not to say' (0.6%).
- **Sexual orientation.** 84% (2,481) identified as heterosexual, 6% (179) as bisexual, 2% (69) as gay, 2% (58) as lesbian, 2% as other (47), and 4% (110) preferred not to say.
- **Disability.** 9% (249) of respondents stated they had a disability. A total of 8% (231) stated they had participated *only* in sports for people with disabilities, 12% (346) had participated in both non-disabled and disabled sports, and 80% (2367) had not participated in any sports for disabled people.
- **Ethnicity.** 14% (355) of respondents belonged to an ethnic minority group.

#### 3.2 Characteristics of Sport Participation

Respondents were asked to indicate up to five sports they had participated in before the age of 18, with those who had not participated in any sport excluded from the questionnaire.

Only 2% (62) of respondents declined to state the sport they had participated in, with nearly two-thirds (62%) (1823) stating a second sport, 36% (1059) stating a third sport, 18% (526) stating a fourth, and 11% (312) stating a fifth sport.

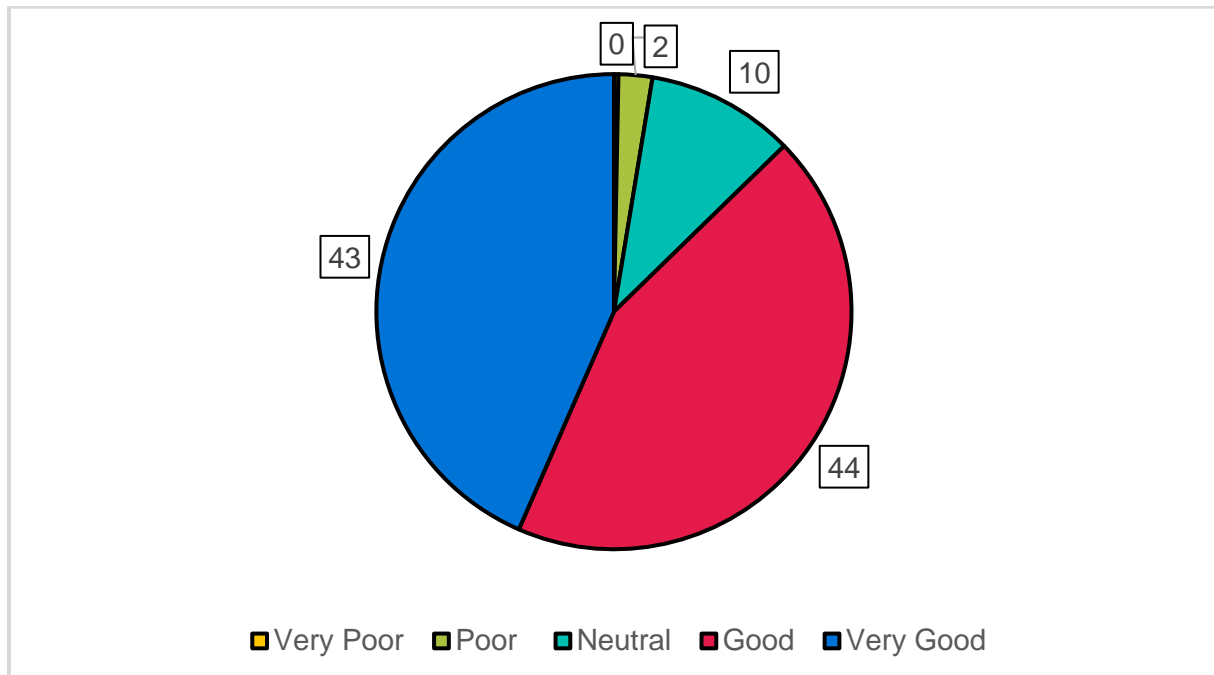
Dance was the most popular sport for women (19%), followed by swimming (12%), gymnastics (9%) and equestrian/horse racing (7%). For men, football was the most common sport (24%), followed by basketball (8%), swimming (8%) and tennis (8%). Table 6 gives an overview of the most reported sport disciplines for males and females.

**TABLE 6: SPORTS PARTICIPATION, MALE AND FEMALE**

Male			Female		
	%	<i>n</i>		%	<i>n</i>
<b>Football</b>	24.1	774	<b>Dance</b>	18.8	624
<b>Basketball</b>	7.9	254	<b>Swimming</b>	11.8	390
<b>Swimming</b>	7.7	247	<b>Gymnastics</b>	8.6	285
<b>Tennis</b>	7.7	246	<b>Equestrian/Horse Racing</b>	7.3	243
<b>Athletics</b>	4.2	135	<b>Tennis</b>	6.9	229
<b>Judo</b>	3.9	126	<b>Volleyball</b>	4.5	148
<b>Badminton</b>	3.5	112	<b>Badminton</b>	4.4	147
<b>Exercise &amp; Fitness</b>	3.1	101	<b>Basketball</b>	4.3	142
<b>Karate</b>	2.9	93	<b>Football</b>	4.1	136
<b>Table Tennis</b>	2.9	92	<b>Exercise &amp; Fitness</b>	3.6	121

When asked to rate their overall experience in youth sports, the majority (87%) stated it had been either “very good” (43%) or “good” (44%), with less than 3% stating either “poor” (2%) or “very poor” (0.3%) (see Figure 2). Around one in ten respondents (10%) stated their experience had been “neutral”.

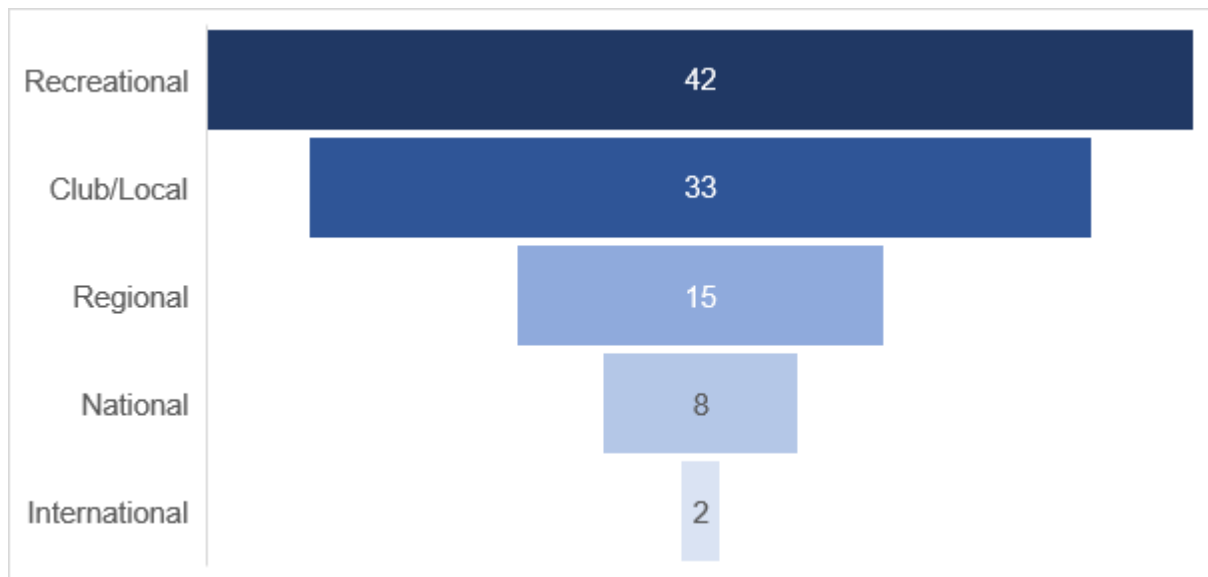
**FIGURE 2: OVERALL EXPERIENCE OF SPORT**



Respondents reported a range of locations for their participation in sport. Most had played in a sports club (84%), with 26% playing in a sport camp, 15% at a fitness centre, 14% in extracurricular school sport, 12% in a private setting, 8% in a non-sports club and 5% in a training centre for elite athletes.

Respondents were also asked for their highest level of participation in youth sports. Nearly three-quarters participated either at the recreational (42%) or local club level (33%). A quarter had participated at higher competitive levels, including regional (15%), national (8%) and international (2%).

**FIGURE 3: HIGHEST LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION**



There were however large differences by sex in terms of the highest level of participation in youth sports, with men being more likely to have participated at a higher level. For example, 20% of men had participated at a regional level compared to 11% of women. Similarly, 11% of men had participated at a national level compared to 6% of women. 55% of all female respondents' highest level of participation was recreational, compared to just 28% of men.

### 3.3 Prevalence of Interpersonal Violence Against Children

This section presents the findings on the prevalence of interpersonal violence against children (IVAC), both **inside** and **outside** sport. To reiterate, all participants were aged 18-30 and had participated in organised sport before the age of 18. An experience of IVAC *always* indicates an experience that happened before the age of 18. The type 'inside sport' assesses any experience of IVAC that happened in the context of sport, independent of possible additional experiences *outside* the sport context. The type 'outside sport' assesses any experience of IVAC that happened outside sport, even if a respondent also experienced IVAC inside the sport context. As a consequence, it is important to keep in mind that both categories are overlapping, thus respondents may appear in both categories if they experienced IVAC in both contexts.

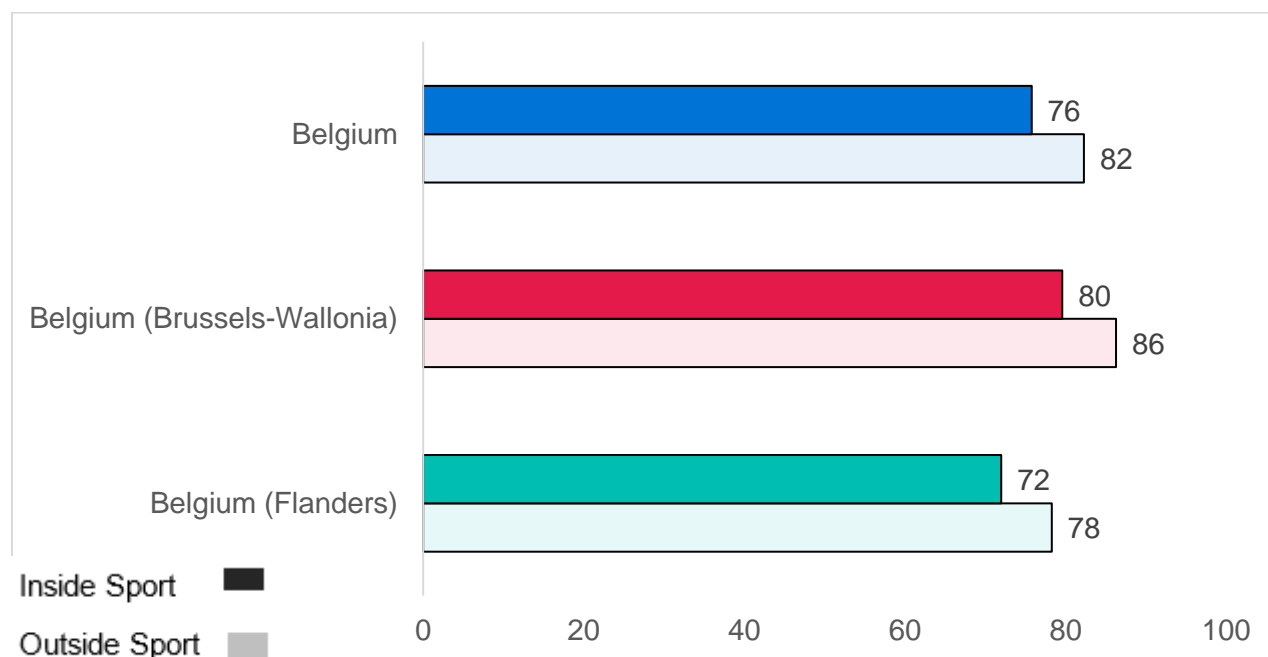
#### 3.3.1 Overall Interpersonal Violence Against Children

- 76% (2,232) of respondents reported at least one experience of IV **inside** sport.
- 82% (2,424) of respondents reported at least one experience of IV **outside** sport.

**Inside sport**, the cross-regional comparisons show that overall IVAC prevalence is higher in Wallonia-Brussels (80%) than in Flanders (72%).

**Outside sport**, the cross-regional comparisons show that overall IVAC prevalence is also higher in Wallonia-Brussels (86%) than in Flanders (78%).

**FIGURE 4: PREVALENCE OF IVAC INSIDE & OUTSIDE SPORT BY REGION**

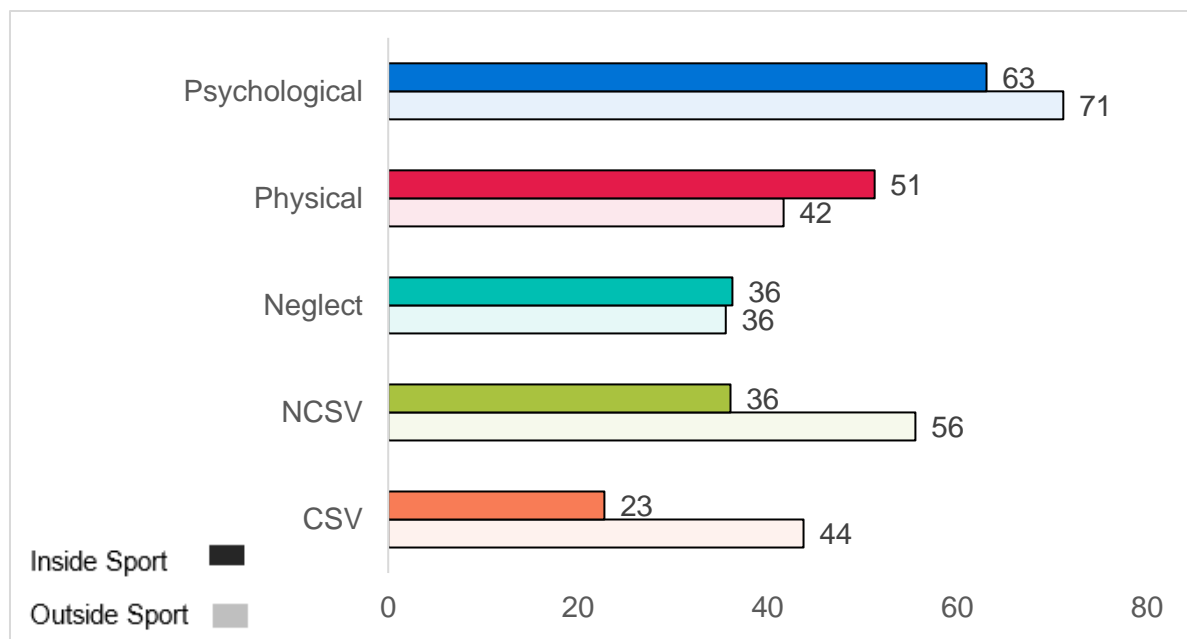


The most common experience of IVAC **inside sport** was psychological violence (63%), with the least common being contact sexual violence (23%).



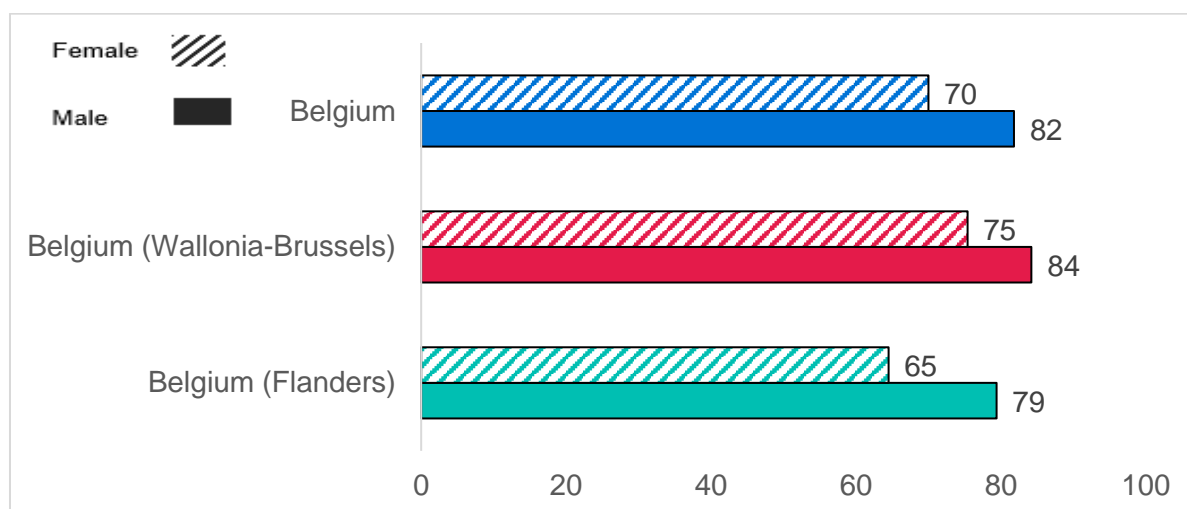
Psychological violence, non-contact sexual violence (NCSV) and contact sexual violence (CSV) were all experienced at a higher frequency **outside sport**. **Inside sport**, neglect was marginally more common and physical violence was more common.

**FIGURE 5: PREVALENCE OF IVAC INSIDE & OUTSIDE SPORT IN TOTAL BELGIAN SAMPLE**



**Inside sport**, 82% of men and 70% of women reported at least one experience of any type of IVAC.<sup>4</sup> The difference between men and women is present on both regions, and most visible in Flanders.

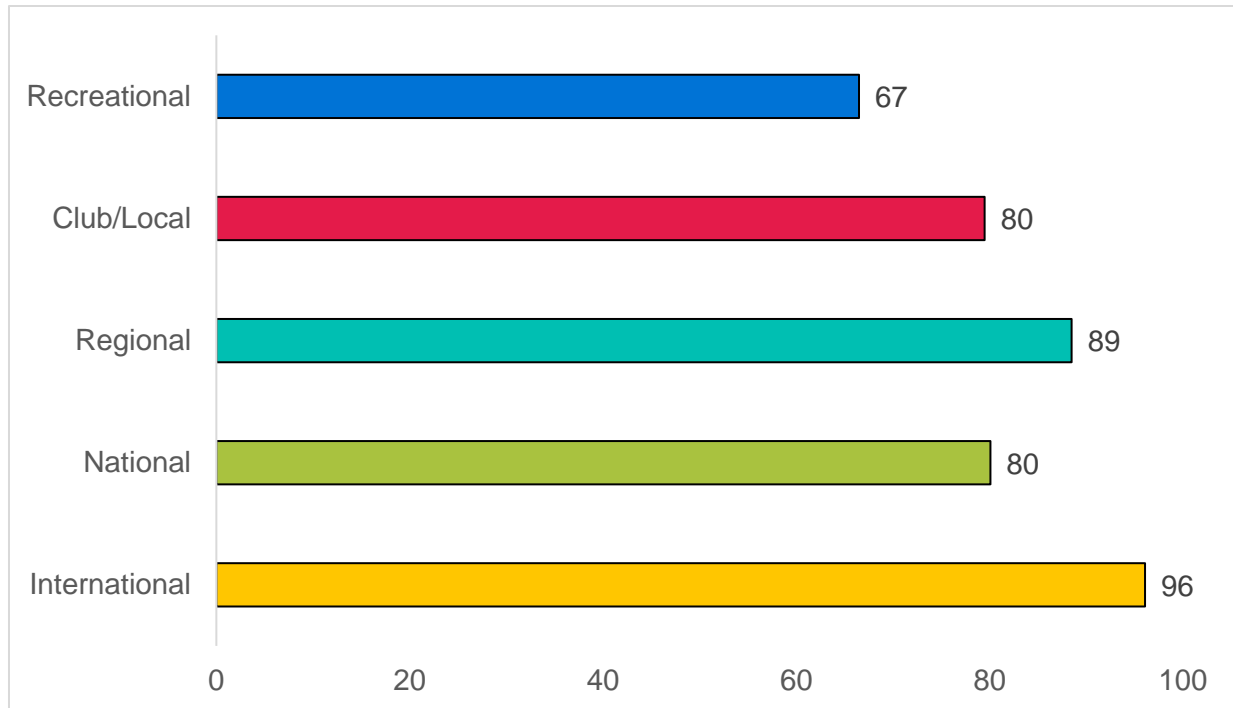
**FIGURE 6: PREVALENCE OF IVAC INSIDE SPORT BY GENDER**



<sup>4</sup> Concerning gender / sex, the participants were asked in the questionnaire: "Which of the following describes how you think of yourself? 1. Male, 2. Female, 3. In another way, 4. Prefer not to answer." For comparisons of male and female respondents, respondents who indicated options 3 and 4 were excluded from calculations.

Those competing at higher levels of sport were more likely to have an experience of IVAC **inside sport**. For example, 96% of those who had competed internationally had experienced IVAC, compared to 67% who had competed only at a recreational level.

**FIGURE 7: PREVALENCE OF IVAC INSIDE SPORT BY HIGHEST LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION**



### Summary

- The prevalence of IVAC **inside sport** in Belgium is 76%.
- The prevalence of IVAC **outside sport** in Belgium is 82%.
- Psychological violence is the most common form of IVAC, both inside and outside sport.
- Contact sexual violence is the least common form of IVAC **inside sport**; neglect is the least common **outside sport**.
- The prevalence of IVAC **inside sport** is significantly higher for males than females.
- The likelihood of experiencing IVAC **inside sport** is higher in athletes who competed at international.

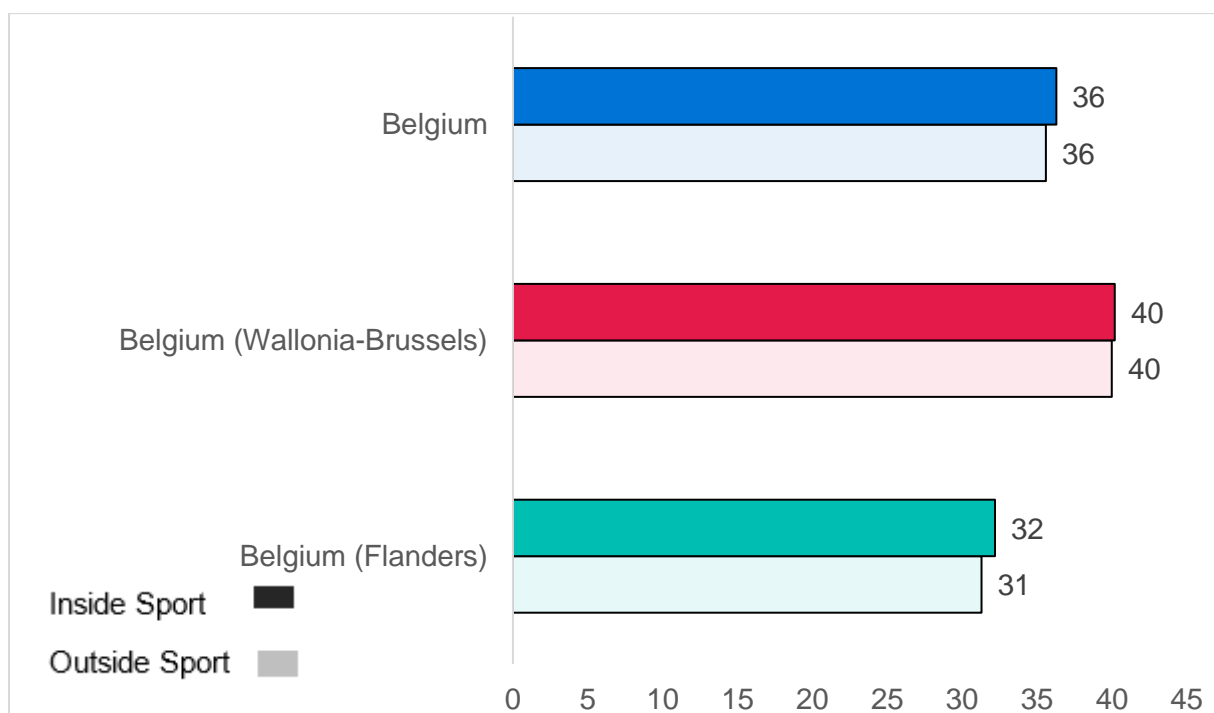
### 3.3.2 Neglect

**Inside sport**, 36.3% of respondents had experienced at least one form of neglect before the age of 18, compared to 35.6% **outside sport**.

