

# Domestic Violence in Albania

## National population-based Survey

2013

### Report prepared by

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Dr. Robin N. Haarr has been working for more than 15 years with organizations and government entities to conduct baseline, assessment, mapping, and evaluation research, and to develop data-driven policy and programme recommendations. She also has expertise in conduct capacity building trainings related to research and policy and program development. She has worked extensively on issues of violence against women and children, human trafficking and exploitation, victim support services and protections, child protection and social welfare systems, alternative care institutions and victim support services, access to justice and justice system responses,

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# 1

## Introduction







Domestic violence against women is a widespread global health problem that transcends boundaries, occurring in all cultures and societies around the world. Domestic violence is a form of violence against women which the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women defines as “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life” (1)

In 2002, a review of 50 population-based studies performed in 35 countries prior to 1999 indicated that between 10% and 69% of women reported they had been physically abused by an intimate partner at some point in their lives, and 10% to 30% of women reported they had experienced sexual violence by an intimate partner (2). In 2005, the World Health Organization (WHO) revealed in a multi-country study on domestic violence against women across 10 selected countries that 13% to 61% of ever-partnered women suffered physical violence by an intimate partner,

and 6% to 59% of women suffered sexual violence by an intimate partner (3). In 2013, the WHO conducted a meta-analysis of 185 studies from 86 countries and analyzed data from 155 studies in 81 countries and found that 30% to 37% percent of women who have been in a relationship have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by their intimate partners. This study also found that about 80% of this violence occurs in the home. In addition, this study found that 42% of women who had been physically or sexually abused by their intimate partners were injured, and 38% of all murders of women are committed by intimate partners (4).

Despite the similarities in women’s experiences with domestic violence across cultures and societies, understanding the specifics within a particular society is necessary for the development of legislative reform and policy development, prevention and intervention initiatives, and systems of protection and support for victims and survivors of domestic violence.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN ALBANIA

In Albania, domestic violence is a problem that negatively affects women and children, as well as families and communities (5, 6). Albanians, however, tend to consider domestic violence to be a private, family matter and a normal part of married and family life. Because domestic violence often happens behind closed doors and is not openly discussed, acknowledged, or addressed in Albanian society, victims typically suffer in silence (7).

Domestic violence emerged as an issue of concern in Albania in the 1990s when Albania was undergoing significant political and social change. In 1992, the Albanian Party of Labor, the communist party, surrendered power to a democratically-elected parliament. This significant political change opened Albania to foreign assistance, expertise, and investment as the country began the process of transitioning and reforming its economic, legal, and political structures (8). With this transition came an influx of international organizations (IOs) to support the reform and reconstruction, and an emergence of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). Some of these organizations focused on women’s issues, including violence against women and women’s human rights. Although domestic violence existed long before this period of transition, incidences of domestic violence reportedly escalated in the 1990s as families experienced significant stresses and strains related to the transition (e.g., high unemployment rates, severe housing shortages, and escalating social unrest and violent street crimes).

Domestic violence against women is not a new phenomenon in Albania; it has deep roots in the patriarchal

traditions and customs (e.g., strict gender identities and roles, patriarchal authority, adherence to an honour-and-shame system, and customs of hierarchal ordering with the family and intergenerational family control) that have long-shaped Albanian society. Forty years of communist rule in Albania (1946 – 1991) did not completely eradicate the deep-seated patriarchal attitudes, including those related to the Kanun of Lek Dukagjini which was relevant in some regions of Albania. In fact, men and women in some part of Albania still reference the Kanun to explain attitudes and opinions about gender roles and patriarchal authority, including the right of a man to ‘chastise’ his wife who is considered his property (9, 10).

Since 1991, the newly established Government of the Republic of Albania has ratified numerous important conventions, including:

- UN Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ratified on 4 October 1991)
- UN International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ratified on 4 October 1991)
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (ratified on 27 February 1992) <sup>(1)</sup>
- UN Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel,

<sup>(1)</sup> The UN CRC provides clear authorization to the State to protect children from all forms of violence in the home and family, and establishes its role as final arbiter of child welfare in the domestic arena. While the State cannot be held directly responsible for individual acts of violence against children by parents, it is required to provide a framework of law and other necessary measures to supply adequate protection, including effective deterrence.

Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (ratified on 11 May 1994)

- UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (ratified on 11 May 1994)
- European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and the related Protocol to the Convention of the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ratified on 10 February 1996)
- European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (ratified on 10 February 1996)
- European Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (ratified on 4 February 2013)

In 1998, the Government of Albania also adopted a new Constitution that advances principles of equality and non-discrimination, as well as protection and respect for human dignity, rights, and freedoms. For instance,

Article 18/2 maintains, “Everyone is equal before the law and nobody can be discriminated against on the basis of gender, race, religion, ethnicity, language, and political, religious and philosophical stands, economic, educational and social status.” Article 54/3 of the constitutions further maintains that every child has the right to be “protected from violence, maltreatment, exploitation and obligation for labor, especially under the minimal acquired age for labor, which can harm the health, moral or put the child’s life or normal development at risk.”

Since the Government of the Republic of Albania ratified these various international conventions and adopted a new constitution, IOs and NGOs have been working in cooperation with the Government to address issues of violence against women, including domestic violence against women. Collaborative efforts include developing prevention (education initiatives and public awareness raising campaigns), protection (victim support services, counseling services, and domestic violence shelters), and legal measures (domestic violence legislation that protects victims of domestic violence and sanctions batterers) to address domestic violence.

## NATIONAL STRATEGY ON GENDER EQUALITY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (NSGE-DV)

In 2006, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities developed the National Strategy on Gender Equality and Domestic Violence (NSGE-DV) for 2007-2010. The NSGE-DV for 2007-2010 and related action plan was an indication of the Government’s political commitment to provide for the achievement of gender equality through gender mainstreaming in all aspects of drafting and implementation of policies, and to improve assistance to and protection of domestic violence victims, responses of the judicial system to domestic violence cases, and prevention by attacking the root causes of domestic violence (11, 12). In the context of implementing the NSGE-DV for 2007-2010, effort was made to ensure coordination of government initiatives with the engagement of civil society organizations (13).

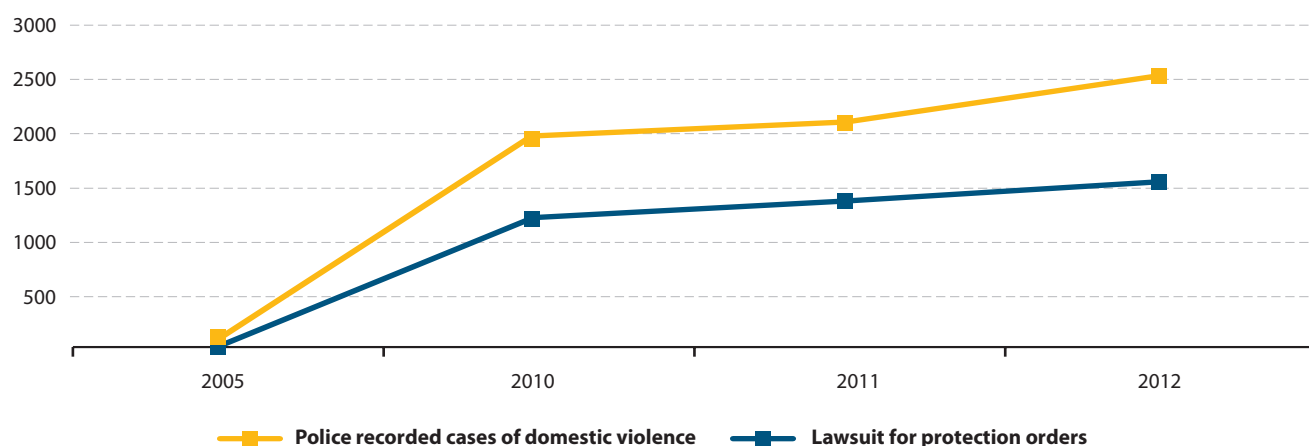
As a result of the NSGE-DV for 2007-2010, there were considerable tangible developments in terms of promoting gender equality and addressing domestic violence. These developments included (14, 15):

- Establishment of institutional mechanisms on gender equality
- Awareness-raising efforts to prevent domestic violence
- Development of coordinated community responses designed to improve the response to cases of domestic violence against women

- Improvements in legislation related to gender-based and domestic violence, including legislation for social assistance to gender-based violence victims
- Improved registration and recording of cases of gender-based and domestic violence
- Training of civil servants in the local bodies of government, health care professionals, and law enforcement and justice officials to understand and respond to gender-based and domestic violence
- Establishment of units responsible for domestic violence in relevant institutions of the Ministry of Interior
- Improvement in the enforcement of laws on gender equality and domestic violence

By 2011, domestic violence was increasingly being seen as an unacceptable social problem and a coordinate response system was being rolled out nationwide, involving governmental and nongovernmental organizations. Data obtained from the General Directorate of State Police, Department of Public Security reported that the number of domestic violence cases brought to police significantly increased from only 94 in 2005 to 2,526 in 2012. In addition, the number of lawsuits for protection orders increased from 0 in 2005 (protection orders were not available in 2005) to 1,234 in 2010 and 1,562 in 2011.

**Figure 1.1.** Recorded cases of domestic violence and lawsuits for protection orders (2005-2012)



This increase signaled growing public awareness and confidence in the legislation related to domestic violence and social assistance available to victims and survivors of domestic violence. In 2011, the first government-run shelter for domestic violence victims was also opened in Tirana (16).<sup>(2)</sup>

However, despite the significant gains in promoting gender equality and addressing domestic violence in Albania, too often cases of discrimination and domestic violence against women fail to reach the police and courts because women who are the victims of such discrimination and violence do not know their rights and too often do not have the courage to come forward and seek assistance and support (17).

In 2010, the National Strategy on Gender Equality, and against Gender-Based and Domestic Violence (NSGE GBV-DV) for 2011-2015 was developed and designed to

build upon the achievements of the NSGE-DV for 2007-2010 and the UN Joint Program on Gender Equality. The NSGE GBV-DV for 2011-2015 outlines the national strategy to continue to address gender equality and domestic violence by strengthening gender equality through gender mainstreaming into all aspects of policy drafting and implementation, and increasing awareness and strengthening legal and administrative protection and support services for victims of gender-based violence (18, 19). It also means further improving legal frameworks that address gender-based violence and toughening punishment for such acts of violence, as well as expanding training for public authorities and justice officials to improve their response to gender-based and domestic violence. Finally, it includes establishing a system of data collection and processing on gender-based and domestic violence.

<sup>(2)</sup> The 40-bed shelter is compliant with international standards and represented a first step by the government to provide domestic violence survivors and their children with shelter.

## ALBANIAN LAWS RELEVANT TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

In 2006, the Albanian parliament passed the first domestic violence law in Albania. The purpose of the law, entitled “On Measures Against Violence in Family Relations,” is to prevent and reduce domestic violence in all of its forms by appropriate legal measures, and to guarantee protection through legal measures to members of the family who are subject to domestic violence, paying particular attention to the needs of children, disable, and the elderly (20).<sup>(3)</sup>

The law “On Measures Against Violence in Family Relations” clearly defines domestic violence as “any act of violence (i.e., any act or omission of one person against another, resulting in violation of the physical, moral, psychological, sexual, social, and economic integrity) committed between persons who are or used to be in a family relation.” The law has four main objectives (21):

1. To set up a coordinated network of responsible authorities for protection, support, and rehabilitation of victims, and mitigation of consequences and prevention of domestic violence
2. To direct efforts for the setup of responsible structures and authorities at the central and local level in support of victims and prevention of domestic violence
3. To empower the judiciary in taking protection measures against domestic violence
4. To ensure/guarantee quick, affordable, and simple services are provided to victims of domestic violence by courts and other law enforcement agencies in compliance with the law.

It is important to note that this law also provides protection measures against domestic violence, including court-ordered protection orders (a decision that is issued by a court providing protection measures for the victim) and emergency protection orders (a temporary court order that is valid until the court issues a protection order). When the petition for a protection order is presented by the police or prosecutor, even if a victim (under pressure) wants to withdraw their claim(s) or drop the case, this will not have an effect on the continuation of the judicial process. And since the battered woman is the main witness, the law defines the battered woman as a “compellable witness” (22).<sup>(4)</sup>

In accordance with Article 321 of the Criminal Code, violation of a protection order or emergency protection order constitutes a criminal offense and is punishable by

imprisonment up to two years. It is important to note that issuance of a protection order or emergency protection order does not inhibit interested parties from also initiating criminal proceedings with regard to acts or omissions that are classified as criminal offenses (23).

Although the power of police to enter private premises are generally limited in Albania, the domestic violence law maintains that police can enter a private residence in a domestic violence situation if they are requested to do so by a person who apparently resides on the premises or where the officer has reason to believe that a person on the premises is under attack or imminent attack (24).

The law “On Measures Against Violence in Family Relations” also organizes six government institutions into a coordinated network of responsible authorities for protection, support, and rehabilitation of victims, mitigation of consequences, and prevention of domestic violence (25). The lead authority under this law is the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities. Other responsible authorities include the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education, and local government units. In 2011, pursuant to Article 100 of the Constitution of Albania and Article 8/8 of the law “On Measures Against Violence in Family Relations” (amended in 2010), the Council of Ministers decided on “The Set Up and Proceedings of the Coordination and Referral Mechanism of Domestic Violence Cases.” This decision established steering committees responsible for the coordination of activities of responsible authority agencies at the local level and referral of domestic violence cases, as well as outlined the responsibilities of technical inter-disciplinary teams and local coordinators for referral of cases of violence in family settings (26).

In 2010, the law “On Measures Against Violence in Family Relations” was amended. The amendments included a commitment to set up a national centre for services of social care for victims of domestic violence. It also included a focus on confidentiality of victim’s personal data and information, enhancing coordination and referral mechanisms to support and rehabilitate domestic violence victims, and enhancements to protection orders (27).

In addition to the law “On Measures Against Violence in Family Relations” specific provisions that address crimes related to domestic violence have been added to the Criminal Code of the Republic of Albania following amendments of 2012 and 2013. These Criminal Codes include, but are not limited to:

- Article 130/a: Domestic violence, including battery, threat and intentional injuries, punishable by imprisonment up to five years.

<sup>(3)</sup> Law no. 9669, dated 18 December 2006.

<sup>(4)</sup> The number of individuals who turned to the court because of violence and the number of protection orders issued by the courts reportedly increased during the period of the NSGE-DV for 2007-2010 (courts in large cities and smaller town can grant protection orders); however, the execution structures find it hard to execute protective orders issued by the courts.

- Article 121/a: Stalking a threat or “repeated actions” intended to cause a continuous and grave sense of anxiety or fear for a person’s security, the security of their relatives or the security of a person with whom they are related sentimentally, or intended to force them to change their lifestyle. Such threats or harassment are punishable by imprisonment from 6 months to 4 years. When this offence is committed by a former spouse/cohabitant the punishment increases by one-third. When this offence is committed towards a minor, a pregnant woman, or a person unable to defend themselves, by a person wearing a mask or is accompanied by possession or use of weapons the punishment increases by half.
- Article 124: Physical and psychological maltreatment of minors by their family members or caretakers is punishable by a term of three months to two years of imprisonment and may also result in loss of parental responsibility.
- The recent amendments have specifically added as aggravating circumstances: a) when the offence is committed in violation of protection orders; b) when the offence is committed in abuse of family and cohabitation relationships; c) when the offence is committed based on motives related to gender, gender identity, etc. In the latter case no opportunity to claim mitigating circumstances is provided by Criminal Law.
- Under the most recent changes the other criminal offences, such as murder, manslaughter, grave and light injuries provide for increased sanctions when the crimes have been committed against a partner, spouse or family member.
- • with mature women. This article was amended in 2012/2013 to include sexual intercourse between spouses/cohabitants without the consent of one of them, and is punishable by imprisonment up to 3 years.
- Article 106: Sexual or homosexual intercourse with extended family members or under custody (commission of sexual or homosexual intercourse between a parent and child, brother and sister, between brothers, between other extended family members, or with person who are in custody or adoption relationships is punishable up to 7 years of imprisonment).
- Other sexual crimes committed in the presence of minors is also punishable.

Other crimes against family that continue to be part of the Criminal Code, include:

- Article 124: Abandonment of minor children (abandonment of a child under 16 years of age by a parent or by a person compelled to guard over him, is punishable by fine or up to 3 years imprisonment; when serious harm to the health or death of the child has resulted, it is punishable by 3 to 10 years imprisonment). This article was amended in 2012/2013 to include physical and psychological maltreatment of a minor by parents, siblings, grandparents, legal guardians, or any other person that is tasked with caring for the minor, and it is punishable from 3 months to 2 years.
- Article 125: Denial of support (denial of necessary support for the living of children, parents or spouse, from the person who is obliged, through a court-order, to provide, constitute criminal contravention and is punishable by fine or up to one year imprisonment).

In addition to the amendments to the Criminal Code identified above, which served to criminalize specific acts of gender-based and domestic violence, and establish punishment for such crimes, the Criminal Code was also amended to recognize threat or “repeated actions” intended to cause a continuous and grave sense of anxiety or fear for a person’s security, the security of their relatives or the security of a person with whom they are related sentimentally, or intended to force them to change their lifestyle. Such threats or harassment are punishable by imprisonment from 6 months to 4 years. When this offence is committed by a former spouse/cohabitant the punishment increases by one-third. When this offence is committed towards a minor, a pregnant woman, or a person unable to defend themselves, by a person wearing a mask or is accompanied by possession or use of weapons the punishment increases by half.

The Family Code of Albania also includes several articles relevant to domestic violence against a spouse and child(ren). The Family Code addresses parental obligations and child rights in the family life, as well as child abuse and neglect. For instance, Article 62 provides that “the abuser spouse may be removed from the conjugal domicile.” This article, however, has no other procedural provisions.

Finally, the Law “On Reproductive Health” stipulates that every woman shall decide on her own free will and without any form of discrimination, pressure, or violence all issues related to her own sexuality, and sexual and reproductive health.<sup>(5)</sup>

<sup>(5)</sup> Law no.8876, dated 4 April 2002.



## 2007 NATIONAL POPULATION-BASED SURVEY ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN ALBANIA<sup>(6)</sup>

In 2007, the first national population-based survey on domestic violence was undertaken in Albania by the National Institute for Statistics for the Republic of Albania (INSTAT). The purpose of the 2007 national-population based survey on domestic violence was to generate reliable data and findings about the nature and extent of domestic violence in Albania that could be used to inform the development of effective prevention, protection, and legal measures and policies to address domestic violence and support victims and survivors of domestic violence (28).

The 2007 survey resulted in many interesting and significant findings, some of which are highlighted in this section; however, refer to the full report for all of the findings (20). One of the main findings of the 2007 national population-based survey on domestic violence was that at least 56.0% of women between 15 and 49 years of age had experienced domestic violence in their marriage/intimate relationships. More specifically, 50.6% of women experienced emotional violence, 39.1% experienced psychological violence, 31.2% experienced physical violence, and 12.7% experienced sexual violence in their marriage/intimate relationships. Battered women did not typically experience only one type of violence in their marriage/intimate relationships, but experienced multiple types of violence simultaneously (29).

Depending upon the type of domestic violence experienced by women there were some significant differences based upon women's level of education, work status, age grouping, and marital status. More specifically, women with a university education were significantly less likely to experience domestic violence in their marriage/intimate relationships, compared to women with a secondary education, primary education, or basic education or less. Women with a basic education or less were mostly likely to experience physical violence by their husbands/intimate partners. In terms of work status, women who did not work outside of the home were significantly more likely to experience domestic violence in their marriage/intimate relationships, compared to women who worked outside of the home. In terms of urban and rural differences, women in rural areas were more likely to experience domestic violence compared to women in urban areas (30).

The 2007 survey also revealed that as many as half of the women who experienced domestic violence reported the violence began within the 1st year of marriage/living together. Another one-third reported the domestic violence began in the 2nd or 3rd years of marriage/living together. Thus, many of the women surveyed had lived

with violence in their marriage and family for 10 to 30 years (31).

The 2007 survey also revealed that battered women often experience domestic violence-related injuries of varying degrees of severity. In particular, 48.3% of battered women suffered cuts, bruises, and/or aches; 18.1% experienced eye injuries, burns, sprains, and/or dislocations; 5.4% experienced a loss of consciousness; and 1% experienced deep wounds, broken bones, broken teeth, and/or serious injuries. The majority of women who suffered domestic violence-related injuries were unable to work for a period of one to 15 days because of their injuries (32).

Another important finding from this 2007 survey was that women whose husbands/intimate partners drank alcohol were nearly two to three times more likely to experience domestic violence in their marriage/intimate relationships, compared to women whose husbands/partners did not drink alcohol. Battered women whose husbands/partners drank alcohol were also significantly more likely to experience domestic violence-related injuries (33).

Overall, battered women are often reluctant to speak out about domestic violence. In fact, the findings from the 2007 survey revealed that only 16% to 28% of battered women sought help for the violence in their marriages/intimate relationships. Of those women who did seek help, nearly 91% sought help from their own family or other relatives, and very few women went outside of the family for help with the violence in their lives (34).

The 2007 survey revealed that battered women rarely seek help from victim support services or legal officials for problems of domestic violence. The reasons are numerous, including: lack of available services to female victims of domestic violence, particularly in rural areas; family and friends advise many women that they should not seek assistance from outside government agencies or community services; many women blame themselves for their own victimization; and many women fear that if they speak out or seek help they will be blamed for their own victimization (35).

It is not just current or former husbands/partners that commit acts of domestic violence against women. In fact, the 2007 survey revealed that other family members (e.g., parents, brothers, sisters, in-laws, and other relatives) will also commit acts of physical violence against women. In particular, since 15 years of age, 13.8% of women had been physically abused by their mother/step-mother, 13.4% have been physically abused by their father/step-father, and 9.7% by a sister/brother. Surprisingly, only 2% of women reported being physically abused by a mother-or father-in-law (36).

Finally, children are often the forgotten victims of domestic

<sup>(6)</sup> The report of the first National Population-Based Survey on Domestic Violence in Albania was published in 2009, but given the data was collected in 2007 and reflected the situation at that time, we will refer to it as the 2007 National Population-Based Survey throughout this report.

violence, despite the fact that they often witness acts of domestic violence or are aware when it occurs because they hear the yelling and arguments, see the injuries, and see the damage to property. Children that grow up in violent households are often the indirect and/or direct victims of domestic violence, as well as are at increased risk of child abuse and neglect. Among the women surveyed in 2007, only 7.9% of women felt the violence in their home had a negative influence on their children; however, 51% of women did not answer this question. In comparison, among the children surveyed, 57.7% reported being physically battered by a family member (45.1% of children reported it was their mother/step-mother that physically hurt them, 29.3% reported their father/step-father, 24.4% reported their sister/brother, 3.6% reported their grandparents, and 1.4% report other family members). Because mothers/step-mothers spend more time engaged in childrearing, it is not surprising that mothers/step-mothers were more often identified by children as the person who physically hurt them (37).

Findings from the 2007 survey revealed that although the majority of children in urban and rural areas reported being physically battered by a family member, children living in rural areas (67.5%) were significantly more likely to be physically battered by a family member than children living in urban areas (51.2%). Also, although a significant proportion of boys and girls experienced physical violence in the home, boys (66.7%) were significantly more likely than girls (51.1%) to experience physical violence in the home. Boys (52.0%) were also significantly more likely than girls (38.2%) to be physically abused by their father/step-father; whereas, girls (42.4%) were more likely than boys (34.7%) to be physically abused by their sister/brother (38).

Finally, the 2007 survey revealed that 53.3% of children that were physically abused reported seeking help from someone in an effort to stop their abuser. The majority of children sought help from a family member; rarely did a child tell someone outside of their immediate family about the abuse or violence (39).

## WHY EMBARK ON A 2ND NATIONAL POPULATION-BASED SURVEY ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN ALBANIA?

The 2007 national population-based survey on domestic violence was the first attempt to measure the nature and extent of domestic violence against women and children in Albania. Beyond this survey, systematic research on domestic violence in Albania remains extremely limited. Moreover, there is no clear picture of the changing situation of domestic violence in Albania, including increases or decreases in the extent of domestic violence that may be related to initiatives that have been implemented over the past 5 years to prevent and respond to domestic violence, criminalize acts of gender-based and domestic violence and punish perpetrators, and support victims and survivors of gender-based and domestic violence.

The goal of the 2013 national population-based survey on domestic violence was to use a similar methodology and data collection tools as the 2007 survey and collect reliable data on the nature and extent of domestic violence against women, and help-seeking behaviors of battered women. Such a time series data set enables the Government of Albania, along with IOs and NGOs, to better understand domestic violence and begin to monitor trends in domestic violence against women over time, as well as to explore the impact of recently developed prevention, intervention, and protection on the nature and extent of domestic violence. Data and findings from this study can also serve

to inform legislative reforms and policy development, shape prevention and interventions efforts, and improve protection and support for women and children that are victims and survivors of domestic violence.

This research project involved the collaboration of UNDP and the National Institute of Statistics of Albania (INSTAT), along with national and international experts.

At the national level, INSTAT was the lead research organization. According to the Law "On Official Statistics," INSTAT is responsible for publishing data and making sure that data collection instruments that are developed are reliable, valid, and technically appropriate. In addition, INSTAT is responsible for defining and applying the right research methodology and sampling procedures, and for making sure that appropriate data processing programs and updated relevant program syntaxes are used to ensure that data analysis is reliable, unbiased, objective, detailed, and interpretable. Since 2004, INSTAT has also systematically published national gender-based data for stakeholders to assist them in the process of developing gender sensitive state policies.

<sup>(7)</sup> Law no. 9180, dated 2 march 2004

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# 2

## Research design





Conducting survey research on domestic violence is challenging because domestic violence typically happens behind closed doors and victims of domestic violence – typically women and children – are often reluctant or afraid to report instances of domestic violence out of fear of retaliation from their abuser(s) or negative reactions from family and friends. Too often women who speak out or seek help for domestic violence are blamed for their own victimization (1).

Two other major challenges facing researchers who study domestic violence is to develop clear operational definitions of the different types of domestic violence, and tools for measuring the nature and prevalence of each of these types of domestic violence (2).

Despite the challenges of conducting survey research on domestic violence, effort was taken to conduct a national population-based survey of domestic violence in Albania. This was the second national population-based survey of domestic violence in Albania; the first national population-based survey was conducted in 2007 (3). The 2007 national population-based survey was designed specifically to measure the nature and extent of domestic violence against women and children in Albania, as well as the help-seeking behaviors of women and children experiencing domestic violence (4). This second, 2013 national population-based survey on domestic violence

was conducted using a similar methodology and data collection tools as the 2007 survey. This 2013 survey serves to gather reliable time series data on the nature and extent of domestic violence against women in Albania, and women's help-seeking behaviors. It also allows us to compare the nature and extent of domestic violence between urban and rural areas and regions, and based upon age group, level of education, and work status.

