

NATIONAL POPULATION SURVEY

Violence Against Women and Girls in Albania





*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

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This survey was conducted by INSTAT with technical expertise provided by and report writing led by Dr. Robin Haarr, international consultant, supported by UNDP and UN Women and financial contribution through the Government of Australia in the framework of the regional gender statistics and SDGs project “Women Count” and the Government of Sweden in the framework of the UN Joint Programme on Ending Violence Against Women in Albania. Opinions and views expressed in this report do not necessarily reflect those of UNDP, UN Women and their donors.

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DEFINITIONS

Coercive Controlling Behaviours *“A strategic course of oppressive behaviour designed to secure and expand gender-based privilege by depriving women of their rights and liberties and establishing a regime of domination in personal life.”¹*

Dating Violence *“Patterns of abusive behaviours, including emotional, physical, sexual and financial abuse used to exert power and control over a dating partner.”²*
Similarly, the European Institute for Gender Equality defines dating violence as a “type of intimate partner violence occurring between two people in a close relationship.”³

Domestic Violence *“All acts of physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence that occur within the family or domestic unit or between former or current spouses or partners, whether or not the perpetrator shares or has shared the same residence with the victim.”⁴*
Albania’s Law on Measures against Violence in Family Relations defines domestic Violence as “any act of violence defined under paragraph 1 hereof that occurs within a family or a household, exercised between family members as defined under paragraph 7 hereof, that are or have

been in family relationships, regardless of whether the perpetrator shares or used to share the same dwelling with the victim” (amended 2018).

Article 130/a of the Criminal Code of Albania defines domestic violence as “beating and any other act of violence against the person who is spouse, former-spouse, or former cohabitant, next to kin or relatives by marriage with the author of the penal offense, with the consequence of attacking his physical, psycho-social and economic integrity.” Article 130/a also recognizes “serious threat for murder or hard injury against the person who is spouse, former spouse, cohabitant or former cohabitant, next to kin or relatives by marriage with the author of the penal offense, of the consequence of attacking his psychical integrity.”

Economic Violence *“Acts of control and monitoring of the behaviour of an individual in terms of the use and distribution of money, and the constant threat of dying economic resources.”⁵*

Gender-Based Violence *“Violence that is directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately.”^{6,7} It constitutes a breach of the fundamental right to life, liberty, security, dignity, equality between women and men, non-discrimination and physical and mental integrity.⁸*

Intimate Partner Violence *“Any behaviour within an intimate relationship that causes physical, psychological or sexual harm to those in the relationship, including acts of physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse and controlling behaviours.”⁹*

Physical Violence *“Any act which causes physical harm as a result of unlawful physical force. Physical violence can take the form of, among others, serious and minor assault, deprivation of liberty and manslaughter.”¹⁰*

Psychological Violence *“Any act which causes psychological harm to an individual. Psychological violence can take the form of, for example, coercion, defamation, verbal insult or harassment.”¹¹*

Sexual Harassment *“Any form of unwanted verbal, non-verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature with the purpose or effect of violating the dignity of a person, in particular when creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment, is subject to criminal or other legal sanction.”¹²*

The UN System Model Policy on Sexual Harassment defines sexual harassment in the workplace as “any unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature that might reasonably be expected or be perceived to cause offense or humiliation, when such conduct interferes with work, is made a condition of employment or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment. Sexual harassment may occur in the workplace or in connection with work. While typically involving a pattern of conduct, sexual harassment may take the form of a single incident. In assessing the reasonableness of expectations or perceptions, the perspective of the person who is the target of the conduct shall be considered.”

Sexual Violence *“Any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances or acts to traffic, or other act directed against*

a person's sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting, including but not limited to home and work."¹³

Social norms *"Widely held beliefs about what is typical and appropriate in a reference group. Social norms are shared beliefs about others. This includes a) beliefs about what others in a group 'actually do' (what is typical behaviour) and b) what others in a group think others 'ought to do' (what is appropriate behaviour). These beliefs shape the 'social expectations' within a group of people. Social norm may or may not be based on accurate beliefs about attitudes and behaviours of others."*¹⁴

Stalking *"Repetition of acts intruding into a person's life which increase in intensity over time. There are many ways in which such an intrusion can take place. One of them called cyberstalking, is persistent and threatening intrusion online. Stalking causes distress, anxiety or fear. It is a form of violence in itself but can lead to other forms of violence, including murder."*¹⁵
*The European Institute for Gender Equality defines stalking of women as a "form of violence against women defined as repeatedly engaging in threatening conduct directed at a woman, causing her to fear for her safety."*¹⁶
Article 121/a of Albania's Criminal Code defines stalking as "a threat or repeated actions intended to cause a continuous and grave sense of anxiety or fear for a person's security, the security of their relatives or the security of

a person with whom they are related sentimentally, or intended to force them to change their lifestyle"

Violence *"The intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation."*¹⁷
Albania's Law on Measures against Violence in Family Relations defines violence as "any act or failure to act of a person against another person, resulting in violation of the physical, moral, psychological, sexual, social and economic integrity" (amended 2018).

Violence against Women *The United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women defines violence against women as "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life."*
The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic violence defines violence against women as "a violation of human rights and a form of discrimination against women and shall mean all acts of gender-based violence that result in, or are likely to result in, physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life."

ACRONYMS

CCR	Coordinated Community Response
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms Discrimination against Women
DFAT	Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
EA	Enumeration Area
EU	European Union
EVAW	Ending Violence against Women
EVAWG	Ending Violence against Women and Girls
FRAEU	Agency for Fundamental Rights
GoA	Government of Albania
GREVIO	Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence
GWI	Global Women's Institute
INSTAT	Albanian Institute of Statistics
MODHI	Information Module
MODHL	Module of Household Structure
MODMA	Marriage Module
MODDV	Module of Domestic Violence
MODDA	Module of Dating Violence
MODNP	Module of Non-Partner Violence
MODSH	Module of Sexual Harassment
MODST	Module of Stalking
MODSNA	Module of Social Norms and Attitudes
MoHSP	Ministry of Health and Social Protection
NVAWS	National Violence against Women and Girls Survey
MoI	Ministry of Interior
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
NDVS	National Survey on Domestic Violence
NVAWG	National Violence Against Women Survey
STI	Sexual Transmitted Infections
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
VAW	Violence against Women
VAWG	Violence against Women and Girls
WHO	World Health Organization

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is a pervasive violation of human rights and a global public health problem of epidemic proportions. VAWG manifests in various forms of physical, sexual, psychological, and economic violence that occur in public and private spaces. VAWG undermines the mental and physical health and well-being of women and girls and can have a negative impact on their long-term sense of safety, stability, and peace. VAWG also has serious implications for the development and advancement of women, and their contribution to the economy and national development.

VAWG is not a new phenomenon in Albania, it has deep roots in the patriarchal traditions and customs that have long-shaped Albania, including strict gender identities and roles, patriarchal authority, adherence to an honour-and-shame system, customs of hierarchal ordering within the family, and intergenerational family control.

With technical assistance and support from UNDP and UNICEF, Albania's Institute of Statistics (INSTAT) conducted the 2007 National Domestic Violence Survey (NDVS), with UNPD support and technical assistance, INSTAT conducted the 2013 NDVS. The 2018 National Survey on VAWG used a similar methodology and data collection tools as the 2013 NDVS to collect reliable data on the nature and prevalence of intimate partner domestic violence, and was extended to collect data on dating violence, non-partner violence, sexual harassment, stalking, and help-seeking behaviours of VAWG survivors. This survey also measured social norms related to VAWG. It is important to monitor the prevalence of VAWG

in Albania and cross-sectional data helps those who are responsible for decision-making and policy formation understand patterns and trends over time and the impact of EVAWG initiatives.

RESEARCH DESIGN

The 2018 National VAWG Survey in Albania was developed to measure the nature and extent of five different types of VAWG (intimate partner domestic violence, dating violence, non-partner violence, sexual harassment, and, stalking) and social norms related to VAWG. The study consisted of a national population-based household survey conducted across each of the 12 prefectures in Albania. A stratified sample design was used for selecting women for sampling. The goal was to generate a sample of women 18-74 that would allow for the production of statistically reliable national estimates of the prevalence of VAWG.

Sample of Women

The final sample of women included 3,443 households and women age 18 to 74 years. The sample was not equally distributed across prefectures as more women were sampled in Tirana (27.1%), the capital city which has a much larger population, and in Fier (11.5%) and Elbasen (10.6%), compared to Kukes (3.0%) and Gjirokaster (2.6%) where far fewer women were sampled. There was a fairly equal distribution of women sampled across each of the age groups. Women ranged in age from 18 to 74 years with an average age of 43.6 years. In terms of education, 42.4% of women had a lower secondary education (8-9 years), 27.8% had a upper secondary education, and 19.7% had a university education; only 7.7% of women had only a primary education or less.

Chart 1. Experiences of violence against women and girls



Note: Percentages will not total 100% as respondents may have experienced more than one type of violence

The majority of women sampled were currently married and/or living with a male partner; in particular, 73.3% were currently married and living together with a male; 20.3% were not currently married or living with a male partner. Only 4.1% were widowed, 1.2% were divorced, and .2% were separated or broken up with their current male husband/ boyfriend. The age at which most women first married or lived together with a man was 18-24 years of age.

Among the sample of women, 80.9% had ever been pregnant and 79.8% had ever given birth; only .9% were pregnant at the time of the survey. In addition, 37.4% of women had a child(ren) 17 years of age or younger living with them.

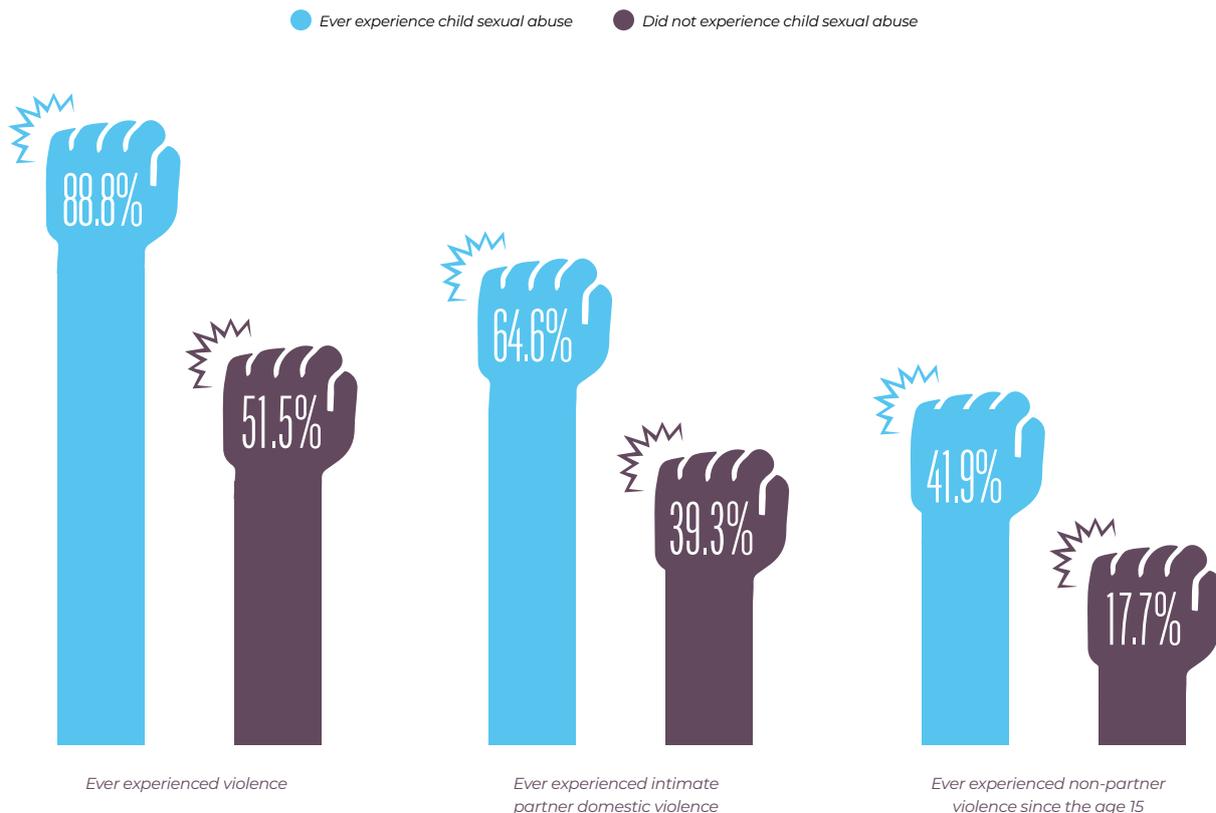
VAWG AT A GLANCE

Chart 1 reveals the proportion of women 18-74 years in Albania who experienced violence during their lifetime (ever) and in the 12 months prior to the survey (current). Overall, 1 out of 2 or 52.9% of women

18-74 years 'ever' experienced one or more of the five different types of violence (intimate partner violence, dating violence, non-partner violence, sexual harassment and/or stalking) during their lifetime. In terms of intimate partner violence, 47.0% of women (those who were or had been married and/or lived with a partner) 'ever' experienced intimate partner domestic violence, and 2 out of 3 or 65.8% of women (those who were never been married and never lived with a male partner, but have been involved in a relationship with a male without living together) 'ever' experienced dating violence. Among all women age 18-74, 18.2% 'ever' experienced non-partner violence, 18.1% 'ever' experienced sexual harassment, and, 12.6% 'ever' experienced stalking.

In terms of current experiences of violence, Table 1 shows that 1 out of 3 or 36.6% of women 'currently' experienced violence. In particular, 1 out of 3 or 33.7% of women (those who were or had been married and/or lived with a male partner) 'currently' experienced

Chart 2. Relationship between child sexual abuse and violence in adulthood



intimate partner domestic violence, 61.8% of women (those who were never been married and never lived with a male partner, but have been involved in a relationship with a male without living together, such as dating or engaged) 'currently' experienced dating violence. Among all women 18-74 years, 3.4% 'currently' experienced non-partner violence, 8.5% were experiencing sexual harassment and 6.9% were experiencing stalking.

Analysis revealed 3 out of 4 or 75.8% women who experienced non-partner violence since age 15 also experienced intimate partner domestic violence; women who experienced non-partner violence since age 15 were two times more likely to experience intimate partner domestic violence (75.8%), compared to women who did not experience non-partner violence since age 15 (32.1%).

The survey also found that 3.1% of women age 18-74 had been sexually abused during childhood (had been touched sexually when they did not want or was made to do something sexual that they did not want). Chart 2 shows that women who experienced child sexual abuse were more likely to experience sexual and/or gender-based violence in their lifetime (88.8%), compared to women who did not experience child sexual abuse (51.5%). In addition, women who experienced child sexual abuse were more likely to experience intimate partner domestic violence (64.6%) and two times more likely to experience non-partner violence (41.9%), compared to women who did not experience child sexual abuse (39.2% and 17.7% respectively).

SOCIAL NORMS RELATED TO VAWG

It is important to understand the power of social norms, which reach into all corners of people's public and private lives every day. Individuals may conform to social norms in their external behaviours, but privately disagree with the social norms. While social norms, personal attitudes, and behaviours are not mutually exclusive, they often reinforce each other.

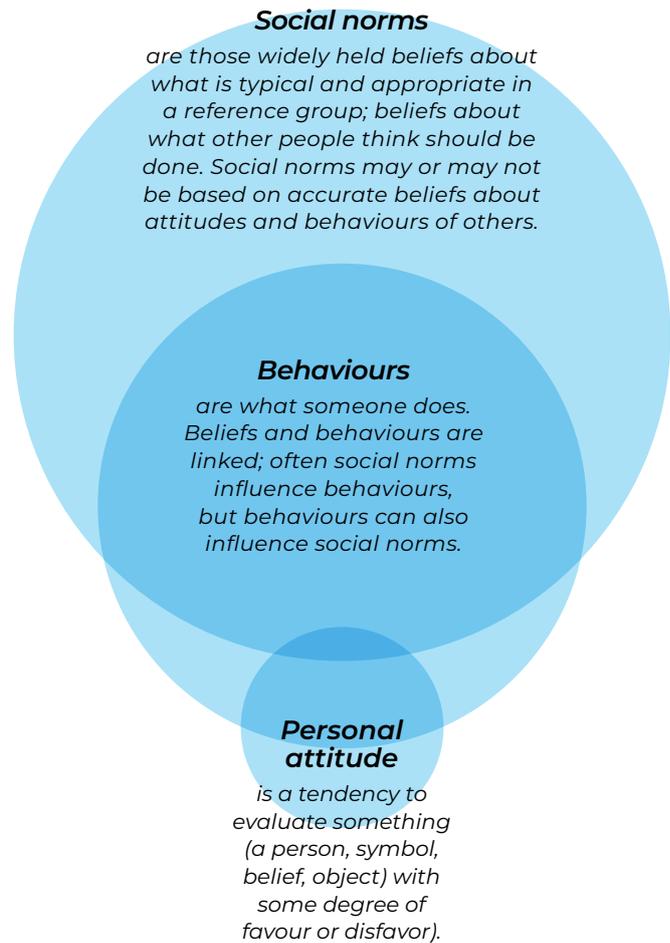
Social Norms Related to Domestic Violence

The survey found that 1 out of 2 or 52.2% of women age 18-74 years maintained all or most people in the community believe violence between a husband and wife is a private matter and that others should not intervene, and 46.5% maintained all or most people in the community believe a woman should tolerate some violence to keep her family together. In addition, 1 out of 4 or 27.5% of women maintained all or most people in the community believe when a woman is beat by her husband that she is partly to blame or at fault and that a woman should be ashamed or embarrassed to talk to anyone outside of her family about abuse or violence in her marriage. These social norms can contribute to the prevalence of intimate partner domestic violence against women and keep battered women trapped in abusive and violent relationships.

Despite these social norms related to intimate partner domestic violence, only 13.5% of women maintained all or most men in the community sometimes hit or beat their wives, and 11.4% maintained all or most men in the community sometimes hit or beat their wives for refusing to have sexual intercourse.

Social Norms Related to Sexual Violence

Regarding social norms related to sexual violence, 1 out of 4 or 26.1% of women age 18-74 maintained all or most people in the community believe a woman should be ashamed or embarrassed to talk to anyone if she is raped, and 1 out of 5 or 21.2% of women maintained all or most people in the community believe if a woman is raped, she has probably done something careless to put herself in that situation.



Perceived Seriousness of VAWG

The survey found that 3 out of 4 or 75.4% of women reported domestic violence against women is a major problem in Albania. In addition, 70.8% of women reported sexual violence against women and girls is a major problem in Albania, 69.9% reported sexual harassment of women and girls is a major problem, and 68.4% reported stalking of women is a major problem in Albania. Given these findings, it is not surprising the majority of women maintained it is very important to have laws in Albania that protect women and girls from violence in their marriage/families (83.0%) and from sexual assault and rape (81.9%).

In addition, 79.5% of women found it acceptable for doctors/nurses to ask women whether their injuries were caused by sexual and/or gender-based violence.

INTIMATE PARTNER DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Chart 3 shows the proportion of women who experienced each of the different types of intimate partner domestic violence. In terms of lifetime experiences, 47.0% of women experienced intimate partner domestic violence. More specifically, 41.2% of women 'ever' experienced coercive controlling behaviours, 31.4% experienced psychological violence, 18.0% experienced physical violence, 8.6% experienced sexual violence, and 7.0% experienced economic violence. In fact, 1 out of 5 or 21.0% of women 'ever' experienced physical and/or sexual violence, or both, in their marriage/intimate relationships.

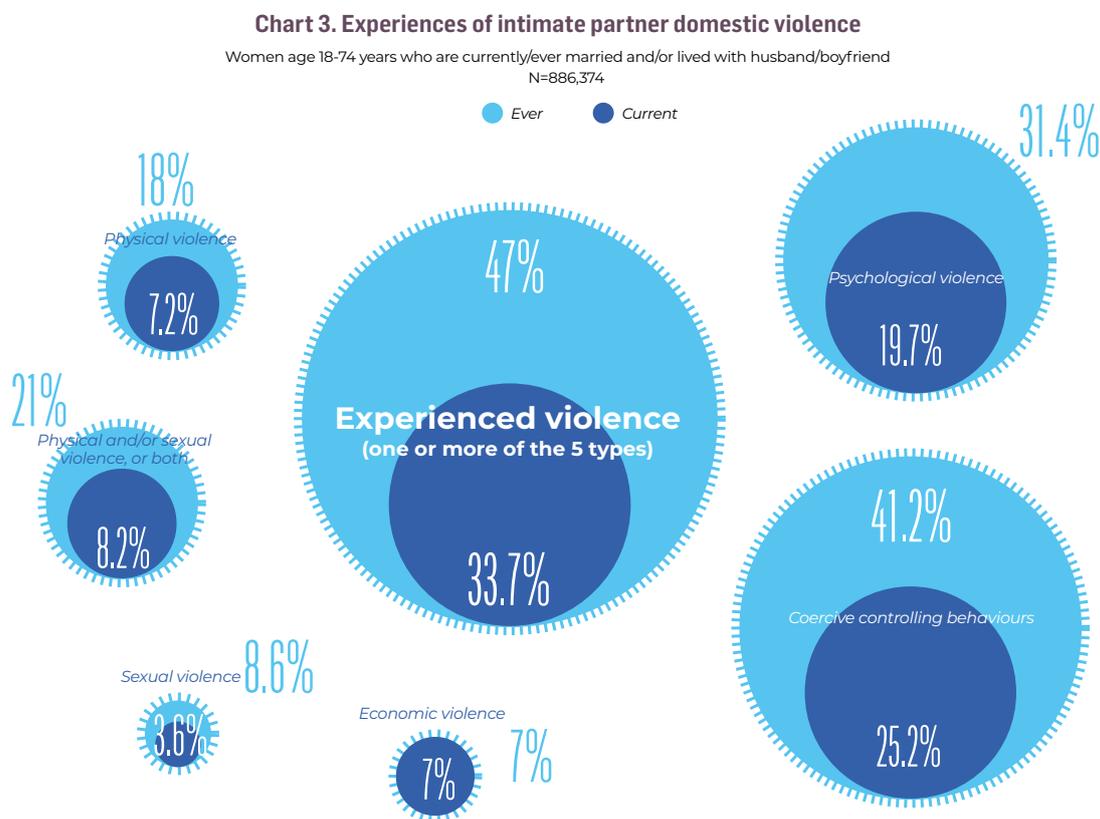
In terms of current experience, 1 out of 3 or 33.7% of women experienced intimate partner violence in the 12 months prior to the survey. More specifically, 1 out of 4 or 25.2% of women 'currently' experienced coercive controlling behaviours, 19.7% 'currently' experienced psychological violence, 7.2% were experiencing physical violence, 7.0% were experiencing economic

violence, and 3.6% were experiencing sexual violence. It is notable that 8.2% of women 'currently' experienced physical and/or sexual violence, or both.

Women age 18-24 years were most likely experience intimate partner domestic violence (55.8% ever, 55.8% current). As women age, their 'current' experiences of intimate partner domestic violence decreased, with only 25.8% of women age 55-64 and 18.2% age 65-74 experiencing intimate partner domestic violence.

When Intimate Partner Domestic Violence Begins

Women who experienced intimate partner domestic violence were asked when the domestic violence began in their marriage. Data revealed 1 out of 4 or 26.1% of women reported domestic violence started within the 1st year of marriage, 23.2% reported the violence began in the 2nd or 3rd years of marriage, 14.9% reported it began in the 4th or 5th years of marriage, and 17.1% reported the violence began six or more years into their marriage.



Note: Percentages will not total 100% as respondents may have experienced more than one type of violence

Physical Violence During Pregnancy

Among women who were currently/ever married and/or living with a husband/partner, 94.9% had ever been pregnant. Among women who had ever been pregnant, 1.1% were hit, slapped, kicked or physically abused during their pregnancy. Among women who 'ever' experienced physical violence, 2.3% were hit, slapped, kicked or physically abused during their pregnancy.

Among women who were hit, slapped, kicked or physically abused during pregnancy, nearly 1 out of 3 or 30.5% reported this happened during their last pregnancy and 10.1% were punched or kicked in the abdomen while pregnant.

When asked who hit, slapped, kicked or physically abused them during their pregnancy, 50.9% of women identified the perpetrator was their current and/or former husband/boyfriend. Some women reported their perpetrators were other family members, including their mother/step-mother (4.3%), father/step-father (4.5%), sister/brother (4.3%), daughter/son (2.5%), other relative (7.3%), mother-in-law (1.6%), father-in-law (1.6%) and other-in-laws (2.6%). Women also reported the perpetrators were teachers (7.3%) and employers or someone at work (2.5%).

In terms of being punched or kicked in the abdomen while pregnant, 79.1% of women reported the perpetrator was their current or former husband/boyfriend and 10.4% reported it was an in-law.

Domestic Violence Injuries

More than 1 out of 2 or 58.8% of women who 'ever' experienced physical violence experienced domestic violence injuries, and nearly 3 out of 4 or 72.4% of women who 'currently' experienced domestic violence experienced domestic violence injuries.

More specifically, 61.1% of women who 'currently' experienced physical violence and more than 1 out of 2 or 56.0% of women who 'ever' experienced physical violence experienced fear, anxiety, depression, feelings of isolation, sleeplessness and/or irritability. In addition, 1 out of 4 or 28.1% of women who

'currently' experienced physical violence and 23.6% who 'ever' experienced physical violence experienced cuts, scratches, aches, redness or swelling and/or other minor marks.

Women also reported experiencing more serious injuries, including: eye injuries, dislocations, sprains and/or blistering from burns (6.5% ever, 12.4% current); miscarriages (2.6% ever, 1.2% current); head injuries, concussions and/or hearing loss (2.0% ever, 2.6% current); abdominal injuries (2.1% ever, 1.0% current); deep wounds, broken bones, broken teeth, blackened or charred skin from burns and/or any other serious injury (1.2% ever, 1.2% current); permanent injury and/or disfigurement (1.1% ever, 0.0% current); and loss of memory (0.5% ever, 0.2% current). Battered women often experience more than one type of domestic violence injuries.

Findings also revealed that 5.6% of women experienced physical violence were hurt bad enough by their husband/partner that they needed health care, even if they did not receive it, and 23.1% of women had to spend nights in a hospital due to their domestic violence injuries. Only 13.4% told a health worker that domestic violence was the cause of their injuries.

Disruptions to Work Due to Domestic Violence

One out of four or 25.0% of women who experienced physical violence and domestic violence injuries in the 12 months prior to the survey (current) reported they were unable to perform household chores and/or take care of their children because of domestic violence. In addition, 8.9% of women reported they were unable to go to work (missed days at work) due to domestic violence, and 0.5% of women lost a job or source of income due to domestic violence.

Sexual Violence, Use of Birth Control, Risk of STDs

Women who experienced sexual violence by their husbands/partners (27.1%) were nearly nine times more likely to report their husband/partner ever refused to use or tried to stop them from using a method of birth control to avoid getting pregnant, compared to women who did not experience sexual violence from their husband/partner (3.1%).

The most common way that husbands/partners restricted women from using birth control was by means of psychological violence: 3 out of 4 or 79.7% of women reported their husband/partner ridiculed them for using birth control; 1 out of 2 or 56.4% reported their husband/partner screamed/got mad at them for using birth control; 1 out of 2 or 51.9% of women reported their husband/partner threatened to beat them; 1 out of 3 or 36.7% reported their husbands/partners threatened to leave them or throw them out of the house for using birth control; 18.3% reported their husbands/partners accused them of not being a good woman; and, 13.9% of women reported their husbands/partners threw away the contraceptives.

Women who were currently experiencing sexual violence (20.8%) were nearly two times more likely to worry about getting a STI and three times more likely to have had a STI (7.8%), compared to women who were not currently experiencing sexual violence in their marriage/intimate relationships (11.3% and 2.1% respectively). Women who 'currently' experienced sexual violence (36.0%) were ten times more likely to have had a STI in the past 12 months, compared to women who were not currently experiencing sexual violence in their marriage/intimate relationship (5.8%).

Alcohol and Domestic Violence

Women who 'currently' experienced domestic violence (66.8%) were two times more likely to see their husband/partner drunk most days in the past 12 months, compared to women who were not 'currently' experiencing domestic violence (33.2%). Women who saw their husband/partner drunk most days (86.1%) and weekly (77.5%) were most likely to experience fear, anxiety, depression, feeling of isolation, sleeplessness and/or irritability, compared to women who saw their husband/partner drunk once a month (42.4%), less than once a month (59.8%) and never (49.2%). Women who saw their husband/partner drunk most days (36.6%) and weekly (55.1%) were also more likely to experience cuts, scratches, aches, redness or swelling and/or other minor marks, compared to women who saw their husband/partner drunk once a month (12.1%), less than once a month (21.8%) and never (21.6%) in the past 12 months.

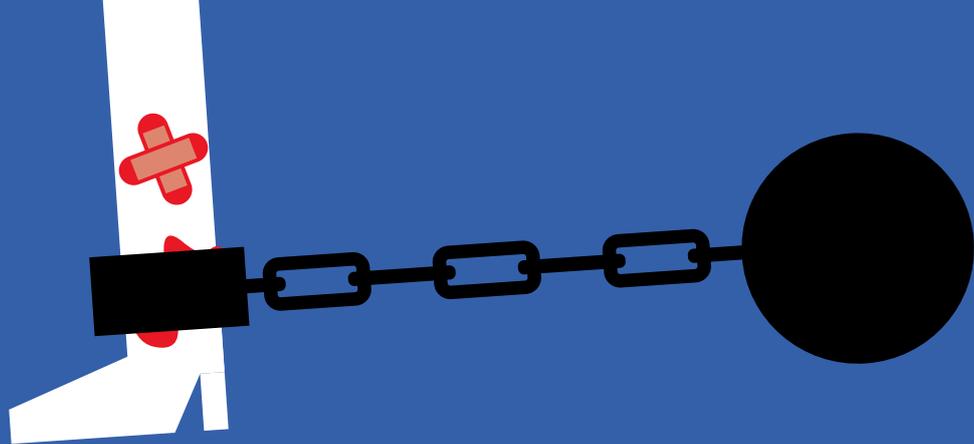
When it comes to women's experiences with more serious domestic violence injuries, husbands/partners alcohol consumption habits were significant. Women who saw their husband drunk most days (14.5%) and weekly (11.9%) were three to four times more likely to experience eye injuries, sprains and/or blistering from burns, compared to women who saw their husbands/partners drunk once a month (3.5%), less than once a month (5.5%) and never (3.7%). Women who saw their husband drunk on a weekly basis (10.9%) were four to ten times more likely to experience head injuries, concussions and/or hearing loss, and seven times more likely to experience a miscarriage (14.8%); whereas women who saw their husbands/partners drunk most days (5.0%) were two to seven times more likely experience head injuries. Also, women who saw their husband/partner drunk on a weekly basis (6.8%) were most likely to experience permanent injuries and/or disfigurement.

Children's Exposure to Domestic Violence

Domestic violence does not only affect the women who are battered and abused, but also has negative effects on children who are direct and/or indirect victims. The survey revealed 47.7% of women who experienced domestic violence had children age 0-17 living in their households.

Based upon the sample of 830,152 women age 18-74 who had children age 0-17 living in their households and the number of children each of those women had, it was calculated that there was a total of 591,476 children age 0-17 living in the households that were surveyed. Further calculations were conducted to assess the number of children living in household where women reported experiencing domestic violence (ever and current) in an effort to document how many children were exposed to domestic violence in their life times and in the past 12 months. Based upon these calculations an estimated 286,498 children age 0-17 were exposed to domestic violence in their lifetime (ever), and 246,707 were exposed to domestic violence in the 12 months prior to the interview (current).

Children age 5-17 exposed to domestic violence in the 12 months prior to the interview (current) were



61.1% of women who 'currently' experienced physical violence and more than 1 out of 2 or 56.0% of women who 'ever' experienced physical violence experienced fear, anxiety, depression, feelings of isolation, sleeplessness and/or irritability.

two times more likely to have frequent nightmares (25.3%) compared to children who were not exposed to domestic violence (9.5%). In addition, children age 5-17 exposed to domestic violence in the 12 months prior to the interview (current) were three times more likely to wet their bed often (20.4%), be very timid or withdrawn (21.5%) and to act aggressive with their mother and/or other children (6.9%), compared to children who were not exposed to domestic violence (6.7%, 7.1% and 1.9% respectively). These findings are based upon information provided by the mothers of these children; children were not interviewed in this survey.