The cross-regional comparison shows the prevalence of neglect **inside sport** varies from 32% in Flanders to 40% in Wallonia-Brussels. **Outside sport**, the experience of neglect ranges from 31% in Flanders to 40% in Wallonia-Brussels.

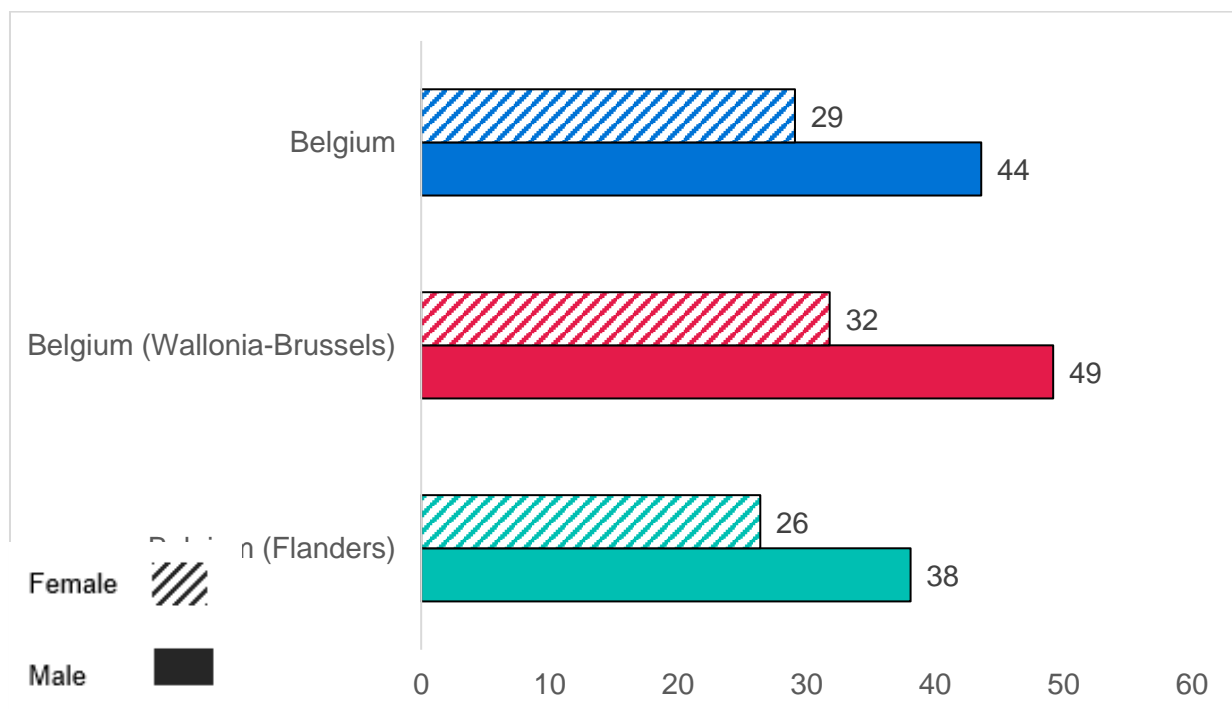
The most common experience of Neglect **inside sport** was *lack of adequate support for my basic well-being* (28%), followed by *a lack of appropriate equipment/kit to safety perform* (18%), and *placed at risk of harm due to not being properly supervised* (16%) (see Appendix 3).

FIGURE 8: PREVALENCE OF NEGLECT BY REGION



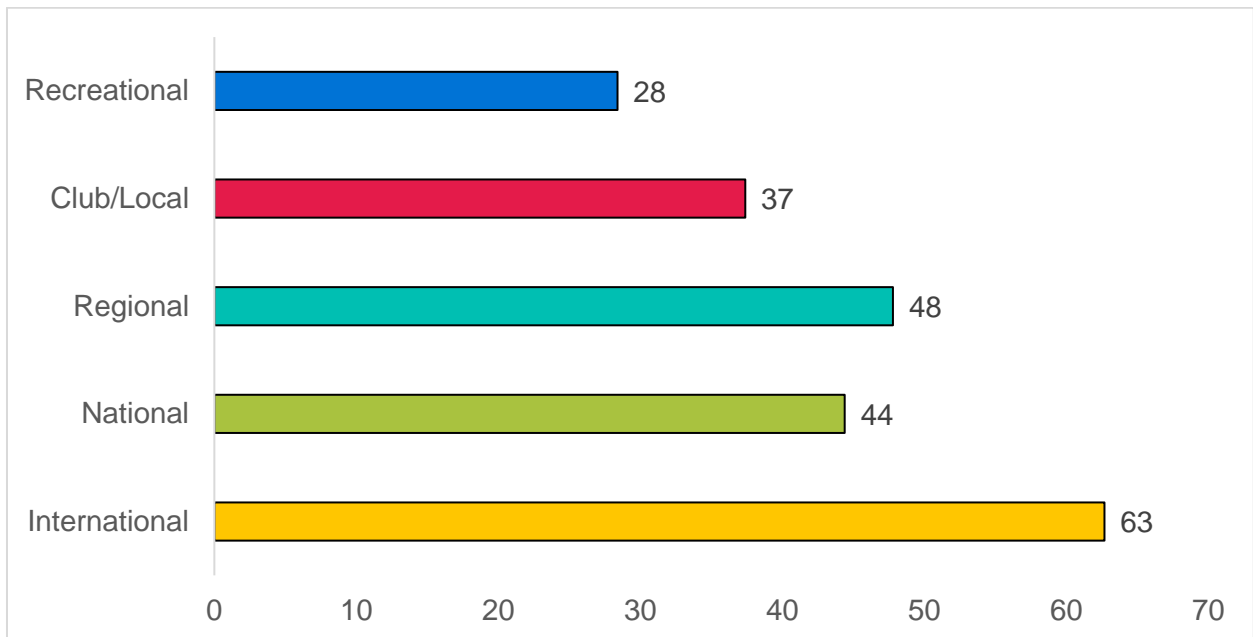
**Inside sport**, 44% of men and 29% of women had at least one experience of neglect. Men were significantly more likely to experience neglect inside sport than women.

**FIGURE 9: PREVALENCE OF NEGLECT INSIDE SPORT BY GENDER & REGION**



The prevalence of neglect increased amongst those who competed at higher levels of youth sport. For example, whilst 28% of those who competed recreationally had experienced neglect, 63% of those competing internationally had.

**FIGURE 10: PREVALENCE OF NEGLECT INSIDE SPORT BY HIGHEST LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION**



### Summary

- Across the total sample, approximately one-third of respondents had experienced neglect inside sport before age 18.
- The prevalence rate for neglect **inside sport** is 36%.
- Neglect inside sport is experienced in equal levels compared to outside sport.
- The prevalence of neglect **inside sport** is significantly higher for males than females.
- The likelihood of experiencing neglect **inside sport** is higher for athletes who competed at international level.

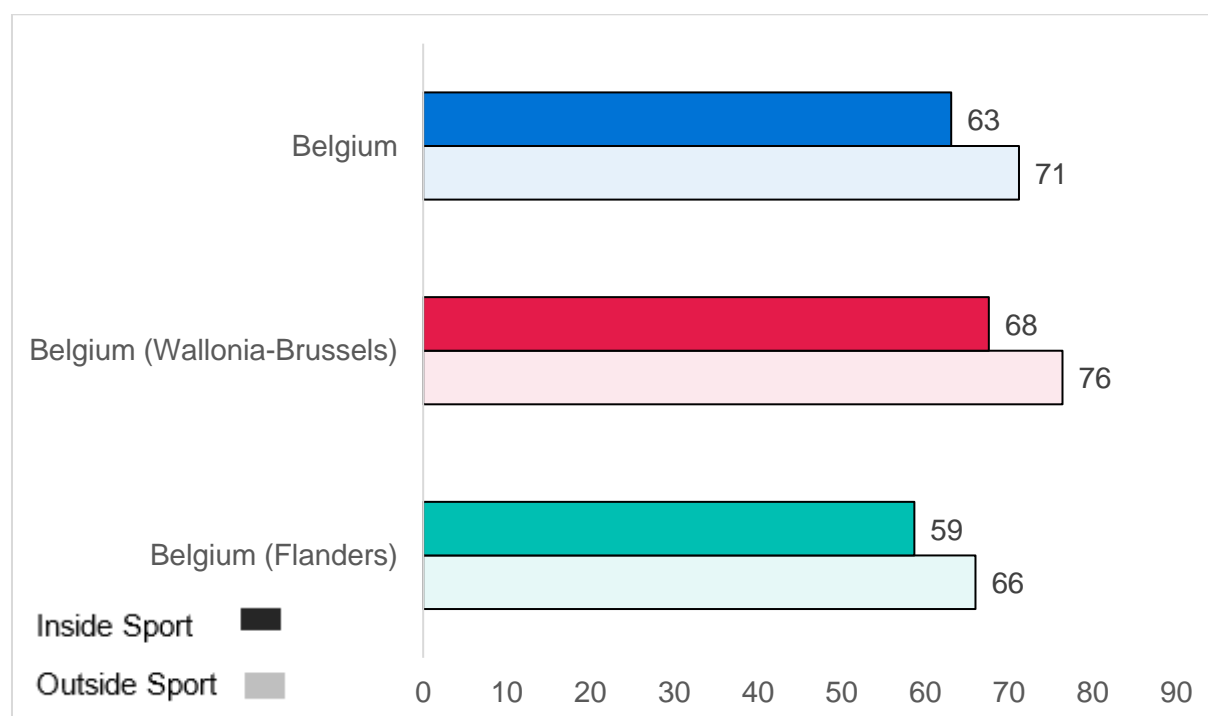
### 3.3.3 Psychological Violence

**Inside sport**, 63% of respondents reported at least one experience of psychological violence. This compared to 71% who experienced psychological violence **outside sport**.

The cross-regional comparison showed that the prevalence of psychological violence **inside sport** ranged from 59% in Flanders to 68% in Wallonia-Brussels. **Outside sport**, the rate of psychological violence varied from 66% in Flanders to 76% in Wallonia-Brussels.

The most common experience of psychological violence **inside sport** was *criticised about my physical appearance* (25%) followed by *humiliations* (22%) (see Appendix 3).

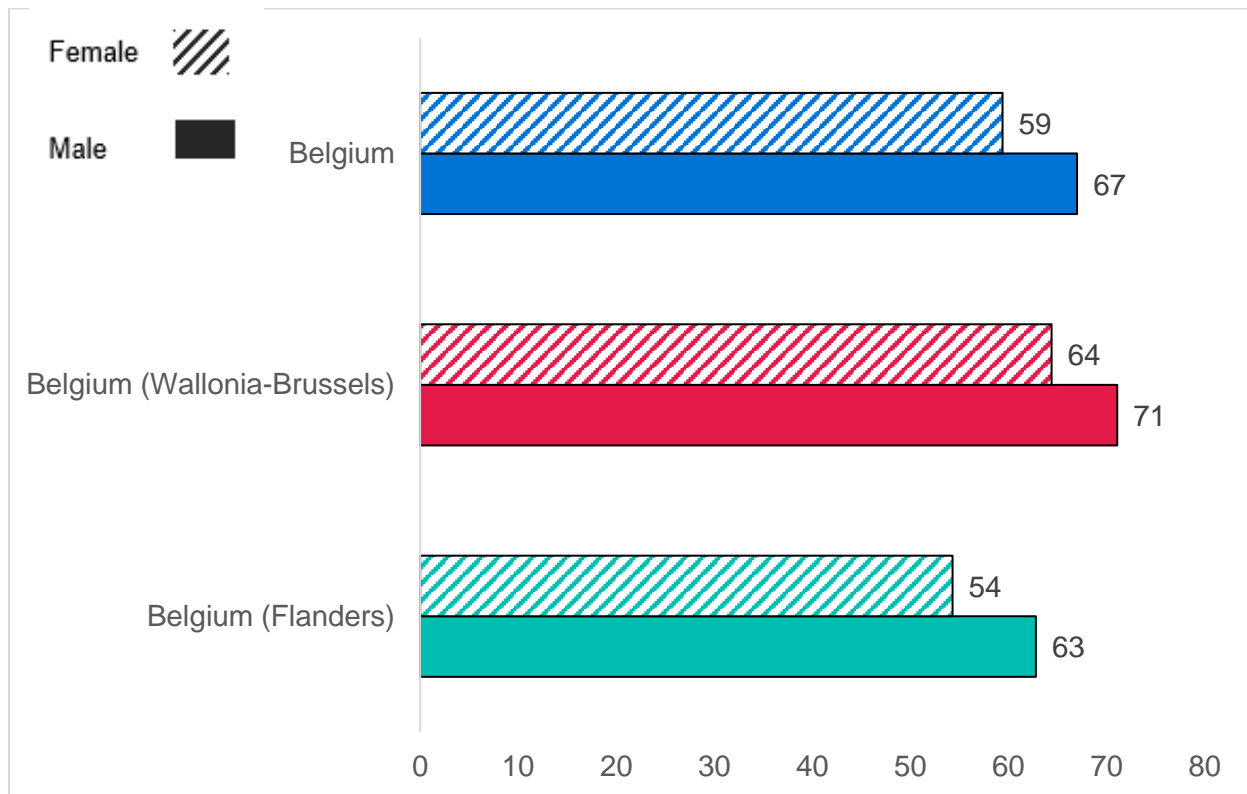
FIGURE 11: PREVALENCE OF PSYCHOLOGICAL VIOLENCE BY REGION



**Inside sport**, 67% of men and 59% of women reported at least one experience of psychological violence. Men were significantly more likely to report psychological violence compared to women.

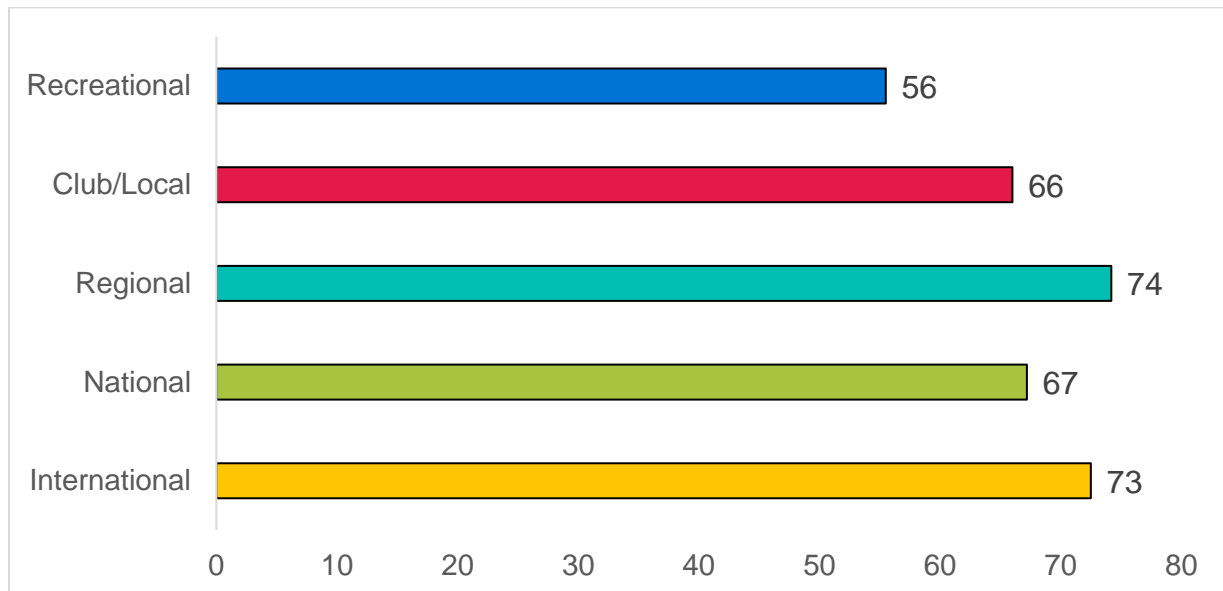
The rate of psychological violence for women varied from 54% in Flanders to 64% in Wallonia-Brussels. For men, the range was from 63% in Flanders to 71% in Wallonia-Brussels.

**FIGURE 12: PREVALENCE OF PSYCHOLOGICAL VIOLENCE INSIDE SPORT BY GENDER**



The prevalence rate for psychological violence *inside sport* is higher in athletes competing at competitive levels, compared to recreational sport participants.

**FIGURE 13: EXPERIENCE OF PSYCHOLOGICAL VIOLENCE INSIDE SPORT BY HIGHEST LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION**



### Summary

- Across the total sample, approximately two-thirds of respondents had experienced psychological violence *inside sport* before age 18.
- The prevalence rate for psychological violence *inside sport* is 63%.
- Psychological violence is experienced by children more frequently *outside sport* than *inside sport*.
- The prevalence of psychological violence *inside sport* is significantly higher for males than females.



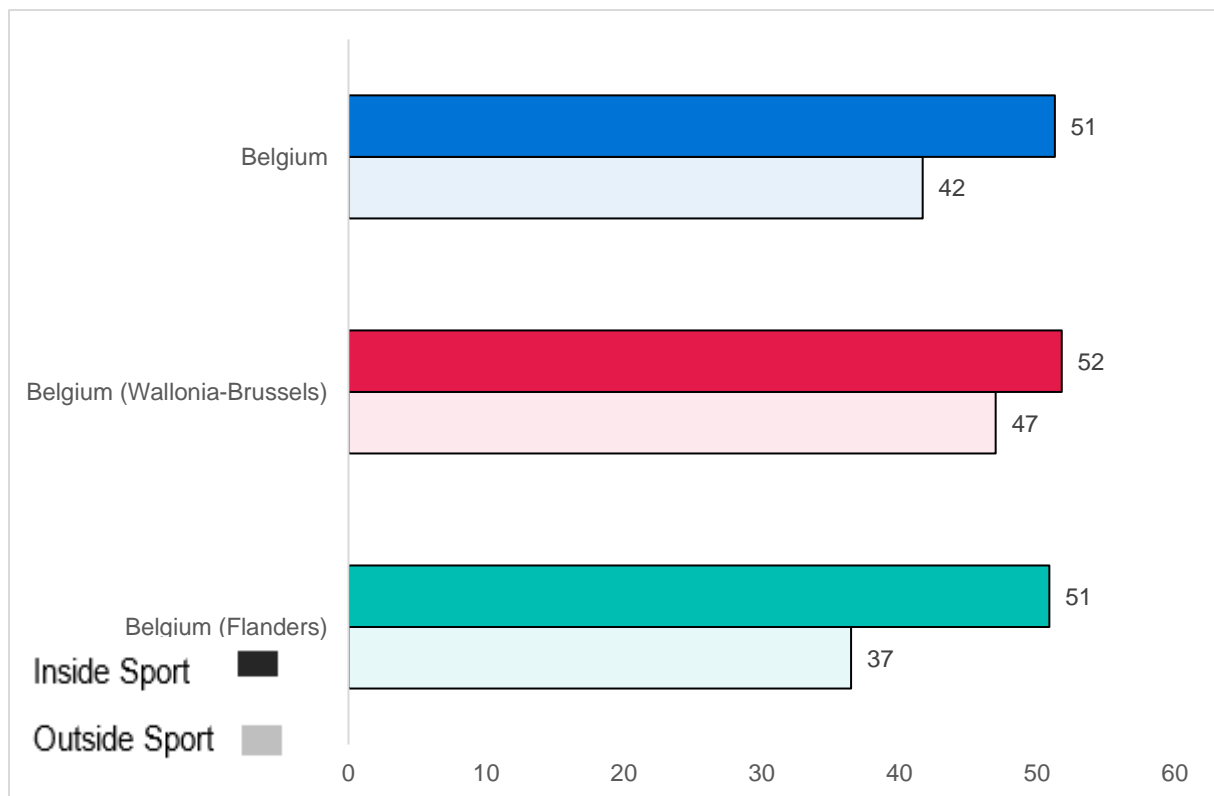
### 3.3.4 Physical Violence

**Inside sport**, 51% of respondents reported at least one experience of physical violence. This compared to 42% of respondents **outside sport**.

Cross-regional comparisons showed the prevalence of physical violence **inside sport** varies from 51% in Flanders to 52% in Wallonia-Brussels. **Outside sport**, the prevalence range was between 37% in Flanders to 47% in Wallonia-Brussels.

The most common experience of physical violence **inside sport** was *Instructed or forced to do exercise as a form of punishment* (35%), followed by *instructed or forced to play while injured or at a harmful intensity* (23%) (see Appendix 3).

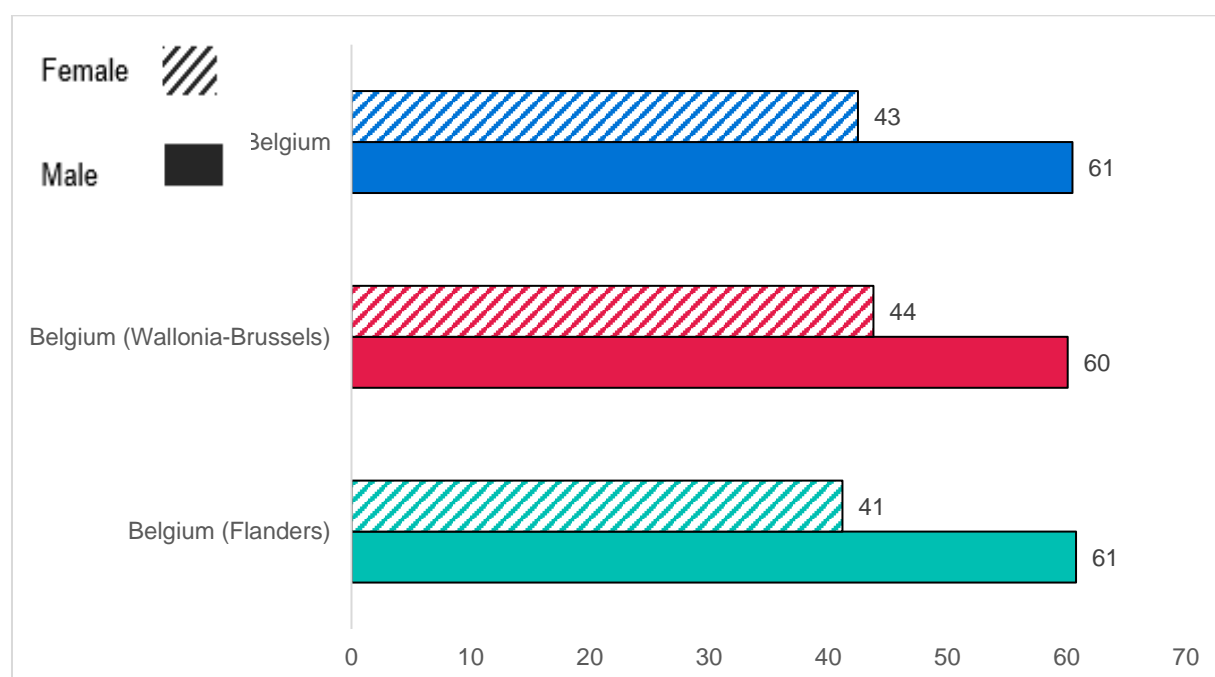
FIGURE 14: PREVALENCE OF PHYSICAL VIOLENCE BY REGION



**Inside sport**, 61% of men and 43% of women reported at least one experience of physical violence. Men were significantly more likely to report physical violence inside sport than women.

