

Violence Against Children

Media Coverage in November - December 2025

The November–December 2025 edition of the newsletter highlights continuing concerns relating to violence against children across Sri Lanka. Based on media-reported incidents, the findings reveal patterns of sexual abuse, neglect, unsafe environments, and other protection risks affecting children in homes, schools, and communities. Through this newsletter, PEACE | ECPAT Sri Lanka seeks to strengthen awareness, encourage collective responsibility, and promote safer environments for every child.



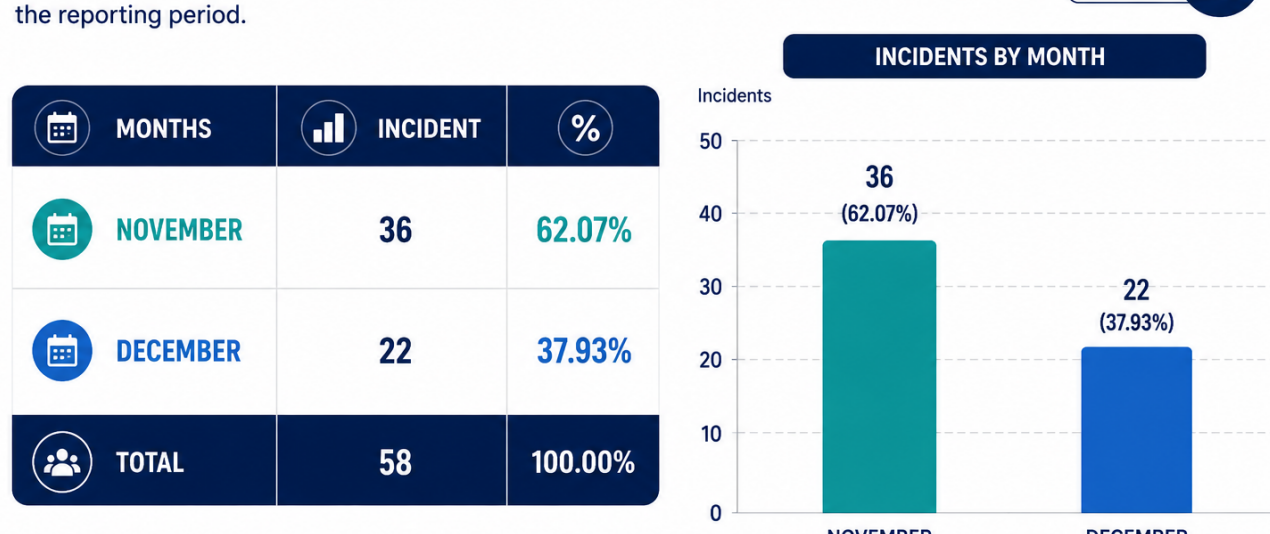
Awareness remains at the heart of PEACE | ECPAT Sri Lanka's efforts to prevent the sexual exploitation and abuse of children. Through interactive awareness sessions conducted in vulnerable communities, children are empowered with knowledge on personal safety, recognising abuse, seeking support, and protecting themselves from harm. By placing children at the centre of prevention efforts, these programmes aim to build safer environments where every child can grow with dignity, protection, and confidence.

Key Findings: November & December 2025

- A total of **58 incidents involving 137 children** were documented through media reports during November and December 2025.
- Sexual abuse and neglect** were among the most frequently reported child protection concerns during the reporting period.
- Children aged **11–18 years** appeared most frequently in reported incidents, particularly adolescents.
- Girls were more frequently affected**, especially in cases related to abuse and exploitation.
- Most incidents were reported from **community and home settings**, showing continuing risks within children's everyday environments.
- In many cases, the alleged perpetrators were **individuals known to the child**, including relatives, teachers, clergy, and peers.
- Reported incidents emerged from districts across Sri Lanka, with **Colombo, Kalutara, and Puttalam** recording comparatively higher numbers.
- Several cases highlighted concerns relating to **school safety, supervision, and institutional protection mechanisms**.

MONTHLY TREND

Analysis of incidents by month during the reporting period.

