

# SURVEY ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Analytical Report

2021



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## ACRONIMS

<b>Armstat</b>	▶ Statistical Committee
<b>CAPI</b>	▶ Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing
<b>CSO</b>	▶ Civil Society Organization
<b>FAO</b>	▶ Food and Agriculture Organization
<b>HH</b>	▶ Household
<b>IBRD</b>	▶ International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
<b>ICHD</b>	▶ International Center for Human Development
<b>IPV</b>	▶ Violence by intimate partner
<b>NGO</b>	▶ Non-governmental organization
<b>RA</b>	▶ Republic of Armenia
<b>SC</b>	▶ Statistical Committee (Armstat)
<b>DVAW</b>	▶ Domestic Violence against Women
<b>SDGs</b>	▶ Sustainable Development Goals
<b>ToR</b>	▶ Terms of Reference
<b>WHO</b>	▶ World Health Organization

## EXPLANATIONS

<b>Consultant</b>	▶ "AM Partners Consulting Company" LLC
<b>Client</b>	▶ Statistical Committee of the Republic of Armenia (Armstat)
<b>Respondent</b>	▶ A person who participated in the survey/ answered the questions

## CONVENTIONAL SYMBOLS

<b>N</b>	▶ number
<b>-</b>	▶ calculation is meaningless
<b>0.0</b>	▶ less than half of unit
<b>...</b>	▶ small values can lead personal identity

## GENERAL OVERVIEW

The survey on Domestic Violence against Women (DVAW) was conducted within the framework of cooperation between the Statistical Committee, AM Partners Consulting Company and International Center for Human Development LLC (ICHHD). This service was provided within the framework of the National Strategic Program for Strengthening of the National Statistical System of Armenia, funded by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD). The survey on DVAW aimed to collect data on violence against women, focusing on domestic violence, which has received special attention in Armenia in recent years. It made it possible to assess the prevalence of violence against women in their households (HH) by type of violence, its frequency and regularity, as well as to identify the reasons for violence exercised by the abuser and the physical, emotional and psychological consequences for the victims.

Conducting this survey is seen as an important and frequently used source of information needed to calculate Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 5.2.1 and 5.2.2, 5.3.1 indicators<sup>1</sup>. Survey results can be widely used by civil society organizations (CSOs), researchers and other stakeholders. Conducting the survey will also greatly contribute to the enrichment of the gender statistics database of the Armstat for the benefit of the users of this kind of data.

In order to ensure the comparability of the data of the survey of the same name conducted by the Armstat, the consulting team carried out the data collection according to the methodology presented by the Armstat. The survey tool and manual were also provided by the Armstat. The target participants of the survey are women aged 15-59 living in private households. Initially, the sample size was set at 4,712 households and 3,000 actually effective interviews were expected to be conducted. Fieldwork staff actually visited 12,636 households as part of the survey, but effective interviews were conducted in 2,872 households.

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<sup>1</sup> Can be found through the following link <http://sdg.armstat.am/5/>.

## MAIN INDICATORS OF THE SURVEY ON DVAW

**Table 1. Eligible and Interviewed Woman (aged 15-59 years old)**

Main indicators	Number, N	%
Total number of eligible women	4 014	100
Total number of respondents/ interviewed women	2 872	71.5 <sup>2</sup>
▶ Living in urban areas	1 559	50.4
▶ Living in rural areas	1 313	49.6
<b>Total number of ever-partnered women</b>	<b>2 560</b>	<b>89.1<sup>3</sup></b>
▶ Living in urban areas	1 291	50.4
▶ Living in rural areas	1 269	49.6
Total number of never-partnered women	312	10.9 <sup>3</sup>
▶ Living in urban areas	268	85.9
▶ Living in rural areas	44	14.1

**Table 2. Main indicators of the Survey on DVAW among ever-partnered women**

Main indicators	Number, N	% to ever-partnered women
<b>Total number of ever-partnered women</b>	<b>2 560</b>	<b>100</b>
Women never-experienced physical and/or sexual violence by their partners	2 119	82.8
<b>Women ever-experienced PHYSICAL/SEXUAL violence by their partners<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>441</b>	<b>17.2</b>
<i>out of them:</i> during the previous 12 months	119	4.6
<b>Women ever-experienced PHYSICAL violence<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>378</b>	<b>14.8</b>
▶ <b>Moderate</b> physical violence	335	13.1
▶ <b>Severe</b> physical violence	142	5.5
<i>out of them:</i> during the previous 12 months	90	3.5
<b>Women ever-experienced SEXUAL violence</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>6.6</b>
<i>out of them:</i> during the previous 12 months	49	1.9
<b>Women ever experienced PSYCHOLOGICAL violence</b>	<b>814</b>	<b>31.8</b>
<i>out of them:</i> during the previous 12 months	334	13.0
<b>Women ever experienced PHYSICAL/SEXUAL/PSYCHOLOGICAL violence<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>920</b>	<b>35.9</b>

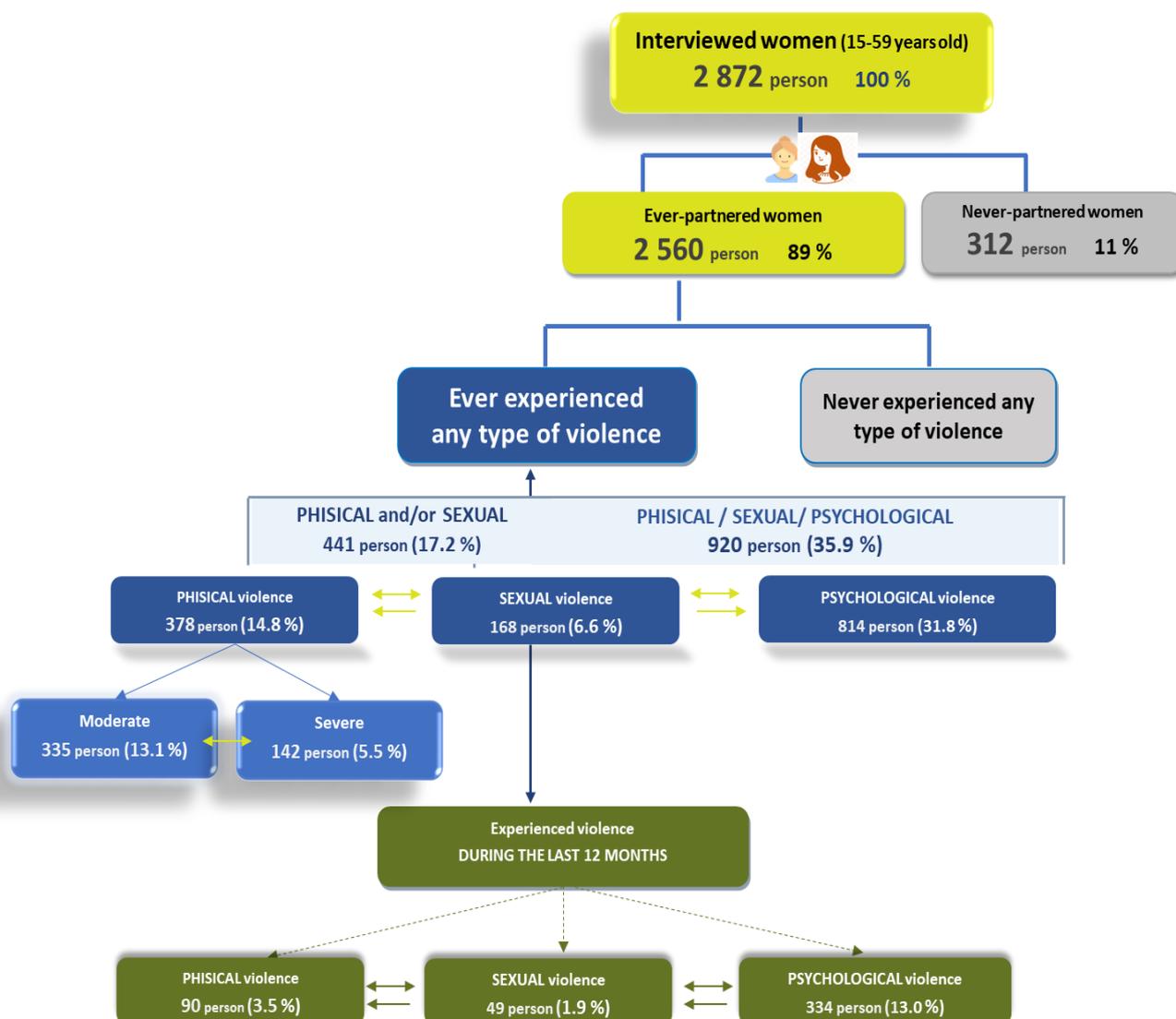
<sup>2</sup> Percentage from total number of eligible women.

<sup>3</sup> Percentage from total number of interviewed women.

<sup>4</sup> **Here and hereafter: the same person could be subjected to more than one type of violence: physical and/or sexual and/or psychological.**

<sup>5</sup> The same person could be subjected to moderate and severe physical violence.

## DVAW SURVEY RESULTS ON MAIN GROUPS OF WOMEN INTERVIEWED (15-59 YEARS OLD), 2021



\* The same person could be subjected to more than one type of violence: physical and/or sexual and/or psychological. Similarly - could be subjected to moderate and severe physical violence.

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL (SDG) INDICATORS, ARMENIA 2021

### SDG 5.2.1

**Table 3. Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age**

During the previous 12 months									
Age groups	Ever-partnered women and girls, total*	Have been abused by any partner (current or former intimate partner)							
		physical violence		sexual violence		physical and/or sexual violence		psychological violence	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
15-24	159	5	3.1	4	2.5	9	5.7	25	15.7
25-34	682	28	4.1	11	1.6	34	5.0	96	34.8
35-44	733	29	4.0	18	2.5	39	5.3	96	29.9
45-59	986	28	2.8	16	1.6	37	3.8	117	30.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 560</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>13.0</b>

### SDG 5.2.2

**Table 4. Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence**

During the previous 12 months			
Age groups	All women and girls* surveyed	Have been sexually abused by persons other than an intimate partner	
		N	%
15-24	355	...	...
25-34	741	...	...
35-44	753	...	...
45-59	1,023	...	...
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 872</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0.3</b>

### SDG 5.3.1

SDG 5.3.1 indicator is related to the proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18. **According to the results of the survey there were no cases corresponding to the indicator of SDG 5.3.1.**

## EXPLANATIONS OF THE TERMS USED IN THE REPORT

The explanations of the terms described below are presented according to their meaning and significance in this analytical report.

- **Domestic violence**, also called "domestic abuse" or "intimate partner violence", - Abusive behaviour that occurs within the private domestic sphere:
  - Violence by spouse/intimate partner (IPV)
  - Violence by parents / in-laws.Family violence" used interchangeably.
- **Intimate partner** – A person with whom one has close personal (intimate) relationship, e.g., spouse, common-law/cohabiting; ongoing sexual partners.
- **Physical violence** - The following behavioral manifestations by the spouse/intimate partner towards the woman: slapping, throwing any object that can cause harm, pushing, hitting or pulling hair, hitting with a fist or any other object that can cause harm, kicking, dragging or beating, intentionally strangling or burning, threatening or actually using a gun, knife or any other weapon.
- **Sexual violence** – A relationship that the spouse/intimate partner has carried out any sexual act by using threats and force or by forcing the woman to commit any sexual act that the woman considers humiliating and/or degrading. Sexual violence is the situation when a woman had sex when she did not want to, but because she was afraid of the consequences.
- **Psychological violence** - The following behaviors of the spouse/intimate partner towards the woman: insulting or making woman feel bad, humiliating or degrading woman in front of other people, deliberately doing things that scare or frighten woman, verbally threatening to harm woman or those whom she loves.
- **Proportion of victims of physical violence** – was calculated based on a physical violence questionnaire with 705 (a-f) sub-questions<sup>6</sup>. In other words, if the respondent answered "Yes" to at least one physical violence question, the case was counted as one score. The proportion of victims of physical violence was calculated based on both their entire lives and their experience during the last 12 months prior to the survey.
- **Proportion of victims of sexual violence** - was calculated on the basis of 706 (a-d) sub-questions<sup>2</sup> of the questionnaire related to sexual violence. In other words, if the respondent answered "Yes" to at least one sub-question related to sexual violence, then that case was included in the calculation as one score. The proportion of victims of sexual violence was calculated individually based on their entire life and the experience during the last 12 months prior to the survey.
- **Proportion of victims of psychological violence** - was calculated on the basis of 704 (a-d) sub-questions<sup>2</sup> of the questionnaire related to physiological violence. In other words, if the respondent answered "Yes" to at least one sub-question related to sexual violence, then that case was included in the calculation as one score. The proportion of victims of sexual violence was calculated individually based on their entire life and the experience during the last 12 months prior to the survey.
- **Prevalence** - is the frequency of occurrence of certain characteristics of the phenomenon or object of survey observed in a certain period of time (for example, during the whole life, or during the last 12 months), expressed in absolute numbers or percentage (%).
- **Frequency** - is a measure unit of the intensity of the recurrence of events (for example, never, once, several times, etc.).

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<sup>6</sup> Questionnaire of the survey on DVAW is attached to this report.

- **Occurrence** - the number of occurrences of the corresponding values of the phenomenon or variable under study expressed in absolute numbers or percentages.
- **P-Value** - is a coefficient of significance for the survey. of the relationship between two phenomena, which allows confirming or refuting the 0-hypothesis. 0-hypothesis assumes that there is no connection between the two phenomena observed. If the p-value is  $\leq 0.05$ , then the 0-hypothesis is refuted and the connection is significant, if the p-value is  $> 0.05$ , then the 0-hypothesis is confirmed, therefore the connection between the two phenomena is not significant.
- **Crude odds Ratio** - is a descriptive indicator of the strength and direction of the statistical relationship between the two variables (risk factor), which allows determining whether the phenomenon under study (for example, violence by the partner) is due to other variables (e.g., respondent's education, age, etc.). If Crude odds Ratio  $> 1$ , then this variable has a significant effect to make the observed phenomenon occur, and if Crude odds Ratio  $< 1$ , then the effect is not significant.
- **Sample confidence interval** - (or degree of reliability) it is measured in percentages and allows the percentage of probabilistic consolidation analyzes to be disseminated to the main consolidation.
- **Sampling margin error** - (or the degree of deviation) describes the extent to which the results obtained may deviate from the true picture of the main consolidation.
- **Design effect (DEFF)** - is used to calculate the effective sample size. It is the ratio of the actual sample size to the effective sample size (i.e., the expected sample size if the simple random sampling (SRS) method was to be used).

***In certain cases, the slight differences between the sums of components and results shall be explained by the rounding-up of data.***

## FIELDWORK RESULTS

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

This report concerning the survey on DVAW implementation results is based on the methodology set out in the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the survey, supporting materials and information provided by the Armstat, discussions with the project implementation team, and the results of the fieldwork. Brief description and structure of the survey is presented below:

**Table 5. Brief overview of Survey on DVAW**

Survey name	Domestic Violence against Women (DVAW) national survey
Survey subject	Gender-based violence
Survey period	The survey was conducted over a period of six months
Geographical coverage of the survey	The whole territory of the RA
The target audience of the survey	Women aged 15-59
Sample size	According to the TOR of the Armstat, visits to 4,800 HHs were planned to be carried out, of which were to be conducted 3,000 surveys.
The main responsibilities of the consultant	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Development of survey sampling methodology</li><li>2. Localization and amendment of the survey model questionnaire and the questionnaire completion manual</li><li>3. Instruction of interviewers and fieldwork, preparation of fieldwork</li><li>4. Instruction of the staff on the use of the CAPI method of face-to-face inquiries</li><li>5. Questionnaire testing (CAPI application testing)</li><li>6. Testing of survey tools, data collection process (including questionnaire, data entry, staff) and preparation of the final version of the questionnaire</li><li>7. Conducting face-to-face surveys in Yerevan and Marzes</li><li>8. Carrying out quality control of the fieldworks</li><li>9. Data verification, clarification and processing</li><li>10. Analysis of processed data and preparation of a report on the results of the survey</li></ol>

In order to ensure the international comparability of data, the survey was conducted in accordance with the methodology proposed by the World Health Organization (WHO) and in line with national specifics, and was approved by the State Council on Statistics (SCS) by the decision N 02-N of March 11, 2021<sup>7</sup>.

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=150805> (ARM).

## Sampling methodology

### ➤ *Sample Description*

The survey sample was based on the address lists of HHs selected by the Armstat provided to the Consultant according to a certain methodology. Armstat assisted the Consultant during the sampling or related issues (the basis for the sampling framework was the database of HH addresses formed as a result of the 2011 RA Census). Accordingly, the general population of the survey, in which the main units are the addresses of the private HHs, was provided to the Consultant by Armstat in the appropriate format and procedure. Accordingly, the sampling methodology was discussed and approved by Armstat.

In order to implement survey on DVAW, a sample has been developed that will ensure data representation of women. The survey was conducted by stratified **two-stage systematic probabilistic sampling method** by marzes. Yerevan and the marzes, with all rural and urban settlements, are included in the sample composition of all HHs in the RA in proportion to the number of HHs in that stratum.

All HHs included in the sample were divided into 32 strata (including 12 strata in Yerevan and 2 strata in each marz) using the proportional probability sampling (PPS) method. Preliminary sampling units (PSU) were selected for sampling. The initial sample unit is a private HH.

In the **first stage** of sampling, based on the database of HH addresses formed as a result of the 2011 census of the Republic of Armenia, the preliminary sampling units (PSU) were selected through systematic random sampling (SRS). **In the second stage**, the secondary units of the sample were selected, the HHs included in each cluster by the SRS method. In each PSU it is planned to conduct interviews with 10 target HH representatives. Each HH included in the initial sample set had an equal probability of being included in the sample. Within the selected HHs, the interviewer continued the visits from the first HH, trying to fill in the required number of inquiries according to the list.

### ➤ *Discussions on the development of sampling methodology<sup>8</sup>*

It was originally planned to conduct a survey of 3,000 respondents. The sample confidence interval was 95%, the design effect (DEFF) is 1.9, the number of unsuccessful surveys is 20%, and the sample size is  $n = 4,712$ . Given the previous experience of the RA SC conducting similar surveys it was planned to provide the interviewer with 40-50 instead of 10 HH lists for each PSU in order to achieve the set target which is conditioned by the obsolescence of the address database, certain inaccuracies and HH rejections. From the very first days of the fieldwork, it became clear that with the standard sampling methodology it was indeed impossible to provide the 3,000 effective interviews due to the above and a number of other barriers. On March 2, 2021, a working discussion was held with the Project Implementation Team, during which the main obstacles to the implementation of the fieldwork were presented. In particular:

1. Discrepancies in the addresses of the sample (list of HHs formed as a result of the RA 2011 Census);
2. The large number of rejections, which was due to the following factors:
  - Sensitivity of the survey topic;
  - COVID-19 pandemic;
  - 44-days war in Artsakh: post-war socio-psychological situation;
  - The unstable political situation in Armenia.

The Consultant presented the results of the first 6 days of the fieldwork to the Project Implementation Team. In particular, it was referred to the fact that if the current trend of failed interviews was maintained, it would be possible to receive about 2,600 successful interviews by visiting 10,000-12,000 HHs (while the initial sample size of HH was around 4,800). This means that it was expected to have an average of 1,090 selected and visited HHs

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<sup>8</sup> A detailed description of the sample was provided by the Consultant in the Preliminary report.

in one marz. The number of representative samples at the regional level in Armenia is 384 in case of 95% confidence interval and 0.5 sample observation margin error. This means that the number of sampled HHs is more than sufficient to provide a representative sample at the regional level.

Considering the information provided, the Consultant and the Project Implementation Team jointly decided that the initial methodological approach was not subject to change. That is, there is no need to increase the number of PSUs and/or HHs on the PSU to ensure 3,000 completed interviews. A joint decision was made, according to which the following was decided:

1. The interviewers had to try to make 10 interviews in one PSU;
2. In case of inability to provide the required number of surveyed HHs, if the addresses provided in the list are finished, the interviewers are to be provided with additional addresses from the same PSU (if any);
3. In case of completing 10 interviews provided in the given PSU or exhausting the list of addresses, visits shall be stopped. There was no requirement to provide additional PSUs if the required number of inquiries was not ensured.

In order to obtain an expert opinion on this decision, the Armstat applied to the representative of "GOPA Worldwide Consultants GmbH" LLC, who advised to follow the established methodology, noting that there is no need to use additional PSUs.

The results of the fieldwork are in line with the Consultant's expectations. In particular, 12,636 HH visits were made during the survey, of which 2,872 were completed<sup>9</sup>. Information on the initial and final distribution of the sample is provided below.

**Table 6. Distribution of HHs in the sample by strata and settlements**

Marz	PSUs in the sample (N)			Initial sample size, HH (N)			Actual visits (including failed queries) (N)			Final sample size (according to database), HH		
	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total
Aragatsotn	3	13	16	30	125	155	101	423	524	20	132	152
Ararat	7	22	29	67	211	278	304	583	887	65	212	277
Armavir	9	21	30	82	207	289	295	542	837	82	207	289
Gegharkunik	8	18	26	72	169	241	205	425	630	71	172	243
Lori	15	12	27	145	117	262	643	416	1059	139	114	253
Kotayk	13	14	27	123	136	259	652	441	1093	123	136	259
Shirak	14	14	28	137	130	267	821	423	1244	119	130	249
Syunik	9	6	15	84	62	146	426	266	692	82	61	143
Vayots Dzor	2	4	6	18	40	58	31	137	168	10	49	59
Tavush	5	9	14	43	89	132	125	358	483	30	100	130
Yerevan	96	-	96	913		913	5,019		5019	818		818
<b>Total</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>1 714</b>	<b>1 286</b>	<b>3 000</b>	<b>8 622</b>	<b>4 014</b>	<b>12 636</b>	<b>1 559</b>	<b>1 313</b>	<b>2872</b>

### ➤ *Selection of respondents and failed interviews*

The Consultant followed the methodology proposed by the WHO and provided by the Armstat in relation to the selection of the respondents. The interview was to be conducted with women aged 15-59 (regardless of the presence of a partner) who normally reside in the given HH or are temporary visitors to the HH but have resided in it for at least four weeks. They work at home and then spend at least 5 days a week in the HH.

<sup>9</sup> Within the framework of this survey an effective survey is a survey conducted with a woman selected with the correct methodology.

According to the survey methodology, in the case of more than one eligible female HH members, the interview was conducted with the person whose birthday was closest to the interview day. The respondents were randomly selected and could not be replaced by another HH member.

The interviewers were provided with a list of selected HH addresses in the sample settlements. In the case of rural areas, where the addresses were not always clear, the name, surname and patronymic of the head of HH were mentioned. The interviewer visited the selected HH, introduced himself/herself and introduced the survey organization, and then, if the HH agreed to participate in the survey, conducted the interview.

A cover letter was prepared in cooperation with the Client and the Consultant, addressed to the head of the community (administrative district) and the parents of the respondents aged 15-17, which was provided to the interviewers. The cover letter included the name of the survey, the purpose, as well as information on how the HH was selected, why the participation of the respondents was important, as well as the contact details of those responsible for the survey program to contact us in case of questions.

**During the survey, the interviewers had no right to replace the selected HH with another HH or the selected respondent with another respondent.**

If during the first visit the dwelling was closed or the survey could not be conducted for any reason other than refusal to participate in the survey, the interviewer had to make a maximum of three visits, after which, in the absence of an interview, record the reason for the failure.

If the HH member or the selected respondent refused to participate in the survey, the reason for the rejection was recorded in the relevant section of the questionnaire. The interviewers entered the results of all the visits made during the survey, which are currently available in the database.

The analysis of successful and unsuccessful visits by urban/rural distribution is presented below.