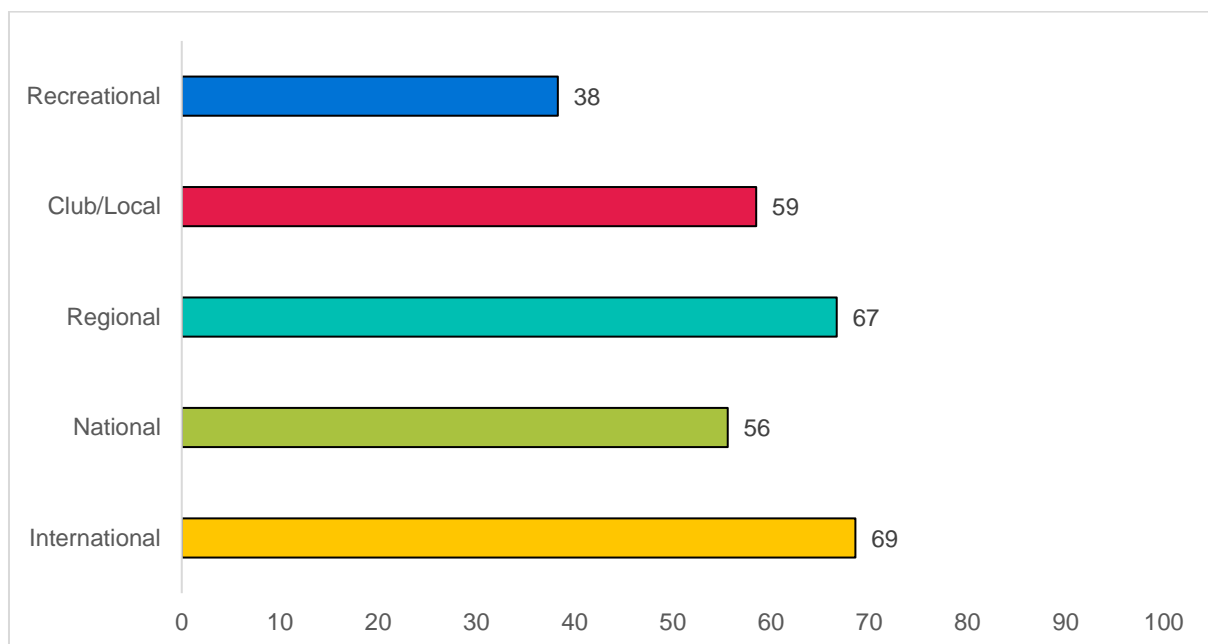
Cross-regional comparisons show that the prevalence of physical violence against women ranged from 41.2% in Flanders to 43.8 in Wallonia-Brussels. For men, the physical violence rate varied from 60.1% in Wallonia-Brussels to 60.8% in Flanders.

**FIGURE 15: PREVALENCE OF PHYSICAL VIOLENCE INSIDE SPORT BY GENDER & REGION**



As with the previous two categories of IVAC, higher levels of participation in youth sports were associated with increased probability of experiencing physical violence *inside sport*, *except for athletes competing at national level*. For example, whilst 38% of those competing recreationally experienced physical violence inside sport, 69% of those competing internationally had.

**FIGURE 16: PREVALENCE OF PHYSICAL VIOLENCE INSIDE SPORT BY HIGHEST LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION**



### Summary

- Across the total sample, 51% of respondents had experienced physical violence inside sport before age 18.
- The prevalence rate for physical violence *inside sport* is 51%.
- Physical violence is experienced more frequently by children *inside sport* than *outside sport*.
- The prevalence of physical violence *inside sport* is significantly higher for males than females.
- The likelihood of experiencing physical violence as a child *inside sport* increases with level of performance, with the exception of athletes who were active at national level.

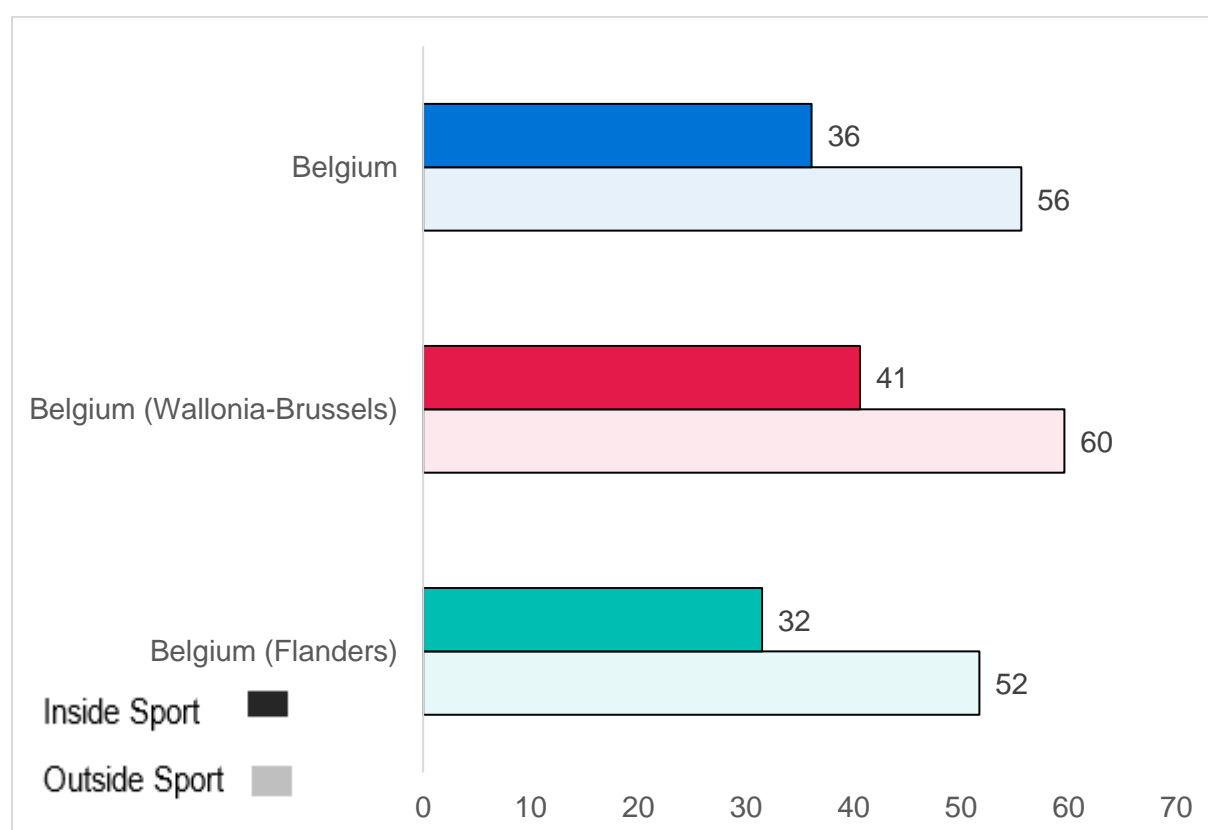
### 3.3.5 Non-Contact Sexual Violence (NCSV)

**Inside sport**, 36% of respondents reported at least one experience of NCSV. This compared to 56% **outside sport**.

The prevalence of NCSV **inside sport** was between 32% in the Flanders and 41% in Wallonia-Brussels. **Outside sport**, the range was from 52% in the Flanders to 60% in Wallonia-Brussels.

The most common experience of NCSV **inside sport** was *obscene or sexual comments* (34%) followed by *inappropriate staring or leering* (14%) (see Appendix 3).

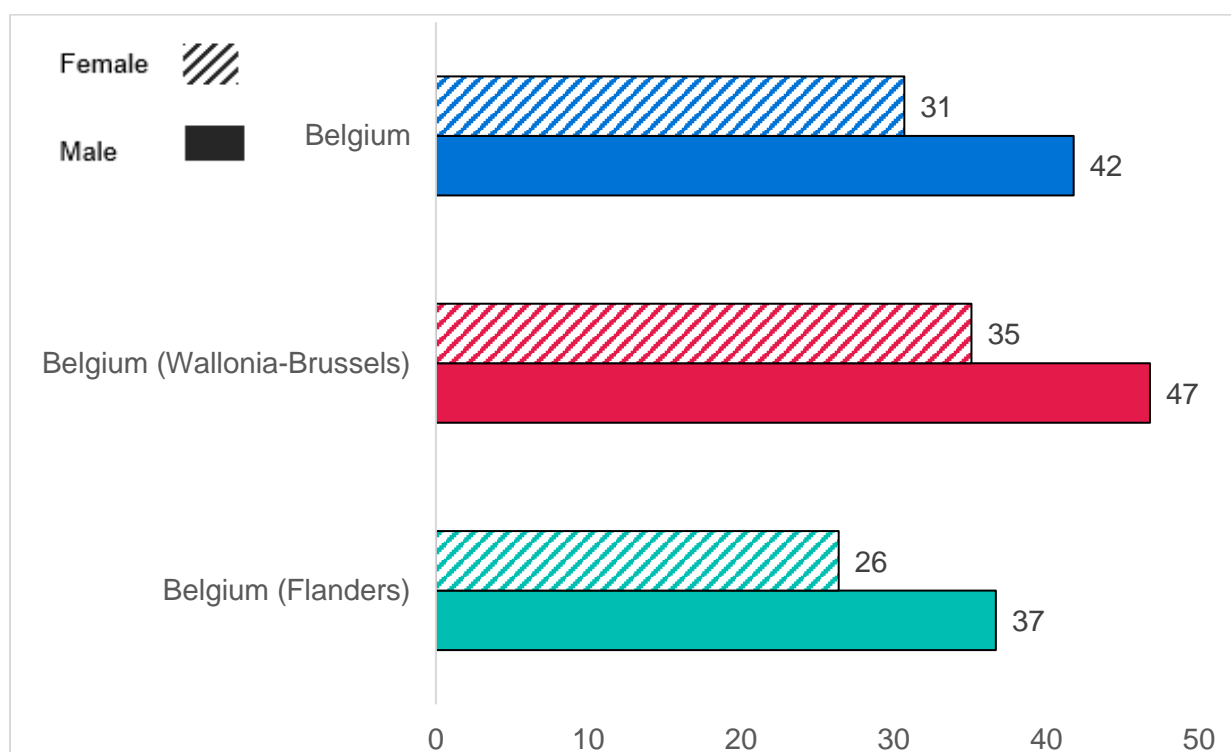
FIGURE 17: PREVALENCE OF NCSV BY REGION



**Inside sport**, 42% of men had experienced NCSV in youth sports, compared to 31% of women. The difference in the prevalence of NCSV between males and females was statistically significant.

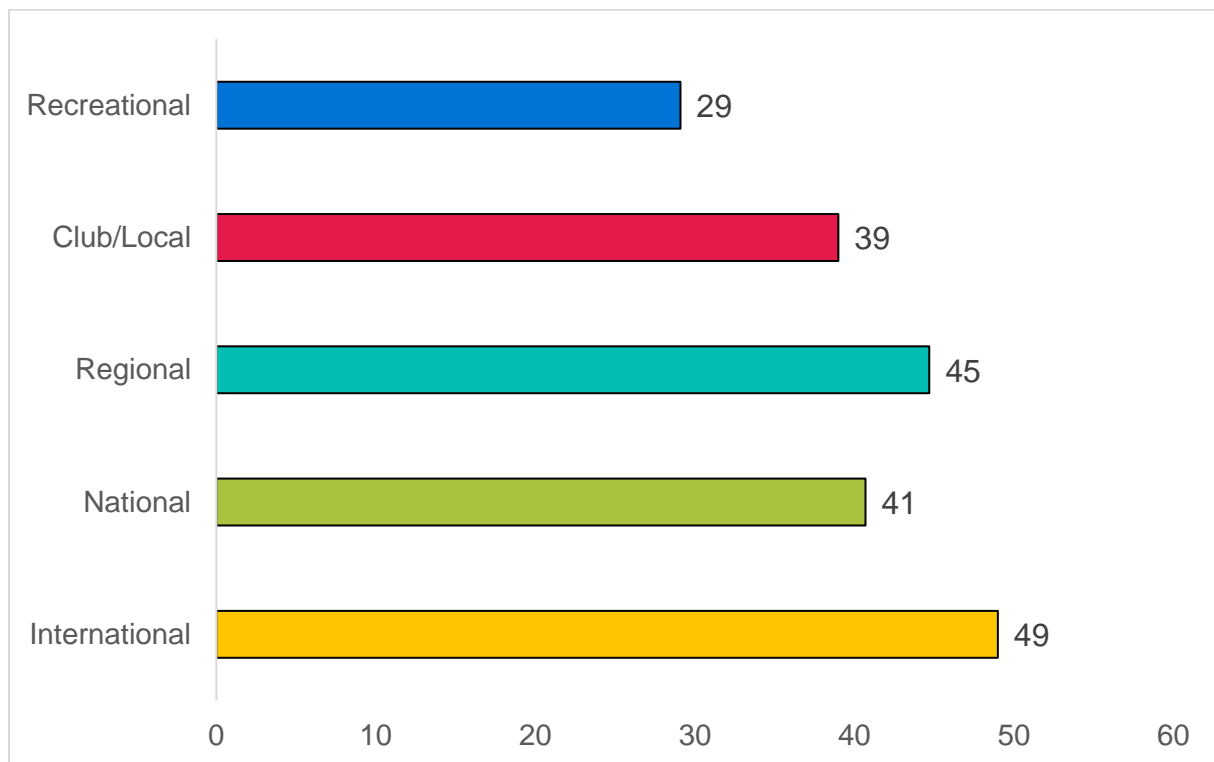
The rate of NCSV inside sport for females ranged from 26% in the Flanders to 35% in Wallonia-Brussels. For males, the prevalence rate varied from 37% in Flanders to 47% in Wallonia-Brussels.

**FIGURE 18: PREVALENCE OF NCSV INSIDE SPORT BY GENDER**



Similar to the three indicators of IVAC above, higher prevalence rates of NCSV were associated with higher levels of sports participation, ranging from 29% in *recreational* sports to 49% in *international* competitive level, with the exception of the national level.

**FIGURE 19: PREVALENCE OF NCSV INSIDE SPORT BY HIGHEST LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION**



### Summary

- Across the total sample, one-third of respondents' report experiencing NCSV *inside sport* before age 18.
- The prevalence rate for NCSV violence *inside sport* is 36%.
- NCSV is experienced more frequently *outside sport* than *inside sport*.
- The prevalence of NCSV *inside sport* is significantly higher for males than females.
- The likelihood of experiencing NCSV as a child *inside sport* is most common for those competing at the international level.

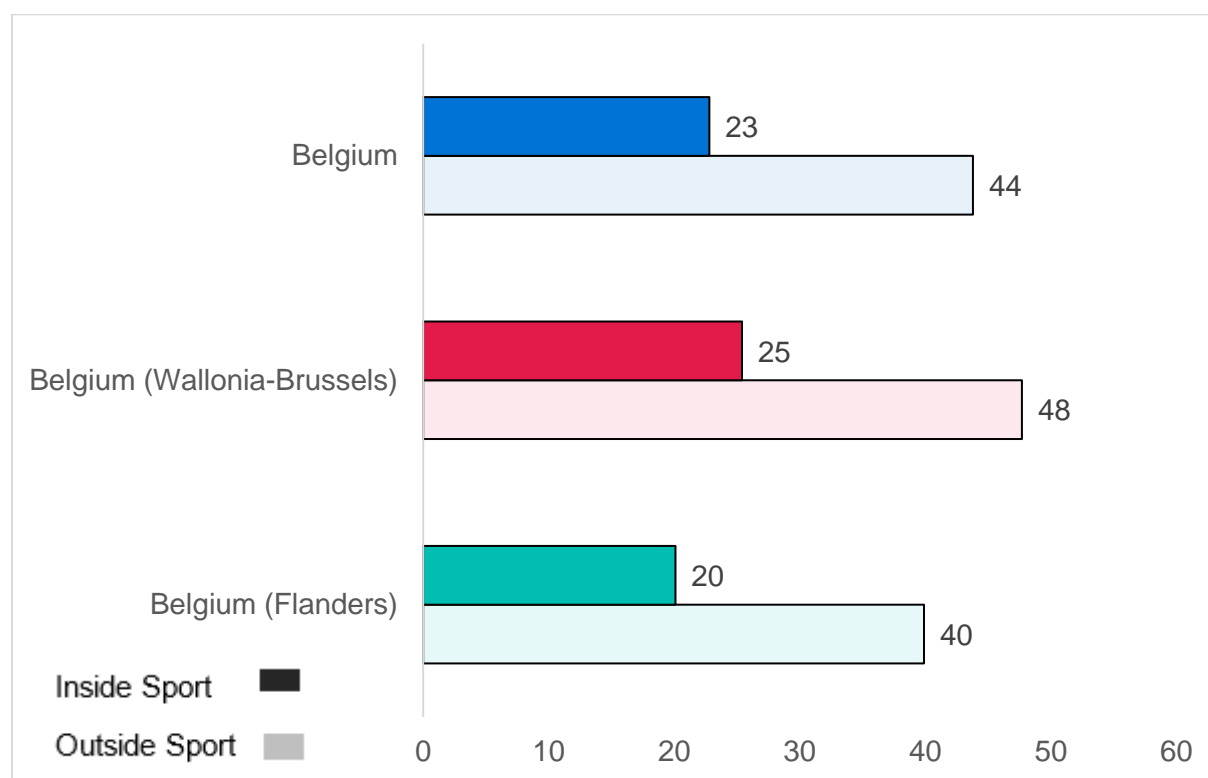
### 3.3.6 Contact Sexual Violence (CSV)

**Inside sport**, 23% of respondents reported at least one experience of contact sexual violence (CSV) in youth sports. This compared to 44% **outside sport**.

comparisons show that the prevalence of CSV **inside sport** ranged from 20% in Flanders to 25% in Wallonia-Brussels. **Outside sport**, experience of CSV varied from 40% in Flanders to 48% in Wallonia-Brussels.

The most common experience of CSV **inside sport** was *kissing* (31%) followed by *sexual touching* (17%) and *oral sex* (16%) (see Appendix 3).

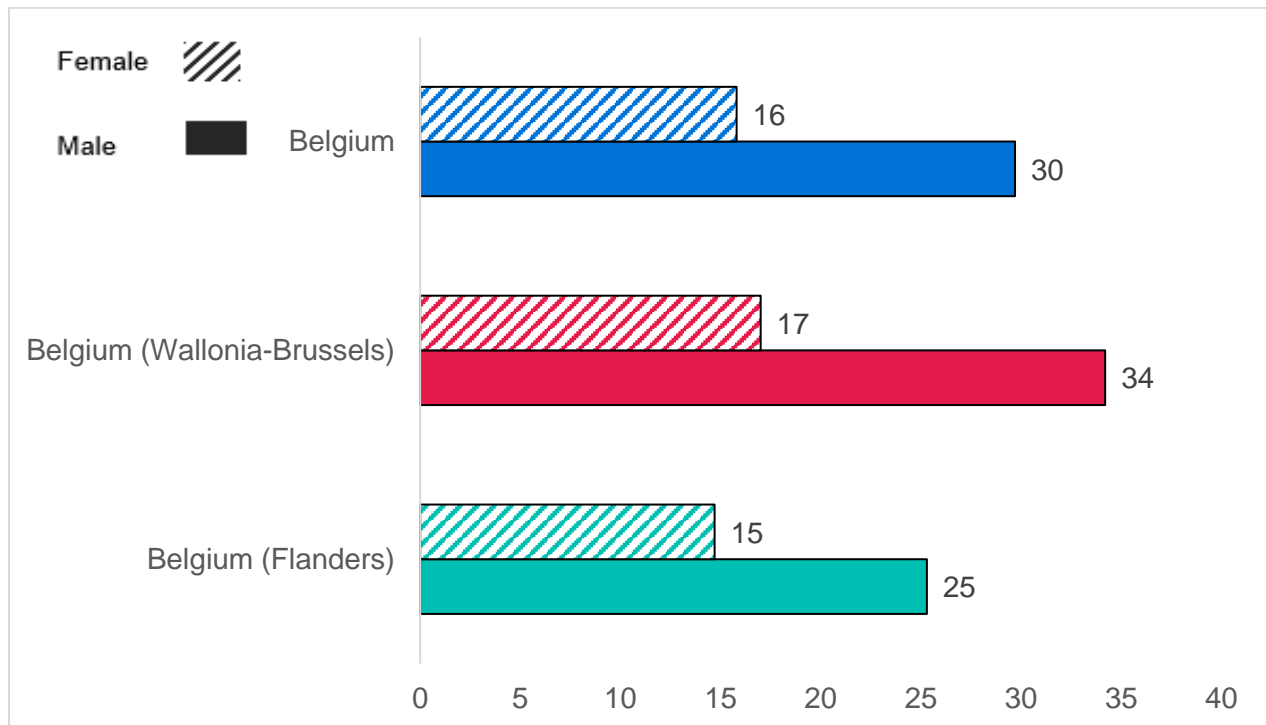
FIGURE 20: PREVALENCE OF CSV BY REGION



**Inside sport**, 30% of males had experienced CSV in youth sports compared to 16% of females. Men were significantly more likely to have experienced CSV in youth sports.

The prevalence of CSV for females ranged from 15% in Flanders to 17% in Wallonia-Brussels. For males, CSV varied from 25% in Flanders to 34% in Wallonia-Brussels.

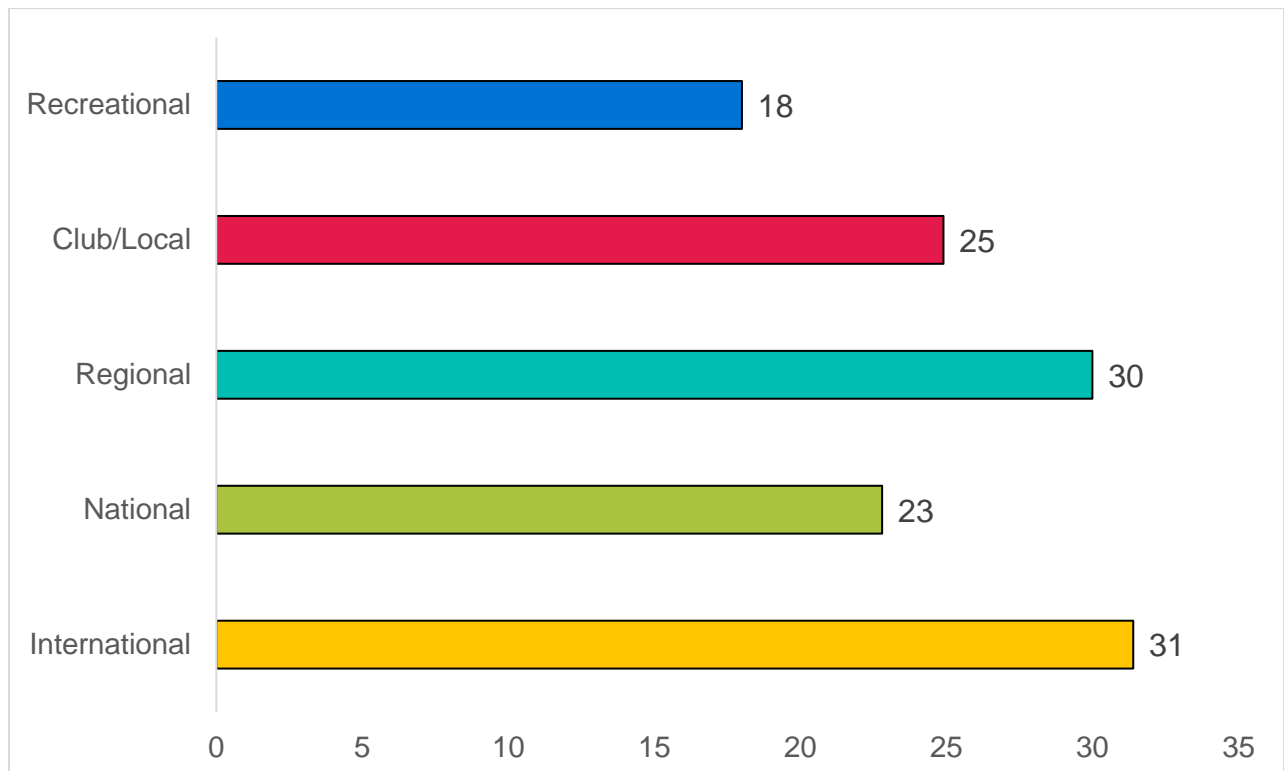
**FIGURE 21: PREVALENCE OF CSV INSIDE SPORT BY GENDER**





Similar to the four other categories of IVAC, the prevalence of CSV *inside sport* was higher in more advanced competitive levels of youth sports, except for the national level. For those competing *recreationally*, 18.0% had experienced CSV inside sport; this compared to 31.4% amongst those competing *internationally*.

**FIGURE 22: PREVALENCE OF CSV INSIDE SPORT BY HIGHEST LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION**



### Summary

- Across the total sample, more than one-fifth of respondent's reported at least one experience of CSV *inside sport* before age 18.
- The prevalence rate for CSV violence *inside sport* is 23%.
- The experience of CSV before age 18 is significantly more frequent *outside sport* than *inside sport*.
- The prevalence of CSV *inside sport* is significantly higher for males than females.
- The likelihood of experiencing CSV *inside sport* is much higher in international athletes, compared to recreational sport participants.

