

Children's Experiences of Physical and Sexual Violence in the Wake of Covid-19 in Uganda

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Background

- Uganda registered her first case of Covid-19 in March 2020.
- Several control measures were implemented by government.
- These measures, despite being pivotal in controlling the spread of the virus, inadvertently created additional risks for children.

Study Context

- The first six months of the Covid-19 pandemic in Uganda (April – September 2020) when strict measures were implemented compared with the same period in 2019.
- Covid-19 control measures included indefinite closure of all educational institutions, travel bans and a shut down on major livelihood sources.

Methodology

- Cross-sectional study design
- 4 Districts from 4 regions of Uganda- Central(Kampala), North(Gulu), East(Luuka), West (Lyantonde)
- 644 respondents (F=387, M=287)

Quantitative

Survey
(n=644)

Qualitative

In-depth
Interviews
with children

Secondary

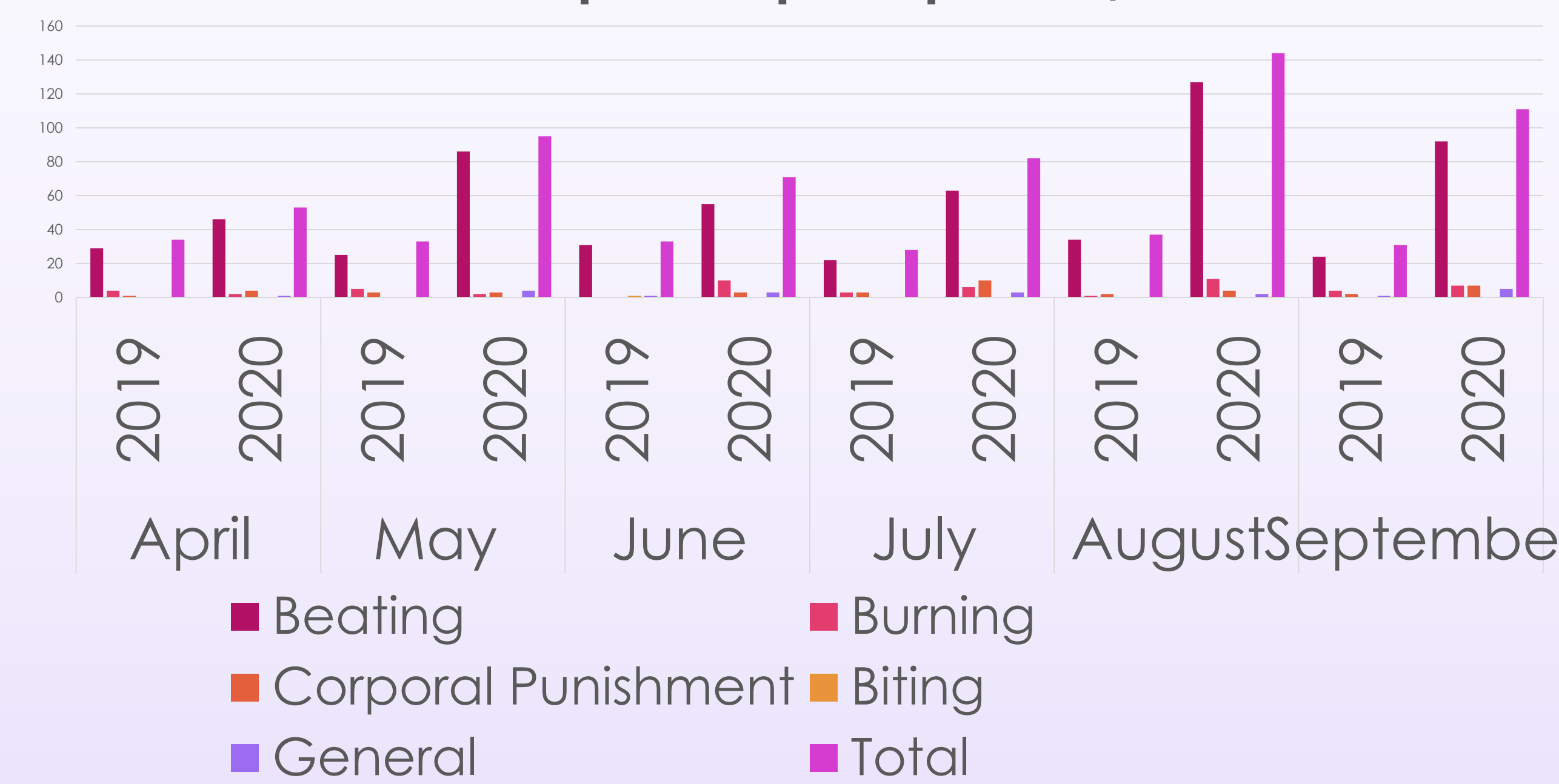
- Child
Helpline
- Police
Records

Analysis

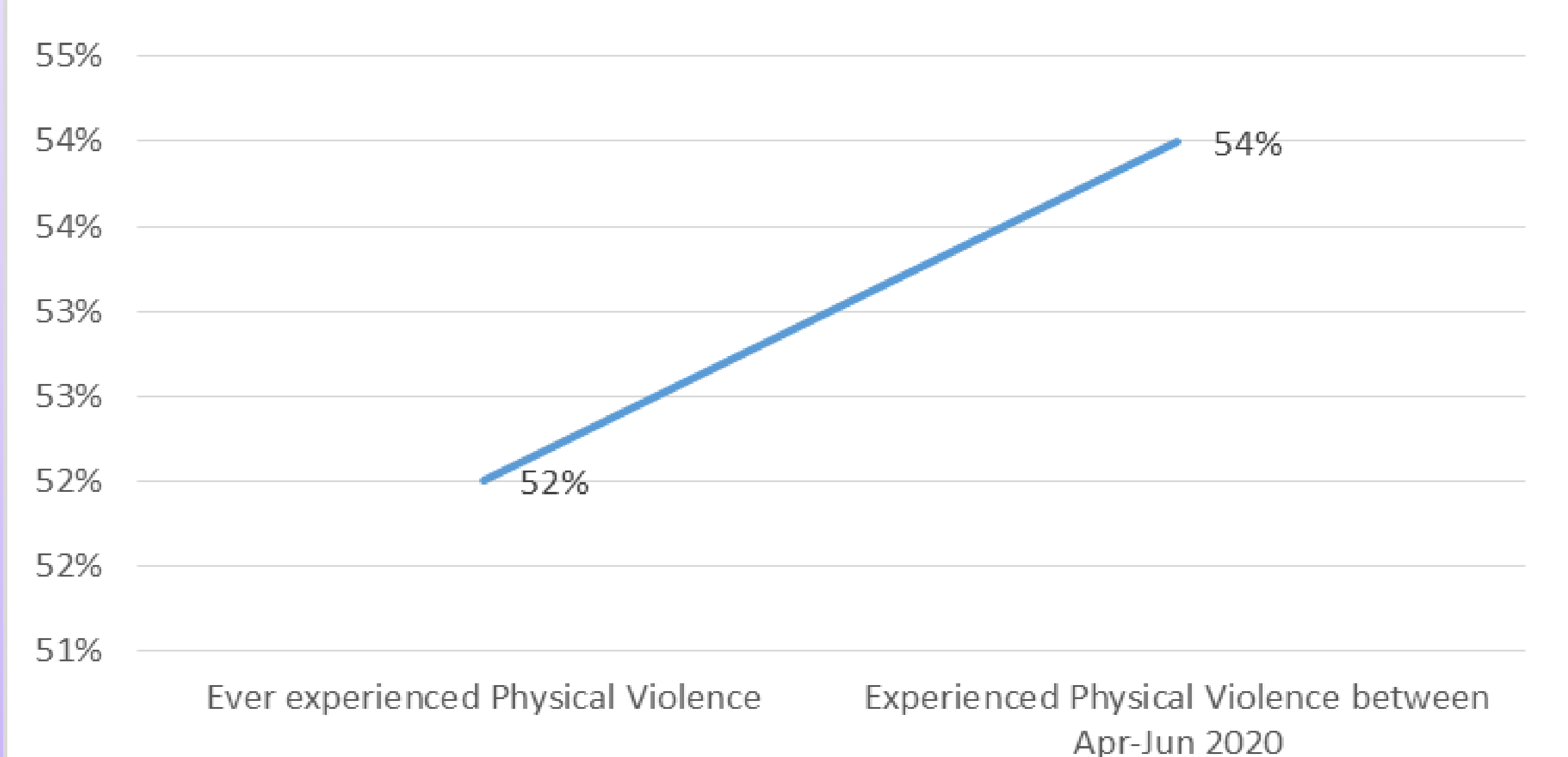
Descriptive quantitative analyses were conducted to establish frequency and association while qualitative data was analyzed thematically using Nvivo software.