**Table 7. Successful and unsuccessful interviews by Yerevan, other urban and rural settlements (% to visits)<sup>10</sup>**

	Yerevan	Other urban areas	Rural areas	Total	
	N	N	N	N	%, from the HHs visited
<b>Total number of HHs in the sample frame (general population)</b>	<b>271 125</b>	<b>252 235</b>	<b>279 967</b>	<b>803 327</b>	-
<b>Total number of visited HHs</b>	<b>5 019</b>	<b>3 603</b>	<b>4 014</b>	<b>12 636</b>	<b>100</b>
Dwelling is empty or the address is not residential	430	815	833	2 078	16.4
The dwelling is destroyed	4	15	21	40	0.3
The dwelling was not found, it is not available	216	114	79	409	3.2
All HH members speak only a foreign language	19	6	8	33	0.3
All HH members are absent (for a long time)	383	546	374	1 303	10.3
HH members were not at home during the visits	660	163	74	897	7.1
Rejection at the HH level	1 535	1 078	330	2 943	23.3
<b>The total number of successful HHs inquiries (HHs responses)</b>	<b>1 595</b>	<b>984</b>	<b>1 606</b>	<b>4 185</b>	-
<b>HHs response rate (%)</b> <i>share of HHs responses from visited HHs</i>	<b>30.6</b>	<b>27.3</b>	<b>40.0</b>	-	<b>33.1</b>
There is no eligible woman in the HH	541	326	233	1 100	8.7
<b>Total number of HHs with the eligible women</b>	<b>1 120</b>	<b>1 412</b>	<b>1 482</b>	<b>4 014</b>	-
<b>Share of HHs with the eligible women (%)</b> <i>share from interviewed HHs</i>	<b>22.3</b>	<b>39.2</b>	<b>36.9</b>	<b>31.8</b>	-

<sup>10</sup> The percentages in the table are calculated according to the proportion of survey results in visited HHs (2nd line)

	Yerevan	Other urban areas	Rural areas	Total	
	N	N	N	N	%, from the HHs visited
<b>From the eligible women:</b>					
Selected woman is not at home	72	46	25	143	1.1
Selected woman is not able to participate in the survey (e.g., due to health reasons)	6	7	2	15	0.1
Selected woman speaks only a foreign language	4	1	3	8	0.1
Selected woman refused	32	11	19	62	0.5
Selected woman does not want to continue interview	15	11	9	35	0.3
<b>Number of individual interviews (interviewed women)</b>	<b>818</b>	<b>741</b>	<b>1 313</b>	<b>2 872</b>	-
<b>Total response rate (%)</b> <i>share of individual interviews from the visited HHs</i>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>20.6</b>	<b>32.7</b>	<b>22.7</b>	-
<b>Response rate of interviewed women (%)</b> <i>share from the HHs with the eligible women</i>	<b>73.0</b>	<b>52.5</b>	<b>88.6</b>	<b>71.6</b>	-

Thus, **2,872 individual surveys were conducted during the survey**. The overall response rate was 22.7% (out of 12,636 visits). 2,728 surveys were conducted during the first visit, 122 during the second visit and 22 during the third one.

## **Development and refinement of the questionnaire**

### **➤ The basis of the questionnaire**

The survey questionnaire was based on the template of the 12th questionnaire developed by WHO for the purpose of conducting survey on women's health and life experience. The preliminary template of the questionnaire was revised and localized according to national specifics and priorities. According to the WHO recommendations, most of the questionnaire questions were not subject to change to ensure the international comparability of the survey results. All the changes made in the questionnaire were agreed with the Armstat and then approved by the decision of the RA State Council of Statistics.

In addition to the questionnaire, the manual for completing the questionnaire proposed by the WHO and harmonized with the questionnaire, the "Question-by-Question Description of the Survey Questionnaire", was provided to the field staff (interviewers, coordinators). This document contains detailed information on the terms used in the survey, the concepts underlying the questions, as well as the working rules of the interviewers.

### **➤ Amendment of the questionnaire**

A number of working meetings were organized between the representatives of the Armstat and the members of the survey team in order to finalize and amend the questionnaire. Taking into account the national peculiarities, it was decided to carry out some substantive and technical-editorial work relating to the formulations of some questions at the suggestion of the Consultant. Some questions were not included in the survey questionnaire compared to the model questionnaire proposed by the WHO which is due to their less topical or, conversely, hypersensitivity in the Armenian context, especially given that the survey fieldwork coincided with a difficult post-war morale period together with COVID-19 problems.

The questions not included in the questionnaire can be conditionally divided into the following three main groups:

1. Questions that are not directly related to the survey problems, such as "What material is the roof mainly made of?"
2. Questions that will not be applicable for the most part, considering local specificities;
3. Issues that do not correspond to the socio-cultural peculiarities of the Armenian society.

In order to determine the priorities for obtaining information and to receive an overall assessment of the questionnaire, the RA SC sent the questionnaire and the manual to complete the questionnaire with the accompanying official letter to the member organizations of the National Steering Committee on Gender Issues. The Steering Committee includes representatives of various government departments (from the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Justice, etc.), CSOs specializing in domestic violence, international organizations and other important stakeholders<sup>11</sup>. Accordingly, the opinions of experts dealing with gender-based violence were taken into account during the revision of the questionnaire and the manual for completing the questionnaire.

From a practical point of view, given the lack of time, before sending official letters, current consultations were held with the representatives of the professional community in order to clarify the issues related to the questionnaire.

#### ➤ ***Risks and problems associated with completing the questionnaire***

At the initial stage of the survey, the Consultant presented a number of risks associated with completing the questionnaire. The Consultant particularly noted that due to the volume of the questionnaire, there is a certain risk that the respondents will refuse to continue their participation in the survey in the middle of the interview. On the other hand, there was some concern that by reaching the last sections of the questionnaire on physical and sexual violence, the respondents would be so tired that they would answer the questions in a different way, which would naturally affect the quality of the answers received. However, only 35 interviewees remained unfinished during the fieldwork.

During the survey, the interviewers recorded a number of issues related to the questions in the questionnaire, which are presented below:

1. The difficulties related to the questionnaire concern the existence of issues that are not "appropriate" to the national socio-cultural environment, such as issues of sexual violence and, in part, physical violence, as discussed, many times during the Project meetings.
2. Issues related to physical violence have been difficult in the sense that slapping once or throwing something at a woman by the husband is not perceived as a form of violence by the woman herself. Accordingly, the following sections of the questionnaire, which deal with injuries resulting from violence (section 8) and the impact and overcoming violence (section 9), have become inapplicable or difficult to apply.
3. Problems related to sexual violence are still considered closed questions in the Armenian environment and internal complexes had to be overcome in order to raise them. Particularly, in matters relating to sexual harassment by the husband, the transition from whether to consider the act as violence is very delicate. As with some forms of physical violence, these questions made it difficult for women to assess whether it was sexual violence or not. For example, "Have you ever had sex when you did not want to, but agreed because/as you were afraid of what your partner might do if you refused?" Women answered that such cases occurred while at the same time commenting that having sex is part of their "marital duty" and it cannot be considered violence.

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<sup>11</sup>In particular, RA Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport, RA Ministry of Foreign Affairs, RA General Prosecutor's Office, RA Police, the RA Investigative Committee, Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure the RA regional administration offices, etc.

4. The next difficulty with the questionnaire concerned women's reproductive health (section 3) and children (section 4) when a woman had a child that had passed away. Naturally, women were upset when they talked about their dead child.

The Consultant also mentioned the issue related to the duration of the interview. According to the analysis of the survey results, the interviews lasted 35-45 minutes on average. If the respondent also answered the questions of sections 7 (the respondent and her spouse/partner), 8 (injuries) and 9 (impact and coping) of the questionnaires, the interview lasted 50-70 minutes, while without those questions only 20-30 minutes.

## **Fieldwork**

### **➤ *Fieldwork staff***

**Recruitment of survey staff, contracting and distribution of responsibilities:** For the implementation of survey on DVAW, an experienced working group was formed, consisting of interviewers and field coordinators, whose selection was based on their previous survey experience.

### **➤ *Trainings of fieldwork coordinators and interviewers***

Prior to the fieldwork, fieldwork staff participated in trainings provided by the Project Coordinator on the following topics:

1. Presentation of the purpose and objectives of the survey;
2. Peculiarities of survey related to domestic violence. During the trainings, in particular, attention was paid to the ethical aspects and caution of bringing out and recording questions;
3. Procedure for completing the questionnaire;
4. Using the Kobo Toolbox platform for data collection via tablets;
5. Survey sample, rules for using it and possible problems.

The trainings were conducted by the Project Team Leader (Gender Violence Expert), Project Coordinator and the Data Processing Specialist.

### **➤ *Questionnaire testing***

After getting acquainted with the content of the questionnaire, the survey staff conducted pilot interviews. Conducting pilot interviews allowed:

1. to test questionnaire and interview techniques by the fieldwork coordinators and interviewers;
2. to identify issues related to the formulation of questions;
3. to identify and fix issues related to the use of the Kobo Toolbox platform.

Pilot interviews were conducted in areas not included in the sample. Each interviewer conducted 4 pilot interviews. All the survey methods re-defined by the adopted methodology were followed during the pilot interviews.

The survey staff discussed the results of those interviews with the interviewers and the pilot fieldwork coordinators. The issues identified as a result of the discussions and the interviewers' observations were taken into account, and, if necessary, appropriate technical changes were made in the questionnaire.

### **➤ *Fieldwork through face-to-face interviews***

Before starting the fieldwork, the Project Implementation Team prepared cover letters addressed to the community (administrative district) heads and the parents of respondents 15-17 year of age, if there was a need for it.

In order to reduce the risks associated with the participation of the respondents during the survey, the name of the survey was "hidden". In particular, in both the cover letter and the questionnaire, the term "Survey on Women's Health and Life Experience" was used instead of the real name of the Project.

The fieldwork was carried out in the period between February 24 and April 25, 2021. The works were carried out observing all the pre-defined principles and approaches of the methodology. All interviews were conducted face-to-face, without the presence of a third person. In some cases, the only exception were children (under the age 3), who were in the direct care of their mothers and it was not possible to leave them unattended for an hour or more.

In the case of all HHs, whose doors were temporarily closed, frequent visits were made 4-5 times instead of the planned 3 times, trying all possible time schedules.

During the fieldwork, the team maintained all the COVID-19 pandemic rules. All members of the team wore masks, had disinfectants and kept a physical distance during HH visits. If possible, the interview with the respondent was conducted in an open space, in the HH's yard, in the park. Also, before starting the work in the given settlement, the head of the community or administrative district checked in advance the HHs where there are isolated, infected people with COVID-19. Those houses were bypassed by the interviewers. Observance of safety rules allowed avoiding infection.

### ➤ **Problems emerged during fieldwork**

During the fieldwork, the survey staff encountered a number of problems, which are presented below:

1. Some **PSUs were replaced** during the fieldwork for the following reasons:
  - The list included only one apartment building that no longer exists,
  - The addresses listed could not be found due to their absence,
  - The community head objected to conducting interviews in community due to the negative experience of similar surveys conducted in the past;
  - Most of the addresses were uninhabited (empty),
  - Most of the addresses were not residential, they had already been transformed into production or other facilities;
  - The settlement was located in the border area and conducting interviews was risky for the survey staff,
  - COVID-19 was widespread in the area.

8 PSUs were replaced during the fieldwork. These replacements were made prior to visits to the PSU, originally intended to "not add additional PSUs".

2. **Difficulties answering questions.** Mainly the questions that "do not correspond" to the socio-cultural environment in Armenia related to physical and sexual violence or reproductive health (more detailed information is presented in "2.3.2. Risks and problems related to completing the questionnaire").
3. **Unavailability of selected respondents.** The problem is related to the female respondents who work and return home at 20:00 or later. In such a case, the interviewer asked HH members about the phone number of the selected HH respondent, contacted her and reached an agreement to conduct an interview as soon as possible. If the respondent agreed to conduct an interview after returning home, even if it was between 21:00 and 22:00 in the evening, the interviewer repeated the visit to the HH and conducted the interview. **15% of the surveys (430 visits) were conducted between 19:30 and 22:00 in the evening.**
4. **The difficulty of excluding the participation of a third party during the survey.** According to the established methodology, the interview with the respondent was to be conducted only face-to-face, without the presence of a third person. The above condition has caused difficulties especially in the following situations:
  - In rural areas, when young brides had to be "isolated" from the older women of the house. For comparison, it was easier to come to an "agreement" with men when the subject of the survey was presented - women's health, including reproduction. Realizing that the topic would also talk about women's pregnancies, men, considering it not a topic related to them, or, in some cases, considering

that it was a shame to be present at such a conversation, left the woman alone with the interviewer. Meanwhile, it was difficult to persuade the older woman of the house, who was mainly the mother-in-law of the young bride.

- With women living in one-room apartments in apartment buildings, when there was no other room to separate,
  - With girls in the 15-17 age group, as parents were afraid to leave their daughters alone with the interviewer.
5. **Closed doors.** This problem was especially relevant in Yerevan city and in the urban settlements of the regions. In such cases, in order to understand whether the residents of the given house are absent temporarily or permanently, the information was verified from the community heads and residents (neighbors). **16% of all visited HHs (1,632 visits) was uninhabited.**
6. **Impossibility to enter apartment buildings.** Recently, especially in Yerevan, the entrances to the dwellings are made with intercoms, which restrict the access of the respondent. In some cases, the interviewer had to wait 3-4 hours for a resident to enter. The interviewers encountered the problem in several situations:
- In some cases, it was possible to dial a code and ask residents to open the front door.
  - Cases when the entrances of buildings can be opened only with the help of cards, and the residents entering do not allow the interviewer to enter the building.
  - Elite apartment buildings, where checkpoint guards did not allow entering the building until the building security management gave its consent. As a result, after several attempts to reach an agreement with the management, it was not possible to contact the respondent.

**In particular, in 35 of the 96 PSUs in Yerevan, the interviewers encountered similar problems.**

7. **Large number of altered or deleted addresses.** It can be stated that this problem was the primary problem hindering the fieldwork, which can be presented in several groups:
- The main name of HH matches, but the address is different,
  - The apartment building has been completely demolished. This problem is mainly encountered in Gyumri (2 PSU) and Yerevan (1 PSU).
  - The addresses are no longer residential, they have become public buildings. This problem was encountered in Jrvezh village of Kotayk marz.
  - Areas with cottages, where there are no addresses and the residents do not know their addresses. This problem is mainly encountered in Shirak, Lori marzes.
  - Settlements where a new addressing has taken place during the last 3-5 years, while the old addresses are in the lists. This problem is encountered in 7 PSUs.
  - There are no such addresses in this area. According to the head of the community in some settlements, such addresses have never existed. This problem is encountered in 5 PSUs.

Given the obsolescence of the sampling range, it is necessary to verify the relevant HH addresses of the selected PSUs in the catalog prior to such surveys.

8. **Relatively large number of rejections. The large number of rejections received during the project was mainly not conditioned by the topic under survey. The community not participating in the survey would generally refuse before they were informed about the survey topic. In many cases, they refused right behind the door. During the fieldwork, 3,005 rejections were received, of which 2,943 (23% of all visits) at the HH level and 62 (0.5% of all visits) by respondents.**

### ➤ **Quality control**

Data quality is the most important requirement for the survey staff. Initially, it was planned to conduct inspections to check the quality of 10% of the surveys conducted, but in fact the quality of 33% of the surveys was checked using the various quality control methods presented below:

1. **Coordinator visits.** As the survey methodology forbade the presence of a third person, even the field coordinators could not be present during the interview. Nevertheless, the latter made random visits to the HHs where the surveys took place. In the HHs where the survey was conducted, the supervisors checked several data, including the number of women of targeted age in the HH and birthdays, to check whether the interview with the correct respondent was conducted. In addition to the interviews conducted by the coordinators, other data were also checked through retrospectives, including addresses that are uninhabitable or not found, or those HHs that interviewees indicated that HH members have been absent from the community for a long time.
2. **Telephone calls 1.** The phone calls were made by the fieldwork coordinators (right from the field), during which the same data were verified as during the post-visits. This method was used to monitor as many interviews as possible.
3. **Telephone calls 2.** The next control operation was carried out from the office by making random calls. Telephone calls were used to verify the number of female HH members and their birthdays to determine whether the survey was conducted with the right respondent and other socio-demographic information.

## **Data processing and analysis**

### **➤ Data processing**

In order to minimize logical, arithmetic and technical errors related to the data collected, to reduce the data collection time, to carry out the current monitoring of the fieldwork, CAPI method was preferred. Before starting the fieldwork, an online database was developed, which is interconnected with the relevant questionnaire. It was possible to fill in the questionnaire without connecting to the Internet. The need for the latter arose only during data transmission. KoBo Toolbox online data collection platform was used for the questionnaire. Compared to other similar platforms, KoBo has a number of advantages, including:

- ▶ It is possible to fill in the questionnaire through different media, online and without internet,
- ▶ The platform allows you to receive up to 10,000 responses per month,
- ▶ All kinds of sociological questions can be compiled through the platform.

Data collection during the fieldwork was carried out through tablets, where the questionnaire filling program is interconnected with the database on the KoBo Toolbox platform. The interviewers entered the data into the database. This made it possible the results of successful and unsuccessful interviewees to be received during the fieldwork day. The tablet interview allows recording the geographical location of the interview, which is also an additional tool for real-time monitoring of the interviewer. To avoid damage to the database or problems with loss, the data specialist downloaded the data from the platform in MS Excel format at the end of each business day.

The use of the Kobo Toolbox platform allows ensuring a clean database, as all logical connections are already embedded in the system and the program does not allow incorrect data entry, except for some issues.

Data processing through KoBoToolbox platform was carried out in the following stages:

1. Creating a database based on the questionnaire on the platform;
2. Downloading the questionnaire in KoBoCollect software, which was previously downloaded on the interviewer tablets;
3. Instructing the interviewers on the operation of KoboCollect and testing the questionnaire;
4. Data collection;
5. Sending data to KoboToolbox server (web server);
6. Daily monitoring of KoboToolbox database;
7. Downloading the database in MS Excel format.

### ➤ *Difficulties with using the platform*

Despite the advantages of the KoBoToolbox platform, at each stage of the platform's initial fieldwork, survey staff members, including the data specialist and the interviewers, encountered a number of issues, including:

1. During the first days of using KoboCollect, based on problems received from the interviewers, the data specialist had to regularly update the questionnaire and resend it to the interviewers.
2. Internet access. In general, the quality of the Internet connection did not pose a serious problem during the fieldwork, as they worked offline. However, every evening, especially the interviewers working in the regions, faced the problem of the quality of Wi-Fi connection and had difficulty sending the results of the visits and surveys. As a result, there was a technical defect in the database and in some cases the same questionnaire was entered twice.
3. The main problems in the data processing phase were related to the answers to open-ended questions. Checking, correcting and entering the answers to the questions was quite time consuming. On the other hand, the efficiency of the process of cleaning the database through KoboToolbox is high, as there are logical connections between the answers to the questionnaire questions and, accordingly, certain restrictions, which do not allow entering obvious wrong answers. Given the total number of actual visits (12,636), the duration of the process exceeded the planned.

Data weighing and analysis were carried out according to the guidelines and algorithms (syntaxes) provided by the Armstat, after cleaning the database.

## **SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTION OF THE RESPONDENTS**

Regarding the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents presented in

**Table 8**, we consider important referring to two characteristics of the educational level and employment. According to education, the highest indicator (38.4%) is made up of women with secondary education. One of the reasons is that the target group of the survey also includes the age group representatives of the 15-18, who are still studying in secondary educational institutions.

The fact that the highest share is occupied by housewives (37.4%) is important in the employment profile. Moreover, in the employment description we have separately considered the characteristics "engaged in household" and "never worked". The difference between these characteristics is that in the first case it is the woman who has sometime been employed, who due to some circumstances does not have any profitable employment at the moment. The women represented in these two groups together make up 43.1%.

The population of Armenia is mostly mono-ethnic, but there are also a number of national minorities whose opinion is important. Certainly, we did not meet all of their representatives in this survey, but surveyed representatives of the Yezidi, Russian, Assyrian, Ukrainian, Greek, and Moldovan national minorities accounting to 2% of the total survey.

**Table 8. Socio-demographic description of the respondents**

Socio-demographic characteristics	Total people (N)	Total (%)
<b>Age</b>		
▶ 15-24	355	12.4
▶ 25-34	741	25.8
▶ 35-44	753	26.2
▶ 45-59	1 023	35.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 872</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Settlement</b>		
▶ Urban	1 559	54.3
- <i>Yerevan</i>	818	28.5
- <i>Other cities</i>	741	25.8
▶ Rural	1 313	45.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 872</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Nationality</b>		
▶ Armenian	2 815	98.0
▶ Yezidi	46	1.6
▶ Russian	3	0.1
▶ Assyrian	...	...
▶ Ukrainian	...	...
▶ Greek	...	...
▶ Moldovan	3	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 872</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Existence of a partner</b>		
▶ Never had	312	10.9
▶ Has a partner	2 291	79.8
▶ Had in the past	269	9.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 872</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Education</b>		
▶ Basic and lower (up to 9th grade)	217	7.5
▶ Secondary/senior (10th-12th grade)	1 102	38.4
▶ Vocational/secondary specialized	840	29.2
▶ Tertiary/postgraduate	713	24.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 872</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Occupation</b>		
▶ Is engaged in housekeeping	1 074	37.4
▶ Is engaged in agriculture	499	17.4
▶ Works in the private sector/is self-employed	481	16.7
▶ Works in a state/community organization	414	14.4
▶ Never worked	163	5.7
▶ Studying (pupil/student)	160	5.6
▶ Works and studies	35	1.2
▶ Other	46	1.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 872</b>	<b>100</b>

The next important fact to pay attention to is that the main source of income in the households of the surveyed women (hereinafter referred to as HH) is the work of the respondents' spouses (39.1%). The second most frequently mentioned answer is the work of other HH members (16.2%), in connection with which married women usually mentioned the “mother-in-law”, “father-in-law”, and “brother-in-law” options. Moreover, this option does not include the respondent's parents, which was a separate version of the answer. That is, 16.2% of women have no role in providing income, and therefore also in management, or it is quite low.

**Table 9. The length of continuous residence in their community according to the women surveyed**

Duration of living in the community	Surveyed women and girls, total	
	people (N)	people (%)
Throughout life	979	34.1
31 years or more	311	10.9
21-30 years	335	11.7
11-20 years	475	16.5
1-10 years	659	22.9
Up to 1 year	101	3.5
Visitor (resides in the HH for at least 4 weeks)	7	0.2
Does not know/does not remember	3	0.1
Refused to answer	2	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 872</b>	<b>100</b>

The majority of women surveyed (34.1%) had never changed their settlement ([Table 9](#)). The change of settlement in the case of women mainly occurs when the woman marries in another community/settlement, but in our survey, the majority of marriages also took place in the same settlement (

[Table 10](#)).