This 2013 national population-based survey also serves to help the government to better understand domestic violence and begin to monitor trends in domestic violence against women over time, and to explore the impact of recently developed prevention, intervention, and protection initiatives on the nature and extent of domestic violence, and women's help seeking behaviors. Data and findings from this study can also serve to inform legislative reforms and policy development, shape prevention and intervention efforts, and improve protection and support for women and children that are victims and survivors of domestic violence.

Data-driven knowledge and understanding of this type will assist governmental institutions, international organizations, and local NGOs in their efforts to develop and/or reform necessary prevention, protection, and legal measures and policies related to domestic violence and victim support.

## DEFINITIONS

The United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women defines domestic violence as one form of violence against women which is “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or

arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life” (5). The UN Secretary General's Study on Violence Against Children also revealed that domestic violence is a problem of global proportions that negatively affects and involves children less than 18 years of age (6).

### Box 2.1. Types of domestic violence

Psychological violence – includes a range of behaviors that aim to criticize and humiliate, control and isolate, intimidate and cause fear, and attack a woman's character and undermine her sense of self-worth, self-esteem, and safety. The survey was developed to measure four different types of psychological violence:

- Verbal abuse - to criticize, insult, humiliate, and/or talk in a manner that attacks a woman's character and undermines herself of self-worth and self-esteem.
- Psychological threats – to intimidate and cause fear in a woman by threatening to physically harm her and/or to hurt others that are close to her, and/or to destroy something important to her to undermine her sense of safety.
- Controlling behaviors – to ignore, to control and isolate, and to be jealous and accusatory of a woman for being unfaithful to undermine a woman's sense of self-worth and self-esteem.
- Economic abuse – to control the household money, including women's wages if they work outside of the home.

Physical violence – is the use of physical force against someone in a way that harms, injures, or endangers that person. Physical violence includes a broad range of behaviors such as scratching, pushing, shoving, grabbing, biting, choking, pinching, poking, hair-pulling, arm twisting, slapping, grabbing, hitting, beating, kicking, choking, pulling hair, burning, stabbing, and strangling. Physical violence can include the use of one's physical size and strength, restraints, and/or weapons (e.g., gun, knife, or other object) to gain and maintain control over another person. The survey was developed to measure four different types of physical violence that based upon the severity and likelihood of causing physical injuries.

- Moderate physical violence – includes one or more of the following physical acts: to be kicked, thrown, pushed, dragged, slapped, and/or have your hair pulled.
- Severe physical violence – includes one or more of the following physical acts: to be hit, beat, burned on purpose, choked, suffocated, and/or threatened with a weapon or to have a weapon used against you.
- Physical violence with a weapon – includes threatening and/or hitting with a weapon or other object that can cause physical injuries.
- Physical violence with aggravated injuries – includes physical violence that causes bodily injury to another person.

Sexual violence – includes forcing, coercing, or attempting to coerce any sexual contact or behavior without consent. Sexual violence includes, but is not limited to marital rape, attacks on sexual parts of the body, forcing sex after physical violence has occurred, or treating one in a sexually demeaning manner. Sexual violence is committed by husbands/intimate partners and family members within the context of marriage, dating relationships, and family.

For purposes of this study, domestic violence refers to “a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one intimate partner or family member to gain and maintain power and control over another intimate partner or family member.” Domestic violence includes psychological, physical, and sexual violence that aims to humiliate, manipulate, intimidate, isolate, frighten, terrorize, threaten, and harm or injure an intimate partner

or person in the family (7).

Worldwide researchers have used various criteria to define domestic violence; however, a common method has been to classify the violence according to the type of acts. Box 2.1 identifies and defines each of the types of domestic violence considered in this study.

## MEASURING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The national survey was developed to measure the nature and extent of the three different types of domestic violence defined in Box 2.1.

Definitions of each of these types of domestic violence were operationalized in the survey using a range of behavior-specific questions related to each type of violence. The study did not attempt to measure an exhaustive list of acts

of violence, but instead asked a number of questions about specific acts that commonly occur in violent marriages and families. The acts used to define each of the three different types of domestic violence against women – psychological violence, physical violence, and sexual violence – measured in the survey are summarized in Box 2.2.

## DEVELOPMENT OF THE SURVEY

In 2007, INSTAT initially developed the National Survey on Domestic Violence (NSDV) after an extensive review of international literature on domestic violence and a review of existing survey instruments used in the United States, Europe, and Africa.<sup>(8)</sup> At the time, INSTAT also reviewed data published by the Ministry of Interior for the period of 2004 to 2007, and data and information on domestic violence published by member NGOs of the Network Against Gender-Based Violence and Human Trafficking.<sup>(9)</sup> In addition, INSTAT reviewed the 1996 Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights publication entitled, *Domestic Violence in Albania*. The 2007 NSDV included 10 separate modules, including two modules designed to gather data about the presence and use of weapons in the home, and two modules designed to gather data from children about their experiences with domestic violence. The survey also

focused on interviewing one woman in the household between 15 and 49 years of age about their experiences with domestic violence.

In 2013, INSTAT reviewed the 2007 NSDV with technical support from the UNDP international consultant and made revisions to survey questions and wording to improve the measurement of women's experiences with domestic violence in marriage and intimate relationships. In addition, the four modules designed to gather data about the presence and use of weapons in the home and children's experiences with domestic violence were eliminated. The 2013 NSDV was revised to focus on interviewing one woman in the household between 18 and 55 years of age about their experiences with domestic violence.

## SURVEY STRUCTURE

The 2013 NSDV consisted of five separate modules:

- Module 1: Information Module (MODHI)
- Module 2: Module of Household Structure (MODHL)
- Module 3: Module of Socio-Economic Characteristics (MODSE)
- Module 4: Marriage Module (MODMA)
- Module 5: Module of Domestic Violence toward Women (MODDV)

Module 1 consisted of a series of 9 close-ended questions including interviewer and interviewee information (i.e., date of the interview, interview results, identification codes for interviewed women and children, and total number of family members).

Module 2 consisted of a series of close-ended questions that allowed the interviewer to register all family members that reside in the household, including each family members' relationship to the head of household, sex, age, year of birth, marital status, religion, level of education, and work status.

Module 3 consisted of a series of close-ended questions that allowed the interviewer to record the living conditions of the household, including home ownership, number of rooms in the house, presence of various household appliances, main source of drinking water, and availability of electricity.

Module 4 consisted of a series of 18 close-ended questions about marriage and sexual behaviors to be completed by one woman in the household between 18 and 55 years of age. The questions were developed to measure: women's history of marriage or living with a man; husband's age; year and age when started living with their first husband or intimate partner; sexual relations; use of birth control; husbands/partner's refusal of contraceptive use; forced sexual relations with husband/partner; risk of HIV or

<sup>(8)</sup> The DHS survey documents and questionnaires, specifically the Module on Domestic Violence, were the main source.

<sup>(9)</sup> The Network Against Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence was established in 1998 and includes Refleksione, the Counseling Center for Women and Girls, the Center for Legal Civic Initiatives, the Gender Alliance for Development Center, and the Shelter for Women and Girls.

### Box 2.2. Types of domestic violence against women by a husband/partner

Psychological abuse (16 scale items,  $\alpha = .879$ )

- ◆ Verbal abuse (3 scale items,  $\alpha = .694$ )
  - Shout at you and insult you
  - Say or do something to humiliate you in front of others
  - To talk to you in a manner that makes you feel bad or worthless
- ◆ Psychological threats (3 scale items,  $\alpha = .713$ )
  - Threatens to hurt or harm you or someone close to you
  - Makes threat to physically harm you
  - Destroys/destroyed something that was important to you
- ◆ Controlling behaviors (9 scale items,  $\alpha = .783$ )
  - My husband is (was) jealous or angry if you talk to other men
  - My husband accuses me of being unfaithful
  - My husband does not permit me to meet my female friends
  - My husband limits my contact with my family
  - My husband insists/insisted on knowing where I am at all times
  - My husband doubts/doubted me for infidelity
  - Ignored/ignores me
  - Makes/made decisions that should have been mine to make
  - Said things like, "If I can't have you then no one can"
- ◆ Economic abuse (1 scale item)
  - My husband does not give me cash

Physical violence (12 scale items,  $\alpha = .849$ )

- ◆ Moderate physical violence (5 scale items,  $\alpha = .718$ )
  - To throw or push you
  - To pull your hair
  - To kick you
  - To drag you
  - Slapped you
- ◆ Severe physical violence (5 scale items,  $\alpha = .749$ )
  - To beat you
  - Tried to burn you on purpose
  - Tried to choke you
  - Slammed you against something
  - Tried to hurt you by choking or suffocating you
  - Threaten you with a knife or other weapon
  - To hit you with some object or something else that could hurt you
- ◆ Physical violence with a weapon (2 scale items,  $\alpha = .639$ )
  - Threaten you with a knife or other weapon
  - To hit you with some object or something else that could hurt you
- ◆ Physical violence with aggravated injuries (2 scale items,  $\alpha = .808$ )
  - Ever experienced physical violence
  - Ever experienced domestic violence-related injuries

Sexual violence (2 scale items,  $\alpha = .728$ )

- ◆ Forces you to perform sexual intercourse when you do not want
- ◆ Forces you to perform humiliating sexual acts which you didn't want

sexually transmitted diseases; and testing or previous experience with sexually transmitted diseases.

Module 5 consisted of 35 close-ended questions about women's self-reported experiences with domestic violence to be completed by one woman in the household between 18 and 55 years of age. The questions were designed to measure women's experiences with psychological, physical, and sexual violence from their husbands/intimate partners; when the abuse first happened; injuries experienced as a result of abuse; physical abuse during pregnancy; husband's alcohol use; other abusers in the family; help-seeking behaviors; and perceived influence of the violence on one's child(ren).

## MAXIMIZING DISCLOSURE

From the outset of the survey it was recognized that domestic violence is a highly sensitive issue and that women would most likely be reluctant to disclose their experiences with domestic violence. For these reasons, attempts were made to design the survey to ensure that women would feel comfortable and able to disclose any experiences of violence in their marriage/intimate relationship. In particular, the survey was structured so that early sections collected information on less sensitive issues (e.g., demographics and housing amenities), and more sensitive issues (e.g., self-reporting domestic violence

Module 5 also focused on obtaining reliable estimates of women's experiences with different types of domestic violence, including lifetime experiences since the age of 15 years, and current experiences (during the 12 months prior to the interview) with domestic violence, and the frequency of such violence.

On average, it took 40 minutes for interviewers to conduct the survey with respondents in a face-to-face setting. The survey was developed in CPro software and then loaded onto mini-laptops, which were then used in the field to administer the survey and collect and record data.

by husbands/partners and other family members) were explored later in the survey. In addition, attention was given to the wording of survey directions.

Respondents were forewarned about the focus of the survey and the sensitive nature of questions included in the survey; however, the focus of the survey was not made known to other members of the household. Respondents were also informed that their responses would remain confidential.

## SAMPLE DESIGN

The study consisted of a cross-sectional population-based household survey conducted at a national level across each of the 12 prefectures in Albania. A stratified sample designed was used for selecting the women for sampling. The primary sampling units (PSUs) selected at the first stage are the enumeration areas (EAs), which are small operational areas defined on maps for the 2011 Census enumeration. SAS software was used at this stage to systematically select the sample of EAs with probability proportion to size (PPS) within each prefecture. The second stage of selection was the household lists from the selected EAs. The list of households enumerated in the 2011 Census for each sample EA was used as the sampling frame for selecting a sample of 8 households in each sample EA, using random systematic sampling with equal probability.

The third stage of selection was women, one for each household that was selected in the second stage. Based upon pre-established criteria a woman was considered eligible to be surveyed if she was between 18 and 55 years

of age and regularly lived in the household. For households with one woman presented, that woman was selected for interview (related to Module 2). For households with more than one woman present, SAS software was used to random systematic sampling with equal probability.

The goal was to generate a sample of households that would allow for the production of statistically reliable estimates of the nature and extent of domestic violence against women at the national level, and would allow for urban versus rural comparisons. It is important note that INSTAT recognizes that the sample size of a particular survey is determined by the accuracy required for the national level estimates, as well influenced by cost, resource, and operational constraints. The sample size also is influenced by logistical issues related to the organization and size of the teams, and the workload for survey administration and data collection. Considering all of these factors, calculations suggested that a sample size of 3,600 households would give sufficient power to meet the study objectives.

## INTERVIEWERS

Prior to administering the survey, INSTAT carefully selected and trained an 81 person research team – 20 regional supervisors and 61 interviewers – to administer the survey.<sup>(10)</sup> Each member of the research team was trained over a period of five days in May 2013. The training covered the purpose and content of the survey, key definitions, issues of domestic violence against women, sampling and survey procedures, how to administer the survey in a face-to-face setting, how to help interviewees correctly recall violent events,<sup>(11)</sup> and ethical and safety considerations for interviewing battered women and children, and how to use the CSPro software and mini-laptops. Research team members were also provided with ongoing support throughout the course of the study.

The safety of respondents and the research team was of paramount importance; therefore, ethical considerations for the survey outlined by the World Health Organization were incorporated into the survey sample design, administration procedures, and training for interviewers (7). Interviewers were instructed on the importance of ensuring confidentiality and privacy of respondents in order to protect the safety of the respondents and improve the quality of data. In order to protect confidentiality, interviewers were trained to interview respondents in private.

The INSTAT project coordinator and team supervisors regularly monitored the performance of interviewers and the quality of data being collected.

## SURVEY ADMINISTRATION IN THE FIELD

The survey was administered in the field in the last week of May and ended in the first week of July 2013. Surveys were administered in a face-to-face setting in the homes

of respondents. Respondents were not paid to participate in the interview.

## DATA PROCESSING AND ANALYSIS

The data entry and processing procedures were rigorous and carefully supervised by INSTAT. A standardized approach to coding was adopted and the data entry program was developed in CSPro software. This helped to ensure that the survey was properly administered and recorded in the field. Upon completion of data collection, all data was entered into mini-laptops in the field using the CSPro Software.

Data processing and cleaning began in July 2013 and was completed in August 2013. The clean database was used for data analysis using SPSS. It is important to note that INSTAT has professional standards for data processing and interpretation that have been applied in this national survey on domestic violence.

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<sup>(8)</sup> INSTAT had a qualified team of data collectors or interviewers, so most of the interviewers utilized in this research project were employed by INSTAT.

<sup>(9)</sup> Interviewers were trained to help interviewees correctly recall violent events by juxtaposing them around other big events (e.g., birth of a child, important family event or holiday, or moving to a new place).



# 3

## Sample demographics





This chapter includes demographic data on the households and women between 18 and 55 years of age who were selected to complete the survey.

## SAMPLE

The final sample included 3,589 households and women between 18 and 55 years of age. As explained in Chapter 2, the data was weighted by INSTAT based upon the proportion of women between 18 and 55 years of age in

the total population; thus, the sample size (N), frequencies (n), and percentages (%) reported in the tables throughout this report are based upon weighted data.

## HOUSEHOLD DEMOGRAPHICS

Table 3.1 reveals household data. Households were surveyed in each of the 12 prefectures in Albania. Of the households surveyed, 54.7% were urban and 45.3% rural. These proportions are in keeping with 2011 census data that estimates 53.5% of the population lives in urban areas and 46.5% in rural areas.

Table 3.1 also reveals the majority of households surveyed were Muslim (78.4%); only 9.7% were Catholic and 8.2% Orthodox.

**Table 3.1.** Household demographics

	N=739,758*	
	n	%
<b>Prefecture</b>		
Berat	36 531	4,9
Diber	34 306	4,6
Durres	71 245	9,6
Elbasan	77 279	10,4
Fier	79 598	10,8
Gjirokastr	17 915	2,4
Korce	56 361	7,6
Kukes	21 773	2,9
Lezhe	35 389	4,8
Shkoder	56 318	7,6
Tirane	207 252	28,0
Vlore	45 791	6,2
<b>Residence</b>		
Urban	40 986	54,7
Rural	334 772	45,3
<b>Religion</b>		
Muslim	580 088	78,4
Orthodox	60 626	8,2
Catholic	71 814	9,7
Bectashi	10 159	1,4
Other	1 633	0,2
No religion	15 438	2,1

\* Weighted data for a sample of 3,589 households

## WOMEN'S DEMOGRAPHICS

Table 3.2 reveals demographic characteristics of the full sample of 3,589 women surveyed (data in the table is weighted data). Women who were surveyed ranged in age from 18 to 55 years with an average age of 39.6 years. Women were asked their actual age in years then age groupings were created during the analysis. Table 3.2 reveals there was an underrepresentation of women in the age group 18-24 years of age (8.4%), compared to women in the age groups 25-34 years (23.8%), 35-44 years (31.3%), and 45-55 years (36.5%).

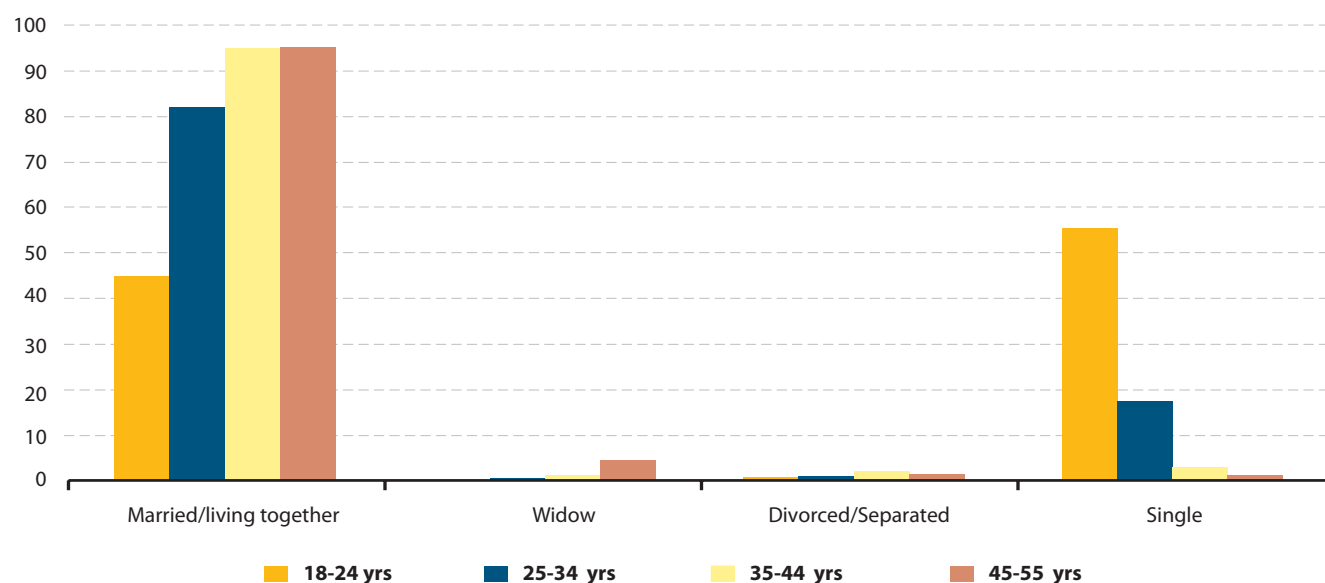
Most women in the sample were currently married/living together (86.0%); whereas, only 2.4% of women were widowed and 1.8% divorced/separated. In addition, only 9.9% of women surveyed were single, of which .1% were living with a boyfriend. Figure 3.1 reveals that women 18-24 years (53.8%) were significantly more likely to be single, compared to women 25-34 years of age (17.0%), 35-44 years of age (3.0%), and 45-55 years of age (1.1%); see Appendix Table 1).

**Table 3.2.** Women's demographics

	N=739 758*	
	n	%
<b>Age</b>		
18-24 years	61 771	8.4
25-34 years	176 123	23.8
35-44 years	231 538	31.3
45-55 years	270 326	36.5
<b>Marital status</b>		
Married/living together	636 003	86.0
Widow	17 401	2.4
Divorced/Separated	13 337	1.8
Single	73 017	9.9
<b>Level of education</b>		
Basic or less (4 years)	31 677	4.3
Primary (8 years)	288 949	39.1
Secondary/vocational	300 004	40.6
University/post-university	110 123	14.9
<b>Work status</b>		
Works outside the home	321 132	43.4
On maternity leave	6 168	0.8
Does not work outside of the home	412 458	55.8

\* Weighted data for a sample of 3,589 women

**Figure 3.1.** Women's marital status by age group

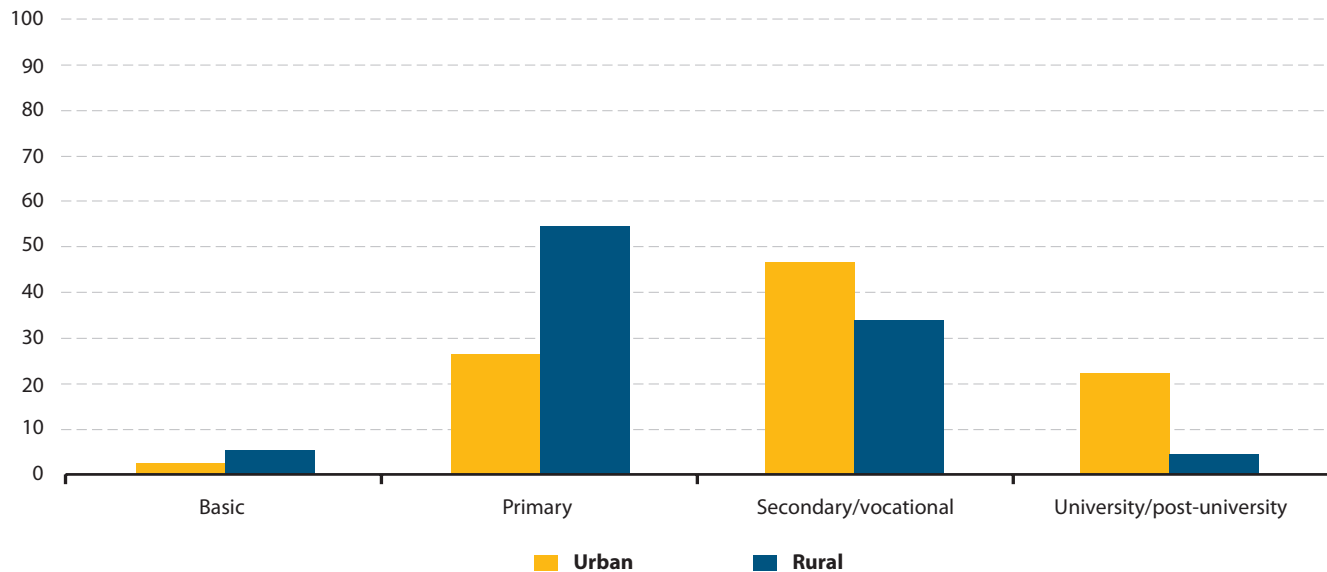


Note: Percentages are based on valid percents and do not reflect missing cases.

Table 3.2 also reveals that most women had either a primary education (39.1%) or secondary/vocational education (40.6%); only 14.9% of women had a university or post-university education (14.9%). In addition, only 4.3% of women had a basic education or less. Figure 3.2 reveals that women in urban areas were significantly more likely to have a secondary/vocational education (46.9%) or university/post-university education (23.2%), compared

to women in rural areas (33.9% and 5.2% respectively). In comparison, women in rural areas were significantly more likely to have only a primary education (55.0%), compared to women in urban areas (26.9%). Women in rural areas were also slightly more likely to have only a basic education or less (5.9%), compared to women in urban areas (3.0%; see Appendix Table 2).

**Figure 3.2.** Level of education by urban vs. rural

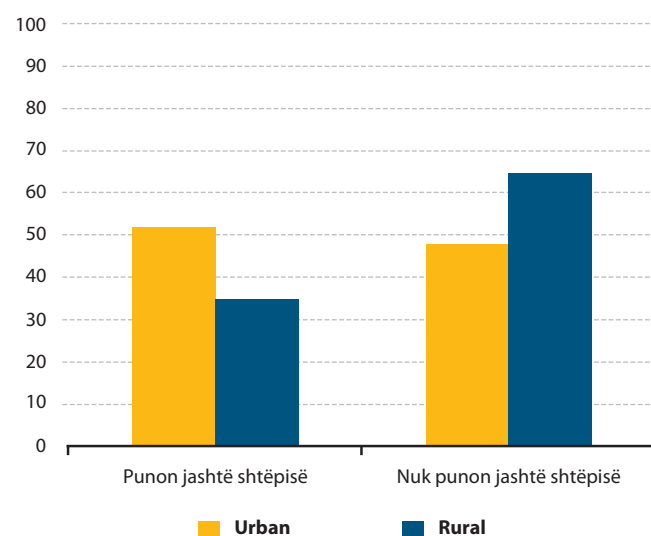


Note: Percentages are based on valid percents and do not reflect missing cases.

Finally, Table 3.2 reveals that only 43.4% of women worked outside of the home for at least 20 hours per week in the month prior to the interview; whereas, 55.8% of women did not work outside of the home in the month prior to the interview. Less than 1% of women were on maternity leave at the time of the interview. Figure 3.3 reveals that women in urban areas (51.0%) were significantly more likely to work outside of the home than women in rural areas (34.3%); whereas, women in rural areas (65.0%) were significantly more likely to not work outside of the home, compared to women in urban areas (48.1%; see Appendix Table 2).

Among women who reported they did not work outside of the home in the one month prior to the interview, 32.6% maintained they could not find a job and 21.7% were unable to find someone to care for their children (see Table 3.3). In addition, 7.1% of women reported they were unable to work outside of the home because they were not qualified to work, 4.7% were attending school, 4.0% were chronically ill or disabled, and 1.4% reported their husband did not allow them to work outside of the home. At least 21.4% of women maintained they were unemployed and looking for a job at the time of the survey.

**Figure 3.3.** Work status by urban vs. rural



Note: Percentages are based on valid percents and do not reflect missing cases.

**Table 3.3.** Reasons women do not work outside of the home

	N=412 458	
	n	%
Cannot find a job	134 454	32.6
Unable to find someone to care for one's children	89 424	21.7
Looking for a job	88 403	21.4
Not qualified to work	29 356	7.1
Attending school	19 536	4.7
Chronic illness/disability	16 642	4.0
Don't want/need to work	7 786	1.9
Husband does not allow me to work	5 679	1.4
Fired from one's job	2 861	0.7
Parents do not allow me to work	1 211	0.3
Returned from work as an immigrant	1 066	0.3
Other	16 040	3.9

*Shënim:* Frequencies and percentages are based on valid percents and do not reflect missing cases.

