# Violence Against Children and Youth Surveys (VACS)

Data User Guide

# Table of Contents

Introduction	1
$egin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	1
Overview	2
Eligibility Criteria	2
Survey Design and Sampling	2
Data Collection	4
Response Rate	4
Weighting	6
Calculated Variables	7
Appendix	18
Resources	23

### Introduction

The Moldova 2019 Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS) was a nationally representative cross-sectional household survey of children and youth ages 13–24 years. The survey was designed to produce national estimates of experiences of physical, sexual, and emotional violence in childhood. The survey included a randomly selected, representative subset of the population, at one specific point in time, providing estimates of violence indicators by age group, sex, and other demographic factors. All data were collected through an in-person interview with trained interviewers. The objectives of the Moldova 2019 VACS were to:

- Estimate the national prevalence of physical, emotional and sexual violence in childhood, adolescence, and young adulthood.
- Identify risk and protective factors for physical, emotional and sexual violence against children and youth in Moldova to inform stakeholders and guide prevention efforts.
- Identify the health and social consequences associated with violence against children and youth in Moldova.
- Assess the knowledge and utilization of medical, psychosocial, legal, and protective services available
  for children and youth who have experienced violence.
- Make recommendations to relevant ministries in Moldova, development partners, civil society and
  other stakeholders on developing, improving, and enhancing prevention and response strategies to
  address violence against children and youth as part of a comprehensive multi-sectoral approach to
  child protection.

Through a Data Sharing Agreement, the government of Moldova provides access to public use datasets (PUDs) for the Moldova 2019 VACS data for the purpose of informing efforts to fill gaps in understanding violence against children and youth and guide the development and implementation of prevention and response efforts. The purpose of the present Data User Guide is to provide information on how the survey was implemented and guidance on important considerations to give when analyzing the Moldova 2019 VACS data. .

# Methods

#### Overview

During the survey implementation, data were collected from participants ages 13–24 and the head of household. The head of household survey was short (lasting about 15 minutes) and was intended to build rapport, seek consent for minor participants or permission to interview older participants, and to gather socioeconomic information about the household. Even for households where no eligible participant was identified, the head of household was still asked to complete the survey. In the PUDs of the Moldova 2019 VACS, only completed participant questionnaires were included. A total of 1,021 females and 978 males in-person participant interviews were completed during October 2018 to February 2019.

### Eligibility Criteria

Households were included if there was at least one eligible member of the household who was between ages 13 and 24 years, and who resided in selected households in Moldova and spoke one of the following languages: Romanian or Russian. Persons who did not have the capacity to understand and/or respond to the survey questions due to cognitive impairment or significant physical disability (e.g., severe hearing or speech impairment) were ineligible to participate. Persons living or residing in institutions such as hospitals, prisons, nursing homes, and other similar institutions were not included in the survey because VACS was a household-based survey. Males and females younger than 13 years were excluded because they may not have the maturity to answer some of the complex survey questions. Males and females older than 24 years were also excluded because of a desire to focus on understanding violence against children and youth. The ability to accurately recall events in the past related to childhood experiences is diminished with time.

### Survey Design and Sampling

The sampling frame for the Moldova 2019 VACS was originally compiled by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and Central Election Committee (CEC) for the 2014 Census and 2016 Elections. The survey used a four-stage cluster sampling design. Primary sampling units (PSUs) were randomly assigned as male or female PSUs. The Moldova VACS used a split-sample approach, such that the survey for females was conducted in different communities than the survey for males. This approach was to protect the confidentiality of participants by reducing the chance that opposite sex perpetrators and victims will be interviewed in the same community, discover the purpose of the study, and possibly retaliate against participants.

# The Moldova VACS used a multi-stage sample design:

Stage 1 – A total of 93 localities were selected from 897 localities and 1,981 PSUs in the Moldova 2014 census using probability proportional to size.

Stage 2-128 PSUs were selected from the selected localities using random selection (64 female PSUs and

64 male PSUs).

Stage 3 – 25 households were selected using equal probability systematic sampling within each PSU. However,

during fieldwork there was a lower-than-anticipated number of completed interviews, due mostly to lower-

than-anticipated household response rates, particularly in urban areas. In order to adapt to the low household

response rates that affected achieving the target sample size, the cluster size was increased to 50 households

in the urban PSUs, and an additional 30 female PSUs and 30 male PSUs were added to the sample, totaling

188 PSUs. The additional PSUs were randomly selected within the 93 localities selected during the first

stage of the sample design.

Stage 4 - One eligible participant (female or male depending on the selected PSU) was randomly selected from

the list of all eligible participants (females or males) 13-24 years of age in each household and administered

the questionnaire.

Sample Size

Sample size for males and females was separately determined from the following standard cluster sample

formula:

$$\hat{N} = Z^2 \frac{\hat{p}(1-\hat{p})}{e^2} \times DEFF$$

Where

Z = Quantile of the standard normal variate for a 5.0% level of significance = 1.96.

 $\hat{p}$  = Estimated Prevalence of any childhood sexual violence (determined to be 20% from available research

in The Republic of Moldova).

e = Margin of Error (recommended to be set at 0.04 to balance the reality of survey costs with the precision

of estimates).

DEFF = Design Effect

 $\hat{N} = \text{Required Sample Size}$ 

Assuming a 4.0% margin of error (e = 0.04), a 5.0% level of significance (Z = 1.96), a design effect of 2.5

(DEFF = 2.5), and an estimated sexual violence prevalence of 20.0%  $(\hat{p} = 0.20)$ , the national effective

sample size for the female population was:

3

$$1.96^2 \frac{\hat{p}(1-\hat{p})}{0.04^2} \times 2.5 = 960$$

Based on similar assumptions and sexual violence prevalence of 20.0% for the male population ( $\hat{p} = 0.20$ ), the national effective samples size for the male population was:

$$1.96^2 \frac{\hat{p}(1-\hat{p})}{0.04^2} \times 2.5 = 960$$

#### **Data Collection**

Data collection was conducted between October 2018 and February 2019. Data collection was done electronically using the Open Data Kit (ODK) program, installed on data collection tablets running on the Android operating system. Data collection was conducted by trained interviewers using a structured questionnaire via face-to-face computer-assisted personal interviews (CAPI) with selected eligible participants. Before data collection began, a field pre-test was conducted. To ensure privacy during the study, interviewers were trained to conduct interviews in safe and secure locations to maximize disclosure and ensure confidentiality. If the privacy of a participant could not be ensured, interviewers were instructed to reschedule the interview. The initial visit record form of the survey tool had a section that allowed the survey team to track incomplete interviews and interviews that needed to be rescheduled. Field teams were trained to make three attempts to reach every sampled household. After three unsuccessful attempts, the selected household was considered as a non-response and was not replaced with another household.