**Table 10. Continuous residence in their community by marital status**

Duration of living in the community	Surveyed women and girls, total (N)	By marital status		
		Never married (%)	Currently married (%)	Ever married (%)
Throughout life	979	67.6	28.9	39.4
31 years or more	311	4.2	10.7	19.3
21-30 years	335	1.0	12.9	13.4
11-20 years	475	9.0	18.4	9.7
1-10 years	659	15.4	25.0	14.5
Up to 1 year	101	2.6	3.7	3.3
Visitor (resides in the HH for at least 4 weeks)	7	0.3	0.3	0.0
Does not know/does not remember	3	0.0	0.1	0.0
Refused to answer	2	0.0	0.0	0.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 872</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

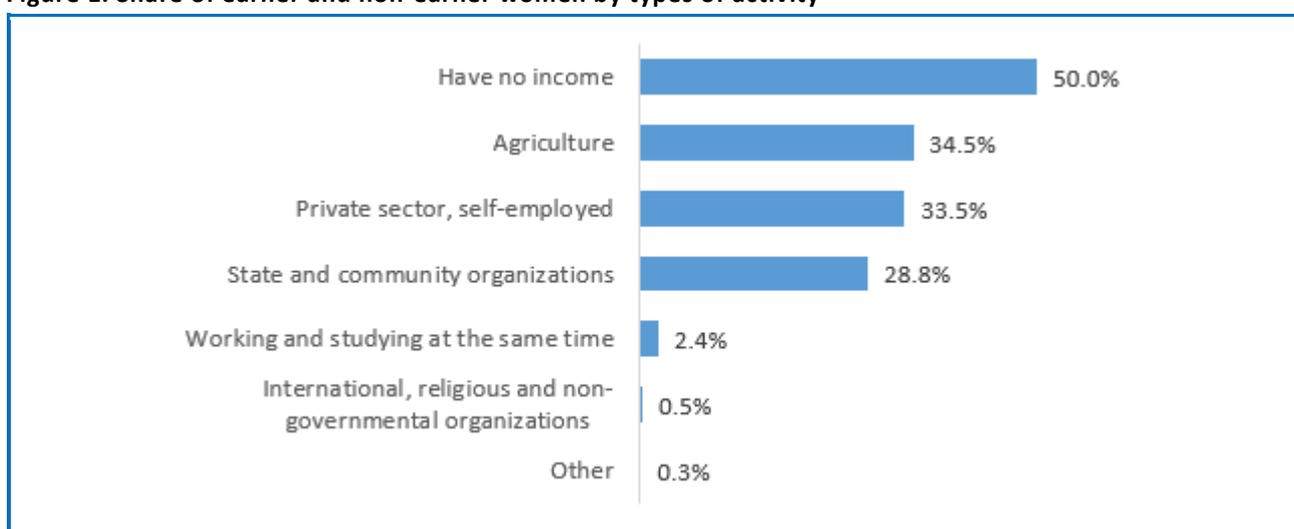
## WOMEN'S ACTIVITY TYPES AND ECONOMIC ASSETS

Female occupation and employment are important factors in the survey of domestic violence. Economic stability is one of the most important factors in reducing violence. It gives woman self-confidence, on the one hand, having a certain position in the family, to prevent the use of violence against her person. On the other hand, having some financial means, a woman who has been abused can separate from the abuser and take care of herself and, if necessary, the primary needs of the children.

50% of the women in the survey have no income ([Figure 1](#)), therefore have no financial independence and are dependent on a partner or a HH member (s), which in turn increases the likelihood of being abused.

Women with any occupation, income are dominated by women engaged in agriculture (34.5%), which is mainly due to the fact that agriculture is the main or only type of activity in rural settlements. In this survey, the involvement of women in international, religious and non-governmental organizations (hereinafter referred to as NGOs) is very low - 0.5%, which may be due to the size of the survey sample and the specificity of the target respondents. Working in international organizations requires special skills, business trips, an unregulated schedule, and some women have their limitations.

**Figure 1. Share of earner and non-earner women by types of activity**



Women's general and legal awareness are quite low when it comes to owning or disposing any property. Women usually do not know if they are the owner or co-owner of any property, in which cases do they find themselves in the status of co-owner and other similar issues?

**41.5% of women do not own any real estate or movable property (land, house, company, car, etc.). The share of women who are co-owners in the status of owner is higher - 43.4%. A total of 18.2% of women own any property (land, house, company, car, etc.).**

The proportion of women in the status of co-owner is high, especially in the case of land and house ([Table 11](#)), which is due to the fact that, living in the given dwelling (daughter, legally married bride), automatically all members of the house become co-owners of property, including women.

The issue of owning a car should be approached with reservations. In some cases, the man registers his car in the woman's name, making her the owner, but in matters of property management, such as driving, selling, etc., the woman usually has no authority.

In the case of cattle (cows, horses, etc.), the question was considered in terms of whether the woman could participate in the management of income from animals, production, purchase or sale of animals, etc. The same goes for agricultural products, crops, do women participate in the management or realization of large quantities of crops? The level of participation in women's decision-making is higher, especially in the management and sales of agricultural products, rather than in animal husbandry.

**Table 11- Proportion of women property owners (N=2 872)<sup>12</sup>**

Property	Owner (%)	Co-owner (%)	Non-owner (%)
Land area	7.0	18.9	72.0
House	10.3	36.2	51.1
Company	2.0	1.8	95.6
Large cattle (cows, horses, etc.)	1.6	12.3	85.9
Crop from agricultural products or crops	3.2	24.6	71.9
Car (passenger)	5.0	5.4	89.0
Other property:	1.1	2.1	95.5

### HEAD OF THE HH ACCORDING TO WOMEN'S PERCEPTION

According to the structure of the traditional Armenian family, the head of HH is considered to be the man. This perception is so hardened that it is carried by everyone, regardless of gender, age, education and other factors. The fact that the head of the house should be the man has no definition and is true within the definition of unwritten cultural laws. Naturally, women are not left out of those who carry that perception. Women living in both rural and urban settlements equally stated that their HH head was a man (Table 12). By a very small difference, those living in urban settlements considered their HH head to be a woman. The reason is the socio-cultural changes that have taken place in the urban environment, especially in the capital, which have led to the transformation of hardened perceptions.

The fact that both women and men can be HH heads has been mentioned more by women with higher education, which suggests that the higher education system contributes to equal opportunities in this regard.

**Table 12. HH head according to demographic characteristics**

Characteristics	Total people (N)	Man (%)	Woman (%)	Man and woman (%)
<b>Settlement</b>				
▶ Urban	1 559	71.5	24.8	3.7
▶ Rural	1 313	71.5	24.1	4.4
<b>Education*</b>				
▶ Basic and lower (up to 9th grade)	217	67.3	30.4	3.2
▶ Secondary/senior (10th-12th grade)	1 102	73.0	24.2	2.8
▶ Vocational/secondary specialized	840	73.7	23.3	3.0
▶ Tertiary/postgraduate	713	68.2	24.5	7.3
<b>Age</b>				
▶ 15-24	355	70.4	25.9	3.7
▶ 25-34	741	73.3	21.3	5.4
▶ 35-44	753	75.4	21.2	3.3
▶ 45-59	1 023	67.7	28.6	3.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 872</b>	<b>71.5</b>	<b>24.5</b>	<b>4.0</b>

\*- Here and hereinafter- in all the tables and figures in case of educational level, have not been considered those who have no education and those with primary education, as they are not representative of the rest of the population of interest due to the small number.

<sup>12</sup> The same person answered all the versions of the questions.

## PHYSICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE BY THE PARTNERS

Violence against women around the world has various manifestations: physical violence, sexual violence or harassment, psychological violence, persecution and etc. Each type of violence has its consequences, from a psychological drop in self-esteem to a desire to end one's own life and its realization.

In recent years, numerous studies have been conducted in Armenia, which have addressed the various aspects of the problem of violence facing women. The problem is addressed on various platforms, but it remains among the unresolved issues in our country.

Before discussing the results of a survey on domestic violence against women, we need to mention one important fact. Due to our closed cultural environment and functioning norms, the issue of violence becomes limited. There are many reasons for this, including the shame of speaking out about the phenomenon, the fact that women consider the situation as a "normal phenomenon", the fear that violence may escalate, etc. The next most important circumstance is that in some cases, the phenomenon by women is not viewed or perceived as violence. For example, while being present in the family, the interviewers witnessed some manifestations of psychological violence against the wife by the husband, but during the interview, the respondent mentioned similar cases in the questionnaire, noting that there were no such cases. **The question is not only that the respondents can deliberately give incorrect answers, but also that they cannot distinguish the manifestations of violence, considering them a daily, ordinary phenomenon. Considering the above and other circumstances, the results of the survey should be approached with some reservations.**

### PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

Manifestations of physical violence against women have been observed from milder forms of violence, such as slapping, to the threat and/or use of a knife or firearm. **As the forms of physical violence intensify, the number of women exposed to them decreases.** The most common type of physical violence among ever-partnered women is slapping or throwing an object that could harm the woman. 13.5% of women aged 15-59 were ever subjected to this type of violence ([Table 13](#)). Based on the results of the survey, we can state that the above-mentioned forms of physical violence are more common in rural settlements than in urban ones.

**Table 13. Prevalence of various types of physical violence among ever-partnered women (N=2 560)**

Forms of physical violence	Settlement				Total (N=2 560)	
	Urban (N=1 291)		Rural (N=1 269)		throughout life (%)	during the past 12 months (%)
	throughout life (%)	during the past 12 months (%)	throughout life (%)	during the past 12 months (%)		
Slapped or thrown an object that could harm	13.2	2.1	13.8	2.7	13.5	2.1
Pushed, hit or pulled hair	6.0	1.8	6.5	2.3	6.3	2.0
Hit with a fist or any other object that could harm	6.4	2.1	6.1	2.1	6.3	2.2
Kicked, dragged or beat	2.7	0.8	3.2	1.3	3.0	1.0
Deliberately suffocated or burned	0.9	0.2	0.9	0.2	0.9	0.2
Threatened or actually used a gun, knife or any other weapon	1.5	0.4	1.3	0.3	1.4	0.3

**Moderate and severe physical violence:** Moderate physical violence includes the following forms: slapping, throwing an object at a woman, pushing and pulling hair. Some of the manifestations of severe physical violence are hitting, dragging, beating, strangling, using a gun, knife or any other weapon, etc. According to the types of violence, moderate physical violence is more common (13.1%) (Table 14). The prevalence of severe physical violence is 5.5%. In the presence of violence, it is important to consider the educational factor of the abuser and the victim. Women with tertiary/postgraduate education have a higher prevalence of severe violence, while moderate physical violence is more prevalent among women with secondary vocational education. **That is, the higher a woman's educational level, the higher the prevalence of moderate and severe physical violence.**

If we look the prevalence of violence by type not at ever-partnered women, but at women who have been abused, the picture conditioned by education changes thus bringing us to the following situation where the lower is a person's level of education the higher is the prevalence of moderate and severe physical violence (Table 15). In this context, women with secondary and vocational education were subjected to severe physical violence, and those with moderate and lower (9th grade and lower) education were subjected to moderate violence.

Urban environment has its impact on public perceptions and lifestyle. It helps to look at things from a different perspective than is accepted in more conservative and traditional environments, such as rural settlements. **A woman's place of residence is an important factor in determining the type of violence. Rural women are more likely to be subjected to moderate and severe physical violence than urban women.**

The prevalence of violence also varies according to the age of the respondents. **Women in the 25-44 age group was subjected to the most severe physical violence by their partner, and in 15-24 and 45-59 age groups to the moderate physical violence.**

**Table 14. Prevalence of physical violence among women who have ever had a partner (N=2,560) by type**

Characteristics	Ever-partnered women (N)	From those: were subjected to	
		moderate physical violence (%)	severe physical violence (%)
<b>Settlement</b>			
▶ Urban	1 291	12.6	5.2
▶ Rural	1 269	13.6	5.9
<b>Education</b>			
▶ Basic and lower (up to 9th grade)	143	15.4	6.3
▶ Secondary/senior (10th-12th grade)	998	12.2	4.9
▶ Vocational/secondary specialized	807	14.9	6.4
▶ Tertiary/postgraduate	612	11.6	5.2
<b>Age</b>			
▶ 15-24	159	14.5	5.7
▶ 25-34	682	11.6	5.9
▶ 35-44	733	12.6	5.9
▶ 45-59	986	14.3	5.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 560</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>5.5</b>

**Table 15. Prevalence of physical violence by types among women who have ever been physically abused**

Characteristics	Ever-partnered women (N)	From those: were subjected to	
		moderate physical violence (%)	moderate physical violence (%)
<b>Settlement</b>			
▶ Urban	193	77.7	29.0
▶ Rural	185	82.2	31.9
<b>Education</b>			
▶ Basic and lower (up to 9th grade)	30	66.7	26.7
▶ Secondary/senior (10th-12th grade)	137	83.2	29.2
▶ Vocational/secondary specialized	119	89.1	35.3
▶ Tertiary/postgraduate	92	67.4	27.2
<b>Age</b>			
▶ 15-24	24	91.7	29.2
▶ 25-34	105	68.6	31.4
▶ 35-44	106	76.4	34.9
▶ 45-59	143	88.1	26.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>79.9</b>	<b>30.4</b>

While physical violence (ever throughout life) is more prevalent among those living in rural settlements, in the last 12 months- some forms of violence, such as pushing, hitting, pulling hair, and hitting with other objects, are more common among their counterparts in urban settlements (Table 16). A review of the frequency of cases of violence over the last 12 months shows that they have mainly occurred several times.

**Table 16. Prevalence of different types of physical violence among ever-partnered women (N=2 560) in the last 12 months and the frequency of cases**

Types of physical violence	Urban (N=1 291)			
	During the last 12 months (%)	One time (%)	Several times (%)	Many times (%)
Slapped or thrown an object that could harm	2.1	0.7	1.0	0.4
Pushed, hit or pulled hair	1.8	0.4	1.0	0.3
Hit with a fist or any other object that could harm	2.1	0.6	0.4	0.2
Kicked, dragged or beat	0.8	0.0	0.2	0.2
Deliberately suffocated or burned	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Threatened or actually used a gun, knife or any other weapon	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.2

Types of physical violence	Rural (N=1 269)			
	During the last 12 months (%)	One time (%)	Several times (%)	Many times (%)
Slapped or thrown an object that could harm	2.7	1.1	1.1	0.2
Pushed, hit or pulled hair	2.3	0.6	0.6	0.4
Hit with a fist or any other object that could harm	2.1	0.3	0.5	0.2
Kicked, dragged or beat	1.3	0.0	0.2	0.2
Deliberately suffocated or burned	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Threatened or actually used a gun, knife or any other weapon	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1

Types of physical violence	Total (N=2 560)			
	During the last 12 months (%)	One time (%)	Several times (%)	Many times (%)
Slapped or thrown an object that could harm	2.1	0.9	1.1	0.3
Pushed, hit or pulled hair	2.0	0.5	0.8	0.4
Hit with a fist or any other object that could harm	2.2	0.5	0.4	0.2
Kicked, dragged or beat	1.0	0.0	0.2	0.2
Deliberately suffocated or burned	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Threatened or actually used a gun, knife or any other weapon	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1

Women are also physically abused by their partners during pregnancy. According to the survey, such women made up 2.6% (N=64). Moreover, rural women were slightly more exposed to violence during pregnancy (Table 17)<sup>13</sup>. An observation of the problem in terms of age shows that the higher a woman's age, the higher the rate of physical violence during pregnancy. It can be assumed that it is based on factors due to generational differences, including the fact that men have changed their attitude towards pregnant women becoming more "conscious" in this regard in the recent years, therefore, hitting of the pregnant woman occurs less.

**Table 17. Share of ever-partnered women who have ever had a pregnancy and have ever been physically abused during pregnancy**

Characteristics	Women who have ever been pregnant (N)	Exposed to violence during pregnancy (%)
<b>Settlement</b>		
▶ Urban	1 329	2.3
▶ Rural	1 119	2.7
<b>Education</b>		
▶ Basic and lower (up to 9th grade)	177	1.7
▶ Secondary/senior (10th-12th grade)	945	2.6
▶ Vocational/secondary specialized	712	2.8
▶ Tertiary/postgraduate	614	2.6
<b>Age *</b>		
▶ 15-24	296	1.7
▶ 25-34	650	1.5
▶ 35-44	654	2.9
▶ 45-59	848	2.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 448</b>	<b>2.6</b>

\* In this and similar tables, the age distribution does not mean that, for example, women in the 55-59 age group became pregnant in 55-59 and were abused during pregnancy.

Women who were abused during pregnancy were hit in the abdomen with fists or feet. This form of violence is even more prevalent in rural settlements (Table 18). Moreover, the attackers are in all cases the fathers of those children. These men generally treated women in the same way before they became pregnant, but

<sup>13</sup> By proportion, in Error! Reference source not found. we mean the proportion of ever-partnered women and pregnancy who was abused by him.

beatings and slapping decreased during pregnancy. If there is a very small difference in the level of violence during pregnancy according to the level of education, that is, even the higher or postgraduate education of women in slapping or beating during pregnancy does not contribute to non-violence, then there were some differences in hitting the belly during pregnancy. Hitting belly is lower among those with secondary vocational/ pre-vocational and tertiary/postgraduate education than those with secondary education. Perhaps having a certain level of education helps women to have a deeper awareness and not to allow blows to the abdomen to save the child from imminent danger. An important factor for women to have higher education can also be talked about when it comes to reducing cases of violence during pregnancy. **The higher the educational level of women the lower the circumstance of being beaten and slapped during pregnancy.** **14.8%** of the surveyed women aged 15-59 **had ever experienced physical violence** from a partner during the lifetime.

**Table 18. Types of violence used during pregnancy among women who have ever been pregnant**

Characteristics	Women who have ever been pregnant		Women who have ever been hit during pregnancy					Women who have been hit by the same person during their pregnancy as before		
	Total (N)	Exposed to violence during pregnancy (%)	Women who have ever been hit during pregnancy (N)	Have been punched or kicked in the abdomen while pregnant (%)	During the most recent pregnancy, the beater was the father of that child (%)	The person who did this is the current or most recent spouse (%)	The same person behaved similarly before pregnancy (%)	Women who were treated similarly by the same person before becoming pregnant (N)	Beating and slapping during pregnancy remained almost the same as before pregnancy (%)	Beating and slapping less during pregnancy than before pregnancy (%)
<b>Settlement</b>										
▶ Urban	1 329	2.3	30	6.3	100	93.3	86.7	26	46.2	53.8
▶ Rural	1 119	2.7	34	9.4	100	82.4	85.3	29	34.5	65.5
<b>Education</b>										
▶ Basic and lower (up to 9th grade)	177	1.7	3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3	0.0	0.0
▶ Secondary/senior (10th-12th grade)	945	2.6	25	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.8	22	0.1	0.0
▶ Vocational/secondary specialized	712	2.8	20	0.5	6.3	5.8	4.4	15	2.0	2.9
▶ Tertiary/postgraduate	614	2.6	16	0.2	4.0	3.4	2.4	15	0.9	1.4
<b>Age</b>										
▶ 15-24	296	1.7	5	0.0	100	3.2	3.2	5	0.8	2.4
▶ 25-34	650	1.5	11	0.0	100	1.5	1.5	10	0.5	1.2
▶ 35-44	654	2.9	20	1.0	100	10.9	11.2	19	2.7	8.1
▶ 45-59	848	2.5	28	0.0	100	3.5	4.0	21	2.7	2.1

## **Factors contributing to physical violence**

According to the results of the survey, in Armenia 14.8% of women aged 15-59 were subjected to physical violence by intimate partner. Physical violence has various manifestations, from the lightest version - pulling hair, pushing, to the most acute manifestations - strangulation, burning, threatening by or using a gun, knife. And what are the main factors that contribute to or are the basis for women to be subjected to physical violence? Both the types of physical violence and the reasons for them are very different: financial, health, psychological and so on. Naturally, the factors contributing to the violence are mainly socio-cultural, including due to the place of residence. Manifestations of domestic and financial violence are particularly prevalent in rural settlements ([Table 19](#)). Meanwhile, no cases of physical violence were registered in urban settlements due to the fact that there was no food in the house (the version is included in "Other"). Educating a woman or showing her that the man is the head of the household is common among rural men. The reason is the hierarchical structure of the family, which is based on a stronger foundation in rural settlements. In a model like this, everyone has a clear place, and the man is at the top of the pyramid. And if the woman does not accept that position voluntarily, then it should be explained to her through violence.

One of the types of violence conditioned by obvious socio-cultural grounds is the problems in the bride-mother-in-law relationship, due to which women are subjected to violence by their husbands as brides. Moreover, this factor contributing to violence is more common in rural settlements (2.4%) than in urban ones (0.5%). The reason is the difference in the structure of the family. Three-generation families are more common in rural settlements, which create favorable conditions for generational conflict, in this case, women of different generations. Some of these conflicts are ended by the man of the house, who, naturally, resolves the issue "in favor" of his mother, beating the woman.

Among the factors of physical violence by the partner are also cases of drug use (the version is included in "Other"), which is more common in urban settlement (0.8%).

The above-mentioned reasons for violence are more common among women aged 45-59. The reason is that the issue has been considered throughout life, and women in this age group have more life experience, and due to that, a longer period of violence.

**Table 19. Situations that lead to physical violence, according to women who have ever been physically abused by the partner (N=378, %)**

Characteristics	No special reason	When the man is drunk	Problems with money	Difficulties at man's workplace	When the man is unemployed	Problems with the family of the man or the woman	The man is jealous of the woman	The woman does not obey	A man wants to teach, educate or discipline a woman	The man wants to show that he is the head	Other
<b>Settlement</b>											
▶ Urban	13.8	7.7	6.1	1.6	2.9	7.9	6.3	3.2	2.1	2.1	6.9
▶ Rural	13.2	8.5	6.6	3.2	2.9	8.7	6.3	2.4	5.6	7.9	7.4
<b>Education</b>											
▶ Basic and lower (up to 9th grade)	1.9	1.6	0.8	0.3	0.8	1.1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.8	1.1
▶ Secondary/senior (10th-12th grade)	8.5	5.8	4.0	1.9	1.9	5.8	6.3	1.9	2.6	4.0	5.8
▶ Vocational/secondary specialized	9.3	5.6	3.7	1.6	2.4	6.1	3.4	1.9	2.1	2.4	3.9
▶ Tertiary/postgraduate	7.4	3.2	4.2	1.1	0.8	3.7	2.4	1.3	2.4	2.9	3.4
<b>Age</b>											
▶ 15-24	2.1	2.6	1.9	0.3	1.1	1.3	1.9	1.1	0.3	0.3	1.1
▶ 25-34	7.9	2.9	2.6	1.3	1.3	4.2	2.4	1.1	0.8	0.5	2.1
▶ 35-44	6.1	4.8	2.6	1.3	1.6	3.7	1.9	1.3	1.6	3.4	5.8
▶ 45-59	10.8	5.8	5.6	1.9	1.9	7.4	6.6	2.1	5.0	5.8	5.3

### 1.1.1. Counteraction of women who have been physically abused by their partners and its impact

There are two main approaches to responding to an abuser: either do nothing and wait until the abuser has finished his physical violence or defend oneself, responding to his behavior. In Armenia, the majority of women (67%) prefer the first option to do nothing to defend or respond ([Table 20](#)). **Only 33% of women have ever countered their partner violence.** Moreover, most of the women who counterattacked did it once (13.2%). If we look at the frequency of counterattack by settlement type, we can see that women in rural settlements predominate among women who counterattacked once, while women in urban settlements almost always counteracted among women who counterattacked. This speaks to the fact that women living in urban settlements do not tolerate more physical violence against them. **Thus, women living in urban areas have a more intolerant attitude towards physical violence, at least in terms of counterattack.**

**Table 20. Counterattack by women who have been physically abused by their partner**

Frequency of ever defending or responding to violence	Urban (N=193) (%)	Rural (N=185) (%)	Total	
			(N=378)	(%)
Never	67.9	65.8	<b>254</b>	67.0
Once	11.7	14.7	<b>50</b>	13.2
Several times (2-5)	11.1	9.9	<b>40</b>	10.6
Many time/almost always	8.3	7.9	<b>31</b>	8.2
Does not know/does not remember	1.0	0.9	<b>2</b>	0.8
Refused/no answer	0.0	0.8	<b>1</b>	0.3

And how effective are women's counterattacks, responding or defending themselves, in times of violence? **Retaliation by a woman during a partner's physical violence has a positive effect only in urban settlements.** As a result of women's response to or protection from violence in rural settlements, they are exacerbated or do not lead to any positive change.

**Female counterattack against their partner has stopped violence in 39.2% of cases.** We believe that this is an important indicator, which means that the physical violence used by the partner can be eliminated as a result of counterattacking (to defend or respond) by women. Meanwhile, 67% of abused women have never defended or responded to their partner's violence.

**Table 21. Impact of counterattack by women who were physically abused by their partners and counterattacked**

The impact of defending or responding to violence ever	Settlement		Women who counterattacked, total	
	Urban (N=62)(%)	Rural (N=63)(%)	(N=125)	(%)
No change/no effect	27.4	30.2	<b>36</b>	28.8
The violence got worse	8.1	12.7	<b>13</b>	10.4
Violence has decreased	19.4	15.9	<b>22</b>	17.6
The violence stopped	43.5	34.9	<b>49</b>	39.2
Does not know/does not remember	1.6	3.2	<b>3</b>	2.4
Refused/no answer	0.0	3.2	<b>2</b>	1.6

## SEXUAL VIOLENCE

When talking about sexual violence, one must consider the fact that women find it difficult to understand the subtle transition that leads to voluntary sexual intercourse and the beginning of violence by the partner. Especially when it comes to the question of whether a woman had sex when she did not want to, but agreed because she did not know what the outcome would be. Some women mention in oral comments that there are cases when they did not want to have sex, but agreed because they consider it their marital duty. And in such cases, it is difficult to assess whether it is a sexual violence by a man or not. On the other hand, calling and/or considering the phenomenon as "sexual violence" is very relative, because especially the manifestations of sexual violence used by the partner/spouse are very different in nature.