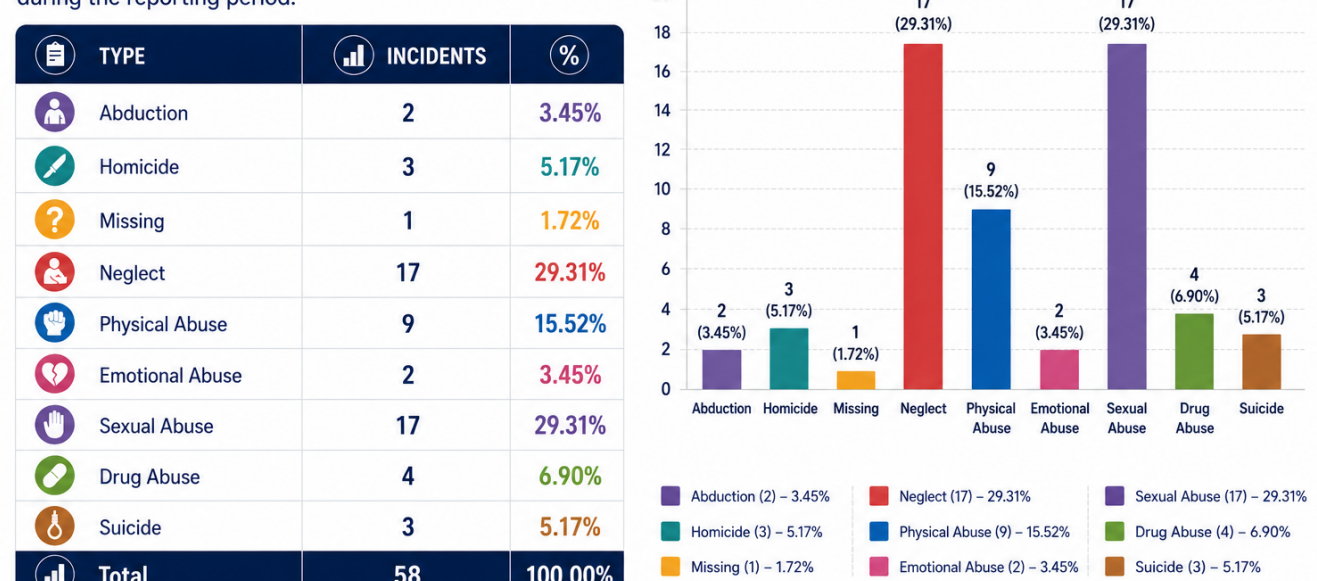


THESE FIGURES REPRESENT REPORTED DATA FOR THE PERIOD 1 NOVEMBER – 31 DECEMBER 2025.

Out of the 58 incidents analysed, 36 cases (62%) were reported in November, while 22 cases (38%) were reported in December. The higher concentration in November suggests a sharp rise in reported child protection concerns during that period.