### Response Rate

A survey response rate is defined as the percentage of the total number of completed survey responses out of the respective total number of surveys participants. In probability samples, where the intent of a survey is to project the results of the data onto a population, statistical theory rests on an assumption that data are collected from every unit or person selected. It is extremely rare for any survey to achieve this perfect level of cooperation from participants. Therefore, response rates are calculated by dividing the total number of complete responses by the total number of eligible participants in the selected sample.

### Response Rate Calculations

Household Listing	Individual Interview
[1] Completed Listing – Eligible Identified	[1] Completed
[2] Completed Listing – No Eligible Identified	[2] Refused
[3] Unoccupied/Vacant/Abandoned	[3] Incomplete
[4] No one home	[4] Not Available
[5] Demolished	[5] Does not speak study language/s
[6] Refused	
[7] Other	

# $Household\ Definitions:$

- Household Eligible: Household Listing responses 1, 2, 4, or 6
- Household Complete: Household Listing responses 1 or 2
- Household Response Rate (HHRR):

$$HHRR = (\frac{[1]}{[1] + [2] + [4] + [6]})$$

### $Individual\ Definitions:$

• Individual Eligible: Household Listing response 1 AND

Individual Interview responses 1, 2, 3, or 4

• Individual Complete: Individual must be eligible (see above) AND

Individual Interview response 1

• Individual Response Rate (IRR):

$$IRR = (\frac{[1]}{[1] + [2] + [3] + [4]})$$

 $Overall\ Response\ Rate = Household\ Response\ Rate \times Individual\ Response\ Rate$ 

Given the split sample design of the Moldova 2019 VACS, response rates, including household response rates, are tabulated separately for males and females as shown in the table below. Data were analyzed separately for participants ages 13–17 and 18–24 years.

		RESPONSE RATE	
Sex	Household Response Rate	Individual Response Rate	Overall Response Rate
Female	56.8%	83.4%	47.3%
Male	55.6%	81.7%	45.5%

### Weighting

To analyze the 2019 Moldova VACS, a survey weight was calculated for each record. CDC weighted the data to obtain parameters representing the total population of Moldova children and youth aged 13–24 years old. A three-step weighting procedure was incorporated:

Step 1: computation of base weight for each sampled participant;

Step 2: adjustment of the base weights for differential non-response in the sample; and

Step 3: calibration of the post-stratification (adjusted) weights to known population totals.

### Weighting Procedures:

# Base weight

Household base weight was estimated as the inverse of the overall probability, which was calculated as below:

Overall probability:

$$= (\frac{n_{selected\ PSUs}}{N_{Total\ PSUs}}) \times (\frac{Selected\ households_{PSUs}}{Total\ Households_{PSUs}}) \times (\frac{1}{N_{Eligible}})$$

where:

 $(\frac{n_{selected\ PSUs}}{N_{Total\ PSUs}})$  is the PSU level probability

 $(\frac{Selected\ households_{PSUs}}{Total\ Households_{PSUs}})$  is the household level probability, and

 $(\frac{1}{N_{Eligible}})$  is the individual probability

Household base weight:

$$= \frac{1}{\left(\frac{n_{selected\ PSUs}}{N_{Total\ PSUs}}\right) \times \left(\frac{Selected\ households_{PSUs}}{Total\ Households_{PSUs}}\right) \times \left(\frac{1}{N_{Eligible}}\right)}$$

### Non-Response Weighting/Adjustments

The overall non-response weight was calculated as the inverse of the weighted response rate.

 $Household\ Non-Response\ Weighting\ /Adjustment:$ 

Violence Against Children and Youth Surveys Country – Moldova Survey Year – 2019

(Weighted) Household Response Rate (HHRW) =

 $(\frac{Household\ base\ weights\ complete}{Household\ base\ weights\ eligible})$ 

 $Individual\ Non-Response\ Weighting\ /Adjustment:$ 

(Weighted) Individual Response Rate(IRRW) =

 $(\frac{Individual\ base\ weights\ complete}{Individual\ base\ weights\ eligible})$ 

Weighted Overall Response Rate (ORR) =

 $(HHRW \times IRRW)$ 

Non-Response Weight (NRW) =

 $(\frac{1}{ORR})$ 

During the household non-response calculation, household eligible totals and household complete totals were generated at the region/province and sex specific classes for males and females. Non-response weights were capped at 3.0 to be consistent with the VACS weighting manual.

### Post-Stratification Weight

Post-stratification weighting involves adjusting the sampling weights to sum up to the population size using a known population, such as the population obtained from the population and housing census. Final sample weights were computed by multiplying the individual base weight, non-response weight, and post-stratification weight:

Final Sample Weight=

 $Individual\ base\ weight imes Non-Response\ Weight imes Post-Stratification\ weight$ 

### Calculated Variables

For 2019 Moldova VACS, the variable STRATA should be used for stratification, the variable PSU should be used for clustering, and the variable SAMPLEWEIGHT should be used as the survey weight.

The Moldova 2019 VACS PUD included the following list of calculated variables:

# Sexual Violence

Description	Variable Name
Any lifetime sexual violence	SAB
Any lifetime sexual unwanted touching	SV1LT
Any lifetime attempted sex	SV2LT
Any lifetime physically forced sex	SV3LT
Any lifetime pressured sex	SV4LT
Any sexual violence in the past 12 months	SV12MTH
Unwanted sexual touching in past 12 months	SV12MTH1
Attempted sex in the past 12 months	SV12MTH2
Physically forced sex in the past 12 months	SV12MTH3
Pressured sex in the past 12 months	SV12MTH4
Any sexual violence in childhood	SV18
Unwanted sexual touching in childhood	SV1_ONLY18
Attempted sex in childhood	SV2_ONLY18
Physically forced sex in childhood	SV3_ONLY18
Pressured sex in childhood	SV4_ONLY18
Told someone about any incident of sexual violence	SVTELL
Knew a place to seek professional help among those who experienced any sexual violence	SVKNEWPLACE
Sought help for any incident of sexual violence among those who experienced any sexual violence	SVSOUGHT
Received professional service for any incident of sexual violence	SVRECVDSERV
Sexual debut at or before 15	SEXDEBUTAGE15
Ever engaged in transactional sex (received money, food, or gifts for sex)	TRANSEXEVER