During the survey, the manifestations of sexual violence were viewed from 3 main perspectives: 1) when sexual violence was committed under threat or force, 2) when the woman had sex when she did not want to, but because she was afraid of the consequences, 3) when the partner forced the woman to do any act of a sexual nature that a woman finds humiliating or degrading. The latter is one of the least common forms of sexual violence (Table 22), reported by 0.9% of ever-partnered women. One of the main explanations for the phenomenon is that the perception of actions performed during sexual intercourse is not humiliating or degrading. The most common cases of sexual violence (5.2%) are a woman having sex when she did not want to, but agreed because she was afraid of the consequences.

**Cases of sexual violence are more common in urban settlements than in rural ones.** Interestingly, doing only something sexually degrading or humiliating is more common in rural settlements. One can assume that the main reason for such an image is the difference in perception. The worldview of women living in urban environments is wider than that of rural ones. Due to this circumstance, some types/ manifestations of sexual intercourse are probably perceived as normal by those living in urban settlements and humiliating or degrading in rural settlements.

Cases of sexual violence are also more prevalent in urban settlements in the last 12 months prior to the survey.

**Table 22. Prevalence of different types of sexual violence among ever-partnered women (N=2 560) by settlement**

Types of sexual violence	Settlement				Ever-partnered women, total (N=2 560)	
	Urban (N=1 291)		Rural (N=1 269)		Through-out life (%)	During the past 12 months (%)
	Through-out life (%)	During the past 12 months (%)	Through-out life (%)	During the past 12 months (%)		
The partner forced to have sex when the woman did not want to, for example, by threatening or forcing her	3.3	0.9	3.6	1.1	3.4	1.0
Have sex when the woman did not want to, but agreed, fearing what her partner might do if she refused	5.0	1.2	5.4	1.7	5.2	1.4
The partner forced her to do something sexual that the woman thought was humiliating or degrading	1.0	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.9	0.2

During the last 12 months, having sex without desire or with fear is more common among the types of sexual violence. As for the frequency, the violence has occurred several times in the last 12 months.

It can be assumed that there is a certain correlation between different types of violence. A man who physically abuses his wife is more inclined to sexually abuse his partner and vice versa. It would be wrong to speak about it unequivocally, because the factors contributing to the aggressor's aggressive behavior are different in different cultural environments. Referring to the results of the survey, it should be noted that **in Armenia 62.5% of women who were subjected to sexual violence were also subjected to physical violence, and 18.8% of those who were subjected to physical violence were also subjected to sexual violence.**

When studying the prevalence of physical and sexual violence among ever-partnered women it is clear that **women are more likely to be sexually and physically abused in urban settlements than in rural settlements (Table 23).**

Perhaps this is due to the fact that rural women perceive such manly behavior less violent, or are more constrained in raising issues of violence.

During the last 12 months, the cases of both sexual and physical violence are also higher in urban settlements. However, the differences in the prevalence of physical violence are not so obvious, while in the manifestations of sexual violence it is more obvious.

**The lower a woman's level of education, the higher the chance of being sexually and physically abused.** The highest percentage of victims of physical and sexual violence is those who have completed primary and basic school (up to 9th grade) or those in the process of education (22.4%). The share of those who have been abused during the last 12 months is high among those who have vocational educational level.

**Table 23. The prevalence of physical and sexual violence among ever-partnered women (N=2 560)**

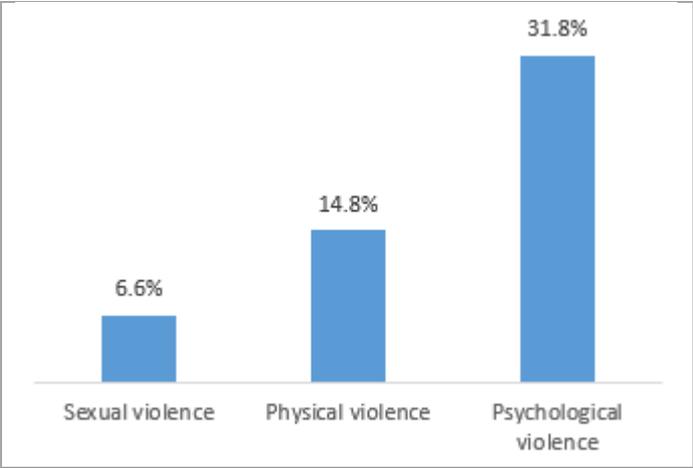
Characteristics	Ever-partnered women (N)	Physical violence (N=378)		Sexual violence (N=168)		Physical and/or sexual violence <sup>14</sup> (N=441)	
		throughout life (%)	during the past 12 months (%)	throughout life (%)	during the past 12 months (%)	throughout life (%)	during the past 12 months (%)
<b>Settlement</b>							
▶ Urban	1 291	14.9	3.1	6.2	1.5	16.8	4.0
▶ Rural	1 269	14.6	3.9	6.9	2.3	17.7	5.3
<b>Education</b>							
▶ Basic and lower (up to 9th grade)	143	21.0	2.1	7.7	1.4	22.4	3.5
▶ Secondary/senior (10th-12th grade)	998	13.7	2.9	6.9	2.2	16.2	4.4
▶ Vocational/secondary specialized	807	14.7	4.3	7.4	2.4	18.0	5.5
▶ Tertiary/postgraduate	612	15.0	3.8	4.6	1.0	16.7	4.2
<b>Age</b>							
▶ 15-24	159	15.1	3.1	5.7	2.5	16.4	5.7
▶ 25-34	682	11.6	4.1	5.1	1.6	17.2	5.0
▶ 35-44	733	10.0	4.0	7.6	2.5	17.5	5.3
▶ 45-59	986	11.9	2.8	6.9	1.6	17.2	3.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 560</b>	<b>14.8</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>17.2</b>	<b>4.6</b>

<sup>14</sup> This number includes women have been ever abused by their intimate partners either physically, sexually or both.

According to the age group, the prevalence of physical and sexual violence is the highest in the 35-44 age group (17.5%). Interestingly, separately observed, physical violence is more common among those aged 15-24 years, while sexual violence among those aged 35-44. According to this survey, **the younger a woman is, the more likely she is to be physically abused.**

**6.6% of the surveyed women aged 15-59 were ever sexually abused** from a partner during the lifetime. It is the lowest percentage of types of violence compared to physical violence (14.8%) and psychological violence (31.8%) ([Figure 2](#)).

**Figure 2. Proportion of women who have been physically, sexually and psychologically abused by their partner (%)**



## INJURY TYPES, DISTRIBUTION AND FREQUENCY CAUSED DUE TO SEXUAL OR PHYSICAL VIOLENCE BY PARTNER

It is obvious that sexual or physical violence by the partner has serious psychological consequences on a woman. However, especially in some cases of physical violence, such as strangulation, burning, punching and/or injuring with an object, stabbing in some cases are accompanied by injuries. **20.6%** (N=91) of **women who have been sexually and/or physically abused by their partner have received some injuries**. Women with secondary vocational are more likely to be injured as a result of violence ([Table 24](#)). The main reason for the fact that the lowest percentage of education is made up of those with primary and lower education is that they are mainly girls still in the secondary education process (i.e., still attending school) who have not shared a life with their partners (to live), but simply communicated. Therefore, the violence was mainly of a non-violent nature. The fact that women with tertiary/postgraduate education received fewer injuries as a result of the violence indicates that they did not allow the physical or sexual violence used against them to be of a traumatic nature. **Thus, a woman's education is an important factor in getting injured as a result of violence.**

**Women are more likely to be injured as a result of physical violence than as a result of sexual violence.**

**Table 24. Proportion of women ever injured due to physical and/or sexual abuse exercised by the partner**

Characteristics	Number of women who have ever been abused by the partner (N)	Has ever been injured ( N=91) , (%)
<b>Settlement</b>		
▶ Urban	213	21.6
▶ Rural	228	19.7
<b>Education</b>		
▶ Basic and lower (up to 9th grade)	32	18.8
▶ Secondary/senior (10th-12th grade)	162	21.6
▶ Vocational/secondary specialized	145	23.4
▶ Tertiary/postgraduate	102	17.9
<b>Age</b>		
▶ 15-24	26	30.8
▶ 25-34	117	24.8
▶ 35-44	128	19.5
▶ 45-59	170	17.1
<b>By the form of partner's violence</b>		
▶ Subjected to physical violence only	273	19.8
▶ Subjected to sexual violence only	63	0.0
▶ Subjected to sexual and physical violence	105	16.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>20.6</b>

Despite the fact that 20.6% of women who ever in lifetime were sexually or physically abused by their partner received an injury, only about 1% of them had an injury that required medical attention ([Table 25](#)). **More than half (50.5%) of women injured due to violence have been injured several times.**

Injuries suffered by women as a result of physical or sexual violence by their partner vary in their nature, from scratches to deep wounds and internal injuries. As a result of the violence, the majority of women (76.9%) received scratches and bruises, followed by the most common accompanying injuries: cuts, punctures, and bites. The next group of injures are the rupture of the eardrum, eye injuries, fractures and broken bones. The least common injuries among women as a result of violence are internal injuries and burns. We think that one of the reasons for that is that in the case of an internal injury, if it did not have an external manifestation, perhaps the women did not know about it.

**Table 25. Prevalence, frequency and types of injuries among women who have been physically and/or sexually abused by the partner**

The prevalence, frequency and availability of services	Person (N)	%
<b>Number of women who have ever been abused by the partner, N = 441</b>		
▶ Ever have been injured by the partner	91	19.1
- <i>out of them</i> : during the last 12 months	17	3.6
▶ Have received an injury that required medical attention	5	1.0
<b>Frequency of injuries, among those who have ever been injured, N = 91</b>		
▶ Once	28	30.8
▶ Several times (2-5)	46	50.5
▶ On many occasions (more than 5 times)	17	18.7
<b>Women who received an injury that required medical treatment, N=37</b>		
- <i>out of them</i> : during the last 12 months	9	24.3
Women who received medical treatment due to the injury	6	16.2
<b>Women who received medical treatment for an injury, N = 6</b>		
- <i>out of them</i> : spent at least one night in hospital due to injury	2	33.3
- <i>out of them</i> : told the healthcare worker about the real cause of the injury	3	50.0
<b>Type of injury among those who have ever been injured, N=91</b>		
▶ Cuts, punctures, bites	15	16.5
▶ Scratches, bruises	70	76.9
▶ Convulsions, joint disorders	11	12.1
▶ Deep injuries, deep cuts, deep wounds	9	9.9
▶ Rupture of the tympanic membrane, eye injuries	12	13.2
▶ Fractures, broken bones	12	13.2
▶ Maim	11	12.1
▶ Other (burns, broken teeth, internal injuries)	6	6.6

Injuries resulting from violence do not have only physical manifestations. They are mainly accompanied by psychological influence. Moreover, physical injuries, in some cases, are more likely to heal in time than the impact on mental health. Violence abuse by intimate partner has had a greater impact on the physical or mental health of women living in urban areas ([Table 26](#)). Probably one of the reasons is that women living in urban areas are more aware of violence and its consequences and have a deeper understanding of the effects of violence on their mental health.

**The higher a woman's educational level, the more physical or sexual violence perpetrated by her partner has a severe impact on her mental health.** Women with tertiary/postgraduate education are psychologically more vulnerable to violence.

**The lower a woman's age, the more physical or sexual violence perpetrated by her partner has a devastating effect on her mental health.** Interestingly, women in the 45-59 age group, having the longest life-sharing experience with their partner, have the lowest percentage of the impact of violence on their physical or mental health. Perhaps one reason is that over the years, such violence has become part of everyday life.

**Table 26. Influence of partner behavior on women's physical or mental health among women who have ever been physically and/or sexually abused by the partner**

Women who report the impacts of violence on health	No impact (%)	Minor impact (%)	Major impact (%)
<b>Settlement</b>			
▶ Urban	58.2	15.5	24.7
▶ Rural	60.8	19.6	19.1
<b>Education</b>			
▶ Basic and lower (up to 9th grade)	70.0	6.7	23.3
▶ Secondary/senior (10th - 12th grade)	56.5	17.5	24.7
▶ Vocational/secondary specialized	59.9	17.6	21.1
▶ Tertiary/postgraduate	59.8	19.7	19.7
<b>Age</b>			
▶ 15-24	60.3	18.7	20.6
▶ 25-34	47.2	17.0	32.1
▶ 35-44	62.0	14.1	23.9
▶ 45-59	60.3	21.2	17.4

The impact of physical or sexual violence by the partner on women is multifaceted: physical injuries, psychological problems, as well as a negative impact on work performance. Among women who have ever been physically or sexually abused by their partner, the impact of their partner's behavior on work is manifested in several ways, from the difficulty of concentrating on work to the loss of work.

**Physical and sexual violence perpetrated by the partner has less of an impact on women living in rural areas than on women living in urban areas.** It refers to the impact it has on both psychological and work activities. Women in rural areas are more likely to report that the violence did not interfere with their work ([Table 27](#)). The lower the age of women (15-24), the more frequent the cases are that as a result of sexual or physical violence by the partner they have not been able to concentrate, work and have lost confidence in their own abilities.

The lower the age of women (15-24), the more frequent the cases are that as a result of sexual or physical violence by the partner they have not been able to concentrate, work and have lost confidence in their own abilities.

**Table 27. Influence of partner behavior on women's work among women who have ever been physically or sexually abused by the partner**

Characteristics	Women who reported the impact of violence on work (%)						
	Could not concentrate	Could not work/sick leave	Spouse/partner interference with work	Has lost confidence in her own abilities	Has lost her job	It did not interfere with work	The woman does not have a paid job
<b>Settlement</b>							
▶ Urban	5.9	1.7	5.9	2.5	0.4	49.0	42.3
▶ Rural	7.4	2.5	5.4	2.0	1.0	55.1	34.6
<b>Education</b>							
▶ Basic and lower (up to 9 <sup>th</sup> grade)	0.0	3.3	0.0	3.3	0.0	57.5	42.5

Characteristics	Women who reported the impact of violence on work (%)						
	Could not concentrate	Could not work/sick leave	Spouse/partner interference with work	Has lost confidence in her own abilities	Has lost her job	It did not interfere with work	The woman does not have a paid job
▶ Secondary/senior (10th-12 <sup>th</sup> grade)	8.4	1.9	8.4	3.9	1.3	48.1	37.0
▶ Vocational/secondary specialized	8.5	2.8	3.5	1.4	0.0	55.6	35.2
▶ Tertiary/postgraduate	3.4	0.9	6.0	0.9	0.9	50.6	44.8
<b>Age</b>							
▶ 15-24	9.6	3.8	5.8	3.8	0.0	50.6	43.7
▶ 25-34	4.8	1.0	6.7	1.9	1.0	47.8	41.5
▶ 35-44	5.8	1.9	4.9	2.9	0.0	59.2	34.0
▶ 45-59	7.1	2.2	5.4	1.6	1.1	50.3	38.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>52.3</b>	<b>38.3</b>

What effect does sexual or physical violence by the partner have on a woman's health, does it change for the worse, or does it remain the same? Assessing the health status of women on a three-scale system, that is good/ excellent, sufficient and bad/very bad, it becomes clear that in Armenia the health status of both non-abused and physically or sexually abused women is more characteristic of satisfactory status ([Table 28](#)). **Settlement type is one of the factors determining a woman's health condition.** 46-9% of urban and 26.2% of rural ever-partnered women rated their health condition as good or excellent.

Probably the reason is the better life conditions in urban areas. Even the health status of women who have been physically or sexually abused varies by settlement type. In this case, too, abused urban women were more likely to report good or excellent health.

Women's health generally deteriorates after being abused, but **there is no significant difference between the health of abused and non-abused women.**

**In Armenia, 7.2% of ever-partnered women seriously considered ending their life and 1.5% have attempted suicide ([Table 28](#)).** According to the results of the survey, abused women, with a very small difference, thought more about suicide and tried to commit suicide. However, **there is no significant connection between abused and non-abused women and suicidal thoughts and attempts.**

Women living in rural areas, regardless of the fact of being subjected to violence, think about suicide more than those living in urban areas. Probably one of the reasons is socio-economic problems. Meanwhile, when it comes to suicide attempts, women living in urban areas and not subjected to violence have attempted suicide more than those living in rural areas. Probably, it is based on socio-cultural factors. There is a deeper basis for considering the phenomenon of suicide as shameful in rural areas.

**Table 28. General, physical and mental health problems of women who have ever been physically or sexually abused by an intimate partner**

General health	Settlement						Total (N=2 560)		
	Urban (N=1 291)			Rural (N=1 269)			Not subjected to violence (N=2119) %	Subjected to physical/sexual violence (N=441) %	Ever-partnered women (N=2560) %
	Not subjected to violence (N=1078) %	Subjected to physical/sexual violence (N=213) %	Ever-partnered women (N = 1291), %	Not subjected to violence (N=1041) %	Subjected to physical/sexual violence (N=228) %	Ever-partnered women (N=1269) %			
	<i>P-value=0.890</i>			<i>P-value=0.588</i>			<i>P-value=0.601</i>		
Good/excellent	46.9	44.9	40.0	26.2	24.3	26.2	37.5	35.6	33.2
Satisfactory	43.8	49.4	49.5	58.0	60.3	57.6	50.3	54.3	53.5
Poor/very poor	9.0	5.7	10.3	15.8	15.0	16.2	12.1	9.9	13.2
Ever seriously considered suicide	6.8	8.4	7.0	7.8	8.4	7.5	7.2	8.4	7.2
Ever tried to commit suicide	1.7	1.9	1.4	1.5	1.9	1.6	1.6	1.9	1.5

## PSYCHOLOGICAL VIOLENCE

The principles of each type of violence and its perception as violence are very different. In order to perceive violence as such, it is necessary to have some knowledge. In this respect, perceptions and approaches to psychological violence are especially different. According to some women, such forms of psychological violence, such as regularly raising their voices against a woman by a partner, regularly applying various restrictions, are considered "normal" and are part of the marital relationship. One of the factors that determine such an approach is the incorrect acquisition of knowledge about what phenomena are considered violence, how they manifest themselves and how to fight against them.

In contrast to sexual (6.6%) and physical violence (14.8%), **31.8% of women in Armenia were subjected to psychological violence.** Moreover, **psychological violence is more common in urban settlements than in rural ones (Table 29).** Perhaps one of the reasons for this is that women living in urban settlements have a slight advantage in terms of knowledge and awareness compared to those living in rural settlements, and they evaluate the phenomena more deeply, better understanding them as manifestations of violence.

Manifestations of psychological violence are more common in urban settlements in the last 12 months prior to the survey.

**The higher a person's educational level, the higher the rate of psychological violence.** In contrast to physical and sexual violence, women with tertiary/postgraduate education are more exposed to psychological violence. Here, too, we must speak of the same perception as in the case of the observation of settlements. The level of education of a person is important in perceiving the phenomenon as psychological violence. The higher the level of education of a person, the higher the probability that the phenomena applied to her will be perceived correctly.

The highest rates of psychological violence are among women aged 15-24. Probably, one of the reasons for this is that this age largely coincides with the age of constituting new relationships or a new family, which in turn is associated with manifestations of psychological violence, which are carried out "on the basis of so-called jealousy" as the respondents told in their speech.

There are age-related differences in women who have been subjected to psychological violence throughout their lives. **One of the contributing factors is the two very important events that took place in Armenia during the last year: COVID-19 pandemic and the war.** First, the majority of the population, especially those infected with the virus, spent most of their time at home, which in turn increased the risk of violence. Other studies have shown that the pandemic has contributed to an increase in domestic violence. And secondly, the war and especially the post-war situation had a serious impact on the moral and psychological state of the Armenian society, which, in turn, must have contributed to the increase of domestic violence, especially psychological violence.

**Table 29. Share of women who have ever been psychologically abused**

Characteristics	Ever-partnered women (N)	Has been subjected to psychological violence throughout her life (N=814) (%)	Has been subjected to psychological violence during the past 12 months (N=334) (%)
<b>Settlement</b>			
▶ Urban	1 291	32.6	12.6
▶ Rural	1 269	31.0	13.6
<b>Education</b>			
▶ Basic and lower (up to 9th grade)	143	30.2	12.6
▶ Secondary/senior (10th -12th grade)	998	32.2	12.5
▶ Vocational/secondary specialized	807	33.3	13.8
▶ Tertiary/postgraduate	612	34.7	32.8
<b>Age</b>			
▶ 15-24	159	38.6	15.7
▶ 25-34	682	34.9	14.2
▶ 35-44	733	29.8	13.1
▶ 45-59	986	30.0	11.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 560</b>	<b>31.8</b>	<b>13.0</b>

The types of psychological violence are various and numerous. 4 of them are described in [Table 30](#). Types of violence are presented in degrees, from insult to threat. The most common psychological violence was the insult given to a woman, when the partner insulted the woman or made her feel bad (30.7%). This type of violence has also been the most common during the last 12 months. Moreover, according to the frequency, such cases have occurred several times during the last 12 months (8.4%). The lowest proportion is women who have been threatened with harm to themselves or their loved ones.

According to the frequency, during the last 12 months, all the above-mentioned types of psychological violence - insults, humiliation in the presence of others, threats - have occurred several times or many times.

**Table 30. Prevalence and frequency of psychological violence among ever-partnered women**

Types of psychological violence	Prevalence of psychological violence among women who have ever had a partner (N = 2 560)		Frequency of psychological violence among women who have ever had a partner in the last 12 months, (%)		
	Throughout life (%)	During the last 12 months (%)	Once	Several times (%)	Many times (%)
Insulted the woman or made her feel bad	30.7	12.4	2.3	8.4	1.8
Humiliated or degraded the woman in front of other people	6.2	2.2	0.4	1.1	0.9
Did things deliberately to frighten or terrify the woman	6.3	2.4	0.4	1.4	0.6
Verbally threatened to harm the woman or the person she loves	3.0	1.1	0.2	0.5	0.3

The control of a woman's behavior by her partner is undoubtedly an integral part of our cultural environment. The extent to which it is acceptable to women is the other side of the question. The mechanisms of controlling

a woman's behavior are various. Some of them differ depending on the environment, the educational level of the partner and other factors. In this survey, the following cases of male partner behavior control were observed:

1. Tries not to let the woman meet her friends/girlfriends
2. Tries to limit a woman's contact with relatives
3. Insists that the woman informs of where she is at any time
4. Gets angry if a woman talks to another man
5. Often suspects that a woman is unfaithful
6. Expects the woman to ask his permission before seeking medical help for her.

**The partner control mechanisms listed above are more common in rural settlements (Table 31).** Cases of restricting contact with friends are more common in urban settlements, one of the reasons being that this phenomenon is relatively common in urban settlements. For example, the phenomenon of going to a place of entertainment with a friend/girlfriend can be more common in urban settlements than in rural ones. The next control mechanism, which is also more common in urban settlements, is when a man insists that his wife informs him where she is at any given time. We think that this is also typical of the urban environment, as in rural settlements the choice to go somewhere (for example, entertainment) is not so great, and in some cases, not at all. Therefore, the reason for controlling such behavior is even less than in an urban environment.

Manifestations of female control and their number vary depending on the age of the woman. For example, 1 type of control is most often applied to women in the age group of 15-24, and 2-3 or 4 or more types of control to women in the age group of 45-59 (Table 32). **That is, depending on the age of the woman, the types and amount of controlling behavior used by the partner change.**

**A woman's place of residence determines her behavior (quantity) to be controlled by her partner.** Interestingly, 1-3 types of female control are more common in urban settlements, while 4 or more types of behavior control are applied to rural women.

