

STOP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN ALBANIA!

ACT NOW!

This information bulletin was prepared by Dr. Robin Haarr

Albanian women who are victims of **domestic violence**:



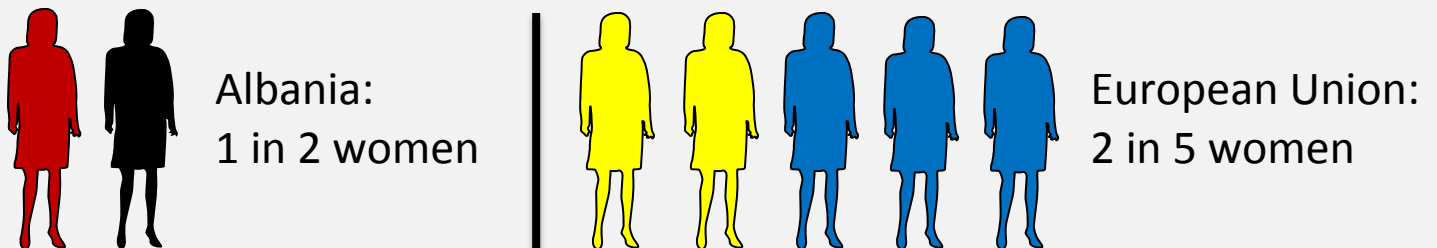
2007: 56.0% of women 15 to 49 years of age reported experiencing domestic violence

2013: 59.4% of women 18 to 55 years of age reported experiencing domestic violence

Source: National Domestic Violence Surveys (2007 and 2013), published by Albanian Institute of Statistics (INSTAT)

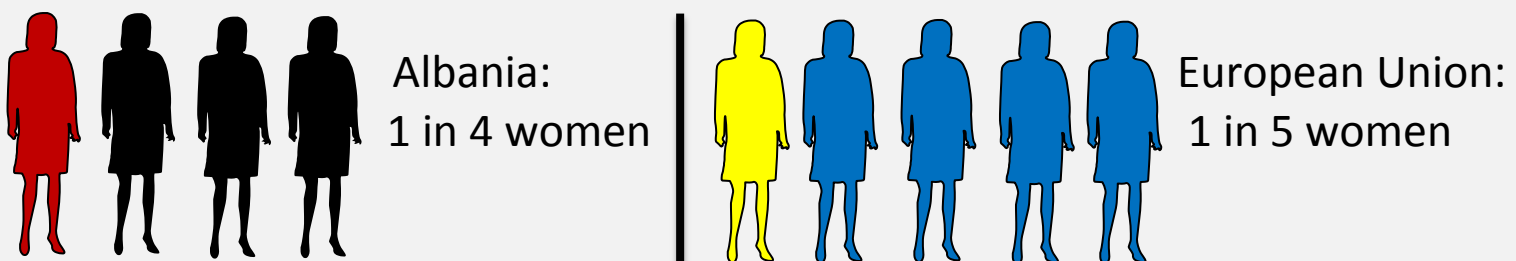
Domestic violence is one form of violence against women which is “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private.”
(UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women)

Women who are victims of **psychological violence**:



Psychological violence includes verbal abuse, psychological threats, controlling behaviors, and economic abuse

Women who are victims of **physical and sexual violence**:



Physical violence includes moderate and severe physical violence and violence with a weapon and/or aggravated injuries

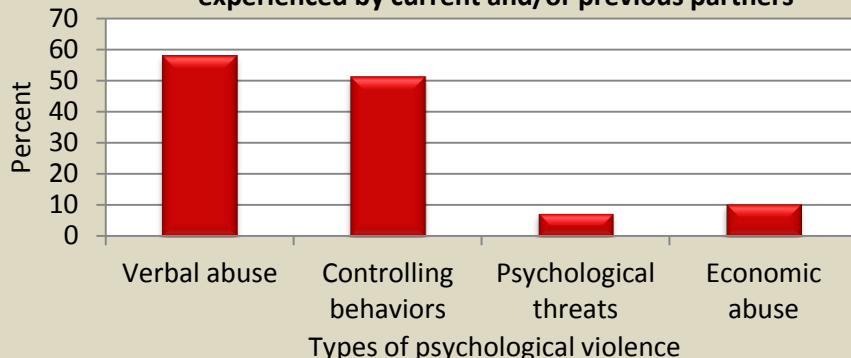
Sexual violence includes being forced to perform sexual intercourse and degrading/humiliating sexual acts

Women who have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by current and/or previous partners in EU member States and Albania (%)

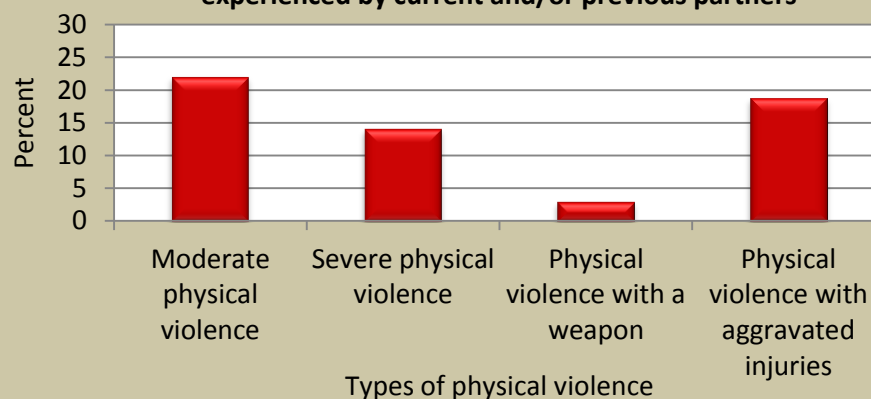
Countries	Current and/or previous partner
Latvia	32
Denmark	32
Finland	30
United Kingdom	29
Sweden	28
France	26
Netherlands	25
Albania	24.6
Romania	24
Lithuania	24
Belgium	24
Bulgaria	23
Slovakia	23
Germany	22
Luxembourg	22
Czech Republic	21
Hungary	21
Estonia	20
Italy	19
Greece	19
Portugal	19
Cyprus	15
Ireland	15
Malta	15
Poland	13
Austria	13
Croatia	13
Spain	13
Slovenia	13
EU 28 countries	22