# Physical Violence

Description	Variable Name
Any lifetime physical violence	PVLT
Any lifetime physical violence by intimate partner	PVPARTLT
Any lifetime physical violence by peer	PVPEERLT
Any lifetime physical violence by parent, a dult caregivers $\&$ other adult relatives	PVPARELT
Any lifetime physical violence by adults in the community	PVCOMMLT
Physical violence by any perpetrator type in the past 12 months	PV12MTH
Physical violence in the past 12 months by intimate partner	IPV12MTH
Physical violence in the past 12 months by peers	PVPEER12MTH
Physical violence in the past 12 months by parent, adult caregivers & other adult relatives	PVPARE12MTH
Physical violence in the past 12 months by adults in the community	PVCOMM12MTH
Physical violence by any perpetrator type in childhood	PV18
Physical violence in childhood by intimate partner	PVPART18
Physical violence in childhood by peers	PVPEER18
Physical violence in childhood by parent, adult caregivers & other adult relatives	PVPARE18
Physical violence in childhood by adults in the community	PVCOMM18
Told someone about any incident of physical violence	PVTELL
Knew a place to seek professional help among those who experienced any physical violence	PVKNEWPLACE
Sought help for any incident of sexual violence among those who experienced any physical violence	PVSOUGHT
Received professional service for any incident of physical violence	PVRECVDSERV

# Emotional Violence

Description	Variable Name
Any lifetime emotional violence by parent, adult caregiver or other adult relative	EV1LT
Any emotional violence in the past 12 months by parent, adult caregiver or other adult relative	EV12MTH1
Any emotional violence in childhood by parent, adult caregiver or other adult relative	EV118

### Other Variables

Description	Variable Name
Two age categories	AGEGRP
Strata variable	STRATA
Cluster variable	PSU
Final Sample weight	SAMPLEWEIGHT
Unique individual ID	ID
Household size	NSEL

### Creating calculated variables

### Introduction:

This document provides information on calculated core violence variables from the Moldova 2019 VACS. These variables are calculated from responses to questions on the survey. There are three main core violence indicators that are calculated to assess violence against children and youth:

- (1) Any lifetime violence among 13–24-year-olds;
- (2) Any childhood violence (i.e., violence experienced before age 18) among 18–24-year-olds; and
- (3) Any violence in the past 12 months among 13–17-year-olds.

Each of these core indicators is calculated for each of the three main types of violence assessed by the VACS:

- (1) Sexual violence;
- (2) Physical violence; and
- (3) Emotional violence.

This document also includes SAS codes that demonstrate how the three core violence variables are derived for sexual violence only. This document is to only serve as a guide to researchers in creating their own calculated variables from other VACS variables.

## A. Lifetime sexual violence indicator

Four forms of sexual violence are assessed in the VACS survey:

- (1) Unwanted sexual touching;
- (2) Unwanted attempted sex;

- (3) Pressured sex; and
- (4) Physically forced sex.

Multiple questions are asked to assess each form of sexual violence. Sexual violence is said to have occurred if the participant answered yes to one or more of those questions.

The numerator for this indicator is the number of 13–24-year-old participants who experienced any form of sexual violence in their lifetime. The denominator is the total number of 13–24-year-old participants.

The four forms of sexual violence and their corresponding items in the VACS questionnaire

Form of SV	Question Number	Question
Unwanted sexual touching	Q600	Has anyone ever touched you in a sexual way without your permission, but did not try and force you to have sex? Touching in a sexual way without permission includes fondling, pinching, grabbing, or touching you on or around your sexual body parts.
Unwanted attempted	Q700A	Has a boyfriend/girlfriend/intimate partner, ex-boyfriend/ex-girlfriend/intimate partner, husband/wife, or ex-husband/ex-wife ever tried to make you have sex against your will but did not succeed? They might have tried to physically force you to have sex or they might have tried to pressure you have sex through harassment, threats and tricks.
sex	Q700B	Has anyone else ever tried to make you have sex against your will but did not succeed?
Physically forced sex	Q800A	Has a boyfriend/girlfriend/intimate partner, ex-boyfriend/ex-girlfriend/intimate partner, husband/wife, or ex-husband/ex-wife ever physically forced you to have sex and did succeed?
	Q800B	Has anyone else ever physically forced you to have sex and did succeed?
Pressured	Q900A	Has a boyfriend/girlfriend/intimate partner, ex-boyfriend/ex-girlfriend/intimate partner, husband/wife, or ex-husband/ex-wife ever pressured you to have sex and did succeed? They might have verbally pressured you to have sex, or they might have pressured you to have sex through harassment, threats and tricks, or you were too drunk to say no to them.
sex	Q900B	Has anyone else ever pressured you to have sex and did succeed?

### SAS code for lifetime sexual violence indicators:

/\*Reported any lifetime unwanted sexual touching\*/
IF Q600 IN (.,98,99) THEN SV1LT=.;
ELSE IF Q600=1 THEN SV1LT=1;

```
ELSE SV1LT=2;
/*Reported any lifetime unwanted attempted sex */
IF Q700A IN (.,98,99) & Q700B IN (.,98,99) THEN SV2LT=.;
ELSE IF Q700A=1 | Q700B=1 THEN SV2LT=1;
ELSE SV2LT=2;
/*Reported any lifetime physically forced sex*/
IF Q800A IN (.,98,99) & Q800B IN (.,98,99) THEN SV3LT=.;
ELSE IF Q800A=1 | Q800B=1 THEN SV3LT=1;
ELSE SV3LT=2;
/*Reported any lifetime pressured sex*/
IF Q900A IN (.,98,99) & Q900B IN (.,98,99) THEN SV4LT=.;
ELSE IF Q900A=1 | Q900B=1 THEN SV4LT=1;
ELSE SV4LT=2;
/*Reported any lifetime sexual violence*/
IF SV1LT=1 | SV2LT=1 | SV3LT=1 | SV4LT=1 THEN SAB=1; *YES;
ELSE IF SV1LT=. & SV2LT=. & SV3LT=. & SV4LT=. THEN SAB=.; *MISSING;
ELSE IF SV1LT IN (2,.) & SV2LT IN (2,.) & SV3LT IN (2,.) & SV4LT IN (2,.) THEN SAB=2; *NO;
```

### Description of the SAS code for lifetime sexual violence indicator:

The above SAS code can be read as follows and includes all participants who experienced any sexual violence in their lifetime. If the participant experienced unwanted sexual touching, or attempted sex, or had physically forced sex, or pressured sex in their lifetime, then the participant is considered to have experienced lifetime sexual violence.