**The higher the level of education of a person, the more control mechanisms are applied to her.** 4 or more control mechanisms are simultaneously applied by the partner more towards women who have higher or postgraduate education.

**The lower the age of the person, the higher the manifestation of the types of control behavior applied to her.** Women in the age group of 15-24 are the most controlled by their partner.

**Women who are controlled by their partner are more likely to be sexually rather than physically abused.** Interestingly, women whom their partners accuse of infidelity are more likely to be physically than sexually abused. Women who are controlled by their partners over where they are at any given time are most likely to be subjected to physical and sexual violence.

**In the case of one type of controlling behavior by the partner, women are more likely to be physically abused, and in the case of 2 or more controlling behaviors, women are more likely to be sexually abused.**

Cases of controlling behavior over the past 12 months by rural and urban settlements reflect the same picture as throughout life. Some types of behavior have changed, but the prevalence has remained the same (Table 33).

**Table 31. Partner controlling behavior to ever-partnered women by type during the lifetime**

Characteristics	Ever-partnered women (N)	Tries not to let to her meet friends (%)	Tries to limit your contact with her relatives (%)	Insists on letting him know where she is at any time (%)	Gets angry if she talk to another man (%)	Often suspects that she is unfaithful (%)	Expects her to ask permission before seeking medical help for herself (%)
<b>Settlement</b>							
▶ Urban	1 291	14.1	5.2	44.0	22.7	3.2	16.2
▶ Rural	1 269	13.4	5.6	43.2	23.3	4.4	17.0
<b>Education</b>							
▶ Basic and lower (up to 9th grade)	143	15.9	2.3	50.7	21.2	2.3	12.2
▶ Secondary/senior (10th-12th grade)	998	12.8	6.0	41.6	23.4	4.0	15.1
▶ Vocational/secondary specialized	807	13.5	5.4	44.9	22.2	4.0	18.2
▶ Tertiary/postgraduate	612	15.4	5.2	44.5	24.4	3.6	18.3
<b>Age</b>							
▶ 15-24	159	10.7	4.0	44.9	16.0	4.7	16.7
▶ 25-34	682	4.8	1.6	18.7	7.4	1.9	7.4
▶ 35-44	733	4.5	1.5	17.3	6.8	1.8	6.8
▶ 45-59	986	5.1	1.7	19.7	7.8	2.0	7.8
<b>According to the use of violence by the partner</b>							
▶ Not subjected to violence	2 119	13.9	5.8	43.6	23.1	3.9	16.6
▶ Subjected to physical or sexual violence	441	14.5	3.8	44.6	24.0	2.6	16.1
<b>By type of violence</b>							
▶ Subjected to psychological violence	814	26.7	14.0	56.3	45.3	10.6	20.7
▶ Subjected to physical violence only	273	31.1	17.2	56.0	40.7	11.7	21.2
▶ Subjected to sexual violence only	63	22.1	4.8	61.9	36.5	3.2	27.0
▶ Subjected to both physical and sexual violence	105	14.5	1.3	31.6	19.7	1.3	14.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 560</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>44.0</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>16.4</b>

**Table 32. Prevalence of partner controlling behavior among ever-partnered women during the lifetime**

Characteristics	Ever-partnered women (N)	No controlling behavior (%)	Manifestation of 1 type of controlling behavior (%)	Manifestation of 2-3 types of controlling behavior (%)	Manifestation of 4 and more types of controlling behavior (%)
<b>Settlement</b>					
▶ Urban	1 291	42.6	28.7	23.5	5.2
▶ Rural	1 269	43.5	28.0	22.4	6.1
<b>Education</b>					
▶ Basic and lower (up to 9th grade)	143	42.4	28.0	25.8	3.8
▶ Secondary/senior (10th-12th grade)	998	44.3	28.8	21.6	5.4
▶ Vocational/secondary specialized	807	41.7	29.6	22.9	5.8
▶ Tertiary/postgraduate	612	42.7	26.0	24.8	6.5
<b>Age</b>					
▶ 15-24	159	41.8	34.8	18.8	4.7
▶ 25-34	682	42.4	28.1	23.8	5.6
▶ 35-44	733	44.1	29.1	21.8	4.9
▶ 45-59	986	42.9	26.8	23.9	6.5
<b>According to the use of violence by the partner</b>					
▶ Not subjected to violence	2 119	42.8	29.0	22.4	5.9
▶ Subjected to physical or sexual violence	441	44.4	24.7	26.5	4.3
<b>By type of violence</b>					
▶ Subjected to physical violence only	273	25.6	25.3	32.6	16.5
▶ Subjected to sexual violence only	63	23.8	19.0	54.0	3.2
▶ Subjected to both physical and sexual violence	105	56.6	18.4	21.1	3.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 560</b>	<b>43.3</b>	<b>28.2</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>5.5</b>

**Table 33. Prevalence of partner controlling behavior among ever-partnered women in the last 12 months**

Characteristics	Ever-partnered women (N)	Tries not to let to her meet friends (%)	Tries to limit your contact with her relatives (%)	Insists on letting him know where she is at any time (%)	Gets angry if she talk to another man (%)	Often suspects that she is unfaithful (%)	Expects her to ask permission before seeking medical help for herself (%)
<b>Settlement</b>							
▶ Urban	1 291	3.3	1.2	22.9	5.0	1.1	6.6
▶ Rural	1 269	3.6	1.8	22.2	5.3	1.3	5.9
<b>Education</b>							
▶ Basic and lower (up to 9th grade)	143	2.8	0.7	28.7	4.9	0.7	4.2
▶ Secondary/senior (10th-12th grade)	998	3.6	1.8	22.0	4.9	1.0	6.6
▶ Vocational/secondary specialized	807	2.9	1.5	20.4	5.2	1.4	5.6
▶ Tertiary/postgraduate	612	4.2	1.1	24.8	5.6	1.3	7.0
<b>Age</b>							
▶ 15-24	159	2.5	0.6	23.9	5.0	0.6	8.8
▶ 25-34	682	2.8	0.9	22.6	4.4	1.2	6.7
▶ 35-44	733	4.1	1.9	23.1	5.6	1.1	5.3
▶ 45-59	986	3.7	1.7	22.0	5.4	1.3	6.2
<b>According to the use of violence by the partner</b>							
▶ Not subjected to violence	2 119	3.6	1.6	23.1	5.3	1.2	6.3
▶ Subjected to physical or sexual violence	441	3.3	0.9	21.3	5.4	0.9	6.3
<b>By type of violence</b>							
▶ Subjected to physical violence only	273	3.2	1.4	21.9	6.0	0.7	6.4
▶ Subjected to sexual violence only	63	4.8	0.0	30.2	6.3	1.6	4.8
▶ Subjected to both physical and sexual violence	105	2.4	0.0	12.2	2.4	1.2	7.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 560</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.5</b>

**Table 34. Prevalence of partner controlling behavior among ever-partnered women in the last 12 months**

Characteristics	Ever-partnered women (N)	No controlling behavior (%)	Manifestation of 1 type of controlling behavior (%)	Manifestation of 2-3 types of controlling behavior (%)	Manifestation of 4 and more types of controlling behavior (%)
<b>Settlement</b>					
▶ Urban	1 291	24.6	18.7	7.5	1.2
▶ Rural	1 269	25.8	17.3	7.0	1.6
<b>Education</b>					
▶ Basic and lower (up to 9th grade)	143	23.8	19.6	9.1	0.7
▶ Secondary/senior (10th-12th grade)	998	24.5	17.4	7.9	1.1
▶ Vocational/secondary specialized	807	27.9	17.5	5.3	1.7
▶ Tertiary/postgraduate	612	23.0	19.3	8.3	1.5
<b>Age</b>					
▶ 15-24	159	26.4	17.6	10.1	0.6
▶ 25-34	682	25.8	18.8	6.7	1.2
▶ 35-44	733	24.6	17.3	8.3	1.1
▶ 45-59	986	25.1	18.1	6.4	1.8
<b>According to the use of violence by the partner</b>					
▶ Not subjected to violence	2 119	24.7	18.8	7.2	1.4
▶ Subjected to physical or sexual violence	441	26.2	15.2	8.6	0.9
<b>By type of violence</b>					
▶ Subjected to physical violence only	378	25.4	16.6	8.1	1.1
▶ Subjected to sexual violence only	168	33.3	17.5	11.1	1.6
▶ Subjected to both physical and sexual violence	105	23.2	8.5	8.5	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 560</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.0</b>

## FEAR OF THE PARTNER / SPOUSE

Depending on the type and frequency of violence perpetrated by the partner, it can cause women different feelings, from frustration to fear for their own life. **5.3% of ever-partnered women are afraid of their partner for their lives. Such women are more likely to be abused (Table 35).**

According to the survey results, women who were subjected to physical or psychological violence are especially afraid for their lives. Of the women who reported having feared/fearing for their lives many times, 36.4% were physically abused and 100% were psychologically abused. That is, in some cases, psychological violence has a more negative and profound effect on women than physical violence.

Women who stated that they had never feared for their lives, 10.5% had been subjected to physical and 40.5% to psychological violence. In any case, that percentage of violence is lower compared to those who have been abused with a certain frequency. And what is the reason that some women mentioned that in the past they were afraid of their partner, but now they are not? It turns out that they are mainly women who are separated or divorced.

**Table 35. Fear of a partner/spouse by type of violence**

Frequency	Ever-partnered women (N=2 560*)	%*		
		subjected to physical violence	subjected to sexual violence	subjected to psychological violence
Never	2 403	10.5	2.8	40.5
Sometimes	69	18.8	20.3	50.0
Many time	11	36.4	18.2	100.0
Almost always	17	35.3	23.5	0.0
In the past (not afraid now)	54	38.9	9.3	60.0

\* Calculated among relevant group of ever-partnered women, without cases with the answers "Don't know" and "Refused to answer".

## PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIO-CULTURAL PRECONDITIONS CONTRIBUTING TO PARTNER'S VIOLENCE

The preconditions or reasons for violence are various: social, economic, cultural and psychological. The economic reasons seem to be the simplest: there is a financial problem, there is violence. However, the grounds for violence are much deeper, in some cases they are manifestations of "social revenge", in some cases they have grounds to reproduce what we have seen consciously or unconsciously/subconsciously.

**The fact of being abused at a young age in the family has a direct impact on a man abusing his partner (Table 36). There is a significant relationship between these two phenomena (P-value = 0.001).** In other words, we can conclude that such a phenomenon of violence has psychological preconditions on the one hand, and socio-cultural preconditions on the other. On the one hand, the violence is reproduced, while on the other hand, the abuser solves his social revenge from the most suitable "candidate" in the person of his partner.

On the other hand, the proportion of women who have been physically and sexually abused by their partner is quite high, whose mother-in-law has been abused by her husband. In this case, we are dealing with the type of reproduction of violence, when violence is used consciously or unconsciously, based on what was seen.

Male partners who grew up in such an environment have a higher number of abused women (20.1%) than non-abused women (6%).

However, there is no connection between women who have been abused by their partner and the cases when the mothers of those women have been abused by their husbands.

Consider the fact that both men who have been abused at a young age and men whose mothers have been abused by their husbands often physically abuse their partners (20.6%, P Value=0.001).

**Table 36. Share of women who ever had a partner and reported violence against themselves and their partner's mother in childhood and a relationship based on their partner's experience of violence**

Manifestations of violence	The mother of the respondent was abused by her husband (N = 259)	P-value	The proportion of women who reported that their partner's mother had been abused by her husband (N = 200) (%)	P-value	The partner was abused as a child (N = 271) (%)	P-value
<b>According to the experience of violence by the partner</b>						
▶ Has never been physically or sexually abused by the partner	10.3		6.0		9.6	
▶ Has ever been physically or sexually abused by the partner	9.3	0.063	20.1	0.071	20.6	0.001
<b>According to the type of violence used by the partner</b>						
▶ Was sexually abused	6.1		7.4		8.6	
▶ Was physically abused	6.3		22.2		22.2	
▶ Was subjected to both physical and sexual violence	10.1		27.0		28.6	

## ABUSER CHARACTERISTICS

Continuing the role of socio-cultural preconditions in the actions of the abuser, in this section we have discussed the role of education, age, occupation, alcohol use and involvement in physical violence. **The lower is the educational level of the partner, the higher are the cases of spousal abuse (Table 37). Conversely, the higher is the partner's level of education thus the lower is the incidence of violence.** Most of the women were physically, sexually and psychologically abused by men with basic and lower (up to the 9th grade) education, and the least by men with tertiary/postgraduate education.

**The higher is the age of the abuser, the more cases of physical violence against the woman occurs.** As age decreases, so does the incidence of physical violence. However, in the case of sexual and psychological violence, the opposite is true - they are mainly common among men in the age group of 25-34. **As the age of the abuser increases, the number of cases of sexual abuse of a woman decreases.**

**The occupation of the abuser is one of the important factors determining the violence.** Men who do not have profitable occupation are more likely to physically abuse their wives. Sexual violence is especially prevalent among men whose main occupation is the work abroad.

**The use of alcohol has a direct effect on the use of physical violence by the abuser.** The most physical violence is used by men, who consume alcohol every day or almost every day. On the other hand, they are subjecting women to psychological violence the least. That is, **the more often a man consumes alcohol, the less likely he is to use psychological violence against a woman.**

**Men who are more involved in physical fights with other men are more likely to physically abuse their partners.**

**Table 37. Cases of violence against ever-partnered women according to the characteristics of the partners**

Characteristics	The number of partners (N=2.560)	Women who have ... abused		
		physically (%)	sexually (%)	psychologically (%)
<b>Education</b>				
▶ Basic and lower (up to 9th grade)	261	16.1	4.6	52.1
▶ Secondary/senior (10th-12th grade)	997	11.5	3.5	40.1
▶ Vocational/secondary specialized	699	12.6	3.9	42.1
▶ Tertiary/postgraduate	552	10.5	2.7	37.0
▶ Does not know/does not remember	51	6.5	6.5	46.2
<b>Age</b>				
▶ 15-24	53	3.8	0.0	40.0
▶ 25-34	436	7.1	4.4	45.0
▶ 35-44	765	11.0	4.1	39.5
▶ 45-59	1 306	14.5	3.3	40.9
<b>Occupation</b>				
▶ Is engaged in agriculture	341	10.6	4.7	49.5
▶ Works/worked in the public/community organization	669	11.4	3.0	40.8
▶ Works /worked in the private sector/is/was self-employed	1 161	11.8	3.4	40.2
▶ Is/ was going to work abroad	308	13.6	5.5	36.8
▶ Is/was working and studying	17	11.8	0.0	20.0
▶ Does/did not have a job and looking for a job	21	28.6	0.0	25.0
▶ Other occupation*	43	6.3	0.0	59.4

Characteristics	The number of partners (N=2.560)	Women who have ... abused		
		physically (%)	sexually (%)	psychologically (%)
<b>The frequency with which a partner consumes alcohol</b>				
▶ Every day or almost every day	<b>161</b>	37.3	5.0	35.7
▶ Once or twice a week	<b>281</b>	12.1	1.8	43.7
▶ 1-3 times a month	<b>316</b>	12.3	3.8	44.0
▶ Sometimes less than once a month	<b>1 353</b>	9.4	3.8	40.1
▶ Has stopped drinking for a year/more than a year	<b>40</b>	10.0	7.5	62.5
▶ Never	<b>409</b>	10.3	3.3	41.7
<b>The involvement of a partner in a physical fight with another man</b>				
▶ Yes	<b>287</b>	31.0	2.8	48.4
▶ No	<b>2 183</b>	9.3	3.8	60.1
▶ Does not know/does not remember	<b>90</b>	18.1	2.4	61.5

\* This category includes those who: a) have worked in a non-governmental / international / religious organization, b) have been retired, c) have a disability / have been ill for a long time.

## IMPACT OF VIOLENCE AND OVERCOMING

Raising awareness and/or expecting help are important preconditions for combating violence. In order to eliminate or reduce a problem, first of all, it is necessary to bring it up. Depending on the cultural environment and characteristics of a given country, the subjects to whom violence is reported or reported by abused women differ. In our reality, they are mainly sociable, neighborly and friendly communities.

### **43.3% of women who have been physically or sexually abused by their partner are silent about the violence.**

The reasons for silence are different, but the main reasons are two: the shame of speaking out about violence and the fear that it may intensify.

The primary subjects to whom women tell about the violence most often are their parents (20.2%) or the parents of the spouse (11.9%), their and their spouses' sisters/brothers (17.9%), and friends (10.2%). That is, the most trusted institutions to which women report violence are kinship and friendship institutions ([Table 38](#)). Interestingly, women are the least likely to turn to those institutions involved in cases of violence, such as the police (0.4%) or psychologists (0.4%). This speaks to the fact that either women are not informed about them or these institutions, as institutions to support abused women, are not well established or are not trusted by women. In our estimation, the reason is more global: they are unacceptable and inapplicable in our cultural environment.

**Women who have been sexually abused prefer not to talk about it.** 44.7% of women who have been physically abused and 48% of those who have been sexually abused have not told anyone about the violence. This shows that the topic of sexual violence is considered a more closed topic and more shameful in terms of bringing it up.

Women who have been sexually abused prefer to tell their sister, aunt and neighbors about it, and those who have been physically abused prefer their/spouse's parents and friends. Although, as already mentioned, very few women who have been abused have applied to the police, a doctor or a psychologist, a larger number of them are women who have been sexually abused.

**Table 38. Share of women who were physically and/or sexually abused by their partner who told others about their spouses' behavior\***

People who were told	Women who have been ever abused (N = 441)	Women who told others, %
No one	191	43.3
Her parents	89	20.2
Brother or sister	79	17.9
Parents of spouse/partner	49	11.1
Friends (female/male)	45	10.2
The neighbors	22	5.0
To children	17	3.9
Uncle or aunt	12	2.7
Other**	37	8.4

\* - Multiple answers were accepted: refers to the number of cases.

\*\* - Other include: police, doctor, priest, psychologist, relatives: husband's brother, the wife of the brother-in-law, brother's wife, etc.

There are two main expectations for telling someone about violence: receiving help or simply, as it is commonly said, the "telling-relieving" factor. Discussing the question of who women seek help from in cases of physical violence reveals that cases of receiving help from no one are more common ([Table 39](#)) than cases of not telling anyone. This circumstance allows us to make 2 main conclusions. First, women simply prefer to

talk about violence in order to "tell-relieve", and second, after telling, they did not get the desired, expected result, due to which the percentage of women who do not wait for help has increased.

In case of expecting help, the relatives of the wife and husband are also in the first two positions. Expectations of help from the clan are high, especially in rural settlements, which also have its explanation. Such institutions have deeper and stronger foundations in rural settlements, which, by virtue of tradition, continue to be at the forefront of almost all issues. Friendly, neighborly institutions also have deeper roots in rural settlements. Meanwhile, in urban settlements, on a small scale, they also apply to the institute of social worker.

**Table 39. The proportion of women who have been physically or sexually abused by their partner who have indicated who they would like help from (in case of physical violence), by number of responses**

People from whom help is expected	Total (N=441)	Total (%)	Urban (N=213), %	Rural (N=228), %
From none	255	53.5	51.3	56.1
From her husband's relatives	38	8.0	6.1	10.3
From her relatives	65	13.6	13.9	20.0
From friends/neighbors	7	1.5	1.1	1.9
From the medical center	6	1.3	1.1	1.4
From the police	19	4.0	3.8	4.2
From a priest/religious leader	4	0.8	1.1	0.5
From a social worker	10	2.1	3.0	0.9
From human rights organizations and other structures	30	6.3	2.0	3.0

The number of abused women who applied to any responsible institution/s for help is quite low. The police and hospitals/medical centers (Table 40) are the most frequently requested institutions by women, indicating once again that abused women would rather tell a relative than turn to the appropriate institution. We believe that programs in this direction should be implemented by state, private and international organizations to make the use of these structures more applicable in our cultural environment.

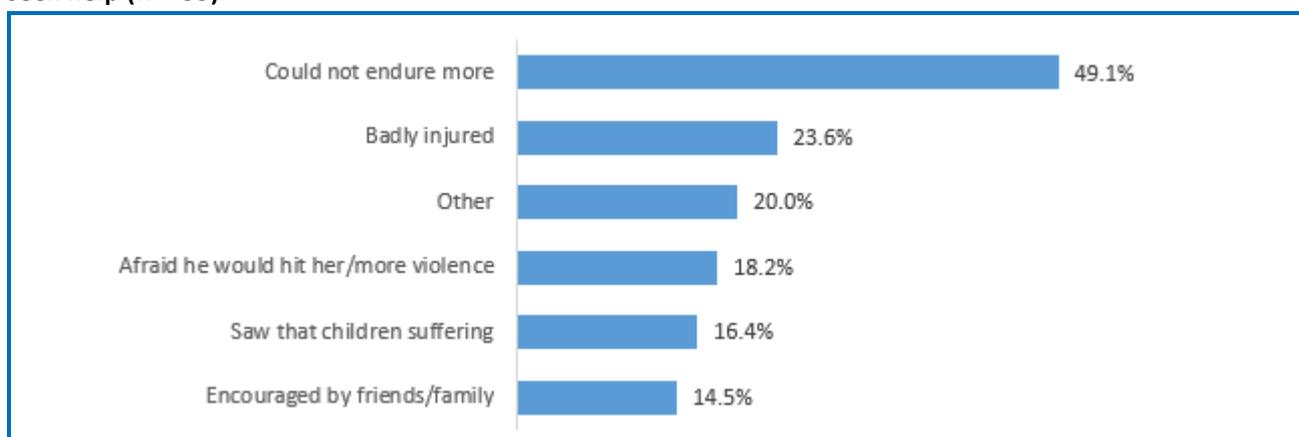
**Table 40. Proportion of women who have been physically or sexually abused by their partners (N = 441), who have sought the help of various responsible institutions\***

Institution	They applied for help ... (N=55)		Satisfaction with provided help	
	N	%	N	% to the total of the same group
Police	24	5.0	15	62.5
Hospital/Medical Center	23	4.8	22	95.7
Social services	4	0.8	...	...
Legal Advice Center	11	2.3	7	63.6
Court	18	3.8	14	77.8
Head of the community	5	1.0	2	40.0
Priest/religious leader	5	1.0	4	80.0
Elsewhere, including shelter, women's organization	4	0.8	2	50.0

\* - Multiple answers were accepted: refers to the number of cases.

**12% of women who have been physically or sexually abused by their partner have sought help from a responsible institution.** These structures were applied when they could no longer tolerate the violence or were badly injured as a result of the violence ([Figure 3](#)).

**Figure 3. Reasons given by women who were physically or sexually abused by their partners and forced to seek help (N = 55)**



**88% of women who have been physically or sexually abused by their partner have not sought help from any responsible institution.** According to the perception of most women who have been abused, they should seek the help of an institution when the violence reaches its peak, for example, accompanied by injuries. And if the violence is not serious, it is normal, then there is no need to seek help ([Table 41](#)). In fact, for most women, being abused by their partner has become commonplace. On the other hand, cultural factors, which are an integral part of our lives, are the basis for not turning to any structure and being a constant victim of violence. For example, if a woman who has been abused turns to an organization for help, she will discredit her family. Even in times of violence, a woman is more concerned with family values, customs, and traditions than with her own person, dignity, and security. Shame and fear that the woman will not be believed or accused is also a basis for not raising the issue of violence. Such and other stereotypes and false values are the basis for women to be constantly abused by their partner and not to solve the problem.

**Table 41. Reasons given by women who were physically or sexually abused by their partners for not seeking help**

The reasons for not seeking help*	By number of responses	
	N = 422	%*
Violence was normal/not serious	198	46.9
It would bring a bad reputation to the family	66	15.6
Was confused/ashamed/afraid that they would not believe her or that she would be blamed	31	7.3
Did not know what her options were	31	7.3
She was afraid that the relationship would end	25	5.9
Other	55	8.1
Does not know, there is no answer	52	7.8

\*- Multiple answers were accepted

**32.7% of abused women have ever left home because of violence.** According to the frequency of leaving the house, as a result of violence in rural settlements, women mainly left the house once, and in urban settlements there are more cases of leaving 2 or more times ([Table 42](#)). The analysis of leaving home last time shows that women living in urban areas (4.2) spent an average longer time away from home than those living in rural areas (3.8). Probably this is because leaving home is seen as more shameful and unacceptable, which is why the abused woman is persuaded or forced to return to her husband's house.