Help-Seeking Behaviours among Battered Women

Only 16.9% of women who 'currently' experienced domestic violence told someone about the violence, and 8.4% sought help for domestic violence; women who 'currently' experienced physical and/or sexual violence were nearly two times more likely to tell someone about the violence (30.8%) and two times more likely to seek help (18.5%). Most battered women in Albania continue to suffer in silence despite ongoing efforts to raise public awareness about domestic violence and newly created domestic violence legislation and victim support services.

When women seek help for domestic violence, most women sought help from their own family (98.9%). Some women also sought help from their husband/partner's family (40.4%). Although few, some women sought help from informal networks, such as neighbours (11.9%), friends (6.7%), and religious leaders (1.7%). Far fewer women sought help from formal networks, such as police (4.4%), lawyers (3.4%), doctors/health workers (3.1%), judges (2.8%), a social service agency (1.6%), and a shelter for women and girls (0.4%). No women sought help from the helpline or local domestic violence coordinator.

The most common reasons battered women sought help was because friends and/or family encouraged them to seek help (63.5%), they knew violence is unacceptable in relationships (62.6%), they could not endure more violence (58.8%), and they were badly injured (43.6%). Fewer in number, some women sought help because they saw their children suffering (22.3%), they were afraid their husbands/partners would kill them (9.8%), their husbands/partners threatened to kill them (4.9%), threw them out of the home (4.7%), and/or threatened or hit their children (4.3%). In addition, 2.2% of women were afraid they would kill their husband/partner.

Few women who experienced domestic violence (10.0% current, 8.8% ever) and physical and/or sexual violence (18.3% current, 12.1% ever) ever left home, even if for one night because of domestic violence. The number of days they left home ranged from 1 to 20 days, for an average of 2.1 days per women.

The majority of women who experienced domestic violence did not seek help. The most common reason for not seeking help was because the situation was not serious enough to complain (47.8%). Other women reported they did not seek help because they did not want to bring same to the family (12.0%), they were embarrassed, ashamed or afraid they would not be believed (10.9%), they thought they would be blamed (9.7%), they thought there was no reason to complain because violence is normal (6.8%), they were afraid of divorce or the relationship ending (6.5%), they were afraid of being threatened and the consequences or more violence (6.1%), they were afraid of losing their children (6.0%), they did not know where to ask for help (4.9%) and they believed it would not help (4.2%).

Domestic Violence Perpetrators

Domestic violence perpetrators were most often aged 24-35 (19.5%), 35-44 years (25.8%), 45-55 years (23.4%) and 55-64 years (20.0%). Few perpetrators were 65 years or older (12.6%) and under age 25 (1.7%).

In terms of level of education, 1 out of 2 or 47.9% of domestic violence perpetrators had a lower secondary education (8-9 years) and 30.0% had a secondary education. Far fewer perpetrators had only a primary education (7.4%) or were without diploma (1.7%); these proportions may reflect the proportion of men in the population who have a primary education or less. Only 2.3% of domestic violence perpetrators had a university education or higher.

Most domestic violence perpetrators were working (68.7%); only 12.6% were unemployed and looking for work, 11.9% were retired, and 2.5% were disabled or had a long-term illness.

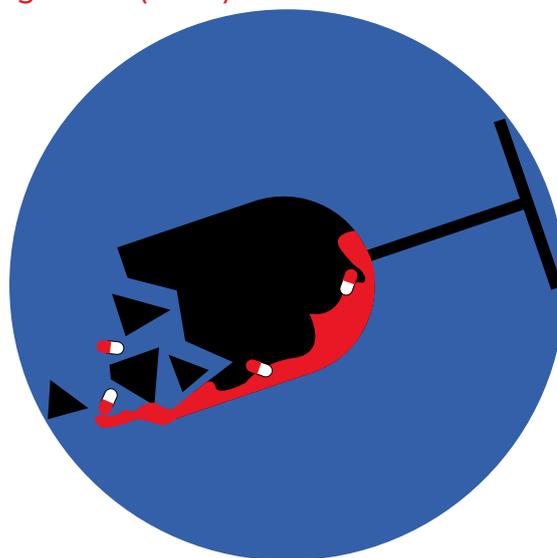
DATING VIOLENCE

Analysis revealed nearly 2 out of 3 or 65.8% of women 'ever' and 61.8% 'currently' experienced dating violence, of which all experienced coercive control behaviours and about half of them experienced psychological violence. All women who reported their father hit or beat their mother experienced dating violence and coercive control behaviours; there was no relationship with the other types of dating violence.

Most perpetrators of dating violence were age 25-34 (88.9%). This is even though the sample of women who had never been married and/or never lived with a husband/partner were mostly age 18-24 (46.3%) and age 25-34 (45.5%).

88.9%

of perpetrators of dating violence were age 25-34. This is even though the sample of women who had never been married and/or never lived with a husband/partner were mostly age 18-24 (46.3%) and age 25-34 (45.5%).



NON-PARTNER VIOLENCE

Among women age 18-74, 18.2% 'ever' and 2.4% 'currently' experienced one or more of four types of non-partner violence since age 15 (by someone other than their husband/ boyfriend). Women were more likely to experience non-partner physical violence (17.3%) than non-partner sexual violence (1.3%).

Perpetrators of Non-Partner Physical Violence

Among women who 'ever' experienced non-partner physical violence since age 15, 3 out of 4 or 76.1% reported the perpetrator was a mother/step-mother and more than 1 out of 2 or 58.0% reported the perpetrator was a father/step-father. In addition, 1 out of 3 or 35.7% identified the perpetrator as a teacher, and 1 out of 4 or 28.0% identified the perpetrator as a sibling (sister/brother). Women identified a variety of other perpetrators, but to a less extent.

Perpetrators of Non-Partner Sexual Violence

Women who experienced non-partner sexual violence since age 15 identified perpetrators as classmates/ schoolmates (15.1%), teachers (7.1%), friends/ acquaintances (5.4%), fathers/step-fathers (5.2%), mothers/step-mothers (4.4%), and strangers (3.3%).

Help-Seeking Behaviours for Non-Partner Violence

Among women who experienced non-partner violence, only 6.6% told someone and 4.6% sought help for the violence. Most women sought help from their own family (85.3%). Some women also sought help from neighbours (16.6%), their husband/ boyfriend's family (15.5%), friends (12.1%) and current/ former husbands/boyfriends (2.6%). Very few women sought help from formal networks, but those who did sought help from the police (8.3%), courts/judges (4.7%), doctors/nurses (2.6%), lawyers (2.2%) and/or a social service agency (2.2%).

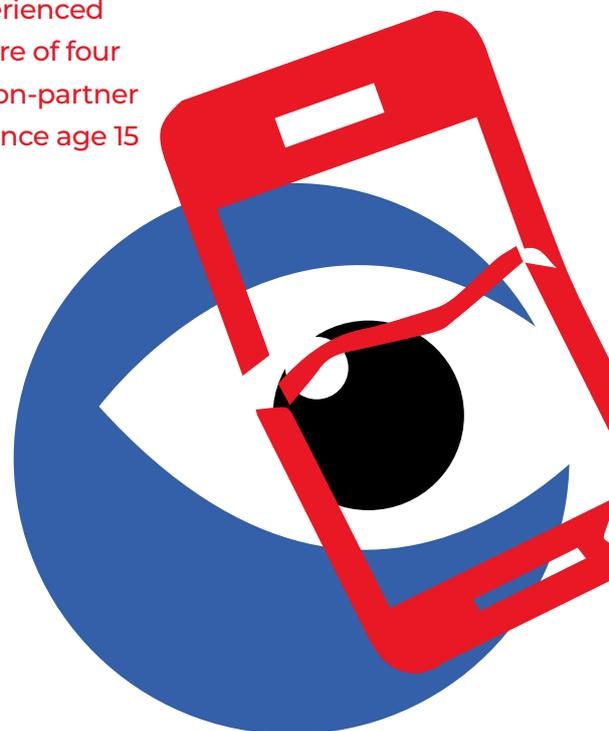
Among women who sought help, the majority sought help because their friends and/or family encouraged them to seek help (70.8%). A significant proportion sought help because they could not endure

more violence (45.9%) and they were badly injured (43.9%). Fewer women sought help because what happened to them was not acceptable and a crime (17.4%), because they were afraid and the man who committed the violence threatened their family (3.5%), and the man threatened or tried to kill them (2.2%).

The most common reasons for not seeking help was because the situation was not serious enough to complain (38.1%), because they did not want to bring shame to the family (10.9%), they thought they would be blamed (9.6%), and they were embarrassed, ashamed or afraid they would not be believed (9.0%). Some women maintained there is no reason to complain because violence is normal (7.0%), they didn't know where to ask for help (4.9%), and they believe it would not help (2.7%).

18.2%

of women age 18-74,
'ever' experienced
one or more of four
types of non-partner
violence since age 15



SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Sexual harassment is unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical harassment of a sexual nature that constitutes a breach of the principle of equal treatment between men and women. Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination, sexual abuse and gender-based violence. The survey found 18.1% of women age 18-74 'ever' and 8.5% 'currently' experienced one or more of the six types of sexual harassment measured. More specifically, women reported someone other than their husband/boyfriend made comments about their body and/or physical appearance that made them feel comfortable, embarrassed or offended (12.2%), and asked them intrusive questions about their sexual, intimate or private life that made them feel uncomfortable, embarrassed or offended (5.9%).

Women also reported someone other than their husband/boyfriend showed or exposed the private parts of their body or 'flashed' their genitals to them against their will (4.5%), and touched, hugged or kissed them in a sexual way without their permissions (4.0%). Far fewer women reported being sent offensive or unwanted sexually explicit emails or text messages and/or inappropriate advances on social network sites (1.9%) and being sent or shown sexually explicit or pornographic pictures, photos or gifts that made them feel uncomfortable, embarrassed or offended (1.4%).

Relationship Between Age and Sexual Harassment

Women age 18-24 (22.2%), 25-34 years (19.7%) and 35-44 years (21.0%) were more likely to ever experience sexual harassment, compared to women 45-54 years (18.0%), 55-64 years (15.9%) and 65-74 years (9.5%). Similarly, women age 18-24 years (12.6%), 25-34 years (12.6%) and 35-44 years (10.7%) were more likely to experience sexual harassment in the 12 months prior to the survey, compared to women 45-54 years (7.0%), 55-64 years (4.3%) and 65-74 years (2.1%). It is notable that women age 45-74 experienced sexual harassment in the 12 months prior to the survey.



12%

of women
experienced sexual
harassment in the
perpetrator's home

Places Where Sexual Harassment Occurs

Most incidents of sexual harassment occurred on roads/streets (82.9%), followed by schools (42.3%), markets/shops (38.3%), in a woman's home (29.1%), in the workplace (25.8%), inside cars, buses and other means of transport (19.9%), bars, restaurants and/or discos/clubs (17.5%), someone else's home (15.7%), fields or natural areas (14.4%), and at the sea, lake, river or other body of water (13.5%). Only 1.2% of women experienced sexual harassment in the perpetrator's home. Places where sexual harassment occurred varied by type of sexual harassment.

Perpetrators of Sexual Harassment

Women reported strangers (79.3%) and friends/acquaintances (51.2%) committed most incidents of sexual harassment, followed by neighbors (33.4%) and classmates/schoolmates (32.6%). Fewer, but some women identified their sexual harassers as relatives/ family members (16.8%), coworkers (13.8%) and current/former boyfriends (10.1%). One percent or less identified their sexual harassers as employers, teachers, police/soldiers and community leaders. No women identified religious leaders as perpetrators of sexual harassment. Sexual harassment perpetrators vary by type of sexual harassment.

STALKING

Like intimate partner domestic violence, stalking is a crime of power and control. Stalking is “a course of conduct directed at a specific person that involves repeated (two or more occasions) visual or physical proximity, nonconsensual communication, or verbal, written, or implied threats, or a combination thereof, that would cause a reasonable person fear.” Stalking behaviors may include persistent patterns of leaving or sending the victim unwanted items or presents that may range from seemingly romantic to bizarre, following or lying in wait for the victim, damaging or threatening to damage the victim's property, defaming the victim's character, or harassing the victim via the Internet by posting personal information or spreading rumors about the victim. Stalking may involve acts which are individually innocuous, but combined they are intended to undermine the victim's sense of safety.

The survey found that 12.6% of women age 18-74 ‘ever’ and 6.5% ‘currently’ experienced one or more of six different types of stalking. More specifically, 8.9% of women had someone repeatedly make offensive, threatening or silent phone calls to them, and 4.6% had someone repeatedly send them emails, text messages or messages on social networking websites that were offensive and/or threatening. Only 1.6% of women reported someone repeatedly sent them letters, cards or fits that were unwanted, offensive or threatening, and 1.2% reported someone repeatedly loitered or waited for them outside of their home, workplace, or school without legitimate reason, then deliberately followed you around. Less than one percent of women experienced having someone repeatedly post offensive comments about them on the internet or shared intimate photos or videos of them on social network sites and repeatedly and had someone deliberately damage their property or broke into their home.

Only 39.4% of women who ‘currently’ experienced stalking considered the unwanted contacts and harassing behaviours to be stalking.

Relationship Between Age and Stalking

Women age 18-24 (29.1%) were more likely to ‘ever’ experience stalking, compared to women age 25-34 (16.2%), 35-44 years (11.1%), 45-54 years (6.9%), 55-64 years (6.6%) and 65-74 years (4.6%). Similarly, women age 18-24 (19.7%) were more likely to ‘currently’ experience stalking, compared to women age 25-34 (10.1%), 35-44 years (3.8%), 45-54 years (2.9%), 55-64 years (2.3%) and 65-74 years (1.6%). It is notable that women age 55-74 experienced stalking in the 12 months prior to the survey.

Perpetrators of Stalking

Most women reported their stalkers were strangers (97.0%). Some women reported their stalkers were classmates/schoolmates (14.7%), current/former boyfriends (13.8%), friends/acquaintances (10.8%), current/former husbands (8.9%), neighbours (7.1%), coworkers (3.5%) and employers (2.0%). Fewer than one percent identified their stalkers as police/soldiers and relatives/family members. Stalkers varied by type of stalking.

CONCLUSIONS

This study was the third attempt in Albania to apply international standards to collect data on VAWG, including not only domestic violence, but also dating violence, non-partner violence, child sexual abuse, sexual harassment and stalking. It also measured social norms related to VAWG, and women's perceptions of the seriousness of VAWG in Albania and the importance of having legislation related to VAWG.

Data in this report provides evidence that VAWG in Albania is widespread. Given the data, VAWG cannot be seen as a marginal issue that touches only some women's lives in Albania. VAWG affects the majority of women, as well as results in children's exposure to violence in the home, particularly when children witness violence against their mothers and become direct and/or indirect victims of domestic violence.

CHAPTER 1



INTRODUCTION

Violence against women is “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life.”

Source: 1993 United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women

Violence against women and girls (VAWG)¹⁸ is a pervasive violation of human rights and a global public health problem of epidemic proportions. VAWG manifests in various forms of physical, sexual, psychological, and economic violence that occur in public and private spaces. VAWG undermines the mental and physical health and well-being of women and girls and can have a negative impact on their long-term sense of safety, stability, and peace.¹⁹ VAWG also has serious implications for the development and advancement of women and girls, and their contribution to the economy and national development.

Not unlike the definition of violence against women advanced in the 1993 United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic

violence (referred to as The Istanbul Convention) defines violence against women “as a violation of human rights and a form of discrimination against women and shall mean all acts of gender-based violence (GBV)²⁰ that result in, or are likely to result in, physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.”

Globally, World Health Organization (WHO) data estimates that 1 out of 3 or 35% of women have experienced either physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner and/or sexual violence by a non-partner in their lifetime.²¹ More specifically, 30% of ever-partnered women experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime, and 7% experienced sexual violence by a non-partner in their

lifetime.²² In 2012, UNODC documented that globally almost one-half of all women victims of murder (47%) were killed by family members or intimate partners, compared to 6% of male homicide victims.²³

The 2014 United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) study, *Hidden in Plain Sight*²⁴, also estimates that globally, about 1 in 10 or 120 million girls under 20 years of age have been subjected to forced sexual intercourse or other forced sexual acts. In addition, globally, millions of more women and girls are estimated to be exploited in prostitution and pornography each year, most of the time deceived and/or forced into sexual exploitation with false promises by human traffickers.

Women and girls located at the margins, due to their intersectional identities, are at increased risk of social and economic discrimination and violence due to their marginalised status within communities and societies. Marginalised women include refugees, asylum seekers, documented and undocumented migrant women, ethnic minority and indigenous women, women living in remote areas, elderly women, women with disabilities, and women with HIV/AIDS, among others. Because of their intersectional identities, women and girls at the margins have fewer opportunities to access support services, protection, and justice when they experience VAWG.

VAWG is recognized as both a cause and consequence of gender inequality, and is a major obstacle to women and girls' enjoyment of human rights and their full participation in society and the economy. There is no single factor that causes VAWG; rather, there are a combination of elements operating at different levels of the 'social ecology' that perpetuate and reinforce gender discriminatory and biased attitudes, norms, and practices that contribute to the pervasive imbalance of power that exists between men and women within societies and contributes to VAWG.²⁵ These elements include:²⁶

- Individual factors - person's attitudes or beliefs that condone VAWG, and a person's developmental history, agency, and self-efficacy.^{27,28}
- Social factors – a person's social relationships and household dynamics, and harmful social and gender norms.^{29,30}

- Material factors - household poverty and lack of economic opportunities for women and girls.
- Structural forces or macro-level factors - weak or discriminatory legal and institutional frameworks, racism, rules about who can own and inherit property, and gender ideologies³¹ that underpin gendered differences in power and social status that affects realities at all the other levels.³²

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development identifies ending violence against women and girls (EVAWG) as a crucial priority for achieving gender equality and sustainable development during Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5.³³ This represents an advancement on the Millennium Development Goals where MDG 3 did not address VAWG. Today, EVAWG is recognized in SDG 5 and as a cross-cutting priority across the SDGs and vital for achieving SDGs in areas including poverty eradication, health, education, sustainable cities, and just and peaceful societies.³⁴

Background to this Study

The Government of Albania (GoA) has ratified a number of global and regional conventions and treaties related to gender issues, including, but not limited to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Beijing Platform for Action, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and The Istanbul Convention. The Istanbul Convention is a comprehensive and complex treaty that introduces unprecedented and detailed provisions for measures that should be taken by States Parties to prevent VAWG, protect victims, and punish perpetrators. It has since developed into a key human rights treaty, a criminal law treaty, and an instrument for greater gender equality, and is characterized by an integrated and holistic approach. In addition to the principles of The Istanbul Convention, Recommendation Rec(2002)5 of the Council of Europe on the protection of women from violence is of relevance to Albania.³⁵

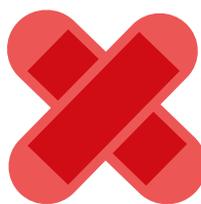
Eliminating all forms of VAWG is a key priority area for the United Nations (UN) of Albania and is aligned with the Programme of Cooperation (PoC) 2017-2021 between the GoA and the UN. The PoC 2017-2021 aims to contribute to international norms and fulfillment of international obligations in support of the integration of Albania into the European Union (EU)³⁶, including the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.³⁷ In the frame of the PoC 2017-2021, gender equality and GBV outputs aim to strengthen GoA capacities to EVAWG by improving mechanisms, advancing policies and improving conditions for the implementation of VAWG legislation.

Despite the GoA's efforts to improve its human rights record and strengthen national human rights institutions, human rights bodies continue to raise concerns about several gender-related issues, particularly gender inequality and VAWG. Traditional patriarchal attitudes remain pervasive throughout Albania and contribute to gender inequalities in all spheres of social and economic life³⁸, and to the prevalence of VAWG. In 2017, Albania ranked 52 out of 189 countries on the Gender Inequality Index.³⁹

National Violence Against Women Surveys in Albania

VAWG is not a new phenomenon in Albania, it has deep roots in Albanian society that has long been shaped by patriarchal traditions and customs, including strict gender identities and roles, patriarchal authority, adherence to an honour-and-shame system, and customs of hierarchal ordering with the family and intergenerational family control. Since 2007, Albania's Institute for Statistics has conducted two National Domestic Violence Surveys (NDVS). In 2007, with technical assistance and support from UNDP and UNICEF, INSTAT conducted the first NDVS.⁴⁰ In 2013, with technical assistance from UNDP and financial support from Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), INSTAT conducted the 2nd NDVS.⁴¹

Summary data from the 2007 NDVS and 2013 NDVS are presented in Tables 1.1 and 1.2. It is important to



Eliminating all forms of VAWG is a key priority area for the United Nations (UN) of Albania and is aligned with the Programme of Cooperation for Sustainable Development (PoCSD) 2017-2021 between the GoA and the UN.

note that comparisons cannot be made between 2007 and 2013 NDVS data for three important reasons:

- the sample of women in the 2007 NDVS included women age 15-49 years, and the 2013 NDVS sample included women age 18-55 years;
- comparisons should be based upon 'current' experiences of domestic violence (in the 12 months prior to the survey), and the 2007 NDVS does not report on 'current' experiences of domestic violence; and,
- measures of psychological and emotional violence were disaggregated in the 2007 NDVS and combined in the 2013 NDVS.⁴² Despite the fact that comparisons cannot be made, it is still important to briefly discuss findings from the 2007 NDVS and the 2013 NDVS as it relates to prevalence of intimate partner violence (IPV).

Table 1.1 shows that the 2007 NDVS found that 56.0% of women age 15-49 experienced one or more of the four types of domestic violence in their lifetime. More specifically, 50.6% experienced emotional violence, 39.1% experienced psychological violence, 31.2% experienced physical violence and 12.7% experienced sexual violence in their lifetime.

Table 1.1. Proportion of women who 'ever' experienced domestic violence (2007 NDVS)

Domestic violence (all types)	56.0%
Psychological violence	39.1%
Emotional violence	50.6%
Physical violence	31.2%
Sexual violence	12.7%

Source: 2007 National Domestic Violence Survey, INSTAT/UNDP.

Table 1.2 shows that the 2013 NDVS found that 59.4% of women age 18-55 experienced one or more of the five types of domestic violence in their lifetime, and 53.7% experienced domestic violence in the 12 months prior to the interview. More specifically, 24.6% of women experienced physical and/or sexual violence, or both, in their lifetime, and 16.2% experienced physical and/or sexual violence, or both, in the 12 months prior to the interview.

Table 1.2. Proportion of women who experienced domestic violence (2013 NDVS)

	Ever	Current
Domestic violence (all types)	59.4%	53.7%
Coercive controlling behaviors	51.4%	45.4%
Economic violence	10.4%	8.6%
Psychological violence	58.2%	52.8%
Physical violence	23.7%	14.7%
Sexual violence	7.9%	5.0%
Physical and/or sexual domestic violence, or both	24.6%	16.2%

Source: 2013 National Domestic Violence Surveys, INSTAT/UNDP.

Given similar methodologies and data collection tools were used for the 2007 NDVS and 2013 NDVS,

comparison of findings draws attention to several important considerations:

- The proportion of women who experience domestic violence in their lifetime ranges from 56.0% to 59.4%; more specifically, lifetime experiences of physical violence ranges from 23.7% to 31.2% and sexual violence ranges from 7.9% to 12.7%.
- Women who were surveyed in 2013 were more likely to seek and report incidents of domestic violence to respective state bodies, compared to the 2007 NDVS. Still, however, only 7% of women who were 'currently' experiencing domestic violence at the time of the 2013 NDVS sought help.
- The increase from 2007 to 2013 in the proportion of women surveyed who sought help for domestic violence may reflect improvements in VAWG legislation and/or in institutions handling of domestic violence and VAWG cases, as well as increased public trust in respective state bodies.
- Drawing conclusions about sexual violence in intimate partner relationships should be cautioned, particularly since sexual violence remains taboo and is underreported in Albania, especially in cases of sexual violence in intimate partner relationships, including marital rape.

It is not just current and/or former husbands/partners who commit acts of VAWG. The 2007 and 2013 NDVS revealed that other family members, including parents, brothers, sisters, in-laws, and other relatives committed acts of physical violence against women.

In 2018, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) led a Survey on the Well-being and Safety of Women, which was implemented in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Moldova and Ukraine. The goal of the OSCE-led survey was to provide comparable data on different forms of violence women experience in childhood and throughout the course of their lives. The research examined violence that women experience in

conflict and non-conflict settings, as well as the impact violence has on women. Questions related to social norms and attitudes related to VAW were included to better understand the underlying causes of violence. The OSCE-led survey used a different methodology and different data collection tools from the NDVS and was undertaken with the aim to provide country-specific, but comparable data on different forms of violence that women experience in their childhood and throughout the course of their lives. The research also examined the impact violence has on one woman, including its lasting consequences, and norms and attitudes connected to violence against women to better understand the underlying causes of violence.⁴³

Findings from the OSCE-led Survey on the Well-being and Safety of Women found that 19.0% of women age 18-74 experienced intimate partner violence since the age of 15, 4.0% experienced sexual violence, and 19.0% experienced physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 15. In addition, 11.0% of women experienced non-partner physical violence since the age of 15, 1.0% experienced sexual violence, and 11.0% experienced physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 15. In the 12 months prior to the survey, 7.2% of women age 18-74 experienced physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence and 2.5% experienced non-partner physical and/or sexual violence. More specifically, 50.0% of women experienced controlling behaviours, 41.0% experienced abusive behaviours, 22.0% experienced economic violence, and 11.0% reported their abuser used their children to blackmail them or they abused their children. The OSCE-led survey also found that 13.0% of women experienced stalking since the age of 15, and 4.3% experienced stalking in the 12 months prior to the survey. In addition, it found that 34.0% of women experienced sexual harassment since the age of 15, and 17.2% experienced sexual harassment in the 12 months prior to the survey.⁴⁴

In Albania, domestic violence is a problem that negatively affects both women and children. Children are often the forgotten victims of domestic violence, despite the fact that they often witness acts of domestic violence or are aware when it occurs because they hear the yelling and arguments and

see the injuries and damage to property. Studies have found that children who grow up in violent households are often direct and/or indirect victims and are at increased risk of child abuse and neglect. The 2007 NDVS revealed that 53.3% of children that were physically abused reported seeking help from someone in an effort to stop their abuser. The majority of children sought help from a family member; rarely did a child tell someone outside of their immediate family about the abuse or violence. In the 2013 NDVS, 86.4% of women who experienced domestic violence reported their children witnessed domestic violence and 19.2% reported their children were hurt or injured by the domestic violence. In addition, 42.8% of women maintained domestic violence caused learning problems for their children, 31.2% reported their children live in fear, and 5.5% reported their children left home to live with relatives because of the domestic violence.

Despite the fact that domestic violence is a problem that negatively affects individuals, families and communities, many Albanians tend to consider domestic violence to be a private, family matter and a normal part of marriage and family life. Because domestic violence often happens behind closed doors and is not openly discussed, acknowledged, or addressed in Albanian society, victims typically suffer in silence.^{45,46}

Legislative and Policy Reforms and Programme Development since the 2013 NDVS

This section offers a brief review of legislative and policy reforms and programme/project development related to EVAWG that have been advanced, implemented and documented in Albania since the 2013 NDVS. Understanding some of these reforms and developments may help to explain changes in prevalence from the 2013 NDVS to this 2018 National VAWG Survey (NVAWS). This review was in no way intended to be a thorough historical review or situational analysis of EVAWG initiatives in Albania or globally.

Legislative and Policy Reforms since the 2013 NDVS

In 2017, the first GREVIO (Baseline) Evaluation Report on legislative and other measures giving effect to the provisions of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) for Albania⁴⁷ was produced by the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO).⁴⁸ GREVIO's Evaluation Report provided a comprehensive road map for implementation of international obligations in relation to VAWG.⁴⁹ In response to the GREVIO Evaluation Report and pursuant to the recommendations of international bodies, the Parliament unanimously voted for a resolution⁵⁰ that condemns VAWG and calls on responsible central and local authorities to take concrete actions to effectively implement legislation for prevention and elimination of VAWG. Recent developments and current needs in this area called for accelerated efforts to implement legislative and policy frameworks related to VAWG.

Pursuant to obligations under The Istanbul Convention and in keeping with recommendations from the GREVIO Evaluation Report, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MoHSP), with support from UNDP Albania, led the process of improving the 2006 Law on “Measures against Violence in Family Relations”, which was last amended in 2010.^{51,52} For more than a decade, the “Law on Measures against Violence in Family Relations” has provided protection measures against domestic violence, including emergency protection orders (a temporary court order that is valid until the court issues a protection order) and court-ordered protection orders (a decision issued by a court providing protection measures for victims). In keeping with the law, when a petition for a protection order is presented by the police or prosecutor to the courts, even if a victim (under pressure) wants to withdraw her claims or drop the case, this does not effect continuation of the judicial process since the battered woman is defined as a ‘compellable witness’ to the crime.⁵³ In accordance with Article 321 of the Criminal Code, violations of a protection order or emergency protection order constitutes a criminal offense and is punishable by

imprisonment up to two years. Issuance of a protection order or emergency protection order does not inhibit interested parties from also initiating criminal proceedings with regard to acts or omissions that are classified as criminal offenses.⁵⁴

In 2018, the amendments to the Law on “Measures against Violence in Family Relations” improved legal definitions of domestic violence in keeping with The Istanbul Convention and CEDAW. Amendments also included: better protections for women and children in situations of immediate danger through the police order for preliminary measures for immediate protection; better defined responsibilities of legally mandated state institutions to vulnerable persons, including persons with disabilities; improved judiciary procedures; and, the establishment of crisis management centres in hospital emergency rooms to handle cases of sexual violence.^{55,56} The revised law extends protections to victims of IPV who are not necessarily cohabitating, but involved in a physical and/or emotional relationship with their perpetrators.

In 2018, the MoHSP also set up a working group composed of legal, social, gender and medical specialists with participation of relevant ministries, such as the Ministries of Interior (MoI) and Justice (MoJ), State Police and the Tirana Coordinated Community Response (CCR) mechanism. The working group, with support from UNDP Albania, developed a model and standards for a sexual violence referral centre, referred to as the “Lilium Centre”. Driven by the need to provide specialized support services to survivors of sexual violence, the MoHSP took immediate action in allocating resources to set up the “Lilium Centre”, the first of its kind in Albania to serve sexual violence survivors during the first 72 hours, irrespective of gender, age sexual identity and/or sexual orientation.⁵⁷

In addition to the ‘Law on Measures Against Violence in Family Relations’, there are also provisions in the Criminal Code of Albania that address crimes related to domestic violence. These include, but are not limited to:

- Article 102 – Nonconsensual sexual intercourse with mature women, includes sexual intercourse between spouses/cohabitants without the consent of one of them.

The Family Code of Albania includes several articles relevant to domestic violence against a spouse and child(ren) and **addresses parental obligations and child rights in the family life**, as well as child abuse and neglect.