# B. Childhood sexual violence indicator

Childhood sexual violence is defined as experiencing any form of sexual violence prior to age 18. The numerator for this indicator is the number of 18–24-year-old participants who experienced any form of childhood sexual violence. The denominator is the total number of 18–24-year-old participants.

	Items of childle	ood sexual	violence	indicator	in the	VACS survey
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Form of SV	Question Number	Question
Unwanted	Q600	Has anyone ever touched you in a sexual way without your permission, but did not try and force you to have sex? Touching in a sexual way without permission includes fondling, pinching, grabbing, or touching you on or around your sexual body parts.
touching	Q601	How many times in your life has this happened?
	Q603	How old were you the last time this happened?
	Q610	How old were you the first time anyone touched you in a sexual way without your permission but did not try to force you to have sex?

# Items of childhood sexual violence indicator in the VACS survey (continued)

Form of SV	Question Number	Question
	Q700A	Has a boyfriend/girlfriend/intimate partner, ex-boyfriend/ex-girlfriend/intimate partner, husband/wife, or ex-husband/ex-wife ever tried to make you have sex against your will but did not succeed? They might have tried to physically force you to have sex or they might have tried to pressure you have sex through harassment, threats and tricks.
Unwanted attempted	Q700B	Has anyone else ever tried to make you have sex against your will but did not succeed?
sex	Q701	How many times in your life has anyone tried to make you have sex against your will but did not succeed? They might have tried to physically force you to have sex or they might have tried to pressure you have sex through harassment, threats and tricks.
	Q703	How old were you the last time this happened?
	Q710	How old were you the first time anyone tried to make you have sex against your will but did not succeed?
Physically forced sex	Q800A	Has a boyfriend/girlfriend/intimate partner, ex-boyfriend/ex-girlfriend/intimate partner, husband/wife, or ex-husband/ex-wife ever physically forced you to have sex and did succeed?
	Q800B	Has anyone else ever physically forced you to have sex and did succeed?
	Q801	How many times in your life have you been physically forced to have sex?
	Q803	How old were you the last time this happened?
	Q811	How old were you the first time anyone physically forced you to have sex?
Pressured sex	Q900A	Has a boyfriend/girlfriend/intimate partner, ex-boyfriend/ex-girlfriend/intimate partner, husband/wife, or ex-husband/ex-wife ever pressured you to have sex and did succeed? They might have verbally pressured you to have sex, or they might have pressured you to have sex through harassment, threats and tricks, or you were too drunk to say no to them.
	Q900B	Has anyone else ever pressured you to have sex and did succeed?
	Q901	How many times in your life has someone pressured you to have sex through harassment, threats or tricks and did succeed?
	Q903	How old were you the last time this happened?
	Q910	How old were you the first time anyone pressured you to have sex through harassment, threats and tricks and did succeed?

### SAS code for calculating childhood sexual violence indicator:

```
*Reported any unwanted sexual touching prior to age 18 (SV1_ONLY)*
IF Q601>=1 & .<Q610<18 THEN SV1 ONLY =1;
ELSE IF Q601>=1 \&18<=Q610<98 THEN SV1\_ONLY = 2;
ELSE IF Q601>=1 & (Q610=99 \mid Q610 =. \mid Q610=98) & (.<Q603<18) THEN} SV1_ONLY = 1;
ELSE IF Q601>=1 & (Q610=99 | Q610 =. | Q610 =98) & (Q603=. | Q603=99 | Q603=98)
THEN SV1\_ONLY =.;
ELSE IF Q600 = 2 THEN SV1\_ONLY = 2;
/*Reported any unwanted attempted sex prior to age 18 (SV2_ONLY)*/
IF Q701>=1 & .<Q710<18 THEN SV2 ONLY =1;
ELSE IF Q701 > = 1 \& 18 < = Q710 < 98 THEN SV2 ONLY = 2;
ELSE IF Q701>=1 & (Q710=99 | Q710=. | Q710=98) & (.<Q703<18) THEN SV2_ONLY =1;
ELSE IF Q701>=1 & (Q710=99 | Q710=. | Q710=98) & (Q703=99 | Q703=. | Q703=98) THEN SV2_ONLY = .;
ELSE IF (Q700A NE 1 &Q700B=2) | (Q700B NE 1 &Q700A =2) THEN SV2_ONLY =2;
/*Reported any physically forced sex prior to age 18 (SV3_ONLY)*/
IF Q801 > = 1 \& .< Q811 < 18 THEN SV3_ONLY = 1;
ELSE IF Q801 > = 1 \& 18 < = Q811 < 98 \text{ THEN SV3} = 2;
ELSE IF Q801>=1 & (Q811=99 |Q811=. |Q811=98) & (.<Q803<18) THEN SV3_ONLY =1;
ELSE IF Q801>=1 & (Q811=99 | Q811=. | Q811=98) & (Q803=99 | Q803=. | Q803=98) THEN SV3_ONLY = .;
ELSE IF (Q800A NE 1 &Q800B=2) | (Q800B NE 1 &Q800A =2) THEN SV3_ONLY =2;
/*Reported any pressured sex prior to age 18 (SV4_ONLY)*/
IF Q901>=1 & .<Q910<18 THEN SV4 ONLY = 1;
ELSE IF Q901>=1 &18<=Q910<98 THEN SV4_ONLY = 2;
ELSE IF Q901>=1 & (Q910=99 | Q910 =. | Q910 =98) & (.<Q903<18) THEN SV4_ONLY =1;
ELSE IF Q901>=1 & (Q910=99 | Q910 =. | Q910 =98) & (Q903=99 | Q903 =. | Q903 =98) THEN SV4_ONLY
ELSE IF (Q900A NE 1 & Q900B=2) | (Q900B NE 1 & Q900A = 2) THEN SV4 ONLY = 2;
/*Reported any sexual violence in childhood (i.e., before age 18)(SV18)*/
IF 18<=Q2<=24 THEN DO; /* SV18 only includes 18-24 year-olds */
IF SV1_ONLY=1| SV2_ONLY=1| SV3_ONLY=1| SV4_ONLY=1 THEN SV18 =1;
ELSE IF SV1_ONLY=. & SV2_ONLY=. & SV3_ONLY=. & SV4_ONLY=. THEN SV18 = .;
ELSE IF SV1_ONLY in (2,.) & SV2_ONLY in (2,.) & SV3_ONLY in (2,.) & SV4_ONLY in (2,.)
THEN SV18 = 2;
END;
```

#### Description of the SAS code for childhood sexual violence indicator:

The above SAS code can be read as follows and includes all 18-24 year-olds who experienced childhood sexual violence. If the 18-24-year-old participant experienced any unwanted sexual touching during childhood, attempted sex during childhood, physically forced sex during childhood, or pressured sex during childhood, then the participant is considered to have experienced childhood sexual violence.