It can be assumed that women who leave their abusive partner do not have a wide opportunity to decide where to live after leaving. In this case, the traditional version - father's house (83.3%) remains applicable. Probably, this option for women continues to be psychologically accessible, financially affordable. Very few left homes to go to their husbands' relatives (5.6%) or friends/neighbors (5.6%) unlike women who went to their parents' houses. One of the reasons for the lack of use of these shelters is their short-term availability, unlike the paternal home. No abused woman applied for asylum. Probably the main reason is the underdevelopment of these structures or the ignorance about them. A total of two of the abused women were able to take refuge in a hotel or rented house. This fact speaks about the economic instability of women.

**Table 42. Women who have been physically or sexually abused by their partners who have ever left home**

Women who have ever left home	Total		By settlement	
	N=441	%	Urban (N=213), %	Rural (N=228), %
Have never left home because of violence	297	67.3	65.0	69.6
Have ever left home because of violence	144	32.7	35.0	30.4
Never	297	67.3	65.0	69.6
Once	81	18.4	19.4	17.4
Twice and more	63	14.3	15.7	12.9
Average number of days left home for the last time	4.0		4.2	3.8
Who did they go to last time (N = 144)				
To the relatives (including her father's house)	120	83.3	28.1	22.4
To her husband's relatives	8	5.6	1.5	1.9
To her friends/neighbors	8	5.6	1.1	1.9
Hotel/house for rent	2	1.4	0.4	0.5
Church/Temple	2	1.4	0.4	0.5
Other	4	2.8	0.8	1.4

The reasons for leaving their homes by women who have been abused are various, but one thing is clear that they leave mainly (47.3%) in extreme cases, when it becomes impossible to tolerate violence anymore (Table 43). In some cases, the reason for leaving home is more preventive to avoid another quarrel (13.7%).

**Table 43. Reasons for the last time a woman was physically and/or sexually abused by her partner, by number of responses (N = 146)**

The reasons for leaving home	Women have ever left home because of violence	
	N=146	%
She could not stand it anymore	69	47.3
To avoid controversy	20	13.7
Insult, her husband was unfaithful	15	10.3
They threw her out of the house	11	7.5
She was afraid that her husband would kill her	11	7.5
She saw that the children were suffering	8	5.5
The husband was drunk	5	3.4
Friends/ family encouraged	5	3.4
She was badly injured	5	3.4
Other	15	10

\* - Here is number of cases considered

**63% of women who were physically and sexually abused by their partner and left home for the last time returned to their husband's house/family.** The main reason for returning is the honor of the family (Table 44). In other words, the abused woman, who left home because she could no longer tolerate the violence,

returns to the abuser based on cultural stereotypes for the honor of the family. Women prefer to be physically and/or sexually abused on a regular basis, but continue to live with the abuser because cultural values dictate such behavior. In some cases, (41.5%), the abuser himself asks the woman to return.

**Table 44. Reasons for returning of a woman who was physically or sexually abused by her partner and left home for the last time (N = 106\*)**

The reasons for returning	Women who left home and returned after physical and sexual abuse	
	N=106	%
For the family/children (family honor)	57	53.8
The husband asked her to return	44	41.5
She thought her husband would change	44	41.5
She forgave her husband	40	37.7
Children need a father/parents	32	30.2
She loved her husband	27	25.5
The family of the man or woman told her to return	23	21.7
She did not want to leave the children	22	20.8
Marriage is sacred	17	16.0
Violence was normal/not serious	14	13.2
Could not stay where she went	13	12.3
Other	15	14.2

\*- Multiple answers were accepted: refers to the number of respondents

**76.5% of women who have been physically or sexually abused by their partner continue to live with the abuser, never leaving home.** According to women the main reason (52%) is that the violence is normal, not serious (Table 45). That is, women tolerate the behavior of the abuser until it reaches an extreme level. A woman who is abused keeps her feelings next to the abuser, because she loves her husband (33.7%). The circumstance of children in almost all situations, whether to leave the house or not, to return in case of leaving, etc., is one of the priority issues for women. Women have endured violence for years because their children need both parents (25%). The slogan "Marriage is sacred" is one of the most important factors that keep women next to the abuser (23.5%). Meanwhile, we think that this slogan needs to be re-perceived, re-evaluated and adapted to the current time content.

**Table 45. Reasons for never leaving home by women who have been physically or sexually abused by their partners (N = 196\*)**

The reasons not to leave home	Women who have never left home due to physical or sexual abuse	
	N=196	%
Violence was normal/not serious	102	52.0
She loved her husband	66	33.7
Children need a father/parents	49	25.0
Marriage is sacred	46	23.5
She forgave her husband	42	21.4
She did not want to embarrass the family	38	19.4
She did not want to leave the children	37	18.9
She thought her husband would change	29	14.8
She did not want to be alone	21	10.7
She could not take care of the children	16	8.2
Other	28	7.7

\*- Refers to the number of respondents answered the question

## FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE OF WOMEN ACCORDING TO THE EXPERIENCE OF PHYSICAL OR SEXUAL VIOLENCE BY THE PARTNER

Woman's economic independence is one of the most important factors in the decision-making process in the family, as well as in the prevention of violence. The results of the survey show that 20.5% of women who do not earn money and 16.9% of those who earn money have been abused by their partner. On the other hand, 86.8% of women earning money decide for themselves how to spend the money they earn (Table 46). Moreover, there is a significant relationship between spending the earned money independently and not being subjected to violence (P-value = 0.005). **In fact, financially independent women are less likely to be abused.**

Women whose partners forbid them to engage in profitable activities are more likely to be abused (P-value = 0.010) than women who engage in profitable activities, but the husband takes what she earns against her will.

**Table 46. Financial independence of married or cohabiting women according to the experience of physical or sexual violence by partners**

Currently married/cohabiting women	Not subjected to violence (%)	Subjected to physical/sexual violence (%)	P-value	Ever partnerd women (N=2560), %
<b>Married/cohabiting women earning money (N = 1 110)</b>				
▶ The respondent decides for himself how to spend the money he earns	77.4	16.0	<b>0.005</b>	86.6
▶ The respondent has more input in the family budget than the spouse / partner	10.9	13.6	0.462	10.5
<b>Married/cohabiting women (N = 2 188)</b>				
▶ The respondent's spouse forbids searching a job, going to work, earning money or engaging in profitable activities	78.2	15.2	0.010	29.2
▶ The respondent's husband takes what she earns against her will	82.4	14.7	0.420	1.6
▶ The respondent's husband refuses to give her the money she needs to pay for the household	82.5	11.3	0.780	3.7

## PREVALENCE OF VIOLENCE BY WELFARE

The violence used by the partner, as it has already become clear in a number of cases, is conditioned by a number of socio-cultural, economic and other factors. In this section, we will look at the relationship between HH well-being and violence. The basic necessities of living in HH were considered under welfare: drinking water, toilet, computer, telephone, TV, refrigerator, bicycle. The availability of vehicles - motorcycles and cars - was also considered in this section. In the case of drinking water and toilets, their availability and condition were considered, for example, whether drinking water is available within the HH or not. If not available, what are the alternatives: available water, artesian water, source for public use and etc.? In the case of the toilet, it was observed to what extent it is in good condition, whether it is flooded with water or is it a toilet in the form of a traditional hole outside. The welfare was assessed according to the HH property availability index listed above: low, medium and high.

Thus, **physical and sexual violence are more prevalent in HHs who are in the middle or lower level of well-being (Table 47)**. However, psychological violence used by a partner is more common in those HHs who have a more prosperous life. Perhaps the reason is the increase of self-esteem as a result of the man being more financially secure, as a result of which the manifestation of self-affirmation on the woman.

The next criterion for assessing well-being was the number of rooms used for sleeping in a HH. **The number of rooms used for sleeping is directly related to the manifestations of violence.** In HHs where one room is used for sleeping, physical violence used by the partner is more common. **As the number of rooms used for sleeping increases, the prevalence of physical violence decreases.**

In the case of sexual violence, the opposite is true. **As the number of bedrooms used increases, so does the prevalence of sexual violence.** Probably one of the reasons is that in the case of one or two bedrooms (s) used for sleeping, there is a high probability that other HH members are also in the area, which is a hindrance for the abuser to sexually assault the woman.

Psychological violence is more common in HHs that use 2 or more rooms to sleep. Cases of psychological violence are less common in 1-bedroom HHs.

**Table 47. Prevalence of physical, sexual and psychological violence among ever-partnered women throughout their lives according to the HH Property Presence Index\***

Welfare criteria	Ever-partnered women (N)	Physical violence, (N=378) (%)	Sexual violence, (N=168) (%)	Psychological violence, (N=814) (%)
<b>HH Property Presence Index *</b>				
▶ Low	865	10.5	3.3	56.6
▶ Average	1,376	12.7	3.7	56.5
▶ High	319	11.7	2.7	60.1
<b>The number of rooms used for sleeping</b>				
▶ 1 room	865	12.5	2.3	54.5
▶ 2 rooms	1,376	11.9	3.4	57.7
▶ 3 or more rooms	319	11.5	3.9	57.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 560</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>51.8</b>

\*- The Property Presence Index is calculated based on questions 1-6 of the HH Questionnaire

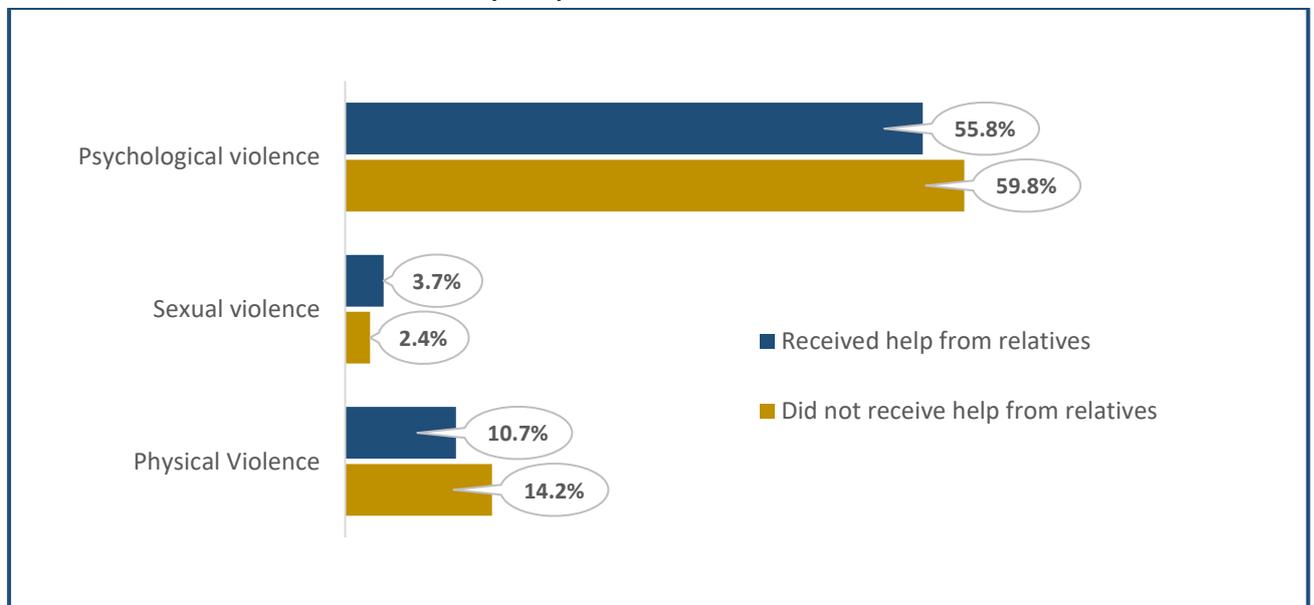
## COMMUNICATION WITH THE WOMAN'S RELATIVES AND VIOLENCE

Today, women do not seem to have any restrictions on communicating with their parents and relatives. Naturally, the development of technology in the form of telephones and internet connection also contributed to it. 90% of women who have a partner meet or talk with paternal family members or relatives at least once a day or once a week.

63.8% of women who have a partner have paternal family members or relatives who live close enough and can visit them freely (without difficulty).

To what extent does the fact that a woman receives help from paternal family members and relatives contribute to or hinder the use of violence by her partner? **Women who can turn to their paternal family members and/or relatives (hereafter-relatives) for help are less likely to be physically and sexually abused by their partner than women who cannot rely on relatives (Figure 4).** In other words, we can conclude that the abuser, taking into account the fact that the woman cannot turn to any relative for help, is more inclined to use violence.

**Figure 4. The fact that women who have ever had a partner receive help from paternal family members and/or relatives and the violence used by the partner**



\*- The percentage is calculated in all respondents, without "I do not know" and "refused" answers

## WEDDING PROCEDURE, COMPONENTS AND VIOLENCE

In the Armenian reality, the wedding ceremony continues to play an important role in forming a family. It is a series of ceremonies, which include marriage by civil registration, church rites, and subsequent events. Some minorities living in Armenia also have their own rituals, which are based on tradition.

The most important ritual of formalizing a marital union in Armenia is the registration through civil status acts (76.5%), which is popularly known as "Zags". The next important institution through which the union becomes official is the church system (32.1%). Few of the survey participants did not formalize their union with any protocol (15.7%). It turns out that the format of the wedding ceremony also plays a role in terms of violence by the partner. **Women who did not have any kind of wedding ceremony to officially register their union were more exposed to physical and sexual violence by their partner (Table 48).**

**Table 48. Wedding ceremony and the violence used by the partner among ever-partnered women**

Wedding ceremony	Physical violence, (N=378) (%)	Sexual violence, (N=168) (%)	Psychological violence, (N=814) (%)
No ceremony	16.1	4.8	57.3
Marriage with civil registration	11.8	3.0	56.9
Church marriage	10.0	3.6	58.2
Tradition-based marriage (for national minorities)	12.7	6.3	51.7

The dowry given to the bride is an important part of the wedding ceremony. In some regions of Armenia, it still plays its most important role as an important criterion for "accepting" the bride into the husband's family. This is evidenced by the results of the survey. **76% of married women in any wedding ceremony included a dowry.** The notion of dowry has such deep roots in our society that it also determines the manifestations of physical and sexual violence against women. **Women whose marriage did not include a dowry were more likely to be physically and psychologically abused by their partners.**

## VIOLENCE AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

### Pregnancy and childbirth

The most common age for women to become pregnant is 18-21 years old, which decreases with age. Women are the least likely to become pregnant between the ages of 15 and 19 (Table 49). Among pregnant women, including those who have not had a live birth, there are more women with twins than with triplets. 3.8% of women who have ever been pregnant have had one pregnancy, and 0.5% 2 or more pregnancies with twins. Interestingly, in the case of pregnancies with triples, the number of women who became pregnant twice or more is higher (0.5%) than those who became pregnant once (0.2%).

From the number of other children, we can conclude that having **2 children is more common**. The number of women with 1 child is 14.9%, those with 2 - 48.1%, those with 3 or more children - 37%.

**Table 49. Women by the age of first pregnancy**

Age group	N	%
15-17	131	5.3
18-21	1 264	51.7
22-24	565	23.1
25 and higher	488	19.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 448</b>	<b>100</b>

**Recent pregnancy and child born:** A survey of the proportion of children born as a result of recent female births shows that boys account for a higher percentage of 59%. It will be difficult to assess the extent of the sex-selective abortions, because such a question was not provided in the questionnaire. If we consider the distribution of the last-born boys according to the type of settlement, then there is no difference in the urban-rural distribution. The share of boys born in the rural settlements is 59.1%, those born in urban settlements - 59%.

The higher the age of the woman is, the higher the number of women who have a son. This fact has two reasons: years ago, the circumstance of having a boy was more important than now. Second, most young people (15-34) have just entered the stage of having children, and the requirement to have a son is not so important yet.

Regardless of the behavior of the partner towards the pregnant woman, women refrain from harmful substances during pregnancy, such as tobacco and alcohol. 0.7% of women, i.e., 5 women, smoked, and 4.6% used alcohol during the last pregnancy. The use of alcoholic beverages was not regular, but on occasions in the amount of one or half a glass.

**Pregnancy and violence:** The use of violence by the abuser has no restrictions. It is used regardless of a woman's age, status and physiological status. Unfortunately, it is also used during a woman's pregnancy, harming not only the woman but also the child. 18.7% of women were physically or sexually abused during pregnancy (Table 50). Moreover, there is a significant relationship between pregnancy and violence (P-value = 0.012).

Among women, such a vicious phenomenon as abortion continues to be quite high. **40.2% of ever-partnered women also had an abortion**. The miscarriage rate is also high, which is 25.7% or one in four pregnant women has had a miscarriage. Moreover, **among women who have had an abortion, stillbirth and miscarriage, there are more women who have been abused by their partners than those who have not**.

Although the correlation of P-value between women who have had abortion and physical or sexual violence is weak (P-value = 0.124), according to the Fisher coefficient, there is a high significance between these two phenomena (F = 0.000).

Manifestations of violence by the partner during pregnancy can be slapping, punching or kicking, or even beating. The effects of such physical violence are accompanied by miscarriage, stillbirth, or abortion. The percentage of women who have had miscarriage and abortion as a result of the above-mentioned physical violence is higher than that of non-abused women (Table 50). Moreover, there is a weakly significant correlation between miscarriage and physical violence (P-value = 0.109), as well as a high significance (F = 0.021) between the two phenomena according to the Fisher coefficient. **Therefore, we can state that miscarriages are high as a result of physical violence.**

**Table 50. Reproductive health of ever-partnered women by the presence or absence of physical or sexual violence**

a. The proportion of women who have ever had a partner (N = 2,192)	Not subjected to violence (%)	Subjected to physical / sexual violence (%)	P-value	All respondents (%)
Women who have ever had a pregnancy	81.3	18.7	0.012	85.6
<b>Reproductive health of women who have ever had a pregnancy (N=2,192)</b>				
▶ ever had a miscarriage	27.1	33.1	0.544	25.7
▶ ever had a stillbirth	3.5	5.3	0.407	3.7
▶ ever had an abortion	41.4	57.3	0.124	40.2
b. Manifestations of physical violence during pregnancy: pushing, slapping, punching, kicking, beating	Not subjected to violence during pregnancy (%)	Subjected to physical / sexual violence (%)	P-value	All respondents (%)
<b>According to the experience of violence during pregnancy (H=2,192)</b>				
▶ ever had a miscarriage	28.1	32.3	0.109	28.2
▶ ever had a stillbirth	13.8	4.8	0.493	4.0
▶ ever had an abortion	44.1	56.5	0.866	44.4

The importance of having a son remains relevant in our society. In the last 6 years alone, 30% of women who have given birth to a live child have indicated that their partner has preferred to have a son (Table 51). Moreover, women, whose partners preferred to have a boy, are more exposed to physical or sexual violence - 33.8%.

**Among the factors influencing pregnancy in live births during the last 6 years, there is a significant relationship between being physically or sexually abused by a partner and a woman not wanting to become pregnant (P-value = 0.021).** It can be assumed that women who are physically or sexually abused by their partner do not want (then did at that time) to have a child from the abuser.

**Table 51. Factors affecting pregnancy in women having a live childbirth during the last 6 years by experience of physical and sexual violence**

Factors affecting pregnancy	Not subjected to violence (N=2,119) (%)	Subjected to physical / sexual violence (N=441) (%)	P-value	Percentage of live births in the last 6 years (%)
The respondent did not want this pregnancy	7.9	9.2	0.021	8.2
The partner did not want this pregnancy	3.6	2.6	0.956	3.5
The partner preferred to have a son	29.1	31.1	0.415	30.0
The Respondent drank alcohol during pregnancy	4.2	6.1	0.151	4.6
The respondent smoked a cigarette during pregnancy	1.2	0.8	0.945	0.8
The respondent underwent a postpartum examination	54.0	50.2	0.925	51.7

**Children aged 6-12:** Among the children of this age group, the circumstance of running away from home is more common among boys. Cases of running away from home were studied in the case of 1 child and 2 and more children. The cases of running away from home of 1 boy make 2.3%, and in case of 2 and more boys - 1.1%. **Girls ran away from home three times less often than boys.**

The prevalence of children aged 6-12 staying in the same class is quite low. Only 7 (0.8%) of the children in that age group remained in the same class. And in the last 12 months the number of children who have not attended school for some time or dropped out of school is 2%.

### **Use of contraceptives**

When talking about women's reproductive health, it is important to address the use of contraceptives in this context, both by women and men. **46% of ever-partnered women have ever used any method to avoid or delay pregnancy (Table 52).** This figure has slightly improved at the time of the survey reaching up to 47.8%.

There is a weak link between using any method to avoid pregnancy and being physically or sexually abused by a partner (P-value = 0.112).

**Table 52. Use of contraceptives by women based on experience of physical and sexual violence**

The use of contraceptives	Not subjected to violence (%)	Subjected to physical / sexual violence (%)	P-value	All respondents %
<b>Ever-partnered women who have ever had sex (N = 2 557<sup>15</sup>)</b>				
Have you ever used or tried anything to prevent or delay pregnancy?	37.6	8.4	0.907	46.0
Are you currently using any methods to prevent pregnancy?	22.4	4.7	0.112	22.2
The current (latest spouse) partner has never refused to use any method	2.3	0.2	0.145	2.5
Have you ever used a condom with your current (latest spouse) partner?	5.7	1.1	0.781	6.8
The current (latest spouse) partner has ever refused to use a condom	6.5	1.3	0.777	7.7

The most common contraceptives are condom use, interrupted intercourse, intrauterine devices and calendar/ mucus methods (Table 53). **There are obvious differences in the use of contraceptives by settlements.** In rural settlements, the use of traditional methods is more common, such as pills (4.2%) and intrauterine devices (18.2%). However, the use of diaphragm/foam/gel (included in "Others") is common only in urban settlements (0.3%), and in rural settlements no one uses it as a means (0%). The calendar/mucus method is used by 9.9% of women living in urban settlements and 7.5% of those living in rural settlements. The method of not getting pregnant through interrupted sexual intercourse is more common among women living in urban settlements (36%), while in rural settlements it is 33.2%.

A common method such as the use of condoms has no difference by settlements and is used almost equally in both urban (30.5%) and rural settlements (30.4%).

**The level of education of a woman is an important factor in the use of contraceptives.** The most common and easily used methods, such as the use of pills, condoms and intrauterine devices, are mostly used by women with primary or secondary education. And methods that require a knowledge-based approach, such as the calendar/mucus method and interrupted intercourse, are more common among women with higher/postgraduate education.

<sup>15</sup> 3 respondents refused to answer

**A woman's age is also a determining factor in what contraceptive to use.** Women in the 15-24 age group are more likely to use intrauterine devices, diaphragm/foam/gel and interrupted intercourse. The use of pills, calendar/mucus and condoms is more common among women aged 35 and older.

### **Women's general health**

The assessment of women's health condition was carried out by 5 scale system: excellent, good, sufficient, bad and very bad. Based on the results of the survey, **we can assess the health condition of women in general as satisfactory.** A total of 8% of women rated their health condition as "excellent" and 29% as "good". 51% of the women participating in the survey assessed their health condition as "satisfactory". When considering the issues of health status separately, it becomes clear, especially in which issues the health condition of women is not in a satisfactory condition. Difficulties with memory or concentration are especially common in 40% of women, and visual difficulties in 35%. Moreover, when talking about visual difficulties, it should be noted that they find it difficult to see even when wearing glasses. Another common health problem, which affects 33% of women, is difficulty walking or climbing stairs.

Less common health problems among women include hearing problems, even when wearing a hearing aid (7%), difficulty washing, bathing, wearing clothes (6%) and difficulty communicating (3%).