### 3.4 Prevalence of all CASES items

Table 7 presents the total responses to each main item of the CASES questionnaire. The five categories of IVAC are shaded and ranked according to their prevalence *inside sport*. This table illustrates the higher prevalence of psychological violence and the general lower prevalence of sexual violence.

**TABLE 7: ITEMS BY CATEGORY, RANKED BY PREVALENCE INSIDE SPORT**

(bold denotes highest/most common in category)

		Rank N (%)		
		Belgium	Flanders	Wallonia-Brussels
Phys	I was instructed or forced to do exercise as a form of punishment	<b>1086 (36.9%)</b>	<b>640 (38.8%)</b>	<b>537 (36.5%)</b>
Psy	I was humiliated or made to feel inferior or small	<b>1022 (34.7%)</b>	<b>559 (34.0%)</b>	<b>532 (36.2%)</b>
Psy	I was not praised for my efforts or achievements	864 (29.4%)	428 (26.1%)	485 (33.0%)
Psy	I was criticised about my physical appearance, including my weight, 'look', clothes or body shape	814 (27.6%)	389 (23.7%)	473 (32.1%)
Psy	I was ignored or excluded	791 (26.8%)	388 (23.6%)	455 (31.0%)
Psy	I was screamed at, sworn at, threatened, or otherwise verbally abused	596 (20.2%)	261 (15.9%)	377 (25.6%)
Psy	I was shouted at or threatened because of my performance or because I did not want to train/compete/practice	574 (19.5%)	276 (16.8%)	343 (23.3%)
Phys	I was instructed or forced to play, participate or perform while injured or sick or at an intensity or frequency that was potentially harmful	568 (19.3%)	309 (18.8%)	310 (21.1%)
NCSV	I was subjected to obscene or sexual comments	<b>555 (18.8%)</b>	<b>299 (18.5%)</b>	299 (20.3%)
Psy	I was asked, instructed or forced to perform at unrealistically high standards	484 (16.5%)	274 (16.7%)	258 (17.5%)
Neg	I was not provided with adequate support for my basic well-being	<b>482 (16.3%)</b>	<b>259 (16.0%)</b>	<b>274 (18.6%)</b>
NCSV	I was subjected to inappropriate staring or leering	464 (15.8%)	196 (12.1%)	<b>303 (20.6%)</b>
Phys	I was punched, slapped, grabbed / pushed, or otherwise physically assaulted	455 (15.5%)	266 (16.1%)	242 (16.4%)
Neg	I was not provided with the appropriate equipment/kit to safely perform my activity	445 (14.6%)	237 (14.6%)	250 (17.0%)
Psy	I was expelled from my team/club/group, or threatened with this, for reasons unrelated to my performance or behaviour, or for reasons not explained	429 (14.6%)	253 (15.4%)	229 (15.6%)
Neg	I was forced to participate in unsafe conditions, extreme weather, where facilities or equipment were unsafe, or safety rules ignored	424 (14.4%)	236 (14.5%)	230 (15.6%)
Phys	I was instructed or forced to take substances to manage my body weight/size, enhance my performance, delay puberty or stop or delay my period	394 (13.4%)	241 (14.6%)	202 (13.7%)
Neg	I was instructed or forced to be absent from school so I could participate in other activities	394 (13.4%)	198 (12.2%)	234 (15.9%)
Neg	I was placed at risk of harm due to not being properly supervised	384 (13.1%)	211 (13.0%)	212 (14.4%)
CSV	I was kissed by someone / I was asked, instructed or forced to kiss someone	<b>382 (12.9%)</b>	<b>219 (13.6%)</b>	<b>204 (13.9%)</b>
NCSV	I was 'flashed' at / someone 'exposed' themselves to me in person	375 (12.8%)	208 (12.8%)	198 (13.4%)
Neg	I did not receive appropriate medical care when needed	361 (12.2%)	209 (12.8%)	187 (12.7%)

Phys	I was instructed or forced to participate in ceremonies or other rituals involving harmful physical activities	315 (10.7%)	190 (11.5%)	165 (11.3%)
NCSV	I was instructed or forced to participate in initiations or rituals including degrading or harmful activities of a sexual nature, without physical contact	313 (10.7%)	184 (11.4%)	166 (11.2%)
Psy	I was, instructed or forced to participate in initiation ceremonies or other rituals intended to humiliate, degrade or belittle myself or others	302 (10.2%)	175 (10.6%)	162 (11.1%)
NCSV	I was 'flashed' at / someone 'exposed' themselves to me online	300 (10.2%)	159 (9.9%)	165 (11.2%)
NCSV	I was asked, instructed or forced to produce or share sexual images, videos or text messages featuring me or others	266 (9.0%)	152 (9.5%)	133 (9.0%)
CSV	I engaged in actual or attempted vaginal or anal sex (with an object or person)	261 (8.8%)	140 (8.7%)	147 (10.0%)
CSV	I was, instructed or forced to participate in initiation ceremonies or other rituals of a sexual nature that involved physical contact	257 (8.8%)	143 (8.9%)	139 (9.4%)
NCSV	I was asked, instructed or forced to view sexual images, videos or messages	256 (8.6%)	145 (8.9%)	140 (9.5%)
CSV	I had genital contact with someone (including masturbation)	246 (8.3%)	118 (7.3%)	150 (10.2%)
NCSV	I was asked, instructed or forced to undress or perform sexual acts on myself for the pleasure of someone else	240 (8.2%)	142 (8.8%)	126 (8.6%)
NCSV	Sexual images or videos of me were produced or shared by someone else	235 (8.0%)	136 (8.5%)	123 (8.3%)
CSV	I was caressed or otherwise touched sexually / I was asked, instructed or forced to touch someone sexually	234 (7.9%)	109 (6.7%)	137 (9.4%)
CSV	I engaged in (gave or received) oral sex	234 (7.9%)	122 (7.6%)	135 (9.2%)

### 3.5 Characteristics of interpersonal violence against children: 'most serious experience'

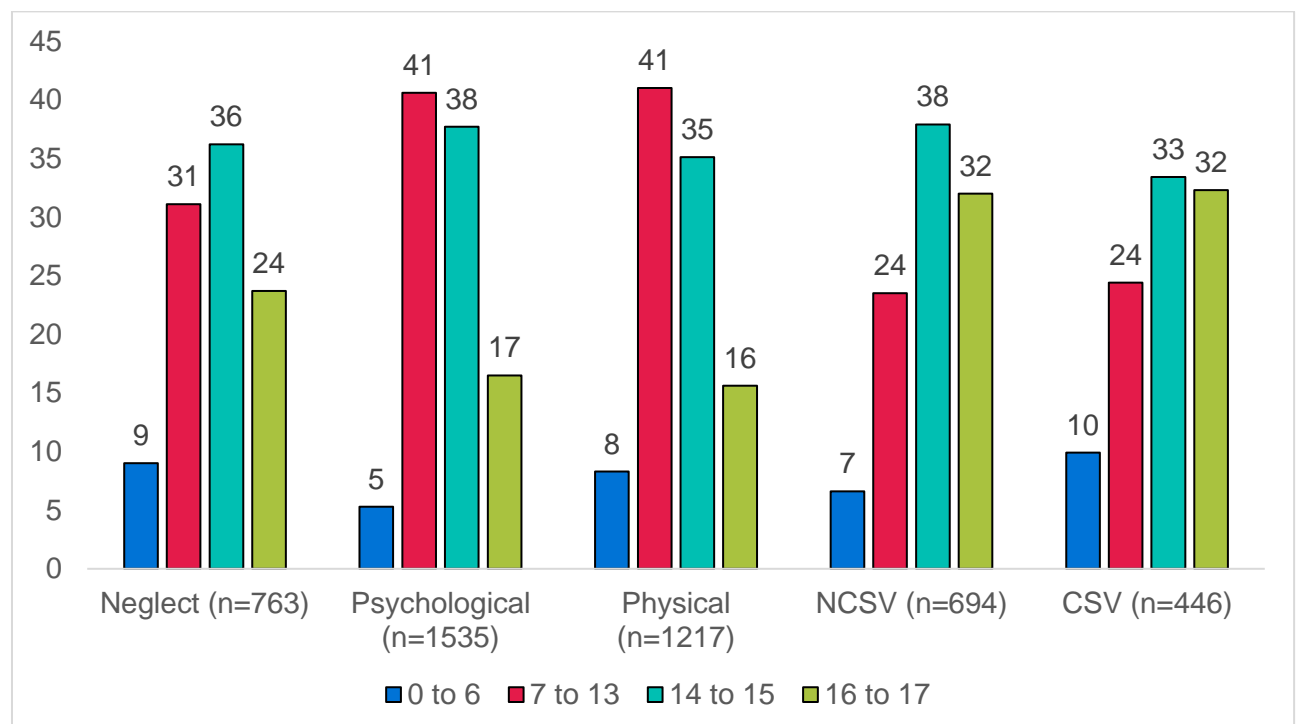
The study also gathered additional data on the characteristics of IVAC in sport by asking further, follow-up questions when a respondent reported an experience of IVAC. Many respondents identified more than one IVAC experience, therefore, rather than asking follow-up questions for *each* experience or item – which could be onerous for those who report many experiences – respondents were asked to identify ('think of') the experience they would rate as the 'most serious', in the sense of having the most impact on them. Thus, the data below are based on responses to questions regarding the most serious experience across the ten areas presented above in Table 2.

#### 3.5.1 Age, frequency and duration of experience

In relation to the age of respondents when this (most serious) experience or incident (inside sport) began and ended, the questionnaire offered four age categories: 0-6, 7-13, 14-15, and 16-17.

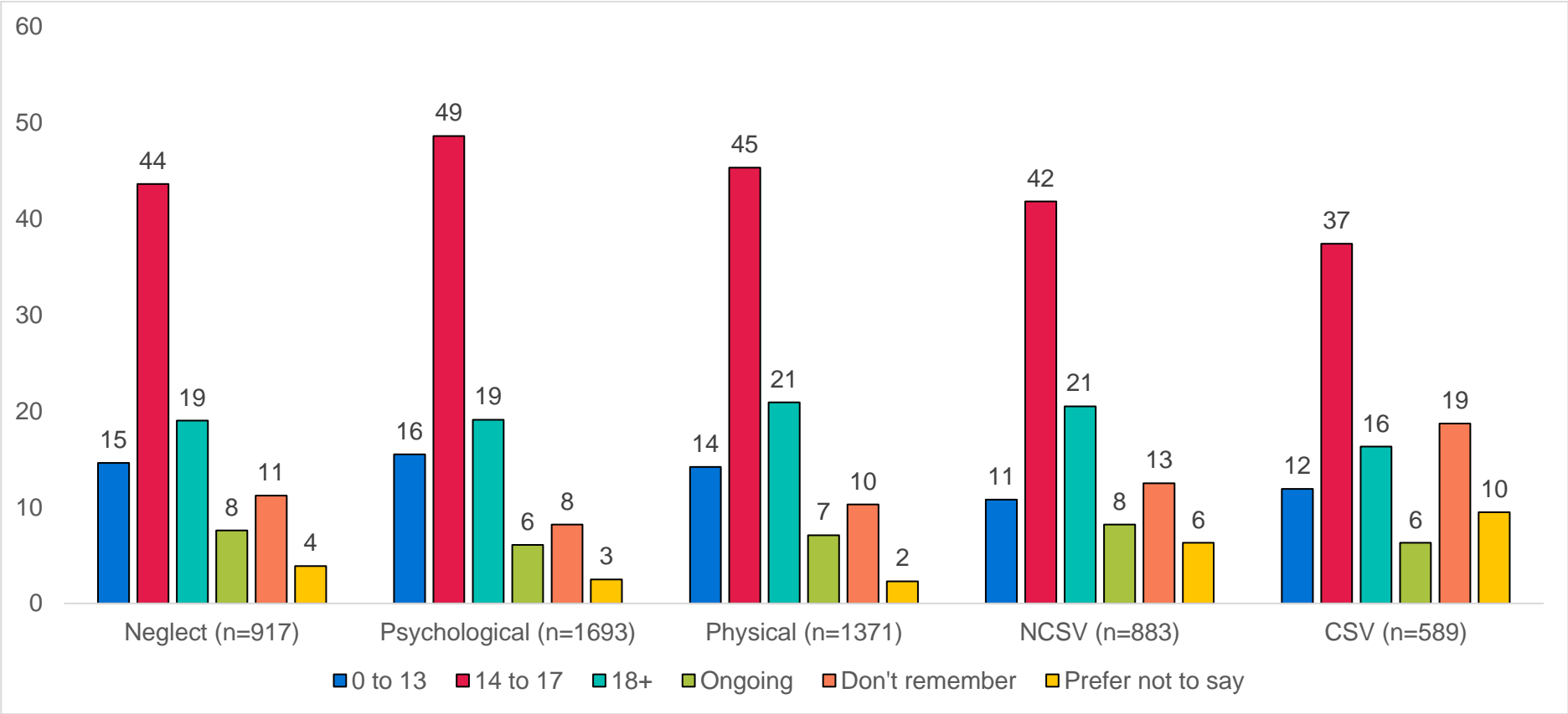
For *psychological* violence (41%) and *physical* violence (41%), the experience most commonly began between 7-13 years of age. However, for *neglect* (36%), *NCSV* (38%), and *CSV* (33%) the experience most frequently began between 14-15 years old.

FIGURE 23: AGE OF ONSET



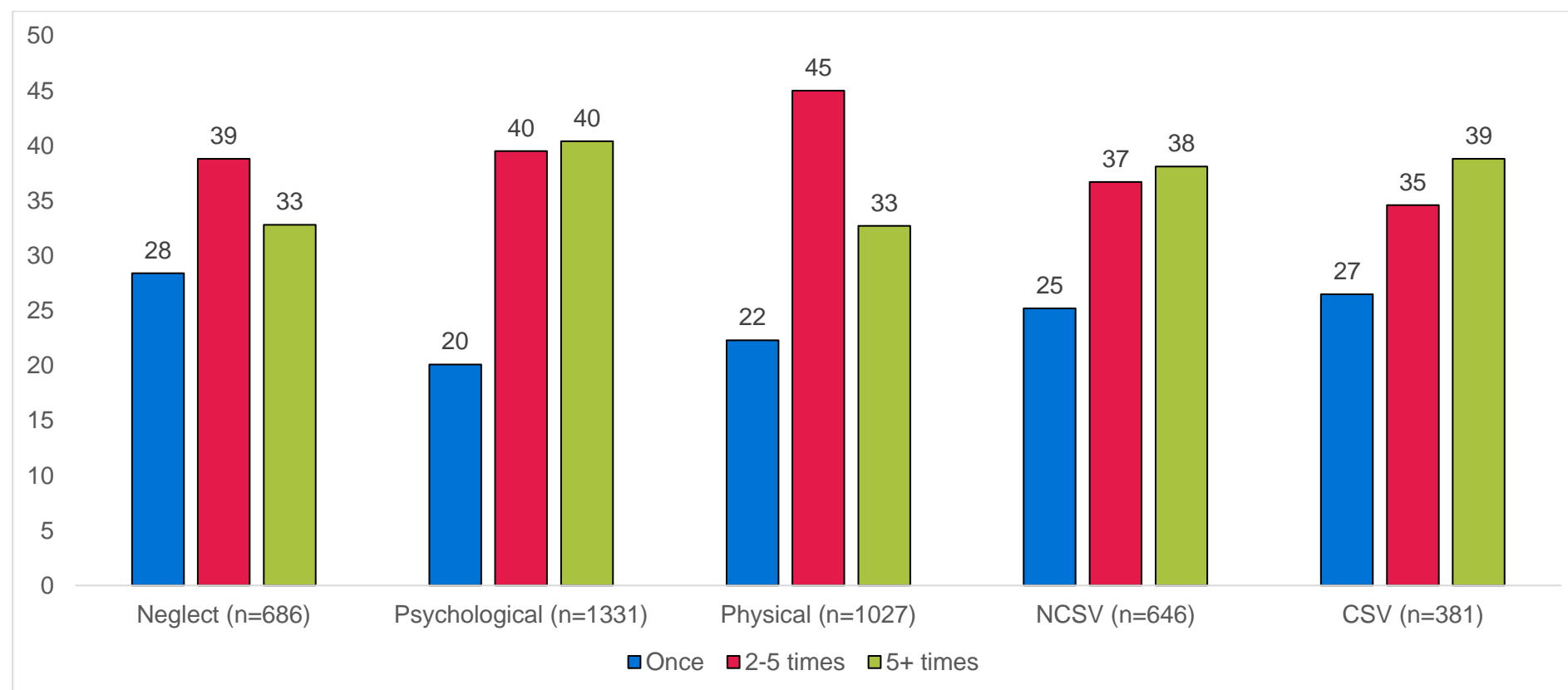
Across all categories, the majority of respondents were 14-17 years old when the experience/incident ceased or stopped (51% to 54%), however, up to 10% of respondents reported that the experience was still occurring at the time of survey, at an adult age. This highlights the importance of ensuring welfare policies and procedures extend beyond childhood.

**FIGURE 24: AGE OF CESSATION**



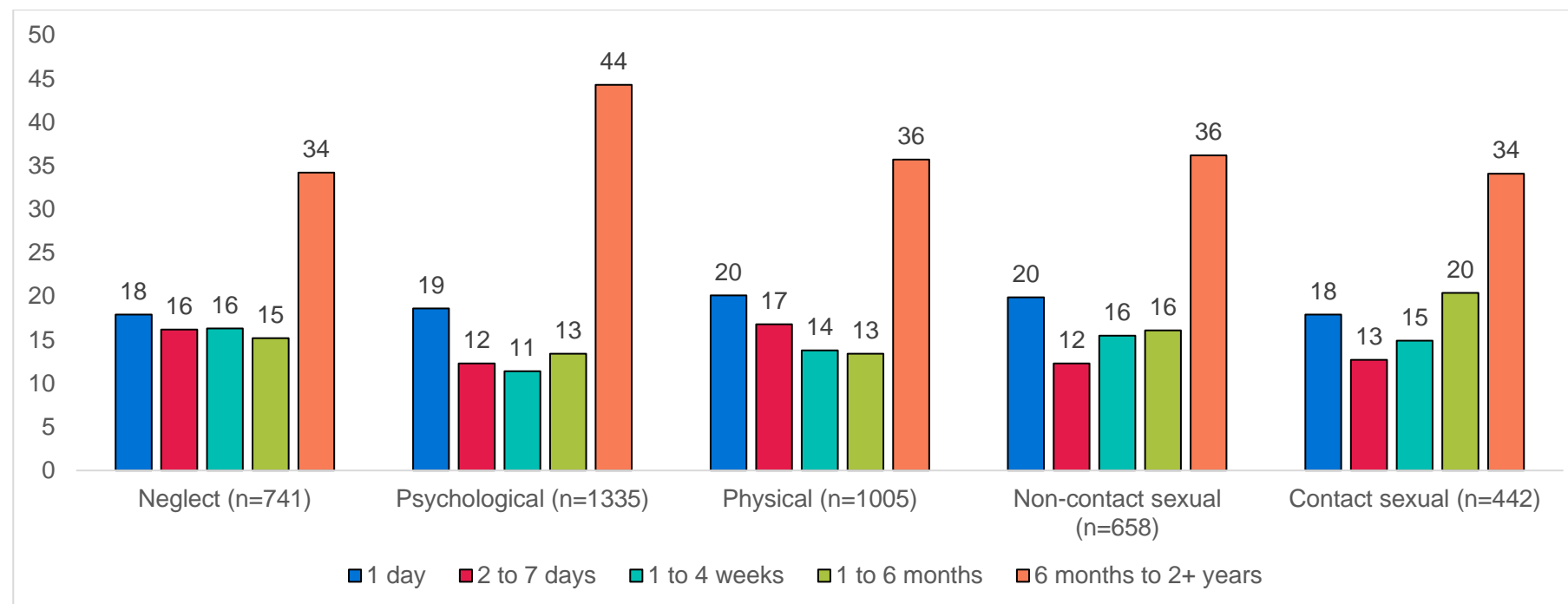
In relation to *frequency* of the experience, most respondents indicated a frequency of *2-5 times* for neglect (39%) and physical violence (45%). The frequency was higher for psychological violence and sexual violence where the most common response was *more than five times* (40% for psychological violence, 38% for NCSV and 39% for CSV). However, 40% of those experiencing psychological violence also reported a frequency of *2-5 times*.

**FIGURE 25: FREQUENCY OF EXPERIENCE**



In relation to *duration* of experience (see Figure 26), across all categories, except psychological violence, the most common response was 1 day (18% to 20%). However, for psychological violence, 19% of respondents indicated a period of over 2 years. In all categories, between 49% and 58% of respondents indicated the experience had lasted at least one month. In all categories, more than 30% of respondents reported the experience lasted at least 6 months (more than 40% for psychological violence).

**FIGURE 26: DURATION OF EXPERIENCE**



### 3.5.2 Characteristics of ‘perpetrators’

Participants of the survey were asked to state how many people were responsible for the experience they identified, their gender(s), and what role/position they held. These findings are presented below. Before presenting the data on the perpetration of IV, it is important to qualify our use of the term ‘perpetrator’. In the follow-up questions, respondents were asked several questions about the person or people who were responsible for the experience they considered to be most severe. The terms ‘perpetrator’ or ‘offender’ were deliberately avoided as they are often associated with deliberately harmful and/or criminal acts. However, ‘intent to harm [is] not [a] prerequisite for the definition of violence’ (UNCRC, 2011, p. 8) and it was important to avoid giving any impression that the survey was focused on criminality as defined in law.

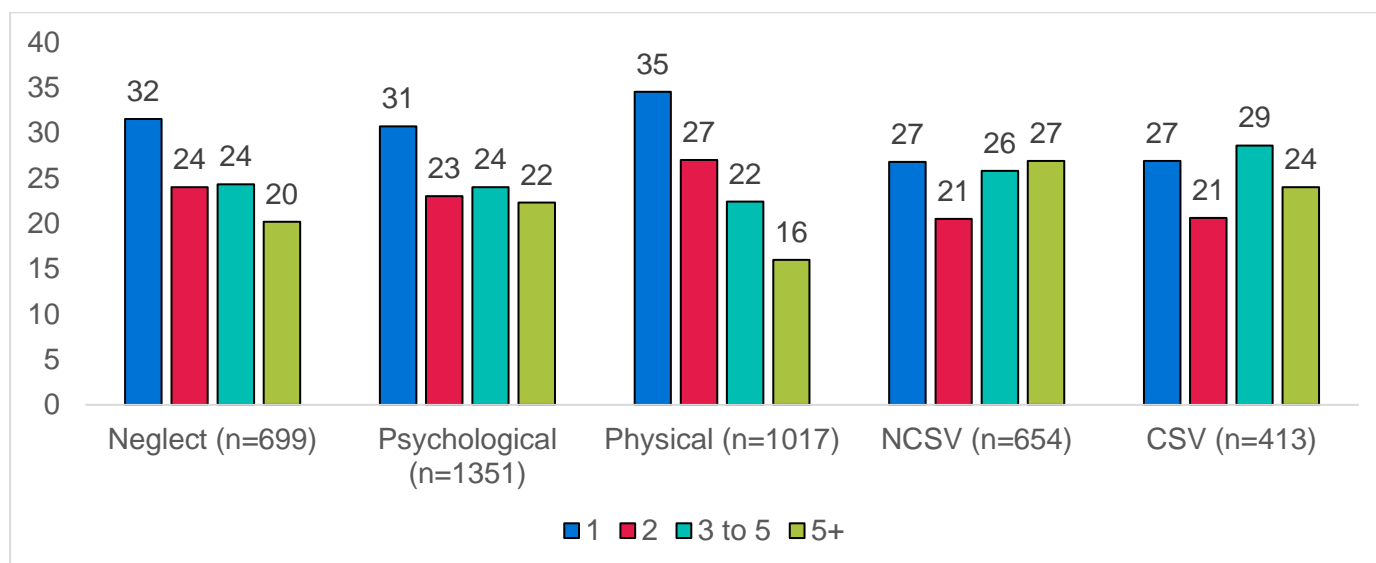
Furthermore, children often experience harm by or from other children. This may include deliberate acts, but it may also be normalised behaviour that is encouraged or tacitly endorsed by adults (e.g. an adult ignoring children using sexist, racist or homophobic language to intimidate or ‘bully’ other children). In these circumstances, labelling children as *perpetrators* of interpersonal violence may be technically correct, but it seems conceptually limited.