# C. Any sexual violence in the past 12 months indicator

The numerator for this indicator is the number of 13-17-year-olds who experienced any form of sexual violence in the past 12 months. The denominator is the total number of 13-17-year-old participants.

Items of the VACS questionnaire that are used to measure any sexual violence in the past 12 months

Form of SV	Question Number	Question
	Q600	Has anyone ever touched you in a sexual way without your permission, but did not try and force you to have sex? Touching in a sexual way without permission includes fondling, pinching, grabbing, or touching you on or around your sexual body parts.
Unwanted	Q601	How many times in your life has this happened?
sexual touching	Q602	Now think about the last time this happened. Did this happen to you within the past 12 months?
	Q609	First time: Did this happen to you within the past 12 months?
	Q700A	Has a boyfriend/girlfriend/intimate partner, ex-boyfriend/ex-girlfriend/intimate partner, husband/wife, or ex-husband/ex-wife ever tried to make you have sex against your will but did not succeed? They might have tried to physically force you to have sex or they might have tried to pressure you have sex through harassment, threats and tricks.
	Q700B	Has anyone else ever tried to make you have sex against your will but did not succeed?
Unwanted attempted sex	Q701	How many times in your life has anyone tried to make you have sex against your will but did not succeed? They might have tried to physically force you to have sex or they might have tried to pressure you have sex through harassment, threats and tricks.
	Q702	Now think about the last time this happened. Did this happen to you within the past 12 months?
	Q709	First time: Did this happen to you within the past 12 months?
	Q800A	Has a boyfriend/girlfriend/intimate partner, ex-boyfriend/ex-girlfriend/intimate partner, husband/wife, or ex-husband/ex-wife ever physically forced you to have sex and did succeed?
Physically forced sex	Q800B	Has anyone else ever physically forced you to have sex and did succeed?
	Q801	How many times in your life have you been physically forced to have sex?
	Q802	Now think about the last time this happened. Did this happen to you within the past 12 months?
	Q810	First time: Did this happen to you within the past 12 months?

Items of the VACS question naire that are used to measure any sexual violence in the past 12 months (continued)

Form of SV	Question Number	Question
Pressured sex	Q900A	Has a boyfriend/girlfriend/intimate partner, ex-boyfriend/ex-girlfriend/intimate partner, husband/wife, or ex-husband/ex-wife ever pressured you to have sex and did succeed? They might have verbally pressured you to have sex, or they might have pressured you to have sex through harassment, threats and tricks, or you were too drunk to say no to them.
	Q900B	Has anyone else ever pressured you to have sex and did succeed?
	Q901	How many times in your life has someone pressured you to have sex through harassment, threats or tricks and did succeed?
	Q902	Now think about the last time this happened. Did this happen to you within the past 12 months?
	Q909	First time: Did this happen to you within the past 12 months?

# SAS code for any sexual violence in the past 12 months indicator:

```
/*Reported any unwanted sexual touching in the last 12 months (SV12MTH1)*/
IF Q601>=1 & (Q602 = 1 | Q609 = 1) THEN SV12MTH1=1;
ELSE IF Q601>=1 & (Q602 in (99,...98) & Q609 in (99,...98)) THEN SV12MTH1= .;
ELSE IF Q601>=1 & (Q602 in (2,.) | Q609 in (2,.)) THEN SV12MTH1=2;
ELSE IF Q600 = 2 THEN SV12MTH1=2;
/*Reported any unwanted attempted sex in the last 12 months (SV12MTH2)*/
IF Q701>=1 & (Q702 =1 | Q709 =1) THEN SV12MTH2 =1;
ELSE IF Q701>=1 & (Q702 in (99,...98) & Q709 in (99,...98) THEN SV12MTH2 = .;
ELSE IF Q701 > = 1 & (Q702 \text{ in } (2,.) | Q709 \text{ in } (2,.)) THEN SV12MTH2 = 2;
ELSE IF (Q700A NE 1 &Q700B=2) | (Q700B NE 1 &Q700A =2) THEN SV12MTH2 =2;
/*Reported any physically forced sex in the last 12 months (SV12MTH3)*/
IF Q801 > = 1 & (Q802 = 1 | Q810 = 1) THEN SV12MTH3 =1;
ELSE IF Q801>=1 & (Q802 in (99,...98) & Q810 in (99,...98)) THEN SV12MTH3 = .;
ELSE IF Q801>=1 & (Q802 in (2,.) | Q810 in (2,.)) THEN SV12MTH3=2;
ELSE IF (Q800A NE 1 &Q800B=2) | (Q800B NE 1 &Q800A =2) THEN SV12MTH3 =2;
/*Reported any pressured sex in the last 12 months (SV12MTH4)*/
IF Q901>=1 & (Q902 =1 | Q909 =1) THEN SV12MTH4 =1;
ELSE IF Q901>=1 & (Q902 in (99,...,98) & Q909 in (99,...,98)) THEN SV12MTH4 = .;
ELSE IF Q901>=1 & (Q902 in (2,.) | Q909 in (2,.)) THEN SV12MTH4 =2;
ELSE IF (Q900A NE 1 &Q900B=2) | (Q900B NE1 &Q900A =2) THEN SV12MTH4 =2;
/*Reported any sexual violence in the last 12 months (SV12MTH)*/
IF 13<=Q2<=17 THEN DO; /* SV12MTH only includes 13-17 year-olds */
```

```
IF SV12MTH1=1| SV12MTH2 =1 | SV12MTH3 =1 | SV12MTH4 =1 THEN SV12MTH =1; ELSE IF SV12MTH1= . & SV12MTH2 = . & SV12MTH3 = . & SV12MTH4 = . THEN SV12MTH = .; ELSE IF SV12MTH1 in (2,.) & SV12MTH2 in (2,.) & SV12MTH3 in (2,.) & SV12MTH4 in (2,.) THEN SV12MTH =2; END;
```

### Description of the SAS code for any sexual violence in past 12 months indicator:

The above SAS code can be read as follows and includes all 13-17 year-olds who experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months. (please see Appendix for corresponding R and STATA codes). If the 13–17-year-old participant experienced unwanted sexual touching in the past 12 months, attempted sex in the past 12 months, physically forced sex in the past 12 months, or pressured sex in the past 12 months, then the participant is considered to have experienced any sexual violence in the past 12 months.