Thinking and taking care of one's own health is a secondary or tertiary problem for women. Women with moderate to severe health problems do not seek medical attention. In our culture, going to the doctor is not so accepted, especially by women. Why? There are two main reasons: financial problems and not considering one's own health as a priority. **In the last 4 weeks, 62% of women have had any pain or discomfort (unpleasant feeling), but a total of 24.5% of them have referred to a healthcare professional.**

It is known to all that the war in Artsakh changed the lives of many people in Armenia, some of them radically. In order to exclude the impact of the war on the general health of women, we have considered the next group of questions, excluding the feelings conditioned by the war as much as possible.

The next group of questions related to women's health refers to feelings: nervousness, despair, anxiety, depression, feeling of uselessness, etc. Emotions were observed in terms of frequency: very rarely, some times and very often, periodically. Women who experienced these feelings very often were more likely to be physically and psychologically abused than women who experienced these feelings very rarely ([Table 54](#)). Especially the feeling of uselessness in women arises as a result of psychological violence. **In fact, being physically and psychologically abused by a partner can make women feel nervous, desperate, anxious, tense, depressed, and useless.**

**Table 53. Use of contraceptives by type of settlement, education and age groups, N=558**

Characteristics	Total (N)	Pills (%)	Intrauterine devices (%)	Calendar/mucous method (%)	Condom (%)	Interrupted sexual intercourse (%)	Other (%)	Refused to answer/no answer (%)
<b>Settlement</b>								
▶ Urban	344	3.2	16.3	9.9	30.5	36.0	2.6	1.5
▶ Rural	214	4.2	18.2	7.5	30.4	33.2	6.5	0.0
<b>Education</b>								
▶ Basic and lower (up to 9th grade)	45	4.4	26.7	6.7	37.8	22.2	2.2	0.0
▶ Secondary/senior (10th-12th grade)	220	4.5	15.9	9.5	30.5	32.7	5.9	0.9
▶ Vocational/secondary specialized	159	1.9	18.2	7.5	29.6	37.7	4.4	0.6
▶ Tertiary/postgraduate	134	3.7	14.2	10.4	29.1	39.6	1.5	1.5
<b>Age</b>								
▶ 15-24	68	2.9	19.1	8.8	23.5	42.6	2.9	1.5
▶ 25-34	138	3.6	13.1	8.8	33.6	38.7	1.5	0.0
▶ 35-44	145	4.1	18.6	9.0	33.8	28.3	4.8	0.0
▶ 45-59	207	3.4	17.8	9.1	28.4	34.6	5.8	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>5</b>

**Table 54. Emotions of ever-partnered women based on their experience of physical sexual and psychological violence in the last 12 months**

How much time have they felt in the past 4 weeks . . .	Ever-partnered women (N=2.560)	Have been abused for the last 12 months		
		Physical violence (N=90) (%)	Sexual violence (N=49) (%)	Psychological violence (N=334) (%)
<b>Nervous</b>				
▶ Very rare	1 518	14.8	33.3	40.4
▶ Some time	547	19.8	21.2	35.4
▶ Very often	495	23.8	26.8	44.4
<b>Desperate</b>				
▶ Very rare	1 819	13.5	28.1	40.0
▶ Some time	441	22.1	38.5	40.4
▶ Very often	300	28.7	22.2	40.0
<b>Restless tense</b>				
▶ Very rare	1 518	15.1	32.4	40.0
▶ Some time	588	16.0	32.4	42.6
▶ Very often	454	27.5	18.4	37.0
<b>So depressed that nothing could make her happy</b>				
▶ Very rare	1 975	13.4	28.6	38.9
▶ Some time	316	29.6	38.9	43.2
▶ Very often	269	27.8	23.1	45.0
<b>Everything was complicated and difficult</b>				
▶ Very rare	1 841	15.4	30.9	39.0
▶ Some time	382	16.7	28.6	36.3
▶ Very often	337	29.9	20.8	49.1
<b>Useless</b>				
▶ Very rare	2 359	18.1	27.8	39.2
▶ Some time	119	21.1	36.4	41.2
▶ Very often	82	29.6	33.3	62.5

**Smoking: 8.7% of women ever smoked/is smoking during their lifetime.** Moreover, the number of women smokers has decreased. At the time of the survey, 2.2% of women aged 15-59 reported smoking, with the majority of those who smoked daily (1.3%). We think that these numbers should be approached with some reservations. Talking about some phenomena in Armenia is still considered shameful, as it is perceived negatively by the society. Among these phenomena is also the smoking of women. Accordingly, it is supposed that a part of the interviewed women hid the fact of their smoking.

**Interestingly, the habit of women smoking is more common in rural settlements than in urban areas** in terms of both now and ever smokers. Moreover, among women smokers in rural settlements, everyday-smokers make up 1.8%, and in urban settlements 0.8%.

**Alcoholic beverages:** The use of alcohol, such as vodka, is not common among women. 43.4% of women use alcohol occasionally. 2.1% of women consume alcohol every day or 1-2 times a week, 4. 1% - 1-3 times a month, 5. 3% - less than once a month. The number of women who have never used alcohol is 42.7%. 2. 4% of women has stopped drinking alcohol for 1 year.

In the last month prior to the survey 73.7% of women drank alcohol, of which 42% drank a total of 1 glass, and 31.7% - 2 glasses and more.

Because most women drink on occasion, there are no financial and health problems or conflicts with family or friends. Over the past year, 2.2% of women who have consumed alcohol have reported health problems, including headaches or a slight fluctuation in blood pressure.

## RISK FACTORS OF PHYSICAL AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE BY PARTNERS AMONG EVER-PARTNERED WOMEN

Up to now, cases of sexual and physical abuse by a partner have been related to the past or the present. Let us now consider the risk factors for the experience of physical and/or sexual violence by partners among ever-partnered women. Based on the risk factor for violence (Crude odds Ratio > 1), we can identify the characteristics in which violence is more likely to occur. According to the age characteristic, the probability of occurrence of cases is highest among women aged 25-34 (Table 55). In this age group, the majority of women begin to have a relationship or legalize that relationship with a partner. Therefore, it is very likely that women are subjected to violence in that age range.

It is especially interesting to observe the educational level: the probability of violence is high, especially among those with tertiary/postgraduate education. One can assume that the higher a woman's education, the higher the awareness and protection of her own self and interests, which causes a partner to react with violence.

Naturally, ever-partnered women are more likely to be abused than women who have had a partner before. The lower the age at which a woman marries (under the age of 20), the more likely she is to be abused by her partner.

**Table 55. Study of risk factors for physical and/or sexual violence experience by partners among women who have ever had a partner**

Characteristics	Ever-partnered women (N=2 560)	Subjected to violence (%)	One-factor analysis			
			Crude odds Ratio	95% CI		P-value
<b>Age</b>						
▶ 15-24	159	23.9	1.13	0.85	1.43	0.009
▶ 25-34	682	16.4	1.14	0.88	1.23	0.496
▶ 35-44	733	12.7	1.00	0.81	1.23	0.166
▶ 45-59	986	13.2	1.01	0.79	1.25	0.533
<b>Education</b>						
▶ Basic and lower (up to 9th grade)	143	24.5	1.00	0.71	1.41	0.172
▶ Secondary/senior (10th-12th grade)	998	18.5	1.00	0.94	1.06	0.154
▶ Vocational/secondary specialized	807	17.2	0.98	0.87	1.12	0.100
▶ Tertiary/postgraduate	612	19.3	1.02	0.88	1.18	0.910
<b>Existence of a partner</b>						
▶ Currently has a partner	2 291	16.3	1.04	1.00	1.08	0.185
▶ Previously had a partner	269	20.4	0.76	0.57	1.01	0.207
<b>By the age of first marriage</b>						
▶ Up to 20 years old	1 204	18.4	1.02	0.92	1.12	0.204
▶ 21-29 years old	936	19.2	0.98	0.87	1.10	<b>0.053</b>
▶ 30 years and older	93	21.5	0.86	0.54	1.37	0.588
<b>Availability of personal income</b>						
▶ Does not earn money	1 244	20.5	0.92	0.84	1.01	0.519
▶ Earns money	1 316	16.9	1.09	0.98	1.21	0.218
<b>The number of children who were alive at birth*</b>						
▶ 0 child (women who never gave birth)	193	18.1	0.95	0.67	1.33	0.171
▶ 1-2 children	1 295	18.6	1.01	0.96	1.06	0.501
▶ 3-4 children	776	21.3	1.11	1.04	1.17	0.252
▶ 5 and more children	69	40.6	0.38	0.24	0.59	0.600

\* Women who have ever given birth but have not had a alive child at the time of the survey are not included.

## RESTRICTIONS ON ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES OF WOMEN

The restriction of a woman's economic opportunities by her partner is in itself a manifestation of violence. It is mainly expressed in two ways: the partner forbids the woman to seek any profitable occupation or takes all the earnings from the woman against her will. By depriving a woman of economic independence, her partner makes her more dependent on him, and therefore more vulnerable.

**According to the results of this survey, the restriction of women's economic activity is more common in urban settlements.** Moreover, it is about all the manifestations of economic restriction, both a ban on looking for a job, and taking the earned money, and depriving the woman of the money needed for the HH.

Woman having a higher education has a great impact on her economic independence. **The higher a woman's level of education, the less she is subject to economic activity limitations** (Table 56). Economic activity restrictions are more common among those with secondary education and then those with secondary vocational education.

**There are obvious age differences in the restriction of economic activity by type of restriction.** For example, a ban on any profitable activity applies especially to young women (age group 15-24). One of the reasons for this, we think, is that this age group is considered the age of starting a new relationship or forming a new family. And it is at the stage of building new relationships that the application of restrictions to women by their partners begins.

**Table 56. Prevalence of restrictions on economic activity by the partner among ever-partnered women**

Characteristics	Ever-partnered women to whom the questions refer (N=1,684)	Including:			
		Prohibits looking for a job, going to work, earning money or engaging in profitable activities (%)	Takes the earned against the will (%)	Refuses to give money for household expenses (%)	Subject to at least 1 economic activity restriction (%)
<b>Settlement</b>					
▶ Urban	836	36.1	2.0	4.5	23.2
▶ Rural	848	31.4	1.7	3.5	22.1
<b>Education</b>					
▶ Basic and lower (up to 9th grade)	91	34.1	1.1	1.1	20.9
▶ Secondary/senior (10th-12th grade)	655	34.8	1.2	4.6	22.7
▶ Vocational/secondary specialized	531	34.5	2.8	4.5	24.5
▶ Tertiary/postgraduate	407	31.0	1.7	3.2	20.4
<b>Age</b>					
▶ 15-24	95	35.8	1.1	4.2	18.9
▶ 25-34	443	31.8	2.0	5.0	21.9
▶ 35-44	477	35.0	1.5	3.4	22.6
▶ 45-59	669	33.8	2.1	3.9	23.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 684</b>	<b>33.7</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>22.9</b>

## WOMEN THAT USED VIOLENCE AGAINST THEIR PARTNER AND THE FREQUENCY OF SUCH CASES

Previously, reference was made to the violence used by a male partner against a woman. Meanwhile, it should not be ruled out that in our reality there is also the opposite side of the phenomenon, when a man is abused by a female partner. Naturally, due to the existing family structure and gender roles in our society, these are fewer common cases.

The proportion of a woman abusing her partner is equal in rural and urban settlements. 1.2% of ever-partnered women in both urban and rural settlements have hit or beaten their partner. The highest percentage of women using violence against men is in the age group of 45-59 ([Table 57](#)).

**Often, violence against partner is mostly used by woman who in turn has been sexually or physically abused.** According to the frequency, the partner was abused by women of urban settlements 6 or more times, while no such case was registered in rural settlements.

**The higher a woman's age, the higher the frequency of violence against her partner.**

Women who have never been abused have abused their partners only once. We do not encounter a case where a woman who has never been abused abuses her partner 6 or more times, while women who have been physically or sexually abused have abused their partner many times.

**Table 57. The proportion and frequency of cases of women who have ever used violence against a partner among ever-partnered women**

Characteristics	Ever-partnered women (N=2 560)	Ever used violence against a partner (%)	The frequency of violence against the partner		
			Once (%)	2-5 times (%)	6 times and more (%)
<b>Settlement</b>					
▶ Urban	1 291	1.2	75.0	18.8	6.3
▶ Rural	1 269	1.2	60.0	40.0	0.0
<b>Education</b>					
▶ Basic and lower (up to 9th grade)	143	2.0	100.0	0.0	0.0
▶ Secondary/senior (10th-12th grade)	998	9.0	37.5	62.5	0.0
▶ Vocational/secondary specialized	807	15.0	64.3	28.6	7.1
▶ Tertiary/postgraduate	612	8.0	100.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Age</b>					
▶ 15-24	159	5.0	60.0	40.0	0.0
▶ 25-34	682	4.0	100.0	0.0	0.0
▶ 35-44	733	7.0	85.7	14.3	0.0
▶ 45-59	986	18.0	53.3	40.6	6.1
<b>According to the use of violence by the partner</b>					
▶ Not subjected to violence	2 119	15.4	71.4	28.6	0.0
▶ Subjected to physical or sexual violence	441	18.6	64.7	29.4	5.9

## PREVALENCE OF PHYSICAL AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE BY NON-PARTNERS

Unlike partner violence, non-partner violence cases have been studied regardless of the abuser's gender. Women have unwanted experiences during their lives and are subjected to various forms of ill-treatment and violence by different types of people, whether men, women, relatives or strangers.

By non-partner, we mean any person in this survey except the woman's partner/spouse.

The following situations were observed under physical violence used by a non-partner:

1. Slapped, punched with fist or any other object that could hurt;
2. Throw any object that could hurt. Pushed, hit or pulled the hair;
3. Intentionally suffocated or burned;
4. Threatened or actually used a gun, knife or any other weapon.

**5.4% of women in the survey were physically abused by a non-partner from the age of 15.** The difference according to the settlements is very small, with a slight advantage among women living in urban areas. **Meanwhile, the type of settlement determines the frequency of violence.** In terms of one-time violence, women living in rural areas have an advantage, and 2-4 times - those living in urban areas ([Table 58](#)).

**Cases of physical violence by a non-partner have become more common in rural settlements in the last 12 months.**

Among those who are abused are especially those who have mainly basic and lower education (up to 9th grade). **The lower a woman's level of education, the higher the prevalence of physical violence.**

**Table 58. Prevalence of physical violence by a non-partner throughout life and during the last 12 months from the age of 15**

Characteristics	Number of all women surveyed (N=2 872)	Has ever been physically abused by a non-partner from the age of 15 (N=156) (%)			Has been physically abused by a non-partner in the past 12 months (N=20) (%)		
		Total	Once	2-4 times	Total	Once	2-4 times
<b>Settlement</b>							
▶ Urban	1 559	5.5	3.7	1.7	0.6	0.4	0.1
▶ Rural	1 313	5.4	4.0	1.4	0.8	0.5	0.3
<b>Education</b>							
▶ Basic and lower (up to 9th grade)	217	6.0	4.1	1.8	0.9	0.0	0.9
▶ Secondary/senior (10th-12th grade)	1 102	5.3	3.6	1.6	0.8	0.5	0.3
▶ Vocational/secondary specialized	840	5.6	3.7	1.9	0.7	0.6	0.1
▶ Tertiary/postgraduate	713	5.3	4.2	1.1	0.4	0.4	0.0
<b>Age</b>							
▶ 15-24	355	6.2	3.1	3.1	0.3	0.0	0.3
▶ 25-34	741	4.9	4.0	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.0
▶ 35-44	753	5.3	4.1	1.2	1.2	1.1	0.1
▶ 45-59	1 023	5.7	3.7	2.0	0.7	0.3	0.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 872</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.2</b>

Interestingly, **the role of the abuser is mainly played by female members of the family (41%),** in which the main role is played by mothers and sisters ([Table 59](#)). In that case, violence is probably part of the "upbringing". The second place among the abusers is occupied by the male members of the family. 34% of women are

abused by male family members. Most of them are fathers and brothers. In fact, if we exclude the partner, women are mostly abused by family members.

Most female (93.6%) who have ever in the life-time been physically abused from the age of 15, have been abused by one abuser. During the last 12 months, females were mainly abused by one abuser. However, the type of abusers has changed during the last 12 months. The mother continues to be the first to abuse the female, but the role of the father changes. If the father is in the second place among the abusers of non-partner violence during the entire life of the women, then in the last 12 months it is the brother, the sister, then the father.

As abusers, male friend, acquaintance (5.8%), other male family members (2.6%), mother-in-law (3.8%), female friend, acquaintance (3.8%), other female members of the family (2.6%) and etc. are rare among non-partner abusers.

**Table 59. Share of all women who were physically abused by a non-partner according to the number and type of abusers (N = 156)**

Abuser characteristics	Has ever been physically abused from the age of 15 (N=156)		He has been subjected to physical violence in the past 12 months (N=20)	
	N	(%)	N	(%)
<b>The number of abusers</b>				
▶ 1 abuser	146	93.6	17	10.9
▶ 2 abusers	10	6.4	3	1.9
<b>Abuser type grouped by gender</b>				
▶ Male members of the family	53	34.0	6	3.8
▶ Female members of the family	64	41.0	11	7.1
▶ Other male members	25	16.0	2	1.3
▶ Other female members	16	10.3	1	0.6
<b>Abuser's personality</b>				
▶ Father	26	16.7	3	1.9
▶ Mother	41	26.3	7	4.5
▶ Brother	25	16.0	5	3.2
▶ Sister	18	11.5	4	2.6
▶ Other- male	30	19.2	2	1.3
▶ Other-female	26	16.7	2	1.3

\* - Multiple answers were accepted: refers to the number of cases.

## PREVALENCE OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE BY NON-PARTNER

Women are sexually abused not only by their partners, but also by men who are relatives and non-relatives - parents, neighbors, friends, strangers, etc. These are taboo topics that everyone, including the victim and those around her, usually keep silent about. It continues to be considered a shameful and stereotypical topic. The reasons for that are very deep. Just the fact that in some cases the society blames not the abuser, but the victim of violence, is enough for everyone to be silent about the phenomenon. Moreover, in some cases the victim does not even tell the family members or parents about it, so as not to be blamed by them. We also heard about such rare cases during the survey. Women who were sexually abused reported it for the first time, noting that even their parents did not know about it. It was about sexual violence, or more properly, rape. We are sure that such cases are actually much more in our society, but women are silent about it. We think that these numbers should be approached with some reservations.

Cases of sexual violence have been studied in 4 main situations:

1. Sexual intercourse when the woman did not want to, but was threatened or forcibly detained;
2. Forced to have sexual intercourse when the woman was under the influence of alcohol and could not refuse;
3. Touched a woman's body parts (for example, breasts) against the woman's will;
4. Forced the woman to touch the body parts of the abuser against the will of the woman.

**Thus, according to the survey results, the share of women who have been sexually abused by a non-partner consists 3.1%.**

Among the manifestations of sexual violence, touching the body parts of a woman are especially common in Armenia, which was mentioned by 90% of the victims of sexual violence. In Armenia, women are mostly sexually abused by strangers (86.5%). And, since the most common manifestation of sexual violence is touching a woman's body against her will, this phenomenon mainly occurs on public transport (65.2%), which suggests that women are very vulnerable to sexual violence in public.

The prevalence of non-partner sexual abuse from the age of 15 is less common as compared to physical violence. **3.1% of women has ever in the lifetime been sexually abused by a non-partner.** In fact, women aged 15-59 are more likely to be sexually abused by their partners (6.6%) than by non-partners. Women are more likely to be sexually abused by men whom they trust, whom they have chosen as a partner or husband.

The prevalence of non-partner sexual violence is higher in rural settlements ([Table 60](#)). Probably, this is happening due to the closed environment and the abuser's confidence that violence will not be reported. Non-partner sexual violence was reported most often by women with secondary education, with the lowest prevalence among those with tertiary/postgraduate education. Thus, we can state that **the higher a woman's educational level, the lower the prevalence of non-partner violence.** The higher education system promotes women to be more cautious about violence.

**Table 60. Prevalence of non-partner sexual violence throughout life from the age of 15 up to date**

Characteristics	The number of all women surveyed (N=2 872)	Has been sexually abused by a non-partner from the age of 15 (N)	% to all respondents
<b>Settlement</b>			
▶ Urban	1 559	39	2.5
▶ Rural	1 313	50	3.8
<b>Education</b>			
▶ Basic and lower (up to 9th grade)	217	6	2.8
▶ Secondary/senior (10th-12th grade)	1 102	39	3.5
▶ Vocational/secondary specialized	840	27	3.2
▶ Tertiary/postgraduate	713	17	2.4
<b>Age</b>			
▶ 15-24	355	6	1.7
▶ 25-34	741	14	0.8
▶ 35-44	753	19	0.8
▶ 45-59	1 023	50	0.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 872</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>3.1</b>

We must prove once again that in rural settlements where the society lives in a more closed environment, cases of non-partner violence against women are more common. There are not many cases of forced sexual intercourse with a woman by a non-partner, a total of 11 women have spoken about it. However, 72.7% of them occurred with rural women ([Table 61](#)). The same can be said about touching a woman's body. This type of violence is even more common in rural settlements.

**8.8% of adolescent girls (under 15 years old) had different parts of their body touched against their will.** The phenomenon is more common among women aged 18-21, and the role of the abuser is mainly played by strangers (86.3%). This manifestation of violence, as we have already mentioned, mainly occurs in public transport (68.8%).

Forced sexual intercourse is more common among women in the age group of 22 and older, and the role of abuser is mainly played by friends and/or acquaintances.

**Table 61. Cases of non-partner sexual violence according to the abuser and place**

Characteristics	From the age of 15 until today, someone has ever forced a woman to have sex when she did not want to (N = 11) (%)	Anyone ever forced a woman to have sex when, for example, she was under the influence of alcohol so much that she refused (N=2) (%)	Touched the woman (body parts, such as breasts) against her will (N=80) (%)	Forced the woman to touch him against her will (N=3) (%)
<b>Settlement</b>				
▶ Urban	27.3	50.0	45.0	33.3
▶ Rural	72.7	50.0	55.0	66.7
<b>At what age did it happen for the first time?</b>				
▶ Under the age of 15	0.0	0.0	8.8	0.0
▶ 15-17	0.0	0.0	20.0	33.3
▶ 18-21	45.5	50.0	36.3	33.3
▶ 22 and older	54.5	50.0	35.0	33.3
<b>Who did that?</b>				
▶ Parents	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.0
▶ Recently met person	27.3	50.0	3.8	66.7
▶ A complete stranger	9.1	50.0	86.3	0.0
▶ Someone from work	0.0	0.0	2.5	0.0
▶ Friend/acquaintance	36.4	0.0	6.3	33.3
▶ Other	27.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Where did it happen?</b>				
▶ In a woman's own house or yard	27.3	0.0	1.3	0.0
▶ In a rural area, forest, park, camp	36.4	0.0	2.5	100.0
▶ In the bar, in the dance club, by the pool	36.4	100.0	1.3	0.0
▶ In the house or yard of a man or someone else	0.0	0.0	3.8	0.0
▶ On the street, in the alley, in the parking lot, in the car	0.0	0.0	8.8	0.0
▶ In public transport	0.0	0.0	68.8	0.0
▶ Office building, shop, public building	0.0	0.0	7.5	0.0
▶ Other	0.0	0.0	3.8	0.0

## PERCEPTIONS ABOUT GENDER ROLES

In the framework of this survey, as a result of studying the current situation of domestic violence against women and their causes, we can state that most of them are based on existing socio-cultural factors and stereotypes that society carries. However, it would be wrong to view violence only from the point of view of an abuser. In order to observe and understand the existing phenomenon more comprehensively, it would be expedient to consider it also in the field of women's perceptions. From the point of view of gender attitude, what perceptions do women have, how do they react and comment on violence or the phenomena that are a precondition for it? Let us consider the perceptions of women from the point of view of two very important questions: should a woman obey her husband, even if she does not agree with him, and should a man show that he is the head? That is, we are talking about a clear division of gender roles, in which a woman has an "insignificant" role.