- Article 106 – Sexual or homosexual intercourse with extended family members or under custody, includes commission of sexual or homosexual intercourse between a parent and child, brother and sister, between brothers, between other extended family members, or with person who are in custody or adoption relationships.
 - Article 130/a – includes acts such as battery, or other violent criminal offence, serious threat or injury against a person who is the spouse, former-spouse, partner or former partner, child or family member, resulting in infringement of the physical, psycho-social, and economic integrity of the person.
 - Article 121/a – Stalking, a threat or “repeated actions” intended to cause a continuous and grave sense of anxiety or fear for a person’s security, the security of their relatives or the security of a person with whom they are related sentimentally, or intended to force them to change their lifestyle.
 - Article 124 – Physical and psychological maltreatment of minors by their family members or caretakers, including abandonment of minor children.
 - Article 125 – Denial of support, including denial of necessary support for the living of children, parents or spouse, from the person who is obliged, through a court-order, to provide, constitute criminal contravention.
- Amendments to the Criminal Code made in 2012/2013 added aggravating circumstances when offences are committed:
- a. in violation of protection orders;
 - b. in abuse of family and cohabitation relationships;
 - c. based on motives related to gender, gender identity and/or sexual orientation.
- The Criminal Code was also amended to recognize ‘threat’ or ‘repeated actions’ intended to cause a continuous and grave sense of anxiety or fear for a person’s security, the security of their relatives, or a person with whom they are related sentimentally, or intended to force them to change their lifestyle. Other criminal offences, such as murder, manslaughter, grave and light injuries provide for increased sanctions when the crimes are committed against a partner, spouse or family member.
- Despite legal provisions to prosecute and punish perpetrators of domestic violence, there is a widespread tendency to ‘negotiate’ or ‘mediate’ domestic violence cases in Albania. The problem with using mediation in domestic violence cases is that mediation is based on the principle of equality of parties, yet in domestic violence cases and intimate partner violence cases there is no equality of parties because the relationship is neither balanced nor equitable, and the violence is based upon based on patterns of domination and control, and subordination of the victim by the abuser.⁵⁸ A 2015 Mapping of VAWG Support Services in Albania revealed efforts by service providers to work with domestic violence perpetrators, mainly through

family counselling and mediation, are sometimes initiated at the request of the courts, but work with perpetrators has also been initiated at the request of survivors of domestic violence. An evaluation of such pilot programmes found the models used to work with perpetrators of domestic violence require improvement and need to be consolidated and implemented in municipalities across the country.⁵⁹

The Criminal Code also includes numerous articles that address sexual crimes, including sexual assault and rape. These include: Article 100, Sexual or homosexual relations with minors; Article 101, Violent sexual or homosexual intercourse with a minor who is fourteen to eighteen years old; Article 102, Sexual assault by use of force with mature/adult women; Article 103, Sexual or homosexual activity with persons who are incapable of resistance; Article 104, Sexual or homosexual assault by use of weapon; Article 105, Sexual or homosexual activity by abuse of official position; Article 106, Sexual or homosexual activity with consanguine persons and persons in the position of trust; Article 107, Sexual or homosexual activity in public places; Article 107/a, Sexual violence; Article 108, Immoral acts; and, Article 108/a, Sexual harassment.

The Family Code of Albania also includes several articles relevant to domestic violence against a spouse and child(ren) and addresses parental obligations and child rights in the family life, as well as child abuse and neglect. For instance, Article 62 provides that “the abuser spouse may be removed from the conjugal domicile.” Also, the ‘Law on Reproductive Health’ stipulates that every woman shall decide on her own free will and without any form of discrimination, pressure, or violence all issues related to her sexuality and sexual and reproductive health.⁶⁰

VAWG survivors are also due to benefit from both the new free legal aid system and expanded protection measures for victims of crime, due to the new Law on Free Legal Aid and amendments to the Code of Criminal Procedures (July 2017).⁶¹ In addition, under drafting is a regulatory framework that aims to define standards of services to be provided by the emergency municipal facilities for gender-based violence and domestic violence victims, including survivors of sexual harassment and sexual violence. Still, however,

legal gaps remain, including the absence of protection orders and other preventive measures for victims of forms of violence other than domestic violence, including sexual violence.⁶²

Despite recent legislative and policy reforms related to VAWG, the GoA still needs to prioritize enforcement of adopted legislation and policies related to VAWG, and strengthen the capacities of the judiciary to enforce the implementation of legal and policy frameworks on VAWG and domestic violence. More work also needs to be done to bring legal frameworks related to VAWG into full compliance with The Istanbul Convention; this includes needed revisions to the definition of rape and ensuring protection and prevention measures for victims of all forms of sexual violence.⁶³ In addition, the GoA needs to take measure to encourage women and girls to report incidents of sexual and gender-based violence that they experience through the provision of free legal aid and full enforcement of court decisions related to protection measure for VAWG survivors. The GoA also needs to providing appropriate funding and adequately trained lawyers for an effective legal aid system for VAWG survivors, as well as recognition, support and promotion of the work of NGOs specialized in providing legal assistance to VAWG survivors.⁶⁴

Strengthening VAWG Administrative Data since the 2013 NDVS

In recent years, there has been increased interest among the GoA and development partners to strengthen administrative data to monitor and report on VAWG. In keeping, administrative data collection has been institutionalized through the establishment of the “Recording violence in Albania” (REVALB) system, a nation-wide online tracking system that is utilized by local Domestic Violence Coordinators in each municipality, and managed centrally by the MoHSP (formerly managed by the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth (MSWY)). Challenges remain, however, when it comes to systematic use of the REVALB system and in ensuring coordination between referral mechanism members in tracking and case management.⁶⁵

Strengthening administrative data on VAWG is an important and useful investment because the

possible uses of administrative data are numerous. Many agencies and organizations automatically and regularly collect VAWG administrative data at points of entry (meaning the point at which women and girls who have experienced violence access services, protection and/or justice), and regularly compile this data at the province, sub-perfecture, prefecture and national levels. Administrative data is different from prevalence survey data which is collected periodically (every few years) and often at only one point in time. One of the strengths of administrative data is that it captures information related to anyone who accesses services of VAWG, including women and girls from hard to reach populations, such as marginalized groups (e.g., displaced people, and cultural, religious and ethnic or racial minorities) whose experiences may not be fully reflected in VAWG prevalence surveys. This is true, however, only to the extent that women and girls from marginalized populations can access essential services for VAWG.

In most cases, administrative data are collected and used for internal purposes, but are not necessarily compiled and reported outside of the agency or organization. Usually the main purpose of administrative data is not to study VAWG, but to provide information for case management and administrative purposes (such as workload, logistics, budget and reporting). Often administrative data are not compiled and shared across sectors or analysed with a 'VAWG lens', or even used to improve service provision for VAWG survivors. A 'VAWG lens' means collecting, compiling, sharing, analysing and using data guided by knowledge and understanding of VAWG theories and literature with a view to using the data to better understand VAWG and to inform evidence-based approaches to prevent and respond to VAWG, including by improving the quality and availability of services to VAWG survivors.

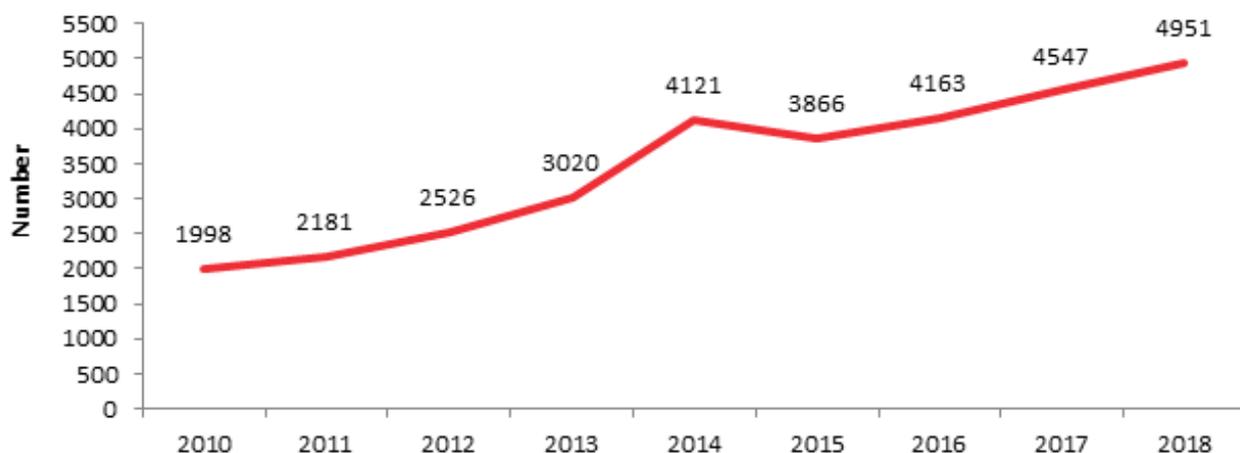
VAWG administrative data is useful because it can help service providers and justice agencies, and policy- and decision-makers to understand the number of incidents of VAWG reported and responded to, the number of VAWG survivors who access services and points of entry, which services they are accessing and how services are responding to VAWG survivors' needs within a

given time period and across sub-perfectures and prefectures. Administrative data can also be used to track which services women seek, how often and for which purposes, and the outcomes of services, as well as referrals made by service providers. At a practical level, administrative data can be used to inform general programme planning and resource allocation since the data can demonstrate the use of services and access to justice.

It is important when discussing administrative data on VAWG to understand underreporting of VAWG. Essentially, VAWG administrative data relies upon VAWG survivors to self-report, yet most women are reluctant to report their experiences with violence. Women are reluctant to report their experiences with sexual and gender-based violence to formal authorities for a multitude of reasons, including:

- Lack of trust and/or fear of retaliation
- Fear of being shamed and criticised for speaking out because they do not want to “air the family’s dirty laundry in public”, bring shame to their family
- Many women and girls are threatened with more violence and even death if they speak out or tell authorities about the people or person who perpetrated the violence
- Perpetrators of VAWG may hold positions of power within the community and they do not want their identities to be revealed or their reputations harmed, so they make credible threats to silence the women they have abused
- When women and girls who report violence are treated with disrespect or hostility, a powerful message is sent to other women and girls on the consequence of breaking their silence
- Economic dependence prevents women from reporting and escaping domestic violence and IPV
- A belief that the violence they experience is not serious

Chart 1.1. Domestic violence offenses registered by the State Police (2010-2018)



Source: Albania State Police, January 2019

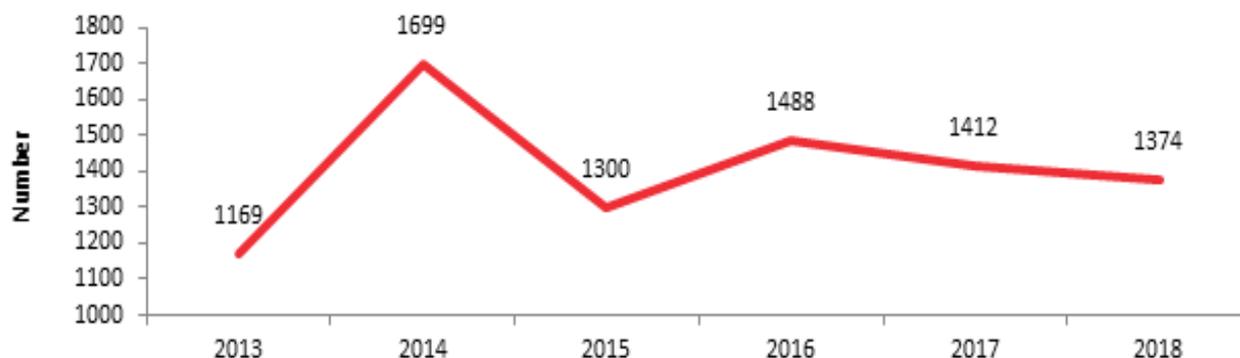
When women do not report their experiences of VAWG to formal services or authorities, their experiences are not reflected in administrative data on VAWG (see Chapters 6 and 7 for the reasons women do not seek help for domestic violence and/or dating violence). Similarly, some police officials do not always register or record incidents of VAWG, particularly incidents of domestic violence. Police may even discourage women from making official reports by blaming VAWG survivors or encouraging them to return to and reconcile with their husband and family. Efforts are underway in Albania to improve the responses of health workers, service providers, police and justice officials to VAWG; meanwhile ensuring that reported incidents of VAWG are properly registered remains a challenge.⁶⁶

Chart 1.1 shows the number of domestic violence cases registered by the police each year from 2010 to 2018 (1 January – 31 December). Bear in mind, most incidents of domestic violence go unreported and incidents that are often reported are more serious cases of domestic violence. The trend seen in Chart 1.1 reveals a steady increase in the number of registered domestic violence cases from 2010 to 2018; in particular, there was a 148% increase in the number of registered domestic violence cases from 1,998 in 2010 to 4,951 in 2018. Each year from 2010 to 2018 there has been a steady increase in the number

of registered domestic violence cases, except in 2015 when there was a slight decrease, followed by an increase in 2016. Over the past three years (2016-2018) there has been a steady increase of 9% each year in the number registered cases of domestic violence. This data is important because it reveals that domestic violence victims are more willing to report incidents of domestic violence to the police, and the police are registering more domestic violence cases. These changes may be related to reforms that have been made over the past decade to the 2006 Law on “Measures against Violence in Family Relations.”

Chart 1.2 reveals the number of domestic violence offences reported and registered under Criminal Code Article 130/a, which includes acts such as battery, or other violent criminal offence, serious threat or injury against a person who is the spouse, former-spouse, partner or former partner, child or family member, resulting in infringement of the physical, psycho-social, and economic integrity of the person. Data shows that there was a 45.3% increase in the number of incidents of domestic violence recorded by the police under Article 130/a from 1,169 in 2013 to 1,699 in 2014, followed by a 23.5% decline to 1,300 in 2015, then a 14.5% increase to 1,488 in 2016, followed again by a 5.1% decline to 1,412 in 2017.

Chart 1.2. Domestic violence offenses registered under Criminal Code Article 130/a by State Police (2013-2018)



Source: INSTAT, January 2019

Chart 1.3 shows the number of petitions for immediate protection order/protection orders made each year from 2010 to 2018 (1 January – 31 December). The trend seen in Chart 1.2 shows a steady increase in the number of petitions for immediate protection order/protection orders from 2010 to 2018; in particular, there was a 146% increase in the number of petitions for immediate protection order/protection orders from 1,234 in 2010 to 3,037 in 2018. Each year from 2010 to 2018 there has been a steady increase in the number of petitions for immediate protection orders/protection orders, except in 2015 when

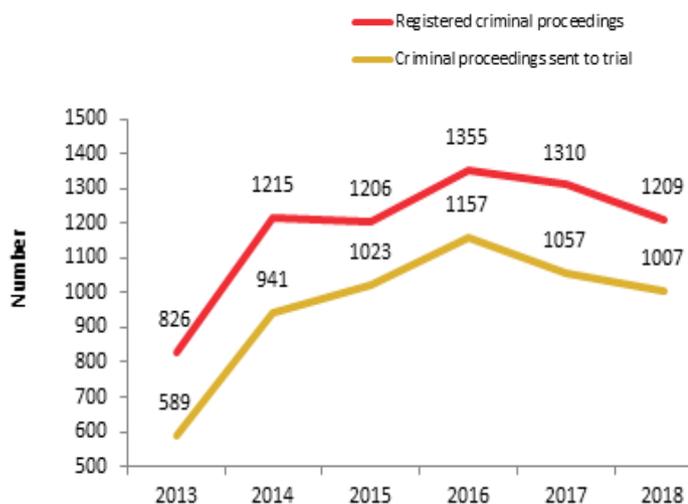
there was a slight decrease, followed by an increase in 2016. Chart 1.2 shows that petitions for immediate protection orders/protection orders were made in more than 50.0% of the registered cases of domestic violence each year (see Chart 1.1); in fact, in 2018, immediate protection order/protection orders were issued in 61.3% of registered cases of domestic violence (up from 57.0% in 2017, and 53.0% in 2016). This data is important because it reveals that domestic violence victims are more willing to utilize provisions for protections that are provided in the 2006 Law on “Measures against Violence in Family Relations.”

Chart 1.3. Petitions for immediate protection orders/protection orders (2010-2018)



Source: Albania State Police, January 2019

Chart 1.4. Prosecution of domestic violence cases under Criminal Code Article 130/a (2013-2018)



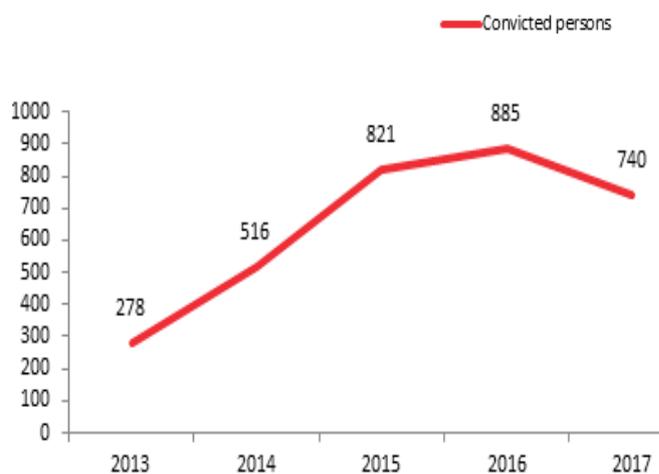
Source: INSTAT, January 2019

Chart 1.4 reveals the number of domestic violence cases charged and prosecuted under Criminal Code Article 130/a. Data shows there was a 47.1% increase in the number of domestic violence cases registered for criminal proceeding by the prosecutor's office from 826 in 2013 to 1,215 in 2014, followed by a 12.4% increase from 1,206 in 2015 to 1,355 in 2016, then a decrease to 1,310 in 2017 and 1,209 in 2018 (10.8% decline). Even fewer domestic violence cases were sent to trial by the courts. There was, however, a steady 96.4% increase in the number of domestic violence cases sent to trial by the courts from 589 in 2013 to 1,157 in 2016, followed by a steady 13.0% decline to 1,007 in 2018. It is unclear what has driven the significant decline in the number of domestic violence cases charged and prosecuted under Criminal Code Article 130/a during the two-year period of 2016 to 2018.

It is notable that the criminal justice system does detain domestic violence perpetrators who are awaiting trial and conviction in correctional institutions. In 2016, 196 domestic violence perpetrators were detained in correction institutions, followed by 241 in 2017 and 2018 (23% increase).

Chart 1.5 reveals the number of domestic violence perpetrators convicted under Criminal Code Article

Chart 1.5. Domestic violence perpetrators convicted under Criminal Code Article 130/a (2013-2017)



Source: Ministry of Justice, January 2019

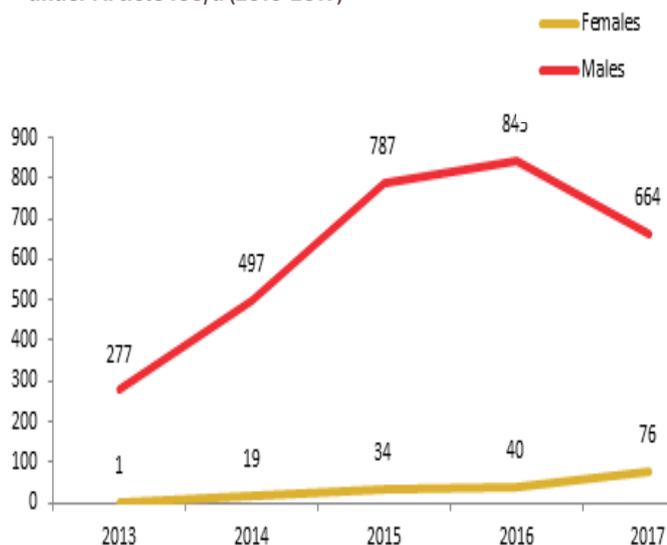
130/a. The number of persons convicted for domestic violence was as few as 821 in 2015 and 885 in 2016 (+7.5% increase), followed by a 16.4% reduction in 2017 to 740 persons convicted for domestic violence under Article 130/a. It is notable that the number of persons held at correctional institutions for domestic violence was far fewer than the number convicted, but there was a 31.8% from 286 in 2016 and 377 in 2017. The number of persons serving time in prison for domestic violence was far fewer than those convicted (see Table 1.2). Data on the number of inmates serving time in prison for domestic violence under Article 130/a were not available for 2013 to 2015.

Table 1.2. Inmates in prison for domestic violence under Article 130/a (2016-2018)

Year	Number	% Change
2016	90	
2017	136	+51.1%
2018	97	-28.7%

Chart 1.6 shows the number of males and female convicted for domestic violence under Criminal

Chart 1.6. Sex of persons convicted for domestic violence under Article 130/a (2013-2017)



Source: Ministry of Justice, January 2019

Code Article 130/a from 2013 to 2017. Data shows there has been a steady increase in the number of females convicted of domestic violence under Article 130/a from 1 in 2013 to 76 in 2017. There was also a steady increase in the number of men convicted for domestic violence from 2013 to 2016, followed a 15.6% decrease from 787 in 2015 to 664 in 2017. In 2013, females accounted for only 0.4% of persons convicted for domestic violence under Article 130/a; however, by 2017, females made up 10.3% of persons convicted for domestic violence under Article 130/a.

This data is important because it reflects a significant increase in the number females being convicted for domestic violence under Article 130/a, in comparison to a significant decrease in the number of males convicted for domestic violence. This data is concerning because it may reflect an increase in dual arrests in domestic violence situations. Dual arrests refer to the practice of arresting both parties – victim and perpetrator – in a domestic violence incident at the same time. Dual arrests are more likely to occur when there are mandatory and preferred arrest policies for domestic violence, and the police cannot or choose not to determine who is the primary/dominant aggressor in a domestic violence incident. The dominant aggressor is the person who poses 13.6% to punish women more harshly for domestic violence by the courts, whether they were the victim of a dual arrest or punished for defending themselves against their abusive husband/partner or other family member, or if they were the primary aggressor.

Chart 1.7 shows the proportion of males and females who were processed through the criminal justice system under Criminal Code 130/a as suspected persons and defendants of domestic violence, as well as those perpetrators who were convicted for domestic violence in 2017. The chart also reflects those who were victims of domestic violence filed under Criminal Code 130/a in 2017. Most notable is that 90.0% of suspected persons were male, 93.5% of defendants were male, and 88.7% of persons convicted of domestic violence were male. In comparison, 71.6% of domestic violence victims under Criminal Code 130/a were female; 28.4% were males.

Chart 1.7. Persons in contact with the justice system for domestic violence under Article 130/a by sex (2017)



Source: Ministry of Justice, January 2019

Bear in mind, females were not always perpetrators of domestic violence against males, perpetrators were more often male family members given the fact that the proportion of females who were suspected persons and defendants were less than ten percent.

Improvements to Provision of Services to VAWG Survivors since the 2013 NDVS

Provision of essential services for VAWG survivors remains a major challenge in Albania. Across the country, VAWG survivors still lack access to the most basic and essential services for their safety and protection; most services are available only in major cities, such as Tirana. Even where essential services exist, they are often underfunded and understaffed. The 2015 Mapping of Violence against Women and Girls Support Services concluded:^{67,68}

In recent years, a CCR mechanism was established in 39 out of the 61 municipalities in Albania. Services for domestic violence survivors include both short-term initiatives (e.g., emergency protection, safety, medical assistance, accommodation, transportation to safe accommodations, information on/assistance with obtaining protection orders, referral to further services, and more) and long-term initiatives (e.g., employment support, social assistance, accommodation, legal advice and assistance with divorce procedures, counselling and psychotherapy, and help with children, among others). In 2015, an assessment of the functioning of the CCR mechanism indicated that the mechanism functions at operates at the local level to varying degrees of effectiveness, so although some progress has been made, there is still a long way to go until the CCR mechanism become fully functional, effective, and sustainable.⁶⁹

The assessment documented numerous challenges to the functioning of the CCR mechanism, including: Steering Committees were identified as relatively passive when it comes to inter-institutional cooperation and coordination; operational multi-disciplinary technical teams were established, but struggled with frequent turnover of its members (i.e., police, judicial officials, health workers); offering services to VAWG survivors remains a challenge because there is a limited

network of multi-disciplinary services for domestic violence victims at local levels, and women from disadvantage groups face additional barriers accessing these services; service providers across sectors and members of law enforcement agencies, including the judiciary, remain uninformed about their legal obligations in relation to VAWG; and, data collection and reporting on case management at local and national levels has improved, but data discrepancies were an ongoing challenge.^{70,71}

In 2018, during the Universal Periodic Review, the United Nations Country Team offered several key recommendations, including: ensuring adequate financial resources be provided for prevention and rehabilitation services for VAWG survivors; expansion of CCR mechanisms, multi-disciplinary services, and rehabilitation and integration programmes to ensure they are accessible to all women, including disadvantaged groups and women living in rural areas; ensure necessary legal and policy amendments to institutionalise specialised support services to sexual violence victims through a coordinated multi-sectoral approach; development of model centres and services for VAWG survivors, including survivors of sexual violence and harassment; and, strengthening capacities of service providers at central and local levels.⁷²

Awareness-Raising Activities and Prevention of VAWG since the 2013 NDVS

In Albania, achieving gender equality and prevention of VAWG are key government commitments and have been the focus of programme/project activities of international and nongovernmental organizations. Since 2013, international and national organizations, including nongovernment organizations and civil society groups, have undertaken a range of activities from conducting research on VAWG and domestic violence to organizing awareness-raising and capacity building activities, and undertaking lobbying and advocacy efforts to improve legislation and policy frameworks related to EVAWG, and programmes and initiatives to prevent VAWG.⁷³ These activities have resulted in significant progress in recent years, including improvements in prevalence and administrative data related to VAWG and domestic violence, and approval

#HearMeToo

International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, voices of VAWG survivors and grassroots activists were honored and amplified in the global movement and grassroots campaign, “Orange your world #HearMeToo”.



of and amendments to the 2006 Law on Measures against Violence in Family Relations and the Criminal Code, and enhanced standards for services and service delivery to VAWG survivors.⁷⁴

In addition, public awareness-raising campaigns have been organized on an annual basis by state institutions at central and local levels in cooperation with international and nongovernmental organizations. For instance, the joint implementation of the “16 Days of Activism” campaign has become a tradition in Albania.⁷⁵ In 2015, during the “16 Days of Activism”, the then MSWY prepared and signed a Declaration for Joint Actions Against Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence with all religious communities in Albania. This was followed by trainings for religious leaders in 2016 on how to initiate joint actions against VAWG and domestic violence.^{76,77} In 2018, during the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, voices of VAWG survivors and grassroots activists were honored and amplified in the global movement and grassroots campaign, “Orange your world #HearMeToo”.

Efforts to engage and mobilize men and boys in EVAWG initiatives have been addressed in the

National Action Plan for the Involvement of Men/Boys as Partners with Women/Girls for Gender Equality and the Prevention of Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence, 2014 - 2019 (NAPM&B). Several elements of the NAPM&B were incorporated into the Action Plan of the new National Strategy for Gender Equality, 2016-2020.⁷⁸ Since 2013, some Action Plan elements were implemented in the framework of national joint campaigns under the slogans “Men and Boys are part of the solution: Show you are against Violence!”⁷⁹ In recent years, an increasing number of men and boys have engaged in these campaigns. In 2014, the MSWY also joined the global United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) “HeForShe” campaign.^{80,81}

In addition to campaigns, awareness-raising activities have focused on educating women about their rights and raising the qualifications of frontline service providers and justice officials to understand and respond to VAWG. For instance, the then MSWY (at present MoHSP) and other line ministries and their dependent institutions developed awareness-raising and capacity building activities focused on VAWG for professionals (e.g., police, doctors, nurses, social workers, legal professionals, and teachers). The

challenge, however, has been that international donors remain the main source of funding for awareness-raising and capacity-building activities.⁸²

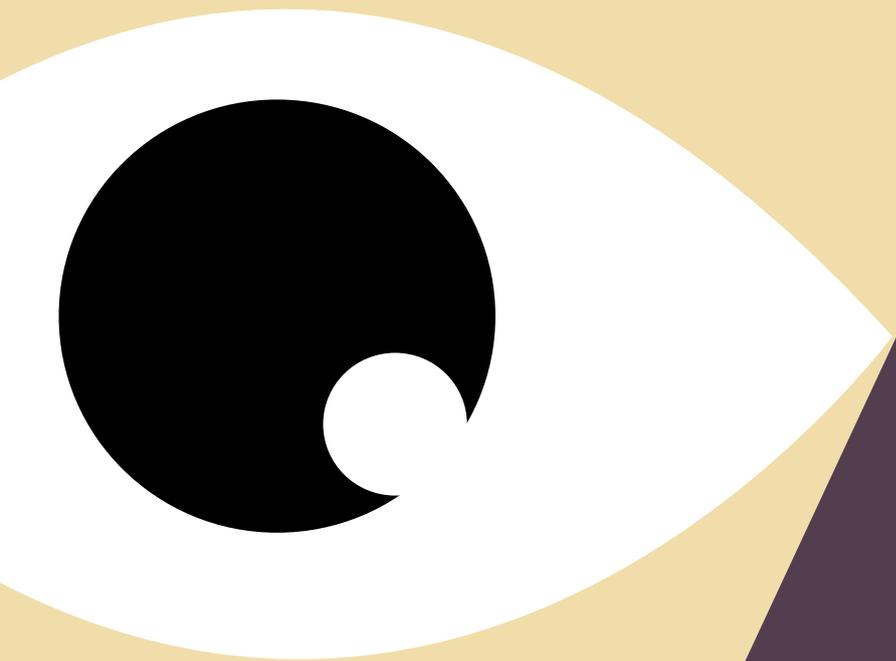
Why Conduct a National VAWG Survey in Albania?

The 2007 NDVS and 2013 NDVS were limited to measuring the nature and prevalence of domestic violence against women in Albania, while the 2013 NDVS also included non-partner physical violence against women since the age of 15. The 2018 OSCE-led Survey on the Well-being and Safety of Women used a different methodology and data collection tools from the NDVS and expanded the focus to different forms of violence experienced by women in their childhood and throughout the course of their lives, including intimate partner violence, non-partner violence, sexual harassment and stalking. Except for these three studies, research on VAWG remains limited in Albania. Data from these studies are important as they provide evidence of the nature and extent of VAWG, the negative consequences of violence, and help-seeking behaviours of VAWG survivors. Such data can be used to monitor and evaluate impact EAWG initiatives, including legislative reforms and prevention, protection and intervention initiatives.

The 2018 NVAWS used a similar methodology and data collection tools as the 2013 NDVS to collect reliable data on the nature and prevalence of domestic violence, but was expanded to collect data from a sample of women age 18-74, and data on the nature and extent of dating violence, non-partner violence, sexual harassment and stalking, as well as social norms and attitudes related to VAWG. The 2018 NVAWS was also designed to collect data on help-seeking behaviours of VAWG survivors, the negative consequences of VAWG on women's lives, and demographic data for perpetrators of VAWG.

In Albania, cross-sectional data⁸³ related to VAWG (2007, 2013 and 2018) provides the GoA and international and nongovernmental organizations with data needed to better understand VAWG and to make data-informed and evidence-based decisions when formulating EAWG policies and programmes. Cross-sectional data related to VAWG is needed to report on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly achievements made toward SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. SDG 5 has indicators and targets that focus on ending all forms of discrimination against all women and girls, and to eliminate all forms of VAWG in public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.

CHAPTER 2



RESEARCH DESIGN

VAWG is a sensitive issue, making data collection on the prevalence of VAWG a complex process. This is because much of the violence women experience happens behind closed doors and at the hands of intimate partners, family members and/or men with whom they are acquainted.

VAWG is a sensitive issue, making data collection on the prevalence of VAWG a complex process.⁸⁴ This is because much of the violence women experience happens behind closed doors and at the hands of intimate partners, family members and/or men with whom they are acquainted. VAWG survivors are often reluctant or afraid to report instances of violence out of fear of retaliation from their abuser(s) and/or negative reactions from family and friends. Females who speak out or seek help for VAWG, particularly domestic violence, are often blamed for their own victimization.⁸⁵ For these reasons, women usually do not spontaneously disclose a history of violence.⁸⁶

Other challenges faced by researchers collecting data on VAWG prevalence is to develop clear operational definitions of the different types of VAWG and tools for measuring each of type of VAWG.⁸⁷ Methodological developments have not advanced enough to capture all forms of VAWG.⁸⁸

Despite data collection challenges, INSTAT has conducted its 3rd national population-based survey of VAWG in Albania. The 1st national population-based survey of domestic violence against women and children was conducted in 2007⁸⁹, and the 2nd national population-based survey of domestic violence against women was conducted in 2013.⁹⁰ Each of these national population-based surveys were conducted using a similar methodology and data collection tools; yet, there are some notable differences and changes that were made over the years (see Table 2.1). Most notable is that the 1st survey included a sample of women age 15-49 years and children age 10-14 years, whereas the 2nd survey sampled only women age 18-55 years, and the 3rd survey sampled women age 18-74 years. In addition, the types of VAWG measured were significantly expanded in 2018 to include not only intimate partner domestic violence⁹¹ experienced by women (those who were or had been married and/or lived

with a partner), but also dating violence (experienced by women who were never been married and never lived with a male partner, but have been involved in a relationship with a male without living together), non-partner violence, sexual harassment, and stalking, as well as social norms and attitudes related to VAWG. It is important to note that measure of intimate partner domestic violence was modified and expanded from the 2nd NDVS to the 3rd NVAWS.