# 4

## **Domestic violence against women**







Domestic violence often happens behind closed doors and goes unreported. This chapter focuses on revealing the multiple types of violence and abuse that women experience in marriage and intimate relationships; giving voice to battered women who typically suffer in silence (1).

Domestic violence can happen to women regardless of age, level of education, work status, religion, and place of residence (e.g., urban vs. rural). Domestic violence can happen to married couples or intimate partners who are living together or dating (2, 3, 4). Domestic violence not only affects the women who are battered and abused, but also has negative effects on their children. International research has revealed that children who grow up witnessing domestic violence are often seriously affected by this crime and are at increased risk of being abused and neglected in the home (5). In particular, frequent exposure to violence in the home predisposes children to numerous social, emotional, and development problems (6, 7, 8). It also teaches children that violence is a normal way of

life and increases their risk of becoming society's next generation of domestic violence victims and abusers (9). Family members, friends, and others who also witness the domestic violence can be negatively affected.

This chapter presents data on the nature and prevalence of domestic violence experienced by women between 18 and 55 years of age in Albania. This chapter also includes comparisons of women's experiences with domestic violence based on residence (urban vs. rural differences), age group, educational background, and work status. It also examines the nature and extent of injuries sustained by battered women as a result of domestic violence, and women's exposure to sexual violence and risk of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including HIV/AIDS. This chapter also examines the relationship between husband's use/abuse of alcohol and women's experiences with domestic violence, and women's perceptions of the impact of the violence on their children. Finally, this chapter examines the help-seeking behaviors of battered women.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Women between 18 and 55 years of age who were currently or previously married and/or currently living with an intimate partner were asked a series of questions about their experiences with domestic violence by their current or most recent husband/partner. More specifically, 87.4% of surveyed women (n=646,879 based upon weighted data) were asked a series of questions about their experiences with domestic violence. Thus, the percentages reported in this chapter are based upon the sample of women who were asked the series of questions related to domestic violence; not the full sample of women.

Tables 4.1 reveals that 59.4% of women (more than 1 out of 2 women) reported "ever" experiencing domestic violence in their marriage/intimate relationship, and 53.0% of women (1 out of 2 women) were "currently" experiencing domestic violence (within the 12 months prior to the interview).

Scale items were used to create new variables for each of the different types of domestic violence, including psychological violence, physical violence, and sexual violence (each of these types of domestic violence is defined in Box 2.1 in Chapter 2). Table 4.1 reveals the percentage of women who experienced each of these three different

types of domestic violence. In particular, as many as 58.2% of women "ever" experienced psychological violence in their marriage/intimate relationships, and 52.8% of women were "currently" experiencing psychological violence (within the 12 months prior to the interview). In other words, more than 1 out of 2 women have been or are being psychologically abused in their marriage/intimate relationships.

Table 4.1 also reveals that 23.7% of women (nearly 1 out of 4 women) "ever" experienced physical violence in their marriage/intimate relationships, and 14.7% were "currently" experiencing physical violence (within the 12 months prior to the interview). In terms of sexual violence, 7.9% of women "ever" experienced sexual violence in their marriage/intimate relationships, and 5.0% of women were "currently" experiencing sexual violence (within the 12 months prior to the interview).

Table 4.1 also reveals that 24.6% of women (1 out of 4 women) "ever" experienced both physical and sexual violence, and 16.2% were "currently" experiencing both physical and sexual violence in their marriage/intimate relationships.

**Table 4.1.** Percentage of women who experience domestic violence (18-55 years)

	N=646,879			
	Ever		Current	
	n	%	n	%
Domestic violence (all types)	384 372	59,4	347 353	53,7
Psychological violence	376 555	58,2	341 748	52,8
Physical violence	153 186	23,7	95 251	14,7
Sexual violence	51 087	7,9	32 539	5,0
Both physical and sexual violence	159 248	24,6	104 810	16,2

Note: Frequencies and percentages are based on valid percents and do not reflect missing cases.

## PSYCHOLOGICAL VIOLENCE

Tables 4.1 and 4.2 reveal that 58.2% of women between 18 and 55 years of age “ever” experienced psychological violence in their marriage/intimate relationships, and 52.8% were “currently” experiencing psychological violence (within the 12 months prior to the interview).

Psychological violence includes a range of behaviors that aim to control, isolate, intimidate, cause fear, and attack a woman’s character and undermine her sense of self-worth and self-esteem. The survey included 16 scale items that measured various forms of psychological violence that women commonly experience in violent marriages/intimate relationships (see Appendix Table 3). As part of the analysis, the 16 scale items were used to create new variables for four different types of psychological violence:

- Verbal abuse – to criticize, insult, humiliate, and/or talk in a manner that attacks a woman’s character and undermines her sense of self-worth and self-esteem.
- Psychological threats – to intimidate and cause fear in a woman by threatening to physically harm her and/or to hurt others that are close to her, and/or to destroy something important to her to undermine her sense of safety.
- Controlling behaviors – to ignore, to control and isolate, and to be jealous and accusatory of a woman for being unfaithful to undermine a woman’s sense of self-worth and self-esteem.
- Economic abuse – to control the household money, including women’s wages if they work outside of the home.

(See Chapter 2 for a more detailed description of the different types of domestic violence and the survey structure).

Table 4.2 reveals the proportion of women who experienced each of these four different types of psychological violence in their marriage/intimate relationships. The most common type of psychological violence experienced by women was controlling behaviors; controlling behaviors are one form of psychological violence that abusive men use to isolate and control women, as well as instill fear and anxiety in women. In particular, 51.4% of women “ever” experienced controlling behaviors by their husbands/partners, and 45.4% were “currently” experiencing controlling behaviors by their husbands/partners (within the 12 months prior to the interview). In other words, as many as 1 out of 2 women experienced controlling behaviors by their husbands/partners.

A significant proportion of women also reported experiencing verbal abuse (i.e., insult, jealousy, and humiliation). Specifically, 38.7% of women “ever” experienced verbal

abuse in their marriage/intimate relationships, and 31.5% of women (nearly 1 out of 3 women) were “currently” experiencing verbal abuse. In other words, more than 1 out of 3 women experienced verbal abuse in their marriage/intimate relationship.

Table 4.2 also reveals that 10.4% of women between 18 and 55 years of age “ever” experienced economic abuse in their marriage/intimate relationships, and 8.6% were “currently” experiencing economic abuse.

Threat of injury is another form of psychological violence that abusive men use to instill fear and anxiety in women, and to maintain control over women. Table 4.2 reveals that 7.4% of women “ever” experienced psychological threats in their marriage/intimate relationships, and 4.3% of women were “currently” experiencing psychological threats.

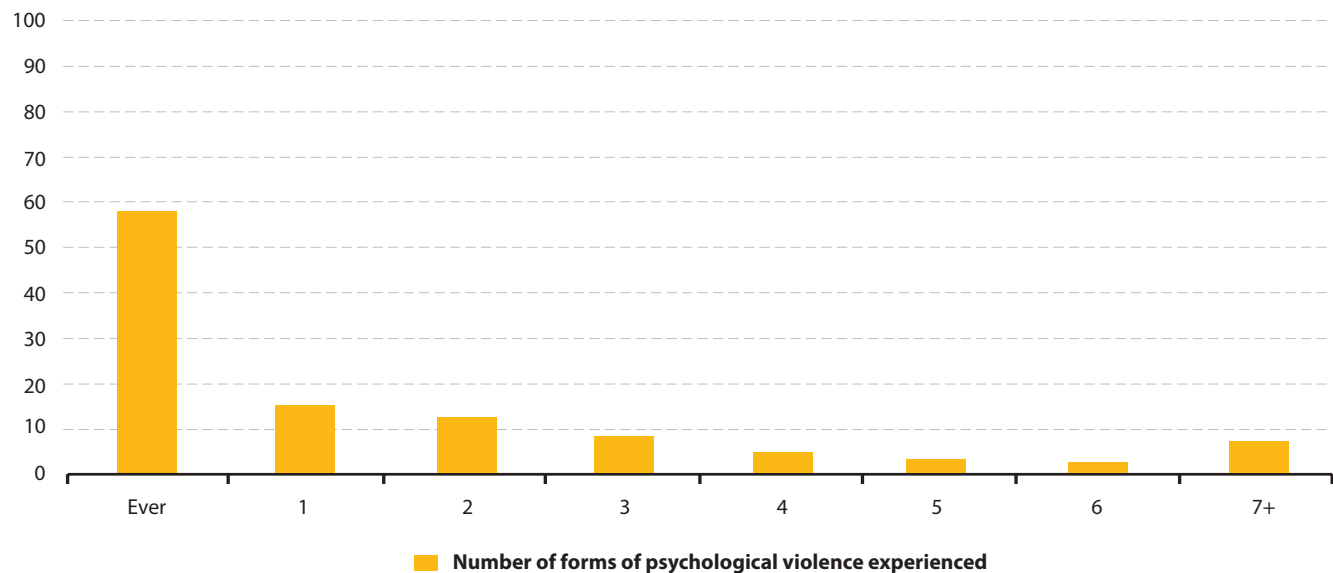
**Table 4.2.** Percentage of women who experience psychological violence (18-55 years)

	N=646,879			
	Ever		Current	
	n	%	n	%
Psychological violence (all types)	376 555	58,2	341 748	52,8
Verbal abuse	250 355	38,7	203 659	31,5
Psychological threats	47 662	7,4	27 515	4,3
Controlling behaviors	332 771	51,4	293 571	45,4
Economic abuse	68 902	10,4	57 224	8,6

Note: Frequencies and percentages are based on valid percents and do not reflect missing cases.

It is important to understand that battered women do not typically experience only one form of psychological violence in their marriage/intimate relationships; often they experience multiple forms of psychological violence. Figure 4.1 reveals the percentage of women who ever experienced one or more of the 16 different behavioral acts that made up the psychological violence scale in the survey. While 58.2% of women “ever” experienced psychological violence in their marriage/intimate relationships, only 15.7% of women experienced only one form of psychological violence measured in the survey. The majority of psychologically abused women experienced

more than one of the 16 different forms of psychological violence measured in the survey. Specifically, 12.3% of women experienced two forms of psychological violence measured in the survey, 9.0% experienced three forms of psychological violence, 5.5% experienced four forms, 4.1% experienced five forms, 3.6% experienced six forms, and 7.9% experienced as many as seven to sixteen different forms of psychological violence that were measured in the survey (see Appendix Table 4). The long-term effects of psychological violence in its multiple forms are severe for battered women.

**Figure 4.1.** Multiple forms of psychological violence ever experienced by women (18-55 years)

Note: Percentages are based on valid percents and do not reflect missing cases.

Women who are victims of psychological violence often feel there is no way out of the psychologically abusive relationship and that without their abusive partner they are nothing. Psychologically abused women often live their life in fear, experience anxiety and difficulty concentrating,

and will repeatedly deny their own needs and alter their thoughts, feelings, and behavior in an effort to avoid further abuse (10). Women who suffer psychological violence in their marriages/intimate relationships are at increased risk of mental health problems (e.g., PTSD, anxiety, depression,

eating disorders, suicidality), physical health problems (e.g., irritable bowel, headaches, chronic pain, cardiovascular disease, hypertension), substance use (alcohol, tobacco and other drug use), and prenatal/maternal health problems (e.g., low birth weight, prematurity, pregnancy loss) (11, 12). International research demonstrates the effects of psychological violence can be just as harmful as physical violence, leading to feelings of self-doubt and worthlessness (13, 14).

## PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

When people talk about domestic violence against women they often refer to acts of physical violence. Physical violence is the use of physical force against someone in a way that injures or endangers that person. There are a broad range of behaviors that come under the heading of physical violence in domestic violence situations, including, but not limited to: hitting, beating, grabbing, kicking, choking, pulling hair, and assault with a weapon. Physical assault or battering of a spouse/ intimate partner or family member is a crime whether it occurs inside or outside of the home.

Tables 4.1 and 4.3 reveal that 23.7% of women between 18 and 55 years of age “ever” experienced physical violence in their marriage/intimate relationships, and 14.7% were “currently” experiencing physical violence (within the 12 months prior to the interview).

The survey included 12 scale items that measured various forms of physical violence women commonly experience in violent marriages/intimate relationships (see Appendix Table 5). As part of the analysis, the 12 scale items were used to create new variables for four different types of physical violence based upon the severity and likelihood of causing physical injury:

- Moderate physical violence – includes one or more

Battered women may also respond to their husbands/ intimate partners’ criticisms and put-downs by trying to change themselves and/or they attempt to minimize their husbands/intimate partners’ behaviors by attributing them to other problems, such as alcohol consumption. Overtime, however, many battered women realize that nothing they do seems to make a difference, and their sense of safety and security in the relationship is minimized (15).

of the following physical acts: to be kicked, thrown, pushed, dragged, slapped, and/or have your hair pulled.

- Severe physical violence – includes one or more of the following physical acts: to be hit, beat, burned on purpose, choked, suffocated, and/or threatened with a weapon or to have a weapon used against you.
- Physical violence with a weapon – includes threatening and/or hitting with a weapon or other object that can physical injuries.
- Physical violence with aggravated injuries – includes physical violence that causes bodily injury to another person

Table 4.3 reveals the percentage of women the experienced each of the four different types of physical violence in their marriage/intimate relationships. In particular, as many as 22.0% of women “ever” experienced moderate physical violence, and

13.4% were “currently” experiencing moderate physical violence (within the 12 months prior to the interview). In other words, as many as 1 out of 5 women experienced moderate physical violence in their marriage/intimate relationship.

**Table 4.3.** Percentage of women who experience physical violence (18-55 years)

	N=646,879			
	Ever		Current	
	n	%	n	%
Physical violence (all types)	153 186	23,7	95 251	14,7
Moderate physical violence	142 278	22,0	86 496	13,4
Severe physical violence	90 898	14,1	51 009	7,9
Physical violence w/ a weapon	19 585	3,0	67,09	1,0
Physical violence w/ aggravated injuries	29 871	18,8	11 570	7,3

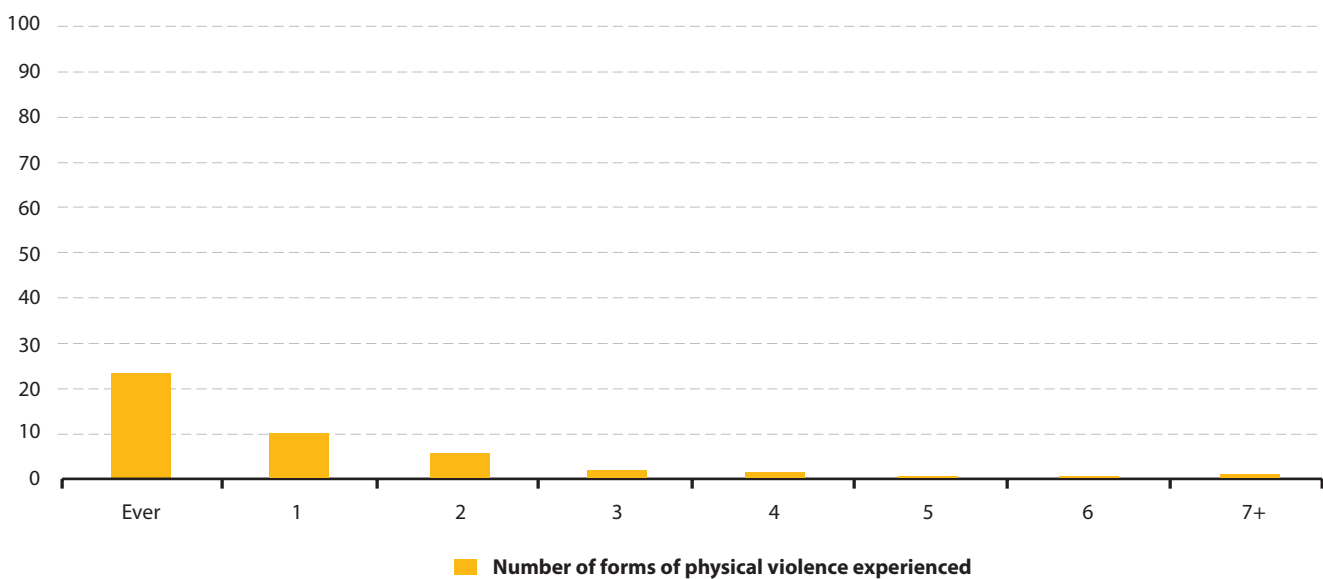
Note: Frequencies and percentages are based on valid percents and do not reflect missing cases.

Table 4.3 also reveals that 14.1% of women “ever” experienced severe physical violence in their marriage/intimate relationships, and 7.9% were “currently” experiencing severe physical violence. In terms of physical violence involving a weapon, 3.0% of women “ever” experienced physical violence involving a weapon, and 1.0% reported that within the 12 months prior to the interview (currently) their husband/partner committed an act of physical violence against them using a weapon.

Physical violence often results in physical injuries and traumas for the victim (e.g., musculoskeletal injuries, soft tissue injuries, and genital trauma). Domestic violence-related injuries often have an adverse effect on the short- and long-term physical health and well-being of battered women (16, 17). Table 4.3 reveals that 18.8% of women between 18 and 55 years of age reported “ever” experiencing physical violence with aggravated injuries, and 7.3% of women had “currently” experienced physical violence with aggravated injuries (within the 12 months prior to the interview).

Typically, battered women will experience more than one form of physical violence in their marriage/intimate relationships. Figure 4.2 reveals the percentage of women who “ever” experienced one or more of the 12 different forms of physical violence measured in the survey. While 23.7% of women “ever” experienced physical violence in their marriage/intimate relationships, 10.0% of women experienced only one form of physical violence measured in the survey. More than half of battered women experienced more than one of the 12 different forms of physical violence measured in the survey. Specifically, 5.6% of women experienced two forms of physical violence measured in the survey, 3.0% experienced three forms of physical violence, 1.8% experienced four forms, 1.1% experienced five forms, .9% experienced six forms, and 1.4% experienced as many as seven to twelve different forms of physical violence measured in the survey (see Appendix Table 6). The effects of physical violence in its multiple forms on battered women can often be severe, leading to short- and long-term physical health problems, disability, and even death by homicide or suicide (16, 17).

**Figure 4.2.** Multiple forms of physical violence “ever” experienced by women (18-55 years)



Note: Percentages are based on valid percents and do not reflect missing cases.

## SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Sexual violence is another type of domestic violence measured in the survey. Sexual violence is any situation in which a woman is forced to participate in or perform unwanted, unsafe, degrading, and/or humiliating sexual activities; this includes forced sex by a husband/partner with whom a woman also has consensual sex (marital

sexual violence). Tables 4.1 and 4.4 reveal that 7.9% of women between 18 and 55 years of age reported “ever” experiencing sexual violence in their marriage/intimate relationship, and 5.0% were “currently” experiencing sexual violence (within the 12 months prior to the interview).

**Table 4.4.** Percentage of women who experience sexual violence (18-55 years)

	N=646,879			
	Ever		Current	
	n	%	n	%
Sexual violence (all types)	51 087	7,9	32 539	5,0
Forced to perform sexual intercourse	48 291	7,5	30 340	4,7
Forced to perform degrading/humiliating sexual acts	22 435	3,5	7 438	1,1

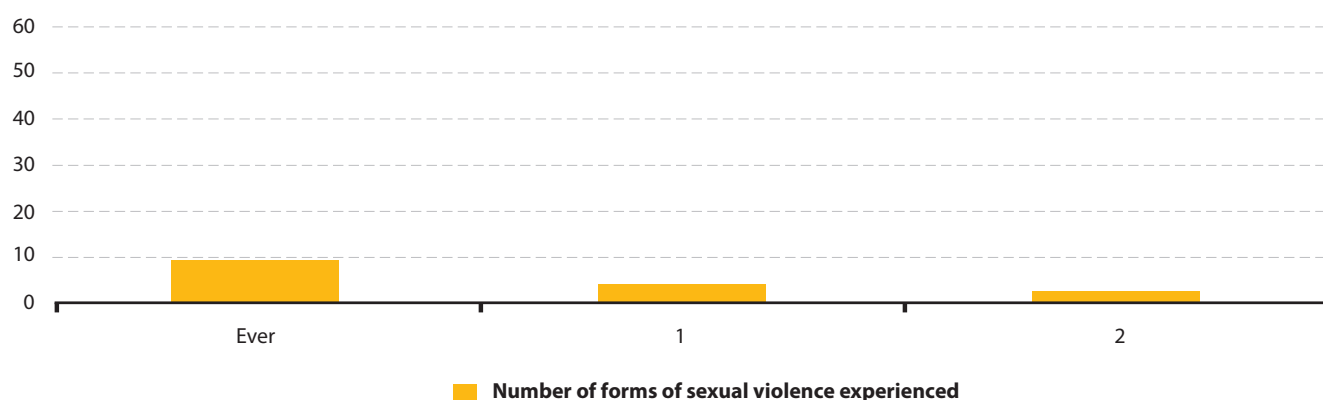
Note: Frequencies and percentages are based on valid percents and do not reflect missing cases.

Table 4.4 further reveals that 7.5% of women reported they were “ever” forced to perform sexual intercourse with their husband/partner when they did not want, and 4.7% of women were “currently” being sexually abused in this manner. In addition, 3.5% of women reported their husband/partner “ever” forced them to perform degrading and humiliating sexual acts that they did not want to perform, and 1.1% of women were “currently” being sexually abused in this manner.

That fact that only 7.9% of women reported experiencing sexual violence in their marriage is likely a reflection of the fact that violations of a woman’s body are frequently justified within the context of marriage through cultural and religious values that define women as male property and sex as a marital obligation of wives. Moreover, forcible defloration of young brides on the wedding night and

subsequent forced intercourse by husbands renders wives submissive to unwanted sexual intercourse throughout their marriage. Overtime, many women often render themselves submissive to unwanted sexual intercourse with their husbands (18, 19, 20, 21). Thus, women would be less inclined to define their husband’s sexual aggression or sexually abusive behaviors as sexual violence or marital rape; explaining, in part, why as many as 92.1% of women reported they did not experience sexual violence in their marriage/intimate relationship.

Figure 4.3 shows that among the 7.9% of women who ever experienced sexual violence in their marriage/intimate relationship, 4.9% of women experienced only one form of sexual violence identified in Table 4.4, and 3.0% experienced the two different forms of sexual violence identified in Table 4.4 (see Appendix Table 7).

**Figurea 4.3.** Multiple forms of sexual violence “ever” experienced by women (18-55 years)

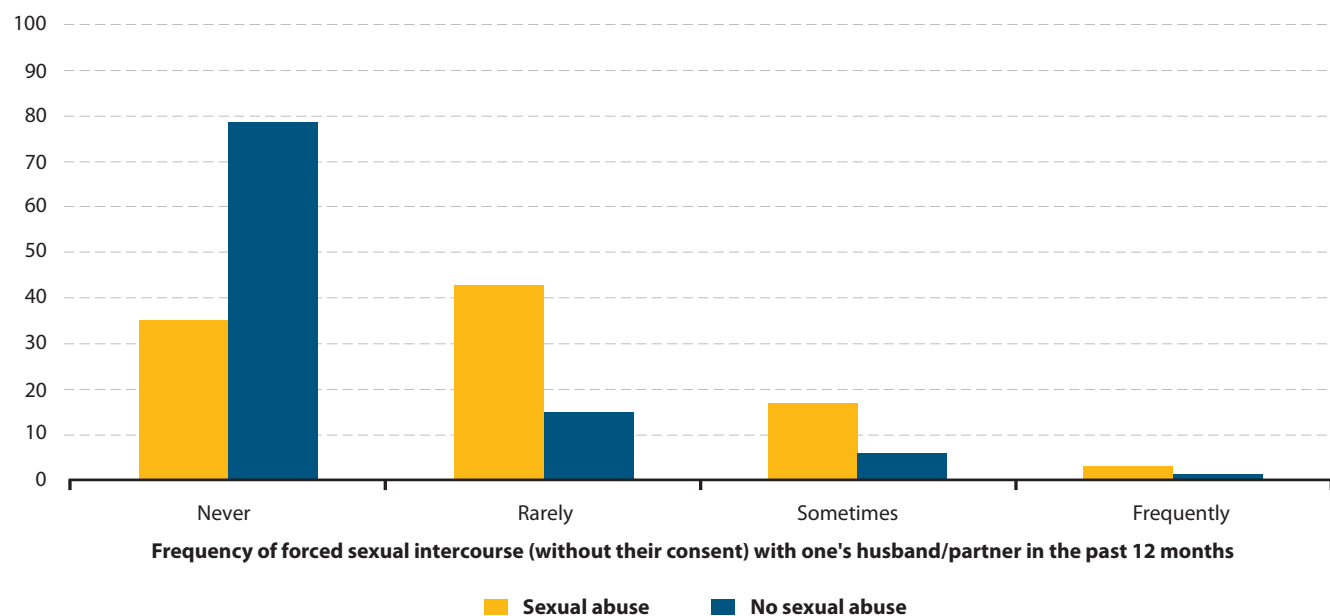
Note: Percentages are based on valid percents and do not reflect missing cases.



Women were asked about the frequency of sexual abuse in their marriage/intimate relationship, particularly how often it occurred during the 12 months prior to the interview. Figure 4.4 shows that sexually abused women were significantly more likely to report being forced to engage in sexual intercourse with their husband/partner, compared to women who were not sexually abused. More specifically, as many as 78.2% of women who were not sexually abused reported they never had forced sexual intercourse (without their consent) with their husband/partner during the past year, compared to only 34.8% of women who were sexually abused. In comparison, 61.9% of

women who were sexually abused reported having forced sexual intercourse within their husband/partner (without their consent) during the 12 months prior to the interview. In particular, 16.4% of sexually abused women reported they “sometimes” had forced sexual intercourse with their husband/partner during the past year, compared to 5.5% of women who were not sexually abused. In addition, 2.5% of sexually abused women reported they “frequently” had forced sexual intercourse with their husband/partner during the past year, compared to .4% of women who were not sexually abused (see Appendix Table 8).

**Figure 4.4.** Frequency of sexual abuse



Note: Percentages are based on valid percents and do not reflect missing cases.

International research indicates that sexual violence within marriage (marital rape) and intimate relationships often has severe and long-lasting consequences for women, including injuries to women's reproductive organs and genitalia (e.g., lacerations, soreness, bruising, and torn muscles) and other physical injuries (e.g., musculoskeletal and soft tissue injuries) that occur during the course of sexual violence. They also experience sexual and reproductive health problems, such as gynecological problems (e.g., vaginal stretching, anal tearing, pelvic pain, urinary tract infections, bladder infections, miscarriages, still births, and infertility) (22, 23). Women who experience sexual violence in their marriage/intimate relationships are often restricted by their abusive husbands/partner from using contraceptives and face increased risk of unwanted

pregnancy and exposure to sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including HIV/AIDS (24, 25).