Therefore, in describing our data, whilst we adopt the term ‘perpetrator’ in reference to those persons identified by our respondents as being responsible for the negative experiences they had, we do so in a qualified fashion to acknowledge the wide variation of actions and individuals that are included under this category.

#### Number of perpetrators

The majority of respondents (27% to 35%) indicated a single perpetrator in all categories. In non-contact sexual violence, an equal portion of respondents indicate *more than five people* (27%). For all types of violence, except for non-contact sexual violence, the single perpetrator is followed by *two people* or *three to five people* (see Figure 27).

**FIGURE 27: NUMBER OF PERPETRATORS**



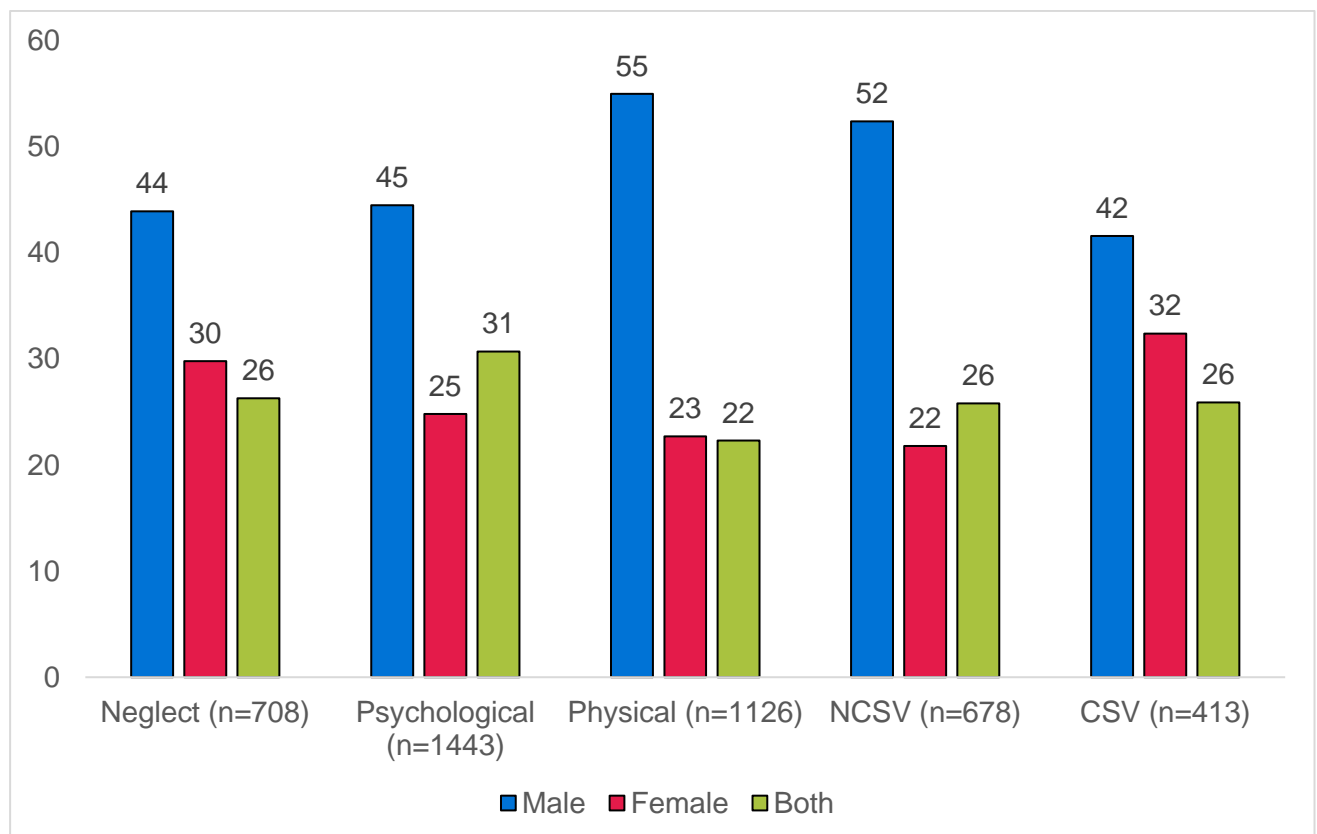


## GENDER OF PERPETRATORS

Across all categories, *males* were most often identified as the perpetrator(s) (42% to 55%) (see Figure 28). *Females* were indicated less often (21.8% to 32.4%).

The highest volume of female perpetrators was in CSV (32%). The largest difference, per category, in the gender of perpetrators was found in physical violence (55% male, 23% female). A significant proportion of respondents (22% to 31% depending on the category) stated the perpetrators were both male *and* female.

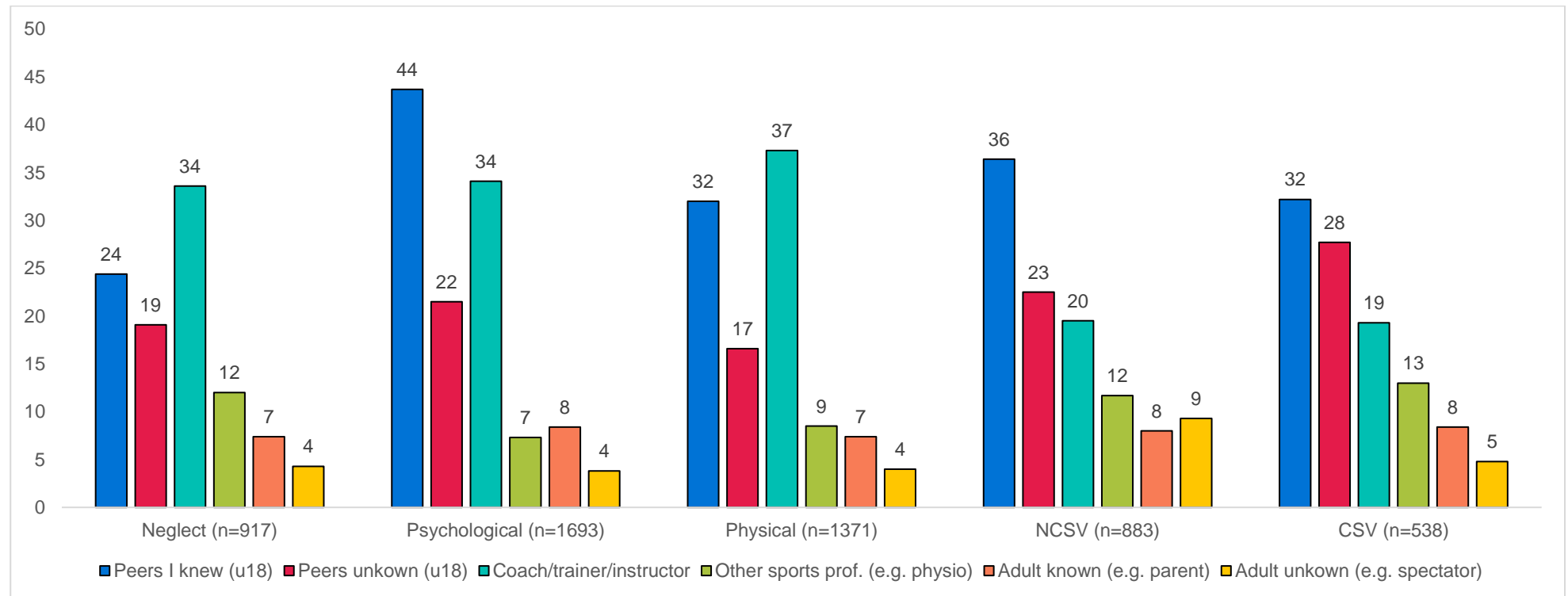
FIGURE 28: GENDER OF PERPETRATOR(S)



### Role and position of perpetrators

For psychological violence (44%), NCSV (36%) and CSV (32%), most respondents indicated *teammates or peers (under 18 years)* as perpetrators (see Figure 29). Neglect (34%) and physical violence (37%) was most often perpetrated by *coaches, trainers or instructors (18+)*.

**FIGURE 29: ROLE/POSITION OF PERPETRATOR**



Despite the differences across the categories, *teammates and peers* as well as *coaches, trainers and instructors* were the two most common perpetrator groups for neglect, psychological and physical violence. For NCSV and CSV, besides peers that were known the second most mentioned perpetrator group are *peers (under 18 years) that were not known* by the athletes. One-fifth of the respondents indicated coaches as perpetrators of NCSV and CSV.

### 3.5.3 Context and location of violence experience

#### 3.5.3.1 Organizational Context

Respondents were asked to identify, from multiple options, the sports context in which this most severe experience happened (see Figure 30).

In all five violence categories, the *sport club* (24% to 49%) is the most often indicated context. The second most indicated context for all categories is *sport camp* (13% for neglect, 11% for psychological violence, 13% for physical violence, 12% for NCSV and 15% for CSV).

#### 3.5.3.2 Location

Respondents were also asked to indicate in which **concrete location** the violence occurred (see Figure 31). *In or around the sports facility* was named by the majority of participants for each of the five violence categories (22% to 43%), followed by a *changing/locker room* (13% to 18%) and a *treatment room* for neglect (12%) and physical violence (9%) and a *car or vehicle* for psychological violence (8%), NCSV (12%) and CSV (14%).

Furthermore, the results indicate that there is greater variation in the location of sexual violence experiences compared to the other forms of violence. *Private houses, cars and rooms in hotels, camps or boarding schools* are mentioned more often as places of sexual violence than for the other forms of violence.

### 3.5.4 Disclosure

Respondents were also asked whether they had told (disclosed) anyone about their experience of violence (see Figure 32). The majority of respondents, across all five categories, reported that they had *not* disclosed or sought support (25%-41%).

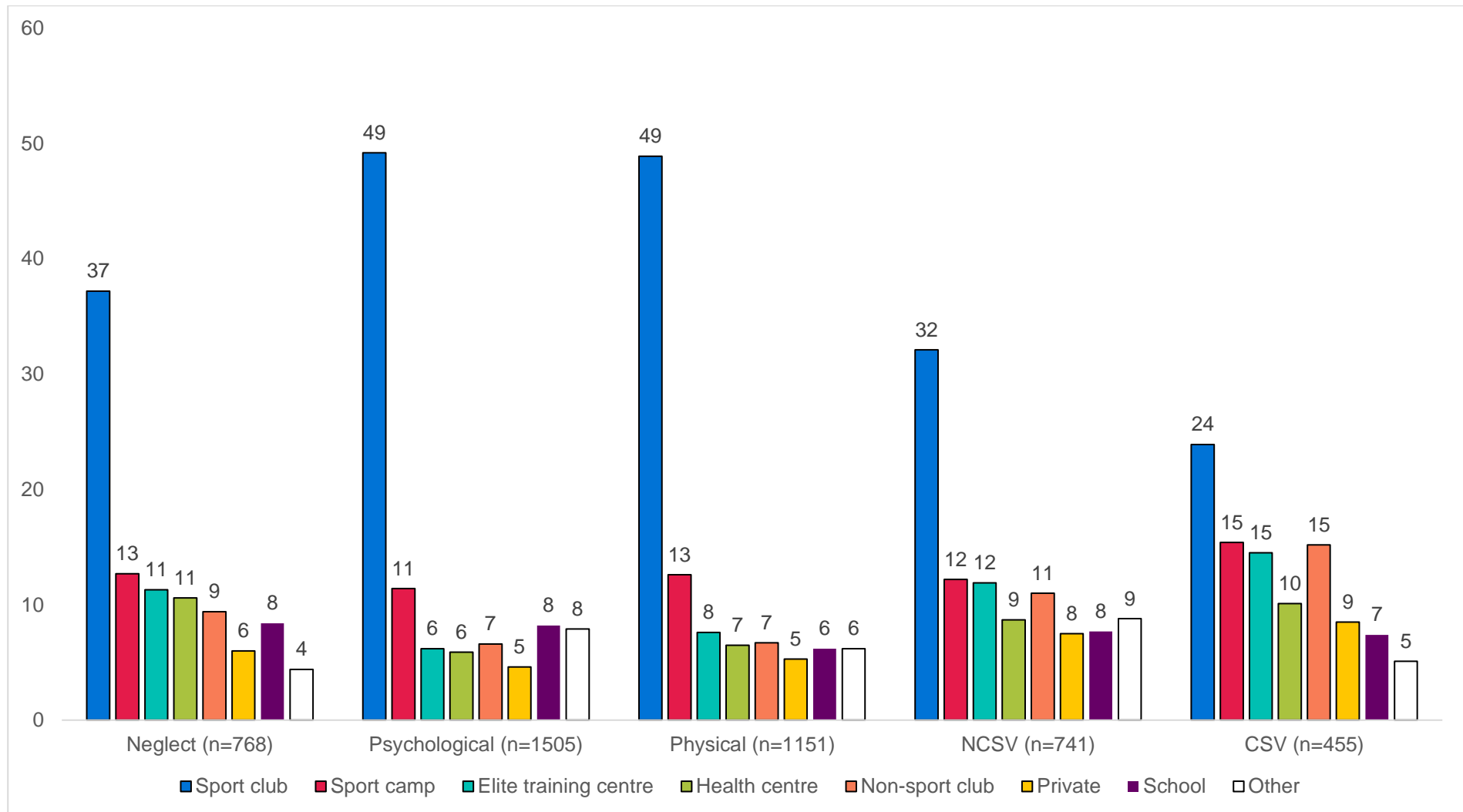
Experiences of psychological violence were the least disclosed and CSV was the most often disclosed.

If support was sought, *family members or relatives* were the first point of contact for experiences of neglect (19%), psychological violence (22%), and physical violence (18%). For experiences related to NCSV (14%) and CSV (15%), most respondents who did tell somebody, disclosed to *friends or peers*. Thus, families, friends and the individual's close social environment were the most frequently chosen points of disclosure and support.

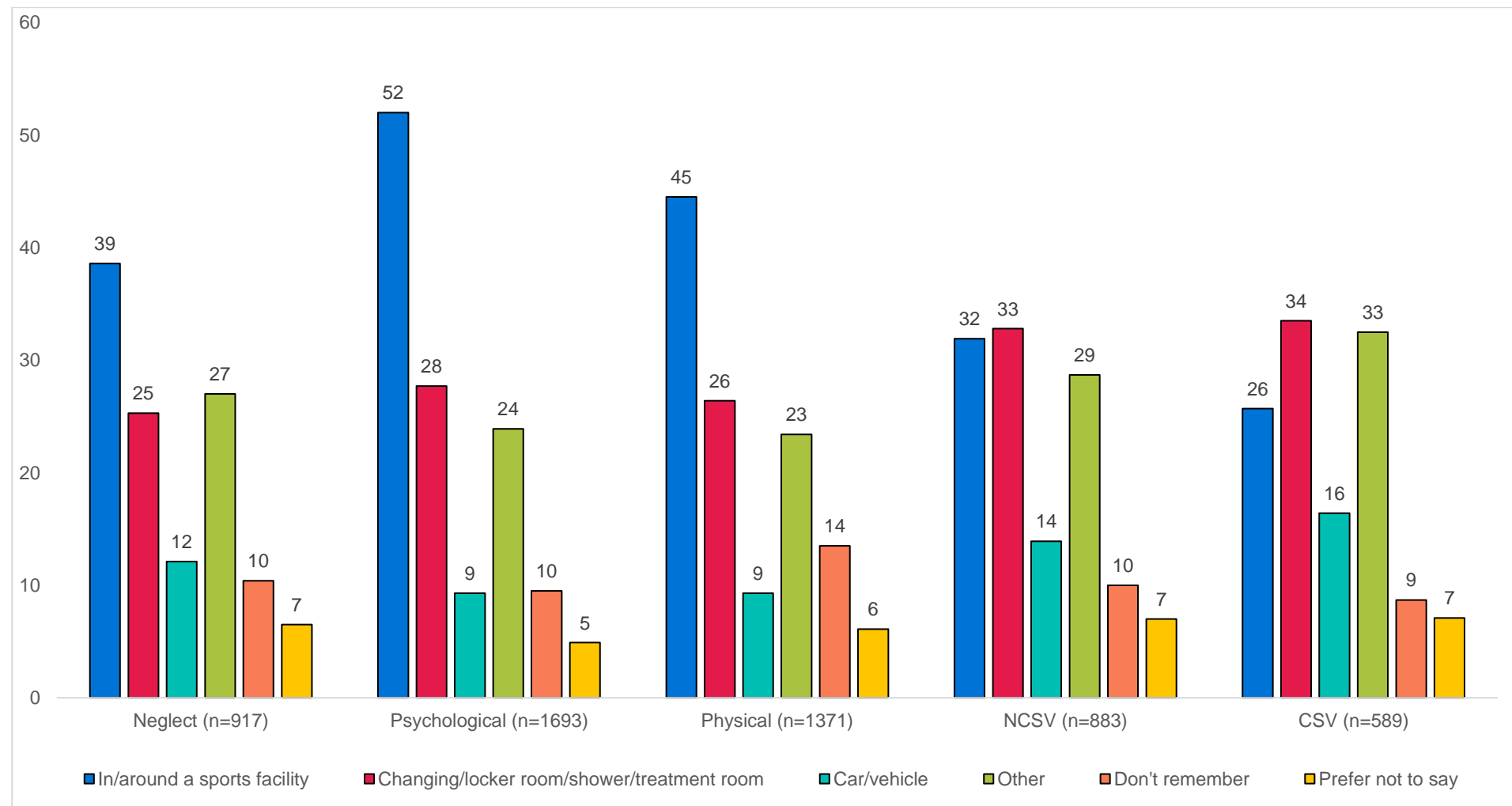
Official institutions, such as *health services* (5% to 13%) or *victim-support organizations* (4%-8%) as well as *school/education settings* (7% to 12%), were indicated by some participants in all categories, but were, in comparison to the close social entourage, contacted less. Institutions or professions that were contacted only rarely were the *police, therapists and lawyers*.

Furthermore, experiencing IVAC inside sport rarely leads to a report to *someone in sport* (e.g. a coach). Only a small proportion of participants (4% to 6%) asked for support inside the sport context. This may indicate that respondents either did not know where to report in the context of sport or did not feel encouraged to seek support in the organizations of sport.

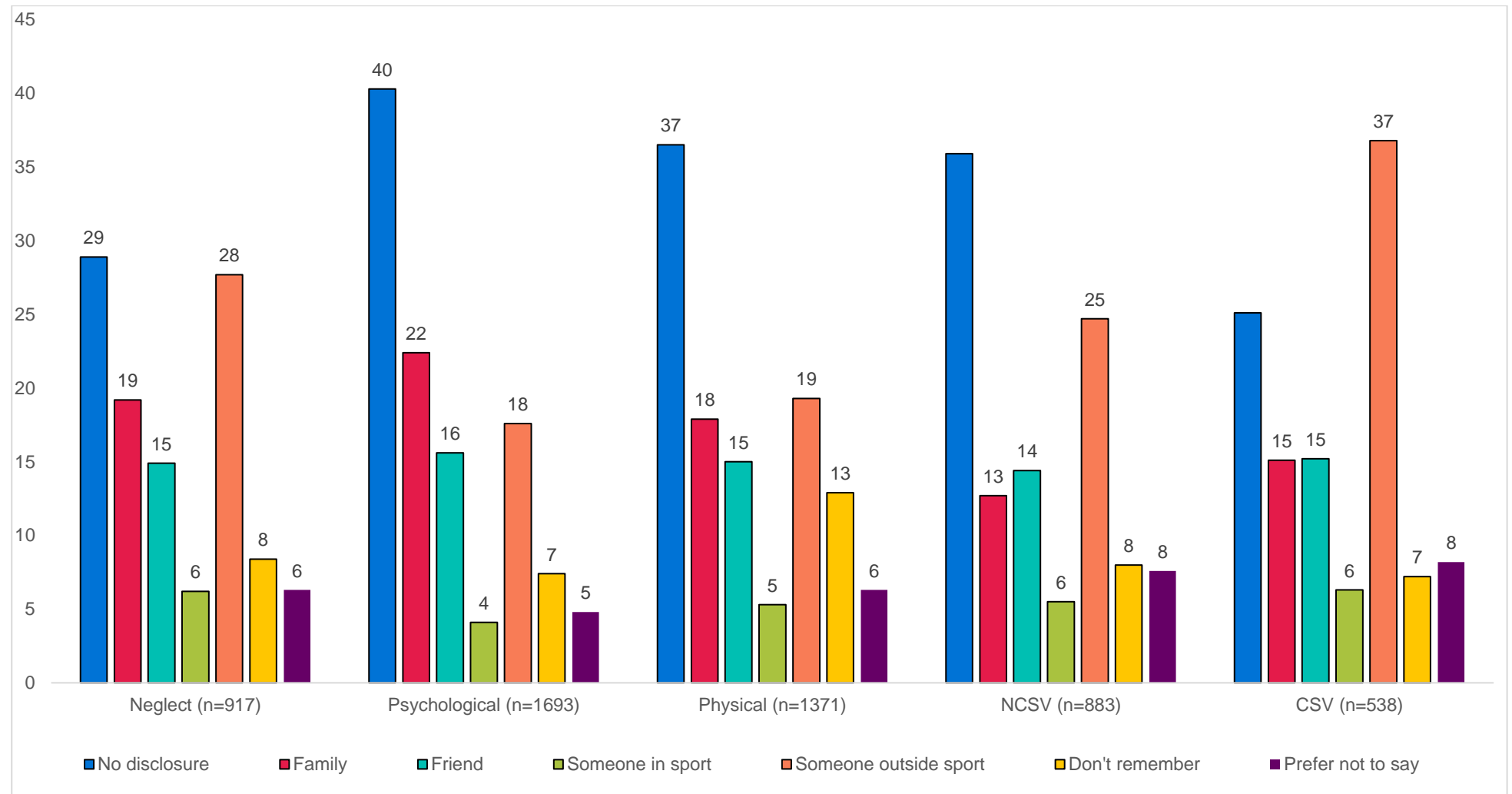
**FIGURE 30: SPORTS CONTEXT OF EXPERIENCE**



**FIGURE 31: LOCATION OF EXPERIENCE**



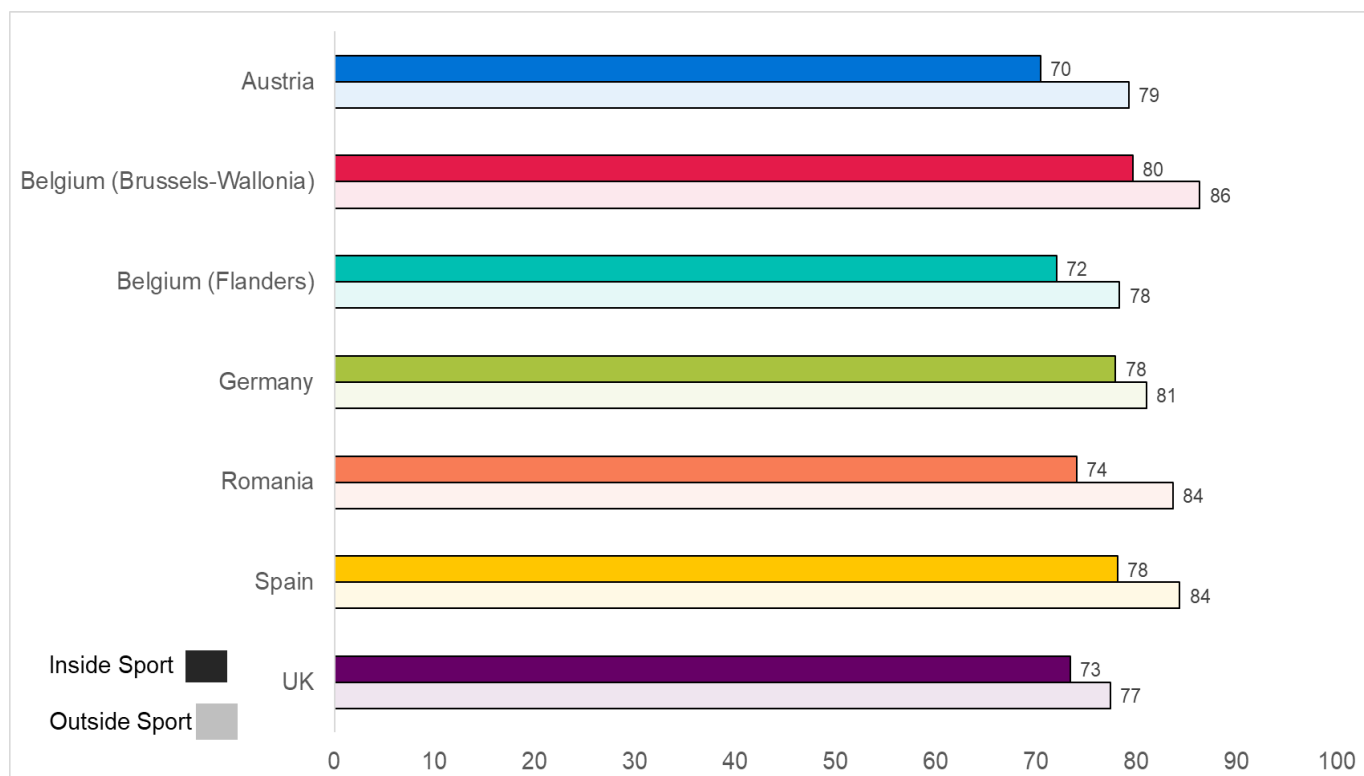
**FIGURE 32: DISCLOSURE & SUPPORT**



## 4. Cross-national comparison

A key finding is the similarity between national prevalence rates in all six countries where we collected these data. Examining the rates across national contexts through the individual categories of IVAC reveals a few differences. These show a range of approximately 10 percentage points for each type of IVAC, with the exception of physical violence, which has a range of 20 percentage points.