Thus, in rural settlements, women's perceptions are more stereotypical and traditional about the issues that a woman should obey her husband, and it is important for a man to show his wife that the man is the head (Table 62). It is relatively less emphasized in the perceptions of urban women. However, in general, the observation by settlement types shows that the mentioned judgments have rather deep bases and wide distribution. This is a very important indicator, which speaks about the fact that a significant part of women think that a woman should obey her husband in any case, regardless of everything, and a man should continue to show that he is the leader. The level of education of women plays an important role in this issue. The holders of the perception "a good wife obeys her husband, even if she does not agree" are especially those with basic and lower education (up to 9th grade). A large number of women with that level of education are also agree that the man should show the woman that he is the head. It is interesting that, if women with higher education have been able to overcome the stereotype that a good wife should obey her husband even if she does not agree, however the importance of a man being the head remains ingrained. This shows that this stereotype it is so ingrained that even education does not lead to any change. The main bearers of this role division between men and women are women aged 35-44.

The fact that such perceptions have a rather deep basis and are not conditioned by external factors is once again proved by the fact that it is not conditioned by the fact that a woman is subjected to violence. There was no significant difference in the judgments mentioned between abused and non-abused women ( $P > 0.005$ ).

**Table 62. Gender attitude: the proportion of women surveyed who indicated that they agreed with the judgments presented**

Characteristics	"A good wife obeys her husband, even if she does not agree" (N=1 678) (%)	"It is important for a man to show his wife that a man is the head" (N=1 747) (%)
<b>Settlement</b>		
▶ Urban	58.1	60.2
▶ Rural	58.8	61.5
<b>Education</b>		
▶ Basic and lower (up to 9th grade)	66.8	63.1
▶ Secondary/senior (10th-12th grade)	56.4	60.1
▶ Vocational/secondary specialized	56.4	59.6
▶ Tertiary/postgraduate	61.2	62.6
<b>Age</b>		
▶ 15-24	56.3	61.4
▶ 25-34	60.3	59.9
▶ 35-44	61.6	63.1
▶ 45-59	55.3	59.5

Characteristics	"A good wife obeys her husband, even if she does not agree" (N=1 678) (%)	"It is important for a man to show his wife that a man is the head" (N=1 747) (%)
<b>According to partner violence (N = 2,560)</b>		
▶ Not subjected to violence	57.6	60.4
▶ Subjected to physical or sexual violence	60.4	61.6
▶ P-value	0.360	0.596

And in which cases a man has the right to hit a woman, according to women. It turns out that the most intolerant attitude is in the case of manifestations of infidelity ([Table 63](#)). Intolerance is so acute in the case of a woman's infidelity that the man has a good reason to hit her even in case of just a suspicion. And, the third most mentioned situation, which according to women is the basis for a man to hit a woman, is when a woman does not obey her husband. In other words, the patriarchal system has such deep roots that even violence and restrictions on a person and her gender are considered normal and acceptable phenomena. A very important circumstance should be mentioned. **Ever-partnered women are more likely to be hit by a man than women who have never had a partner.** Probably one of the reasons is not appearing in the relevant practical situation, but only carrying theoretical knowledge.

A woman's place of residence is an important precondition for the formation of women's perceptions of physical abuse by a man. Rural women are more likely to agree that a man can physically abuse a woman.

It is also unfounded to assume that this perception of women is formed as a result of physical and/or sexual violence or not, as there is no significant difference between abused and non-abused women in these judgments ( $P > 0.005$ ).

**Table 63. Attitude towards physical violence by a partner - share of women who stated that men have right to hit them for any of the reasons presented. N = 2.872**

Characteristics	The number of all women surveyed (N)	The percentage of respondents who agree that a man has a good reason to hit a woman							
		If the wife does not do the housework so that the husband is satisfied (%)	If the wife does not obey her husband (%)	If a woman refuses to have sex with her husband (%)	If a woman asks her husband if he has other girlfriends (%)	If the husband suspects that the wife is not faithful (%)	If the husband finds out that the wife was not faithful (%)	At least one reason indicated (%)	None of the reasons mentioned (%)
<b>Settlement</b>									
▶ Urban	1,559	5.9	20.4	3.2	3.5	26.0	54.8	58.7	38.6
▶ Rural	1,313	6.1	23.5	3.9	4.6	26.9	53.9	59.1	38.5
<b>Education</b>									
▶ Basic and lower (up to 9th grade)	217	8.8	22.6	6.0	6.0	29.0	57.1	60.4	38.2
▶ Secondary/senior (10th-12th grade)	1,102	5.5	20.4	3.6	3.9	23.5	51.0	56.5	40.3
▶ Vocational/secondary specialized	840	6.0	22.4	3.6	3.8	27.0	55.0	59.0	38.3
▶ Tertiary/postgraduate	713	6.5	23.0	3.8	4.5	29.9	57.5	61.9	36.2
<b>Age</b>									
▶ 15-24	355	8.5	22.0	6.2	5.1	27.0	54.1	58.9	39.7
▶ 25-34	741	5.5	21.7	2.6	3.5	27.7	52.9	57.6	39.0
▶ 35-44	753	6.6	23.6	4.1	4.4	26.0	55.8	61.6	35.5
▶ 45-59	1,023	5.4	20.4	3.7	4.2	25.9	54.2	57.8	40.1
<b>According to partner violence (N = 2,560)</b>									
▶ Not subjected to violence	2,119	6.3	22.1	3.7	3.9	26.2	54.0	58.2	39.2
▶ Subjected to physical or sexual violence	441	4.9	20.3	2.8	4.4	25.9	53.7	59.8	37.9
▶ P-value		0.736	0.920	0.020	0.082	0.352	0.348	0.95	
▶ Never had a partner	312	8.1	22.3	5.2	4.1	25.2	56.1	57.5	38.5

## CHILDREN AND VIOLENCE

Women are the immediate/direct bearers of violence against women, but children also take part in it, becoming indirect bearers of violence. Being regularly exposed to violence in the family, children have a number of problems related to both physical and psychological health.

The most common psychological problem among children aged 6-12 is being shy or self-contained (49.2%) (Table 64), which, we believe, is due to the family environment, parenting methods. The next most common phenomena are the nightmares and aggression of children aged 6-12. Women who are physically or sexually abused by their partners have higher aggression among their children than children of women who have not been abused by their partners. At the same time, the children aged 6-12 of women who are physically or sexually abused are more likely to have at least two of the problems listed in Table 61 than children of women who have not been abused. **Therefore, we can state that physical or sexual violence used by a partner against women has a direct impact on the psychological and physical health of children.**

**Table 64. Physical and psychological health of children aged 6-12 of women who have been physically and sexually abused**

The proportion of women who mentioned that one of the children ...	Not subjected to violence (N=660) (%)	Subjected to physical/sexual violence (N=137) (%)	P-value	All respondents (N=797) (%)
Has nightmares	19.4	19.0	0.487	19.3
Urinating in bed	11.2	8.0	0.759	10.7
The child is shy or self-conscious	49.8	46.0	0.240	49.2
Aggressive towards other children	19.2	19.7	0.832	19.3
Has had at least two of these issues	26.5	33.6	0.253	26.3
One of these children had to stay in the same class one or more times	0.9	0.7	0.397	0.9
Any of these children have stopped attending school for some time or dropped out of school	2.3	0.7	0.505	2.0

\* - Multiple answers were accepted: refers to the number of cases.

The impact of violence on children's psychological and physical health can be immediate and mediated. Mediated impact is when that consequence is borne by children as a result of the behavior of the mother because of the violence against her. Immediate, when children are present at scenes of violence. **In 34.1% of cases, children were present at scenes of violence (Table 65).** In urban settlements, the number of cases when children are almost always present at violence is higher. We think that one of the reasons is the living conditions. In urban settlements, dwellings are mostly apartment buildings with fewer rooms, and the presence of children in violence becomes inevitable.

**Table 65. Women who have ever been physically abused and whose children were present during the violence**

Frequency of being present during violence	Urban (N=242)(%)	Rural (N=145) (%)	All respondents (N=387)(%)
Never	62.0	62.1	62.0
One time	12.0	11.0	11.6
Several (2-5) times	14.0	17.9	15.5
Many time/almost always	7.4	6.2	7.0
Does not know, refused to answer	4.5	2.8	3.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

## FIRST EXPERIENCE OF SEXUAL INTERCOURSE

The first sexual experience in the Armenian reality largely coincides with the event conditioned by marriage. That is, most women have sex after marriage. **The first sexual experience of women occurs mainly at the age of 18-21 (Table 66).** Moreover, this age group is the highest even when we consider the experience of the first sexual intercourse not in all the respondents, but in those who have ever had sexual intercourse (Table 67).

**Table 66. First experience of sexual intercourse according to all respondents**

Characteristics	All women and girls surveyed (N)	Never had sexual intercourse (%)	By age groups (%)				Refused to answer/no answer (%)
			under the age of 15	at the age of 15-17	at the age of 18-21	a the age of 22 and older	
<b>Settlement</b>							
▶ Urban	1 559	10.9	0.2	10.0	47.6	30.0	1.3
▶ Rural	1 313	11.0	0.2	10.0	44.9	33.1	0.8
<b>Education</b>							
▶ Basic and lower (up to 9th grade)	217	16.6	0.0	9.7	44.2	28.1	1.4
▶ Secondary/senior (10th-12th grade)	1 102	11.1	0.1	11.3	42.5	34.2	0.9
▶ Vocational/secondary specialized	840	11.1	0.4	8.5	48.6	30.8	0.7
▶ Tertiary/postgraduate	713	9.5	0.3	10.0	50.1	28.5	1.7
<b>Age</b>							
▶ 15-24	355	12.4	0.3	13.2	46.5	25.9	1.7
▶ 25-34	741	8.1	0.1	11.7	51.6	26.9	1.6
▶ 35-44	753	9.6	0.1	9.3	47.7	32.0	1.3
▶ 45-59	1 023	13.6	0.3	8.1	41.5	36.2	0.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 872</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>46.3</b>	<b>31.4</b>	<b>1.1</b>

**Table 67. First experience of sexual intercourse among women who have ever had sexual intercourse**

Characteristics	All respondents who had sexual intercourse (N)	By age groups (%)			
		under the age of 15	at the age of 15-17	at the age of 18-21	a the age of 22 and older
<b>Settlement</b>					
▶ Urban	1 389	0.2	11.4	53.3	33.6
▶ Rural	1 168	0.3	11.2	50.5	37.2
<b>Education</b>					
▶ Basic and lower (up to 9th grade)	185	0.0	11.4	53.0	34.1
▶ Secondary/senior (10th-12th grade)	980	0.1	12.7	47.7	38.4
▶ Vocational/secondary specialized	747	0.4	9.6	54.5	34.6
▶ Tertiary/postgraduate	645	0.3	11.0	55.3	31.5

Characteristics	All respondents who had sexual intercourse (N)	By age groups (%)			
		under the age of 15	at the age of 15-17	at the age of 18-21	a the age of 22 and older
<b>Age</b>					
▶ 15-24	311	0.3	15.1	53.1	29.6
▶ 25-34	681	0.1	12.8	56.0	29.3
▶ 35-44	681	0.1	10.3	52.7	35.4
▶ 45-59	884	0.3	9.6	48.0	41.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 557</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>52.1</b>	<b>35.3</b>

**Forced first-time sexual encounters are more common in rural settlements** (Table 68). If in urban settlements 0.4% of women were forced to have sex, then in rural settlements - 0.9%. According to the survey results, the higher the age of the woman (35-59), the higher the cases of having sex voluntarily.

**Table 68. Nature of the first sexual experience for respondents who have ever had sexual intercourse**

Characteristics	All respondents who had sexual intercourse (N)	Wanted to have sexual intercourse (%)	Did not want to have sexual intercourse (%)	Forced to have sexual intercourse (%)
<b>Settlement</b>				
▶ Urban	1 389	81.7	14.1	0.4
▶ Rural	1 168	86.2	11.0	0.9
<b>Education</b>				
▶ Basic and lower (up to 9th grade)	185	78.9	16.8	0.0
▶ Secondary/senior (10th-12th grade)	980	84.4	12.0	0.4
▶ Vocational/secondary specialized	747	84.6	11.9	0.9
▶ Tertiary/postgraduate	645	83.2	13.4	0.9
<b>Age</b>				
▶ 15-24	311	78.1	15.8	0.3
▶ 25-34	681	77.3	16.6	0.7
▶ 35-44	681	88.8	8.7	0.7
▶ 45-59	884	86.7	11.6	0.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 557<sup>16</sup></b>	<b>83.7</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>0.7</b>

\*- The percentage is calculated in all respondents without considering "don't know and refused answers".

**The younger the woman, the higher the cases of forced sexual intercourse with her.** Forced sexual intercourse is most common among children under the age of 15 (Table 69). Among those aged 15-17 we meet more cases when they did not want to, but had sex. And the vast majority of women at the age 22 and older (91.2%) had their first sexual intercourse of their own will. **The higher the age of the woman, the more experience of having sex of her own will.**

<sup>16</sup> 3 respondents refused to answer.

**Table 69. Nature of the first sexual experience according to the respondents' age**

Age groups	All respondents who had sexual intercourse (N)	Wanted to have sexual intercourse (%)	Did not want to have sexual intercourse (%)	Forced to have sexual intercourse (%)
Under the age of 15	6	50.0	16.7	33.3
15-17	287	70.0	25.4	1.0
18-21	1 331	83.3	14.4	0.5
22 and older	902	91.2	6.4	0.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 557</b>	<b>83.7</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>0.7</b>

\*- The percentage is calculated in all respondents without considering "don't know and refused answers".

## WOMEN'S FEELINGS AT THE END OF THE INTERVIEW

The survey referred to rather delicate and closed topics, in particular, sexual violence and cruel physical violence, to which women were exposed both by their partners and by strangers or relatives. It is difficult to survive all that and talk about those topics. It was especially difficult for women who were talking about what had happened to them for the first time. Taking into account the hypersensitivity and complexity of the topic under study, at the end of the interview, the interviewers tried to understand how women feel while talking about violence.

Based on the survey data, we can state that the interview did not psychologically harm women; moreover, women who were physically and sexually abused by their partner felt better at the end of the interview than those who were not abused ([Table 70](#)). The same can be said about women who feel bad at the end of the interview: those who have been abused felt better than those who have not been abused. **We can conclude that after raising the issue of violence, women's feelings improve or remain the same.**

Compared to the average length of interviews, the longest interviews were with women who had been sexually abused ([Table 70](#)). This is mainly due to the fact that women find it more difficult to raise the issue of sexual abuse by their partners.

**Table 70. Women's feelings at the end of the interview and the duration of the interview according to the experience of violence by the partners**

Characteristics	Ever-partnered women (N=2 560) (%)	<i>including:</i>			
		Not subjected to violence (%)	Subjected only to sexual abuse (%)	Subjected only to physical abuse (%)	Subjected to physical and sexual abuse (%)
<b>After the interview, the women felt ...</b>					
▶ Well, better	46.6	47.4	46.6	46.0	47.6
▶ Bad, worse	5.4	4.6	10.2	19.0	3.7
▶ Same, no difference	47.9	48.0	43.1	34.9	48.8
<b>Interview duration according to respondents *, minutes</b>					
▶ Average	18.0	18.0	22.0	21.0	19.0
▶ Median	18.0	15.0	20.0	20.0	15.0

\* - The calculation does not include 55 cases that lasted less than 10 minutes

## CONCLUSIONS

### **Physical violence used by the partner**

- ▶ In Armenia 14.8% of ever-partnered women aged 15-59 have been subjected to physical violence by their husband/intimate partner.
- ▶ Slapping and throwing an object at an ever-partnered woman is the most common type of violence to which 13.2% of women have been exposed.
- ▶ As the forms of physical violence intensify, the number of women exposed to them decreases.
- ▶ The higher the level of education of a woman, the higher is the prevalence of moderate and severe physical violence.
- ▶ Rural women are more likely to be subjected to moderate and severe physical violence than urban women.
- ▶ Among the women who were physically abused by their partner, women in the age group of 45-59 were predominating.
- ▶ The higher the level of education of women, the lower the incidence of beatings and slapping during pregnancy.
- ▶ The majority of women in Armenia (67%) do nothing to protect themselves from or respond to violence. Only 33% of women have ever counteracted to the partner violence.
- ▶ Urban women have a more intolerant attitude in terms of counteracting to the physical violence used against them.
- ▶ In 39.2% of cases of female counteracting against the partner's physical violence, it has stopped.

### **Sexual violence used by the partner**

- ▶ In Armenia 6.6% of ever-partnered women aged 15-59 have been sexually abused by their husband/intimate partner.
- ▶ Manifestations of sexual violence are more common in urban settlements than in rural ones.
- ▶ 62.5% of women who are sexually abused in Armenia, are also subjected to physical violence.
- ▶ 27.8% of those who are physically abused are also sexually abused.
- ▶ The lower a woman's level of education, the greater the incidence of sexual and physical abuse.
- ▶ The lower a woman's age, the higher the prevalence of sexual violence.
- ▶ 20.6% of women who have been sexually or physically abused by their partner have received any injuries.
- ▶ The higher a woman's educational level, the more physical or sexual violence perpetrated by her partner has a severe impact on her mental health.

### **Injuries resulting from sexual or physical violence by a partner, their types, prevalence and frequency**

- ▶ Settlement type is one of the factors determining a woman's health condition. 58.2% of urban and 60.8% of rural ever married women rated their health condition as good or excellent.
- ▶ In Armenia, 7.2% of ever-partnered women have seriously considered ending their life and 1.5% have attempted suicide.
- ▶ Women living in rural areas, regardless of the fact of being subjected to violence, think more about suicide than those living in urban areas.
- ▶ Urban women not subjected to violence have attempted suicide more than rural women.

### **Psychological violence used by the partner**

- ▶ In Armenia 6.6% of ever-partnered women aged 15-59 have been subjected to psychological violence by their husband/intimate partner.
- ▶ Psychological violence is slightly more common in urban settlements (32.6%) than rural (31.0%).

- ▶ The higher the level of education of a person the more are the cases of psychological violence.
- ▶ Partner control mechanisms are more common in women living in rural areas.
- ▶ The younger a woman gets the more types and prevalence of the practice of controlling behavior by the partner increase.
- ▶ A woman's place of residence determines her behavior (quantity) to be controlled by her partner. Woman's behavior control types 1, 2, and 3 are common in urban settlements, while 4 or more control behaviors are common in rural settlements.
- ▶ The higher the level of education of a person, the more control mechanisms are applied to her. Simultaneously 4 or more control mechanisms are applied by the partner towards women who have higher or postgraduate education.
- ▶ The younger the person, the higher the manifestation of the types of control behavior applied to her. Women in the age group of 20-24 are the most controlled by their partners.
- ▶ 5.3% of ever-partnered women were afraid of their partner for their lives.

### **Psychological and socio-cultural preconditions contributing to partner violence**

- ▶ The fact of being abused in the family at an early age has a direct effect on a man abusing his partner.
- ▶ The lower the level of education of the partner, the higher the cases of violence against the wife. Conversely, the higher the level of education of the partner, the lower the cases of violence used by them.
- ▶ The higher the age of the abuser, the higher the probability of the cases of physical abuse of a woman and the lower the cases of sexual abuse.
- ▶ Abuser's occupation is one of the important factors determining the violence. Men who do not have any gainful employment are more likely to physically abuse their wives.
- ▶ The use of alcohol has a direct effect on the use of physical violence by the abuser.

### **Impact of violence and overcoming it**

- ▶ 43.3% of women who have been physically or sexually abused by their partner are silent about the violence.
- ▶ Women who have been sexually abused prefer not to talk about it. 44.7% of women who were physically abused and 48% of those who were sexually abused did not tell anyone about the violence.
- ▶ 12% of women who have been physically or sexually abused by their partner have sought help from a responsible institution. They applied to those structures when they could no longer tolerate the violence or received a bad injury as a result of the violence.
- ▶ 23.5% of abused women have ever left home because of violence.
- ▶ 63% of women who were physically and sexually abused by their partner and left home for the last time returned to their husband's house / family.
- ▶ 76.5% of women who have been physically or sexually abused by their partner continue to live with the abuser, never leaving home.

### **Prevalence of violence by prosperity**

- ▶ The number of rooms used for sleeping is directly related to the manifestations of violence. In HHs where one room is used for sleeping, physical violence used by the partner is more common. As the number of rooms used for sleeping increases, the prevalence of physical violence decreases.
- ▶ As the number of rooms used for sleeping increases, the prevalence of sexual violence increases. Probably, one reason for this is that in the case of one or two bedrooms, there are likely to be other HH members in the area, which can be an impediment for the abuser to sexually assault a woman.

### **Wedding ceremony, its components and the violence**

- ▶ Women who have not had a wedding ceremony to formally register their union are more likely to be subjected to physical and sexual violence by their partner.
- ▶ 76% of women married by any wedding ceremony included a dowry.
- ▶ Women whose marriage did not include a dowry were more likely to be physically and psychologically abused by their partners.

### **Violence and reproductive health**

- ▶ The most common age for women to become pregnant is 18-21 years old.
- ▶ The higher the age of the woman the higher the number of women who have a son.
- ▶ 18.7% of women have been physically or sexually abused during pregnancy.
- ▶ 40.2% of ever-partnered women have had an abortion. The miscarriage rate is also high, which is 25.7%. Moreover, among women who have had/did an abortion, stillbirth and miscarriage, there are more women who have been abused by their partners than those who have not been abused.
- ▶ Women whose partners prefer to have a boy are more likely to be physically or sexually abused - 33.8%.
- ▶ Among women with live births during the last 6 years, there is a significant relationship between physical or sexual violence by a partner and a woman not wanting to get pregnant (P-value = 0.021).
- ▶ Boys aged 6-12 run away from home three times more often than girls.
- ▶ 46% of ever-partnered women have ever used any method to avoid or delay pregnancy.
- ▶ There are obvious differences in the use of contraceptives, depending on the woman's educational level, age and settlement type.
- ▶ In the last 4 weeks, 62% of women have had any pain or discomfort (unpleasant feeling), but a total of 24.5% of them have sought medical help.
- ▶ Physical and psychological abuse by a partner contributes to women's feelings of nervousness, despair, restlessness, tension, depression, and uselessness.
- ▶ 8.7% of women have ever smoked/smokes throughout lifetime.
- ▶ The majority of women, 43.4%, drink alcohol on occasion, 2.1% drink it every day or 1-2 times a week. The number of women who never drink is 42.7%.
- ▶ According to the age characteristic, the probability of meeting cases is the highest among women aged 25-29. The incidence of violence is high, especially among those with tertiary/postgraduate education.

### **Restrictions on women's economic activity**

- ▶ Restrictions on women's economic activity are more common in urban settlements.
- ▶ The higher a woman's level of education, the less she is subject to economic activity restrictions.

### **Prevalence of non-partner physical violence**

- ▶ 5.4% of women have been physically abused by a non-partner throughout their lives from the age of 15.
- ▶ In the last 12 months, cases of physical violence by a non-partner were more common in rural settlements.
- ▶ The lower a woman's level of education, the higher the prevalence of physical violence.
- ▶ In the case of a non-partner, the role of abuser is mainly played by female members of the family (41%), in which the main role is played by mothers and sisters. 34% of women are abused by male family members.
- ▶ The number of women who have been sexually abused by a non-partner is 3.1%.
- ▶ The prevalence of non-partner sexual violence is higher in rural settlements and among women with secondary education.
- ▶ 8.8% of adolescent girls (under the age of 15) had different parts of their body touched against their will.
- ▶ 68.8% of women are sexually abused in public transport in the presence of other people.

### **First experience of sexual intercourse**

- ▶ The first sexual experience of women takes place mainly at the age of 18-21.
- ▶ In urban settlements the age of marriage is lower than in rural settlements. Marriages under the age of 21 are common in urban settlements, and in those aged 22 and over in rural settlements.
- ▶ Forced first-time sexual encounters are more common in rural settlements.
- ▶ The higher the age of a woman (35-59) the higher the prevalence of voluntary sexual intercourse. The lower the age of the woman (20-34), the higher the cases of having sex without desire.
- ▶ The lower a woman's age, the higher the percentage of forced sexual intercourse with her. These cases are the most common among children under the age of 15.
- ▶ The higher a woman's age, the higher the experience of having sex of her own will.