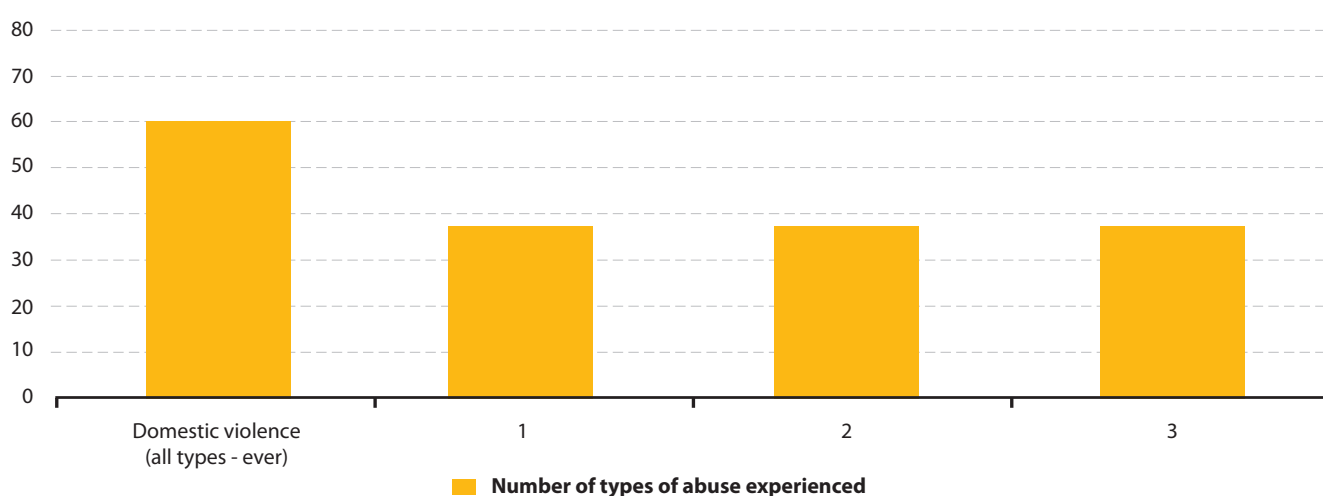
Finally, women who are sexually abused or raped by their husband/partner are likely to experience multiple assaults and completed sexual attacks. Because they are raped by someone whom they love and trust, it is not surprising that marital rape survivors often suffer severe and long-term mental health problems (e.g., post-traumatic stress disorder, intense fear, shock, anxiety, depression, suicidality, and eating and sleep disorders) (26, 27). Some marital rape survivors report flashbacks, sexual distress and dysfunction, and emotional pain for years after the violence (28).

## MULTIPLE TYPES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

It is well documented that battered women do not experience only one type of domestic violence – psychological violence, physical violence, or sexual violence – but often experience multiple types of violence concurrently (29, 30). Figure 4.5 shows us that battered women do not typically experience only one type of domestic violence – psychological, physical, or sexual violence – in their marriage/intimate relationships; rather, they experience multiple types of violence.

Among the 59.4% of women who “ever” experienced domestic violence in their marriage/intimate relationships, 35.9% of women experienced only one type of domestic violence – psychological, physical or sexual violence – during their marriage/intimate relationship; whereas 16.7% of women experienced two of these types of domestic violence, and 6.8% of women experienced each of these three types of domestic violence (see Appendix Table 9). The short- and long-term effects of domestic violence in its multiple types are severe for battered women (31, 32).

**Figure 4.5.** Multiple types of domestic violence “ever” experienced by women (18-55 years)



Note: Percentages are based on valid percents and do not reflect missing cases.

Analysis was also conducted to examine the relationship between each of the three types of domestic violence – psychological violence, physical violence, and sexual violence. Table 4.5 reveals there is a significant relationship between each of the three types of domestic violence. In particular, 38.9% of women who experienced psychological violence in their marriage/intimate relationships also experienced physical violence, and 13.0% of psychologically abused women also experienced sexual violence. In other words, women who were psychologically abused by

their husbands/partners were significantly more likely to experience physical violence and sexual violence in their marriage/intimate relationships, compared to women who were not psychologically abused by their husbands/partners. This data demonstrates that the existence of psychological violence in a woman’s marriage/intimate relationship is a strong predictor that other types of abuse and violence also exist in their marriage/intimate relationship (see Appendix Table 10).

**Table 4.5.** Relationship between types of domestic violence

	N=646,879					
	Psychological violence		Physical violence		Sexual violence	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Psychological violence	---	---	146 526	38,9 <sup>a</sup>	49 006	13,0 <sup>a</sup>
Physical violence	146 526	95,7 <sup>a</sup>	---	---	45 025	29,4 <sup>a</sup>
Sexual violence	49 006	95,9 <sup>a</sup>	45 025	88,1 <sup>a</sup>	---	---

Note: Frequencies and percentages are based on valid percents and do not reflect missing cases.

<sup>a</sup> Chi-square significant < .01



Table 4.5 also reveals the relationship between physical violence and other types of domestic violence. In particular, 95.7% of women who experienced physical violence in their marriage/intimate relationship also experienced psychological violence, and 29.4% of battered women were also sexually abused. In other words, women who are physically battered by their husband/partner are significantly more likely to experience psychological abuse and sexual violence, compared to women who are not physically battered by their husband/partner. Thus, the presence of physical violence in a woman's marriage/intimate relationship is a very strong predictor that other types of abuse and violence are also occurring in the marriage/intimate relationship (see Appendix Table 11).

Finally, Table 4.5 reveals the relationship between sexual violence and other types of domestic violence. Specifically, 95.9% of women who experienced sexual violence in their marriage/intimate relationship also experienced psychological violence, and 88.1% experienced physical violence. In other words, women who are sexually abused by their husband/partner are significantly more likely to experience both psychological and physical violence, compared to women who are not sexually abused by their husband/partner. This data demonstrates that the presence of sexual violence is a very strong predictor that other types of abuse and violence exist in the marriage/intimate relationship (see Appendix Table 11).

Figure 4.3 and Table 4.5 dispel the misperception that women experience only one form of violence in their marriage/intimate relationships. When one observes or hears of a situation where a woman is verbally abused, humiliated, and/or threatened by her husband/partner we can be nearly 40% certain that the woman is also being physically abused and 13% certain she is being sexually abused in the marriage/intimate relationship. Whereas, when one observes or hears of a woman being physically abused by her husband/partner or sees a woman with physical injuries and/or scars from physical violence, we can be nearly 96% certain the battered woman is also being psychologically abused, and nearly 30% certain that she is being sexually abused in the marriage/intimate relationship. Finally, if one hears of a woman being sexually abused in her marriage/intimate relationship we can be almost 96% certain she is being psychologically abused, and 88% certain she is being physically abused in the marriage/intimate relationship.

Despite the multiple layers of victimization in many women's lives, a majority of women endure the abuse and violence and suffer in silence. Domestic violence is clearly a serious form of violence against women which has real consequences in women's lives and on women's health and well-being (33, 34).

## WHEN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BEGINS IN MARRIAGE

Women were asked when the domestic violence began in their marriage. Table 4.6 reveals that three-quarters of women surveyed reported the domestic violence began within the first three years of their marriage. Among sexually abused women, 3.4% reported the sexual

violence began before they were married, 29.6% reported the sexual violence began within the first year of their marriage, and 51.9% reported the sexual violence began within the second to third years of their marriage.

**Table 4.6.** Years after marriage/living together domestic violence began by type of violence

	N=646,879							
	Domestic violence (all types - ever)		Psychological violence		Physical violence		Sexual violence	
When violence began:	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Before marriage	2 903	1,8	2 903	1,9	2 903	1,9	1 713	3,4
Within 1 <sup>st</sup> year	43 965	27,6	42 561	28,1	41 744	27,3	15 132	29,6
2 <sup>nd</sup> to 3 <sup>rd</sup> years	79 868	50,2	74 497	49,2	77 285	50,5	26 524	51,9
4 <sup>th</sup> to 5 <sup>th</sup> years	23 618	14,8	22 798	15,1	22 465	14,7	5 845	11,4
6 <sup>th</sup> + years	8 894	5,6	8 673	5,7	8 789	5,7	1 873	3,7

Note: Frequencies and percentages are based on valid percents and do not reflect missing cases.

## PHYSICAL VIOLENCE DURING PREGNANCY

Women were also asked if their husband physically abused them during pregnancy. Figure 4.7 reveals that 83.4% of surveyed women had been pregnant. Among women who had been pregnant, 1.3% reported their husband/partner hit, slapped, kicked, or physically hurt them while pregnant.

**Table 4.7.** Physical violence during pregnancy

	N=739 758	
	n	%
Been pregnant	616 738	83,4
	N=616 738	
	n	%
Been hit, slapped, kicked or physically hurt while pregnant	9 449	1,3

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE-RELATED INJURIES

Battered women often experience physical injuries related to the physical and sexual violence they endure. Physical injuries often exist on a continuum from minor to severe injuries; the most severe being death by battering. In fact, the General Directorate of State Police, Department of Public Safety reported that in 2010 and 2011, 83% of murdered women were killed by their husbands/partners; in 2012, 62% of murdered women were killed by their husbands/partners (16 out of 26 in 2012). It is important to understand that battered women are often reluctant to report the injuries they endure from domestic violence, even to health care workers and medical doctors (35, 36).

Despite the challenges of getting women to talk about their injuries, the survey was designed to measure women's injuries related to incidents of domestic violence. However, given women's reluctance to report domestic violence-related injuries, it is not surprising that among the 59.4% that ever experienced domestic violence, only 41.4% women answered the questions related to domestic

violence-related injuries; as many as 58.6% of women who "ever" experienced domestic violence did not answer this series of survey questions.

Table 4.8 reveals that among physically abused who answered the questions related to domestic violence-related injuries, as many as 18.8% reported "ever" experiencing physical injuries, and 7.4% had been physically injured in a domestic violence situation within the 12 months prior to the interview. In terms of type of injuries, battered women more commonly reported experiencing: cuts, bruises, or aches (12.1% "ever" and 7.4% "current"); as eye injuries, burns, sprain, or dislocations (6.3% "ever" and 2.4% "current"); and head injuries (6.5% "ever" and 2.3% "current"). Other battered women experienced abdominal injuries (4.4% "ever" and 1.5% "current"); deep wounds, broken bones, broken teeth, or other serious injury (2.2% "ever" and .6% "current"); and lost consciousness due to domestic violence (1.1% "ever" and .2% "current").

**Table 4.8.** Physically abused women who experienced domestic violence-related injuries

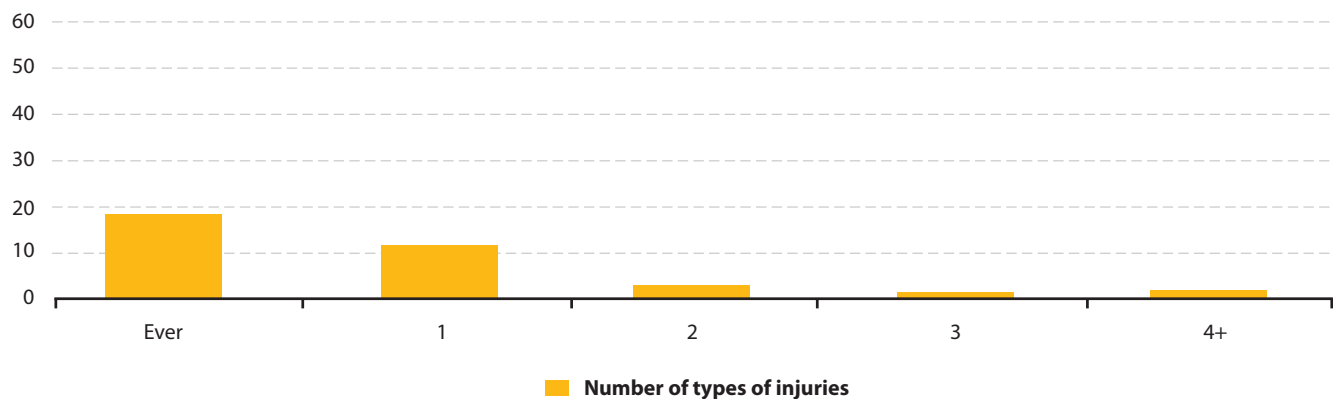
	N=159 248			
	Even		Current	
	n	%	n	%
Domestic violence-related injuries (all types - ever)	29 871	18,8	11 768	7,4
Cuts, bruises, or aches	19 252	12,1	8 422	5,3
Eye injuries, burns, sprains or dislocations	10 077	6,3	3 746	2,4
Deep wounds, broken bones, broken teeth, or other serious injury	3 510	2,2	1 026	,6
Lost consciousness	1 731	1,1	352	,2
Head injuries	10 391	6,5	3 593	2,3
Abdominal injuries	7 073	4,4	2 350	1,5

Note: Frequencies and percentages are based on valid percents and do not reflect missing cases.

Often battered women experience more than one type of physical injury and their injuries can be cumulative, occurring over a period of time with each subsequent act of domestic violence (37). In fact, figure 4.6 reveals that among the 18.8% of battered women who experienced domestic violence-related injuries, 12.4% experienced only one of the six categories of injuries identified in Table

4.7. Whereas, 3.0% experienced two of the categories of injuries, 1.5% experienced three categories of injuries, and 1.8% experienced four to six categories of injuries identified in Table 4.7 (see Appendix Table 12). Repeated incidents of domestic violence can result in multiple injuries that have a negative effect on women's long-term health and well-being (38, 39).

**Figure 4.6.** Domestic violence related injuries experienced by battered women (18-55 years)

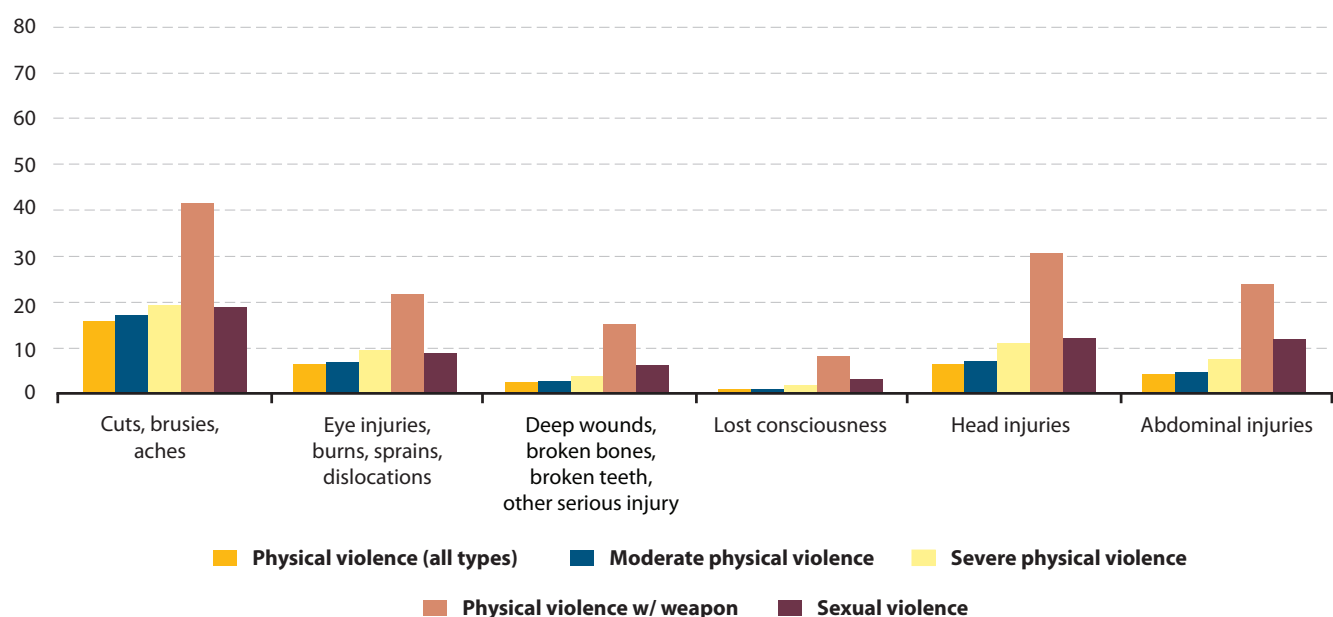


Note: Percentages are based on valid percents and do not reflect missing cases.

Figure 4.7 reveals that women who were physically and sexually abused by their husbands/partners suffered injuries of varying degrees of severity (see Appendix Table 10). Sexually abused women, however, were more likely than physically abused women to experience each of the different types of physical injuries in Figure 4.7. Yet, it is important to remember that Table 4.5 revealed that 29.4% of women who were physically abused reported

they were also sexually abused in their marriage/intimate relationships, and 88.1% of women who were sexually abused reported they were also physically abused in their marriage/intimate relationship. In all, Table 4.1 revealed that 24.6% (or 1 out of 4) women experienced both physical and sexual violence in their marriage/intimate relationships.

**Figure 4.7.** Domestic violence-related injuries experienced by battered women by type of abuse



Note: Percentages are based on valid percents and do not reflect missing cases.

Figure 4.7 also reveals that women who experienced severe physical violence in their marriage/intimate relationships were more likely to experience each of the different types of physical injuries, compared to women who experienced moderate physical violence; whereas, women who experienced physical violence involving a weapon were most likely to experience physical injuries, including more severe and serious injuries. In particular, among women who experienced physical violence involving a weapon: 41.0% experienced cuts, bruises and/or aches; 30.7% suffered head injuries; 24.0% experienced abdominal injuries; 22.0% experienced eye injuries, burns, sprains, and/or dislocations; 15.3% experienced deep wounds, broken bones, broken teeth, or any serious injury; and 8.1% lost consciousness (see Appendix Table 10).

Data was also analyzed to understand to what extent domestic violence-related injuries negatively affects women's abilities to perform house maintenance and child care responsibilities, and resulted in their being absent from work. Table 4.9 reveals that 9.4% women who experienced domestic violence-related injuries reported they were unable to perform house maintenance and child

care responsibilities, and 5.1% were unable to go to work because of their injuries. Among women who reported they were unable to perform house maintenance and child care responsibilities, 75.5% reported they were unable to perform such work for 1-3 days, 14.7% were unable to perform such work for 4-6 days, and 9.7% were unable to perform such work for 7 or more days. Women who were unable to go to work because of their domestic violence-related injuries, 65.9% missed 1-3 days of work, 18.0% missed 4-6 days of work, and 16.1% missed 7 or more days of work.

Table 4.8 reveals that battered women missed more days of work than house maintenance and child care responsibilities due to domestic violence-related injuries. One possible explanation for this finding is that battered women were more reluctant to return to work with domestic violence-related injuries because work occurs in public spaces and they do not want others to see their injuries; whereas, house maintenance and child care responsibilities occur in the home out of public view. Thus, women are more likely to remain absent from work until their injuries heal (see Appendix Tables 12 and 13).

**Table 4.9.** Domestic violence-related injuries and disruption to women's work

			Number of days missed					
			1-3 days		4-6 days		7+ days	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Consequences of violence detained you from house maintenance/child care	15,024	9.4	11,350	75.5	2,212	14.7	1,463	9.7
Consequences of violence detained you from work	8,058	5.1	5,310	65.9	1,453	18.0	1,294	16.1

Note: Frequencies and percentages are based on valid percents and do not reflect missing cases.

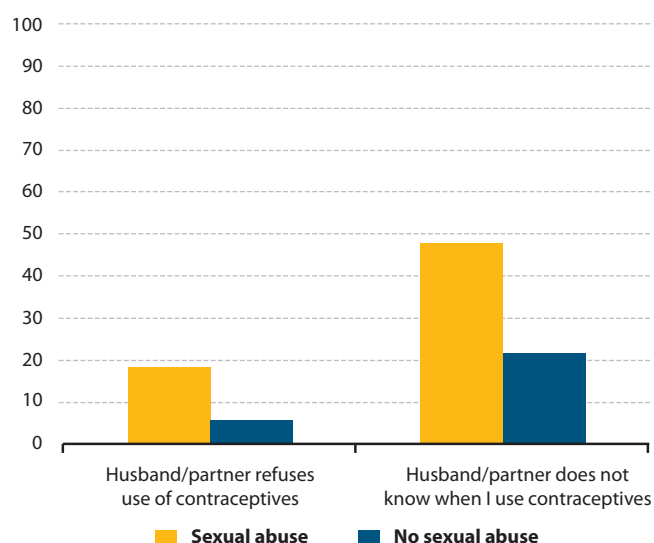
The injuries and scars of physical violence are real for battered women, and they often try to cover and hide their physical injuries and scars out of shame and embarrassment. Nevertheless, the physical battering and related physical injuries are often cumulative and lead

to other short- and long-term physical health problems (40). In rural areas and districts where emergency medical care is either not expediently provided or not available, physically battered women are at higher risk of permanent injury, disability, or even death from their injuries (41).

## SEXUAL ABUSE, USE OF CONTRACEPTIVES, AND RISK OF STDs

International research has found that women who experience sexual violence in their marriage/intimate relationships are often restricted by their abusive husbands/partner from using contraceptives and face increased risk of unwanted pregnancy and exposure to sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including HIV/AIDS (42, 43). Therefore, data was analyzed to understand the relationship between sexual abuse, women's ability to use contraceptives, and their risks of contracting sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including HIV/AIDS. Figure 4.8 reveals that sexually abused women (15.7%) were nearly three times more likely to report their husband does not allow them to use contraceptives to avoid pregnancy, compared to women who were not sexually abused (5.8%). In addition, sexually abused women (47.0%) were two times more likely to report their husband/partner does not know when they use contraceptives, compared to women who were not sexually abused (21.2%) (see Appendix Table 15).

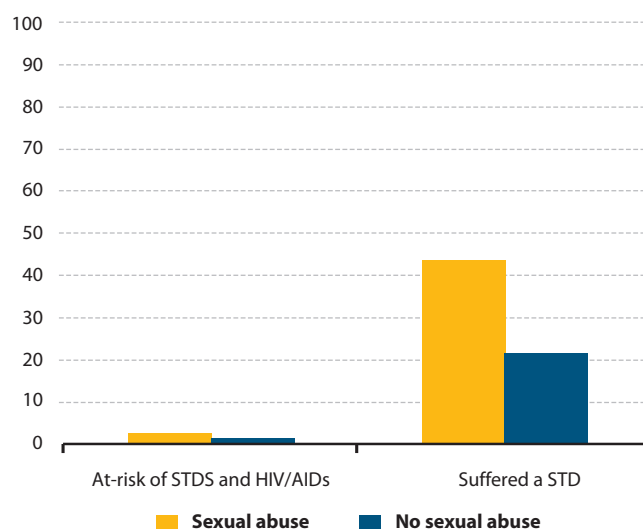
**Figure 4.8.** Sexual abuse and use of contraceptives



Note: Percentages are based on valid percents and do not reflect missing cases.

In terms of risk of STDs, Figure 4.9 reveals that while only 2.3% of sexually abused women were worried they were at-risk of contracting STDs, including HIV/AIDS, as many as 43.5% of sexually abused women reported they had a STD. In addition, sexually abused women were two times more likely to have had a STD in the past, compared to women who were not sexually abused in their marriage/intimate relationship (21.2%; see Appendix Table 15). Thus, their lack of worry about contracting an STD may be linked to the fact that they have had a STD in the past.

**Figure 4.9.** Sexual abuse and risk of STDs



Note: Percentages are based on valid percents and do not reflect missing cases.

## ALCOHOL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The relationship between alcohol use/abuse and domestic violence is complicated. One of the myths – widely held false beliefs – about domestic violence is that alcohol is a major cause of domestic violence. In reality, alcohol does not cause domestic violence, although some abusive husbands/partners use alcohol as an excuse for becoming violent (44). While an abuser's alcohol use/abuse may have an effect on the severity of domestic violence or the ease with which the abusive husband/partner can justify his actions, an abusive husband/partner does not become violent because of alcohol. In other words, drinking does

not cause an abusive husband/partner to lose control of his temper. Rather, domestic violence is used to exert power and control over another person; thus, it does not represent a loss of control (45).

Table 4.10 reveals that among surveyed women, 39.7% reported their husband/partner drink alcohol. Among women whose husbands/partners' drink alcohol, 69.1% reported their husband/partner gets drunk (61.9% reported their husband/partner "sometimes" get drunk, and 7.2% reported their husband/partner "often" gets drunk).

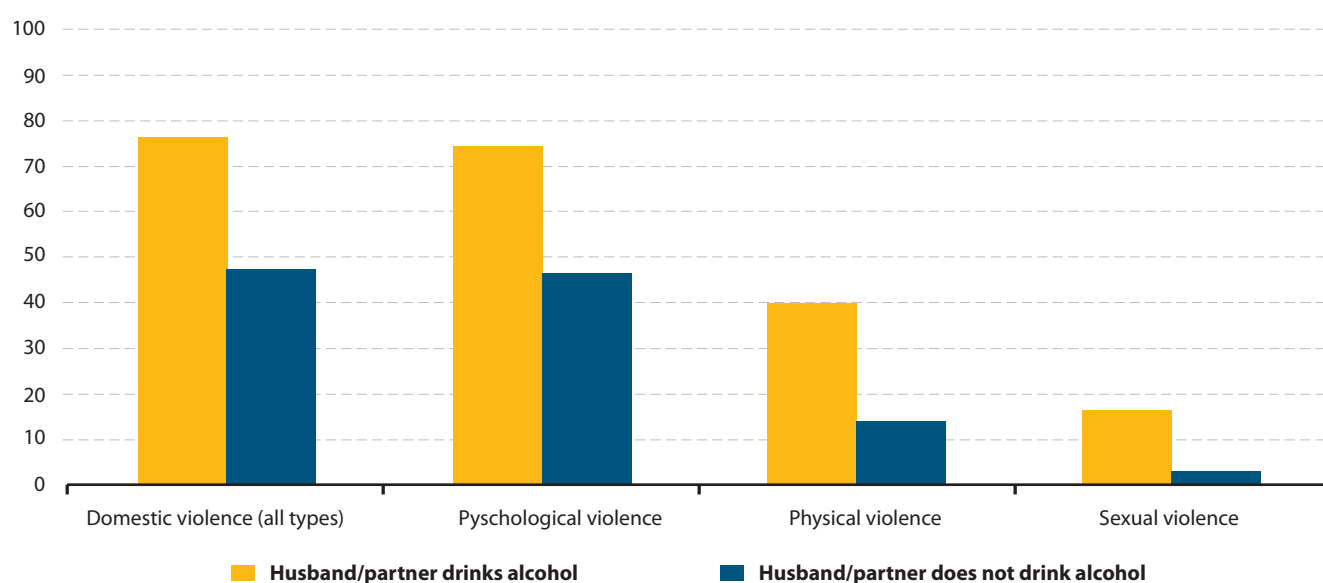
**Table 4.10.** Husbands/intimate partners alcohol consumption

	N=739 758	
	n	%
Husband/partner drinks alcohol	616 738	83,4
How often does your husband/partner get drunk?	N=262 802	
	n	%
Never	81 203	30,9
Sometimes	162 611	61,9
Often	18 987	7,2

Figure 4.10 shows that women whose husbands/partners drink alcohol (76.7%) were significantly more likely to experience domestic violence – psychological, physical, and/or sexual violence – compared to women whose husbands/partners did not drink alcohol (47.8%). More specifically, women whose husbands/partners drink alcohol (74.9%) were significantly more likely to experience psychological violence than women whose husbands/

partners did not drink alcohol (46.9%). Moreover, women whose husbands/partners drink alcohol were nearly three times more likely to experience physical violence and six times more likely to experience sexual violence in their marriage/intimate relationship, compared to women whose husbands/partners did not drink alcohol (see Appendix Table 16).