**FIGURE 33: CROSS-NATIONAL COMPARISON OF IVAC INSIDE AND OUTSIDE SPORT**



The survey found the highest rates inside sport for psychological violence, neglect, and contact sexual violence in Germany; the highest rates for both physical violence and non-contact sexual violence were in Wallonia-Brussels. The lowest prevalence rates for neglect, physical violence, and contact sexual violence were found in Austria; UK had the lowest rate for non-contact sexual violence; and Belgium-Flanders the lowest rate for psychological violence.

**TABLE 8: CROSS-NATIONAL COMPARISONS: PREVALENCE RANGE OF IVAC INSIDE SPORT**

Type	Range and country
Neglect	32% in Austria to 42% in Germany
Psychological	59% in Belgium-Flanders to 71% in Germany
Physical	32% in Austria to 52% in Belgium Brussels-Wallonia
Non-contact sexual violence	30% in the UK and 41% in Belgium Brussels-Wallonia
Contact sexual violence	16% in Austria to 26% in Germany

Looking at the different estimates for Flanders and Wallonia-Brussels more specifically, compared to the total in the six participating countries, we found results in the Walloon-Brussels region that were higher than the European total for all types of IV (see Table 9). In Flanders, physical violence was reported more often compared to total European sample, but neglect, psychological violence and non-contact sexual violence were reported less often compared to the total sample. For contact sexual violence, Flemish respondents reported equal levels compared to the total sample including all participating samples in six countries.

**TABLE 9 COMPARISON FOR FLANDERS, WALLONIA-BRUSSELS, BELGIUM AND THE EUROPEAN TOTAL**

	Flanders	Wallonia-Brussels	Belgium	European total
	N (%)	N (%)	N (%)	N (%)
Neglect	476 (32.3)	<b>592 (40.2)</b>	1068 (36.3)	3796 (36.8)
Psychological violence	864 (58.7)	<b>995 (67.6)</b>	1859 (63.1)	6679 (64.8)
Physical violence	749 (50.9)	762 (51.8)	<b>1511 (51.3)</b>	4514 (43.8)
Non-contact sexual violence	464 (31.5)	<b>598 (40.6)</b>	1062 (36.1)	3565 (34.6)
Contact sexual violence	296 (20.1)	<b>374 (25.4)</b>	670 (22.8)	2060 (20.0)

Whilst it is relevant to note these differences, it is difficult to draw direct conclusions from this. The CASES-consortium will explore this in further statistical procedures and future publications. At this stage, it can be concluded that for almost all categories (except physical violence) the range of difference between countries is small and thus the differences in prevalence rates of violence in sport between countries are minor, if not negligible. Without longitudinal data, it is not possible to know if these differences are reflective of long-standing, durable patterns. This illustrates the need for longitudinal studies that can generate international trend analyses to map change over time. The CASES questionnaire offers an instrument that would enable such longitudinal analyses in future.



## 5. Summary and Discussion of Key Findings

In the following sections we summarise and discuss some of the key findings from the CASES study. In this preliminary report it is not possible to explore all the data generated by this project; further publications will follow, allowing for more differentiated and detailed observations of the findings.

### 5.1 Prevalence of interpersonal violence against children (IVAC) inside sport and outside sport

The most striking finding from this study is the extent to which those who participate in sport as children experience violations and abuses, either whilst participating in sport, or otherwise. 72% of participants in Flanders and 80% of participants in Wallonia-Brussels experienced some form of interpersonal violence *inside sport*, at least once, before the age of 18.

The consistency of these findings across national contexts also demonstrates the widespread nature of IVAC across sporting contexts in various European countries.

Overall, the proportion of respondents who had experienced IVAC *outside sport* is marginally higher than the proportion of those who experienced IVAC *inside sport*.

### 5.2 Scope of CASES survey

It is important to contextualise these high prevalence rates. Importantly, our survey was deliberately inclusive, in line with international definitions of violence and abuse against children. That is, respondents were asked about various forms of violations and harassments, including those that are often considered ‘inconsequential’, ‘normal’, ‘tolerable’, ‘mild’, ‘low-level’, etc. Thus, the most common IVAC experiences reported, regardless of context, relate to psychological violence: withholding praise, ignoring, humiliating, shouting at, or excluding children.

The impact of such experiences cannot be determined by this study and probably many would not call these experiences “violence” in the narrow sense of the word. It is only clear from these data that a considerable proportion of respondents had been affected by such forms of psychological violation, both outside and inside sport.

It should also be understood that the overall prevalence rates include respondents who reported experiencing such actions/behaviour just *once*. However, when asked about their most serious experience inside sport, about three quarters of respondents reporting IVAC reported a frequency of 2-5 times or even more than five times. Similarly, more than 80% of respondents said their most serious experience lasted for more than 1 day. Therefore, in most instances the data refer to individuals who have been subjected to repeated experiences, by one or more persons, over a period of days, weeks, months or years.

## 5.3 Categories of IVAC inside sport and outside sport

Separating violence into specific forms allows us to understand IVAC in greater detail. However, it is important to note that one individual can experience multiple forms of violence (for example, see Euser et al., 2010). Therefore, whilst it is analytically useful, this separation can be artificial. This aspect ('overlap') will be explored in future publications.

Below we briefly consider the overall findings for each type of IVAC and offer some contextual discussion.

### 5.3.1 Psychological violence

Considerably more than 1-in-2 respondents (63%) reported an experience of psychological violence inside sport. However, it is important to note that these experiences or behaviours, which may cause significant, long-term harm, also fall within the realm of widely accepted disciplinary practices for children. Often, they are accepted as part of *normal* 'child-rearing' or child socialization practices and it is evident that these were commonly experienced outside of sport also.

There has been comparatively little attention to psychological violence within the sport sector (Krahn, 2021). Yet it represents a key challenge for child welfare in sport and athlete welfare more broadly. Within performance-oriented sport cultures, withholding praise, ignoring, humiliating, shouting at, or excluding children, are frequently seen, not as negative or abusive but rather as 'character-building' and necessary elements of preparing children to succeed as well as tools for identifying those who have the requisite volume of 'mental toughness' and 'resilience'. It is little surprise, then, that high numbers of respondents stated they had experienced such things at least once.

In a similar vein, using exercise to discipline children is a commonly used and widely accepted coaching practice or has been in the very recent past. These violations and abuses then, often form the accepted and inherited cultural fabric of sport – practices that require no comment because they are 'part of the game'. In such circumstances, raising objections to such practices can risk ostracization and vilification, as illustrated in the previous VOICE Project in relation to sexual violence (Rulofs et al., 2020). Therefore, psychological violence towards children in sport often hides within plain sight and the challenge of addressing it cannot be underestimated.

### 5.3.2 Physical violence

We found that 1-in-2 children (51%) participating in organised sport experience some form of physical violence beyond the usual or accidental physical contact or harm/injury that occurs as a normal feature of playing sports in Belgium. It is notable that this prevalence estimates are the highest compared to other countries participating in this study. It is important to point out that this category includes experiences beyond direct physical assault, such as being forced to train when injured, being instructed to take performance enhancing substances, and being forced to participate in ritualized games and ceremonies that involved harmful physical activities.

There is a high tolerance of physical pain across many sports and some sports are violent or aggressive in nature, such as combat-sports and team-sports such as rugby. Again, the emphasis on 'winning' (games, leagues, trophies, etc.) in sport, including children's sport,

and the exclusionary practices of 'selection' inherent to a performance culture, is accompanied by the overt rewarding and celebrating of children who most rapidly improve their performance in comparison to other children. In such a culture, a willingness to overload one's body, to 'play through' injury, ignore pain, practice to excess, and to perform and achieve beyond age-related standards is often seen as 'the right spirit' and having 'the will to win' (Mayer, Kühnle & Thiel, 2021; Mayer et al., 2018). Again, rather than being viewed as problematic, they are more often seen as key indicators of 'potential'. Therefore, it is not especially surprising to find that nearly 1-in-3 respondents (37%) had been 'instructed or forced to perform while injured or sick or at an intensity or frequency that was potentially harmful' whilst 1-in-5 (19%) had been physically assaulted inside sport.

Thus, sport environments seem to provide a context where physical violence (including physical assault, unhealthy body-management practices, and rituals involving physical harm) occurs more often inside sport than outside sport. If sport is to deliver on its claims to contribute to safe and healthy childhoods, the challenge to be both a physically demanding space for children, whilst also being a physically safe and positive space requires significant attention.

### 5.3.3 Neglect

As Gilbert et al. (2009, p.68) found '*neglect is at least as damaging as physical or sexual abuse in the long-term, but has received the least scientific and public attention.*' Thus, there has been very little attention to child neglect inside sport. Undoubtedly, sport constitutes a realm within which children's safety is entrusted to organisations that rely heavily on volunteers who may have experience in playing sport, but often little or no experience of managing children's safety effectively, for example, through robust risk assessment procedures. Yet sport is by its nature a physically 'risky' endeavour, indeed, that is part of its distinct appeal for so many, including children. However, resources are frequently scarce, thus the equipment, facilities and expertise necessary for the safe provision of children's sport, as well as ensuring children are properly looked after whilst *in loco parentis* (acting in place of a parent), is often limited or absent.

In the Belgian CASES-study, approximately one third of respondents indicate experiences of neglect inside sport and outside sport. This finding presents a substantive challenge for sport where local provision is often stretched but where children's rights are no less important or applicable. Ultimately, the volume of experiences in this category can be cautiously interpreted to mean that the prevention of neglect in sport should be carefully considered and given more importance than has been the case so far.

### 5.3.4 Sexual violence

The least frequent experiences reported by respondents in this study are those of sexual violence, including both *contact* and *non-contact* forms. This result may seem to be in contrast to the increased public awareness of sexual violence against children in recent years. However, the results clearly show that almost 1-in-4 (23%) children who participate in organised sport experience some form of *contact* sexual violence *inside sport* and over a third (36%) experience some form of *non-contact* sexual violence *inside sport*.

The most common experiences were being the subject of 'obscene or sexual comments' (19%), 'inappropriate staring or leering' (16%), inappropriate, unwanted or forced kissing (13%), and being 'flushed' at in-person (13%). Acts commensurate with sexual assault and rape inside sport had a prevalence rate of 7% to 9%.

Qualitative research with former athletes has previously illustrated the life-long personal impact of sexual violence in sport (e.g. Hartill, 2016; Rulofs et al., 2019). Sexual violence and

child sexual abuse remains a taboo subject in many cultures and as such remains a form of violence around which there is a 'dome of silence' (Kirby et al., 1999) and a topic that many are reluctant to discuss. Unsurprisingly, many victims and survivors find disclosure – private or through official channels – very difficult. Whilst the call to prevent sex offenders and paedophiles from entering youth sport is widely supported, sexual violence is often defined in very narrow terms. Certainly, the focus of media attention is almost entirely confined to rape and severe sexual assault. Significantly, then, the CASES data illustrate clearly the large volume of sexual activity within children's sport that is either *forced*, *unwanted* or *inappropriate*. These data illustrate the need for the sports community to understand 'sexual violence', 'sexual abuse', 'sexual exploitation', and 'sexual harassment' in their widest sense, rather than confine their understanding and prevention of sexual harm to the most violent forms.

Therefore, these data confirm the need for efforts to prevent the sexual abuse of children, inside and outside sport, to remain of utmost importance. Thus, the protection of children from sexual violence must remain a high priority in sport as well as in other areas of children's and youth work.

## 5.4 Gender

### 5.4.1 Rates of victimization for boys and girls

The data shows that males report higher rates of IVAC inside sport than females, across all five categories. This somewhat goes against prevailing thought where public debate and discussions within the sport sector often focus (sometimes implicitly) on the victimisation of female athletes to the exclusion of males. In keeping with general studies of child abuse and child sexual abuse (e.g. Gilbert et al., 2009; Pereda et al., 2009; Stoltenborgh et al., 2011), rates for females were found to be higher than males outside sport. However, a study of maltreatment in the UK also found higher rates of victimization of boys (under 18) by 'non-resident' adults (Radford et al., 2011, p.69-70).

The CASES findings also contrast with a recent study of current and retired Canadian athletes (Kerr, Willson & Stirling, 2019) that found a higher number of 'harmful behaviours' in females in psychological, physical, and sexual harm, and neglect, for both groups. However, other research findings indicate that our result is not entirely unexpected.

Vertommen et al. (2016) found that boys experience more *physical* violence than girls while playing sports (and no gender differences in relation to psychological violence and the most severe types of sexual violence). Berman et al. (2021) found 'no difference between genders for verbal, physical, and sexual abuses' within the *elite* athletics setting, but that 'touching sexual abuses' 'represented 35% of all sexual abuses in women and 57% in men.' Similarly, Fasting et al. (2016, p.24) measured neglect, verbal harassment, bribery, physical abuse, gender harassment, sexual harassment and sexual abuse in Zambian sport in a sample of 410 athletes. They found 'no statistically significant differences between female and male athletes with respect to experiences of the different types of harassment and abuse.' Therefore, the statistically significant difference found here, between male and female prevalence rates across all forms of IVAC inside sport, and across seven national contexts, is a unique finding, but one that resonates with evidence from other recent studies.

It is important to keep in mind that this survey is a cross-sectional study that collected experiences of violence retrospectively at a specific point in time in a specific sample. Further detailed analysis and discussion will follow in future publications, however, we offer some

initial thoughts for consideration with respect to the gender-differences in violence experiences in our sample.

First, it may be that the higher rates of victimization for boys are explained by the higher volume of male perpetrators generally (established across many studies of child abuse) and the fact that sport remains a highly sex-segregated field. Thus, males in sport, including those who perpetrate violence, are far more likely to participate with other males than with females. Therefore, it may be that the high proportion of sex-segregation within sport increases the risk to boys whilst decreasing the risk to girls. However, it is important to consider differing norms (narratives, discourses) of masculinity and femininity as well as the different cultural spaces that constitute male-sport and female-sport.

The higher overall rates of male victimization may also be related to dominant forms of gender socialization as well as gender-based myths around violence and abuse. That is, erroneous narratives about boys can operate against adults 'seeing' (and acting on) violence towards and between boys and/or being especially sensitized to the vulnerability of girls. This may lead to lower thresholds of protection as well as lower reporting and disclosure.

For example, physical violence clearly has a different relationship to masculinity and femininity. Fighting amongst boys has generally been considered a rite of passage, if not an essential element of masculinity, yet widely discouraged amongst girls. In other words, physical violence is a highly valued element of masculinity, but anathema to successful or dominant femininity within hetero-patriarchal cultures. Certainly, there is a great deal of research literature that has detailed the hyper-masculinist culture that prevails within (male) sport (e.g. Messner & Sabo, 1990; Meuser, 2007; Hartill, 2014). Within these cultures, hierarchies are encouraged and violence between males is normalized and valorised (as is 'rape culture' and sexual violence against women and girls e.g. Curry, 1991). Therefore, despite formal codes and rules to the contrary, dominant forms of sport (often referred to as *national* sports) have produced clear expectations that boys should both perpetrate violence, and accept it without complaint, and their capacity for both carries significant meaning for their social status and male identity. In many ways such homosocial spaces are the breeding grounds for heterosexist masculinity (e.g. Bird, 1996), but they are also spaces in which boys are extremely vulnerable to abuse (Hartill, 2005).

Therefore, generally speaking, expectations about what is acceptable behaviour between boys, and towards boys, differs markedly from that of girls and all-female athleticist spaces. If the capacity to accept physical pain is a key indicator that marks out 'a (real) man', then non-physical (or psychological) *violence* is an oxymoron within male sport. Thus, many forms of interpersonal violence within male-dominated or all-male spaces, such as male-sport, are dismissed as harmless – 'boys being boys', 'just banter', 'rites of passage' – or as the natural products of being male ('testosterone-fuelled').

Similarly, in relation to sexual abuse, the 'male perpetrator-female victim paradigm' has been influential in shaping discourses around risk and victimization. Likewise, hyper-masculinist narratives construct male perpetrators as 'paedophiles' and 'deviants', far removed from normal (heterosexual) men. Therefore, masculinist, heteronormative spaces such as sport, persistently characterised as moral training grounds for the young, pose little or no risk for boys. Yet as feminists have long pointed out, even sexual violence is about power rather than sex. In such conditions, the preponderance of male 'victims' (and male 'perpetrators') is not especially surprising.

### 5.4.2 'Perpetrators'

Most reports (relating to respondents' *most serious experience inside sport*) refer to *male* 'perpetrators'. However, on average across all categories, the perpetrator was identified as *exclusively* male in half of all IVAC reports and exclusively female in just under a quarter of reports. This finding reinforces the generally accepted view that 'perpetrators' of child abuse and neglect are most often male.

However, the substantial minority of female perpetration of IVAC inside sport should serve as a warning against the general tendency to overly-masculinise violence against children – in other words, to assume it is only males who are responsible for such behaviour. This is particularly the case for sexual violence where previous studies have identified males as perpetrators in the overwhelming majority of cases. Therefore, it is noteworthy that in these data, the gender difference for perpetrators is closest in contact sexual violence where 32% of all reports identified a female 'perpetrator(s)' *exclusively*, compared to 42% of reports identifying a male 'perpetrator(s)' *exclusively*.

In relation to the role (or relationship) of the perpetrators, our survey design allows us to disaggregate role by category of IVAC (using the 'most serious experience' only). Our findings showed that neglect is most often perpetrated by adult coaches, whereas psychological violence, non-contact sexual violence and contact sexual violence are most often perpetrated by known peer athletes. Physical violence is most often perpetrated by coaches as well as known peer athletes.

Focusing on whether the perpetrator was known to the victim, it is clear that perpetrators of all forms of IVAC inside sport were known to the respondent in the overwhelming majority of cases, even though the incident may also have involved individuals who were not known to the victim (yet were still part of the sport environment).

## 5.5 Prevalence of IVAC and level of sport participation

A significant finding of the CASES-study is the correlation between the level of sport participation and the experience of IVAC in sport. Interpersonal violence happens at all levels of sport, from recreational sport, through club sport to regional, national and international level. However, the results suggest that the likelihood of experiencing IVAC inside sport increases as the level of performance increases.

Across all forms of violence, prevalence is lowest for those respondents indicating participation in recreational sport and highest for those indicating international level performance (e.g. representing their country at international events in official competitions). Overall, the prevalence for any form of IVAC is 68% at the recreational level and 84% at the international level.

Furthermore, for psychological violence, physical violence, and NCSV, a higher level of performance (national and international) was also related to longer durations of IVAC.

The data also reveals that the prevalence of experiencing IVAC inside sport does not increase continuously with the level of sport participation. Instead there is a sharp increase from the recreational level over the club level to already relatively high prevalence rates at the regional level, while the further increase from the regional level to national and international level is minor (e.g. for physical violence), marginal (e.g. for NCSV) or absent



(e.g. for psychological violence). This implies that the difference between recreational sport and competitive sport in general (starting at regional level) is relevant to the experience of IVAC inside sport. Competitive sport with its specific social structures, for example the close relationships of dependency between athlete and coach, the pressure to produce success and 'win', and the disciplining body-related regimes, might foster conditions for the execution of violence against children in sport. Yet participating in sport at a competitive level goes hand-in-hand with spending much more time in sport, often within a single sport, in contrast to recreational sport. Thus, the higher prevalence rates in competitive sport may also be an effect of a longer exposure time in sports and/or specialisation within one sport.

## 5.6 Organisational context of IVAC in sport

In order to prevent IVAC in sport effectively, it is important to know in which organisations of sport it takes place. All in all, the CASES-results show that violence was experienced by respondents in diverse organisational contexts of sport, e.g. in clubs, camps, elite training centres, health centres, extra-curricular school sport, etc. It can also occur in private settings, when athletes visit each other in private homes or coaches invite athletes to their private houses.

Overall in all five categories of IVAC, the sport club is by far the most often indicated context of violence experience in sport.

Against the background of the great relevance of sports clubs for the system of organised sport in many European countries, this finding is not surprising. However, it also points to the need for further efforts to prevent violence, especially within the structural base of organised sport – in the clubs. If organised sport for children and youth is to become a safer space in future, there is a strong need to support sport clubs in installing prevention measures. As sports clubs are mainly based on voluntary work, sports and youth politics are challenged to find ways and means for sports clubs to be better positioned for the prevention of violence against children.

However, it goes without saying that the other organisational contexts are also called upon to further expand their efforts to prevent violence. With regard to contact sexual violence, for example, the CASES study shows that as many as 14.5% of respondents with experiences of contact sexual violence in sport stated they had experienced it in the context of elite training centres. This finding points to the need to also increase safeguarding measures in the field of competitive sport for children and in those specific institutions of competitive sport, e.g. centres of excellence and Olympic training centres.

## 5.7 Disclosure

The majority of respondents experiencing IVAC did not disclose the experience. This is a consistent finding across all categories of IVAC. Similarly, for all categories, if a disclosure was made it was highly likely that this would be to a *family member* or *friend*, outside of the sport context. Where disclosures were made to someone in an official or professional position, those working in *education* or *health* were the most likely to receive a disclosure. Following these professions, those working in *sport* were the next most likely to receive a disclosure (with the exception of CSV where *victim-support* workers were marginally more likely to receive a disclosure).

Therefore, across all categories of IVAC, the respondents in this study were more likely to disclose to a sport worker than to someone in a religious organisation, the police, a counsellor, or a lawyer. With the exception of contact sexual violence, sport workers were also more likely to receive a disclosure than a victim-support worker. This emphasizes the importance of ensuring the sports workforce, and the organisations within which they are situated, is appropriately equipped to handle such disclosures.

Arguably, the data on disclosure provide some illustration of the journey of cultural change that the sport sector must travel so that experiences of IVAC (where they occur and where appropriate) can be expressed to those within the sport community and handled appropriately. Where children, young people, and all athletes, feel able to talk to someone about negative, distressing, and harmful behaviours, to a person(s) in authority inside sport, it can be taken as a significant indicator of a sector that has prioritised children's welfare and children's rights, and enabled its community to listen to the concerns of children and to act upon them appropriately. These data do provide some positive signs for the sport sector in this regard. However, overall, experiences of IVAC are rarely reported through official channels. This also indicates the significant weaknesses in relying on official case figures for an understanding of the scale and nature of IVAC inside sport.



## 5.8 Overall experience of sport

It is also important to highlight that despite the high prevalence rates inside sport, 87% of respondents rated their experience in sport as 'good' (44%) or 'very good' (43%).

This is a rather counter-intuitive finding to which we make a number of preliminary observations. What constitutes child abuse and 'interpersonal violence against children' is often poorly understood. Therefore, it is likely that some respondents who reported experiences that fall within our definition of interpersonal violence against children may not perceive those experiences as harmful or detrimental. Indeed, some of these experiences may have had little impact for some of the respondents. This should not obscure the fact that experiences of interpersonal violence can lead to 'drop-out', loss of enjoyment, and have serious psychological or health consequences. However, such experiences would not necessarily detract from respondents' general positive feelings about sport.