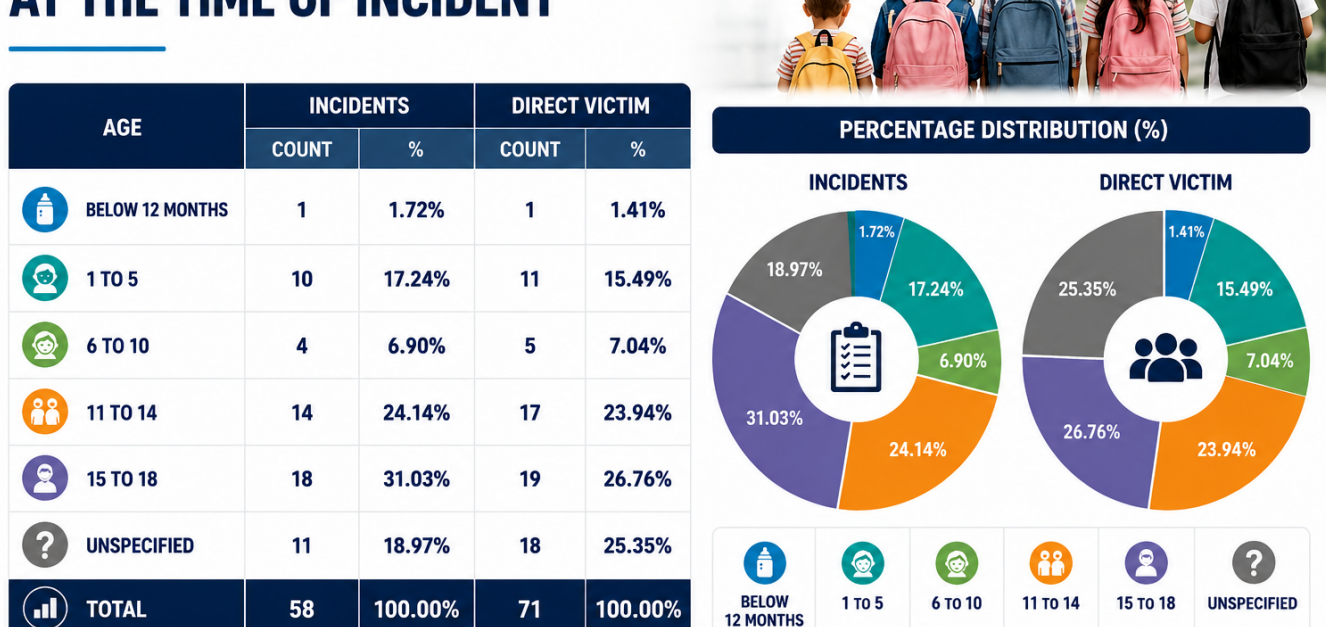
CLASSIFICATION OF VIOLENCE

Analysis of incidents by type of violence during the reporting period.



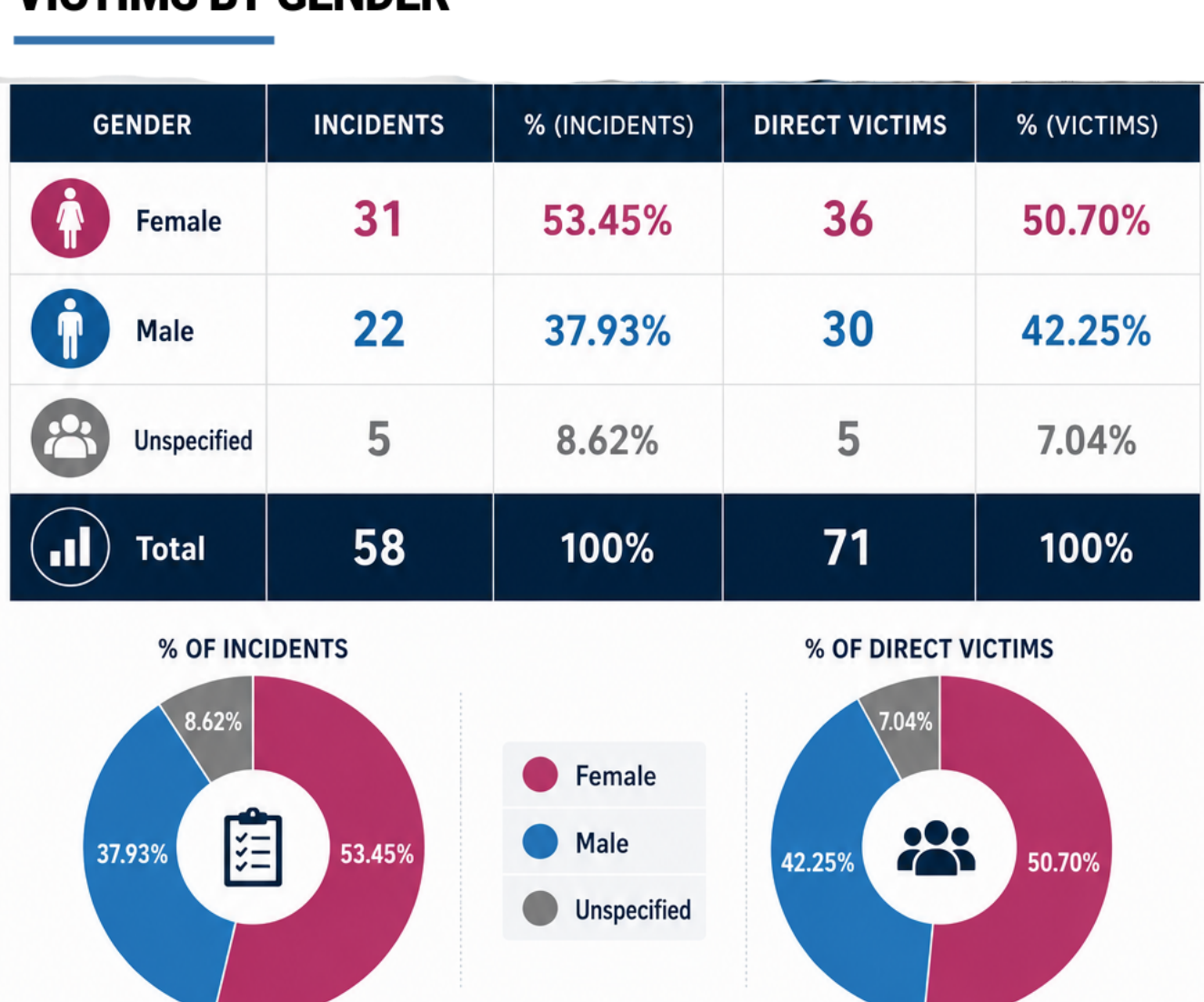
Sexual abuse was the most frequently reported form of violence, followed by neglect and physical abuse. Other reported concerns included missing children, accidents, emotional harm, and drug-related exploitation.