**Figure 4.10.** Husband/partner's alcohol consumption by types of domestic violence

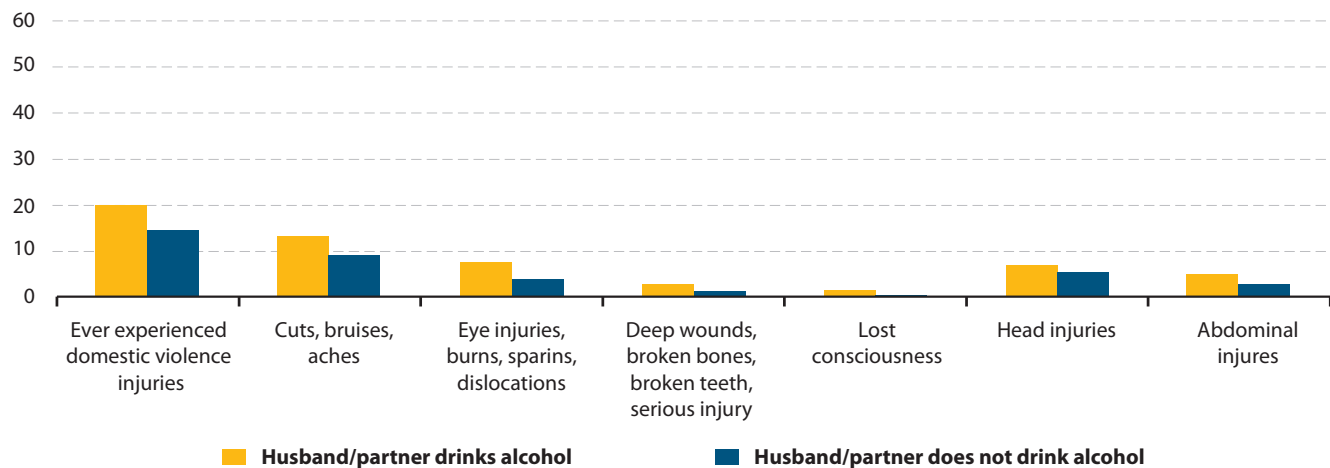


Note: Percentages are based on valid percents and do not reflect missing cases.

One would also assume husbands/partners' alcohol consumption has an effect on the severity of violence and the physical injuries battered women endure as a result of domestic violence. Figure 4.11 reveals that among physically and/or sexually abused women, women who reported their husbands/partners drink alcohol were significantly more likely to experience injuries related to domestic violence (see Appendix Table 18). In particular, battered women whose husbands/partners drink alcohol

were more likely to experience cuts, bruises and/or aches related to domestic violence. They were nearly two times more likely to experience eye injuries, burns, sprains, and/or dislocations from domestic violence. In addition, they were two times more likely to experience deep wounds, broken bones, broken teeth, and/or serious injury, and two times more likely to experience loss of consciousness and abdominal injuries (see Appendix Table 18).

**Figure 4.11.** Husband/partners' alcohol consumption by domestic violence-related injuries (ever)



Note: Percentages are based on valid percents and do not reflect missing cases.

## DEMOGRAPHIC EFFECTS ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

To understand demographic differences in women's experiences with domestic violence in their marriage/intimate relationships, cross-tabulations were carried out to determine if there were statistically significant

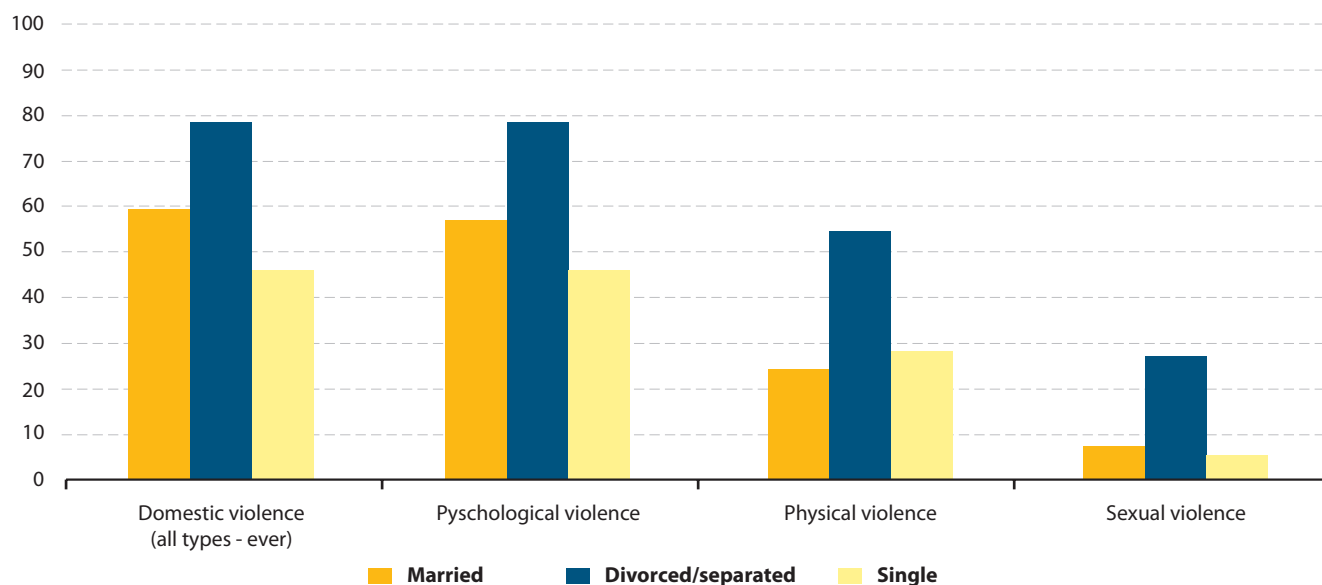
differences based upon women's marital status, age group, level of education, work status, and residence (urban vs. rural differences).

### Women's marital status and domestic violence

Figure 4.12 reveals that women in each of the categories – married, divorced/separated, and

single women (living with an intimate partner) – “ever” experienced domestic violence; however, divorced/separated women (78.4%) were significantly more likely to “ever” experience domestic violence of all types in their most recent marriage/intimate relationship, compared to

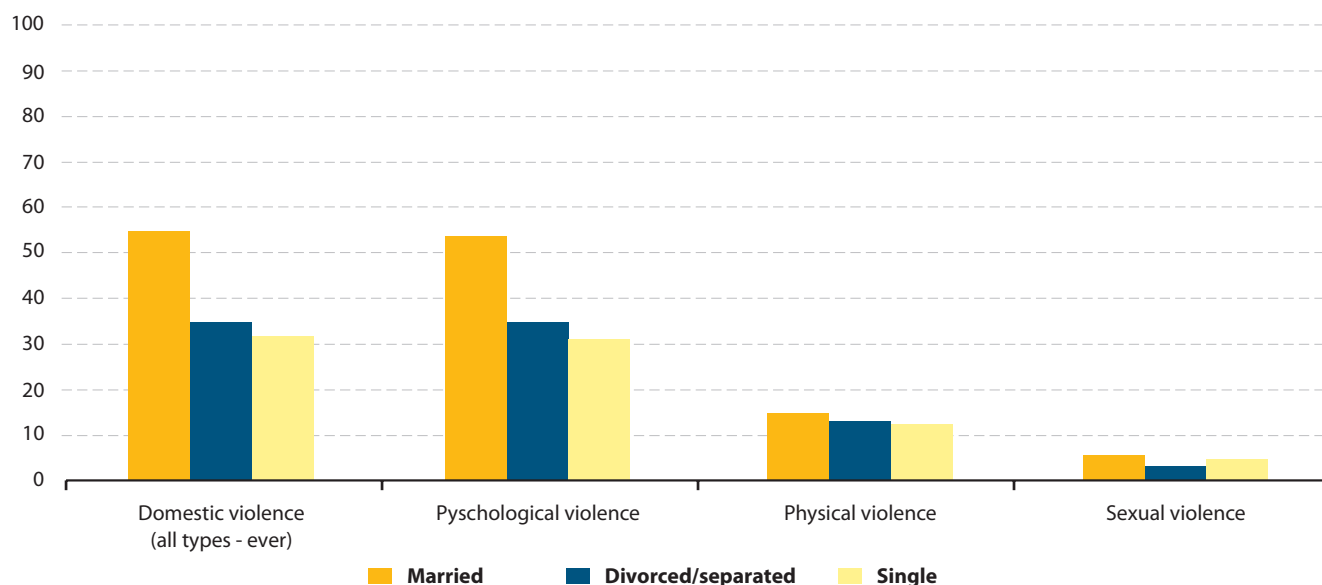
married (59.1%) and single women (46.6%). In addition, divorced/separated women were significantly more likely to “ever” experience psychological violence (78.4%), physical violence (53.3%), and sexual violence (28.2%), compared to married women (57.8%, 23.0%, and 7.5% respectively) and single women (46.6%, 28.4%, and 4.2% respectively; see Appendix Tables 19 and 20).

**Figure 4.12.** Women's marital status by types of domestic violence (ever)

Note: Percentages are based on valid percents and do not reflect missing cases.

In comparison, Figure 4.13 reveals that married women (54.2%) were significantly more likely to “currently” experience domestic violence of all types, compared to divorced/separated women (34.0%) and single women (31.0%). More specifically, married women were significantly more likely to “currently” experience psychological violence (53.3%) and physical violence (14.8%), compared to divorced/separated women (34.0% and 13.7% respectively) and single women (31.0% and 12.8% respectively).

In terms of sexual violence, married women (5.1%) and single women living with an intimate partner (4.2%) were nearly equally likely to be “currently” experiencing sexual violence in their marriage/intimate relationship, but both married and single women were significantly more likely to “currently” experience sexual violence, compared to divorced/separated women (2.7%; see Appendix Tables 19 and 20).

**Figure 4.13.** Women's marital status by types of domestic violence (current)

Note: Percentages are based on valid percents and do not reflect missing cases.



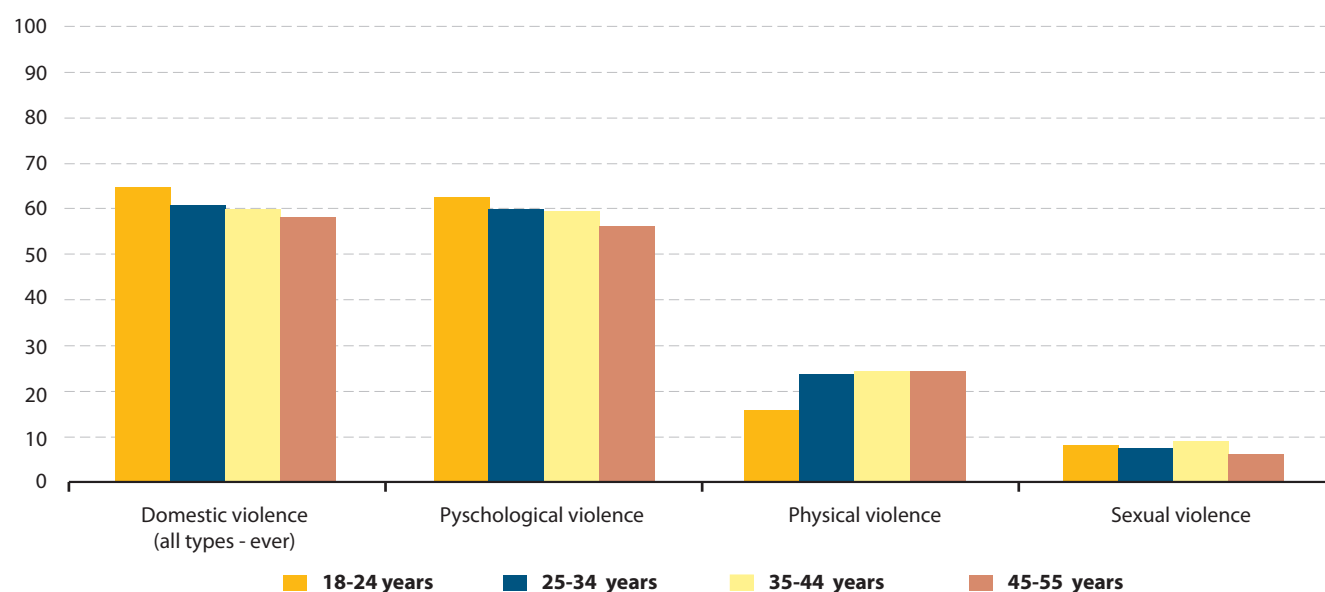
## Women's age and domestic violence

Analysis was also carried out to determine if there were statistically significant differences in women's experiences with domestic violence based upon age. Figure 4.14 reveals that the majority of women in all age groups "ever" experienced domestic violence; however, women 18-24 years of age (64.0%) were slightly more likely to "ever" experience domestic violence, compared to women 25-34 years of age (60.3%), 35-44 years (59.8%), and 45-55 years of age (58.0%). In particular, 18-24 year old women (62.5%) were significantly more likely to "ever" experience psychological violence in their marriage/intimate relationships, compared to women 25-34 years (59.8%), 35-44 years (58.7%), and 45-55 years of age (56.4%). In comparison, however, 18-24 year old women (17.1%) were significantly less likely to "ever" experience physical violence in their marriage/

intimate relationships, compared to women 25-34 years (23.4%), 35-44 years (24.0%), and 45-55 years of age (24.2%). This difference can be explained, in part, by the fact that women 25 years of age and older were significantly more likely to be married and living with an intimate partner than women under 25 years of age, and it is within the context of marriage and intimate relationships that a significant amount of physical violence occurs in women's lives.

In terms of sexual violence, women 35-44 years of age (9.5%) were more likely to "ever" experience sexual violence in their marriage/intimate relationships; whereas, women 45-55 years of age (6.3%) were less likely to "ever" experience sexual violence in their marriage/intimate relationships (see Appendix Tables 21 and 22).

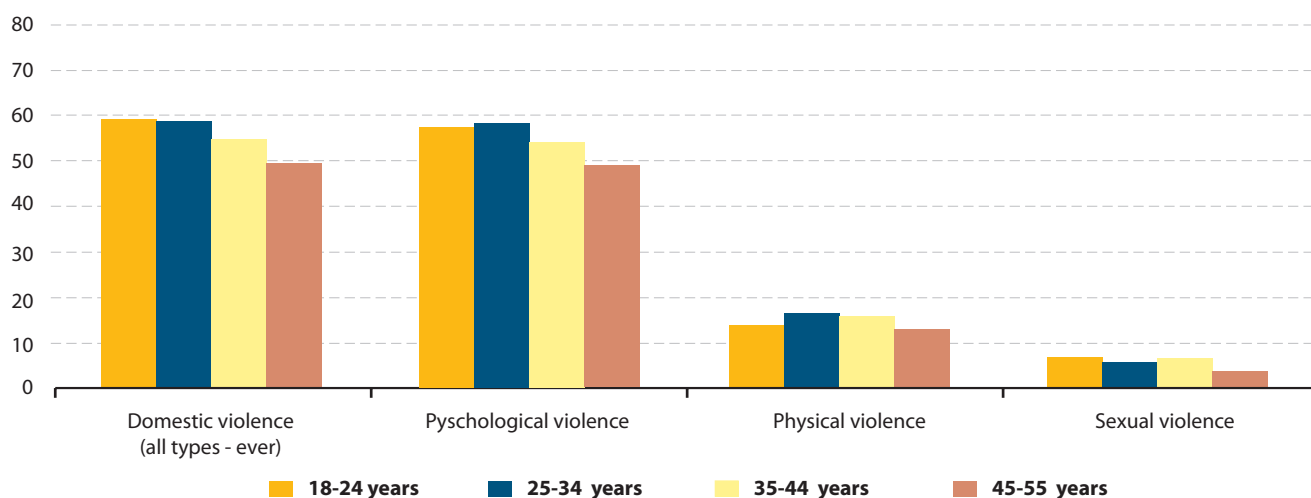
**Figure 4.14.** Women's age group status by types of domestic violence (ever)



Note: Percentages are based on valid percents and do not reflect missing cases.

Figure 4.15 reveals that although the majority of women in all age groups were "currently" experiencing domestic violence, women 45-55 years of age (49.8%) were significantly less likely to "currently" experience domestic violence of all types, compared to women 18-24 years of age (58.7%), 25-34 years (58.1%) and 35-44 years of age (54.7%). In addition, women 18-24 years of age (57.2%), 25-34 years (57.7%) and 35-44 years (54.1%) were significantly more likely to "currently" experience psychological violence in their marriage/intimate relationships, compared to women

45-55 years of age (48.5%). In terms of physical violence, women 25-34 years of age (16.8%) and 35-44 years (16.2%) were slightly more likely to "currently" experience physical violence in their marriage/intimate relationships, compared to women 18-24 years (13.2%) and 45-55 years of age (12.4%). Finally, women 18-24 years of age (6.6%), 35-44 years (6.2%), 25-34 years (5.5%) were significantly more likely to "currently" experience sexual violence in their marriage/intimate relationships, compared to women 45-55 years of age (3.6%; see Appendix Tables 21 and 22).

**Figure 4.15.** Women's age group by types of domestic violence (current)

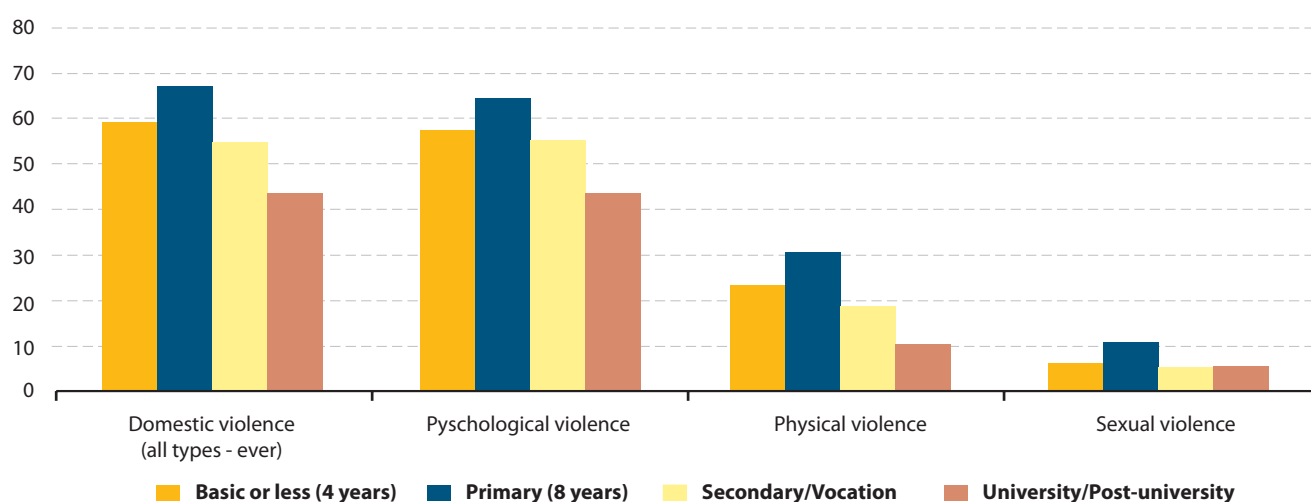
Note: Percentages are based on valid percents and do not reflect missing cases.

### Women's level of education and domestic violence

Analysis was also carried out to determine if there were statistically significant differences in women's experiences with domestic violence based upon level of education. Figure 4.16 demonstrates that although a significant proportion of women in each category of level of education ever experienced domestic violence, women with a primary education (66.7%) were significantly more likely to "ever" experience domestic violence of all types, compared to women with a basic education or less (58.5%), secondary education (56.4%), and a university/post-university education (43.2%). In addition, women with a primary education (8 years) were significant more likely

to experience psychological violence (65.1%), physical violence (31.0%), and sexual violence (11.3%), compared to women with a basic education or less (57.7%, 23.3%, and 6.1% respectively), secondary education (55.3%, 19.5%, and 5.1% respectively), and/or a university/post-university education (42.6%, 10.4%, and 5.3% respectively).

Women with a university/post-university education were least likely to "ever" experience domestic violence of all types; however, they were not immune to "ever" experiencing domestic violence in their marriage/intimate relationships simply because they were highly educated (see Appendix Tables 23 and 24).

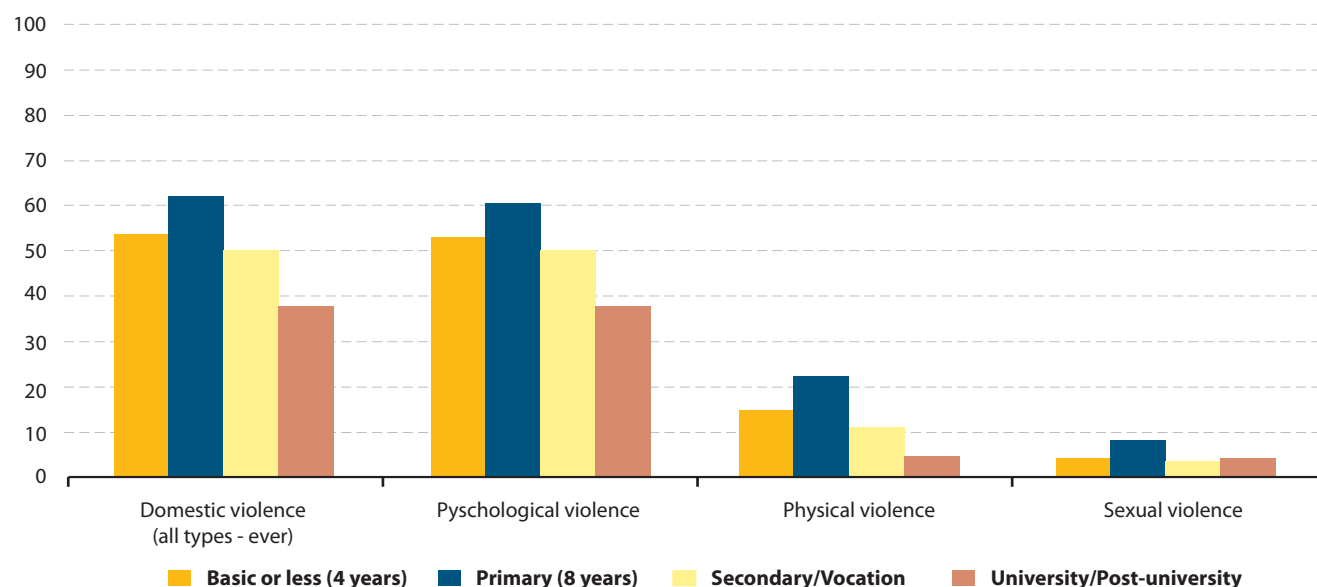
**Figure 4.16.** Women's level of education by types of domestic violence (ever)

Note: Percentages are based on valid percents and do not reflect missing cases.

Figure 4.17 reveals a significant proportion of women in each category of level of education were “currently” experiencing domestic violence; however, women with a primary education (61.2%) were more likely to “currently” experience domestic violence of all types, compared to women with a basic education or less (53.2%), secondary education (50.1%), and a university/post-university education (37.8%). In addition, women with a primary education (8 years) were significant more likely to experience psychological violence (59.9%), physical

violence (21.5%), and sexual violence (7.7%), compared to women with a basic education or less (52.3%, 14.9%, and 3.3% respectively), secondary education (49.5%, 10.9%, and 2.8% respectively), and/or university/post-university education (37.7%, 3.2%, and 3.3% respectively). It is important to note that although women with a university/post-university education were least likely to “currently” experience domestic violence of all types; they were not immune to domestic violence simply because they were highly educated (see Appendix Tables 23 and 24).

**Figure 4.17.** Women’s level of education by types of domestic violence (current)

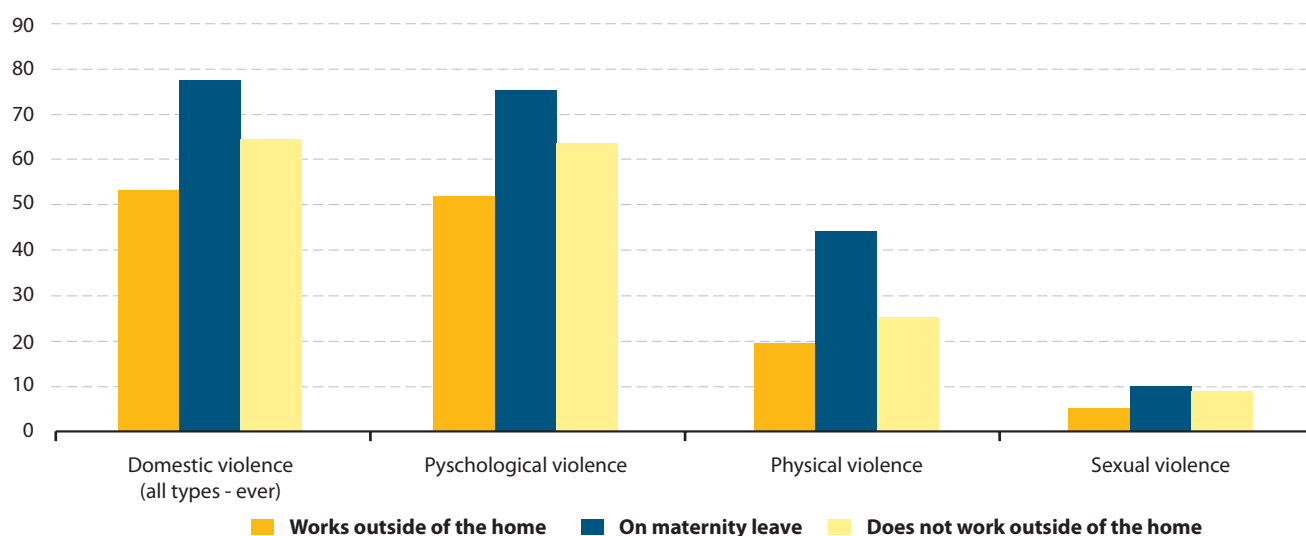


Note: Percentages are based on valid percents and do not reflect missing cases.