# **Appendix**

# STATA and R codes

```
# R code for lifetime sexual violence indicators
#Reported any lifetime unwanted sexual touching
Moldova PUD%<>%
 mutate(
   SV1LT = case_when(
      (SVTCH ==99 | SVTCH ==98 | is.na(Moldova_PUD$SVTCH)) ~ NA_real_,
       SVTCH==1 ~ 1, TRUE ~ 2
  )
#Reported any lifetime unwanted attempted sex
  Moldova_PUD%<>%
  mutate(
   SV2LT = case_when(
      (SVAFSSX==99 | SVAFSSX==98 | is.na(Moldova_PUD$SVAFSSX )) &
        (SVAFSANY==99 | SVAFSANY==98 | is.na(Moldova_PUD$SVAFSANY ))~ NA_real_,
      SVAFSSX ==1 \mid SVAFSANY ==1 \sim 1,
                                           TRUE ~ 2
      )
   )
#Reported any lifetime physically forced sex
 Moldova_PUD%<>%
   mutate(
      SV3LT = case_when(
        (SVPFSSX==99 | SVAFSSX==98 | is.na(Moldova_PUD$SVAFSSX )) &
        (SVPFSANY==99 | SVPFSANY==98 | is.na(Moldova_PUD$SVPFSANY))~ NA_real_,
        SVPFSANY ==1 | SVAFSSX ==1 ~ 1,
                                             TRUE ~ 2
        )
      )
#Reported any lifetime pressured sex
Moldova_PUD%<>%
  mutate(
   SV4LT = case_when(
      (SVPRSSX==99 | SVPRSSX==98 | is.na(Moldova_PUD$SVPRSSX )) &
        (SVPRSANY==99 | SVPRSANY==98 | is.na(Moldova PUD$SVPRSANY))~ NA real ,
      SVPFSANY ==1 | SVAFSSX ==1 \sim 1, TRUE \sim 2
      )
   )
#Reported any lifetime sexual violence
Moldova PUD %<>%
 mutate(
   SAB = case_when(
      SV1LT=1 | SV2LT=1 | SV3LT=1 | SV4LT=1 ~ 1, # YES
      (is.na(Moldova_PUD$SV1LT)) & (is.na(Moldova_PUD$SV2LT)) &
        (is.na(Moldova_PUD$SV3LT))&(is.na(Moldova_PUD$SV4LT)) ~ NA_real_,# MISSING
       (SV1LT ==2 | is.na(Moldova_PUD$SV1LT)) &
        (SV2LT ==2 |is.na(Moldova_PUD$SV2LT)) &
        (SV3LT ==2 | is.na(Moldova_PUD$SV3LT))&
        (SV4LT ==2 | is.na(Moldova_PUD$SV4LT)) ~ 2, # NO
```

```
Note: Moldova_PUD is the public use dataset
*STATA code for lifetime sexual violence indicators
/*Reported any lifetime unwanted sexual touching*/
generate SV1LT =. if SVTCH>=98
   replace SV1LT = 1 if SVTCH == 1
   replace SV1LT = 2 if SVTCH == 2
/*Reported any lifetime unwanted attempted sex */
generate SV2LT =. if SVAFSSX>=98 & SVAFSANY>=98
   replace SV2LT = 1 if SVAFSSX == 1 | SVAFSANY==1
   replace SV2LT = 2 if SVAFSSX == 2 | SVAFSANY==2
/*Reported any lifetime physically forced sex*/
generate SV3LT =. if SVPFSSX>=98 & SVPFSANY>=98
   replace SV3LT = 1 if SVPFSSX == 1 | SVPFSANY==1
   replace SV3LT = 2 if SVPFSSX == 2 | SVPFSANY==2
/*Reported any lifetime pressured sex*/
generate SV4LT =. if SVPRSSX>=98 & SVPRSANY>=98
    replace SV4LT = 1 if SVPRSSX== 1 | SVPRSANY==1
   replace SV4LT = 2 if SVPRSSX== 2 | SVPRSANY==2
/*Reported any lifetime sexual violence*/
generate SAB =1 if SV1LT==1 | SV2LT==1 | SV3LT==1 | SV4LT==1 /*YES*/
   replace SAB = . if SV1LT==. & SV2LT==. & SV3LT==. & SV4LT==./*MISSING*/
   replace SAB = 2 if SV1LT>=2 & SV2LT>=2 &
   SV3LT>=2 & SV4LT>=2 /*NO*/
#R code for calculating childhood sexual violence indicator
**Reported any unwanted sexual touching prior to age 18 (SV1_ONLY)*
Moldova_PUD %<>%
  mutate(
   SV1_ONLY = case_when(
     Q601>=1 & Q610<18 ~ 1,
      Q601>=1 & (18<= Q610<98) ~ 2,
      Q601>=1 & (Q610==99 |(is.na(Moldova PUD$Q610) | Q610==98)) &
      Q601>=1 & (Q610==99 |(is.na(Moldova_PUD$Q610) | Q610==98)) &
        (is.na(Moldova_PUD$Q603) | Q603==99 | Q603==98) ~ NA_real_,
     Q600 == 2^{2},
      TRUE ~ 2
    )
  )
#*Reported any unwanted attempted sex prior to age 18 (SV2_ONLY)*
Moldova_PUD %<>%
  mutate(
   SV2_ONLY = case_when(
     Q701 >= 1 & Q710 < 18 ~ 1,
```

```
Q701>=1 & (18<= Q710<98) ~ 2,
                                                                      Q710<18 ~ 1,
      Q701>=1 & (Q710==99 | (is.na(Moldova_PUD$Q710) | Q710==98)) &
      Q701>=1 & (Q710==99 | (is.na(Moldova_PUD$Q710) | Q710==98)) &
        (is.na(Moldova_PUD$Q703) | Q703==99 | Q703==98) ~ NA_real_,
      (Q700A!=1 & Q700B==2) | (Q700B!=1 & Q700A==2) \sim 2,
      TRUE ~ 2
    )