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF CHILDREN AT THE TIME OF INCIDENT



Children aged 15–18 years represented the largest victim group, accounting for nearly half of the identified victims. Children aged 11–14 years were the second most affected category, indicating heightened vulnerability among adolescents.

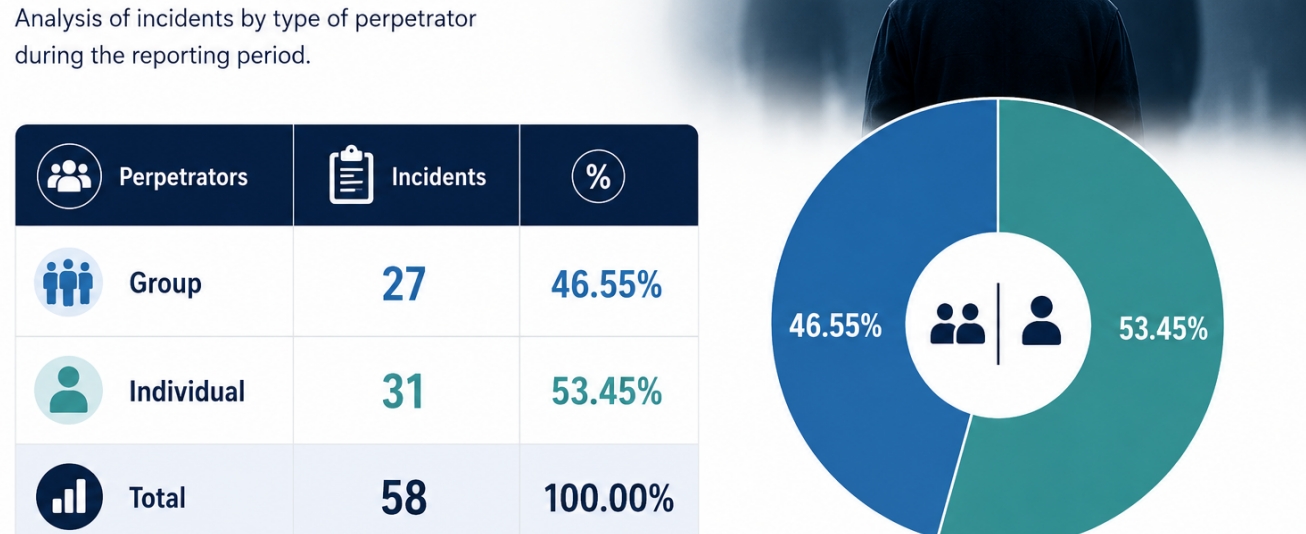
VICTIMS BY GENDER



Girls represented the majority of identified victims, particularly in sexual abuse cases. However, a considerable number of incidents did not specify gender, especially in group incidents and neglect-related cases, limiting complete profiling.