### Women’s work status and domestic violence

Analysis was carried out to examine the relationship between women’s work status and domestic violence. Figure 4.18 reveals that women who do not work outside of the home (64.2%) were significantly more likely to “ever” experience domestic violence of all types, compared to women who work outside of the home (52.9%); however, women on maternity leave (77.9% or 3 out of 4) were most likely to “ever” experience all types of domestic violence. It is important to remember, however, that women on maternity leave made up only .8% of the sample.

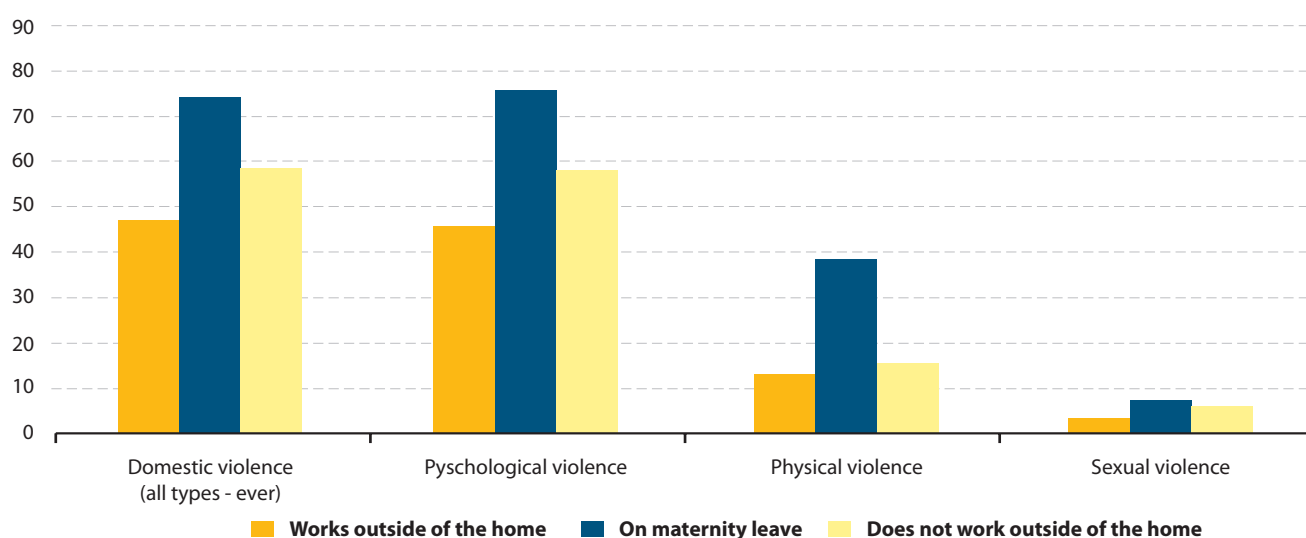
More specifically, women who do not work outside of the home were significantly more likely to “ever” experience psychological violence (63.2%), physical violence (26.3%), and sexual violence (9.7%), compared to women who work outside of the home (35.4%, 19.9%, and 5.5% respectively). Again, women on maternity leave were most likely to “ever” experience psychological violence (75.8%), physical violence (44.2%), and sexual violence (10.1%; see Appendix Tables 25 and 26).

**Figure 4.18.** Women's work status by types of domestic violence (ever)

Note: Percentages are based on valid percents and do not reflect missing cases.

Figure 4.19 reveals the relationship between women's work status and "current" experiences with domestic violence (within the 12 months prior to the interview). This figure reveals that women who do not work outside of the home (58.8%) were significantly more likely to "currently" experience domestic violence of all types, compared to women who work outside of the home (46.7%); however, women on maternity leave (73.5%, or 3 out of 4) were most likely to "currently" experience all types of domestic violence (within the 12 months prior to the interview). This finding reveals that domestic violence is very much a reality in the lives of pregnant women and women with newborns.

More specifically, women who do not work outside of the home were significantly more likely to "currently" experience psychological violence (58.1%), physical violence (16.0%), and sexual violence (6.5%), compared to women who work outside of the home (45.6%, 12.6%, and 3.1% respectively). Again, women on maternity leave were most likely to experience psychological violence (75.8%, or 3 out of 4), physical violence (38.8%, more than 1 out of 3), and sexual violence (7.2%; see Appendix Tables 25 and 26). Again, these findings are significantly relevant as they reveal that the period of pregnancy and immediately following pregnancy is a high risk period of women (46).

**Figure 4.19.** Women's work status by types of domestic violence (current)

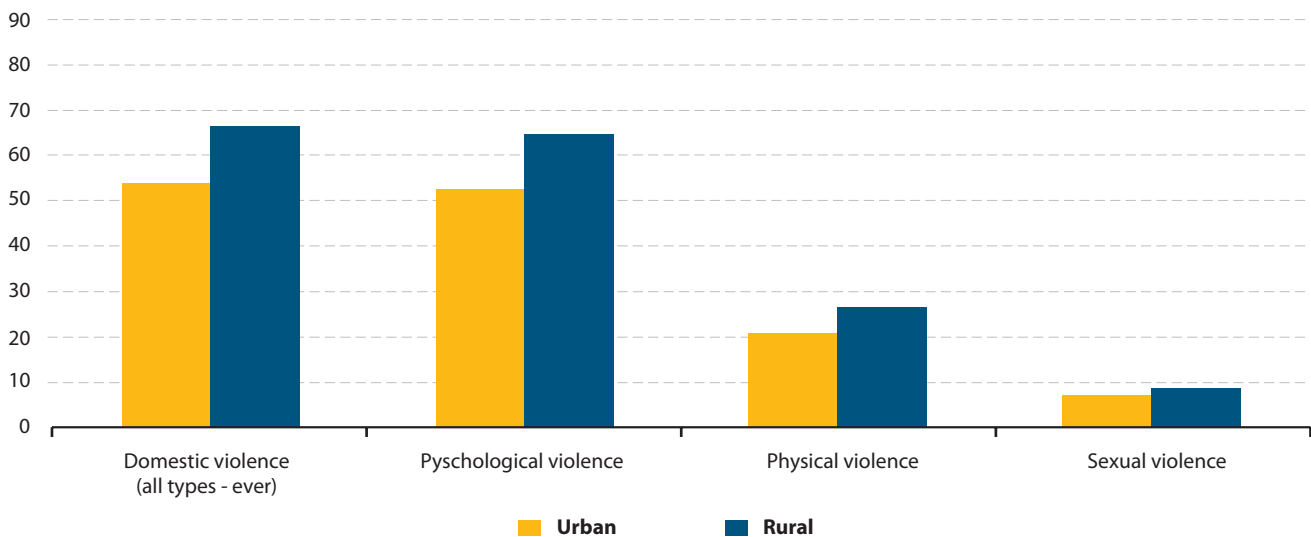
Note: Percentages are based on valid percents and do not reflect missing cases.

### Women's residence (urban vs. rural) and domestic violence

Analysis was also conducted to understand if there were differences among women living in urban versus rural areas in terms of their experiences with domestic violence. Figure 4.20 demonstrates that women in rural areas (66.9%, or 2 out of 3) were significantly more likely to “ever” experience domestic violence of all types, compared to women in urban

areas (53.0%, or 1 out of 2). More specifically, women in rural areas were significantly more likely to “ever” experience psychological violence (65.3%), physical violence (27.2%), and sexual violence (9.1%), compared to women in urban areas (52.1%, 20.7%, and 6.8% respectively; see Appendix Tables 27 and 28).

**Figure 4.20.** Women's residence (urban vs. rural) by types of domestic violence (ever)

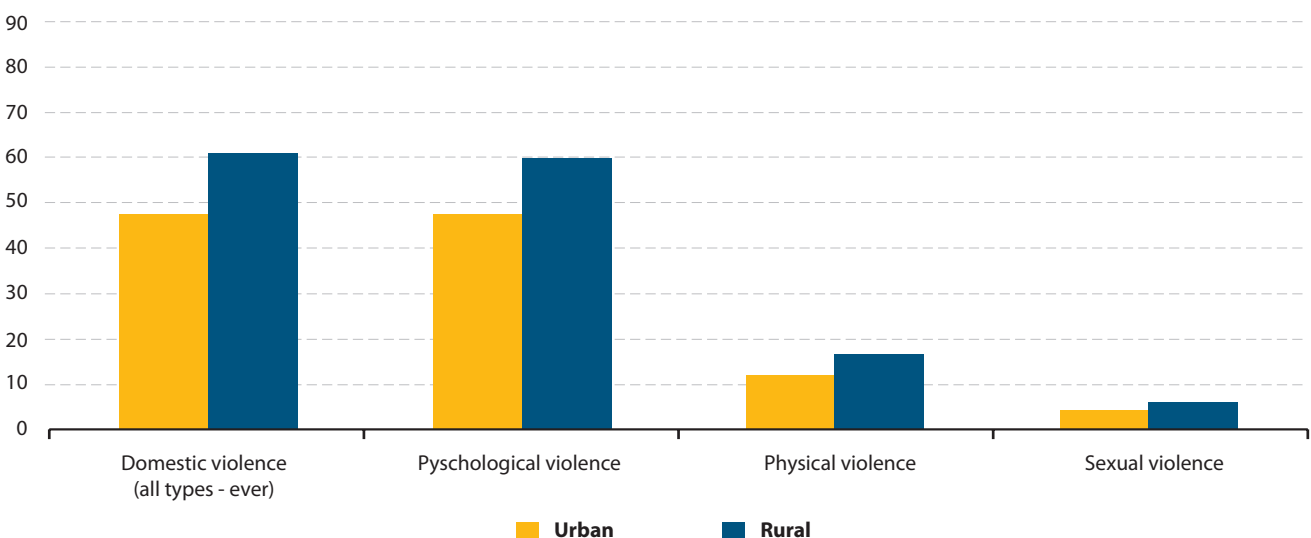


Note: Percentages are based on valid percents and do not reflect missing cases.

Figure 4.21 reveals that women in rural areas (60.8%) were also significantly more likely to “currently” experience domestic violence of all types, compared to women in urban areas (47.6%). Women in rural areas were significantly more likely to “currently” experience

psychological violence (59.6%), physical violence (17.6%), and sexual violence (5.9%), compared to women in urban areas (47.0%, 12.2%, and 4.3% respectively; see Appendix Table 27 and 28).

**Figure 4.21.** Women's residence (urban vs. rural) by types of domestic violence (current)



Note: Percentages are based on valid percents and do not reflect missing cases.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BY OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS

Domestic violence against women does not happen only by husbands/partners; often other family members (e.g., parents, brothers, sisters, in-laws, and other relatives) will commit acts of physical violence against girls and women. As part of the survey, women were asked if they had been hit, slapped, kicked, or physically injured since 15 years of age by other family members.

Table 4.11 reveals that only 6.9% of surveyed women reported that since 15 years of age, someone other than their husband/partner hit, slapped, kicked or did something to physically hurt them. When asked what family members abused them, 4.1% of women identified their father/step-father, 3.6% identified their mother/step-mother, and 2.3% identified a sister/brother. Some women also identified that other relatives and in-laws, as well as teachers and police/soldiers as the person(s) that physically abused them; however, the percentages were small.

Analysis was conducted to examine the relationship between women's victimization by other family members and domestic violence in their marriage/intimate relationships. Table 4.12 reveals that women who were physically abused by someone other than their husband since 15 years of age were significantly more likely to report "ever" (93.8%) and "currently" (86.4%) experiencing domestic violence, compared to women that had not been physically abused by someone other than their husband since 15 years of age (56.8% and 51.1% respectively). Thus, many battered women have multiple forms of victimization by different family members and non-family

**Table 4.11.** Women's experiences with physical violence by other family members

	N=739 758	
	n	%
Since 15 years of age, someone other than your husband/partner hit, slapped, kicked, or physically hurt you	50 903	6,9
<b>Other family members that physically abused women:</b>		
Mother/Step-mother	26 294	3,6
Father/Step-father	30 625	4,1
Sister/Brother	17 340	2,3
Daughter/Son	383	0,1
Other relatives	592	0,1
Mother-in-law	1 227	0,2
Father-in-law	1 337	0,2
Brother-in-law	124	0,1
Teacher	2 703	0,4
Police/soldier	124	0,1
Unknown	157	0,1

members in their lifetimes. Women's experiences with violence from parents, siblings, and/or other family members prior to marriage most likely increases their risk of being victimized by their husband/partner and/or in-laws after marriage.

**Table 4.12.** Women's experiences with physical violence by other family members by "ever" and "currently" experiencing domestic violence

	N=646 878			
	Ever		Current	
	n	%	n	%
Since 15 years of age, someone other than your husband/partner hit, slapped, kicked or physically hurt you				
Yes	39 582	93,8 <sup>a</sup>	36 445	86,4 <sup>a</sup>
No	340 111	56,8	306 392	51,1

Note: Frequencies and percentages are based on valid percents and do not reflect missing cases.

Chi-square significant < .01

## IMPACT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ON CHILDREN

Children are often the forgotten victims of domestic violence against women, yet children often witness the violence or are aware when it occurs in the home because they hear the yelling and arguments, see the injuries, and see the damage to property. In addition, children that grow up in violent homes are more likely to experience child abuse and neglect. Children of all ages, but particularly young children, are vulnerable to domestic violence and can be injured either directly or indirectly by the violence in the home (47, 48). Even if children are not the direct victims of domestic violence, they often suffer the same behavioral and psychological problems as abused children who are abused and neglected (49, 50). In particular, children exposed to violence in the home often suffer physical, social, and developmental problems (e.g., learning problems,

limited social skills, suffer depression or severe anxiety, and/or exhibit violent, risky or delinquent behavior).

Women that “ever” experienced domestic violence were asked if the domestic violence influenced their children. Table 4.13 shows that only 14.0% of women that “ever” experienced domestic violence thought it also influenced their children. Among those women that thought the domestic violence influenced their children, 86.4% of women reported their children witnessed the domestic violence, 42.8% reported the domestic violence caused learning problems for their children, 31.2% reported their children live in fear, 19.2% reported their children were hurt or injured because of domestic violence, and 5.5% reported their children left home to live with relatives because of the domestic violence.

**Table 4.13.** Influence of domestic violence on children

	N=646 878	
	n	%
<b>Domestic violence influenced one's children</b>	24 409	14,0
	N=646 878	
	n	%
<b>Children witnessed domestic violence</b>	21 096	86,4
<b>Children live in fear</b>	7 605	31,2
<b>Children were hurt or injured</b>	4 682	19,2
<b>Children left home to live with relatives because of the domestic violence</b>	1 349	5,5
<b>Domestic violence caused learning problems for their children</b>	10 450	42,8

Note: Frequencies and percentages are based on valid percents and do not reflect missing cases.

Appendix Table 29 reveals women that “ever” experienced sexual violence in their marriage/intimate relationships (19.6%) were more likely to believe the domestic violence influenced their children, compared to women that experienced psychological (14.5%) or physical violence (14.4%). In fact, as many as 49.9% of women that “ever”

experienced sexual violence reported their children lived in fear, 22.3% reported their children were hurt or injured as a result of domestic violence, and 57.1% reported the domestic violence has caused learning problems for their children.

## HELP-SEEKING BEHAVIORS OF BATTERED WOMEN

Battered women are often reluctant to seek help for domestic violence. In fact, Table 4.14 reveals that only 8.4% of women that “ever” experienced domestic violence, and 7.1% of women “currently” experiencing domestic violence ever tried to seek for the violence in their marriage/intimate relationships. This finding demonstrates that the majority of battered women in Albania continue to suffer in silence despite ongoing efforts to raise public awareness to the problems of domestic violence and newly created domestic violence legislative and social services for victims

of domestic violence. Thus, battered women are not receiving the protections, support services, and access to justice that is their legal and human rights.

For battered women who do not seek help for domestic violence, the reasons are numerous, including:

- they believe no improvement would happen
- they don't know where to seek help; they fear reporting would bring a bad reputation to their family's name



- they fear being beaten even more by their abuser(s)
- they think or know from experience that they will be blamed for their own victimization
- they fear seeking help would lead to divorce or the end of their marriage/relationship
- they think they would not be taken seriously or trusted, or even ridiculed
- they fear losing their children, and they perceive violence to be a normal part of marriage so there is no reason to complain
- they are uncomfortable seeking help because their ability to understand their legal rights is limited.

It is important to understand that when women do seek

help for domestic violence, the majority of women turn to their family for help. Table 4.14 reveals the majority of “ever” and “currently” battered women that sought help turned to their own family (91.8% and 89.5% respectively) and/or their

husband/partner’s family (60.9% and 58.7% respectively). A significant proportion of “ever” and “currently” battered women also sought help from their friends (29.0% and 27.5% respectively). Only a small percentage of “ever” and “currently” battered women sought help from a doctor/medical professional (14.8% and 15.6% respectively), police (16.8% and 14.1% respectively, lawyer (14.8% and 7.8% respectively), or a judge (11.2% and 6.2% respectively). Also, only 11.2% of “ever” battered women and 1.1% of “currently” battered women sought help from social services.

**Table 4.14.** Help-seeking behaviors of victims of domestic violence

	N=384 372		N=384 372	
	Gjatë jetës		Aktualisht	
	n	%	n	%
Ever tried to seek help to stop the domestic violence	14 570	8,4	11 373	7,1
Who sought help from:	N=14 570		N=11 373	
Their own family	13 370	91,8	10 174	89,5
Husband/partner’s family	8 877	60,9	6 674	58,7
Former husband/partner	851	5,8	558	4,9
Former boyfriend	434	3,0	434	3,8
Friends	4 232	29,0	3 127	27,5
Other relatives	2 880	19,8	1 972	17,3
Religious leaders	0	,0	0	,0
Doctor/medical personnel	2 161	14,8	1 772	15,6
Police	2 443	16,8	1 603	14,1
Lawyer	2 151	14,8	882	7,8
Judge	1 638	11,2	711	6,2
Social services	1 634	11,2	129	1,1

Appendix Table 30 reveals that women that “ever” experienced physical violence (9.2%) and/or sexual violence (12.2%) were more likely to seek help, compared to women that “ever” experienced psychological violence (3.8%). Also, women that “currently” experienced physical violence (7.7%) and/or sexual violence (7.1%) were more likely to seek help, compared to women “currently” experiencing psychological violence (3.3%). These findings reveal that the type of domestic violence women experience, and most likely the severity of the violence, influences women’s willingness to seek help. Nevertheless, the scars of psychological violence are real and often run deep in battered women; therefore, psychologically abused women often have a difficult time seeking help, seeing their options, and organizing the resources they need to

leave the abusive relationship. Moreover, psychological violence typically worsens over time and in many cases escalates to physical battering.

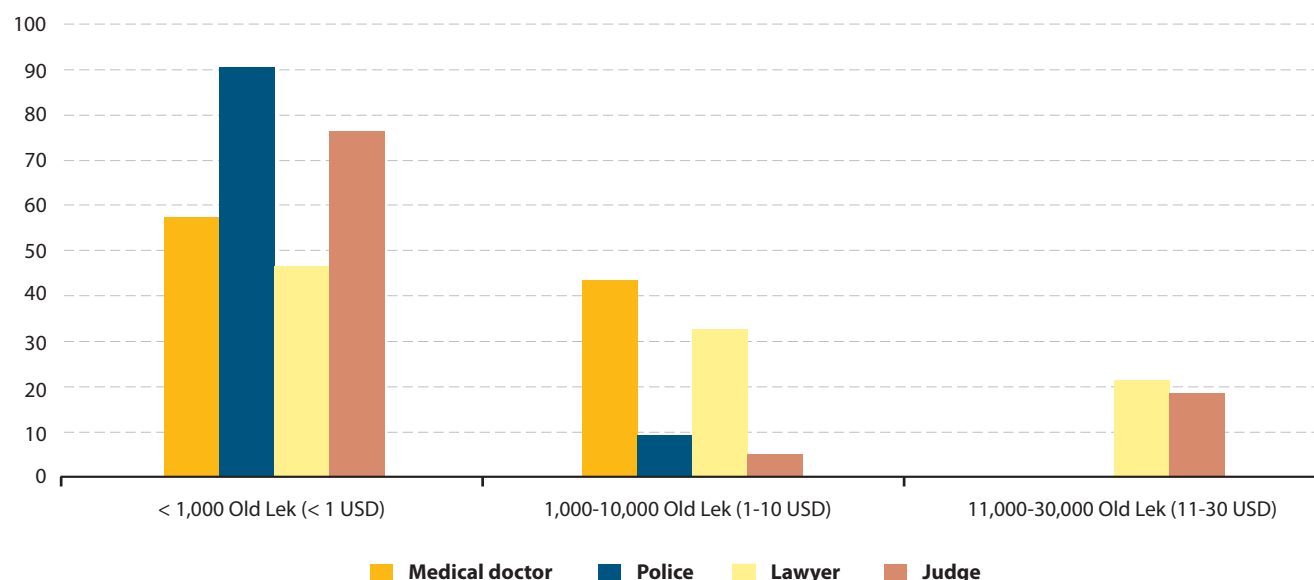
Domestic violence victims that sought medical and/or legal services were asked if they had to pay (even underhanded bribes) for any of the medical and/or legal services they received. Women were asked how much they had to pay in Old Lek to receive medical and/or legal services from medical doctors/professionals, police, lawyers, and judges. Figure 4.22 reveals the majority of women that sought medical and/or legal services for domestic violence had to less than 1,000 Old Lek (<1 USD). A significant proportion of women that sought help from medical doctors and lawyers also had to pay 1,000-10,000 Old Lek



(1-10 USD), and as many as 18.7% of domestic violence victims that sought help from judges and to 21.3% that sought help from lawyers had to pay 11,000-30,000 Old Lek (11-30 USD). For many battered women, having to

pay for services (even under-handed bribes) serves as a significant barrier in their ability to access medical care, protection and support services, and access to justice (see also Appendix Table 31).

**Figure 4.22.** Amount domestic violence victims had to pay for medical and legal services



Note: Percentages are based on valid percents and do not reflect missing cases.

Although only 3.8% of “ever” battered women sought help for domestic violence, analysis was conducted to determine if demographic characteristics (e.g., women’s education, age, work status, and urban vs. rural residence) influenced battered women’s help-seeking behaviors. Table 4.15 shows that women in the age groups 35-44 years (9.4%) and 45-55 years (8.0%) were more likely to seek help for the domestic violence, compared to women in the age groups 18-24 years (4.3%) and 25-34 years (5.8%; see also Appendix Table 32).

In terms of education, women with a basic education or less (12.4%) were more likely to seek help for domestic violence, compared to women with a primary education (8.3%), secondary/vocational education (7.4%), or university/post-university education (2.2%). Surprisingly, women with a university/post-university education were least likely to seek help for domestic violence (see also Appendix Table 32).

In terms of work status, Table 4.15 reveals that women that do not work outside of the home (10.3%) were more likely to seek help for domestic violence, compared to women that worked outside of the home (3.8%). Surprisingly, although women on maternity leave were more likely to be “currently” experiencing domestic violence, no women on maternity leave sought help for domestic violence. This finding demonstrates that much more effort needs to be made by medical doctors/health care professionals

**Table 4.15.** Help-seeking behavior of battered women by women’s demographics

	Sought help for domestic violence	
	n	%
<b>Age</b>		
18-24 years	489	4,3
25-34 years	2 437	5,8
35-44 years	5 886	9,4
45-55 years	5 759	8,0
<b>Level of education</b>		
Basic or less (4 years)	1 026	12,4
Primary (8 years)	8 139	8,3
Secondary/vocational	4 723	7,4
University/post-university	293	2,2
<b>Work status</b>		
Works outside the home	2 569	3,8
On maternity leave	0	0,0
Does not work outside of the home	12 001	10,3
<b>Residence</b>		
Urban	9 764	10,9
Rural	4 807	4,9

to screen pregnant women and women that recently gave birth for domestic violence (see also Appendix Table 32).

Finally, Table 4.15 also reveals that women in urban areas (10.9%) were significantly more likely to seek help for domestic violence, than women in rural areas (4.9%). In rural areas where there are either no or limited victim support services, battered women are more likely to feel a sense of isolation and will be less likely to receive the assistance they desperately need (see also Appendix Table 31).

## INTERVIEWS INTERRUPTED

At the end of the interview, interviewers were asked to report whether they had to interrupt the interview because a husband or other adult family members was trying to listen, came into the room, or interfered in any other way in the interview. Table 4.16 revealed that 17.3% interviewers reported their interview was interrupted by a husband or other adult family member. In particular, 7.7% of interviewers reported the interview was interrupted by the woman's husband, 5.3% reported another adult male interrupted the interview, and 11.2% reported an adult female interrupted the interview.

One would assume that women that were victims of domestic violence would be more likely to have their interview interrupted by a husband or other adult family member. In fact, Figure 4.22 reveals women that "ever" experienced domestic violence (24.0%) and were "currently" experiencing domestic violence (24.2%) were more likely to have their interview interrupted by a husband or other adult family members, compared to women that never experienced domestic violence (9.2%; see also Appendix Table 33).

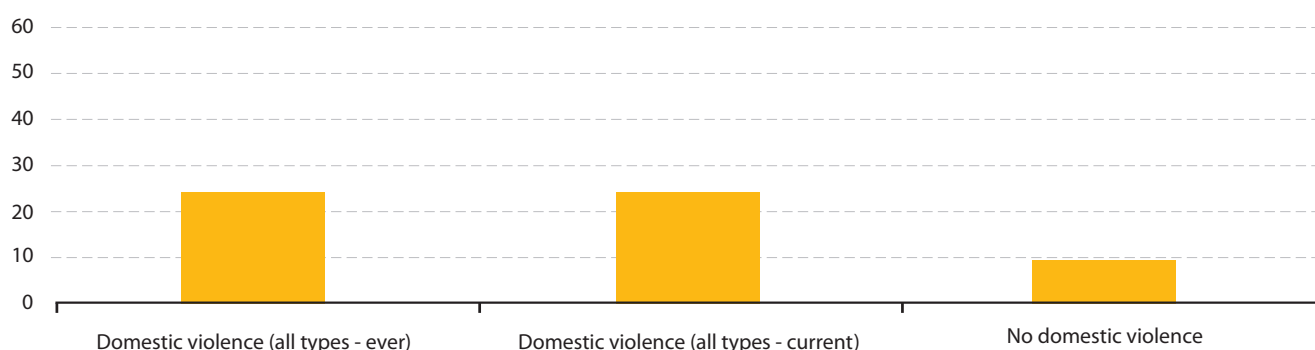
Tables 4.14 and 4.15, along with Figure 4.21, reveal that most victims of domestic violence have a difficult time seeking help, seeing their options, and organizing the resources they need to access medical, legal, and support services and to leave an abusive marriage/relationship, regardless of their age, level of education, work status, and/or residence (urban vs. rural).