Each of these surveys serve to gather reliable cross-sectional data on the nature and extent of VAWG in Albania, along with the negative consequences of VAWG, help-seeking behaviours of VAWG survivors, and characteristics of perpetrators. Changes made to the methodology and data collection tools over time makes it difficult to compare VAWG prevalence rates, but cross-sectional data does offer understanding of estimates of the range of women who experience violence in their childhood and adulthood, and the perpetrators of VAWG. Different VAWG prevalence studies use different

methodologies, data collection tools, and samples of women; as a result, these studies will likely result in different VAWG prevalence rates. Bear in mind, there is no one way to measure prevalence rates and there are a range of data collection tools that have proven valid and reliable for measuring VAWG prevalence rates. Cross-sectional data and findings from these studies can and should be compared because they can offer estimates for the range of women who experience violence.

Thus, each of the 2007, 2013 and 2018 national population surveys of VAWG serve to help the GoA better understand VAWG in Albania and to monitor patterns and trends over time, and to explore the impact of recently developed prevention, intervention, and protection initiatives on the prevalence of VAWG and women's help seeking behaviours. Data and findings from this study can inform legislative and policy development, shape prevention and intervention efforts, and improve protection and support for VAWG survivors and their children.

Table 2.1. National domestic violence and VAWG

	1 st NDVS (2007)	2 nd NDVS (2013)	3 rd NVAWS (2018)
Sample	12 Prefectures	12 Prefectures	12 Prefectures
Sample size	Women, N=2,590 Children, N=991	Women, N=3,589	Women, N=3,443
Sample demographics	Women, age 15-49 Children, age 10-14	Women, age 18-55	Women, age 18-74
Types of VAWG measured	Intimate partner domestic violence experienced by women (emotional, psychological, physical and sexual violence)	Intimate partner domestic violence (psychological, physical and sexual violence) ¹	Intimate partner domestic violence (coercive controlling behaviours and economic, psychological, physical and sexual violence)
	Domestic violence experienced by children (psychological and physical violence)	Non-partner violence experienced by women since age 15 years (physical)	Dating violence (coercive controlling behaviours and economic, psychological, physical and sexual violence) Non-partner violence experienced by women since age 15 years (physical and sexual violence) Sexual harassment Stalking Social norms and attitudes related to VAWG

¹ Note: Emotional and psychological violence were measured in 2013 using similar measures as 2007, however, they were not disaggregated into separate categories during analysis as they were in 2007.

Measuring VAWG Prevalence

The *2018 NVAWS in Albania* was developed to measure the nature and extent of five different types of VAWG:

- Intimate partner domestic violence
- Dating violence
- Non-partner violence
- Sexual harassment
- Stalking

(Definitions for each of these types of VAWG are offered at the start of this report).

Each of these types of VAWG were operationalized in the survey using a range of behaviour-specific questions related to each of the different types of VAWG. The study did not attempt to measure an exhaustive list of acts, but instead asked a number of questions about specific acts that commonly occur in violent and abusive marriages and families, and that women and girls commonly experience in public spaces. The acts used to define each of the different types of VAWG are laid out and discussed in the chapters that follow.

Development of the 2018 National VAWG Survey in Albania

In 2007, INSTAT initially developed the NDVS after an extensive review of international literature on domestic violence and a review of existing survey instruments used in the United States, Europe, and Africa⁹². At that time, INSTAT also reviewed data published by the Ministry of Interior for the period of 2004 to 2007, and data and information on domestic violence published by member NGOs of the Network Against Gender-Based Violence and Human Trafficking⁹³.

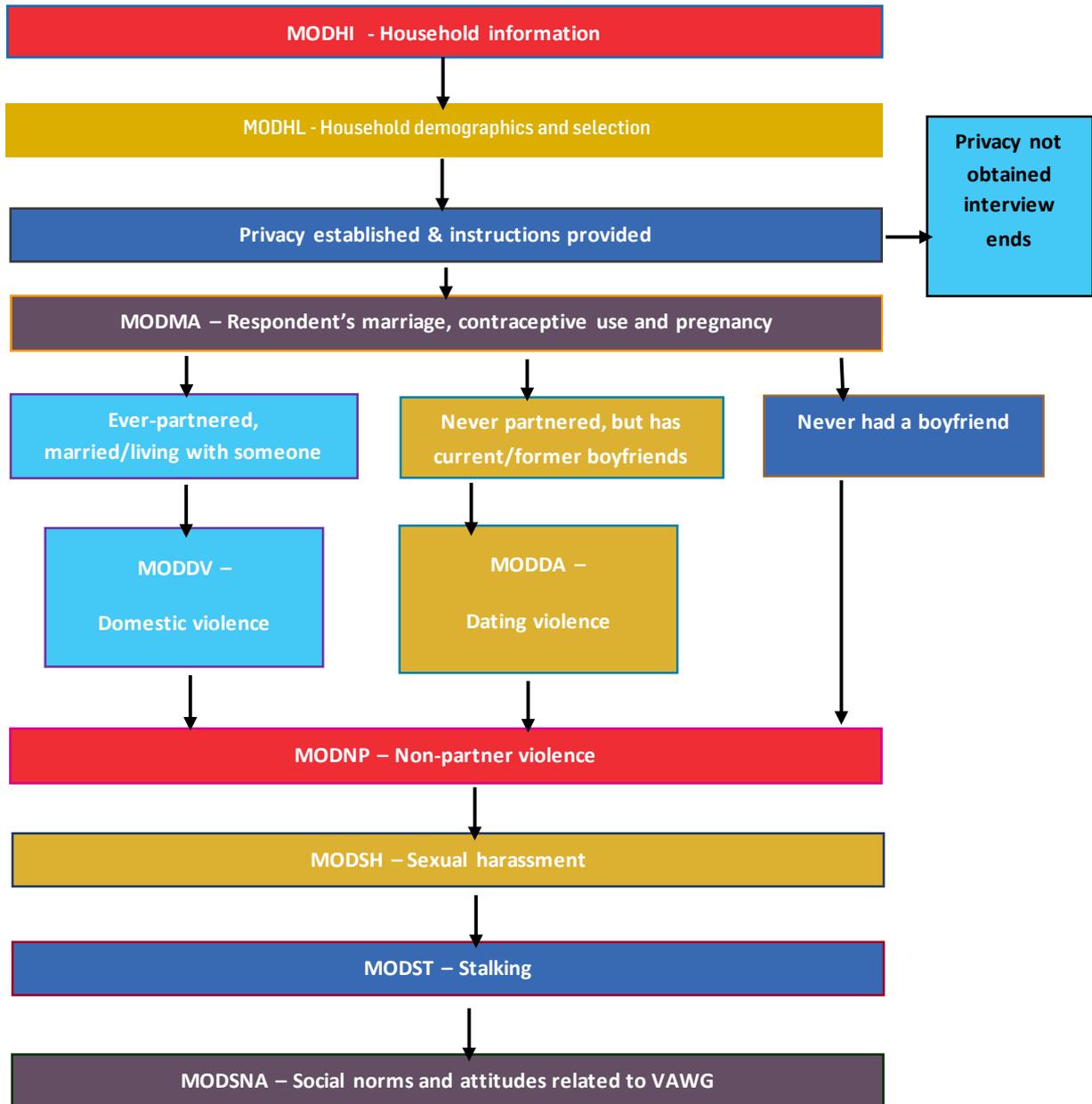
In addition, INSTAT reviewed the 1996 Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights publication entitled, *Domestic Violence in Albania*. The 2007 NDVS included 10 separate modules, including two modules designed to gather data about the presence and use of weapons in the home, and two modules designed to gather data from children about their experiences with domestic violence. The survey also focused on interviewing one woman in the household between 15 and 49 years of age or one child age 10 to 14 years.

In 2013, INSTAT reviewed the 2007 NDVS with technical assistance from UNDP. Revisions were made to survey questions and wording to improve the measurement of women's experiences with domestic violence in marriage and intimate relationships. The 2013 NDVS included 5 modules; excluded were four modules from the 2007 NDVS designed to gather data about the presence and use of weapons in the home and children's experiences with domestic violence. The 2013 NDVS was also revised to focus on interviewing one woman in the household between 18 and 55 years of age about their experiences with domestic violence.

In 2018, INSTAT reviewed the 2013 NDVS with technical assistance from UNDP. The aim was to expand the NDVS to measure more than just intimate partner violence and non-partner violence, and to include sexual harassment and stalking, as well as social norms and attitudes related to VAWG. As part of the revisions process, INSTAT reviewed the 2013 NDVS and VAWG surveys developed and conducted in EU countries in 2012 by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights and VAWG surveys conducted with funding and technical support from UN Women in Georgia and Jamaica, as well as literature on measuring social norms and attitudes related to VAWG and the study of social norms and harmful practices conducted in Malawi with funding and technical support from UN Women. Based upon this review revisions were made to original measures of intimate partner violence and non-partner violence included in the 2013 NDVS, and expanded to include sexual harassment, stalking and social norms and attitudes related to VAWG. The *2018 NVAWS in Albania* included 9 separate modules:

- Module 1: Information Module (MODHI)⁹⁴
- Module 2: Module of Household Structure (MODHL)⁹⁵
- Module 3: Marriage Module, the use of contraceptives and sexual behaviour (MODMA)⁹⁶
- Module 4: Module of Domestic Violence (MODDV)⁹⁷
- Module 5: Module of Dating Violence (MODDA)⁹⁸
- Module 6: Module of Non-Partner Violence (MODNP)⁹⁹
- Module 7: Module of Sexual Harassment (MODSH)¹⁰⁰
- Module 8: Module of Stalking (MODST)¹⁰¹
- Module 9: Module of Social Norms and Attitudes Related to VAWG (MODSNA)¹⁰²

Diagram 2.1. 2018 NVAWS Module Flowchart



The 2018 NVAWS was developed in Excel and imported into CSPro software, then loaded onto tablets which were used in the field by INSTAT interviewers to administer the survey and collect data. Interviewers administered the survey in a face-to-face setting, interviewing one woman age 18-74 in the household. Diagram 2.1 shows the module flowchart for the 2018 NVAWS in Albania.

Maximizing Disclosure

From the outset of the survey it was recognized that VAWG is a highly sensitive issue and that women would most likely be reluctant to disclose their experiences with violence. For these reasons, attempts were made to design the survey to ensure that women would feel comfortable and able to disclose experiences of VAWG, including in their intimate relationships. In particular, the

survey was structured so that early sections collected information on less sensitive issues (e.g., demographics), and more sensitive issues (e.g., self-reporting violence) were explored later in the survey. In addition, attention was given to the wording of survey directions.

Respondents were forewarned about the focus of the survey and the sensitive nature of questions included in the survey; the survey’s focus was not made known to other members of the household. Data collectors were instructed to obtain privacy prior to asking questions about violence experienced both in women’s lifetime and in the 12 months prior to the survey. Respondents were informed that their responses would remain confidential and that they could end the interview at any time without penalty.

Sample Design

The 2018 NVAWS was administered at the national level across each of the 12 prefectures in Albania. A stratified sample design was used for selecting women for sampling. The primary sampling units (PSUs) selected at the first stage were the enumeration areas (EAs), which are small operational areas defined on maps used for the 2011 Census enumeration. SAS software was used at this stage to systematically select the sample of EAs with probability proportion to size (PPS) within each prefecture. The second stage of selection was the household lists from the selected EAs. The list of households enumerated in the 2011 Census for each sample EA was used as the sampling frame for selecting a sample of 8 households + 4 households reserved in each sample EA, using random systematic sampling with equal probability.

The third stage of selection was women; one woman was selected in each household that was selected in the second stage. Based upon pre-established criteria a woman was considered eligible to be surveyed if she was between 18 and 74 years of age and regularly lived in the household. For households with one woman present, that woman was selected for interview using Module 2, Module of Household Structure. For households with more than one woman, the interviewer was instructed to randomly choose the women with nearest birthday method of selection.

The goal was to generate a sample of women age 18-74 that would allow for the production of statistically reliable estimates of the prevalence of VAWG at the national level. It is notable that INSTAT recognized during the design stage the sample size of a particular survey is determined by the accuracy required for the national level estimates, as well influenced by costs, resources, and operational constraints. The sample size was also influenced by logistical issues related to the organization and size of the data collection teams, and the workload for survey administration and data collection. Considering all of these factors, calculations suggested that a sample size of 3,600 households would give sufficient power to meet the study objectives.

Table 2.2. Survey response rate (%)

	N=4,613
Households with eligible women	76.5
Households with no eligible women	3.0
Households that refused to participate	5.1
Dwelling destroyed/not found	2.4
Dwelling not used for living any more	3.3
Other	9.7

Table 2.2 shows that a total of 4,613 households were approached, of which 3,528 households had women who were eligible to be interviewed. Among those households, 3,445 women gave consent to be interviewed (97.6% response rate). The final sample included 3,443 respondents; 2 surveys were eliminated because they were incomplete.

Data Collectors

Prior to administering the survey, INSTAT carefully selected and trained the research team which was made up of 20 regional supervisors and 61 interviewers. INSTAT has a qualified team of data collectors/interviewers, so most of the data collectors/interviewers used in this research project were employed by INSTAT and all were female. Each member of the research team was trained over a period of five days in September 2018. The training covered the purpose and content of the NVAWS, key definitions, issues of VAWG, sampling and survey procedures, how to administer the survey

in a face-to-face setting, how to help interviewees correctly recall violent events,¹⁰³ and ethical and safety considerations for interviewing VAWG survivors. They were also trained on how to use the CSPro software and tablets to conduct the survey. Research team members were also provided with ongoing support throughout the course of the study.

The safety of respondents and the research team was of paramount importance; therefore, ethical considerations for research on VAWG outlined by the World Health Organization¹⁰⁴ and the Global Women's Institute (GWI) for Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)¹⁰⁵ were incorporated into the survey sample design, administration procedures, and training for interviewers. Interviewers were instructed on the importance of ensuring confidentiality and privacy of respondents to protect the safety of respondents and to improve the quality of data. To protect confidentiality, interviewers were trained to interview respondents in private. The INSTAT project coordinator and team supervisors regularly monitored the performance of interviewers and the quality of collected data.

Survey Administration in the Field

The 2018 NVAWS in Albania was administered in the 12 prefectures in October and November 2018. Surveys were administered in a face-to-face setting in the homes of respondents. Respondents were not paid to participate in the interview; participation was completely voluntary. As previously mentioned, anonymity and confidentiality were guaranteed for all respondents, and privacy was obtained prior to asking questions about VAWG.

Ethical Considerations

It is well documented that ethical considerations are extremely important when conducting research on VAWG due to the sensitive nature of the subject matter. Women risk retaliation from an abusive partner and/or family member as a result of disclosing violence, and women can be re-traumatized through the intrusive nature of the interview questions. These risks also extend to the

researchers themselves, as internationally there have been documented instances of field workers being threatened by family and/or community members in the course of carrying out research on VAWG.^{106,107}

In response to these concerns, the WHO published *Ethical and safety recommendations for intervention research on violence against women. Building on lessons from the WHO publication* (2016) and Australia's GWI for DFAT published *Ethical Considerations for Research and Evaluation on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls* (2018). These guidance documents offer ethical guidelines and considerations for human subjects' protections that should be implemented when conducting research on VAWG. This includes specific guidance regarding obtaining privacy, guaranteeing anonymity and confidentiality for respondents, ensuring voluntary participation, having adequate and informed consent procedures for participants, and offering referrals to women who experienced violence and requested assistance to available local services and sources of support.^{108,109} INSTAT took steps to ensure a sound ethical processes and safety of participants and the research team was integrated during the design stage and subsequently followed during implementation of the NVAWS, and data analysis and dissemination.

This study was designed to be methodologically sound and built upon lessons learned from the 2007 and 2013 NDVS, as well as current international literature on how to minimize under-reporting of VAWG when conducting VAWG prevalence studies. All research team members, including data collectors, were carefully selected by INSTAT and received specialized training and ongoing support by INSTAT. INSTAT and donors also recognized the ethical obligations to ensure that the findings presented throughout this report are properly interpreted and used to advance EVAWG policies and programming.

Sample Weighting

Due to the non-strictly proportional allocation of sample to different prefectures and to their urban and rural areas and the possible differences in

response rates, sampling weight is required for any analysis using the NVAWS data to ensure the actual representativeness of survey results at the national level, as well as at domain level. Since the sample is a three-stage stratified cluster sample, sampling weight was calculated based on sampling probabilities separately for each sampling stage and for each cluster. The following notations were used:

P_{1hi} : First-stage sampling probability of the i^{th} cluster in stratum h

P_{2hi} : Second-stage sampling probability within the i^{th} cluster (probability for the selection of households)

P_{hi} : Overall sampling probability of any households of the i^{th} cluster in stratum h

H_{ij} : Number of females on target population on the household j of strata h and i^{th} cluster (female age 18-74 years on the household)

Let a_h be the number of clusters selected in stratum h , M_{hi} the number of households according to the sampling frame in the i^{th} cluster, and $\sum M_{hi}$ the total number of structures in the stratum h . The first stage's probability of selecting the i^{th} cluster in stratum h is calculated as follows:

$$P_{1hi} = \frac{a_h M_{hi}}{\sum M_{hi}}$$

Let L_{hi} be the number of households listed in the household listing operation in cluster i in stratum h , let g_{hi} be the number of households selected in the cluster. The second stage's selection probability for each household in the cluster is calculated as follows:

$$P_{2hi} = \frac{g_{hi}}{L_{hi}}$$

The selection probability of each household in cluster i of stratum h is therefore the production of the two stages selection probabilities:

$$P_{hi} = P_{1hi} \times P_{2hi}$$

The design sampling weight for each household in cluster i of stratum h is the inverse of its overall selection probability:

$$W_{hi} = 1/P_{hi}$$

As a three-stage sampling of women 18-74 within the household is selected due to a random procedure. The probability of the selection of her is measured:

P_{3hij} is the probability of the selection of the women in each household.

The overall probability of the selection of the women j in cluster i of stratum h is the inverse of its overall selection probability:

$$P_{hij} = P_{1hi} \times P_{2hi} \times P_{3hij}$$

The design sampling weight for the women j in cluster i of stratum h is the inverse of its overall selection probability of the women:

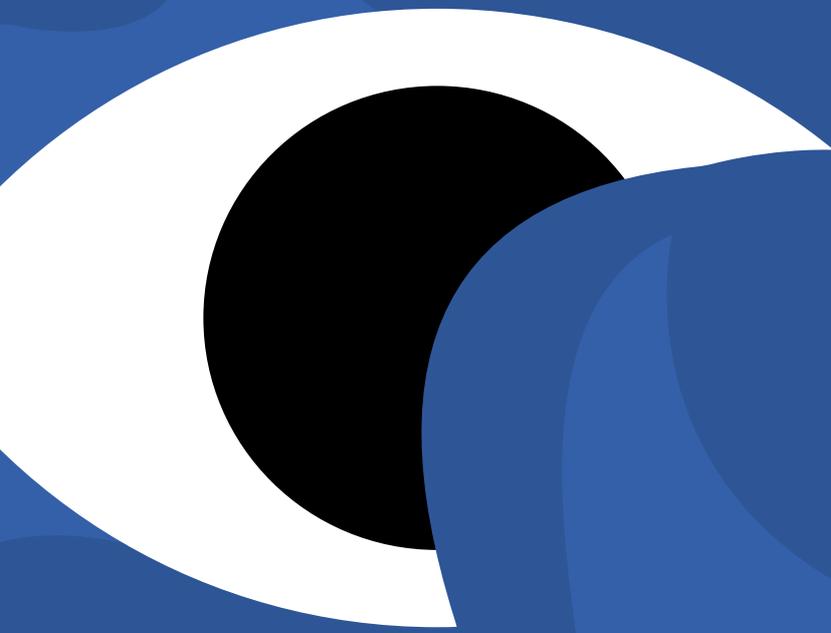
$$W_{hij} = 1/P_{hij}$$

The process of weighting is proceeded by re-weighting for non-response and calibration for 2018 population number of women age 18-74 at the prefecture level and 10-year age groups to produce the final weight applied on data analyzes.

Data Processing, Analysis and Reporting

The data entry and processing procedures were rigorous and carefully supervised by INSTAT. A standardized approach to coding was adopted and the data entry program was developed in CSPro software; this helped to ensure that the survey was properly administered and recorded in the field. All data was entered in the field into tablets using the CSPro Software. Data weighting, processing and analysis began in December 2018 and was completed in March 2019, and was carried out by INSTAT with technical support from UNDP. Throughout this report, findings are presented based upon weighted data as percentages, with 'N' representing the total population size based upon weighted data. Annex B presents unweighted figures with 'n' referring to the actual number of women interviewed.

CHAPTER 3



CHARACTERISTICS OF INTERVIEWED WOMEN

This chapter reveals the demographic characteristics of eligible women in the households that were approached for sampling, along with demographic data for the final sample of women age 18-74 years who were selected and voluntarily agree to complete the survey.

Characteristics of Eligible Women

Among households that were approached for sampling there was typically more than one woman who was eligible to be surveyed. Table 3.1 shows data for all eligible women in the households that were sampled. Among the 4,142 women eligible to be surveyed, 68.8% were identified as a spouse/partner (currently married or living with a husband/partner; only 9.5% identified themselves as head of the household and 7.3% were daughters-in-law. In terms of level of education, 43.1% had a lower secondary education (8-9 years), 28.4% had a higher secondary education, and 17.2% had a university education; only 9.4% had a primary education or less.

Table 3.1. Characteristics of eligible women, age 18-74 years (unweighted data)

Position in household	N=4,142	
	%	
Head	9.5	
Spouse/partner	68.8	
Child/adopted child	11.2	
Niece	0.7	
Mother	1.7	
Sister	0.4	
Daughter-in-law	7.3	
Other	0.4	
Level of education		
No diploma	0.7	
Primary education	8.7	
Lower secondary 8-9 years	43.1	
Higher secondary	28.4	
Post-secondary, non-tertiary	1.8	
University	17.2	

Demographics of Interviewed Women

The final sample of women included 3,443 households and women age 18-74 years. As explained in Chapter 2, to produce the final weight applied for data analysis, INSTAT weighted the data based upon the calibration for the 2018 population number of women age 18 to 74 years at the prefecture level, and 10-year age groups; thus, 'N' representing the total population size and percentages (%) reported presented in tables throughout this report are based upon weighted data (see Annex B for unweights figures).

Based upon the weighted data, Table 3.2 reveals the sample of women was not equally distributed across prefectures, as more women were sampled in Tirana (31.2%), the capital city which has a much larger population, and in Fier (9.9%) and Elbasen (9.8%), compared to Kukes (2.6%) and Gjirokaster (2.6%) where far fewer women were sampled (See Annex B for unweighted results).

Table 3.3 reveals age groups and level of education for the sample of women. Women ranged in age from 18 to 74 years with an average age of 43.6 years. There was a fairly equal distribution of women across each of the age groups, except fewer women age 65-74 (11.2%). In terms of education, 42.4% of women had a lower secondary education (8-9 years), 27.8% had an upper secondary education, and 19.7% had a university education; only 7.7% of women had a primary education or less. It should be noted that women's education was not integrated into the larger data set of women's experiences with violence, so comparisons based upon level of education cannot be made.

In terms of women's employment, Table 3.4 shows that 38.2% of women worked, 29.5% were looking work, but currently unemployed, and 18.2% were retired. Only 4.5% were students or studying, and 1.4% were disabled or had a long-term illness. Types of employment women were engaged in included: paid employment in private enterprises (31.3%), paid government employees (19.2%), self-employed without paid employees (7.7%) and with paid employees (1.2%), and paid employment in a

Table 3.2. Sample of women by prefecture (weighted data)

Prefectures	Total sample (weighted) N=1,040,726
	%
Berat	4.7
Dibra	4.2
Durres	8.0
Elbasan	9.8
Fier	9.9
Gjirokaster	2.6
Korce	7.5
Kukes	2.6
Lezhe	4.2
Shkoder	7.4
Tirana	31.2
Viore	8.0

Table 3.3. Women's age groups and level of education (weighted data)

	Total sample N=1,040,726
	%
Female	100.0
Age groups	
18-24 years	16.1
25-34 years	19.6
35-44 years	16.0
45-54 years	18.6
55-64 years	18.4
65-74 years	11.2
Level of education	
Less than primary education	0.6
Primary education	7.1
Lower secondary, 8-9 years	42.4
Upper secondary	27.8
Post-secondary, non-tertiary	2.4
University	19.7

private home (2.5%). In addition, 14.4% of women were unpaid employees in the agriculture or another sector. A proportion of women were in other types of employment (21.1%).

Table 3.5 shows that 40.4% of women reported money from their own work was the main source of income in their household; only 22.4% of women reported support from their husband/boyfriend was the main source of income in their household, and 18.7% women reported a pension was their main source of income. Only 3.6% of women identified social services/welfare as their main source of income and 1.0% reported their household had no income.

Respondents were also asked about their monthly household income. Table 3.5 shows that 22.4% had monthly household incomes of 12,001-26,000 Lek (USD \$109-\$234), 25.4% had a monthly household income of 26,001-38,000 Lek (USD \$235-\$342), 24.7% reported a monthly household income of 38,001-60,000 Lek (USD \$343-540). Fewer respondents reported monthly household incomes of 60,001-110,000 Lek (USD \$541-\$990) and more than 110,000 Lek (more than USD \$991). Also, only 9.1% of respondents reported a monthly household income of 12,000 Lek or less (USD \$108 USD or less).

Table 3.6 reveals the marital status and living arrangement of the sample of women. The majority of women sampled were currently married and/or living with a male partner (79.7%); in particular, 73.3% were currently married and living together with a male partner, 5.7% were current married, but not living together with a male partner, and .7% were living with a male partner, but not married. Only 20.3% were not currently married or living with a male partner; in particular, 10.8% had never been involved in a relationship with a male, 5.4% were previously married, and 4.0% had been involved in a relationship with a male without living together (e.g., dating or engaged). In addition, 4.1% were women were widowed, 1.2% were divorced, and 0.2% were separated or broken up with their current male husband/boyfriend. The age at which women first married or lived together with a man was most often 18-24 years of age (63.2%); only 9.7% reported being

Table 3.4. Women's employment (weighted data)

Work Status	Total sample N=1,040,726
	%
Working	38.2
Looking for work/unemployed	29.5
Retired	18.2
Student/studying	4.5
Disabled/long-term sick	1.4
Other	8.0
Type of Employment (main employment or most recent employment)	
Paid government employee	19.2
Paid employment in private enterprise	31.3
Paid employment in private home	2.5
Unpaid employee in agriculture or in other	14.4
Self-employed with paid employees	1.2
Self-employed without paid employees	7.7
Other	21.1

Table 3.5. Income of the sample of women (weighted data)

Main source of income in your household	Total sample N=1,040,726
	%
No income	1.0
Money from own work	40.4
Support from your husband/boyfriend	22.4
Support from other relatives	9.3
Pension	18.7
Social services/welfare	3.6
Remittances	0.5
Other	4.1
Monthly household income	
12,000 Lek or less	9.1
12,001 – 26,000 Lek	22.4
26,001 – 38,000 Lek	25.4
38,001 – 60,000 Lek	24.7
60,001 – 110,000 Lek	11.1
More than 110,000 Lek	3.1
Don't know/Refused to answer	4.2

married or living together with a man at the age of 17 years or younger.

Data was analysed to report on SDG 5.3.1, the proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18. Findings revealed no women age 20-24 were married before age 15 and 6.1% were married before age 18, mainly at 16 or 17 years of age.

Table 3.6. Women's marital status and living arrangements (weighted data)

Marital status and living arrangements	Total sample N=1,040,726 %
Currently married, living together with a male partner	73.3
Currently married, not living together with a male partner	5.7
Living with a male partner, not married	0.7
Not currently married or living with a male partner	20.3
Not currently married or living with a male partner	N=210,985
Previously married	5.4
Never married, but previously lived with a male partner	0.1
Been involved in a relationship with a male without living together	4.0
Never been involved in a relationship with a male	10.8
Ending of last partnership with a man	N=1,040,726
Divorce	1.2
Separated/broken up	0.2
Widow/partnered died	4.1
Age first time married/living together with a man	
≤ 17 years	9.7
18-24 years	63.2
25-30 years	11.0
≥ 31 years	1.2

Pregnancy and Children

Among the sample of women, 80.9% had been pregnant and 79.8% had given birth; only 0.9% were pregnant at the time of the survey. The age at which women first became pregnant was typically 18-24 years (63.2%); yet, 9.7% of women first became pregnant before 18 years of age and 11.0% first became pregnant at 25-30 years of age. Far fewer women became pregnant for the first time at 31 years of age or older (1.2%).

Table 3.7. Pregnancy and childbearing (weighted data)

	Total sample N=1,040,726 %
Ever been pregnant	80.9
Ever gave birth	79.8
Pregnant now	0.9
Age first time became pregnant	
≤ 17 years	9.7
18-24 years	63.2
25-30 years	11.0
≥ 31 years	1.2

Table 3.8. Children in the household and behavioural problems (weighted data)

	Total sample N=1,040,726 %
Have a child ≤ 17 years living with you	37.4
Behavioural problems among children age 5-17 years	N=389,509
Have frequent nightmares	13.6
Wet their bed often	10.5
Very timid or withdrawn	11.1
Act aggressive with you or other children	3.4
Ever ran away from home	20.9

Table 3.8 shows that 37.4% of women had a child(ren) 17 years of age or younger living with them. Among women who had children living with them, 20.9% reported one or more of their children ever ran away from home. In addition, 13.6% reported their children had frequent nightmares, 11.1% reported their children were very timid or withdrawn, 10.5% reported their children wet their bed often, and 3.4% reported their children acted aggressive with them or other children. The relationship between children’s behavioural problems and exposure to domestic violence will be explored in Chapter 6: Intimate Partner Domestic Violence.

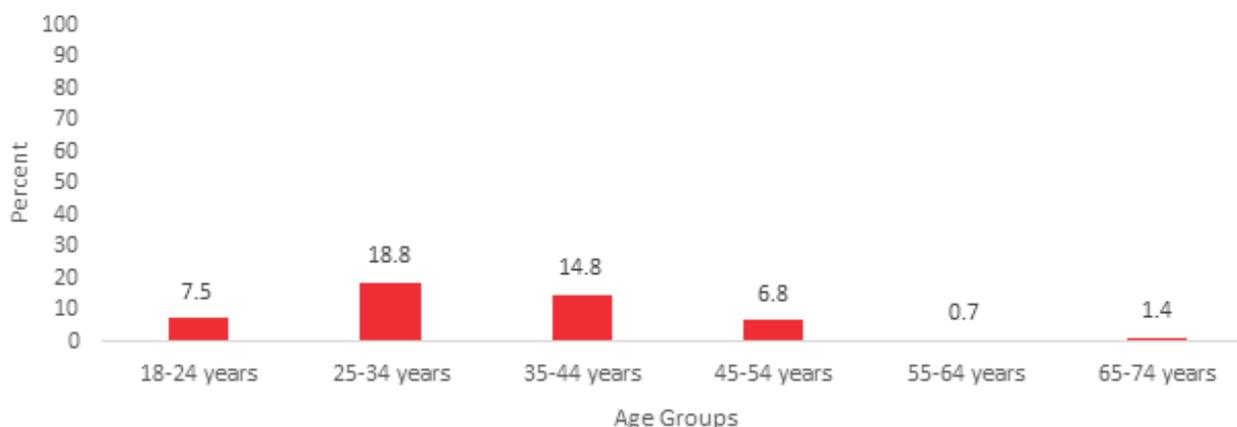
Birth Control

Women were asked about methods of birth control. Table 3.9 shows that only 8.2% of women sampled were currently using a method of birth control. Among women who were using birth control, 60.9% used withdrawal or the pull-out method; whereas only 32.3% of women used condoms and 24.8% used birth control pills/tablets. Far fewer women used other methods of birth control. Women were asked who decides contraceptive use in their marriage/intimate relationship and 80.9% of women reported both they and their husband/boyfriend decide use and method of contraceptives. It is notable that 9.6% of women reported their husbands/boyfriends decide whether they are able to use birth control and the method of birth control. Data in Table 3.7 shows that when men are involved in deciding the method of birth

Table 3.9. Birth control use and methods (weighted data)

Total sample N=1,040,726	
	%
Currently using a method of birth control	8.2
Birth control methods	N=85,212
Female sterilization	1.1
Male sterilization	0.0
Tablets/pills	24.8
Injections	2.2
Implants (Norplant)	0.7
IUD	0.6
Diaphragm/Foam/Jelly	0.0
Calendar/Mucus method	1.3
Condoms	32.3
Breastfeeding	7.4
Herbs	2.6
Withdrawal/pull out method	60.9
Other	1.0
Who decides the method of birth control used	N=87,133
You	7.6
Husband/boyfriend	9.6
Both you and your husband/boyfriend	80.9
Other	0.7

Chart 3.1. Birth control use by age groupings (weighted data)



control, the withdrawal or pull out method is the most preferred method of birth control.