PERPATRATORS TREND

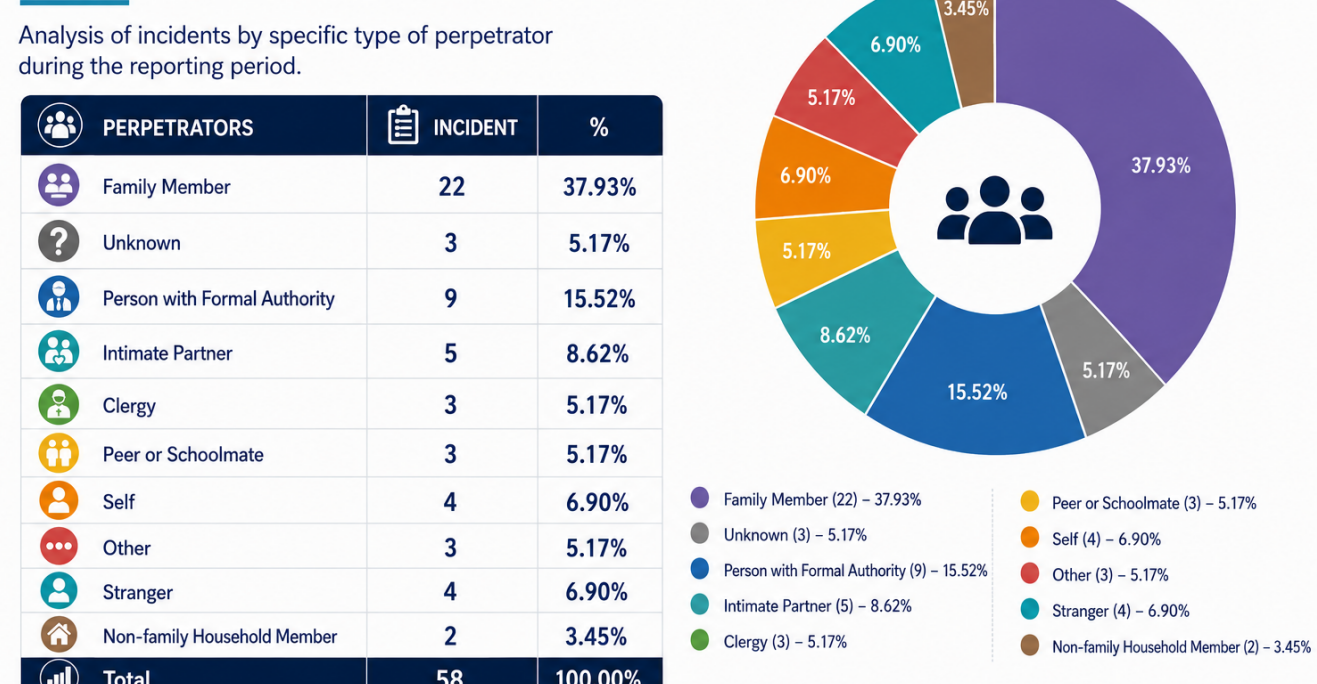
Analysis of incidents by type of perpetrator during the reporting period.



Individual incidents accounted for the majority of cases. However, several group incidents involving schools, institutions, or unsafe community environments affected multiple children at once, demonstrating broader systemic risks.

PERPATRATORS SPECIFIC

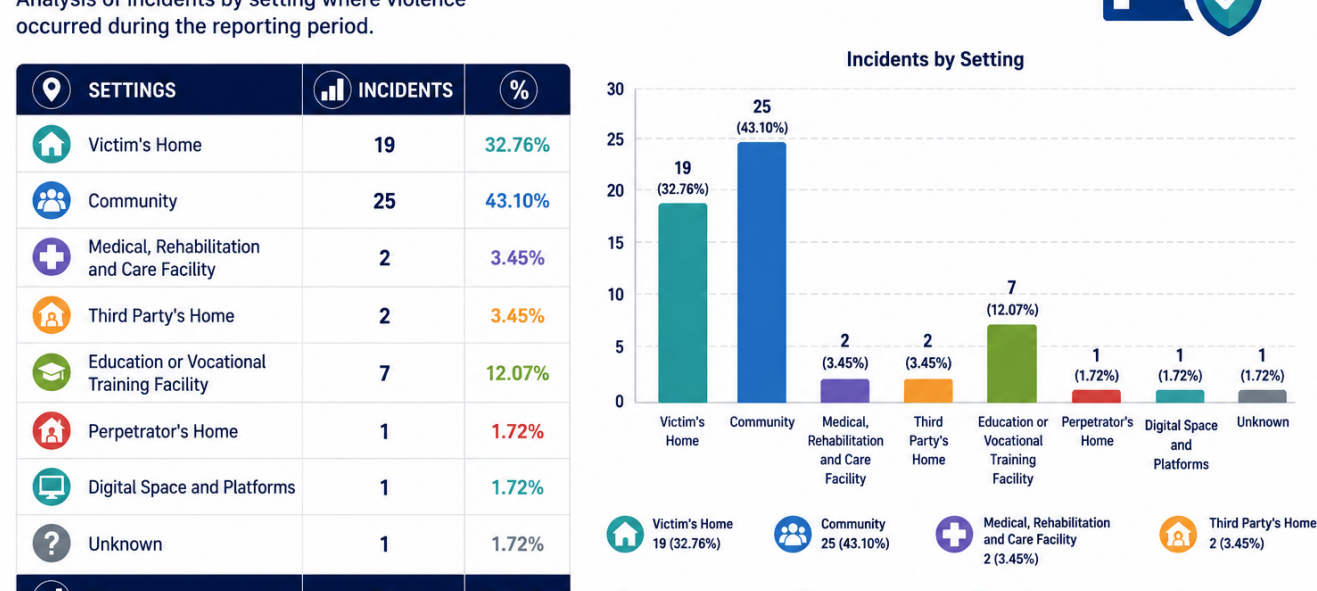
Analysis of incidents by specific type of perpetrator during the reporting period.