**Tabela 4.16.** Interview interrupted

	n	%
<b>Interview interrupted by a husband or other adult family member</b>	127 803	17,3
Husband	56 753	7,7
Other adult male	39 143	5,3
Adult female	82 623	11,2

While Table 4.16 reveals that 17.3% of interviewers reported the interview was interrupted by a husband or other adult family member, and Figure 4.23 reveals that most of these women reported they had experienced domestic violence, these findings can be interpreted to mean that at least 17.3% of women may have under reported the nature and extent of their experiences with domestic violence, domestic violence-related injuries, and/or their willingness to seek help for their violence out of fear that a family member was listening

**Figura 4.23.** Interview interrupted by women's experiences with domestic violence



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# 5

## Conclusions





Research worldwide has found that domestic violence is one of the most prevalent forms of violence experienced by women and children in most countries around the world (1, 2, 3, 4). Similarly, findings from this 2013 national population-based survey on domestic violence against women, along with the 2007 national population-based survey findings, confirms that domestic violence against women is a widespread problem in families and communities throughout Albania (5). Given that the 2007 and 2013 national-population-based surveys on domestic violence against women used similar methodologies and data collection tools, comparisons can be made. Such comparisons will enable the Government of Albania to begin to monitor patterns and trends over time in the nature and extent of domestic violence against

women, contributing factors to domestic violence, and to explore the impact of recently developed prevention, intervention, and protection efforts on the nature and extent of domestic violence. Data and findings from this 2013 survey can also serve to further inform legislative reforms and policy development, shape prevention and interventions efforts, and improve protection and support for women and children that are victims and survivors of domestic violence.

Throughout this chapter comparisons will be made between findings from the 2007 and 2013 national population-based surveys on domestic violence against women in Albania.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Table 5.1 reveals that from 2007 to 2013, the proportion of women that “ever” experienced domestic violence increased from 56.0% to 59.4%. In 2007, the proportion of women that were “currently” experiencing domestic violence was not calculated because “current” violence was not asked for each of the different forms of domestic included in the survey (6).

In 2013, the survey was improved and women were asked

about “ever” and “current” experiences with each of the different forms of domestic violence included in the survey; therefore, “current” domestic violence could be calculated. Table 5.1 reveals that 53.7% of women were “currently” experiencing domestic violence in 2013. In the future, it will be important to monitor “current” trends in domestic violence against women and to compare future data with this 2013 survey data.

**Table 5.1.** Percentage of women who “ever” experienced domestic violence (2007 and 2013 comparisons)

	2007 – Ever	2013 – Ever	2013 - Current 53,7%
Domestic violence (all types)	56,0%	59,4%	NA
Emotional violence <sup>1</sup>	50,6%	NA	52,8%
Psychological violence	39,1%	58,2%	14,7%
Physical violence	31,2%	23,7%	5,0%
Sexual violence	12,7%	7,9%	16,2%
Both physical and sexual violence <sup>2</sup>	NA	24,6%	

<sup>1</sup> In 2013, emotional and psychological violence were merged into one category during analysis

<sup>2</sup> In both physical and sexual violence was not calculated

Table 5.1 further reveals that in 2007, 50.6% of women “ever” experienced emotional violence and 39.1% “ever” experienced psychological violence (7). In 2013, the categories emotional and psychological violence were merged into one category, psychological violence. In 2013, 58.2% of women “ever” experienced psychological violence and 52.8% were “currently” experiencing domestic violence. Psychological violence was further divided into four different types – verbal abuse, psychological threats, controlling behaviors, and economic abuse – which allowed for improved analysis of the proportion of women that “ever” and “currently” experienced each of these four different types of psychological violence (see Table 4.2).

From 2007 to 2013, the proportion of women that “ever” experienced physical violence decreased from 31.2% to 23.7% (8). In 2013, the proportion of women that were “currently” experiencing physical violence was also measured, and it was found that 14.7% of women were “currently” experiencing physical violence. In 2013, physical violence was further divided into four different types – moderate physical violence, severe physical

violence, physical violence with a weapon, and physical violence with aggravated injuries – which allowed for improved analysis of the proportion of women that “ever” and “currently” experienced each of these four different types of physical violence (see Table 4.3).

Finally, Table 5.1 reveals that from 2007 to 2013, the proportion of women that “ever” experienced sexual violence decreased from 12.7% to 7.9% (9). And, in 2013, the proportion of women that were “currently” experiencing sexual violence was 5.0%. In 2013, the proportion of women that “ever” and “currently” experienced both physical and sexual violence was also calculated, revealing that 24.6% of women “ever” experienced both physical and sexual violence, and 16.2% were “currently” experiencing both physical and sexual violence.

In the future, it will be important to monitor both “ever” and “current” trends in domestic violence, in general, and for each of the different types of psychological, physical, and sexual violence against women, and to compare future survey data with the 2013 survey data.

## MULTIPLE TYPES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

In 2007 and 2013, it is well documented that women experience multiple types of domestic violence in their marriage/intimate relationships, including multiple forms of psychological, physical, and sexual violence (10). In 2013, improved analysis revealed that among the 59.4% of women who “ever” experienced domestic violence, 35.9% experienced only one type of domestic violence – psychological, physical, or sexual violence – in their

marriage/intimate relationship, 16.7% experience two of these types of domestic violence, and 6.8% experienced each of these three types of domestic violence (see Figure 4.5). In 2007 and 2013, analysis also revealed a significant relationship between each of the three types of domestic violence (see Table 4.5) (11).

## WHEN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BEGINS IN MARRIAGE

In 2007, it was found that as many as 45% to 56% of women who experienced domestic violence (depending upon the type of violence) reported the violence began within the first year of marriage/living with their partner. Another 31% to 36% of women reported the domestic violence (depending upon the type of violence) began in the 2nd and 3rd years of their marriage/living together. Thus, adding up these two cases, as many as 82% to 88% of women reported domestic violence began within the first three years of marriage/living together (12).

By 2013, it was found that 27.6% of women reported the violence began within the first year of marriage, and 50.2% reported the violence began in the 2nd and 3rd years of marriage. Thus, 77.8% of women reported the violence began with the first three years of marriage (see Table 4.6). Despite some differences from 2007 to 2013, many of the women had lived with violence in their marriage and family for 10 to 30 years (13).



## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE-RELATED INJURIES

In 2007 and 2013, battered women revealed they often experience domestic violence-related injuries of varying degrees of severity. Specifically, in 2007, 48.3% of women that experienced domestic violence reported they were injured with cuts, bruises, or aches; 18.1% suffered eye injuries, burns, sprains, or dislocations; 5.4% experienced a loss of consciousness; and 1% suffered deep wounds, broken bones, broken teeth, or serious injuries (14).

In comparison, in 2013, only 18.8% of “ever” physically abused women reported experiencing domestic violence-related injuries. In terms of type of injuries, 12.1% of physically abused women experienced cuts, bruises, or aches; 6.3% experienced eye injuries, burns, sprain, or dislocations; 6.5% experienced head injuries; 4.4% suffered abdominal injuries; 2.2% suffered deep wounds, broken bones, broken teeth, or other serious injuries; and 1.1% lost consciousness due to domestic violence. In 2013, it was also revealed that battered women who experienced domestic violence-related injuries often experienced more than one type of injury (see Table 4.8).

In 2013, more advanced analysis was also conducted on domestic violence-related injuries by different all types of physical and sexual violence, as well as each of the different types of physical violence (i.e., moderate physical violence, severe physical violence, and physical violence with a weapon). Findings revealed that women who were physically and sexually abused by their husbands/partners suffered injuries of varying degrees of severity. Sexually abused women, however, were more likely than physically abused women to experience each of the different types of physical injuries. Also, women who experienced severe physical violence in their marriage/intimate relationships were more likely to experience each of the different types

of physical injuries, compared to women who experienced moderate physical violence. Women who experienced physical violence involving a weapon were most likely to experience physical injuries, including more severe and serious injuries (see Figure 4.7).

In 2007, the 26% to 66% of women who experienced domestic violence-related injuries reported they were unable to work for a period of 1 to 15 days because of their injuries (15). By 2013, only 9.4% of women that experienced domestic violence related injuries reported they were unable to perform house maintenance and child care responsibilities because of their domestic violence-related injuries, and 5.1% were unable to perform work outside of the home. It was found, however, that women missed more days of work than house maintenance and child care responsibilities due to domestic violence-related injuries (see Table 4.9).

One possible explanation that so few women reporting experiencing domestic violence-related injuries in 2013 may be related to the fact that mini-laptops were used to administer the survey and collect data in the field in 2013. Women may have been more reluctant to report their injuries related to domestic violence for fear they were being officially recorded, and that harm could come to their husbands for injuring them.

These findings have serious implications for the medical/health care sectors, as many medical doctors and health care workers see and treat women living in violent relationships and children living in violent families, either knowingly or unknowingly. In many cases, medical staff may be the first point-of-contact for survivors of domestic violence.

## SEXUAL ABUSE, USE OF CONTRACEPTIVES, AND RISK OF STDs

In 2007 and 2013, data was analyzed to understand the relationship between sexual violence, women’s ability to use contraceptives, and their risks of contracting sexually transmitted diseases. In both 2007 and 2013, it was found that women who were sexually abused in their marriage/intimate relationships were nearly three times more likely to report their husband did not allow them to use contraceptives to avoid pregnancy, compared to women who were not sexually abused (18). In 2013, it was also found that sexually abused women were two times more

likely to report their husband/partner did not know when they used contraceptives, compared to women who were not sexually abused.

In terms of risk of STDs, in 2007 and 2013, it was found that sexually abused women were two times more likely to have had a sexually transmitted disease in the past, compared to women who were not sexually abused in their marriage/intimate relationship (see Figure 4.8; 19).

## ALCOHOL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The relationship between husband's alcohol use/abuse and domestic violence was examined in both the 2007 and 2013 surveys. From 2007 to 2013, the proportion of women that reported their husbands/partners drank alcohol remained fairly consistent (38.1% and 35.5% respectively). However, the proportion of women that reported their husbands/partners got drunk significantly increased from 31.0% in 2007 to 69.1% in 2013 (see Figure 4.10; 20). This significant increase is important given the relationship between husband's alcohol use/abuse and domestic violence.

In both 2007 and 2013, analysis revealed that women whose husbands/partners drank alcohol were significantly more likely to experience domestic violence of all types, compared to women whose husbands/partners did not drink alcohol. In 2007 and 2013, it was found that women whose husbands/partners drank alcohol were two times

more likely to experience physical violence and sexual violence in their marriage/intimate relationship (21). By 2013, the finding was that women whose husbands/partners drank alcohol were nearly three times more likely to experience physical violence and six times more likely to experience sexual violence in their marriage/intimate relationships (see Figure 4.9). The significant increase from 2007 to 2013 in women's risks of sexual violence related to their husband/partner's alcohol consumption is important and should be further examined and addressed.

In 2007 and 2013, analysis also revealed that women who were physically and sexually abused and reported their husbands/partners drank alcohol were significantly more likely to experience injuries related to domestic violence (see Figure 4.10; 22). It is important to remember that alcohol is a contributing factor to domestic violence, but it is not the cause of domestic violence.

## WOMEN'S MARITAL STATUS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

It is within the context of marriage/intimate relationships that domestic violence occurs; therefore, in 2007 and 2013 the relationship between women's marital status – married, divorced/separated, and single (living with an intimate partner – and experiences with domestic violence was analyzed. In 2007 and 2013, it was found that there were significant differences based upon women's marital status and their experiences with psychological, physical, and sexual violence in their marriage/intimate relationships. The consistent finding is that women who are divorced/separated were significantly more likely to "ever"

experience psychological, physical, and sexual violence in their marriage/intimate relationships, compared to women who were married/living together (see Figure 4.11; 23). In comparison, women who were married were significantly more likely to be "currently" experiencing domestic violence of all types, compared to divorced/separated women (Figure 4.11; 24); however, in 2007, it was found that 44% to 68% of divorced/separated women reported "currently" experiencing physical violence in their current intimate relationship (25).

## WOMEN'S AGE AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Analysis was also carried out to determine if there were significant differences in women's experiences with domestic violence based upon age. In 2007, women between 15 and 49 years of age were grouped into nine different age groups (26). Women in each of the age groups experienced domestic violence and there were no significant differences across age groups in regard to women's experiences with emotional or psychological violence; however, there were significant differences across age groups in regard to women's experiences with physical and sexual violence. In particular, women 26 years of age and older were significantly more likely to report they were physically and/or sexually abused by a husband/partner than women in the age groups 15 to 17 years, 18 to 21 years, and 22 to 25 years (27).

In 2013, the sample included women between 18 and 55 years of age and women were grouped into four different age groups. Analysis revealed that the majority of women in all age groups "ever" experienced domestic violence; however, women 18-24 years of age were slightly more likely to "ever" experience domestic violence, compared to women 25-34 years of age, 35-44 years, and 45-55 years. In particular, 18-24 year old women were significantly more likely to "ever" experience psychological violence in their marriage/intimate relationships; however, women 25 years of age and older were significantly more likely to "ever" experience physical violence in their marriage/intimate relationships (see Figure 4.13). This finding is similar to the 2007 finding that women 26 years of age and older were significantly more likely to report they were

physically abused by their husband/partner compared to women between 15 and 25 years of age (28).

In terms of sexual violence, the 2013 survey found that women 35-44 years of age (9.5%) were more likely to “ever” experience sexual violence in their marriage/intimate relationships (see Figure 4.13); whereas in 2007 women 26 years of age and older were more likely to report they were sexually abused by their husband/partner (29).

In 2013, the relationship between women’s age and “current” experiences of domestic violence were also examined. This analysis revealed that although a significant proportion of women 45-55 years of age (49.8%) were “currently” experiencing domestic violence in their marriage/intimate relationship, they were less likely to “currently” experience domestic violence of all types compared to women 18-24 years of age (58.7%), 25-34 years of age (58.1%), and 35-44 years of age (14.7%; see Figure 4.14).

## WOMEN’S LEVEL OF EDUCATION AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Women of all educational levels experienced domestic violence; however, women’s experiences with domestic violence varied based upon level of education. In 2013, it was also found that women with a primary education (66.7%) were significantly more likely to “ever” experience domestic violence of all types, compared to women with a basic education or less (58.5%), secondary education (56.4%), and a university/post-university education (43.2%; see Figure 4.15). This same pattern emerged for women

that were “currently” experiencing domestic violence (see Figure 4.16).

In 2007 and 2013, analysis revealed that women with a university/post-university education were least likely to “ever” experience domestic violence of all types; however, they were not immune to “ever” experiencing domestic violence in their marriage/intimate relationships simply because they were highly educated (see Figure 4.15; 30).

## HUSBAND’S LEVEL OF EDUCATION AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

In 2007, the relationship between husband’s level of education and domestic violence was also analyzed. It was found that men of all educational levels committed acts of domestic violence against their wives/partners; however, women who “ever” experienced emotional abuse were significantly more likely to report their husband/partner had a secondary or high school education. In addition, women who experienced psychological and physical violence were more likely to report their husband/partner had a secondary education. Whereas, women who did not experience emotional, psychological, or physical violence

were more likely to report their husband had a university education. There was no significant relationship between a husband’s level of education and women’s experiences with sexual violence in their marriage/intimate relationship (31).

In 2013, the relationship between husband’s level of education and domestic violence was not analyzed because the data on husband’s level of education was not merged with women’s demographic data and the data set on domestic violence.

## WOMEN’S WORK STATUS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

In 2007 and 2013, analysis was carried out to examine the relationship between women’s work status and domestic violence. In 2007, there were no significant differences in women’s experiences with psychological, physical, and sexual violence based upon women’s work status. In other words, women who worked outside of the home at least 20 hours per week at the time of the survey were just as likely to experience psychological, physical, and sexual violence in their marriage/intimate relationship, compared to women who did not work outside of the home (32).

In 2007, the only difference to emerge based upon work status was related to the occurrence of emotional abuse;

women who did not work outside of the home were significantly more likely to experience emotional abuse than women who worked outside of the home at least 20 hours per week at the time of the survey (33).

In comparison, in 2013, it was found that women who do not work outside of the home (64.2%) were significantly more likely to “ever” experience domestic violence of all types, compared to women who worked outside of the home (52.9%); however, women on maternity leave (77.9% or 3 out of 4) were most likely to “ever” experience domestic violence (see Figure 4.17). In terms of “current” domestic violence, the pattern was the same (see Figure 4.18).

## HUSBAND'S WORK STATUS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

In 2007, the relationship between husband's work status and domestic violence experienced by women was examined. There was no statistically significant relationship between a husband's work status and women's experience with emotional abuse, physical violence, or sexual violence in their marriage/intimate relationship. However, women who experienced psychological abuse were significantly more

likely to report their husbands worked outside of the home for at least 20 hours at the time of the survey (34).

In 2013, the relationship between husband's work status and domestic violence was not analyzed because the data on husband's work status was not merged with women's demographic data and the data set on domestic violence.

## WOMEN'S RESIDENCE (URBAN VS. RURAL) AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Analysis was also conducted to understand if there were differences among women living in urban versus rural areas in terms of their experiences with domestic violence. In 2007 and 2013 it was found that although a significant

proportion of women in both rural and urban areas experience domestic violence, women in rural areas were more likely to experience domestic violence of all types (see Figures 4.19 and 4.20; 35).

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BY OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS

Domestic violence against women does not only happen by husband/partners; often other family members (e.g., parents, siblings, in-laws or other relatives) will commit acts of violence against girls and women. In 2007, it was found that since 15 years of age 13.8% of women had been physically abused by their mother/step-mother, 13.4% by their father/step-father, and 9.7% by a sister/brother. Surprisingly, only 2.0% of women were physically abused by a mother- or father-in-law (36).

In 2013, 6.9% of women reported they were physically abused by other family members since 15 years of age. More specifically 3.6% reported since 15 years of age that they were physically abused by their mother/step-mother, 4.1% were physically abused by their father/step-father, and 2.3% by a sister/brother (see Table 4.11). These proportions are less than in 2007.

## IMPACT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ON CHILDREN

In 2007 and 2013, effort was made to assess the impact of domestic violence on children. In 2013, as many as 14.0% of women reported that domestic violence influenced their children (see Table 4.13). In both 2007 and 2013, women recognized their children witnessed domestic violence, lived in fear, were hurt or injured by domestic violence, and even left home to live with relatives because of the domestic violence (see Table 4.13; 37). In 2013, among women that recognized domestic violence influenced their children, as many as 42.8% reported the domestic violence actually caused learning problems for their children (see Table 4.13).

In 2007, children were also surveyed and asked about domestic violence in their homes. Analysis revealed that 57.7% of children reported being physically battered by a family member, and some children experienced multiple forms of physical violence concurrently (38). Children reported they were often physically abused by their parents, however, sisters/brothers, grandparents, and other close

relatives also physically abused children. It is important to note that boys were significantly more likely than girls to be physically abused by their father/step-father than girls; whereas girls were significantly more likely than boys to be physically battered by their brother and/or sister. Boys and girls were equally likely to be physically battered by their mother/step-mother (39).

Because children typically have little status within families and physical violence is often used as a means to discipline children, they are often reluctant to speak out about domestic violence. Although a significant proportion of children sought help from someone for the violence they were experiencing in the family, the majority of children sought help from a family member. Rarely did a child tell someone outside of their immediate family about the abuse/violence (40).

Finally, only 17.4% of children reported being aware of the domestic violence between their parents (41).

## HELP-SEEKING BEHAVIORS OF BATTERED WOMEN

Battered women are often reluctant to speak out about domestic violence. In 2007, only 16% to 28% of women that experienced domestic violence sought help for the violence in their marriage/intimate relationship. Of those women who did seek help, nearly 91% of women sought help from their own family or other relatives, and very few women went outside of their family for help with the violence in the lives. For instance, only 1.5% sought help from medical doctors/professions, 1.5% sought help from police, 3.1% from lawyers, 5.7% from judges, and .5 from social service organizations (42).

In 2013, only 8.4% of “ever” abused women and 7.1% of “currently” abused women tried to seek help for the domestic violence in their marriage/intimate relationship. Among women that sought help, as many as 90% sought help from their own family, 60% sought help from their husband/partner’s family, and 28% sought help from friends. Very few women sought help outside of their family and friends. In 2013, however, a larger percentage of “currently” abused women sought help from doctors/medical professionals (15.6%), police (14.1%), lawyers (7.8%), judges (6.2%), and social service organizations (1.1%; see Table 4.14). Thus, there was a significant increase from 2007 to 2013 in the percentage of abused women that were willing to seek help from medical, legal, and social services.

The reasons battered women did not seek help for domestic violence were numerous (see pages 48-49; 43). In 2013, it was found that domestic violence victims who sought

medical and/or legal services had to pay (even underhanded bribes) for any of the medical and/or legal services they received (see Figure 4.21). For many battered women, having to pay for services serves as a significant barrier in their ability to access medical care, protection and support services, and access to justice.

In 2013, analysis was also conducted to determine if demographic characteristics influenced battered women’s help-seeking behaviors. This data revealed that women with a basic education or less were more likely to seek help for domestic violence, and women with a university/post-university education were least likely to seek help for domestic violence. Also, women that do not work outside of the home were more likely to seek help for domestic violence, compared to women that worked outside of the home. Also, women in urban areas were more likely to seek help for domestic violence, than women in rural areas.

In closing, findings from both the 2007 and 2013 national population-based surveys on domestic violence against women in Albania reveal important patterns and trends in terms of the nature and extent of domestic violence and important contributing factors to domestic violence. These findings reveal the need for action by a wide range of actors, including: governmental bodies, international and nongovernmental organizations, law enforcement and justice officials, medical doctors and health care workers, and community leaders.



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# 6

## Appendix tables







**Table 1.** Marital status by women's age

	Age Group								Test of significance	
	18-24 years		25-34 years		35-44 years		45-55 years			
Marital status	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	$\chi^2$	Sign.
Married/living together	27 382	44,3	141 779	80,5	215 016	92,9	251 826	93,2	186,431,21	0,000
Widow	0	0,0	1067	0,6	4 651	2,0	11 683	4,3		
Divorced/Separated	1 187	1,9	3329	1,9	4 908	2,1	3 913	1,4		
Single	33 202	53,8	29 947	17,0	6 963	3,0	2 905	1,1		

\* Weighted data for a sample of 3,589 women

**Table 2.** Women's education and work status by urban vs. rural residence

	N=739 758*				Testi i domethënies statistikore	
	Urban		Rural			
Education	n	%	n	%	$\chi^2$	Sign.
Basic or less	12 186	3,0	19 491	5,9	85,931,71	0,000
Primary	107 862	26,9	181 087	55,0		
Secondary/vocational	188 228	46,9	111 776	33,9		
University/post-university	93 063	23,2	17 060	5,2		
Work Status						
Work outside of the home	206 432	51,0	114 699	34,3	21,177,14	0,000
Yes, but on maternity leave	3 645	0,9	2 523	0,8		
Does not work outside of the home	194 909	48,1	217 549	65,0		

\* Weighted data for a sample of 3,589 women

**Table 3.** Forms of psychological violence experienced by women (18-55 years)

	Ever		Current	
	n	%	n	%
Verbal abuse				
Shout at you and insult you	246 593	38,1	198 815	30,7
Say or do something to humiliate you in front of others	63 112	9,8	43 252	6,7
To talk to you in a manner to makes you feel bad/worthless	65 648	10,1	46 069	7,1
Psychological threats				
Threat to hurt or harm you or someone close to you	15 094	2,3	5 993	,9
Makes threats to physically harm you	33 529	5,2	20 207	3,1
Destroys something that was important to you	26 090	4,0	9 978	1,5
Controlling behaviors				
My husband is jealous or angry if I talk to other men	261 547	39,5	192 635	29,1
My husband accuses me of being unfaithful	29 314	4,4	15 841	2,4
My husband does not permit me to meet my female friends	67 688	10,2	49 762	7,5
My husband limits my contact with my family	44 973	6,8	30 003	4,5
My husband insists on knowing where I am at all times	144 253	21,8	121 903	18,4
My husband doubts my fidelity	19 946	3,0	7 930	1,2
To ignore you	79 234	12,2	58 759	9,1
Makes/made decisions that should be mine to take	175 781	27,2	148 935	23,0
Said things like, "If I can't have you then no one can?"	27 759	4,3	16 669	2,6
Economic abuse				
My husband does not give me cash	68 902	10,4	57 224	8,6

**Table 4.** Multiple forms of psychological violence experienced by women (18-55 years)

Number of forms of psychological violence	N=646 879			
	Ever		Current	
	n	%	n	%
1	101 393	15,7	114 222	17,7
2	79 689	12,3	77 729	12,0
3	58 271	9,0	53 182	8,2
4	35 452	5,5	28 536	4,4
5	26 759	4,1	24 297	3,8
6	23 125	3,6	13 213	2,0
7	13 445	2,1	10 183	1,6
8	9 834	1,5	6 436	1,0
9	6 177	1,0	2 866	0,4
10	3 437	0,5	3 363	0,5
11	4 136	0,6	3 314	0,5
12	3 339	0,5	1 045	0,2
13	2 666	0,4	1 064	0,2
14	3 946	0,6	1 017	0,2
15	1 597	0,2	782	0,1
16	3 289	0,5	498	0,1

**Table 5.** Forms of physical violence experienced by women (18-55 years)

	N=646 879			
	Ever		Current	
	n	%	n	%
<b>Moderate physical violence</b>				
To through or push you	53 667	8,3	27 245	4,2
To pull your hair	35 717	5,5	16 920	2,6
To kick you	16 227	2,5	5 773	0,9
Dragged you	5 803	0,9	1 799	0,3
Slapped you	129 212	20,0	76 691	11,9
<b>Severe physical violence</b>				
To beat you	84 281	13,0	47 901	7,4
Tried to burn you on purpose	2 978	,5	1 293	0,2
Tried to choke you	6 212	1,0	998	0,2
Slammed you against something	23 260	3,6	9 672	1,5
Tried to hurt you by choking or suffocating you	7 315	1,1	1 356	0,2
<b>Physical violence with a weapon</b>				
To hit you with some object or something else that could hurt you	18 368	2,8	6 580	1,0
Threaten you with a knife or any other weapon	6 977	1,1	1 258	0,2

**Table 6.** Multiple forms of physical violence experienced by women (18-55 years)

	N=646 879			
	Ever		Current	
Number of forms of physical violence	n	%	n	%
1	64 868	10,0	49 749	7,7
2	36 233	5,6	20 554	3,2
3	19 288	3,0	11 417	1,8
4	11 462	1,8	6 727	1,0
5	6 868	1,1	3 038	0,5
6	5 676	0,9	1 098	0,2
7	2 279	0,4	932	0,1
8	1 879	0,3	307	0,0
9	901	0,1	197	0,0
10	1 117	0,2	689	0,1
11	1 068	0,2	465	0,1
12	1 547	0,2	78	0,0

**Table 7.** Multiple forms of sexual violence experienced by women (18-55 years)

	N=646 879			
	Ever		Current	
Number of forms of sexual violence	n	%	n	%
1	31 448	4,9	27 300	4,2
2	19 639	3,0	5 239	0,8

**Table 8.** Frequency of forced sex by husband by sexual abuse

During the past month, how often have you had sexual intercourse with your husband/partner without your consent?	Sexual abuse		No sexual abuse		Test of significance	
	n	%	n	%	X <sup>2</sup>	Sign.
Never	17 732	34,8	461 381	78,2	48 865,62	0,000
Very rarely	21 887	43,0	82 696	14,0		
Sometimes	8 358	16,4	32 219	5,5		
Frequently	1 299	2,5	2 438	0,4		

\*Note: Comparison percentages are based upon valid percents and do not reflect missing cases.