Chart 3.1 shows that women age 25-34 years (18.8%) and 35-44 years (14.8%) were more likely use a method of birth control, compared to women 18-24 years (7.5%) and 45-54 years (6.8%). It is surprising that some women 55-64 years (0.7%) and 65-74 years (1.4%) reported using a method of birth control, particularly given the fact that women in these age groups would most likely be post-menopausal. One explanation is that women 55 years of age and older may use condoms to reduce the risk of sexual transmitted infections (STIs), particularly if they are having sexual relations outside of marriage.

Table 3.10 shows that only 2.8% of women reported their current/most recent husband/boyfriend ever refused to use a method of birth control or tried to stop them from using birth control. Among these women, the majority reported their husband/boyfriend ridiculed them (64.5%) to get them to stop using birth control. In addition, 33.8% of women reported their husband/boyfriend screamed at them or got mad at them for using birth control, and 23.1% reported their husband/boyfriend showed they disagreed with using birth control. Some women also reported their husband/boyfriend threatened to leave them or throw them out of the house for using birth control (17.8%), threatened to beat them (15.6%), accused them of not being a good woman (6.9%), threw away the contraceptives (6.8%), and hit/beat them (4.2%) for using birth control.

Sexually Transmitted Infections

Table 3.11 shows that 12.2% of women worried they were at-risk of getting a STI, such as HIV/AIDS. In addition, 2.3% of women ever had a STI and 0.2% had a STI in the past 12 months; 10.3% of women who ever had a STI had a STI in the past 12 months.

Data was analysed to explore the relationship between use of birth control and STIs. Bear in mind, the most common methods of birth control were the withdrawal/pull out methods (60.9%), condoms

(32.3%), and tablets/pills (24.8%; see Table 3.7). Chart 3.2 shows that women who used birth control (23.8%) were more likely to worry that they are at risk of getting a STI, compared to women who were not using birth control (11.6%). Also, women who were using birth control were more likely to have had a STI (6.6%) and to have had a STI in the past 12 months (20.1%), compared to women who were not using birth control (1.8% and 8.5% respectively).

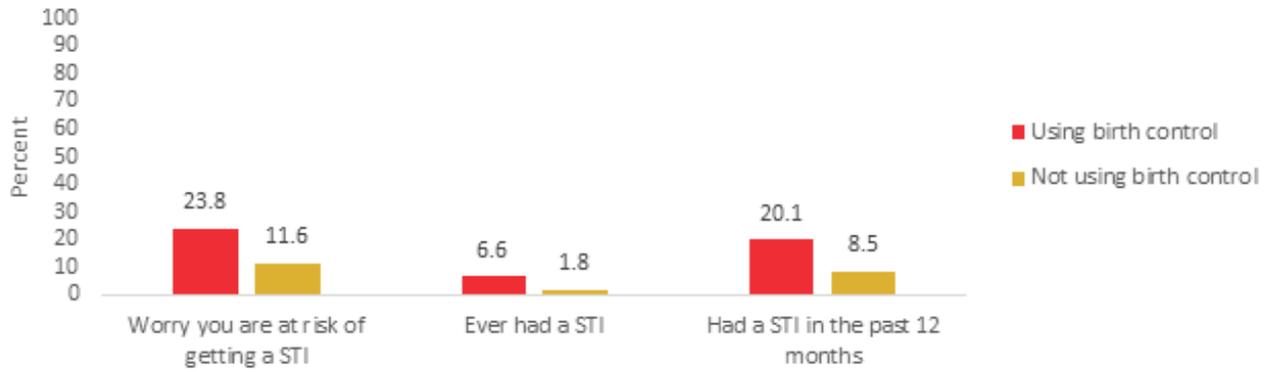
Table 3.10. Husbands/boyfriends refusal to use birth control (weighted data)

Total sample N=1,040,726	
%	
Current/most recent husband/boyfriend ever refused to use a method of birth control or tried to stop you from using a method to avoid getting pregnant	2.8
Means by which husband/boyfriend refuses use of birth control	
N=29.444	
Showed that he disagreed with using this method of birth control	23.1
Screamed/got mad at you	33.8
Threw away the contraceptives	6.8
Accused you of not being a good woman	6.9
Threatened to beat you	15.6
Threatened to leave you or throw you out of the house	17.8
Ridiculed you	64.5
Said it is not necessary	12.0
Hit/beat you	4.2
Other	0.0

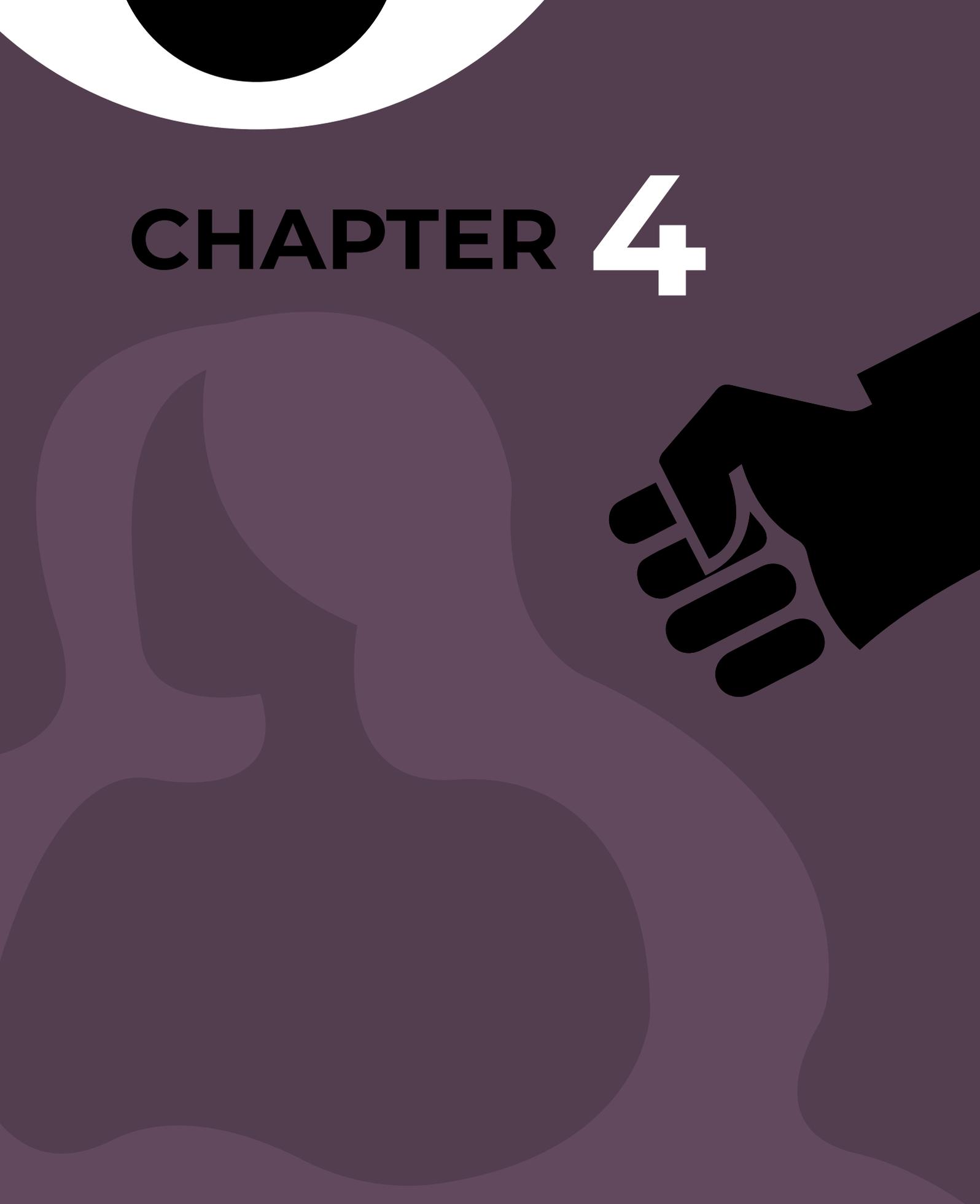
Table 3.11. Sexually transmitted infections (weighted data)

Total sample N=1,040,726	
%	
Worried they are at-risk of getting a STI, such as HIV/AIDS	12.2
Ever had a STI	2.3
Had a STI in the past 12 months	0.2

Chart 3.2. Birth control use by sexually transmitted infections (weighted data)



CHAPTER 4



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS AT A GLANCE

This chapter offers a glance at some of the key findings that are presented throughout this report related to the prevalence of VAWG and the relationship between different types of VAWG. These findings and more complex analysis that offer a more in-depth understanding of nature and prevalence of VAWG are presented in the chapters that follow.

Experiences of Violence against Women and Girls

Table 4.1 provides a snapshot of the proportion of women age 18-74 in Albania who experienced violence during their lifetime (ever) and in the 12 months prior to the interview (current). The data presented in Table 4.1 are the overall prevalence rates for each of the different types of violence that are discussed in more detail in Chapters 6 to 10.

Overall, 1 out of 2 or 52.9% of women age 18-74 experienced one or more of the five types of violence – intimate partner domestic violence, dating violence, non-partner violence, sexual harassment and/or stalking - during their lifetime (ever). In terms of IPV, 47.0% of women (those who were or had been married and/or lived with a partner) 'ever' experienced intimate partner domestic violence and 2 out of 3 or 65.8% of women (those who were never

been married and never lived with a male partner, but have been involved in a relationship with a male without living together) 'ever' experienced dating violence (for data on the five different types of intimate partner domestic violence and dating violence are revealed in Chapters 5 and 6). Among all women age 18-74 years, 18.2% 'ever' experienced non-partner violence, 18.1% 'ever' experienced sexual harassment, and, 12.6% 'ever' experienced stalking (for data on the different types of non-partner violence, sexual harassment and stalking see Chapters 7 to 10) .

Table 4.1 also shows that 1 out of 3 or 36.6% of respondents experienced one or more of the five type of violence in the 12 months prior to the interview (current). In terms of IPV, 1 out of 3 or 33.7% of women (those who were or had been married and/or lived with a male partner) 'currently' experienced intimate partner domestic violence and 61.8% of women

(those who were never been married and never lived with a male partner, but have been involved in a relationship with a male without living together, such as dating or engaged) 'currently' experienced dating violence. Among all women age 18-74 years, 2.4% 'currently' experienced non-partner violence, 8.5% 'currently' experienced sexual harassment, and 6.9% 'currently' experienced stalking.

Women often experience more than one type of violence in their lifetime. Chart 4.1 shows the proportion of women age 18-74 years who experienced one or more of the types of violence identified in Table 4.1. More specifically, 27.0% of women 'ever' experienced only one type of violence in Table 4.1, 15.7% 'ever' experienced two types of violence, 7.6% 'ever' experienced three types of violence, and 2.7% 'ever' experienced four types of violence. In terms of current experiences of violence, 26.8% of women 'currently' experienced only one type of violence in Table 4.1, 7.4% 'currently' experienced two types of violence, 2.2% 'currently' experienced three types of violence, and 0.2% 'currently' experienced four types of violence.

Relationship between Non-Partner Violence and Domestic Violence

Further analysis was conducted to understand the relationship between women's experiences with non-partner violence since age 15 and experiences of intimate partner domestic violence. Table 4.2 shows that 3 out of 4 or 75.8% women who experienced non-partner violence since age 15 experienced intimate partner domestic violence (see Chapter 7 for more information about the perpetrators of non-partner violence since age 15). Most notable is that women who 'ever' experienced non-partner violence since age 15 (75.8%) were two times more likely to experience intimate partner domestic violence, compared to women who *did not* experience non-partner violence since age 15 (32.1%).

Table 4.3 shows that 1 out of 3 or 34.5% of women who experienced intimate partner domestic violence also experienced non-partner violence since age 15. So, the relationship between non-partner violence and intimate partner domestic violence is very strong.

Table 4.1. Experiences of violence against women and girls (weighted data)

	Ever %	Current %
Experienced violence (one or more of the 5 types)	52.9	36.6
Experienced intimate partner domestic violence	47.0	33.7
Experienced dating violence	65.8	61.8
Experienced non-partner violence since age 15	18.2	2.4
Experienced sexual harassment	18.1	8.5
Experienced stalking	12.6	6.9

Table 4.2. Relationship between non-partner and intimate partner domestic violence (weighted data)

Experienced non-partner violence since age 15 (ever)	Experienced intimate partner domestic violence (ever) %
Yes	75.8
No	32.1

Sign = .000

Table 4.3. Relationship between intimate partner domestic violence and non-partner violence (weighted data)

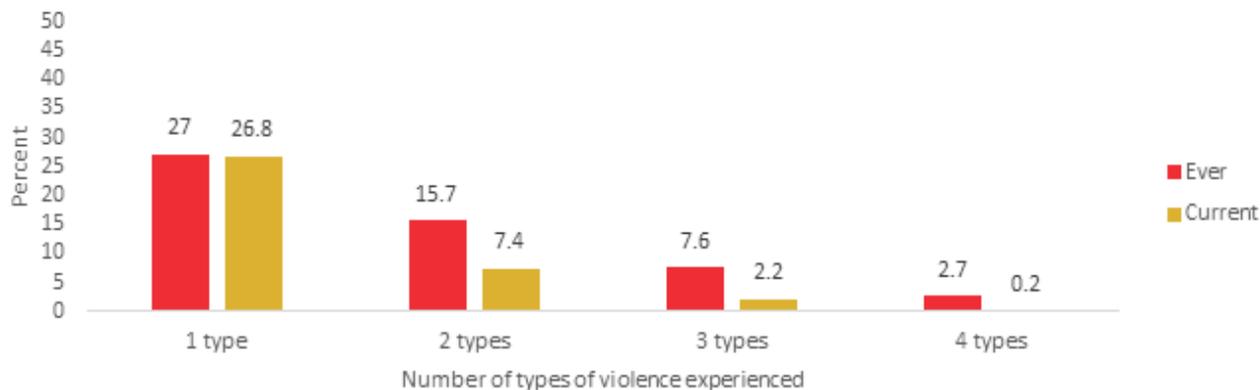
Experienced intimate partner domestic violence (ever)	Experienced non-partner violence since age 15 (ever) %
Yes	34.5
No	7.4

Sign = .000

Table 4.4. Experiences of child sexual abuse (weighted data)

	Total sample N=1,040,726 %
Ever been touched sexually when you did not want or was made to do something sexual that you did not want when you were a young girl between 0 and 17 years	3.1

Chart 4.1. Number of types of violence experienced (weighted data)



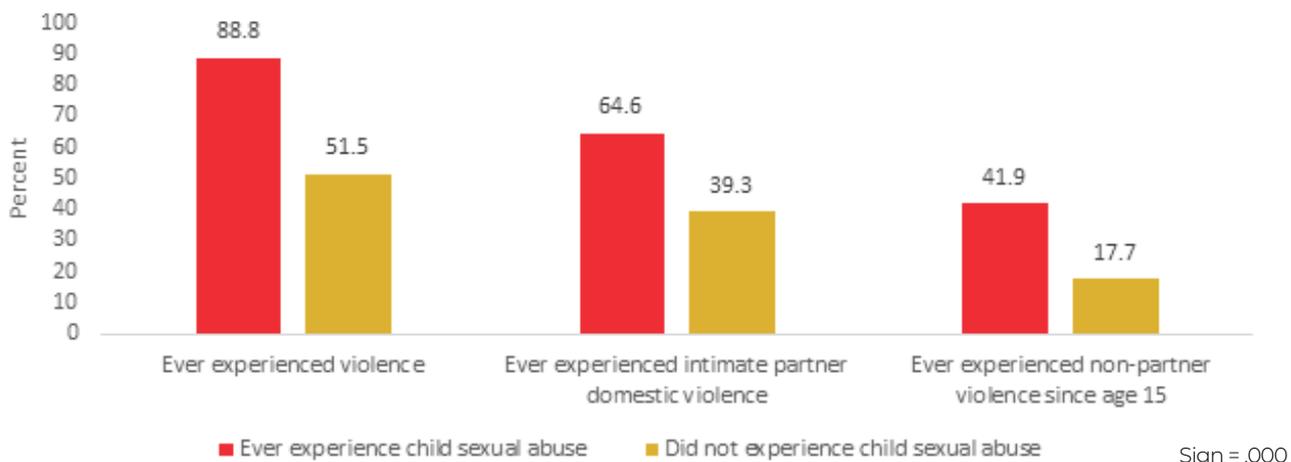
Experiences of Child Sexual Abuse

Women were asked if they ‘ever’ experienced sexual violence during childhood, age 0-17 years. Table 4.4 show that 3.1% of women age 18-74 years reported they were sexually abused during childhood (i.e., they had been touched sexually when they did not want or was made to do something sexual that they did not want).

Data was further analysed to understand the relationship between experiences of child sexual abuse and women’s experiences with other types of violence in adulthood. Chart 4.2 shows that women who experienced child sexual abuse (88.8%) were significantly more likely to ‘ever’ experience sexual and/ or gender-based violence in their lifetime, compared

to women who did not experience child sexual abuse (51.5%). In addition, women who experienced child sexual abuse (64.6%) were more likely to experience intimate partner domestic violence, compared to women who did not experience child sexual abuse (39.3%). Also, women who experienced child sexual abuse (41.9%) were two times more likely to experience non-partner violence since age 15, compared to women who did not experience child sexual abuse (17.7%). These findings demonstrate that women who were sexually abused in childhood are at significant risk of experiencing other forms of violence later in lives. Studies suggest that sexual victimization in childhood and/or adolescences significantly increases the likelihood of sexual victimization in adulthood by 2 to 13.7 times.^{110,111,112,113,114,115,116}

Chart 4.2. Relationship between child sexual abuse and violence in adulthood (weighted data)



CHAPTER 5



SOCIAL NORMS RELATED TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

This chapter examines social norms related to intimate partner domestic violence and sexual violence against women and girls in Albania, along with attitudes or perceptions as to the seriousness of VAWG in Albania and the importance of VAWG legislation.

This chapter begins with a review of the power of social norms and an explanation of differences between social norms, personal attitudes and behaviours, after which findings from the 2018 NVAWS in Albania are presented.

The Power of Social Norms

“Social psychologists recognize the powerful influence of social group identity on individual attitudes and behaviours.”¹¹⁷ In general, individuals strive to belong and to ‘fit in’ with relevant social groups, and in doing so, individuals adopt and confirm to the social norms of the group.¹¹⁸ In some cases, individuals face pressure to conform to the social norms of a social group, and social groups sanction members who deviate from the groups’ social norms and standards.¹¹⁹ Sanctioning typically occurs through shaming, shunning and ostracism.¹²⁰

Conformity to the social norms and standards of a social group is “not a human weakness to be overcome, but a basic feature of human psychology that can motivate outcomes that are both prosocial and anti-social.”¹²¹ Given this reality, it is important to understand the power of social norms, which reach into all corners of people’s public and private lives every day. Social norms often “function like actual laws, but are socially and informally enforced; violators are sanctioned just as violators of the law, but they are sanctioned socially (e.g., through shaming, shunning or social ostracism) by valued group members.¹²² This means that social norms reach even further than state-based laws because any member of a social group can enforce the group’s social norms, meaning resources to enforce social norms are unlimited.¹²³ In a desire to belong, individuals may conform to social norms in their external behaviours because they want to confirm to the norm, but privately disagree with the social norm (hold attitudes that contradict the social norms).¹²⁴

Alexander-Scott, Bell and Holden¹²⁵ offer a review of the important components of social norms. Although there are many definitions of social norms from a range of theoretical perspectives and academic disciplines, there is general agreement that social norms have three important components:¹²⁶

- 1) Social norms are shared beliefs about others. This includes: a) beliefs about what others in a group 'actually do' (what is typical behaviour) and b) what others in a group think others 'ought to do' (what is appropriate behaviour). These beliefs shape the 'social expectations' within a group of people.
- 2) Because social norms are shared beliefs about others, these beliefs can sometimes be incorrect.¹²⁷ On the one hand, people may mistakenly think behaviours are more typical than they are. On the other hand, a majority of a group may privately reject a behaviour but adhere to the behaviour because they incorrectly assume everybody else thinks it is appropriate (referred to as *pluralistic ignorance*).^{128,129} In social psychology, *pluralistic ignorance* is where the majority disapprove of a behaviour but assumes everyone else approves of the behaviour (the failure of individuals to recognize that others in the social group privately disagree with the perceived social norm).¹³⁰ Pluralistic ignorance can account for why dysfunctional group behaviours¹³¹, such as VAWG, are sustained over time when individuals do not realize the extent of private support for overturning the social norm. Pluralistic ignorance can account for the endurance of customs that harm individuals, such as early marriage of girls, even after many individuals in the social group are convinced of that the practice is harmful to girls and women.¹³²
- 3) Social norms exist within reference groups. A 'reference group' or 'reference network' is the group of people important to an individual when they are making decisions.¹³³ It is important to note that the reference group may be dispersed and distant, rather than concentrated and located in physical proximity to the individual making the decision.
- 4) Social norms are maintained, in part, by approval and disapproval within the reference group. Persons who violate social expectation within a reference group are likely to be sanctioned or

punished by the group, whereas persons who comply with social norms may be rewarded. Sanctions can range from direct punishment to loss of opportunities via ostracism.^{134,135} The desire to conform to social expectations of a reference group, and the implicit or explicit threat of sanctions, means social norms can be more persuasive and significant in some situations than other factors, such as the threat of more formal punishment by the State. It also means that norms to comply with certain expected behaviours can override legal prohibitions. For example, IPV is still common in many countries where the practice is illegal.

It is important to understand that social norms are distinct from individual's personal beliefs and attitudes. This is because an individual may hold personal beliefs and attitudes that differ from the social norms of the social group. For instance, an individual may hold personal beliefs about VAWG (e.g., that a country develops when establishing laws that protect women and children and against domestic violence), or have private attitudes that do not support wife abuse (e.g., beliefs that a husband does not have the right to hit or beat his wife and/or children), but these beliefs and attitudes may conflict with the social norms that individual perceives in his local community (e.g., men should use violence to discipline and control their wives and children, particularly for behaviours that transgress behavioural expectations of women and girls).¹³⁶

Bear in mind, social norms are only perceptions of a group's typical or desired behaviour; yet, individuals do not base their ideas about social norms on representative opinion surveys of what is truly desirable for their group; therefore, individuals often misperceive social norms, and their perceptions of the groups social norms may be "exaggerated, outdated, or plain wrong."¹³⁷ Still, however, incorrectly perceived social norms can have a strong effect on individual's attitudes and behaviours, because it is the perception of the social norm that influences attitudes and behaviours.¹³⁸ This is why this chapter is important, as it will be used to develop a better understanding of the social norms and attitudes that hinder women and girls' rights and perpetuate gender imbalances and VAWG in Albania.

Distinguishing Social Norms, Attitudes and Behaviours

It is important to recognize the difference between social norms and personal attitudes as they are the focus of this chapter. Social norms are those widely held beliefs about what is typical and appropriate in a reference group; beliefs about what other people think should be done. Social norms may or may not be based on accurate beliefs about attitudes and behaviours of others.¹³⁹ In comparison, behaviours are what someone actually does. Although beliefs and behaviours are linked, it is often a social norm that will influence a behaviours, and a behaviour can influence a social norm.¹⁴⁰ While a social norm is a shared belief, a personal attitude is a “tendency to evaluate something (a person, symbol, belief, object) with some degree of favour or disfavor.”¹⁴¹ Personal attitudes are unlikely to direct behaviour for the majority of people in a reference group, particularly when social norms contradict the attitude.¹⁴² While social norms, personal attitudes, and behaviours are not mutually exclusive, they often reinforce each other. In particular, over time, what an individual does because of social norms (social expectations) can become internalized and adhered to because of internal motivations, regardless of what others think.¹⁴³

The survey questions were designed to quantitatively measure social norms related to VAWG. Bear in mind, measuring social norms does not replace

measuring attitudes and behaviours; these measures complement each other. Comparing social norms with attitudes and behaviours may reveal the extent to which norms are based on accurate or inaccurate perceptions of others, which can be useful for inform programming.¹⁴⁴ Annex A provides an example of measures, example indicators, and example questions for measuring social norms, attitudes, and behaviours related to VAWG.

Quantitative measurement of social norms can be used to measuring shifts over time in social norms, along with attitudes and behaviours; this is important because social norms are not static, rather social norms can and do change over time.¹⁴⁵ Changes in social norms and behaviours can be influenced by individual activists, change-makers, and groups of like-minded people who organise to change the status quo.¹⁴⁶

Social Norms Related to Intimate Partner Domestic Violence

Table 5.1 reveals social norms related to intimate partner domestic violence against women. Most notable is that as many as 1 out of 2 or 52.2% of women age 18-74 maintained all or most people in the community believe violence between a husband and wife is a private matter and that others should

Table 5.1. Social norms related to intimate partner domestic violence against women (weighted data)

	Total sample N=1,040,726 %
All or most people in the community believe violence between a husband and wife is a private matter and others should not intervene	52.2
All or most people in the community believe a woman should tolerate some violence to keep her family together	46.5
All or most people in the community believe when a woman is beat by her husband that she is partly to blame or at fault	27.5
All or most people in the community believe a woman should be ashamed or embarrassed to talk to anyone outside of her family about abuse or violence in her marriage	27.6
All or most men in the community sometimes hit or beat their wives	13.5
All or most men in the community sometimes hit or beat their wives for refusing to have sexual intercourse	11.4

Power of Social Norms Related to VAWG

A man's perception that men in his community do not hit their wives is likely to constrain him from abusing his own wife; if he were to hit or abuse his wife, he might invite community disapproval or isolation. Social norms do not only work to constrain behaviour, but also license behaviour. The perception that rape is common in a man's community might license him to force his wife to have sex with him, with the understanding that he will not experience any social sanctions. He might even experience social approval for taking sex from his wife, even if through force. This example demonstrates how positive and negative behaviours are enforced through social norms and such constraining and licensing forces of social sanctioning.

Source: Paluck, E.L. & L. Bell (2010). *Social norms marking aimed at gender-based violence: A literature review and critical assessment*. International Rescue Committee, p. 9.

'Social norms' are widely held beliefs about what is typical and appropriate in a reference group. Social norms may or may not be based on accurate beliefs about attitudes and behaviours of others. Social norms a rule of behaviour that people in a group conform to because they believe:

- Most other people in the group conform to it (it is typical behaviour) AND
- Most other people in the group believe they ought to conform to it (it is appropriate behaviour)

Source: Alexander-Scott, M., E. Bell & J. Holden (2016). *DFID Guidance Notes: Shifting Social Norms to Tackle Violence Against Women and Girls*. London: VAW Helpdesk, p. 9-11.

not intervene, and 46.5% maintained all or most people in the community believe a woman should tolerate some violence to keep her family together. In addition, 1 out of 4 women maintained all or most people in the community believe that when a woman is beat by her husband she is partly to blame or at fault (27.5%), and that a woman should be ashamed or embarrassed to talk to anyone outside of her family about abuse or violence in her marriage (27.6%). These social norms can contribute to the prevalence of intimate partner domestic violence against women and keep battered women trapped in abusive and violent relationships.

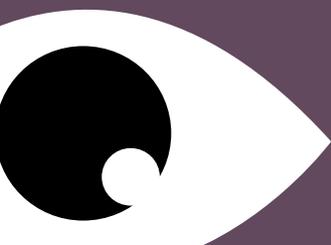
Despite the social norms related to intimate partner domestic violence against women, Table 5.1 shows that only 13.5% of women maintained all or most men in the community sometimes hit or beat their wives, and 11.4% maintained all or most men in the community sometimes hit or beat their wives for refusing to have sexual intercourse.

Social Norms Related to Sexual Violence against Women and Girls

In regard to social norms related to sexual violence, Table 5.2 shows that 1 out of 4 or 26.1% of women age 18-74 maintained all or most people in the community believe a woman should be ashamed or embarrassed to talk to anyone if she is raped, and 1 out of 5 or 21.2% of women maintained all or most people in the community believe if a woman is raped she has probably done something careless to put herself in that situation.

Table 5.2. Social norms related to domestic violence against women (weighted data)

	Total sample N=1,040,726 %
All or most people in the community believe if a woman is raped, she has probably done something careless to put herself in that situation	21.2
All or most people in the community believe a woman should be ashamed or embarrassed to talk to anyone if she is raped	26.1



Perceived Seriousness of VAWG

When asked about the seriousness of VAWG in Albania, as many as 3 out of 4 or 75.4% of women reported family/marital violence against women is a major problem in Albania, and 70.8% of women maintained sexual violence against women and girls is a major problem in Albania. In addition, 2 out of 3 or 69.9% of women maintained sexual harassment of women and girls is a major problem in Albania, and 2 out of 3 or 68.4% reported stalking of women is a major problem in Albania. These data demonstrate women recognize VAWG, in all of its forms, is a major and serious problem in Albania.

Table 5.3. Perceived seriousness of VAWG in Albania (weighted data)

How serious a problem is family/marital violence against women in Albania?	Total sample N=1,040,726 %
Major problem	75.4
Moderate problem	17.6
Minor problem	2.3
Not a problem at all	1.9
Don't know	2.5
How serious a problem is sexual violence against women and girls in Albania?	
Major problem	70.8
Moderate problem	19.1
Minor problem	4.3
Not a problem at all	1.2
Don't know	4.3
How serious a problem is sexual harassment of women and girls in Albania?	
Major problem	69.9
Moderate problem	18.6
Minor problem	5.9
Not a problem at all	1.7
Don't know	3.9
How serious a problem is stalking of women and girls in Albania?	
Major problem	68.4
Moderate problem	19.1
Minor problem	7.1
Not a problem at all	2.1
Don't know	3.2

In recognition of the pervasiveness and seriousness of VAWG in Albania, Table 5.4 shows that 79.5% of women found it acceptable if doctors/medical personnel ask women who have certain injuries whether they were caused by sexual and/or gender-based violence.

Table 5.4. Acceptability for health workers to screen for VAWG (weighted data)

	Total sample N=1,040,726 %
Would find it acceptable if doctors/medical personnel ask women who have certain injuries whether they were caused by violence	79.5

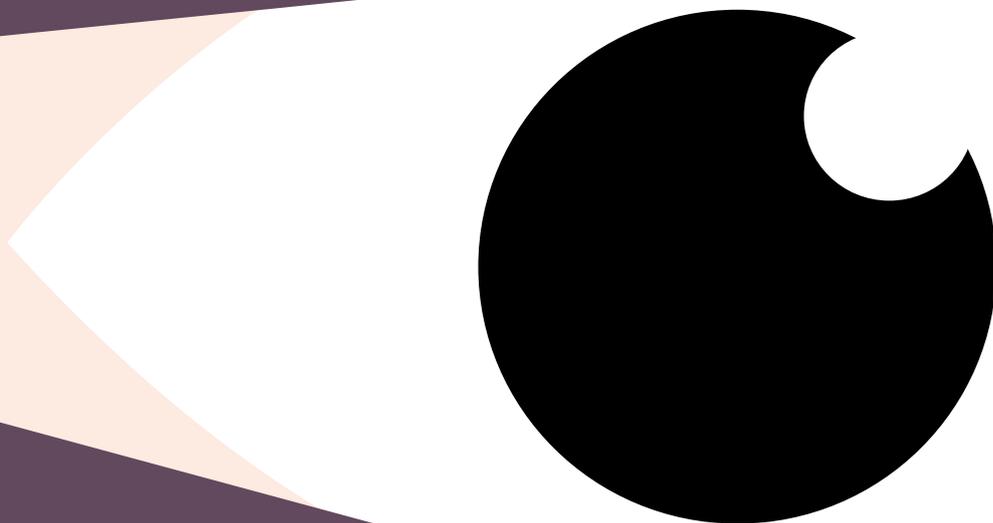
Importance of Law Related to VAWG

In addition to recognizing VAWG as a major problem in Albania, Table 5.5 shows that 83.0% of women age 18-74 maintained it is very important to have laws in Albania that protect women and girls from violence in their marriage/families, and 81.9% maintained it is very important to have laws in Albania that protect women and girls from sexual assault and rape.