Furthermore, even extreme experiences of interpersonal violence within childhood sport often do not equate to the totality of an individual's experience of sport. Sport may be the site of interpersonal violence, exploitation and abuse *and* a source of personal achievement, self-efficacy, and empowerment. This complexity is impossible to resolve in a survey of this type, but even those experiencing harm within sport may want to recognise the positive aspects of their participation.

Finally, this level of approval no doubt illustrates the strong contribution that the sport sector makes to individual lives and the extent to which sport participation is valued within our societies. However, it may also indicate both the widespread normalization of violent and harassing behaviours (towards children) and the weak recognition and implementation of children's rights in many cultures and institutional settings of sport.

## 6. Limitations

### 6.1 Temporal and cultural context of the survey sample

It is important to recognize that the survey data relates to a specific timeframe. Respondents had to be between 18 and 30 years old during the fieldwork dates. The survey opened on 22/10/2020 (UK) and closed on 14/12/2020 (Belgium: Flanders). Therefore, all respondents were born between October 1989 and December 2002 and the experiences recorded by the survey all occurred when respondents were under 18 years of age; a 30-year period between 1990-2020.

This timeframe represents a significant period inside sport in relation to child abuse in sport, or as we define it here, interpersonal violence against children (IVAC) in sport. The earliest media coverage of sexual abuse in sport can be traced to the mid-1990s in several countries, however, organised strategic efforts to prevent abuse in sport were only appearing at the turn of the millennium at the earliest (e.g. UK and the Netherlands). For most countries, including Belgium, such efforts did not occur until much later and are either in the early stages of implementation (or only very recently initiated). Therefore, the timeframe of the study has been a period of substantial change inside sport. This emphasizes the need for longitudinal studies that can map trends over time.

### 6.2 Methodology and sample

The task of establishing prevalence of IVAC is a significant challenge in its own right. This task is complicated further by the specific contextual focus on sport, and complicated again by the comparative, multi-national approach taken. A key challenge was to incorporate the vast array of behaviours and experiences that fall within the frame of harm against children, and to do so with appropriate clarity and specificity so that the survey was accessible and user-friendly. Thus, the team were required to draw up clear and concise questions, first in English, in a way that translated and transferred well across other national contexts.

Thus, in constructing a questionnaire that would provide sufficient granularity, whilst not being overly onerous on respondents, especially those who had experienced multiple forms of harm, it was not possible to specifically refer to all harmful behaviours or experiences that fall within the scope of interpersonal violence against children. For example, self-harm, financial exploitation, and trafficking of children were not specifically referred to. In order to ensure that the questionnaire was 'device agnostic' – in other words, it could be completed on an array of internet-connected devices including mobile phones – questions had to be pared down to the minimum number of characters prior to the final programming. Therefore, many compromises had to be made by the research team to produce both a comprehensive *and* viable instrument.

Surveying a sensitive issue like violence against children requires a thoughtful and carefully justified approach. Findings from the literature generally suggest that estimates of prevalence rates for difficult topics are best based on self-administered interviews (Aquilino, 1994; Catania, Dermott, & Pollack, 1986). Nonetheless, instead of interviewing children, we chose to use a faster retrospective design. This approach, which is less invasive and precludes the need for parental consent, was also adopted in the national prevalence studies in the United Kingdom (Cawson, 2000; Radford et al., 2011).

Using an online panel for scientific purposes can be methodologically problematic. First, using the Internet leads to an underrepresentation of those groups that have no, or limited, access to it. Also, the researcher cannot check whether the person to whom it was sent in

fact completed the questionnaire. Another constraint of this format was that the fieldwork was terminated as soon as the target number of participants was reached, preventing the exact response rate from being determined.

Our sample can hence be best described as a *convenience sample* of respondents who have chosen to be panel members and are thus willing and able to fill out a questionnaire relatively rapidly. Therefore, the sample may not be representative for the total population. Taking these restrictions into account, however, we found no evidence that falsifies the claim that our samples are representative of the respective target populations.

In the sampling process, quotas for gender and age group were considered in order to achieve comparability by gender and age group (18-24, 25-30) of respondents. Proportions by sport *discipline* and sport *level* were not considered, so it is not known if the sample is representative for the whole population. It is notable that the number of female respondents who competed at the *recreational* level (55.1%) is higher than the number of male respondents (28.2%). In other words, male respondents had participated at higher levels of competition in sport than female respondents. This is a situation comparable to the general population. Since the overall results of the CASES-study show higher prevalence-rates for males than for females in sport, it has to be reflected that this finding might be based on interrelated effects of gender relations and hegemonic cultures in sport as well as the specific structures of competitive sport.

The questionnaire was a *retrospective self-report*, which tend to have false positives and negatives. The validity of retrospective reports of adverse childhood experiences is frequently debated in the literature (e.g., Hardt & Rutter, 2004) as such reports tend to involve a substantial number of false negatives and measurement errors, whereas false positive reports are thought to be less probable. Given the latter assumption, we feel that our prevalence estimates are likely to underestimate the prevalence of IV in sport.

Therefore, whilst this study uses the most recent, advanced and comprehensive research instrument available to measure the prevalence of interpersonal violence, it is possible that some who experienced IVAC do not consider themselves to be a 'victim' of interpersonal violence. While we operationalised the definition of violence as defined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, we acknowledge certain normalization processes in sport may lead people to not acknowledging their experiences as unwanted or unacceptable.

### 6.3 Age of consent

There is a gap between the age of sexual consent (16 in Belgium) versus the legal age of childhood and the cut-off age used in this study (18). This creates a problem in the sexual violence type. For example, when a participant reports that 'someone kissed me' while being 16 or 17, this does not constitute sexual violence *per se*, as it may have been consensual. If this happened under the legal age of consent, it is an act of sexual violence, regardless of the mutual consent. We cannot differentiate between this, for experiences in the age gap between legal age of consent and 18 years, in this questionnaire. However, respondents were frequently reminded that the questions related to negative or harmful experiences. For the two categories of sexual violence, respondents were instructed to include experiences that were 'unwanted at the time' and also those that they 'now feel were inappropriate.'

## 7. Conclusion

The aim of the CASES project was to provide robust data on the prevalence of interpersonal violence against children inside (and outside) sport across different national contexts. A partnership of seven universities, two national sport agencies, and one international sports federation, was established to deliver the project.

A key strength of the study is that the same questionnaire was administered in the same way, at the same time, in seven separate national contexts, with respondents who stated they had participated in sport before age 18 and with samples equally weighted for gender and age. The CASES study is unique in this regard.

The CASES study identified a high prevalence of violence against children inside sport. This finding was common to all seven national contexts surveyed in this study. Therefore, our general conclusion is that harmful behaviour towards and between children is a frequent occurrence inside sport (in Europe). This leads us to conclude that sport is falling short of providing the protective, positive and healthy environment for children that is sometimes assumed and claimed.

CASES has demonstrated that IVAC in sport is a serious and widespread problem. However, for most, if not all, countries in this project, prevention responses from the sport sector have, to varying degrees, been slow, narrowly focused, uncoordinated, poorly resourced, and with little or no independent oversight or evaluation. This reflects the broader international picture. In some countries, despite over 30 years of international research and advocacy in this field, policy implementation has barely begun.

Violence and abuse in sport is often ignored, understated or denied. As others have argued, too often strategy and policy in (children's) sport is shaped by enhancement of the performance rather than by enhancement of the person.

A key feature of addressing violence towards and abuse of children and young people in sport (and all athletes) is to ensure that strategy is informed not just by what leaders and their organisations see, but also by independent and robust evidence. The CASES project provides an important part of the evidential picture that sport leaders, legislators and policymakers require in their efforts to improve the experience of sport for all children. To improve the lives of children through sport. Ultimately, this is the key performance indicator of a sport organisation.

These behaviors have long been part of the organizational culture of sports institutions and as we have seen are universal (the same happens in all countries) and entered 'normality' (by frequency, in space and time) for both children and grown ups. For this reason some of them are difficult to identify as unacceptable especially as they belong to adults or happen under the eyes of adults who are directly responsible for children.

Addressing interpersonal violence against children in sport requires cultural change. Therefore, in order to meaningfully address the problem, we conclude that proactive leadership is required within all national contexts and across the whole sport sector (public, private, and voluntary). We leave it to those with the authority to make such decisions in relation to sport to determine the extent and timing of such change and the resources required.

We draw this conclusion on the basis of our findings, however, we would also want to recognise that some countries have already undertaken substantial and significant action in this regard. We very much welcome such action. We also want to recognise the persistent endeavours of individuals within the sport sector who work tirelessly and selflessly to provide

meaningful and safe opportunities for children and for the improvement of children's lives. We very much hope that you will see this study as a contribution to your work – perhaps more vital now than ever – rather than a negation of it.

The CASES findings can now be used by sports organisations to further substantiate and develop their measures to protect children from harm in sport. We offer some recommendations based on these findings, again recognising that the distance some countries have travelled in the protection and safeguarding of children in sport may make these recommendations more or less relevant.

## 8. General recommendations

### **A. Government departments or ministries responsible for sport should:**

1. Ensure general policies and strategies on child protection and 'safeguarding' include and apply to sport.
2. Incorporate systematic, longitudinal research on prevalence of interpersonal violence against children in sport into national strategies and action plans for sport.
3. Provide an independent body or agency where those affected by interpersonal violence in sport can report their experiences and receive help and support.
4. Ensure national agencies or federations are supported and appropriately resourced to introduce and/or increase efforts to raise awareness of and prevent interpersonal violence in sport.
5. Ensure prevention efforts extend to the local level (e.g. voluntary sports clubs) and are not limited to 'umbrella' sports federations.

### **B. National and federal bodies should:**

6. Acknowledge all forms of interpersonal violence against children inside sport.
7. Introduce measures to prevent interpersonal violence in sport and ensure children's rights are incorporated into all levels of organisational structures in sport.
8. Ensure strategic policy is informed by evidence on prevalence rates of interpersonal violence against children.
9. Evaluate and improve the efficacy of prevention measures through longitudinal assessment of interpersonal violence against children in sport.

### **C. Prevention strategies should:**

10. Include compulsory training across all categories of interpersonal violence against children, including peer violence, for those with responsibility for children in sport.
11. Establish sport-specific and independent contact points for support, advice, complaints and reports (e.g. a helpline).
12. Acknowledge the important role that sports personnel have in recognising interpersonal violence, receiving and handling disclosures, and the support they need to carry out these roles safely and effectively.
13. Address interpersonal violence against children at all levels of sport (from recreational grassroot to competitive and elite sport) and be sensitive to the potential for heightened risk in competitive sport.

**D. Training and education should:**

14. Convey that interpersonal violence against children can occur in different forms and that some forms (e.g. peer violence, psychological violence) are more prevalent than others.
15. Convey that the risk for interpersonal violence against children might increase as the child moves beyond recreational sport.
16. Recognize that interpersonal violence against children is a significant problem for both males and females and that boys and men may be particularly underrepresented in official reports.
17. Recognise that children participating in sport may have experienced interpersonal violence in other contexts and that adults in sport may be important contact points to support children.
18. Recognise that interpersonal violence in sport does not stop at age 18.

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# Appendices

## 1. Basic sample information for the total Belgian sample

TOTAL SAMPLE (cross-national; N = 2.944)		
Age	24.20 years; SD = 3.795	Min: 18; Max: 30
Sex	Male	1444 (49.0%)
	Female	1472 (50.0%)
	Other	28 (1.0%)
Overall Experience Sport (1= very good; 5= very poor)	1.72; SD = 0.761	Min: 1; Max: 5.
Minority	355 (14.2)	
Disability	249 (9.0)	
Where did you practice your sport?		
Sport club	2462 (83.6)	
Sport camp	753 (25.6)	
special training centre for elite athletes	143 (4.9)	
fitness centre	449 (15.3)	
non-sport club, but provided sporting activities	224 (7.6)	
private or self-organised setting	345 (11.7)	
organized, extra-curricular school sport	415 (14.1)	
other	91 (3.1)	
Participation in organized sports for those with a disability		
	only: 231 (7.8%); both: 346 (11.8%)	
sports level		
recreational level	1226 (41.6%)	
club/local level	972 (33.0%)	
regional level	454 (15.4%)	
national level	241 (8.2%)	
international level	51 (1.7%)	
sexual orientation	male	female
heterosexual	1218 (84.3%)	1248 (84.8%)
lesbian	14 (1.0%)	44 (3.0%)
gay	62 (4.3%)	6 (0.4%)
bisexual	60 (4.2%)	115 (7.8%)
other	24 (1.7%)	20 (1.4%)
missing	66 (4.6%)	39 (2.6%)
sport participated in	male (n = 1418)	female (n =)
Football	774 (24.1%)	136 (4.1%)
Basketball	254 (7.9%)	142 (4.3%)
Swimming	247 (7.7%)	390 (11.8%)
Tennis	246 (7.7%)	229 (6.9%)
Athletics	135 (4.2%)	111 (3.3%)
Judo	126 (3.9%)	83 (2.5%)
Badminton	112 (3.5%)	147 (4.4%)
Exercise & Fitness	101 (3.1%)	121 (3.6%)
Karate	93 (2.9%)	52 (1.6%)
Table Tennis	92 (2.9%)	48 (1.4%)
Volleyball	85 (2.6%)	148 (4.5%)
Cycling	84 (2.6%)	16 (0.5%)
Boxing	80 (2.5%)	28 (0.8%)
Gymnastics	63 (2.0%)	285 (8.6%)
Equestrian/Horse Racing	33 (1.0%)	243 (7.3%)
Dance	29 (0.9%)	624 (18.8%)

## 2. Basic sample information for Flanders and Wallonia-Brussels

### 2.2 Belgium: Wallonia-Brussels

BE WALLONIA-BRUSSELS (N = 1472)		
Age	24.20 years; SD = 3.8	Min: 18; Max: 30
Sex	Male	720 (48.9%)
	Female	736 (50.0%)
	Other	16 (1.1%)
Length of Interview	48.05 min; SD = 527.829	min: 3 min; max.: 17 276
Overall Experience Sport (1= very good; 5= very poor)	1.72; SD = 0.789	
First Nationality		n=390 mentioned a second nationality
Belgium	1105 (75.1%)	
France	44 (3.0%)	
Italy	20 (1.4%)	
Marocco	14 (1.0%)	
other/missing	109 / 180	
Place of birth		
Belgium	1178 (80.0%)	
France	46 (3.1%)	
Italy	20 (1.4%)	
Marocco	11 (0.7%)	
Spain	13 (0.9%)	
other/missing	95 / 109	
Minority	189 (12.8%)	
Disability	91 (6.2%)	
Where did you practise your sport?		
Sport club	1203 (81.7%)	
Sport camp	364 (24.7%)	
special training centre for elite athletes	85 (5.8%)	
fitness centre	163 (11.1%)	
non-sport club. but provided sporting activities	106 (7.2%)	
private or self-organized setting	156 (10.6%)	
organized. extra-curricular school sport	231 (15.7%)	
other	45 (3.1%)	
participation in organized sports for those with a disability	only: 106 (7.2%); both: 177 (12.0%)	
sports level		
recreational level	622 (42.3%)	
club/local level	484 (32.9%)	
regional level	242 (16.4%)	
national level	102 (6.9%)	
international level	22 (1.5%)	
In what country did you mostly train?		
Belgium	1290 (92.9%)	
France	56 (3.8%)	
Marocco	17 (1.2%)	
other country	109 (7.4%)	
sexual orientation	male	female
heterosexual	601 (83.5%)	624 (84.8%)
lesbian	7 (1.0%)	28 (3.8%)
gay	32 (4.4%)	3 (0.4%)

bisexual	30 (4.2%)	53 (7.2%)
other	11 (1.5%)	7 (1.0%)
missing	39 (5.4%)	21 (2.9%)
sport participated in	male (n = 1654)	female (n= 1552)
Football	<b>389 (23.6%)</b>	74 (4.4%)
Basketball	143 (8.7%)	88 (5.3%)
Swimming	132 (8.00%)	220 (13.2%)
Tennis	131 (8.00%)	106 (6.4%)
Judo	62 (3.8%)	45 (2.7%)
Table Tennis	61 (3.7%)	34 (2.0%)
Athletics	60 (3.6%)	41 (2.5%)
Boxing	59 (3.6%)	21 (1.3%)
Karate	55 (3.3%)	29 (1.7%)
Cycling	49 (3.0%)	11 (0.7%)
Dance	11 (0.7%)	<b>287 (17.2%)</b>
Gymnastics	33 (2.0%)	148 (8.9%)
Equestrian /Horse riding	9 (0.5%)	132 (7.9%)
Badminton	46 (2.8%)	83 (5.00%)

## 2.3 Belgium: Flanders

BE FLANDERS (N = 1472)		
Age	24.21 years; SD = 3.8	min: 18; max 30
Sex	Male	724 (49.2%)
	Female	736 (50.0%)
	Other	12 (0.8%)
Length of Interview	62.34 min; SD = 602.593	min: 3 min; max: 15 869 min
Overall Experience Sport (1= very good; 5= very poor)	1.72; SD = 0.734	min: 1; max: 5.
First Nationality		n=318 mentioned a second nationality
Belgium	1271 (86.3%)	
Netherlands	15 (1.0%)	
Marocco	11 (0.7%)	
other/missing	77 / 98	
Place of birth		
Belgium	1271 (86.3%)	
Netherlands	17 (1.2%)	
other/missing	95 / 89	
Minority	166 (11.3%)	
Disability	158 (10.7%)	
Where did you practise your sport?		
Sport club	1259 (85.5%)	
Sport camp	389 (26.4%)	
special training centre for elite athletes	58 (3.9%)	
fitness centre	286 (19.4%)	
non-sport club, but provided sporting activities	118 (8.0%)	
private or self-organized setting	189 (12.8%)	
organized, extra-curricular school sport	184 (12.5%)	
other	46 (3.1%)	
participation in organized sports for those with a disability	only: 125 (8.5%); both: 169 (11.5%)	
Sport level		
recreational level	604 (41.0%)	
club/local level	488 (33.2%)	
regional level	212 (14.4%)	
national level	139 (9.4%)	
international level	29 (2.0%)	
In what country did you mostly train?		
Belgium	1368 (92.9%)	
France	12 (0.8%)	
other country	92 (6.3%)	
sexual orientation	male	female
heterosexual	617 (85.2%)	624 (84.8%)
lesbian	7 (1.0%)	16 (2.2%)
gay	30 (4.1%)	3 (0.4%)
bisexual	30 (4.1%)	62 (8.4%)
other	13 (1.8%)	13 (1.8%)
missing	27 (3.7%)	18 (2.4%)
sport participated in	male (n = 1568)	female (n= 1654)
Football	<b>385 (24.6%)</b>	62 (3.7%)
Swimming	115 (7.3%)	170 (10.3%)
Tennis	115 (7.3%)	123 (7.4%)

Basketball	111 (7.1%)	54 (3.3%)
Athletics	75 (4.8%)	70 (4.2%)
Exercise & Fitness	72 (4.6%)	79 (4.8%)
Badminton	66 (4.2%)	64 (3.9%)
Judo	64 (4.1%)	38 (2.3%)
Volleyball	47 (3.00%)	88 (5.7%)
Karate	38 (2.4%)	23 (1.4%)
Dance	18 (1.1%)	<b>337 (20.4%)</b>
Gymnastics	30 (1.9%)	137 (8.3%)
Equestrian/Horse Racing	24 (1.5%)	11 (6.7%)



### 3. Prevalence Data: Item level

#### 3.1 Inside sport

	Yes, in sport Frequency (%)
<b>Neglect</b>	
1. I was not provided with adequate support for my basic well-being	<b>482 (16.3%)</b>
2. I did not receive appropriate medical care when needed	361 (12.2%)
3. I was placed at risk of harm due to not being properly supervised	384 (13.1%)
4. I was not provided with the appropriate equipment/kit to safely perform my activity	445 (14.6%)
5. I was instructed or forced to be absent from school so I could participate in other activities	394 (13.4%)
6. I was forced to participate in unsafe conditions, extreme weather, where facilities or equipment were unsafe, or safety rules ignored	424 (14.4%)
<b>Psychological Violence</b>	
7. I was humiliated or made to feel inferior or small	<b>1022 (34.7%)</b>
8. I was criticised about my physical appearance, including my weight, 'look', clothes or body shape	814 (27.6%)
9. I was ignored or excluded	791 (26.8%)
10. I was not praised for my efforts or achievements	864 (29.4%)
11. I was screamed at, sworn at, threatened, or otherwise verbally abused	596 (20.2%)
12. I was asked, instructed or forced to perform at unrealistically high standards	484 (16.5%)
13. I was, instructed or forced to participate in initiation ceremonies or other rituals intended to humiliate, degrade or belittle myself or others	302 (10.2%)
14. I was shouted at or threatened because of my performance or because I did not want to train/compete/practice	574 (19.5%)
15. I was expelled from my team/club/group, or threatened with this, for reasons unrelated to my performance or behaviour, or for reasons not explained	429 (14.6%)
<b>Physical Violence</b>	
16. I was instructed or forced to do exercise as a form of punishment	<b>1086 (36.9%)</b>
17. I was instructed or forced to participate in ceremonies or other rituals involving harmful physical activities	315 (10.7%)
18. I was instructed or forced to take substances to manage my body weight/size, enhance my performance, delay puberty or stop or delay my period	394 (13.4%)
19. I was instructed or forced to play, participate or perform while injured or sick or at an intensity or frequency that was potentially harmful	568 (19.3%)
20. I was punched, slapped, grabbed / pushed, or otherwise physically assaulted	455 (15.5%)
<b>Non-contact sexual violence (NCSV)</b>	
21. I was subjected to obscene or sexual comments	<b>555 (18.8%)</b>
22. I was subjected to inappropriate staring or leering	464 (15.8%)

23. I was asked, instructed or forced to view sexual images, videos or messages	256 (8.6%)
24. I was asked, instructed or forced to produce or share sexual images, videos or text messages featuring me or others	266 (9.0%)
25. Sexual images or videos of me were produced or shared by someone else	235 (8.0%)
26. I was asked, instructed or forced to undress or perform sexual acts on myself for the pleasure of someone else	240 (8.2%)
27. I was 'flashed' at / someone 'exposed' themselves to me in person	375 (12.8%)
28. I was 'flashed' at / someone 'exposed' themselves to me online	300 (10.2%)
29. I was instructed or forced to participate in initiations or rituals including degrading or harmful activities of a sexual nature, without physical contact	313 (10.7%)

#### **Contact Sexual Violence (CSV)**

30. I was kissed by someone / I was asked, instructed or forced to kiss someone	<b>382 (12.9%)</b>
31. I was caressed or otherwise touched sexually / I was asked, instructed or forced to touch someone sexually	234 (7.9%)
32. I had genital contact with someone (including masturbation)	246 (8.3%)
33. I engaged in (gave or received) oral sex	234 (7.9%)
34. I engaged in actual or attempted vaginal or anal sex (with an object or person)	261 (8.8%)
35. I was, instructed or forced to participate in initiation ceremonies or other rituals of a sexual nature that involved physical contact	257 (8.8%)