Retrieved from: Violence against women: An EU-wide survey (2014). Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union

Types of psychological violence Albanian women have experienced by current and/or previous partners



Types of physical violence Albanian women have experienced by current and/or previous partners



Albanian women experience domestic violence early in their marriages:

1 in 4 women report domestic violence began in the 1st year of marriage

1 in 2 women report domestic violence began in the 2nd to 3rd years of marriage

Recommendations:

- Develop public awareness raising campaigns about risks of domestic violence early in marriage and during pregnancy
- Develop pre-marital counseling for adult couples who submit their request to marry to local government units.
- Mandated training for health care professionals on the vulnerability of pregnant women to domestic violence so that they are in a position to effectively screen and intervene

13% of Albanian women that were in a relationship with a violent partner reported being hit, slapped, kicked or physically hurt during pregnancy

20% of European Union women that were victims of current partner violence and 42% of women that were victims of previous partner violence say that physical and/or sexual violence took place during pregnancy

3 in 4 Albanian women on maternity leave reported experiencing domestic violence in the past 12 months. Violence during pregnancy poses a danger to the woman and her unborn child!



In Albania, domestic violence occurs in families living in urban and rural areas and with all different social and economic backgrounds.

There is limited research on Albanian men who commit acts of domestic violence against women, but research has found:

- ✓ Men with a secondary education or less are more likely to be violent in relationships compared to men with a university education
- ✓ Men who have a job and work outside of the home are more likely to be violent in the household
- ✓ Men who drink alcohol are more likely to be violent in relationships

In European Union countries, research has revealed important characteristics among men who batter

- There is no one profile of men who batter or beat women
- Men's age does not have an impact on whether they are violent in relationships
- Men who had not completed secondary education were more likely to be violent in relationships, compared to men with a tertiary education. The higher men's education the lower the prevalence of domestic violence perpetuated.
- Men's employment status and occupation does not have an impact on whether they are violent, except men working in agriculture, fishing and unskilled manual labour are somewhat more likely to be violent in relationships.
- Men who do not let women have a say in household resources were more likely to be violent in the household.
- Men who drink alcohol and get drunk once a month or more often were more likely to be violent in the household.

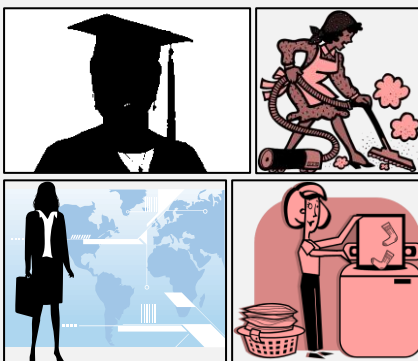
Why men batter:

- ✓ Usually men who batter are seeking a sense of **power and control** over their partners or their own lives, or because they are dependent on the woman and are threatened by any effort on her part to move toward independence
- ✓ Some men batter because that's the only way they know how to be close to or relate to a partner
- ✓ Some men grew up in violent households where they watched their mother abused by their father and where they themselves were abused



Albanian women whose husbands drink alcohol are more likely to experience domestic violence:

- ✓ **6 times more likely** to experience **sexual violence**
- ✓ **3 times more likely** to experience **physical violence**
- ✓ **1.5 times more likely** to experience **psychological violence**



Women's unequal status in Albanian society contributes to their victimization:

- ✓ Women with a secondary education or less are more likely to experience domestic violence than women with a university education
- ✓ Women who do not work outside of the home are more likely to experience domestic violence than women that work out of the home



19% of battered Albanian women experience domestic violence injuries, such as cuts/bruises, deep wounds, broken bones/teeth, lost consciousness, head and abdominal injuries

14% of battered Albanian women were unable to perform household work and child care responsibilities or go to work because of domestic violence injuries

44% of sexually abused women had sexually transmitted diseases

Only 8% of battered Albanian women seek help to stop the domestic violence in their lives

As many as 33% of battered European Union women sought help for domestic violence from social services and organizations

Battered women seek help from(%):

	Albania	EU countries
Natal family	92	---
Husband's family	61	---
Friends	29	---
Medical doctors/professionals	15	22
Police	17	20
Lawyer	15	15
Judges	11	---
Social service providers	11	17

Recommendation: Further improvement of public services will encourage more women to seek help in Albania



Domestic violence negatively affects Albanian children:

86% of children witness domestic violence

58% of children are physically battered by a family member

43% of children have problems in school due to domestic violence

31% of children live in fear due to domestic violence

6% of children leave home to live with relatives due to domestic violence

1 in 2 Albanian children who are victims of domestic violence seek help:

86% seek help from parents

39% seek help from grandparents

3% seek help from teachers

No children seek help from medical doctors or police

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