Table 5.5. Importance of domestic violence and sexual violence laws in Albania (weighted data)

How important is it to have laws in Albania that protect women and girls from violence in their marriage/families?	Total sample N=1,040,726 %
Very important	83.0
Important	15.4
Not important	1.1
Don't know	.4
How important is it to have laws in Albania that protect women and girls from sexual assault/rape?	
Very important	81.9
Important	16.7
Not important	.9
Don't know	.4

CHAPTER 6



INTIMATE PARTNER DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Globally, IPV is the most widespread form of VAWG. IPV is a manifestation of gender inequalities that exist in intimate relationships, families and the wider society. Although IPV exists in all societies, societies with more traditional patriarchal practices and stereotypes of gender roles¹⁴⁷ tend to have higher rates of IPV.

Also, in countries where cultural practices dictate that women leave the home and family of their birth to live with their husband and his family, such arrangements reinforce women's isolation from their natal family and places them at increased risk of marital violence. In such situations, perpetrators of marital violence are not only husbands, but can also be in-laws, particularly mothers- and sisters-in-law; especially in families where newly married women are relegated to the lowest position within the marital family (non-partner violence will be discussed in Chapter 8).^{148, 149}

In Albania, the 2007 and 2013 NDVS revealed that as many as 56.0% to 59.4% of ever married/partnered women experienced IPV¹⁵⁰ in their lifetime, and most IPV occurred in the context of marriage and domestic settings. The 2013 NDVS revealed that 24.6% of women experienced physical and/or sexual IPV, or both, in their lifetime. This chapter is focused specif-

ically on intimate partner domestic violence experienced by women age 18-74 years who are currently/ever married and/or lived with husband/partner. IPV experienced by women age 18-74 years who have never married and/or never lived with a husband/partner, but have been involved in a relationship with a male is analysed separately and labelled as dating violence. On the one hand, these were two separate modules in the survey, and on the other hand, data analysis revealed that distinguishing intimate partner domestic violence (by current or former husband/partner) and dating violence (by current or former boyfriend). The distinction is important because women experience different types of violence to varying degrees in these different types of relationships, and it was important to highlight these differences in the report writing process.

Common forms of intimate partner domestic violence include physical, sexual, and psychological vio-

lence. International research has found the majority of women who experience violence in intimate relationships often experience multiple forms of violence and endure repeated acts of violence at the hands of their current and/or former husband/partner. In the context of marriage, sexual violence may not be recognized or defined as such because of assumptions that husbands are justified in forcing sex upon their wives and women are obliged to sexually satisfy their husband's sexual needs. In many countries, there is a reluctance to define forced sexual acts in the context of marriage as sexual violence or marital rape. Albania, however, has laws that address marital rape and provide harsher penalties against perpetrators of marital rape, which is now a separate criminal offence.

In many societies, it is believed there are "justifiable reasons" for intimate partner domestic violence, particularly when women do not match the expectations for their gender roles (e.g. a wife burns food, argues with her husband, goes out without telling him, neglects the children, or refuses to have sex with her husband). In these supposedly justifiable circumstances, women are blamed for their own victimization, making it difficult for them to speak out and seek help and protection from their abusive husbands/partners. Cross-cultural research reveals in many societies, both men and women, young and old, subscribe to cultural attitudes and social norms that justify wife beating.¹⁵¹

In addition to being culturally accepted in many societies, intimate partner domestic violence remains largely hidden behind closed doors and heavily stigmatized, making it difficult for women to speak out and seek help and protection. Women who experience intimate partner domestic violence often feel they have nowhere to turn, especially in societies where there are limited support services and it is difficult for women to leave their husbands/partners and to live alone.¹⁵² In societies with high rates of intimate partner domestic violence, girls learn at a young age that they must not challenge abuse and violence, as they witness violence against women being normalised in their families.¹⁵³

This chapter presents data on the nature and prev-

alence of intimate partner domestic violence experienced by women age 18-74 in Albania, and differences based upon age groupings. This chapter also examines: women's experiences with domestic violence injuries; women's help-seeking behaviours; the relationship between alcohol use/abuse of husband/partners and women's experiences with domestic violence and domestic violence injuries; and, women's experiences with sexual violence and their use of birth control and risk of STIs. The chapter also examines the possible impact of domestic violence on children and the characteristics of perpetrators of intimate partner domestic violence.

Intimate Partner Domestic Violence Sample

In this chapter, the sample of women includes only those women age 18-74 who were currently/ever married and/or living with a husband/partner at the time of the interview (N=886,374). Table 6.1 shows the sample included a fairly equal distribution of women in the age groups of 25-34 years (19.2%), 35-44 years (18.3%), 45-54 years (21.6%), and 55-64 years (21.4%), but fewer women in the age groups of 18-24 years (6.5%) and 65-74 years (13.0%). The average age of women who were currently/ever married and/or living with a husband/partner was 47.1 years (3.5 years older than the average age of the full sample of women, which was 43.6 years).

Table 6.1. Intimate partner domestic violence sample by age (weighted data)

N=886,374	
Age Groups	%
18-24 years	6.5
25-34 years	19.2
35-44 years	18.3
45-54 years	21.6
55-64 years	21.4
65-74 years	13.0

Experiences of Intimate Partner Domestic Violence

Women age 18-74 who were currently/ever married and/or lived with a husband/partner were asked a series of questions about their experiences with intimate partner domestic violence by their current and/or most recent husband/partner. Table 6.2 shows that nearly 1 out of 2 or 47.0% of women 'ever' and 1 out of 3 or 33.7% 'currently' experienced one or more of the five different types of intimate partner domestic violence listed in Table 6.2. More specifically, 21.0% of women 'ever' and 8.2% 'currently' experienced physical and/or sexual violence, or both, at the hands of their current and/or more recent husband/partner.

Table 6.2. Experience of intimate partner domestic violence (weighted data)

	N=886,374	
	Ever %	Current %
Experienced intimate partner domestic violence (one or more of the 5 types)	47.0	33.7
Coercive controlling behaviours (one or more of the 7 types)	41.2	25.2
Economic violence (one or more of the 3 types)	7.0	7.0
Psychological violence (one or more of the 8 types)	31.4	19.7
Physical violence (one or more of the 11 types)	18.0	7.2
Sexual violence (one or more of the 3 types)	8.6	3.6
Physical and/or sexual violence, or both	21.0	8.2

Note: Percentages will not total 100% as respondents may have experienced more than one type of violence

In terms of lifetime experiences of intimate partner domestic violence, 41.2% of women 'ever' experienced coercive controlling behaviours, 31.4% 'ever' experienced psychological violence, 18.0% 'ever' experienced physical violence, 8.6% 'ever' experi-

enced sexual violence, and 7.0% 'ever' experienced economic violence. Among women who experienced intimate partner violence in the 12 months prior to the interview, 1 out of 4 or 25.2% 'currently' experienced coercive controlling behaviours, 19.7% 'currently' experienced psychological violence, 7.2% 'currently' experienced physical violence, 7.0% 'currently' experienced economic violence, and 3.6% 'currently' experienced sexual violence (for a list of the behaviour-specific acts used to measure coercive controlling behaviours, economic violence, psychological violence, physical violence and sexual violence see the relevant sections and tables that follow).

Further analysis was conducted to understand the relationship between age and experiences of intimate partner domestic violence. Chart 6.1 shows that women age 18-24 were most likely to 'ever' and 'currently' experience intimate partner domestic violence (55.8% ever, 55.8% current). As women increased in age, their 'current' experiences of intimate partner domestic violence significantly decreased. In fact, women age 55-64 years (25.8%) and 65-74 years (18.2%) were least likely to experience intimate partner domestic violence; although domestic violence was still present in their lives.

It is well documented that battered women do not experience only one type of domestic violence, but often experience multiple types of violence.^{154,155} Chart 6.2 shows that only 16.1% of women experienced only one type of intimate partner domestic violence listed in Table 6.1, 13.1% experienced two types, 10.0% experienced three different types, 5.1% experienced four types, and 2.7% experienced all five types of intimate partner domestic violence in their lifetime. A similar pattern emerged in terms of women's current experiences with intimate partner domestic violence with 16.8% currently experiencing only one type of intimate partner domestic violence, 10.0% were currently experiencing two types, 3.5% were experiencing three types, 1.5% were experiencing four types, and 1.9% of women were currently experiencing all five types of intimate partner domestic violence listed in Table 6.1.

Further analysis was conducted to examine the relationship between each of the five types of intimate

Chart 6.1. Experience of intimate partner domestic violence by age group (weighted data)

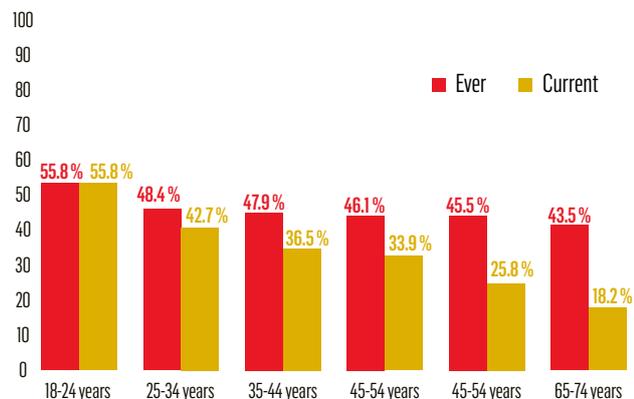
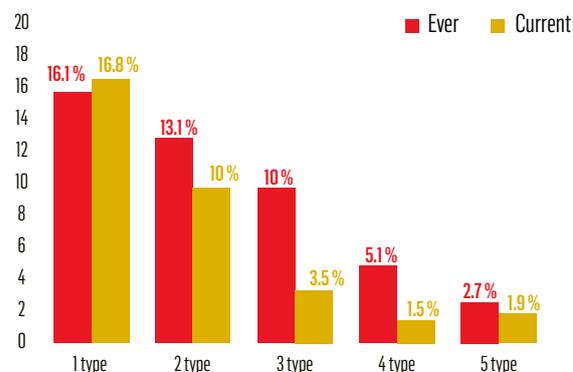


Chart 6.2. Number of types of intimate partner domestic violence experienced by women (weighted data)



partner domestic violence. Table 6.3 shows the degree to which each of the different types of violence are predictors of other types of violence occurring in women's marriages/intimate relationships. In particular, 65.3% of women who experienced coercive controlling behaviours in their marriage/intimate relationships also experienced psychological violence, 38.4% experienced physical violence, 20.0% experienced sexual violence, and 16.0% experienced economic violence. Among women who experienced economic violence, 93.8% of women also experienced coercive controlling behaviours, 88.2% experienced psychological violence, 73.4% experienced physical violence, and 41.7% experienced sexual violence. Table 6.3 also shows that 85.5% of women who experienced psychological violence also experienced coercive controlling behaviours, 48.7% experienced physical violence, 25.2% experienced sexual violence, and 19.7% experienced economic violence.

Among women who experienced physical violence, 87.8% experienced coercive controlling behaviours, 85.1% experienced psychological violence, 31.2% experienced sexual violence, and 28.7% experienced economic violence. These findings reveal that women who are physically battered by their husbands/partners are very likely to also be experiencing coercive controlling behaviours and psychological violence.

Finally, Table 6.3 shows that 95.2% of women who experienced sexual violence also experienced coercive controlling behaviours, 91.8% experienced psychological violence, 65.1% experienced physical violence, and 33.9% experienced economic violence. In other words, the presence of sexual violence in a woman's marriage/intimate relationship is a very strong predictor that other types of violence and abuse are also occurring in their marriage/intimate relationship.

Coercive Controlling Behaviours

Coercive control is a form of domestic violence based upon emotional and psychological abuse that includes a strategic course of oppressive behaviours designed to secure and expand gender-based privilege by depriving women of their rights and liberties, and establishing a regime of domination in personal life. Abusive men use coercive controlling behaviours to isolate and control women, and to instill fear and anxiety in women. The survey included seven behaviour specific items that measured various forms of coercive controlling behaviours that women commonly experience in violent marriages/intimate relationships. As part of the analysis, the seven behaviour specific items were computed to create an overall measure of women's experiences with coercive controlling behaviours. Domestic violence researchers contend that there is a lot to be learned by measur-

Table 6.3. Relationship between different types of intimate partner domestic violence (weighted data)

	N=886,374				
	Coercive Controlling Behaviours	Economic Violence	Psychological Violence	Physical Violence	Sexual violence
	%	%	%	%	%
Coercive controlling behaviours	---	16.0a	65.3a	38.4a	20.0a
Economic violence	93.8a	---	88.2a	73.4a	41.7a
Psychological violence	85.5a	19.7a	---	48.7a	25.2a
Physical violence	87.8a	28.7a	85.1a	---	31.2a
Sexual Violence	95.2a	33.9a	91.8a	65.1a	---

a Sign = .000

ing coercive controlling behaviours in national population survey on IPV because the prevalence of coercive controlling abuse is highlight gendered, with someone overwhelmingly the victims.¹⁵⁶

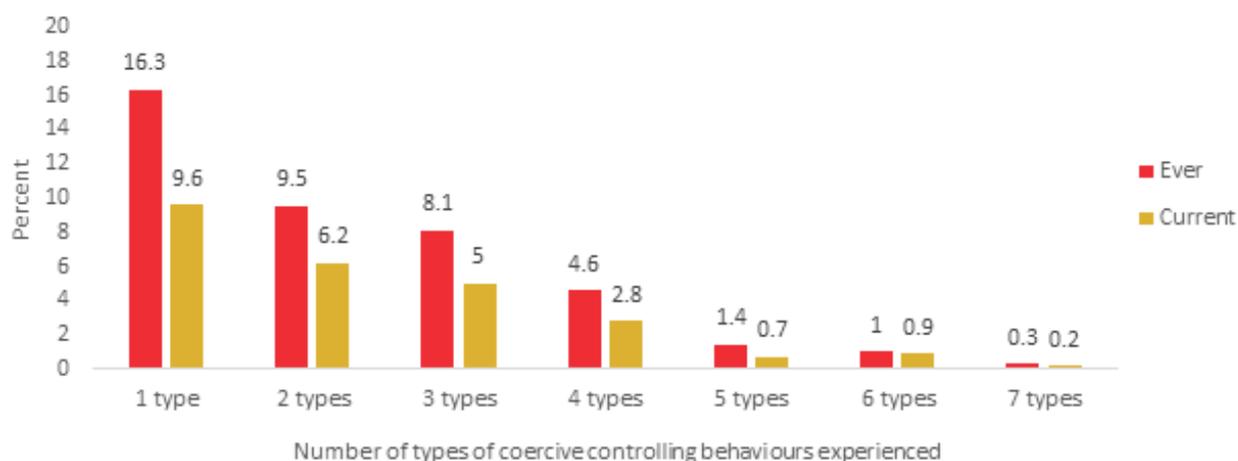
Tables 6.4 shows that 41.2% of women age 18-74 who were currently/ever married and/or lived with a husband/partner 'ever' experienced one or more of the seven different types of coercive controlling behaviours, and 1 out of 4 or 25.2% experienced one or more of the coercive controlling behaviours in the 12 months prior to the interview (current). The most common type of coercive controlling behaviour experienced by women was having their husband/partner get jealous/angry if they talk to other men (38.6% ever, 20.6% current). Some women also reported their husbands/partners tried to restrict them or did not permit them to meet with their friends (17.4% ever, 11.3% current) and controlled them by wanting to know where they were at all times (16.8% ever, 12.9% current).

Although few in number, women reported also reported their husbands/partners: pressured or forced them to provide passwords for their mobile phone, email and/or social media accounts (8.1% ever, 6.0% current); accused them of being unfaithful (5.8% ever, 2.8% current); tried to restrict them from having contact with their parents or other relatives (5.7% ever, 3.7% current); and, limited or restricted them from getting health care (0.8% ever, 0.4% current).

Table 6.4. Experiences of coercive controlling behaviours by husband/partners (weighted data)

	N=886,374	
	Ever	Current
	%	%
Experienced coercive controlling behaviours (one or more of the 7 types)	41.2	25.2
Get jealous/angry if you talk to other men	38.6	20.6
Accused you of being unfaithful	5.8	2.8
Tries to restrict or does not permit you to meet friends	17.4	11.3
Tries to restrict your contact with your parents or other relatives	5.7	3.7
Controls you because he wants to know where you are all the time	16.8	12.9
Limits/restricts you from getting health care	0.8	0.4
Pressure or forced you to provide passwords for your mobile phone, email or social media accounts	8.1	6.0

Chart 6.3. Number of types of coercive controlling behaviours experienced (weighted data)



Ever, Sign = .000; Current, Sign = .000

It is important to understand that battered women do not experience only one form of coercive controlling behaviours in their marriage/intimate relationships; often they experience multiple forms of coercive controlling behaviours. Chart 6.3 reveals the percentage of women who 'ever' experienced one or more of the seven different coercive controlling behaviours that made up the coercive controlling scale. While 41.2% of women 'ever' experienced coercive controlling behaviours in their marriage/intimate relationship, only 16.3% of women experienced one type of coercive controlling behaviours listed in Table 6.3, 9.5% experience two types, 8.1% experienced three types, 4.6% experience four types, 1.4% experienced five types, 1.0% experienced six types, and less than 1.0% experienced each of the seven types of coercive controlling behaviours. The proportions who 'currently' experienced one or more of the seven types of coercive controlling behaviours showed a similar pattern.

Data was further analysed to understand the relationship between women's age and experiences of coercive controlling behaviours in their marriage/intimate relationships. Chart 6.4 shows that a significant proportion of women in all age groups 'ever' experienced coercive controlling behaviours at the hands of their current and/or most recent husband/partner. Bear in mind, older women may have had a difficult time recalling coercive controlling be-

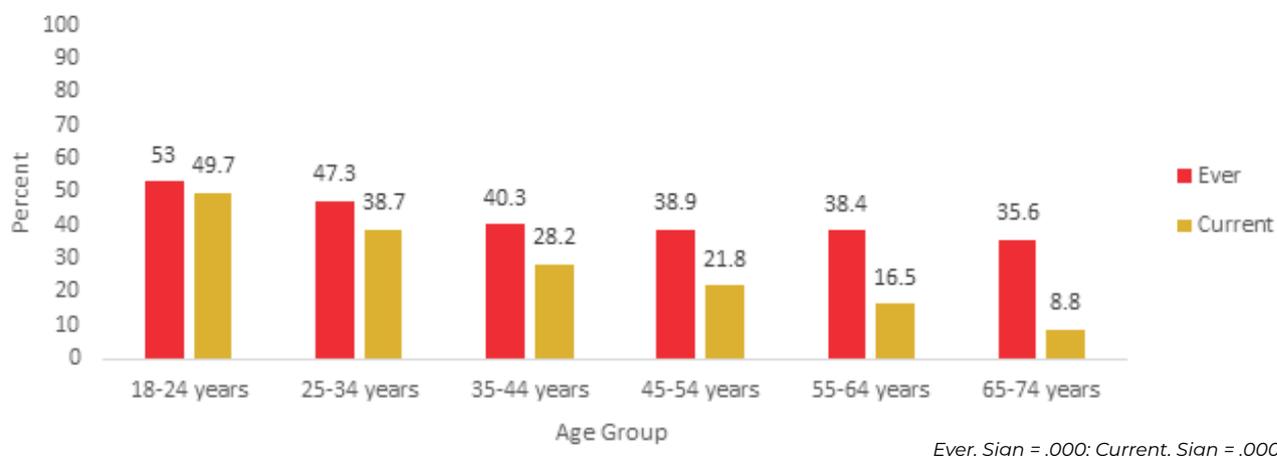
haviours early in the marriage.

In terms of current experiences with coercive controlling behaviours, Chart 6.4 shows that 1 out of 2 or 49.7% of women age 18-24 and 1 out of 3 or 38.7% of women age 25-34 were more likely to 'currently' experience coercive controlling behaviours in their marriage/intimate relationships, compared to women age 35-44 (28.2%), 45-54 years (21.8%), 55-64 years (16.5%) and 65.74 years (8.8%). Although older women were less likely to experience of coercive controlling behaviour in the 12 months prior to the interview, some women still experienced this type of intimate partner domestic violence.

Economic Violence

Acts of control and monitoring of the behaviour of an individual in terms of the use and distribution of money, and the constant threat of dying economic resources.¹⁵⁷ Economic violence includes acts such as the denial of funds, refusal to contribute financially, denial of food and basic needs, and controlling access to health care, employment and more. In domestic and intimate relationships, abusive men use economic violence to control household money, including women's wages if they work outside of the home. The survey included behaviour-specific items that measured different forms

Chart 6.4. Experiences of coercive controlling behaviours by age group (weighted data)



of economic violence that women commonly experience in abusive marriages/intimate relationships. As part of the analysis, the three behaviour-specific items were computed to create an overall measure of women's experiences with economic violence.

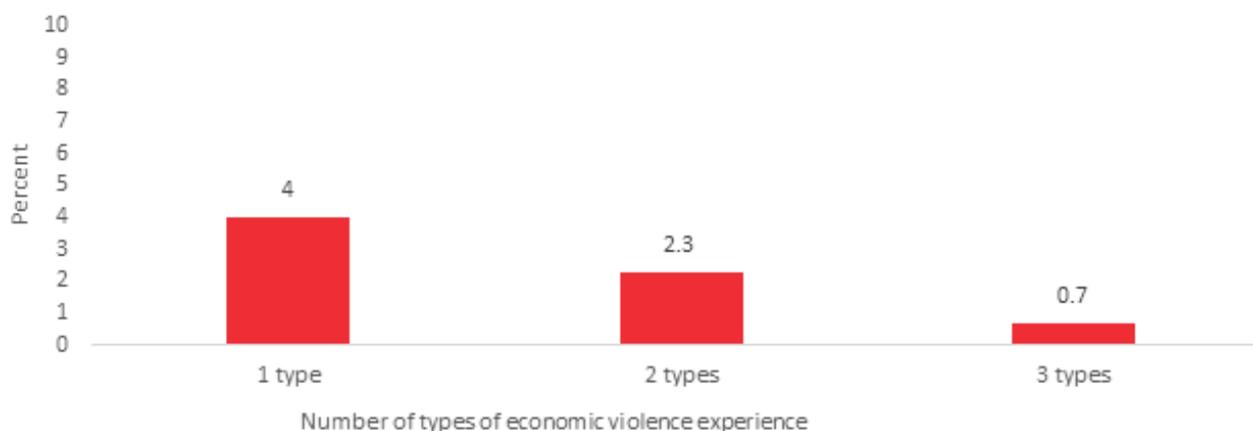
Table 6.5 shows that 7.0% of women experienced economic violence (one or more of the three types of economic violence). More specifically, 4.0% of women reported their husbands/partners prohibited them from getting a job, going to work, trading and earning money and/or participating in income generating projects. In addition, 3.8% of women reported their husbands/partners took their earnings from them against their will and/or controlled their money or properties against their will, and 2.9% reported their husband refused to give them money needed for household expenses, even when he had money for other things, such as alcohol and/or cigarettes.

Battered women do not typically experience only one form of economic violence in their marriage/intimate relationships; often they experience multiple forms of economic violence. Chart 6.5 shows the proportion of women who experienced one or more of the three different types of economic violence listed in Table 6.5; only 4.0% of women experienced one type of economic violence, 2.3% experienced two types, and 0.7% experienced each of the three types of economic violence.

Table 6.5. Experiences of economic violence by husbands/partners (weighted data)

N=886,374	
%	
Experienced economic violence (one or more of the 3 types)	7.0
Prohibits you from getting a job, going to work, trading, earning money or participating in income generating projects	4.0
Takes your earnings from you against your will or controls your money or properties against your will	3.8
Refuses to give money that you need for household expenses even when he has money for other things (such as alcohol or cigarettes)	2.9

Chart 6.5. Number of types of economic violence experienced (weighted data)



Data was further analysed to understand the relationship between women's age and experiences of economic violence. Chart 6.6 shows that women age 18-24 (10.9%) and 45-54 years (9.0%) were more likely to experience economic violence in their marriage/relationships, compared to women age 25-34 (6.3%), 35-44 years (6.8%), 55-64 years (6.0%) and 65-74 years (4.9%). It is likely that women age 18-24 were more likely to experience economic violence because they were early in their marriage, but what contributes to the higher proportion of women age 45-54 who experienced economic violence is unclear. More research is needed to understand women's experiences with economic violence.

Psychological Violence

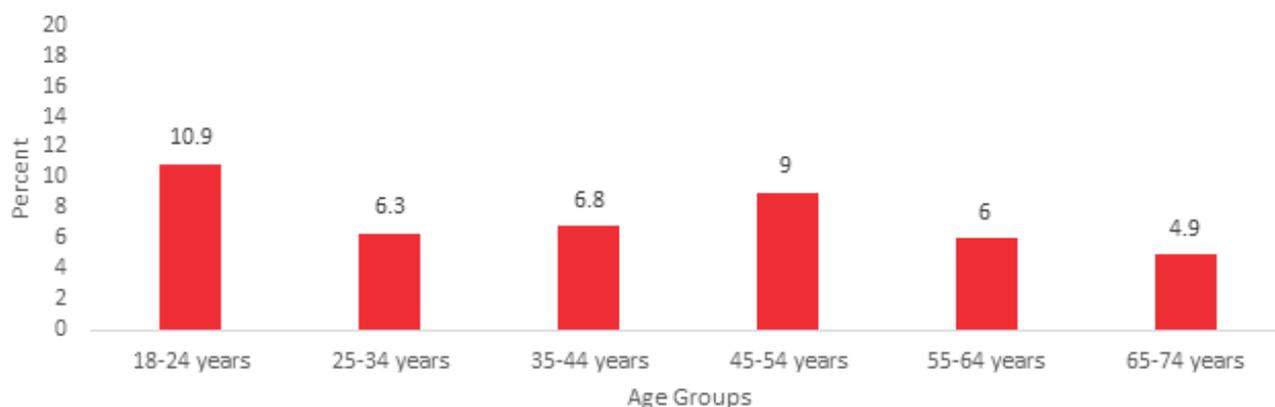
Psychological violence includes a range of behaviours that aim to control, isolate, intimidate, cause fear, and attack a woman's character and undermine her sense of self-worth and self-esteem. Psychological violence includes *verbal abuse* (to criticize, insult, humiliate, and/or talk in a manner that attacks a woman's character and undermines her sense of self-worth and self-esteem) and *psychological threats* (to intimidate and cause fear in a woman by threatening to physically harm her and/or

to hurt others that are close to her, and/or to destroy something important to her to undermine her sense of safety). Threat of injury is a form of psychological violence that abusive men use to instill fear and anxiety in women, and to maintain control over women.

The survey included eight behaviour-specific items that measured various forms of psychological violence that women commonly experience in violent marriages/intimate relationships; as part of the analysis, the eight behaviour-specific items were computed to create an overall measure of women's experiences with psychological violence. Table 6.5 shows that nearly 1 out of 3 or 31.4% of women 'ever' experienced one or more of the eight types of psychological violence, and 1 out of 5 or 19.7% of women were 'currently' experiencing one or more of the eight types of psychological violence in their marriage/intimate relationships. The most common types of psychological violence experienced by women was having their husband/partner insult them and make feel bad about themselves (24.8% ever, 14.2% current) and being spoken to in a way that made them feel stupid and worthless (19.1% ever, 10.3% current).

Some women also experienced the other forms of psychological violence, such as having their husband/partner say or do something that made them

Chart 6.6. Experience of economic violence by age group (weighted data)



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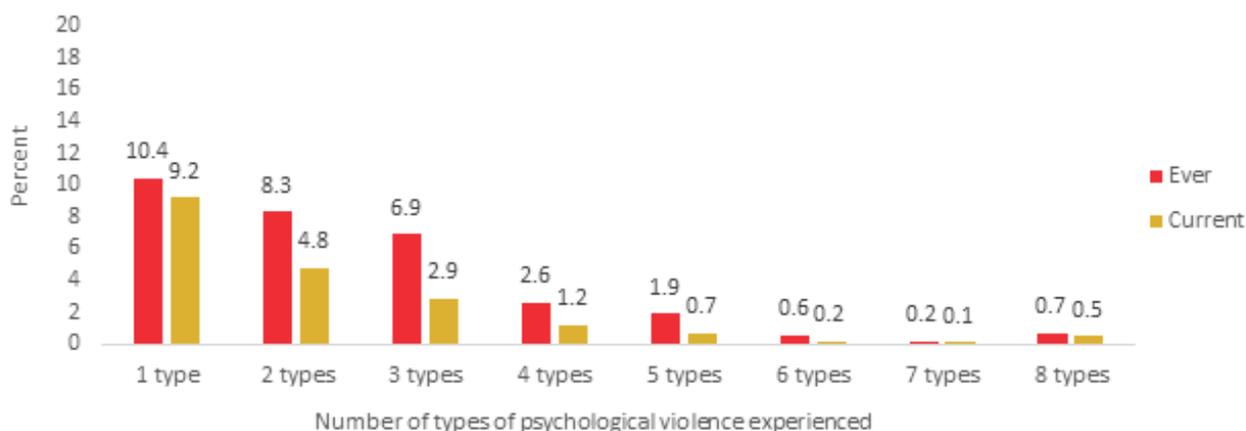
feel humiliated in front of other people (9.7% ever, 4.5% current), insist on knowing where they are in a way that made them feel controlled or afraid (9.0% ever, 5.1% current), made them feel incompetent as a parent (6.6% ever, 3.8% current), and said things that made them feel scared, such as “if you will not be mine, no one else will have you” (5.0% ever, 1.9% current). A small proportion of women reported their husbands/partners destroyed things that are important to them, such as personal property, pets or other belongings (2.1% ever, 1.5% current), and threatened to hurt them or someone else they care about (1.3% ever, 0.7% current).

It is important to understand that battered women do not typically experience only one form of psychological violence in their marriage/intimate relationships; often they experience multiple forms of psychological violence. Chart 6.7 shows the percentage of women who experienced one or more of the eight different types of psychological violence listed in Table 6.5. Only 10.4% of women ‘ever’ experienced one type of psychological violence, 8.3% ‘ever’ experienced two types, 6.9% experienced three types, 2.6% experience four types, 1.9% experienced five types, and nearly 2.0% experienced six or more types of psychological violence. Many women who currently experienced psychological violence also experienced more than one type listed in Table 6.5.

Table 6.5. Experiences of psychological violence by husbands/partners (weighted data)

	Ever %	Current %
Experienced psychological violence (one or more of the 8 types)	31.4	19.7
Insulted you/made you feel bad about yourself	24.8	14.2
Spoke to you in a way that makes you feel stupid and worthless	19.1	10.3
Said/did something that made you feel humiliated in front of other people	9.7	4.5
Said things that made you feel scared, such as “if you will not be mine, no one else will have you”	5.0	1.9
Insisted on knowing where you are in a way that made you feel controlled or afraid	9.0	5.1
Threatened to hurt you or someone else you care about	1.3	.7
Destroyed things that are important to you, such as your personal property, your pet or other belongings	2.1	1.5
Made you feel incompetent as a parent	6.6	3.8

Chart 6.7. Number of types of psychological violence experienced (weighted data)



Analysis of the relationship between psychological violence and age revealed that women age 18-24 were significantly more likely to 'ever' (42.9%) and 'currently' (38.7%) experience psychological violence in their marriage/intimate relationships, compared to women in the other age groups. Still, however, as many as 1 out of 4 or 28.2% of women age 25-34 and nearly 1 out of 3 women in each of the other age groups 'ever' experienced psychological violence. Chart 6.8 also shows that 1 out of 5 women age 25-34, 35-44 years and 45-54 years experienced psychological violence in the 12 months prior to the interview.