Results

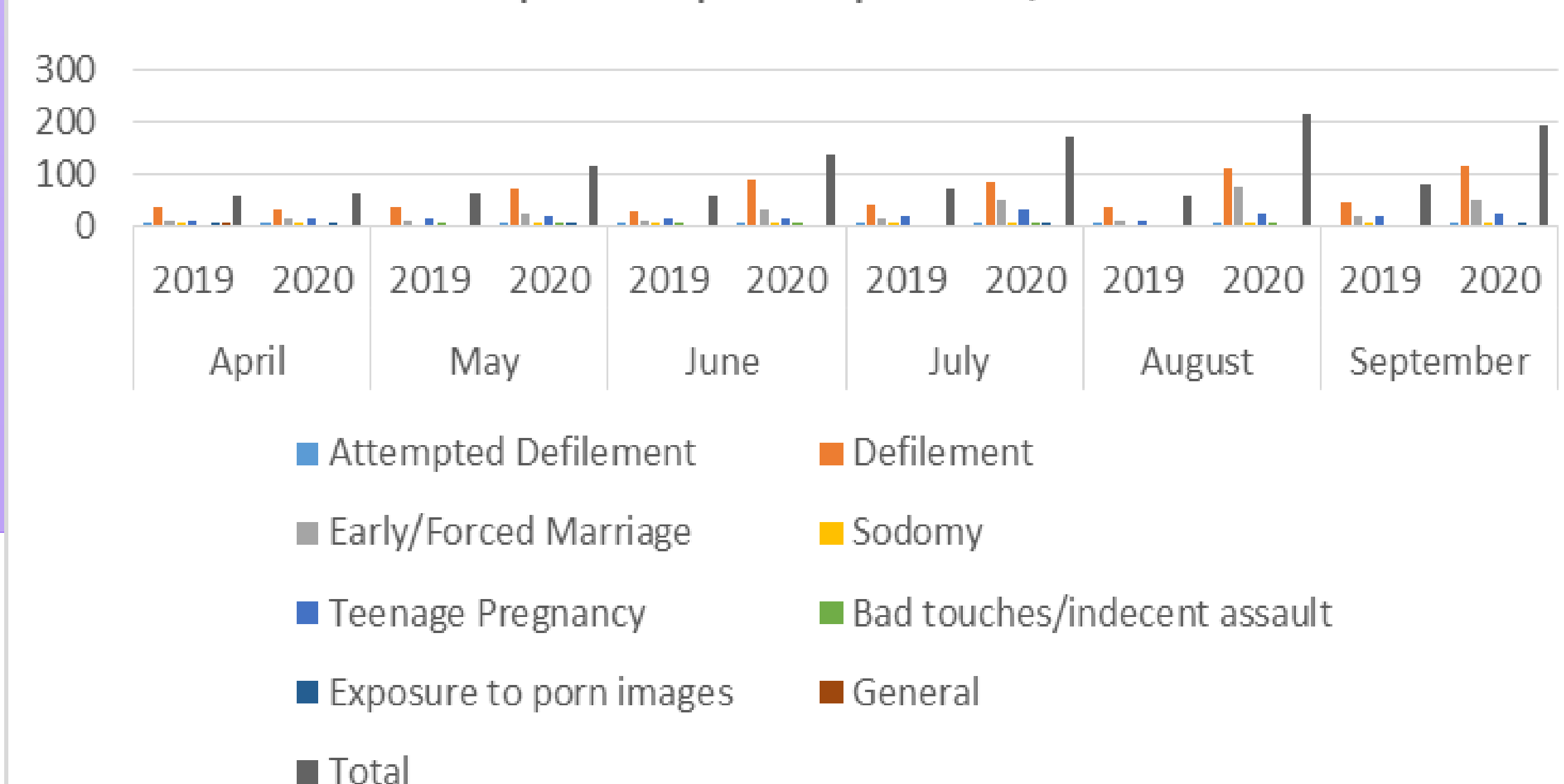
Physical Violence Cases Reported to the Child Helpline Apr-Sep 2020/2019