  )
#*Reported any physically forced sex prior to age 18 (SV3_ONLY)*
Moldova_PUD %<>%
 mutate(
   SV3 ONLY = case when(
      Q801 >= 1 & Q811 < 18 ~ 1,
      Q801>=1 & (18<= Q811<98) ~ 2,
      Q801>=1 & (Q811==99 |(is.na(Moldova_PUD$Q811) | Q811==98)) & Q811<18 ~ 1,
      Q801>=1 & (Q811==99 | (is.na(Moldova_PUD$Q811) | Q811==98)) &
        (is.na(Moldova_PUD$Q803) | Q803==99 | Q803==98) ~ NA_real_,
      (Q800A!=1 & Q800B==2) | (Q800B!=1 & Q800A==2) \sim 2,
      TRUE ~ 2
    )
  )
#*Reported any pressured sex prior to age 18 (SV4_ONLY)*
Moldova PUD %<>%
  mutate(
    SV4_ONLY = case_when(
      Q901 >= 1 & Q910 < 18 ~ 1,
      Q901>=1 & (18<= Q910<98) ~ 2,
      Q901>=1 & (Q910==99 |(is.na(Moldova_PUD$Q910) | Q910==98)) & Q910<18 ~ 1,
      Q901>=1 & (Q910==99 | (is.na(Moldova PUD$Q910) | Q910==98)) &
        (is.na(Moldova_PUD$Q903) | Q903==99 | Q903==98) ~ NA_real_,
      (Q900A !=1 & Q900B==2) | (Q900B!=1 & Q900A==2) ~ 2,
      TRUE ~ 2
    )
  )
#*Reported any sexual violence in childhood (i.e before age 18)(SV18)*
Moldova_PUD %<>%
  mutate(
    SV18 = case when(
      SV1_ONLY==1 | SV2_ONLY==1 | SV3_ONLY==1 | SV4_ONLY==1 ~ 1,
      Q901>=1 & (18<= Q910<98) ~ 2,
      is.na(Moldova_PUD$SV1_ONLY) | is.na(Moldova_PUD$SV2_ONLY) |
        is.na(Moldova_PUD$SV3_ONLY) | is.na(Moldova_PUD$SV4_ONLY) | ~ NA_real_,
      (is.na(Moldova PUD$SV1 ONLY) | SV1 ONLY==2) & (is.na(Moldova PUD$SV2 ONLY) |
                                                        SV2_ONLY==2) &
        (is.na(Moldova_PUD$SV3_ONLY) | SV3_ONLY==2) & (is.na(Moldova_PUD$SV4_ONLY) |
                                                          SV4_ONLY==2) \sim 2,
      TRUE ~ 2
    )
```

```
* STATA code for calculating childhood sexual violence indicator
*Reported any unwanted sexual touching prior to age 18 (SV1_ONLY)*
  generate SV1_ONLY =1 if Q601>=1 & Q610< 18</pre>
replace SV1 ONLY = 2 if Q601 \ge 1 & inrange (Q610, 18, 97)
replace SV1_ONLY = 1 if Q601>=1 & Q610>=98 & Q603<18
replace SV1_ONLY = . if Q601>=1 & Q610>=98 & Q603>=98
replace SV1_ONLY = 2 if Q600==2
/*Reported any unwanted attempted sex prior to age 18 (SV2_ONLY)*/
  generate SV2_ONLY =1 if Q701>=1 & Q710< 18
replace SV2_ONLY = 2 if Q701>=1 & inrange(Q710,18,97)
replace SV2_ONLY = 1 if Q701>=1 & Q710>=98 & Q703<18
replace SV2_ONLY = . if Q701>=1 & Q710>=98 & Q703>=98
replace SV2_ONLY = 2 if (Q700A!=1 & Q700B==2) | (Q700B !=1 & Q700A==2)
/*Reported any physically forced sex prior to age 18 (SV3_ONLY)*/
  generate SV3_ONLY =1 if Q801>=1 & Q811< 18</pre>
replace SV3_ONLY = 2 if Q801>=1 & inrange(Q811,18,97)
replace SV3_ONLY = 1 if Q801>=1 & Q811>=98 & Q803<18
replace SV3_ONLY = . if Q801>=1 & Q811>=98 & Q803>=98
replace SV3_ONLY = 2 if (Q800A!=1 & Q800B==2) | (Q800B !=1 & Q800A==2)
/*Reported any pressured sex prior to age 18 (SV4_ONLY)*/
  generate SV4_ONLY =1 if Q901>=1 & Q910< 18
replace SV4_ONLY = 2 if Q901>=1 & inrange(Q910,18,97)
replace SV4_ONLY = 1 if Q901>=1 & Q910>=98 & Q903<18
replace SV4_ONLY = . if Q901>=1 & Q910>=98 & Q903>=98
replace SV4_ONLY = 2 if (Q900A!=1 & Q900B==2) | (Q900B !=1 & Q900A==2)
/*Reported any sexual violence in childhood (i.e before age 18)(SV18)*/
  generate SV18 =1 if Q901>=1 & Q910< 18
replace SV18 = 1 if SV1_ONLY==1 | SV2_ONLY==1 | SV3_ONLY==1 | SV4_ONLY==1
replace SV18 = . if SV1_ONLY>=. | SV2_ONLY>=. | SV3_ONLY>=. | SV4_ONLY>=.
replace SV18 = 2 if SV1_ONLY>=2 & SV2_ONLY>=2 & SV3_ONLY>=2 &
 SV4_ONLY>=2
# R code for any sexual violence in the past 12 months indicator
#* Reported any unwanted sexual touching in the last 12 months (SV12MTH1)*
Moldova PUD %<>%
  mutate(
    SV12MTH1 = case_when(
      Q601 >= 1 & (Q602 == 1 | Q609 == 1) ~ 1, #Q609 = SV1FT
      Q601>=1 & (Q602==99 | is.na(Moldova_PUD$Q602) | Q602==98) &
        (Q609 ==99 | is.na(Moldova_PUD$Q609 ) | Q609 ==98)~ NA_real_,
      Q601>=1 & (Q602==2 | is.na(Moldova_PUD$Q602)) &
        (Q609 == 2 \mid is.na(Moldova_PUD$Q609)) \sim 2,