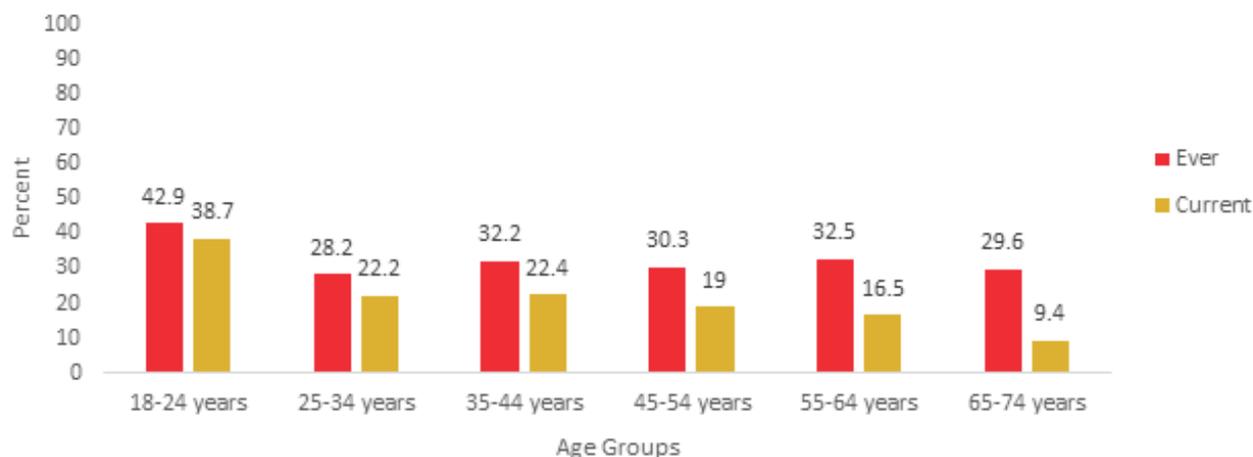
In comparison, women age 65-74 (9.4%) were least likely to 'currently' experience psychological violence; yet, women age 65-74 were just as likely as women in the other age groups to 'ever' experience psychological violence in their marriage/intimate relationships.

Women who are victims of psychological violence often feel there is no way out of the psychologically abusive relationship and that without their abusive partner they are nothing. Psychologically abused women often live their lives in fear, experience anxiety and difficulty concentrating, and repeatedly deny their own needs and alter their thoughts, feelings, and behaviours in an effort to avoid further abuse and violence.¹⁵⁸ In addition, women who suffer psychological violence in their marriage/intimate relationships are at increased risk of mental health

problems (e.g., anxiety, depression, eating disorder, suicidality and post-traumatic stress disorder), physical health problems (e.g., irritable bowel, headaches, chronic pain, cardiovascular disease, hypertension), substance use (e.g., alcohol, tobacco and other drug use), and pre-natal/maternal health problems (e.g., miscarriages, pre-mature birth and low birth weight of their newborns).^{159,160} International research demonstrates the effects of psychological violence can be just as harmful as physical violence, leading to feelings of self-doubt and worthlessness.^{161,162}

Battered women may also respond to their husbands/intimate partners' psychological abuse, including criticism and put-downs by trying to change themselves and/or attempting to minimize their husbands/intimate partners' behaviours by attributing them to other problems, such as alcohol consumption and drunkenness. Over time, however, many battered women realize that nothing they do seems to make a difference and their sense of safety and security in the relationship is minimized.¹⁶³

Chart 6.8. Experiences of psychological violence by age group (weighted data)



Ever, Sign = .000; Current, Sign = .000

Physical Violence

When people talk about domestic violence against women they often refer to acts of physical violence. Physical violence is the use of physical force against someone in a way that injures or endangers that person. There are a broad range of behaviours that come under the heading of physical violence in domestic violence situations, including, but not limited to hitting, beating, grabbing, kicking, choking, pulling hair, and assault with a weapon. The different types of physical violence are typically based upon the severity and likelihood of causing physical injury, including *moderate physical violence* (includes one or more of the following physical acts: to be kicked, thrown, pushed, dragged, slapped, and/or have your hair pulled), *severe physical violence* (includes one or more of the following physical acts: to be hit, beat, burned on purpose, choked, suffocated, and/or threatened with a weapon or to have a weapon used against you), and *physical violence with a weapon* (includes threatening and/or hitting with a weapon or other object that can physical injuries). Physical assault or battering of a spouse/intimate partner is a crime regardless of the severity of violence and whether it occurs inside or outside of the home.

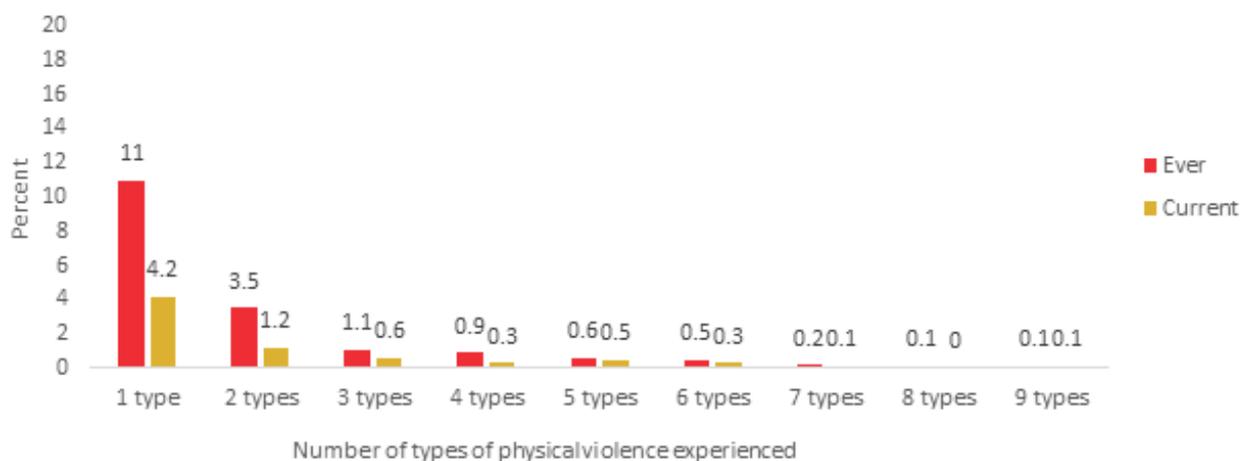
The survey included 11 behaviour-specific items that measured various forms of physical violence women commonly experience in violent marriages/inti-

mate relationships; as part of the analysis, the 11 behaviour-specific items were computed to create an overall measure of women's experiences of physical violence. Table 6.6 reveals that 18.0% of women age 18-74 'ever' and 7.2% 'currently' experienced one or more of the 11 different types of physical violence in their marriage/intimate relationships. Women were most likely to be slapped by their husbands/partners (17.3% ever, 6.4% current), but some women also experienced having their husband/partner pull their hair (4.8% ever, 2.6% ever), throw something at them that could hurt them (3.7% ever, 1.5% current), and throw, push, shake and/or drag them (3.0% ever, 1.5% current).

In terms of more severe forms of physical violence, there were some women who reported their husbands hit them with fists or something else that could hurt them (2.1% ever, 1.4% current) and kicked or beat them (2.1% ever, 1.1% current). Fewer than one percent of women reported their husbands/partners slammed them against the wall or something else, choked them, cut or stabbed them, burned them on purpose, and threatened/attacked them with a knife, gun or other weapon.

Typically, battered women experience more than one form of physical violence in their marriage/intimate relationships. Chart 6.9 reveals the percentage of women who experienced one or more

Chart 6.9. Number of types of physical violence experienced (weighted data)



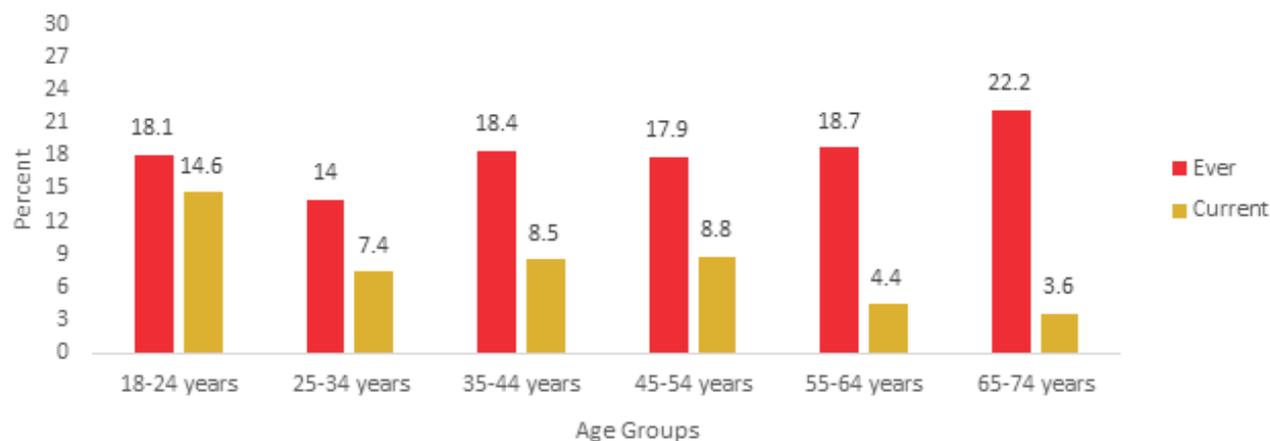
of the 11 different forms of physical violence listed in Table 6.6. In terms of lifetime experiences of physical violence, 11.0% of women ‘ever’ experienced one type of physical violence, and 3.5% experienced two types. Fewer women experienced two or more types of physical violence in their lifetime. In terms of current experiences of physical violence, 4.2% of women experienced only one type of physical violence in the 12 months prior to the interviews, 1.2% experienced two types and far fewer experienced three or more types of physical violence. The effects of physical violence in its multiple forms can be severe, leading to short- and long-term physical health problems, disability and/or disfigurement, and even death by homicide or suicide.^{164,165}

Data was further analysed to understand women’s experiences with physical violence in their marriages/intimate relationships by age groupings. Chart 6.10 shows that women age 65-74 (22.2%) were most likely to ‘ever’ experience physical violence, and women age 25-34 (14.0%) were least likely to ‘ever’ experience physical violence. In terms of current experiences with physical violence, women age 18-24 (14.6%) were significantly more likely to experience physical violence in their marriage/intimate relationships in the 12 months prior to the interview, compared to women in each of the other age groups. Women age 55-64 (4.4%) and 65-74 years (3.6%) were least likely to ‘currently’ experience physical violence in their marriage/intimate relationships.

Table 6.6. Experiences of physical violence by husbands/ partners (weighted data)

	Ever %	Current %
Experienced physical violence (one or more of the 11 types)	18.0	7.2
Slapped you	17.3	6.4
Pulled your hair	4.8	2.6
Thrown something at you that could hurt you	3.7	1.5
Thrown, pushed, shook or dragged you	3.0	1.5
Hit you with his fists or something else that could hurt you	2.1	1.4
Kicked or beat you	2.1	1.1
Slammed you against the wall or something else	0.9	0.3
Choked you	0.2	0.1
Threatened/attacked you with a knife, gun, other weapon	0.1	0.1
Cut or stabbed you on purpose	0.1	0.0
Burned you on purpose	0.1	0.0

Chart 6.10. Experiences of physical violence by age group (weighted data)



Ever, Sign = .000; Current, Sign = .000

Sexual Violence

Sexual violence is another type of domestic violence measured in the survey. Sexual violence is any situation in which a woman is forced to participate in or perform unwanted, unsafe, degrading, and/or humiliating sexual activities; this includes forced sex by a husband/partner with whom a woman has also had consensual sex (marital rape). As part of the analysis, the three behaviour-specific items designed to measure sexual violence were computed to create an overall measure of women's experiences of sexual violence.

Table 6.7 shows that 8.6% of women 'ever' and 3.6% 'currently' experienced one or more of the three types of sexual violence in their marriages/intimate relationships. Women were most likely to experience having sexual intercourse with their husband/partner because they were afraid of what he would do if she refused (7.5% ever, 3.3% current). In addition, some women were forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to, for example by being threatened or held down by their husband/partner (4.1% ever, 2.1% current). Very few women were forced to perform sexual acts that they did not want or found degrading or humiliating (0.9% ever, 0.1% current).

Table 6.7. Experiences of sexual violence by current or former husband/boyfriend (weighted data)

Women age 18-74 years who are currently/ever married and/or lived with husband/partner N=886,374	Ever %	Current %
Experienced sexual violence (one or more of the 3 types)	8.6	3.6
Forced you to have sexual intercourse when you did not want to, for example by threatening you or holding you down	4.1	2.1
Forced to perform sexual acts that you did not want or found degrading or humiliating	.9	.1
Had sexual intercourse with your husband/partner because you were afraid of what he would do if you refused	7.5	3.3

Chart 6.11. Number of types of sexual violence experienced (weighted data)

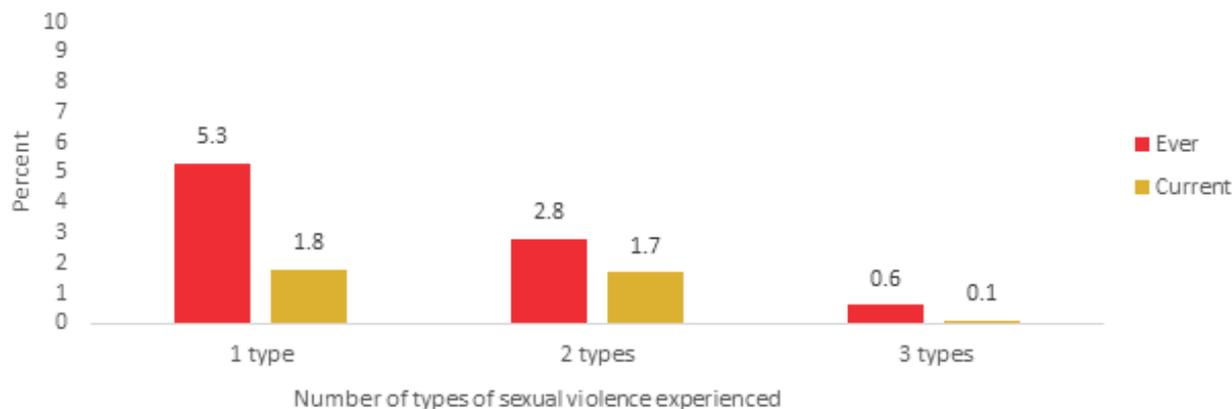
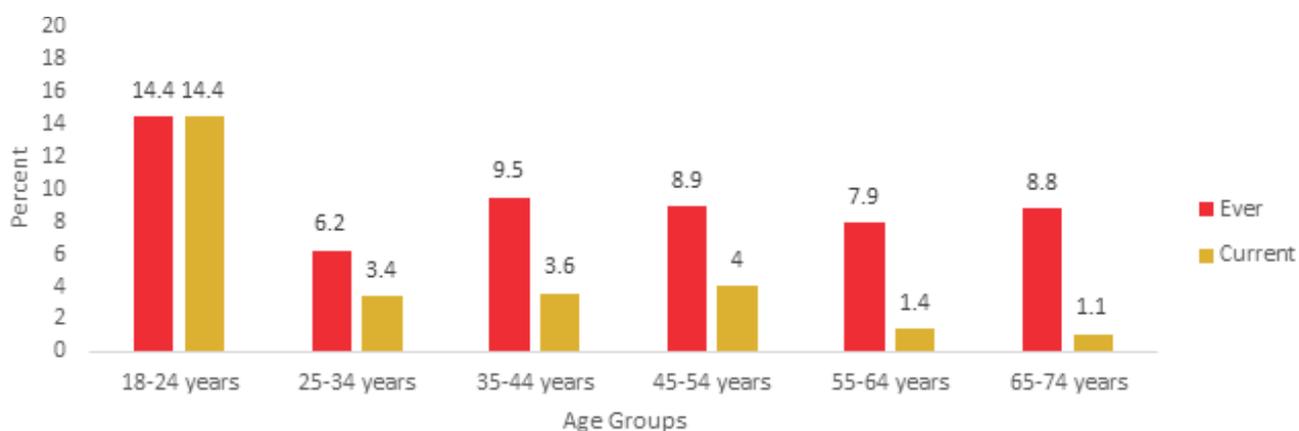


Chart 6.12. Experience of sexual violence by age group (weighted data)



Ever, Sign = .000; Current, Sign = .000

Chart 6.11 shows that 5.3% of women 'ever' experienced only one form of sexual violence identified in Table 6.7, 2.8% experienced two forms of sexual violence, and 0.6% experienced each of the three types of sexual violence.

Chart 6.12 shows that women age 18-24 were most likely to 'ever' and 'currently' experience sexual violence in their marriage/intimate relationships (14.4% and 14.4% respectively), compared to women in each of the other age groupings. It is notable that women age 25-34 were least likely to 'ever' experience sexual violence at the hands of their husbands/partners (6.2% and 3.4% respectively); whereas women age 55-64 (1.4%) and 65-74 years (1.1%) were least likely to 'currently' experience sexual violence by their husband/intimate partners.

When Intimate Partner Domestic Violence Begins

Women who experienced intimate partner domestic violence were asked when the domestic violence began in their marriage. Table 6.8 shows that 1 out of 4 or 26.1% of women reported domestic violence started within the 1st year of their marriage and 1 out of 5 or 23.2% reported the violence started in the 2nd or 3rd years of marriage. It is notable that 14.9% of women reported the violence began in the 4th or 5th years of marriage and 17.1% reported the violence began six or more years in their marriage. Also, 17.5% did not know when the violence began or refused to answer. Only 1.1% of women reported the violence began before marriage.

Table 6.9 reveals when each of the different types of domestic violence began in a woman's marriage. In particular, 1 out of 4 women reported controlling behaviour (25.7%), psychological violence (25.4%), physical violence (25.7%) and sexual violence (29.5%) started within the 1st year of their marriage; slightly fewer women (20.8%) reported economic violence began in the first year of their marriage. Sexual violence (33.7%) and economic violence (31.6%) were more likely to start in the 2nd or 3rd years of marriage.

There were women who also reported that each of the different forms of intimate partner violence began in the 4th and 5th years of their marriage and six or more years into their marriage. Women were twice as likely to report they did not know or refused to answer when controlling behaviour (17.2%), economic violence (19.3%), psychological violence (16.3%) and physical violence (17.5%) began, compared to women who reported they did not know or refused to answer when the sexual violence began in their marriage (9.5%).

Dating violence data was analysed and revealed that nearly 2 out of 3 or 65.8% of women age 18-74 who were never married and/or never lived with a husband/partner, but involved in a relationship with a male (dating and/or courtship) experienced dating violence in their lifetime, and 61.8% experienced dating violence in the 12 months prior to the survey. Most notable is that all of these women experienced coercive controlling behaviours at the hand of their

Table 6.8. When intimate partner domestic violence began (weighted data)

When violence began	Ever experienced intimate partner domestic violence %
Before marriage	1.1
≤ 1 st year	26.1
2 nd to 3 rd years	23.2
4 th to 5 th years	14.9
6 th + years	17.1
Don't know/refused answer	17.5

mer intimate partner within the context of dating or courtship. Dating violence often starts with coercive controlling behaviours and psychological violence; these behaviours can lead to more serious kinds of abuse, including economic violence, physical violence and sexual violence. In some cases, dating violence can be in the form stalking. Dating violence can happen as early as the first date and is most often experienced by females, regardless of age, education, race/ethnicity, socio-economic status and/or social lines.^{166,167}

Dating violence has previously been underrepresented in the interpersonal violence literature. Over the past few decades, however, research has progressed from prevalence rates and types of dating violence to an exploration of victim and perpetrator characteristics; researchers have advanced our knowledge

Table 6.9. When intimate partner domestic violence began (weighted data)

	Controlling behaviours (ever) N=141,661 %	Economic violence (ever) N=45,729 %	Psychological violence (ever) N=137,273 %	Physical violence (ever) N=159,543 %	Sexual violence (ever) N=49,842 %
Before marriage	1.1	0.4	1.0	1.2	0.0
≤ 1 st year	25.7	20.8	25.4	25.7	29.5
2 nd to 3 rd years	23.3	31.6	23.5	23.4	33.7
4 th to 5 th years	15.1	13.5	15.8	14.8	15.4
6 th + years	17.7	14.4	18.0	17.5	11.9
Don't know/refused answer	17.2	19.3	16.3	17.5	9.5

of dating violence and the variables associated with dating violence. Research has also demonstrated that staying in an abusive dating relationship can have long-lasting effects on girls' and women's mental and physical health.^{168,169} The NVAWGS included a module on dating violence to be completed by women age 18-74 who were never married and/or never lived with a husband/partner, but involved in a relationship with a male (dating and/or courtship), but given the underrepresentation of women in this category in the sample, future research is needed to further explore violence in the context of dating relationships. Future research should include a focus on dating violence among women and girls age 15-25 years of age.¹⁷⁰

Physical Violence During Pregnancy

Women were asked who committed acts of physical violence against them during pregnancy. Table 6.11 shows that 50.9% of women reported their current and/or former husband/boyfriend hit, slapped, kicked or physically abused them during pregnancy. Some women also reported a variety of other family members hit, slapped, kicked or physically abused them during pregnancy. This includes: mothers/step-mothers (4.3%), fathers/step-fathers (4.5%), sisters/brothers (4.3%), daughters/sons (2.5%), other relatives (7.3%), mothers-in-law (1.6%), fathers-in-law (1.6%) and other-in-laws (2.6%). Surprisingly, women also reported non-family members, including teachers (7.3%) and employers or someone at work (2.5%), hit, slapped, kicked or physically abused them during pregnancy.

In terms of being punched or kicked in the abdomen while pregnant, Table 6.11 shows that 79.1% of women reported their current or former husband/boyfriend punched or kicked them in the abdomen while pregnant, and 10.4% reported another in-law committed such physical violence against them while they were pregnant. Perpetrators who punch or kick a pregnant woman in the abdomen attack not only the mother, but also aim to harm the child and maybe even end the pregnancy.

Table 6.10. Experiences of physical violence during pregnancy (weighted data)

Women age 18-74 years who are currently/ever married and/or lived with husband/partner N=886,374	Ever been pregnant N=841,193 %	Ever experienced physical violence N=404,974 %
Ever hit, slapped, kicked or physically abused during pregnancy	1.1	2.3
N=9,422		
Did this happen during your last pregnancy?		30.5
Ever punched or kicked in the abdomen while pregnant		10.1

Table 6.11. Persons who committed acts of physical violence towards women during pregnancy (weighted data)

Family members	Ever hit, slapped, kicked or physically abused during pregnancy N=9,422 %	Ever punched or kicked in the abdomen while pregnant N=949 %
Current/former husband/boyfriend	50.9	79.1
Current/former boyfriend	0.0	0.0
Mother/step-mother	4.3	0.0
Father/step-father	4.5	0.0
Sister/Brother	4.3	0.0
Step-Sister/Step-Brother	0.0	0.0
Daughter/Son	2.5	0.0
Other relative	7.3	0.0
Mother-in-law	1.6	0.0
Father-in-law	1.6	0.0
Other-in-law	2.6	10.4
Non-family members		
Teacher	7.3	0.0
Police/soldier	0.0	0.0
Employer/someone at work	2.5	0.0
Other	0.0	0.0

Domestic Violence Injuries

Battered women often experience domestic violence injuries. Domestic violence injuries are not limited to broken bones, bruises, black eyes or cuts. Research has shown that chronic conditions can be caused by or exacerbated by domestic violence and the stress that violence and abusive relationships have on battered women.¹⁷¹ Domestic violence can contribute to:

- Neurological conditions and injuries – chronic pain, speech problems, migraines and/or headaches, central nervous system problems, back pain, stroke, traumatic brain injury, hemorrhage and/or vision impairment
- Cardiovascular and respiratory conditions and injuries – hypertension, chest pain, hyperventilation, heart disease, asthma and/or heart attack
- Intestinal and digestive conditions and injuries – gastrointestinal issues, stomach ulcers, spastic colon/indigestion/ diarrhea, irritable bowel syndrome and/or abdominal pain
- Reproductive and genital conditions and injuries – cervical cancer, dysmenorrhea, poor pregnancy outcomes, sexual transmitted infection, vaginal bleeding/tearing, vaginal infection, urinary tract infection, painful intercourse and/or anal bleeding/tearing
- Physical and visible conditions and injuries – healing issues, contusions, lacerations, broken bones and fractures, hand prints (marks from another), strangulation marks (around neck), hematomas, tendon/ligament injuries, facial trauma and/or broken teeth
- Mental health conditions – depression, suicidal ideations and behaviours, post-traumatic stress disorder, alcohol abuse, drug abuse, anxiety, chronic and/or acute stress

Despite the challenge of getting women to talk about their domestic violence injuries, the survey was designed to measure women's injuries related

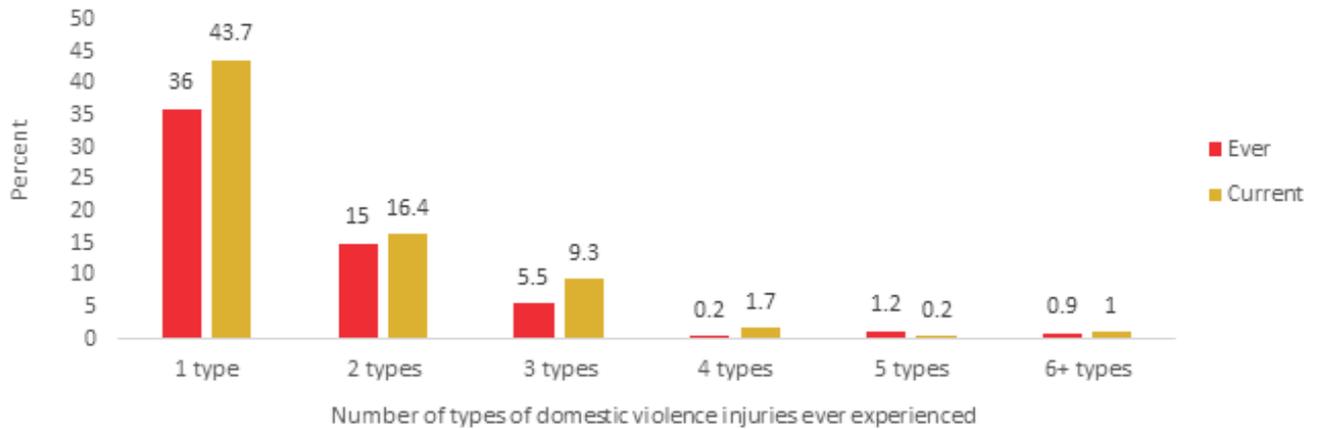
Table 6.12. Domestic violence injuries among women who experienced physical violence (weighted data)

	Physical violence (ever) N=159,541	Physical violence (current) N=64,072
	%	%
Experienced domestic violence injuries (one or more of the 9 types)	58.8	72.4
Fear, anxiety, depression, feelings of isolation, sleeplessness and/or irritability	56.0	61.1
Cuts, scratches, aches, redness or swelling and/or other minor marks	23.6	28.1
Eye injuries, dislocations, sprains and/or blistering from burns	6.5	12.4
Head injuries, concussions and/or hearing loss	2.0	2.6
Abdominal injuries	2.1	1.0
Deep wounds, broken bones, broken teeth, blackened or charred skin from burns or any other serious injury	1.2	1.2
Loss of memory	0.5	0.2
Miscarriage	2.6	1.2
Permanent injury or disfigurement	1.1	0.0

to incidents of physical violence. Table 6.12 shows that more than 1 out of 2 or 58.8% of women who 'ever' experienced physical violence experienced domestic violence injuries, and nearly 3 out of 4 or 72.4% of women who 'currently' experienced physical violence experienced domestic violence injuries (one or more of the 9 types of domestic violence injuries measured).

The majority of women who experienced physical violence experienced fear, anxiety, depression, feelings of isolation, sleeplessness and/or irritability (56.0% of women who 'ever' and 61.1% who 'currently' experienced physical violence). Existing studies document

Chart 6.13. Number of types of domestic violence injuries ever experienced (weighted data)



the relationship between domestic violence and mental health, and research has found that psychological distress is higher among women who experience intimate partner violence, compared to women in the general population. Research has also found that the risk of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is higher among women exposed to intimate partner violence than any other mental health condition.¹⁷² Bear in mind, only women who experienced physical violence were asked if they experienced fear, anxiety, depression, feelings of isolation, sleeplessness or irritability; thus, we do not know what proportion of battered women who experienced coercive controlling behaviours, economic violence and/or psychological violence in their marriage/intimate relationships also suffered feelings of fear, anxiety, depression, feelings of isolation, sleeplessness or irritability. In marriages/intimate relationships, coercive controlling behaviours and psychological violence were the most pervasive. In the future the survey should be redesigned to ask all women who experienced one or more of the different types of violence in their marriage/intimate relationship if they experienced fear, anxiety, depression, feelings of isolation, sleeplessness and/or irritability, and these should be measured separately to better understand the mental health conditions women suffer due to IPV. Questions should also be added to determine if they use alcohol and/or drugs to cope with IPV.

Table 6.12 also shows that as many as 1 out of 4 or 23.6% of women who 'ever' and 28.1% who 'current-

ly' experienced physical violence experienced domestic violence physical injuries, in the form of cuts, scratches, aches, redness or swelling and/or other minor marks. Women also reported experiencing more serious injuries, including: eye injuries, dislocations, sprains and/or blistering from burns (6.5% ever, 12.4% current); miscarriages (2.6% ever, 1.2% current); head injuries, concussions and/or hearing loss (2.0% ever, 2.6% current); abdominal injuries (2.1% ever, 1.0% current); deep wounds, broken bones, broken teeth, blackened or charred skin from burns and/or any other serious injury (1.2% ever, 1.2% current); permanent injury and/or disfigurement (1.1% ever, 0.0% current); and loss of memory (0.5% ever, 0.2% current)).

Battered women often experience more than one type of domestic violence injuries. Chart 6.13 shows that among women who experienced domestic violence in the 12 months prior to the interview (current), 43.7% experienced only one type of domestic violence injury listed in Table 6.12; whereas 16.4% experienced two types of injuries, 9.3% experienced three types of injuries, 1.7% experienced four types of injuries, 0.2% experience five types, and 1.0% experienced six or more types of domestic violence injuries. Multiple types of injuries can be related to one incident of domestic violence or the cumulative effect of multiple and repeated acts of domestic violence.

Women who experienced domestic violence injuries were asked if they were ever hurt bad enough by their husband/partner that they needed health care, even if they did not receive it. Table 6.13 shows that 5.5% of

women who 'ever' experienced physical violence and 5.6% who experienced physical violence in the past 12 months (current) were hurt bad enough by their husband/partner that they needed health care, even if they did not receive it. Among women who needed health care for domestic violence injuries, 7.7% reported they needed health care for their domestic violence injuries in the past 12 months.

Table 6.13 also shows that among women who were currently experiencing physical violence and experienced domestic violence injuries, as many as 23.1% had to spend nights in a hospital due to their injuries and only 13.4% told a health worker that domestic violence was the cause of their injuries. It is likely that women often do not tell doctors and/or nurses that domestic violence was the cause of their injuries; domestic violence victims will often lie about the cause of their injuries in order to protect their husband/partner and out of fear, shame and/or embarrassment. At the same time, however, doctors and nurses often do not screen for domestic violence or ask them about the cause of women's injuries, particularly if it is not mandatory.

Table 6.13. Help-seeking behaviours for domestic violence injuries from the health sector (weighted data)

Experienced domestic violence injuries N=93,278	Physical violence (ever) N=93,278	Physical violence (current) N=46,609
	%	%
Ever hurt bad enough by husband/ partner that you needed health care (even if you did not receive it)	5.5	5.6
	N=5,128	N=2,618
Needed health care in the past 12 months for domestic violence injuries	3.9	7.7
	N=9,504	N=5,421
Spent nights in a hospital due to their domestic violence injuries	22.9	23.1
Told a health worker that domestic violence was the cause of their injuries	18.5	13.4

Disruptions to Work Due to Domestic Violence

Data was also analyzed to understand to what extent domestic violence injuries negatively affect women's abilities to perform house maintenance and child care responsibilities, and resulted in their being absent from paid work. Table 6.14 reveals that 1 out of 4 or 25.0% of women who experienced physical violence and domestic violence injuries in the 12 months prior to the interview reported they were unable to perform household chores and/or take care of their children because of their domestic violence injuries. In addition, 8.9% of women reported they were unable to go to work (missed days at work) due to domestic violence injuries, and 0.5% of women lost a job or source of income due to domestic violence.