A significant proportion of perpetrators were known to the child, including relatives, neighbours, intimate partners, teachers, and peers. This reflects the deeply relational nature of violence against children in Sri Lanka.

SETTINGS WHERE VIOLENCE OCCURRED

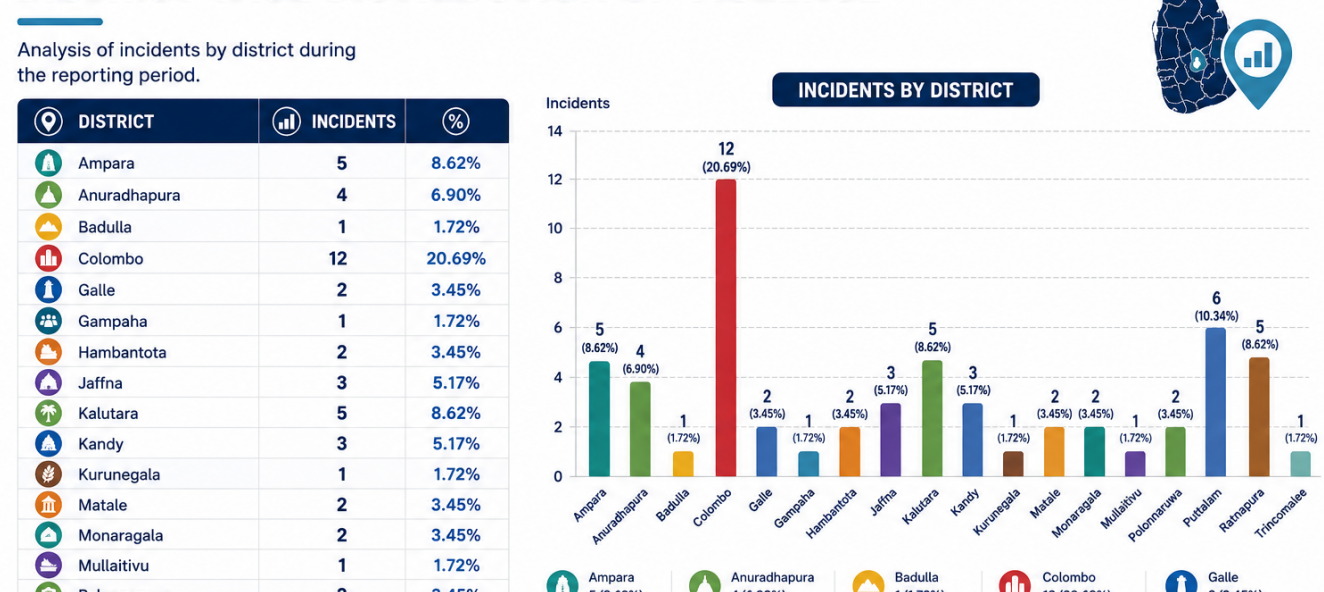
Analysis of incidents by setting where violence occurred during the reporting period.



Community settings recorded the highest number of incidents, followed closely by homes and educational settings. These findings indicate that children are most vulnerable in everyday environments where they should ordinarily feel safe.

DISTRICT-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF VIOLENCE

Analysis of incidents by district during the reporting period.



Colombo recorded the highest number of reported incidents with 12 cases (21%), followed by Puttalam with 6 cases (10%), while Ampara, Kalutara, and Ratnapura each recorded 5 cases (9%). The concentration of cases in urban and densely populated districts may reflect both higher population density and stronger media reporting coverage.