**Table 9.** Multiple forms of domestic violence experienced by women (18-55 years)

	N=646 879			
	Ever		Current	
Number of forms of domestic violence	n	%	n	%
1	232 017	35,9	247 467	38,3
2	108 255	16,7	77 587	12,0
3	44 100	6,8	22 299	3,4

**Table 10.** Relationship between types of domestic violence

	N=646 879											
	Psychological violence				Physical violence				Sexual violence			
	Yes		No		Yes		No		Yes		No	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Psychological violence	---	---	---	---	146 526	38,9 <sup>a</sup>	230 029	61,1 <sup>a</sup>	49 006	13,0 <sup>a</sup>	327 550	87,0 <sup>a</sup>
Physical violence	146 526	95,7 <sup>a</sup>	6 660	4,3 <sup>a</sup>	---	---	---	---	45 025	29,4 <sup>a</sup>	108 162	70,6 <sup>a</sup>
Sexual violence	49 006	95,9 <sup>a</sup>	2 081	4,1 <sup>a</sup>	45 025	88,1 <sup>a</sup>	6 062	11,9 <sup>a</sup>	---	---	---	---

Note: Comparison percentages are based upon valid percents and do not reflect missing cases.

<sup>a</sup> Significance = .000

**Table 11.** Multiple forms of domestic violence-related injuries experienced by battered women (18-55 years)

	N=646 879			
	Ever		Current	
Number of categories of physical injuries	n	%	n	%
1	19 706	12,4	7 436	4,7
2	4 749	3,0	2 406	1,5
3	2 451	1,5	1 038	0,7
4	801	0,5	524	0,3
5	711	0,4	152	0,1
6	1 453	0,9	212	0,1

**Table 12.** Domestic violence-related injuries experienced by types of physical and sexual violence (ever)

	Physical violence (all types)		Moderate physical violence		Severe physical violence		Physical violence w/ weapon		Sexual violence	
Type of injuries	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Cuts, bruises, or aches	19 252	12,6 <sup>a</sup>	18 842	13,2 <sup>a</sup>	17 452	19,2 <sup>a</sup>	8 028	41,0 <sup>a</sup>	9 498	18,6 <sup>a</sup>
Eye injuries, burns, sprains or dislocations	10 077	6,6 <sup>a</sup>	9 882	6,9 <sup>a</sup>	8 811	9,7 <sup>a</sup>	4 313	22,0 <sup>a</sup>	4 714	9,2 <sup>a</sup>
Deep wounds, broken bones, broken teeth or any other serious injury	3 510	2,3 <sup>a</sup>	3 510	2,5 <sup>a</sup>	3 510	3,9 <sup>a</sup>	2 988	15,3 <sup>a</sup>	3 001	5,9 <sup>a</sup>
Lost consciousness	1 731	1,1 <sup>a</sup>	1 731	1,2 <sup>a</sup>	1 731	1,9 <sup>a</sup>	1 591	8,1 <sup>a</sup>	1 591	3,1 <sup>a</sup>
Head injuries	10 391	6,8 <sup>a</sup>	10 255	7,2 <sup>a</sup>	9 922	10,9 <sup>a</sup>	6 022	30,7 <sup>a</sup>	6 108	12,0 <sup>a</sup>
Abdominal injuries	7 073	4,6 <sup>a</sup>	6 900	4,8 <sup>a</sup>	7 073	7,8 <sup>a</sup>	4 692	24,0 <sup>a</sup>	5 948	11,6 <sup>a</sup>

Note: Comparison percentages are based upon valid percents and do not reflect missing cases.

<sup>a</sup> Significance = .000

**Table 13.** Type of domestic violence-related injuries by inability to perform house maintenance/child care responsibilities

	Detained from house maintenance/child care		Number of days missed					
			1-3 days		4-6 days		7 + days	
Type of injuries	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Cuts, bruises, or aches	7 333	38,1 <sup>a</sup>	4 343	59,2	1 893	25,8	1 097	15,0
Eye injuries, burns, sprains or dislocations	5 196	51,6 <sup>a</sup>	2 901	55,8	1 761	33,9	534	10,3
Deep wounds, broken bones, broken teeth or any other serious injury	1 676	47,7 <sup>a</sup>	967	57,7	152	9,1	557	33,2
Lost consciousness	567	32,8 <sup>a</sup>	427	75,3	0	0,0	140	24,7
Head injuries	4 879	47,0 <sup>a</sup>	2 725	55,9	1 080	22,1	1 074	22,0
Abdominal injuries	3,925	55,5 <sup>a</sup>	1,988	50,6	840	21,4	1,097	27,9

Note: Comparison percentages are based upon valid percents and do not reflect missing cases.

<sup>a</sup> Significance = .000

**Table 14.** Type of domestic violence-related injuries by inability to perform work

	Detained from work		Number of days missed					
			1-3 days		4-6 days		7 + days	
Type of injuries	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Cuts, bruises, or aches	3 207	16,7 <sup>a</sup>	1 253	39,1	1 025	32,0	929	29,0
Eye injuries, burns, sprains or dislocations	2 201	21,8 <sup>a</sup>	664	30,2	1 003	45,6	534	24,3
Deep wounds, broken bones, broken teeth or any other serious injury	953	27,2 <sup>a</sup>	335	35,2	230	24,1	388	40,7
Lost consciousness	219	12,6 <sup>a</sup>	0	0,0	78	35,8	140	64,2
Head injuries	2 580	24,8 <sup>a</sup>	952	36,9	722	28,0	906	35,1
Abdominal injuries	1 834	25,9 <sup>a</sup>	326	17,8	579	31,6	929	50,7

Note: Comparison percentages are based upon valid percents and do not reflect missing cases.

<sup>a</sup> Significance = .000

**Table 15.** Women's contraceptive use and risk of STDs by sexual abuse

	Sexual abuse		No sexual abuse		Test of significance	
	n	%	n	%	X <sup>2</sup>	Sign.
<b>Birth control/contraceptive use</b>						
Husband/partner does not know when you use contraceptives to prevent pregnancy	1 074	47,0	2 651	21,2 <sup>a</sup>	684,51	0,000
Husband/partner refuses the use of contraceptives to avoid pregnancy	3 287	15,7	10 550	5,8 <sup>a</sup>	2 952,44	0,000
<b>Risk of STDs</b>						
Risk of STDs	1 162	2,3	9 438	1,6 <sup>a</sup>	15 696,88	0,000
Suffered a STD	22 139	43,5	124 973	21,2	13 165,23	0,000

Note: Comparison percentages are based upon valid percents and do not reflect missing cases.

**Table 16.** Domestic violence (ever) by husband/partner's alcohol consumption

	Husband/partner's alcohol consumption				Test of significance	
	Yes		No			
	n	%	n	%	X <sup>2</sup>	Sign.
All abuse (ever)	199 913	76,7	184 459	47,8	53 909,87	0,000
Psychological violence (ever)	195 270	74,9	181 285	46,9	49 950,70	0,000
Verbal abuse	137 696	52,8	112 659	29,2	36 641,94	0,000
Psychological threat	36 793	14,1	10 869	2,8	29 098,10	0,000
Controlling behaviors	178 669	68,5	154 102	39,9	51 015,65	0,000
Economic abuse	41 735	15,9	27 167	6,8	14 065,30	0,000
Physical violence (ever)	102 713	39,4	50 474	13,1	59 661,32	0,000
Moderate physical violence	96 200	36,9	46 077	11,9	56 524,15	0,000
Severe physical violence	65 683	25,2	25 215	6,5	44 875,00	0,000
Physical violence w/ weapon	16 085	6,2	3 500	0,9	14 681,12	0,000
Physical violence w/ aggravated injuries	21 505	20,0	8 366	16,1	358,61	0,000
Sexual violence (ever)	40 981	15,7	10 105	2,6	36 721,43	0,000

**Table 17.** Domestic violence (ever and current) by husband/partner's alcohol consumption

	Husband/partner's alcohol consumption				Test of significance	
	Yes		No			
	n	%	n	%	χ <sup>2</sup>	Sign.
All abuse (ever)	199 913	76,7	184 459	47,8	53 909,87	0,000
All abuse (current)	178 546	68,5	168 807	43,7	38 372,46	0,000
Psychological violence (ever)	195 270	74,9	181 285	46,9	49 950,70	0,000
Psychological violence (current)	175 353	67,3	166 395	43,1	36 452,47	0,000
Physical violence (ever)	102 713	39,4	50 474	13,1	59 661,32	0,000
Physical violence (current)	62 029	23,8	33 222	8,6	28 583,37	0,000
Sexual violence (ever)	40 981	15,7	10 105	2,6	36 721,43	0,000
Sexual violence (current)	26 202	10,0	6 337	1,6	23 031,75	0,000

**Table 18.** Domestic violence-related injuries by husband/partner's alcohol consumption

	Husband/partner's alcohol consumption				Test of significance	
	Yes		No			
	n	%	n	%	χ <sup>2</sup>	Sign.
Injuries (ever)	21 505	20,0	8 366	16,1	358,61	0,000
Cuts, bruises, aches	14 516	13,5	4 735	9,1	644,11	0,000
Eye injuries, burns, sprains, dislocation	7 978	7,4	2 099	4,0	682,26	0,000
Deep wounds, broken bones, broken teeth, serious injury	2 910	2,7	600	1,2	394,42	0,000
Loss of consciousness	1 465	1,4	266	,5	237,43	0,000
Head injuries	7 431	6,9	2 959	5,7	87,43	0,000
Abdominal injuries	5 590	5,2	1 483	2,9	485,56	0,000

\*Note: Comparison percentages are based upon valid percents and do not reflect missing cases.

**Table 19.** Domestic violence (ever) by women's marital status

	Marital Status						Test of significance	
	Married/living together		Divorced/separated		Single			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	X <sup>2</sup>	Sign.
All abuse (ever)	373 061	59,1	10 448	78,4	863	46,6	2 155,70	0,000
Psychological violence (ever)	365 244	57,8	10 448	78,4	863	46,6	2 379,55	0,000
Verbal abuse	241 577	38,2	8 252	61,9	526	28,4	3 170,25	0,000
Psychological threat	41 486	6,6	5 939	44,6	237	12,8	27 699,79	0,000
Controlling behaviors	321 460	50,9	10,448	78,4	863	46,6	3 977,19	0,000
Economic abuse	63 870	10,1	4 289	32,2	237	12,8	7 751,82	0,000
Physical violence (ever)	145 564	23,0	7 097	53,3	526	28,4	6 617,30	0,000
Moderate physical violence	134 655	21,3	7 097	53,3	526	28,4	7 807,51	0,000
Severe physical violence	83 737	13,3	6 795	51,0	366	19,8	15 442,97	0,000
Physical violence w/ weapon	16 183	2,6	3 324	24,9	78	4,2	22 283,05	0,000
Physical violence w/ aggravated injuries	25 283	16,7	4 510	63,6	78	14,9	9 782,31	0,000
Sexual violence (ever)	47 250	7,5	3 759	28,2	78	4,2	7 745,74	0,000

**Table 20.** Domestic violence (ever and current) by women's marital status

	Marital Status						Test of significance	
	Married/living together		Divorced/separated		Single			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	X <sup>2</sup>	Sign.
Domestic violence (all types - ever)	373 061	59,1	10 448	78,4	863	46,6	2 155,70	0,000
Domestic violence (all types – current)	342 253	54,2	4 526	34,0	574	31,0	2 528,00	0,000
Psychological violence (ever)	365 244	57,8	10 448	78,4	863	46,6	2 379,55	0,000
Psychological violence (current)	336 648	53,3	4 526	34,0	574	31,0	2 309,85	0,000
Physical violence (ever)	145 564	23,0	7 097	53,3	526	28,4	6 617,30	0,000
Physical violence (current)	93 183	14,8	1 831	13,7	237	12,8	16,08	0,000
Sexual violence (ever)	47 250	7,5	3 759	28,2	78	4,2	7 745,74	0,000
Sexual violence (current)	32 103	5,1	358	2,7	78	4,2	159,26	0,000

**Table 21.** Domestic violence (ever) by women's age group

	Age Group								Test of significance	
	18-24 years		25-34 years		35-44 years		45-55 years			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	X <sup>2</sup>	Sign.
Domestic violence (all types - ever)	18 410	64,0	87 098	60,3	131 600	59,8	147 264	58,0	519,12	0,000
Psychological violence (ever)	17 964	62,5	86 400	59,8	129 004	58,7	143 188	56,4	719,89	0,000
Verbal abuse	8 936	31,1	51 902	35,9	87 371	39,7	102 146	40,3	1 524,35	0,000
Psychological threat	1 498	5,2	10 013	6,9	18 125	8,2	18 025	7,1	508,04	0,000
Controlling behaviors	17 175	59,7	78 914	54,6	114 775	52,2	121 907	48,0	2 607,61	0,000
Economic abuse	3 919	13,6	13 540	9,3	26 443	11,8	24 999	9,4	1 274,44	0,000
Physical violence (ever)	4 928	17,1	33 838	23,4	52 888	24,0	61 532	24,2	747,11	0,000
Moderate physical violence	4 775	16,6	31 180	21,6	48 676	22,1	57 646	22,7	579,61	0,000
Severe physical violence	3 060	10,6	19 280	13,3	30 848	14,0	37 709	14,9	472,99	0,000
Physical violence w/ weapon	572	2,0	2 297	1,6	5 679	2,6	11 037	4,3	2 780,23	0,000
Physical violence w/ aggravated injuries	1 016	19,1	6 111	17,5	9 921	17,9	12 823	20,2	149,26	0,000
Sexual violence (ever)	2 440	8,5	11 671	8,1	20 948	9,5	16 028	6,3	1 693,56	0,000

**Table 22.** Domestic violence (ever and current) by women's age group

	Age Group								Test of significance	
	18-24 years		25-34 years		35-44 years		45-55 years			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	Χ <sup>2</sup>	Sign.
Domestic violence (all types - ever)	18 410	64,0	87 098	60,3	131 600	59,8	147 264	58,0	519,12	0,000
Domestic violence (all types – current)	16 884	58,7	83 936	58,1	120 205	54,7	126 328	49,8	3 071,99	0,000
Psychological violence (ever)	17 964	62,5	86 400	59,8	129 004	58,7	143 188	56,4	719,89	0,000
Psychological violence (current)	16 438	57,2	83 382	57,7	118 953	54,1	122 976	48,5	3 693,13	0,000
Physical violence (ever)	4 928	17,1	33 838	23,4	52 888	24,0	61 532	24,2	747,11	0,000
Physical violence (current)	3 781	13,2	24 260	16,8	35 631	16,2	31 579	12,4	1 983,48	0,000
Sexual violence (ever)	2 440	8,5	11 671	8,1	20 948	9,5	16 028	6,3	1 693,56	0,000
Sexual violence (current)	1 895	6,6	7 895	5,5	13 583	6,2	9 166	3,6	1 876,94	0,000



**Table 23.** Domestic violence (ever) by women's level of education

	Level of Education								Test of significance	
	Basic or less (4 years)		Primary (8 years)		Secondary/ Vocational		University/ Post-university			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	Χ <sup>2</sup>	Sign.
All abuse (ever)	16 870	58,5	179 751	66,7	146 975	56,4	34 656	43,2	15 697,32	0,000
Psychological violence (ever)	16 613	57,7	175 415	65,1	144 216	55,3	34 190	42,6	14 172,31	0,000
Verbal abuse	11 094	38,5	122 800	45,6	93 527	35,9	18 727	23,3	14 259,71	0,000
Psychological threat	1 996	6,9	30 354	11,3	12 232	4,7	1 732	2,2	12 103,43	0,000
Controlling behaviors	15 279	53,0	156 536	58,1	125 313	48,1	29 864	37,2	12 486,41	0,000
Economic abuse	3 258	10,8	40 810	14,9	20 271	7,5	2 727	3,4	12 751,81	0,000
Physical violence (ever)	6 728	23,4	83 500	31,0	50 770	19,5	8 319	10,4	18 532,52	0,000
Moderate physical violence	5 453	18,9	78 562	29,2	46 777	17,9	7 876	9,8	17 794,82	0,000
Severe physical violence	5 345	18,6	55 550	20,6	24 794	9,5	1 880	2,3	24 103,77	0,000
Physical violence w/ weapon	1 257	4,4	12 969	4,8	3 880	1,5	404	,5	7 213,81	0,000
Physical violence w/ aggravated injuries	2 119	30,9	19 828	23,1	6 664	12,4	404	4,5	4 378,84	0,000
Sexual violence (ever)	1 754	6,1	30 412	11,3	13 347	5,1	4 241	5,3	7 997,61	0,000

**Table 24.** Women's domestic violence (ever and current) by women's level of education

	Level of Education								Test of significance	
	Basic or less (4 years)		Primary (8 years)		Secondary/ Vocational		University/ Post-university			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	Χ <sup>2</sup>	Sign.
Domestic violence (all types - ever)	16 870	58,5	179 751	66,7	146 975	56,4	34 656	43,2	15 697,32	0,000
Domestic violence (all types – current)	15 320	53,2	164 941	61,2	130,727	50,1	30 368	37,8	15,546,30	0,000
Psychological violence (ever)	16 613	57,7	175 415	65,1	144 216	55,3	34 190	42,6	14,172,31	0,000
Psychological violence (current)	15 063	52,3	161 328	59,9	129 112	49,5	30 248	37,7	13,873,01	0,000
Physical violence (ever)	6 728	23,4	83 500	31,0	50 770	19,5	8 319	10,4	18,532,52	0,000
Physical violence (current)	4 305	14,9	58 035	21,5	28,301	10,9	2 530	2,7	21,804,73	0,000
Sexual violence (ever)	1 754	6,1	30 412	11,3	13 347	5,1	4 241	5,3	7,997,61	0,000
Sexual violence (current)	963	3,3	20 672	7,7	7 226	2,8	2 641	3,3	7,530,13	0,000

**Table 25.** Domestic violence (ever) by women's work status

	Work status						Test of significance	
	Works outside of the home		On maternity leave		Does not work outside of the home			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	Χ²	Sign.
All abuse (ever)	148 084	52,9	4 656	77,9	231 632	64,2	9 208,68	0,000
Psychological violence (ever)	143 956	51,4	4 536	75,9	228 063	63,2	9 782,82	0,000
Verbal abuse	87 019	31,1	3 090	51,7	160 245	44,4	12 237,58	0,000
Psychological threats	15 770	5,6	576	9,6	31 317	8,7	2 189,57	0,000
Controlling behaviors	127 843	45,7	4 397	73,5	200 531	55,6	7 384,20	0,000
Economic abuse	18 113	6,3	1 049	17,5	49 740	13,5	9 261,61	0,000
Physical violence (ever)	55 634	19,9	2 643	44,2	94 909	26,3	5 015,83	0,000
Moderate physical violence	51 927	18,5	2 401	40,2	87 949	24,4	4 280,98	0,000
Severe physical violence	27 749	9,9	1 334	22,3	61 814	17,1	7 145,97	0,000
Physical violence w/ weapon	5 468	2,0	316	5,3	13 800	3,8	1 985,69	0,000
Physical violence w/ aggravated injuries	7 768	13,3	518	19,6	21 584	22,0	1 843,19	0,000
Sexual violence (ever)	15 307	5,5	601	10,1	35 179	9,7	4 013,32	0,000

**Table 26.** Domestic violence (ever and current) by women's work status

	Work status						Test of significance	
	Works outside of the home		On maternity leave		Does not work outside of the home			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	Χ²	Sign.
Domestic violence (all types - ever)	148 084	52,9	4 656	77,9	231 632	64,2	9 208,68	0,000
Domestic violence (all types – current)	130 662	46,7	4 398	73,5	212 293	58,8	10 345,28	0,000
Psychological violence (ever)	143 956	51,4	4 536	75,9	228 063	63,2	9 782,82	0,000
Psychological violence (current)	127 659	45,6	4 278	71,5	209 812	58,1	10 817,32	0,000
Physical violence (ever)	55 634	19,9	2 643	44,2	94 909	26,3	5 015,83	0,000
Physical violence (current)	35 225	12,6	2 321	38,8	57 706	16,0	4 249,61	0,000
Sexual violence (ever)	15 307	5,5	601	10,1	35 179	9,7	4 013,32	0,000
Sexual violence (current)	8 753	3,1	430	7,2	23 356	6,5	3 754,98	0,000

**Table 27.** Domestic violence (ever) by women's residence (urban vs. rural)

	Residence				Test of significance	
	Urban		Rural			
	n	%	n	%	X <sup>2</sup>	Sign.
All abuse (ever)	184 466	53,0	199 907	66,9	12 816,12	0,000
Psychological violence (ever)	181 245	52,1	195 310	65,3	11 607,01	0,000
Verbal abuse	130 292	37,4	120 062	40,2	501,85	0,000
Psychological threats	17 532	5,0	19 159	6,4	564,84	0,000
Controlling behaviors	156 125	44,9	176 646	59,1	13 028,18	0,000
Economic abuse	28 922	8,1	39 980	13,1	4 524,09	0,000
Physical violence (ever)	71 884	20,7	81 303	27,2	3 805,79	0,000
Moderate physical violence	67 936	19,5	74 341	24,9	2 678,51	0,000
Severe physical violence	38 808	11,2	52 090	17,4	5 239,27	0,000
Physical violence w/ weapon	8 971	2,6	10 614	3,6	518,12	0,000
Physical violence w/ aggravated injuries	16 375	22,0	13 496	15,9	954,46	0,000
Sexual violence (ever)	23 751	6,8	27 335	9,1	1 188,71	0,000

**Table 28.** Domestic violence (ever and current) by women's residence (urban vs. rural)

	Residence				Test of significance	
	Urban		Rural			
	n	%	n	%	χ <sup>2</sup>	Sign.
Domestic violence (all types - ever)	184 466	53,0	199 907	66,9	12 816,12	0,000
Domestic violence (all types – current)	165 506	47,6	181 847	60,8	11 389,14	0,000
Psychological violence (ever)	181 245	52,1	195 310	65,3	11 607,01	0,000
Psychological violence (current)	163 675	47,0	178 074	59,6	10 137,49	0,000
Physical violence (ever)	71 884	20,7	81 303	27,2	3 805,79	0,000
Physical violence (current)	42 527	12,2	52 724	17,6	3 756,89	0,000
Sexual violence (ever)	23 751	6,8	27 335	9,1	1 188,71	0,000
Sexual violence (current)	14 811	4,3	17 728	5,9	943,44	0,000

**Tabela 29.** Impact of domestic violence on children by type of domestic violence “ever” experienced by women

	N=178 349					
	Psychological violence (ever)		Physical violence (ever)		Sexual violence (ever)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Domestic violence influenced the children	24 151	14,5	21 986	14,4	10 001	19,6
Children witnessed domestic violence	21 096	87,4	19 581	89,1	8 595	85,9
Children live in fear	7 605	31,5	7 281	33,1	4 987	49,9
Children were hurt or injured	1 682	19,4	4 089	18,6	2 235	22,3
Children left home to live with relatives	1 349	5,6	1 349	6,1	522	5,2
Violence has caused learning problems in children	10 450	43,3	9 998	45,5	5 711	57,1

**Table 30.** Type of domestic violence experienced by helping seeking-behaviors of women

	Sought help for domestic violence	
	n	%
Domestic violence (all types – ever)	14 570	3,8
Domestic violence (all types – current)	11 373	3,3
Psychological violence (ever)	14 420	3,8
Psychological violence (current)	11 223	3,3
Physical violence (ever)	14 076	9,2
Physical violence (current)	7 366	7,7
Sexual (ever)	6 242	12,2
Sexual (current)	2 308	7,1

**Table 31.** Amount domestic violence victims had to pay for medical and legal services

Amount domestic violence victims had to pay for services						
	< 1,000 Old Lek (< 1 USD)		1,000-10,000 Old Lek (1-10 USD)		11,000-30,000 Old Lek (11-30 USD)	
Sought help from:	n	%	n	%	n	%
Medical personnel	1238	57,3	923	42,7	0	0,0
Police	2210	90,5	233	9,5	0	0,0
Lawyer	994	46,2	698	32,5	459	21,3
Judge	1254	76,5	78	4,8	306	18,7

**Table 32.** Demographic characteristics of women by help-seeking behaviors for domestic violence

	Sought help for domestic violence		Test of significance	
	n	%	X <sup>2</sup>	Sign.
<b>Age</b>				
18-24 years	489	4,3	661,45	0,000
25-34 years	2 437	5,8		
35-44 years	5 886	9,4		
45-55 years	5 759	8,0		
<b>Level of education</b>				
Basic or less (4 years)	1 026	12,4	886,50	0,000
Primary (8 years)	8 139	8,3		
Secondary/vocational	4 723	7,4		
University/post-university	293	2,2		
<b>Work status</b>				
Works outside the home	2 569	3,8	2 803,99	0,000
On maternity leave	0	0,0		
Does not work outside of the home	12 001	10,3		
<b>Residence</b>				
Urban	9 765	10,9	2 431,14	0,000
Rural	4 807	4,9		

**Table 33.** Interview interrupted by women's experiences with domestic violence

	Domestic violence (all types – ever)		Domestic violence (all types – current)		No domestic violence (ever)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Interview interrupted	92 266	24,0 <sup>a</sup>	84 223	24,2 <sup>a</sup>	24 275	9,2
Not interrupted	292 106	76,0	263 130	75,8	238 232	90,8

<sup>a</sup> Significance = .000