      Q600 == 2 \sim 2
```

```
TRUE ~ NA_real_
    )
  )
#* Reported any unwanted attempted sex in the last 12 months (SV12MTH2)*
Moldova_PUD %<>%
  mutate(
    SV12MTH2 = case_when(
      Q701 >=1 & (Q702 ==1 | Q709 ==1) ~ 1, #SV2FT12=SV2FT
      Q701>=1 & (Q702==99 | is.na(Moldova_PUD$Q702) | Q702==98) &
        (Q709 ==99 | is.na(Moldova_PUD$Q709 ) | Q709 ==98)~ NA_real_,
      Q701>=1 & (Q702==2 | is.na(Moldova_PUD$Q702)) &
        (Q709 ==2 | is.na(Moldova_PUD$Q709 )) ~ 2,
      (Q700A!=1 & Q700B==2) | (Q700B !=1 & Q700A==2) \sim 2,
      TRUE ~ NA_real_
  )
#* Reported any physically forced sex in the last 12 months (SV12MTH3)*/
Moldova_PUD %<>%
  mutate(
    SV12MTH3 = case_when(
      Q801 >= 1 & (Q802 == 1 | Q810 == 1) ~ 1, #Q810 = SV3FT
      Q801>=1 & (Q802==99 | is.na(Moldova_PUD$Q802) | Q802==98) &
        (Q810 ==99 | is.na(Moldova_PUD$Q810 ) | Q810 ==98)~ NA_real_,
      Q801>=1 & (Q802==2 | is.na(Moldova_PUD$Q802)) &
        (Q810 ==2 | is.na(Moldova_PUD$Q810 )) ~ 2,
      (Q800A!=1 & Q800B==2) | (Q800B !=1 & Q800A==2)~2,
      TRUE ~ NA real
    )
  )
#* Reported any pressured sex in the last 12 months (SV12MTH4)*/
Moldova_PUD %<>%
  mutate(
    SV12MTH4 = case_when(
      Q901 >= 1 & (Q902 == 1 | Q909 == 1) ~ 1,
      Q901>=1 & (Q902==99 | is.na(Moldova_PUD$Q902) | Q902==98) &
        (Q909 ==99 | is.na(Moldova_PUD$Q909 ) | Q909 ==98)~ NA_real_,
      Q901>=1 & (Q902==2 | is.na(Moldova_PUD$Q902)) &
        (Q909 ==2 | is.na(Moldova_PUD$Q909 )) ~ 2,
      (Q900A!=1 & Q900B==2) | (Q900B !=1 & Q900A==2)~2,
      TRUE ~ NA real
    )
  )
#*Reported any sexual abuse in the last 12 months (SV12MTH)*/
Moldova_PUD %<>%
  mutate(
    SV12MTH = case_when(
      SV12MTH1==1 | SV12MTH2==1 | SV12MTH3==1 | SV12MTH4==1 ~ 1,
```

```
is.na(Moldova_PUD$SV12MTH1) | is.na(Moldova_PUD$SV12MTH2) |
        is.na(Moldova_PUD$SV12MTH3) | is.na(Moldova_PUD$SV12MTH4) | ~ NA_real_,
      (is.na(Moldova_PUD$SV12MTH1) | SV12MTH1==2) &
        (is.na(Moldova_PUD$SV12MTH2) | SV12MTH2==2) &
        (is.na(Moldova_PUD$SV12MTH3) | SV12MTH3==2) &
        (is.na(Moldova_PUD$SV12MTH4) | SV12MTH4==2) ~ 2,
      TRUE ~ 2
    )
 )
*STATA code for any sexual violence in the past 12 months indicator
/* Reported any unwanted sexual touching in the last 12 months (SV12MTH1)*/
 generate SV12MTH1 =1 if Q601>=1 & (Q602 ==1 | Q609 ==1)
replace SV12MTH1 = . if Q601>=1 & (Q602>=98 | Q609>=98)
replace SV12MTH1 = 2 \text{ if } Q601>=1 \& (Q602>=2 | Q609>=2)
replace SV12MTH1 = 2 if Q600==2
/* Reported any unwanted attempted sex in the last 12 months (SV12MTH2)*/
  generate SV12MTH2 =1 if Q701>=1 & (Q702 ==1 | Q709 ==1)
replace SV12MTH2 = . if Q701>=1 & (Q702>=98 | Q709>=98)
replace SV12MTH2 = 2 if Q701>=1 & (Q702>=2 | Q709>=2)
replace SV12MTH2 = 2 if (Q700A!=1 & Q700B==2) | (Q700B !=1 & Q700A==2)
/* Reported any physically forced sex in the last 12 months (SV12MTH3)*/
  generate SV12MTH3 =1 if Q801>=1 & (Q802 ==1 | Q810 ==1)
replace SV12MTH3 = . if Q801>=1 & (Q802>=98 | Q810>=98)
replace SV12MTH3 = 2 if Q801>=1 & (Q802>=2 | Q810>=2)
replace SV12MTH3 = 2 if (Q800A!=1 & Q800B==2) | (Q800B !=1 & Q800A==2)
/* Reported any pressured sex in the last 12 months (SV12MTH4)*/
  generate SV12MTH4 =1 if Q901>=1 & (Q902 ==1 | Q909 ==1)
replace SV12MTH4 = . if Q901>=1 & Q902>=98 | Q909>=98)
replace SV12MTH4 = 2 if Q901>=1 & (Q902>=2 | Q909>=2)
replace SV12MTH4 = 2 if (Q900A!=1 & Q900B==2) | (Q900B !=1 & Q900A==2)
/*Reported any sexual abuse in the last 12 months (SV12MTH)*/
  generate SV12MTH = 1 if SV12MTH1==1 | SV12MTH2==1 | SV12MTH3==1 | SV12MTH4==1
replace SV12MTH = . if SV12MTH1>=. | SV12MTH2>=. | SV12MTH3>=. | SV12MTH4>=.
replace SV12MTH = 2 if SV12MTH1>=2 & SV12MTH2>=2 & SV12MTH3>=2 &
 SV12MTH4>=2
```

#### Resources

- CDC's Violence Against Children and Youth Surveys
- Sampling design and methodology of the Violence Against Children and Youth Surveys
- Violence Against Children Surveys Country Reports