## 3.2 Outside sport

	Yes, out sport Frequency (%)
<b>Neglect</b>	
I was not provided with adequate support for my basic well-being	<b>296 (10.1%)</b>
I did not receive appropriate medical care when needed	175 (5.9%)
I was placed at risk of harm due to not being properly supervised	223 (7.6%)
I was not provided with the appropriate equipment/kit to safely perform my activity	180 (6.1%)
I was instructed or forced to be absent from school so I could participate in other activities	184 (6.3%)
I was forced to participate in unsafe conditions, extreme weather, where facilities or equipment were unsafe, or safety rules ignored'	200 (6.8%)
<b>Psychological Violence</b>	
I was humiliated or made to feel inferior or small	<b>667 (22.7%)</b>
I was criticised about my physical appearance, including my weight, 'look', clothes or body shape'	648 (22.0%)
I was ignored or excluded	586 (19.9%)
I was not praised for my efforts or achievements	358 (12.2%)
I was screamed at, sworn at, threatened, or otherwise verbally abused'	567 (19.3%)
I was asked, instructed or forced to perform at unrealistically high standards'	237 (8.1%)
I was, instructed or forced to participate in initiation ceremonies or other rituals intended to humiliate, degrade or belittle myself or others'	243 (8.3%)
I was shouted at or threatened because of my performance or because I did not want to train/compete/practice	201 (6.8%)
I was expelled from my team/club/group, or threatened with this, for reasons unrelated to my performance or behaviour, or for reasons not explained'	189 (6.4%)
<b>Physical Violence</b>	
I was instructed or forced to do exercise as a form of punishment.'	296 (10.1%)
I was instructed or forced to participate in ceremonies or other rituals involving harmful physical activities	216 (7.3%)
I was instructed or forced to take substances to manage my body weight/size, enhance my performance, delay puberty or stop or delay my period.'	140 (4.8%)
I was instructed or forced to play, participate or perform while injured or sick or at an intensity or frequency that was potentially harmful'	219 (7.4%)
I was punched, slapped, grabbed / pushed, or otherwise physically assaulted'	<b>371 (12.6%)</b>
<b>Non-contact sexual violence (NCSV)</b>	
I was subjected to obscene or sexual comments.	<b>583 (19.8%)</b>
I was subjected to inappropriate staring or leering	516 (17.5%)
I was asked, instructed or forced to view sexual images, videos or messages'	269 (9.1%)
I was asked, instructed or forced to produce or share sexual images, videos or text messages featuring me or others'	272 (9.2%)
Sexual images or videos of me were produced or shared by someone else	168 (5.7%)
I was asked, instructed or forced to undress or perform sexual acts on myself for the pleasure of someone else'	236 (8.0%)
I was 'flashed' at / someone 'exposed' themselves to me in person	465 (15.8%)
I was 'flashed' at / someone 'exposed' themselves to me online	577 (19.6%)
I was instructed or forced to participate in initiations or rituals including degrading or harmful activities of a sexual nature, without physical contact'	162 (5.5%)
<b>Sexual Violence</b>	
I was kissed by someone / I was asked, instructed or forced to kiss someone'	<b>558 (19.0%)</b>

I was caressed or otherwise touched sexually / I was asked, instructed or forced to touch someone sexually'	406 (13.8%)
I had genital contact with someone (including masturbation)	454 (15.4%)
I engaged in (gave or received) oral sex	400 (13.6%)
I engaged in actual or attempted vaginal or anal sex (with an object or person)	450 (15.3%)
I was, instructed or forced to participate in initiation ceremonies or other rituals of a sexual nature that involved physical contact'	145 (4.9%)

## 4. Sub-group differences: Characteristics of interpersonal violence against children: ‘most serious experience’

### 4.1 Duration of experience per gender

Type of violence	Gender of respondents	Duration of experience(s)							$\chi^2(6) / p$
		1 day	2 days – a week	> 1 week-1 month	> 1 month – 6 months	> 6 months -1 year	> 1 year - 2 years	>2 years	
Neglect	male	71 (16.6)	69 (16.1)	82 (19.1)	72 (16.8)	61 (14.2)	44 (10.3)	30 (7.0)	21.058 P= 0.002
	female	59 (19.3)	51 (16.7)	39 (12.7)	40 (13.1)	29 (9.5)	49 (16.0)	39 (12.7)	
Psychological	male	137 (19.0)	91 (12.6)	99 (13.8)	108 (15.0)	87 (12.1)	89 (12.4)	109 (15.1)	26.438 P=0,000184
	female	109 (18.0)	71 (11.7)	53 (8.8)	67 (11.1)	67 (11.1)	97 (16.0)	141 (23.3)	
Physical	male	124 (21.6)	93 (16.2)	83 (14.4)	81 (14.1)	60 (10.4)	59 (10.3)	75 (13.0)	4.523 P=0.606
	female	77 (18.2)	75 (17.7)	56 (13.2)	53 (12.5)	46 (10.8)	48 (11.3)	69 (16.3)	
NCSV	male	72 (19.3)	51 (13.6)	75 (20.1)	68 (18.2)	50 (13.4)	30 (8.0)	28 (7.5)	40.601 P= 3,4695E-7
	female	58 (20.7)	30 (10.7)	26 (9.3)	38 (13.6)	34 (12.1)	36 (12.9)	58 (20.7)	
CSV	male	57 (19.5)	37 (12.6)	48 (16.4)	58 (19.8)	43 (19.8)	30 (10.2)	20 (6.8)	6.787 P=0.341
	female	19 (13.4)	19 (13.4)	17 (12.0)	32 (22.5)	23 (16.2)	15 (10.6)	17 (12.0)	

#### 4.2 Duration of experience(s) per participation level

Type	Level of sport participation	Duration of experience(s)							$\chi^2(24) / p$
		1 day	2 days - a week	> 1 week- 1 month	> 1 month – 6 months	> 6 months to 1 year	> 1 year to 2 years	>2 years	
Neglect	Recreational	44 (18.6)	42 (17.8)	37 (15.7)	31 (13.1)	26 (11.0)	33 (14.0)	23 (9.7)	18.384 P=0.784 Warning: 7 cells (20.0%) have expected count less than 5
	Club/Local	44 (16.6)	47 (17.7)	49 (18.5)	43 (16.2)	31 (11.7)	27 (10.2)	24 (9.1)	
	Regional	27 (17.2)	20 (12.7)	26 (16.6)	26 (16.6)	24 (15.3)	19 (12.1)	15 (9.6)	
	National	15 (21.7)	11 (15.9)	6 (8.7)	11 (15.9)	7 (10.1)	11 (15.9)	8 (11.6)	
	International	3 (21.4)	0 (0.0)	3 (21.4)	2 (14.3)	2 (14.3)	4 (28.6)	0 (0.0)	
Psychological	Recreational	84 (18.6)	67 (14.9)	53 (11.8)	54 (12.0)	46 (10.2)	63 (14.0)	84 (18.6)	25.494 P=0.379 Warning: 5 cells (14.3%) have expected count less than 5
	Club/Local	95 (19.7)	57 (11.8)	53 (11.0)	75 (15.6)	52 (10.8)	65 (13.5)	85 (17.6)	
	Regional	45 (18.1)	27 (10.9)	27 (10.9)	33 (13.3)	41 (16.5)	30 (12.1)	45 (18.1)	
	National	22 (17.3)	10 (7.9)	16 (12.6)	15 (11.8)	13 (10.2)	21 (16.5)	30 (23.6)	
	International	2 (7.4)	3 (11.1)	3 (11.1)	2 (7.4)	2 (7.4)	7 (25.9)	8 (29.6)	
Physical	Recreational	74 (24.7)	50 (16.7)	39 (13.0)	34 (11.3)	33 (11.0)	29 (9.7)	41 (13.7)	32.232 P=0.121 Warning: 7 cells (20.0%) have expected count less than 5
	Club/Local	74 (18.7)	76 (19.2)	55 (13.9)	51 (12.9)	41 (10.4)	47 (11.9)	52 (13.1)	
	Regional	39 (18.8)	36 (17.4)	29 (14.0)	27 (13.0)	24 (11.6)	24 (11.6)	28 (13.5)	
	National	12 (14.5)	7 (8.4)	13 (15.7)	20 (24.1)	7 (8.4)	5 (6.0)	19 (22.9)	
	International	3 (15.8)	0 (0.0)	3 (15.8)	3 (15.8)	3 (15.8)	2 (10.5)	5 (26.3)	
NCSV	Recreational	48 (21.4)	31 (13.8)	29 (12.9)	32 (14.3)	23 (10.3)	26 (11.6)	35 (15.6)	24.723 P=0.421

	Club/Local	43 (18.5)	30 (12.9)	44 (18.9)	41 (17.6)	23 (9.9)	25 (10.7)	27 (11.6)	Warning: 7 cells (20.0%) have expected count less than 5
	Regional	25 (20.2)	13 (10.5)	18 (14.5)	21 (16.9)	23 (18.5)	11 (8.9)	13 (10.5)	
	National	14 (23.0)	3 (4.9)	9 (14.8)	9 (14.8)	12 (19.7)	4 (6.6)	10 (16.4)	
	International	1 (6.3)	4 (25.0)	2 (12.5)	3 (18.8)	3 (18.8)	1 (6.3)	2 (12.5)	
CSV	Recreational	35 (23.5)	20 (13.4)	20 (13.4)	26 (17.4)	18 (12.1)	17 (11.4)	13 (8.7)	19.750 P= 0.711 Warning: 10 cells (28.6%) have expected count less than 5
	Club/Local	21 (13.3)	20 (12.7)	23 (14.6)	35 (22.2)	25 (15.8)	18 (11.4)	16 (10.1)	
	Regional	14 (15.6)	12 (13.3)	17 (18.9)	21 (23.3)	14 (15.6)	9 (10.0)	3 (3.3)	
	National	7 (20.0)	3 (8.6)	4 (11.4)	5 (14.3)	7 (20.0)	3 (8.6)	6 (17.1)	
	International	2 (20.0)	1 (10.0)	2 (20.0)	3 (30.0)	2 (20.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	

#### 4.3. Gender of perpetrators(s) and gender of respondent(s)

Type of violence	Gender of respondents	Gender of perpetrator(s)			
		male	female	both (m&f)	$\chi^2(2) / p$
Neglect	male	221 (54.3)	90 (22.1)	96 (23.6)	44.392 P=2,2935E-10
	female	89 (30.0)	119 (40.1)	89 (30.0)	
Psychological	male	459 (62.4)	89 (12.1)	188 (25.5)	215.776 P= 1,3956E-47
	female	181 (26.0)	265 (38.1)	249 (35.8)	
Physical	male	411 (65.6)	92 (14.7)	124 (19.8)	71.695 P= 2,7018E-16
	female	206 (42.0)	162 (33.1)	122 (24.9)	
Non-contact sexual violence	male	184 (50.5)	91 (25.0)	89 (24.5)	5.204 P= 0.074
	female	171 (55.2)	55 (17.7)	84 (27.1)	
Contact sexual violence	male	119 (42.8)	98 (35.3)	61 (21.9)	7.650 P=0.022
	female	53 (40.8)	33 (25.4)	44 (33.8)	



## 5. Questionnaires

FR	NL
<b>INTRO</b>	
Les questions suivantes concernent votre enfance et vos expériences qui peuvent être de manière générale considérées comme négatives ou dommageables pour les jeunes. Votre participation est volontaire, et vous n'avez l'obligation de répondre à aucune question.	Nu gaan we je een aantal vragen stellen over negatieve ervaringen die je misschien tijdens je kindertijd hebt meegemaakt. Je deelname is vrijwillig en je bent niet verplicht om op elke vraag te antwoorden, als je dat niet wil.
<b>NEGLECT</b>	
Parfois, les gens qui sont supposés s'occuper de nous lorsque nous sommes enfants ne remplissent pas leur rôle.	Soms zorgen de mensen die voor ons als kind verantwoordelijk waren niet goed voor ons.
Parmi les expériences suivantes, lesquelles vous sont arrivées avant l'âge de 18 ans dans un environnement sportif ou non sportif ?	Gebeurde één van volgende zaken bij jou voor de leeftijd van 18 jaar, in of buiten de sport of maakte jij dit nooit mee?
1. Je n'ai pas reçu le soutien adéquat pour assurer mon bien-être de base, p. ex. pas assez à manger/à boire/de sommeil, interdiction d'aller à la toilette	1. Mijn basisbehoeftes werden helemaal niet of niet voldoende vervuld (bv. onvoldoende voedsel, drank of slaap, niet naar het toilet mogen)
2. Je n'ai pas reçu les soins médicaux dont j'avais besoin	2. Ik kreeg geen (gepaste) medische zorg of nazorg wanneer dat wel nodig was
3. J'ai été exposé(e) à un danger par manque d'encadrement approprié	3. Het ontbrak aan (voldoende/gepast) toezicht waardoor ik gevaar liep
4. Je n'ai pas reçu l'équipement/le matériel approprié pour pratiquer une activité en toute sécurité (p. ex. équipement approuvé, équipement en bon état)	4. Ik kreeg niet het juiste materiaal om op een veilige manier mijn activiteit te kunnen beoefenen (bv. veilig en goed werkend beschermingsmateriaal)
5. J'ai été incité(e) ou forcé(e) à m'absenter de l'école pour pratiquer d'autres activités	5. Ik werd gevraagd, opgedragen of gedwongen om afwezig te zijn op school om andere activiteiten te kunnen doen
6. J'ai été forcé(e) à pratiquer mon sport dans des conditions dangereuses, un climat extrême, avec une infrastructure ou des équipements dangereux, ou les règles de sécurité ont été ignorées	6. Ik werd gevraagd, opgedragen of gedwongen om te presteren in onveilige omstandigheden, bij extreem weer, met onveilig materiaal of waar de veiligheidsvoorschriften niet nageleefd werden
<b>PSYCHOLOGICAL</b>	
Parfois, les gens peuvent faire ou dire des choses qui blessent nos <b>sentiments</b> ou qui ont un impact émotionnel négatif ou dommageable lorsque nous sommes enfants.	Soms doen of zeggen mensen dingen die onze <b>gevoelens</b> kwetsen of die een negatieve of schadelijke impact op ons hebben wanneer we kind zijn.
Parmi les expériences suivantes, lesquelles vous sont arrivées avant l'âge de 18 ans dans un environnement sportif ou non sportif ?	Gebeurde één van volgende zaken bij jou voor de leeftijd van 18 jaar, in of buiten de sport of maakte jij dit nooit mee?
1. J'ai été humilié(e) ou rabaissé(e)	1. Ik werd vernederd of iemand maakte dat ik me minderwaardig ging voelen
2. J'ai été critiqué(e) pour mon apparence physique, dont mon poids, mon apparence, mes vêtements ou la forme de mon corps	2. Ik kreeg veel kritiek op mijn uiterlijk (bv. mijn gewicht, uiterlijk, kleding, lichaamsbouw)
3. J'ai été ignoré(e) ou exclu(e)	3. Ik werd genegeerd of uitgesloten
4. Mes efforts ou réussites n'ont pas été reconnus	4. Ik werd niet geprezen voor mijn inspanningen of verwezenlijkingen
5. On m'a crié dessus, j'ai été insulté(e), menacé(e) ou autrement agressé(e) verbalement	5. Ik werd uitgejouwd, uitgescholden, bedreigd of op andere wijze verbaal aangevallen

6. J'ai été incité(e), poussé(e) ou forcé(e) à faire des choses hors de ma portée (INFO BUTTON: pour votre âge, santé, capacité ou forme physique)	6. Ik werd gevraagd, opgedragen of gedwongen om op een onrealistisch hoog niveau te presteren (INFO BUTTON: voor mijn leeftijd, gezondheid, vaardigheden of fitheid)
7. J'ai été incité(e) ou forcé(e) à participer à des cérémonies d'initiation ou d'autres rituels dont le but était de m'humilier ou me rabaisser, ou d'humilier ou rabaisser d'autres personnes	7. Ik werd gevraagd, opgedragen of gedwongen om deel te nemen aan een doop/ontgroening of ander inwijdingsritueel bedoeld om me te vernederen of te kleineren
8. J'ai été engueulé(e) ou menacé(e) à cause de mes performances ou parce que je ne voulais pas m'entraîner/concourir/pratiquer	8. Ik werd uitgekafferd of bedreigd vanwege mijn prestaties of omdat ik niet wilde trainen voor of deelnemen aan wedstrijden
9. J'ai été exclu(e) de mon équipe/club/groupe, ou on m'a menacé de le faire, pour des raisons indépendantes de mes performances ou mon comportement, ou pour des raisons qui ne m'ont pas été expliquées	9. Ik werd uit mijn team/ploeg/club gezet, of men dreigde ermee, vanwege iets dat niets te maken had met mijn prestatie of gedrag, of om redenen die niet aan mij uitgelegd werden.
<b>PHYSICAL</b>	
Parfois, les gens peuvent faire des choses qui nous blessent physiquement quand nous sommes enfants.	Soms doen mensen dingen die ons fysiek pijn kunnen doen wanneer we kind zijn.
Parmi les expériences suivantes, lesquelles vous sont arrivées avant l'âge de 18 ans dans un environnement sportif ou non sportif ?	Gebeurde één van volgende zaken bij jou voor de leeftijd van 18 jaar, in of buiten de sport of maakte jij dit nooit mee?
1. J'ai été incité(e) ou forcé(e) à faire des exercices pour me punir.	1. Ik werd gevraagd, opgedragen of gedwongen om fysieke oefeningen te doen als vorm van straf
2. J'ai été incité(e) ou forcé(e) à participer à des cérémonies ou d'autres rituels impliquant des activités physiques dommageables (p. ex. passage à tabac, strangulation, consommation excessive d'alcool).	2. Ik werd gevraagd, opgedragen of gedwongen om deel te nemen aan een doop/ontgroening of een ander inwijdingsritueel met gevaarlijke fysieke opdrachten (bv. afranselingen, wurging, overmatig alcoholgebruik).
3. J'ai été incité(e) ou forcé(e) à prendre des substances pour gérer mon poids/ma taille (INFO BUTTON: pour perdre du poids ou gagner du muscle), améliorer mes performances, retarder la puberté ou interrompre ou retarder mes menstruations.	3. Ik werd gevraagd, opgedragen of gedwongen om middelen te gebruiken om mijn gewicht te veranderen (INFO BUTTON om af te vallen of om spiermassa te vergroten), mijn prestaties te verbeteren, mijn puberteit uit te stellen of mijn menstruatie uit te stellen.
4. J'ai été incité(e) ou forcé(e) à jouer, participer ou me produire alors que j'étais blessé(e) ou malade, ou à une intensité ou fréquence potentiellement dommageable	4. Ik werd gevraagd, opgedragen of gedwongen om te trainen, spelen of presteren terwijl ik geblesseerd of ziek was of met een intensiteit of frequentie die mogelijk schadelijk voor me was
5. J'ai été frappé(e), baffé(e), poussé(e)/empoigné(e) ou autrement agressé(e) physiquement (INFO BUTTON: Exclure les contacts physiques considérés comme une composante normale d'un sport, p. ex. frapper à la boxe, pousser au judo).	5. Ik werd vastgegrepen of geduwd op een agressieve manier, geslagen, geschopt of op een andere manier fysiek aangevallen (INFO BUTTON voor zover dit <u>niet</u> binnen de regels van de sport valt, dus niet zoiets als een stomp tijdens het boksen of duwen in vechtsport)

SEXUAL	
Les prochaines questions concernent des expériences de nature sexuelle. Nous comprenons qu'il s'agit d'un sujet très sensible qui peut vous mettre mal à l'aise. Gardez à l'esprit que vos réponses sont confidentielles, mais vous n'avez l'obligation de répondre à aucune question.	De volgende vragen gaan over seksuele ervaringen. We begrijpen dat dit gevoelige vragen kunnen zijn waardoor je je mogelijk oncomfortabel voelt. Vergeet niet dat je antwoorden vertrouwelijk zijn, maar dat je niet verplicht bent om vragen te beantwoorden als je dat liever niet wil.
Parfois, les gens peuvent faire ou dire des choses négatives ou dommageables de nature sexuelle lorsque nous sommes enfants. Vous avez pu être offensé(e) à l'époque, ou jugez cela maintenant inapproprié avec du recul.	Soms doen of zeggen mensen seksueel getinte dingen die negatief of schadelijk kunnen zijn wanneer we kind zijn. Deze dingen kunnen destijds ongewenst geweest zijn of je kunt er nu van vinden dat ze toen ongepast waren.
Ces expériences peuvent être divisées en celles qui n'impliquent <b>pas</b> de contact physique (la prochaine question) et celles qui <b>impliquent</b> un contact physique (la question d'après).	Zulke ervaringen kunnen ingedeeld worden in gedrag <b>zonder</b> fysiek contact (zoals in de volgende vraag) of <b>met</b> fysiek contact (in de vraag die daarop volgt).
Parmi les expériences suivantes, lesquelles vous sont arrivées avant l'âge de 18 ans dans un environnement sportif ou non sportif ?	Gebeurde één van volgende zaken bij jou voor de leeftijd van 18 jaar, in of buiten de sport of maakte jij dit nooit mee?
1. J'ai fait l'objet de commentaires obscènes ou sexuels. Par exemple, de blagues grivoises, des remarques sur mon corps, des insultes concernant ma masculinité ou féminité	1. Ik werd geconfronteerd met obscene of seksuele opmerkingen (bv. seksuele grappen, opmerkingen over mijn lichaam, beledigingen over mijn mannelijkheid of vrouwelijkheid)
2. J'ai été regardé(e) ou observé(e) de façon inappropriée	2. Ik werd op een ongepaste, seksuele manier aangestaard of nagekeken
3. J'ai été incité(e), poussé(e) ou forcé(e) à voir des images, vidéos ou messages sexuels	3. Ik werd gevraagd, opgedragen of gedwongen om seksuele beelden, video's of berichten te bekijken
4. J'ai été incité(e), poussé(e) ou forcé(e) à produire ou partager des images, vidéos ou messages sexuels de moi ou d'autres personnes	4. Ik werd gevraagd, opgedragen of gedwongen om beelden, video's of berichten van mij of anderen te maken of versturen
5. Des images ou vidéos sexuelles de moi ont été produites ou partagées par quelqu'un d'autre	5. Iemand maakte of verspreidde seksuele beelden of video's van mij
6. J'ai été incité(e), poussé(e) ou forcé(e) à me déshabiller ou me livrer à des actes sexuels sur moi-même pour le plaisir de quelqu'un d'autre	6. Ik werd gevraagd, opgedragen of gedwongen om me uit te kleden of mezelf op een seksuele manier aan te raken voor andermans plezier
7. Quelqu'un s'est dénudé devant moi en personne (p. ex. parties génitales, seins, fesses)	7. Iemand toonde me zijn/haar geslachtsdelen, borsten of achterwerk <i>in persoon</i>
8. Quelqu'un s'est dénudé devant moi en ligne (p. ex. parties génitales, seins, fesses)	8. Iemand toonde me zijn/haar geslachtsdelen, borsten of achterwerk <i>online</i>
9. J'ai été incité(e) ou forcé(e) à participer à des initiations ou rituels impliquant des activités dégradantes ou dommageables de nature sexuelle, sans contact physique	9. Ik werd gevraagd, opgedragen of gedwongen om deel te nemen aan een ontgroening of ander inwijdingsritueel met vernederende, beschamende of schadelijke seksuele handelingen zonder fysiek contact
Et parmi les expériences suivantes, lesquelles vous sont arrivées avant l'âge de 18 ans dans un environnement sportif ou non sportif ? Veuillez uniquement inclure les expériences qui étaient non sollicitées à l'époque ou que vous jugez maintenant inappropriées avec du recul.	Gebeurde één van volgende zaken bij jou voor de leeftijd van 18 jaar, in of buiten de sport of maakte jij dit nooit mee? Gelieve alleen ervaringen aan te duiden die destijds ongewenst waren of waarvan je nu vindt dat ze toen ongepast waren.
1. J'ai été embrassé(e) par quelqu'un/j'ai été incité(e), poussé(e) ou forcé(e) à embrasser quelqu'un	1. Ik werd gekust of werd opgedragen om iemand te kussen

2. J'ai été caressé(e) ou autrement touché(e) sexuellement/j'ai été incité(e), poussé(e) ou forcé(e) à toucher quelqu'un sexuellement	2. Ik werd gestreeld of op een andere seksuele manier aangeraakt; ik werd gevraagd, opgedragen of gedwongen om iemand op een seksuele manier aan te raken
3. J'ai eu un contact génital avec quelqu'un (incluant la masturbation)	3. Ik had genitaal contact met iemand (inclusief masturbatie)
4. J'ai été impliqué(e) (donné ou reçu) dans du sexe oral	4. Ik kreeg of gaf orale seks
5. J'ai été impliqué(e) dans un contact sexuel ou une tentative de contact sexuel vaginal ou anal (avec un objet ou une personne)	5. Ik had (een poging tot) vaginale of anale seks met een object of een persoon
6. J'ai été incité(e) ou forcé(e) à participer à des cérémonies d'initiation ou des rituels de nature sexuelle impliquant un contact physique	6. Ik werd opgedragen of gedwongen om deel te nemen aan een doop/ontgroening of ander inwijdingsritueel waarbij er sprake was van fysiek seksueel contact
<b>Answering categories</b>	
Oui, cela est arrivé dans un environnement sportif	Ja, dit gebeurde bij mij in de sport
Oui, cela est arrivé hors d'un environnement sportif	Ja, dit gebeurde bij mij buiten de sport
Oui, cela est arrivé dans un environnement sportif et non sportif	Ja, dit gebeurde bij mij binnen en buiten de sport
Non, cela ne m'est pas arrivé	Nee, ik heb dit niet meegemaakt
Je ne sais pas	Weet ik niet
Je préfère ne pas répondre	Wil ik liever niet zeggen

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