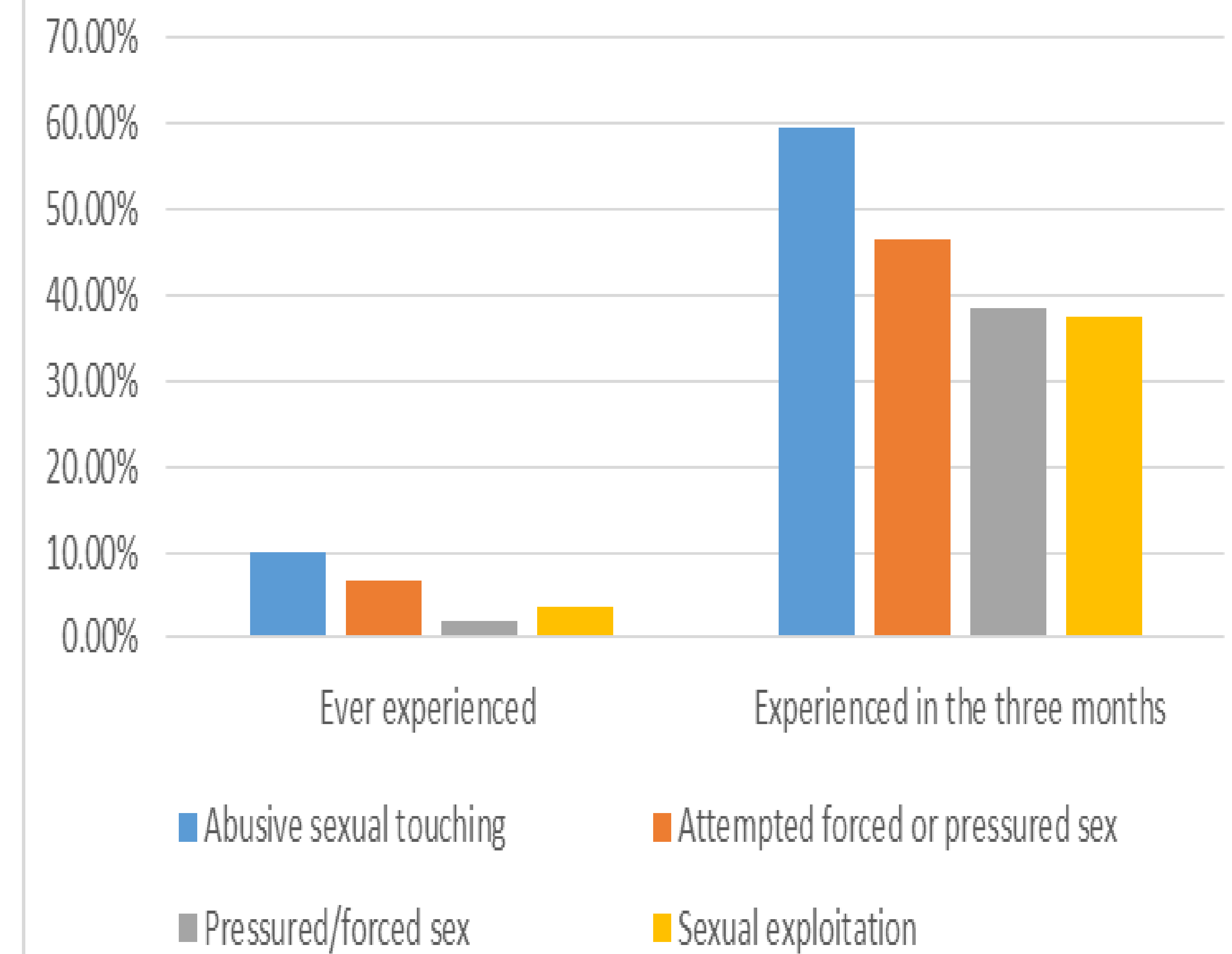
Experience of Violence During Covid-19



Sexual Violence Cases Reported to the Child Helpline Apr - Sep 2019/2020



Percentage of Children who Experienced Sexual Violence During Covid-19



“They were about 5 boys. Then one held me and raped me. I was screaming loudly for help”.

Respondent

Discussion & Implications

- Violence against children significantly increased during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The pandemic exposed gaps in child protection programming and current social protection interventions.
- Policy makers and child protection practitioners ought to increase focus and investments on empowering families and communities to better protect children from violence.

Acknowledgement

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