Table 6.15 show the number of days women were unable to perform household chores and child care responsibilities due to domestic violence injuries. The number of days women missed performing household chores and/or child care responsibilities ranged from 1 day to 30 days; on an annual basis, battered women lost an average of 4.4 days from household work and child care due to domestic violence injuries. This information was then applied to the estimated number of women who experienced physical violence in the 12 months prior to the interview to produce annual estimates of total lost productivity. In keeping, analysis revealed that of the 11,673 women who were unable to perform household chores and/or take care of their children due to domestic violence injuries missed a total of 51,096 days of household work and child care in the 12 months prior to the interview, which is equivalent to 140 person-years.¹⁷³

In addition, women missed days at work because of domestic violence injuries. The number of days women missed work due to domestic violence ranged from 1 day to 30 days; on an annual basis, battered women lost an average of 3.7 days from work due to domestic violence injuries (see Table 6.15). Further analysis revealed of the 4,137 women who were unable to go to work due to domestic violence injuries missed a total of 15,220 days of work in the 12 months prior to the interview, which is equivalent to 59 full-

time jobs each year.¹⁷⁴ It is also equivalent to 42 person-years.¹⁷⁵

The value of lost productivity from paid work for injured domestic violence victims was calculated using the mean daily values of work, which are based upon 2018 statistical data on the estimated daily wage for women (this data is compiled by INSTAT).¹⁷⁶ The present value of lost earnings was calculated by multiplying the total number of missed days of work (15,220) in the past 12 months by the estimated daily wage for women (2,381.70 Lek).¹⁷⁷ Based upon this calculation, the estimated annual cost for lost wages for injured domestic violence victims was estimated 36,249,474 Lek / USD \$330,615. If household chores and child care were paid labour, the cost in lost wages which be much higher on an annual basis. Also,

among the 0.5% of women who lost their job or source of income due to domestic violence, we do not know how many months or years they remained out of the work force due to domestic violence and the total loss of wages for these women.

These data demonstrate that domestic violence has substantial economic consequences for women, as well as households, private businesses and the public sectors through a loss of productivity and reduced income for women due to missed work. Missed work can include absenteeism over the long-term and in the short-term through tardiness, not showing up for work, and using sick days because of domestic violence injuries, as well as problems with concentration, job performance and productivity. Existing research reveals that employed women experiencing domestic

Table 6.14. Domestic violence injuries and distributions to work (weighted data)

Experience physical violence and domestic violence injuries in the 12 months prior to the interview (current)	N=46,608 %
Unable to perform household chores and/or take care of children due to domestic violence	25.0
Unable to go to work (missed days at work) due to domestic violence	8.9
Loss of job or source of income due to domestic violence	0.5

Distributions to women's work due to domestic violence injuries:

- Among the 11,673 women who were unable to perform household chores and/or take care of their children due to their domestic violence injuries in the past 12 months, they missed a total of 51,096 days of household work in the past 12 months.
- Among the 4,137 women who were unable to go to work due to domestic violence injuries in the past 12 months, they missed a total of 15,220 days of work in the past 12 months
- 2,381.70 Lek per day x 15,220 days = 36,249,474 Lek (USD \$330,615) per year in lost wages

Table 6.15. Domestic violence injuries and missed household chores, child care and work (weighted data)

Number of days unable to perform household chores and/or take care of children due to domestic violence injuries	Physical violence (ever)	Physical violence (current)
	N=14,245 %	N=11,673 %
1 day	19.7	18.6
2-3 days	43.0	56.3
4-5 days	10.0	8.6
7 days	10.3	11.2
12 days	1.0	0.0
30 days	5.9	5.4
Number of days unable to go to work (missed days at work) due to domestic violence injuries	N=5,881	N=4,137
1 day	31.8	26.3
2-3 days	27.1	30.2
4-5 days	7.4	4.2
7 days	3.4	4.9
28 days	5.3	7.6
30 days	1.7	0.0

violence are often subject to a range of interference tactics by their abusive husbands/partners, which undercuts their ability to maintain regular employment. Some of the tactics abusive husbands/partners use to undermine women's efforts to get to work include hiding or stealing keys or transportation money, and not showing up to care for children.

Sexual Violence, Use of Birth Control and Risk of STIs

Research has found that women who experience sexual violence in their marriage/intimate relationships are often restricted by their abusive husbands/partners from using contraceptives or practicing methods of birth control, and face increased risk of unwanted pregnancy and exposure to STIs, including HIV/AIDS.^{178,179,180,181,182} Data was analysed to understand the relationship between women's experiences with intimate partner sexual violence, use of birth control and risk of contracting STIs. Chart 6.14 shows that women who experienced sexual violence at the hands of their husbands/partners (27.1%) were nearly nine times more likely to report their husbands/partners refused to use or tried to stop them from using a method of birth control to avoid getting pregnant, compared to women who did not experience sexual violence at the hands of their husbands/partners (3.1%).

Data was further analysed to understand the ways in which husbands/partners restricted women from using birth control, particularly among women who experienced sexual violence in their marriage/intimate relationships and those who did not, but may have experienced other forms of violence in their marriage/intimate relationships. Chart 6.15 shows the most common way that husbands/partners restricted women from using birth control was by means psychological violence. In particular, 3 out of 4 or 79.7% of women who experienced sexual violence reported their husbands/partners ridiculed them for using birth control and 1 out of 2 or 56.4% of women who experienced sexual violence also reported their husbands/partners screamed/got mad at them for using birth control (both forms of psychological violence); in comparison, among women who did

Chart 6.14. Relationship between sexual violence and husband/partner's restricting use of birth control (weighted data)

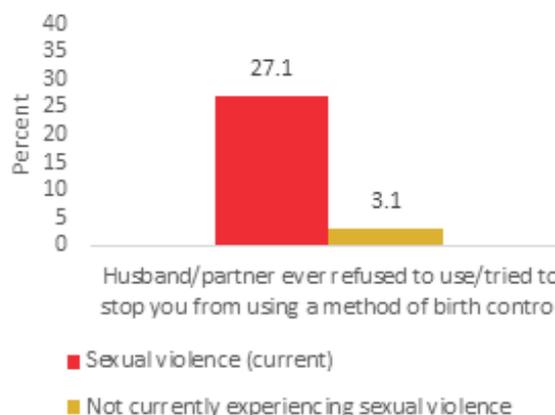
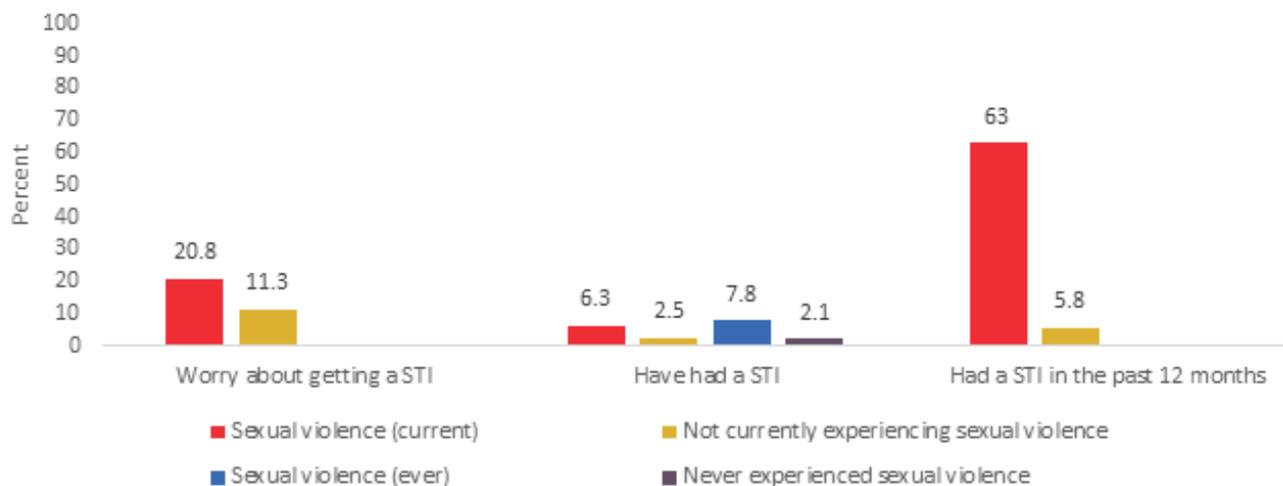


Table 6.16. Relationship between sexual violence and restricting women's use of birth control (weighted data)

	Sexual violence (current)	Not currently experiencing sexual violence
	%	%
Hit or beat you	0	0.5
Threw away the contraceptive	13.9	3.3
Accused you of not being a good woman	18.3	2
Threatened to leave you or throw you out of the house	36.7	8.6
Said it is not necessary	41	0.7
Threatened to beat you up	51.9	1.3
Showed that he disagreed with using this method to avoid getting pregnant	52.5	9.6
Screamed/got mad at you	56.4	20.5
Ridiculed you	79.7	48

Chart 6.16. Relationship between sexual violence and STIs (weighted data)



not experience sexual violence in their marriage/intimate relationships as many as 48.0% also reported their husbands/partners ridiculed them for using birth control and 51.9% reported their husbands/partners threatened to beat them. In addition, 1 out of 3 or 36.7% of women who experienced sexual violence reported their husbands/partners threatened to leave them or throw them out of the house for using birth control, 18.3% reported their abusive husband/partner accused them of not being a good woman, and 13.9% of women reported their husband/partner threw away the contraceptives (each of these three are forms of psychological violence).

Some women reported their husbands/partners used less abusive methods of restricting them from using birth control, such as showing they disagree with their use of birth control to avoid getting pregnant (52.5%), and saying that birth control is not necessary (41.0%).

Data was also analysed to explore the relationship between experiences with intimate partner sexual violence and STIs. Chart 6.16 shows that women who 'currently' experienced sexual violence (20.8%) were two times more likely to worry about getting a STI and to have had a STI (6.3%), compared to women who had not experienced sexual violence in their marriage/intimate relationships during the 12 months prior

to the interview (11.3% and 2.5% respectively). women who 'currently' experienced sexual violence were also ten times more likely to have had a STI in the 12 months prior to the interview, compared to women who had not experienced sexual violence in their marriage/intimate relationships during the 12 months prior to the interview (5.8%). Women who 'ever' experienced sexual violence (7.8%) were three times more likely to have had a STI, compared to women who never experienced sexual violence in their marriage/intimate relationship (2.1%).

Alcohol and Domestic Violence

The relationship between alcohol use/abuse and domestic violence is complicated.^{183,184} One of the myths or widely held false beliefs about domestic violence is that alcohol is a cause of domestic violence; in reality, alcohol does not cause domestic violence, although some abusive husbands/partners use alcohol as an excuse for becoming violent.^{185,186} While an abuser's alcohol use/abuse may have an effect on the severity of domestic violence or the ease with which the abusive husband/partner can justify his actions, an abusive husband/partner does not become violent because of alcohol. In other words, drinking does not cause an abusive husband/partner to lose control of

his temper; rather, domestic violence is used to exert power and control over another person; thus, it does not represent a loss of control.¹⁸⁷

Table 6.16 reveals 50.5% of women age 18-74 who were currently/ever married and/or lived with a husband/partner reported their current/most recent husband/partner drinks alcohol. More specifically, 21.2% of women reported their husband/partner drinks alcohol less than once a month, 13.0% reported he drinks alcohol 1-3 times a month, 11.0% reported their husband/partner's alcohol use is once or twice a week, and only 5.2% of women reported their husband/partner drinks alcohol every day or nearly every day.

Women who reported their current/most recent husband/partner drinks alcohol were asked how often in the past 12 months (or at least 12 months of their last relationships) did they see their husband/partner drunk. Table 6.16 shows that 47.8% of women reported they never saw their husband/partner drunk; whereas 25.5% saw their husband/partner drunk less than once a month, 10.3% saw him drunk once a month, 9.1% saw him drunk on a weekly basis, and 1.9% saw their husband/partner drunk most days.

Further analysis was conducted to explore the relationship between husband/partners' alcohol consumption, particularly the frequency of drunkenness, and women's 'current' experiences with domestic violence (one or more of the 5 types of violence) and physical and/or sexual violence, or both. Chart 6.17 shows that women who were currently experiencing domestic violence (66.8%) were two times more likely to see their husband/partner drunk most days, compared to women who did not experience domestic violence in the 12 months prior to the interview (33.2%). Women who saw their husband drunk most days were also more likely to experience domestic violence, compared to women who saw their husband/partner drunk on a weekly basis (52.3%), once a month (53.6%) and less than once a month (56.2%). It is notable that women who did not experience domestic violence during the 12 months prior to the interview (66.5%) were two times more likely to have never seen their husband/partner drunk in the

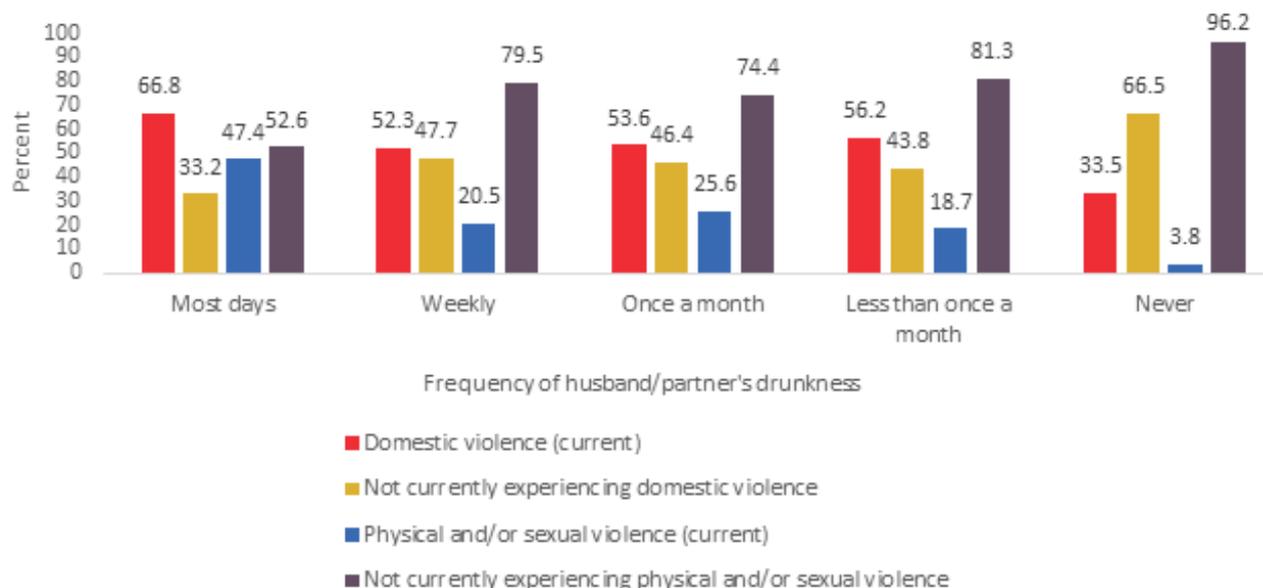
Table 6.17. Husbands/partners alcohol consumption (weighted data)

Women age 18-74 years who are currently/ever married and/or lived with husband/partner		N=886,374
		%
Husband/partner drinks alcohol		50.5
How often does your husband/partner drink alcohol?		
Every day or nearly every day		5.2
Once or twice a week		11.0
1-3 times a month		13.0
Less than once a month		21.2
Never		47.3
In the past 12 months (in the last 12 months of your last relationship) how often have you seen (did you see) your husband/partner drunk?		Husband/partner drinks alcohol
		N=447,216
Most days		1.9
Weekly		9.1
Once a month		10.3
Less than once a month		25.5
Never		47.8

past 12 months, compared to women who 'currently' experienced domestic violence (33.5%). This data shows a relationship between alcohol use/abuse and domestic violence.

While there is a clear relationship between husband/partner's use/abuse of alcohol and women's experiences with domestic violence, there was not such a clear relationship between women's experiences with physical and/or sexual violence and husband/partner's drunkenness. Most notable is that women who saw their husband/partner drunk in the past 12 months, with varying degrees of frequency, were more likely to report they had not experienced physical and/or sexual violence in their marriage/intimate relationship in the 12 months prior to the interview. What is most notable is that women who saw their husband/partner drunk most days (47.4%) were two times more likely to experience physical

Chart 6.17. Relationship between husband/partner's drunkenness and domestic violence (weighted data)



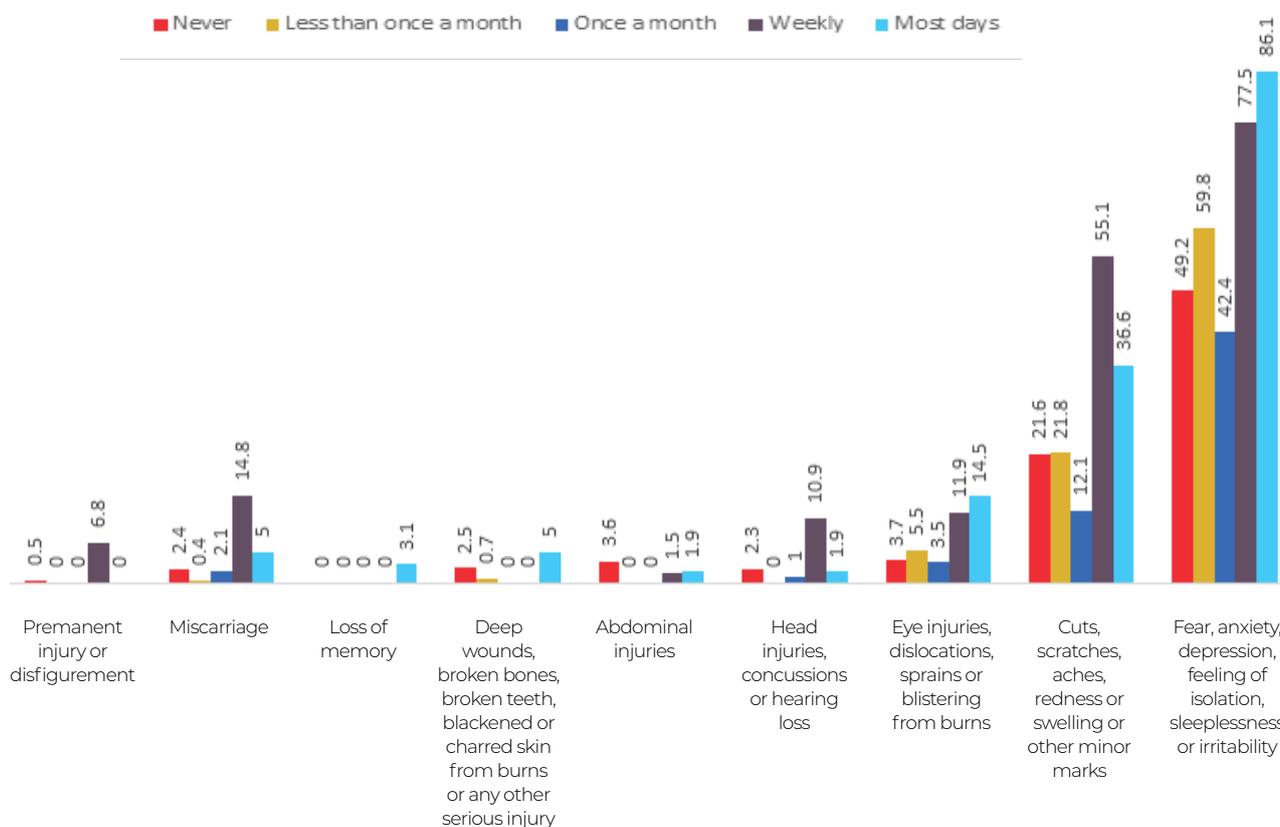
and/or sexual violence in the marriage/intimate relationship, compared to women who saw their husband/partner drunk weekly (20.5%), once a month (25.6%) and less than once a month (18.7%). This data demonstrates that husband/partner's frequency of drunkenness is related to women's experiences with physical and/or sexual violence, or both. Only 3.8% of women who never saw their husband/partner drunk in the 12 months prior to the interview experienced physical and/or sexual violence, or both.

An abuser's alcohol use/abuse may have an effect on the severity of domestic violence and women's risk of domestic violence injuries. Chart 6.18 reveals that women who saw their husband/partner drunk most days (86.1%) and weekly (77.5%) were most likely to experience fear, anxiety, depression, feelings of isolation, sleeplessness and/or irritability, compared to women who saw their husband/partner drunk once a month (42.4%), less than once a month (59.8%) and never (49.2%). Women who saw their husband/partner drunk most days (36.6%) and weekly (55.1%) were also more likely to experience cuts, scratches, aches, redness or swelling and/or other minor marks, compared to women who saw their husbands/partners drunk once a month (12.1%), less than once a month (21.8%) and never (21.6%).

When it comes to women's experiences with more serious domestic violence injuries, their husband/partner's alcohol consumption habits were significant. In particular, women who saw their husband drunk most days (14.5%) and weekly (11.9%) were three to four times more likely to experience eye injuries, sprains and/or blistering from burns, compared to women who saw their husband/partner drunk once a month (3.5%), less than once a month (5.5%) and never (3.7%). Also, women who saw their husband drunk on a weekly basis (10.9%) were four to ten times more likely to experience head injuries, concussions and/or hearing loss, compared to women who saw their husband/partner drunk most days (1.9%), once a month (1.0%), less than once a month (0.0%) and never (2.3%).

Women who saw their husband/partner drunk most days (5.0%) in the past 12 months were two to seven times more likely experience head injuries, concussions and/or hearing loss, compared to women who saw their husband/partner drunk weekly (0.0%), once a month (0.0%), less than once a month (0.7%) and never (2.5%). In addition, 3.1% of women who saw their husband/partner drunk most days suffered hearing loss; no other women suffered hearing loss.

Chart 6.18. Relationship between husband/partner drunkenness and domestic violence injuries (weighted Data)



Finally, women who saw their husband/partner drunk weekly (14.8%) were three to thirty-seven times more likely to experience a miscarriage, compared to women who saw their husband/partner drunk most days (5.0%), once a month (2.1%), less than once a month (0.4%) and never (2.4%). Also, women who saw their husband/partner drunk weekly (6.8%) in the past 12 months were most likely to experience permanent injury and/or disfigurement.

Children's Exposure to Domestic Violence

Domestic violence does not only affect women who are battered and abused, but also has negative effects on children who are direct and indirect victims

of the domestic violence and who witness domestic violence. It is well documented that children suffer negative consequences when they are exposed to violence in the household and family. On the one hand, they are at greater risk of experiencing neglect, physical and/or sexual abuse.^{188,189} In the United Kingdom, the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) found that young people experiencing family violence were between 2.9 and 4.4 times more likely to experience physical violence and neglect from a caregiver than young people who were not exposed to family violence.¹⁹⁰ Similarly, a New Zealand study found that children's risk of abuse was three to nine times higher in homes where parents fought one another.¹⁹¹ Research has also established that the negative consequences for children exposed to domestic violence are including immediate and long-term emotional and mental

health problems, as well as development, behavioural and social problems.^{192,193,194,195} Domestic violence also teaches children that violence is a normal part of life and increases their risk of becoming society's next generation of domestic violence victims and abusers.¹⁹⁶

Unlike the 2007 and 2013 NDVS in Albania, the 2018 study did not ask women who experienced domestic violence if their children were affected by the violence and the ways in which they were affected (e.g., witnessed violence, live in fear, injured, left home to live with relatives, decreased ability to learn, or something else). This set of questions should be included in future surveys as it is important to learn from the perspective of women (mothers) what impact domestic violence is having on their children. Despite the fact that these questions were eliminated from the survey, the data was analysed to estimate how many children were exposed to domestic violence and to explore the relationship between domestic violence and a range of behavioural problems that women reported their children age 5-17 (living at home) had experienced.

Weighted data was analysed to estimate the number of women age 18-74 who had children age 0-17 living in their household, then calculations were conducted to generate the total number of children age 0-17 living in households of women who experienced

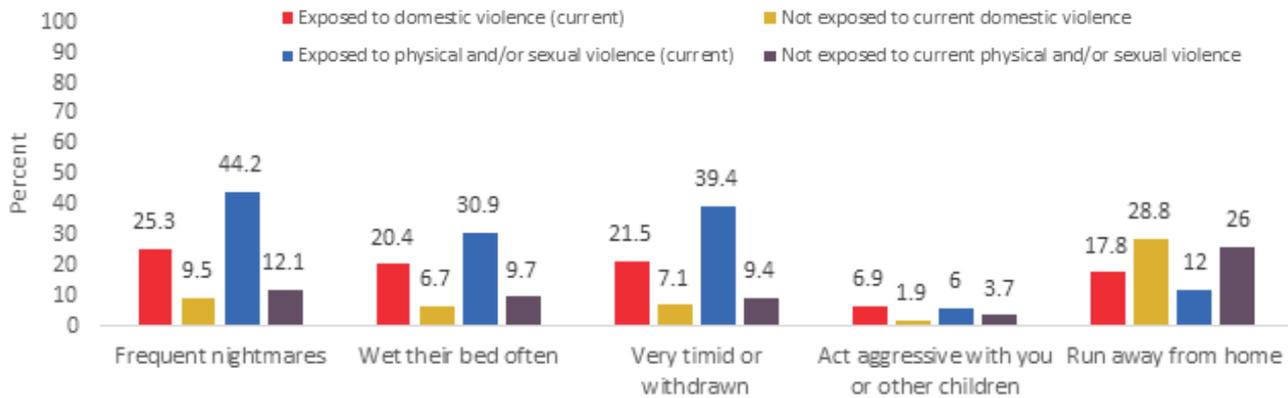
domestic violence (ever and current) and physical and/or sexual violence (ever and current). Table 6.17 shows that 47.7% of women age 18-74 who had children age 0-17 living in their households reported 'ever' experiencing domestic violence and 40.1% 'currently' experienced domestic violence (one of the five types of intimate partner domestic violence measured). More specifically, 21.1% of women who 'ever' experienced physical and/or sexual violence, or both, and 11.7% were 'currently' experienced physical and/or sexual violence had children age 0-17 living in their households.

Based upon the weighted data of women who had children age 0-17 living in their households and the number of children each of those women had, it was calculated that there was a total of 591,476 children age 0-17 living in the households surveyed. Further calculations were conducted to estimate the number of children living in household where women experiencing domestic violence (ever and current) and physical and/or sexual violence (ever and current) in an effort to document how many children were most likely exposed to domestic violence. Table 6.17 shows an estimated 286,498 children age 0-17 were most likely exposed to domestic violence because their mother 'ever' experienced domestic violence, and 246,707 children were most likely exposed to domestic violence in the 12 months prior to the interview because their mother 'currently'

Table 6.18. Estimated number of children exposed to domestic violence among the women sampled (weighted data)

	# of children		
	Women age 18-74 who had children age 0-17 in the household N=830,152	age 0-17 living in households of women who experienced domestic violence N=591,476	% of total children in households surveyed N=591,476
	%	n	%
Domestic violence (ever)	47.7	286,498	48.4
Domestic violence (current)	40.1	246,707	41.7
Physical and/or sexual violence (ever)	21.1	128,144	21.7
Physical and/or sexual domestic violence (current)	11.7	73,535	12.3

Chart 6.19. Children's problems (age 5-17) by mother's exposure to domestic violence (weighted data)



experienced domestic violence. More specifically, 128,144 children age 0-17 were most likely exposed to physical and/or sexual violence in their families because their mother 'ever' experienced physical and/or sexual violence at the hands of her husband/partner, and 73,535 children age 0-17 were mostly likely exposed to physical and/or sexual violence in the 12 months prior to the interview because their mothers 'currently' experienced physical and/or sexual violence, or both.

Of the 591,475 children age 0-17 living in the households surveyed:

- 286,498 children age 0-17 were most likely exposed to domestic violence in their lifetime
- 246,707 children age 0-17 were most likely exposed to domestic violence in the 12 months prior to the interview (current)

Data in Table 6.17 was further analysed to determine what percentage of the 591,475 children age 0-17 were living in households where domestic violence had or was occurring. Table 6.17 shows that 48.4% of the 591,475 children living in the households surveyed were most likely exposed to domestic violence, and 41.7% were most likely exposed to domestic violence in the 12 months prior to the interview given the fact that their mothers experienced domestic violence. More specifically, 21.7% of the 591,475 children living in the households surveyed were most likely exposed to physical and/or sexual violence, and 12.3% were most likely exposed to physical and/or sexual violence in the 12 months prior to the interview because their mothers 'currently' experienced physical and/or sexual violence, or both.

Data was also analysed to explore the relationship between children's exposure to domestic violence and emotional and behavioural problems experienced among children age 5-17 living in the household. Chart 6.18 shows that children age 5-17 who were most likely exposed to domestic violence in the 12 months prior to the interview (current) were two times more likely to have frequent nightmares (25.3%) compared to children who were not exposed to domestic violence (9.5%). In addition, children age 5-17 who were mostly likely exposed to domestic

violence in the 12 months prior to the interview (current) were three times more likely to wet their bed (20.4%), to be very timid or withdrawn (21.5%) and to act aggressive with their mother and/or other children (6.9%), compared to children who were not exposed to domestic violence (6.7%, 7.1% and 1.9% respectively). These findings are based upon information provided by the mothers of these children; children were not interviewed in this survey.

More notable is that 44.2% of children age 5-17 who were most likely exposed to physical and/or sexual violence in the 12 months prior to the interview (current) experienced frequent nightmares; they were three times more likely to experience frequent nightmares compared to children who were not exposed to physical and/or sexual violence (12.1%). Children most likely exposed to physical and/or sexual violence in the 12 months prior to the interview (current) were also three times more likely to wet their bed often (30.9%) and four times more likely to be very timid or withdrawn (9.4%), compared to children who were not exposed to physical and/or sexual violence (9.7% and 9.4% respectively). Also, children who were most likely exposed to physical and/or sexual violence in the 12 months prior to the interview (6.0%) were nearly two times more likely to act aggressive toward their mother and/or other children, compared to children who were not exposed to physical and/or sexual violence (3.7%). These findings are based upon information provided by the mothers of these children; children were not interviewed in this survey.

Mothers were also asked if their child(ren) ever ran away from home. Chart 6.19 reveals that children age

5-17 were not necessarily more likely to run away from home if they were exposed to domestic violence or physical and/or sexual violence. Instead, children age 5-17 who were not exposed to domestic violence (28.8%) or physical and/or sexual violence (26.0%) in the past 12 months were actually more likely to run away from home, compared to children exposed to domestic violence (17.8%) or physical and/or sexual violence (12.0%). A similar pattern emerges when the analyses looked at lifetime exposures to domestic violence and physical and/or sexual violence.

Help-Seeking Behaviours

Battered women are often reluctant to seek help for domestic violence. Table 6.18 shows that only 16.9% of women who 'currently' experienced domestic violence told someone about the violence and only 8.4% of women sought help for domestic violence; the proportion of women who 'ever' experienced domestic violence and told someone about the violence (14.9%) and sought help (6.7%) was slightly lower. In comparison, women who 'currently' experienced physical and/or sexual violence, or both, were nearly two times more likely to tell someone about the violence (30.8%) and two times more likely to seek help (18.5%). Women who 'ever' experienced physical and/or sexual violence, or both, were less likely to tell someone about the violence (23.3%) and to seek help for domestic violence (10.5%)

These findings demonstrate the majority of battered women in Albania continue to suffer in silence de-

Table 6.19. Help-seeking behaviours among battered women (weighted data)

	Domestic violence (current) N=298,198	Domestic violence (ever) N=416,998	Physical and/or sexual violence (current) N=186,272	Physical and/or sexual violence (ever) N=186,272
	%	%	%	%
Told someone about the domestic violence	16.9	14.9	30.8	23.3
Sought help for domestic violence	9.0	6.7	18.5	10.5

spite ongoing efforts to raise public awareness to the problem of domestic violence and newly created domestic violence legislation and social services for domestic violence victims. Thus, battered women are not receiving the protection, support services, and access to justice that is their legal and human rights. The fact that women who were currently experiencing physical and/or sexual violence were significantly more likely to tell someone about the violence and to seek help may reflect changing social norms and increased awareness among women as to the legal protections and social services available to domestic violence victims.

Table 6.19 shows that when women sought help for domestic violence, the majority sought help from their own family (98.9%) and a significant proportion sought help from their husband/partner's family (40.4%). Although few in numbers, some women sought help from informal networks, such as neighbours (11.9%), friends (6.7%) and religious leaders (1.7%). Far fewer women sought help from formal network, such as the police (4.4%), lawyers (3.4%), doctors/health workers (3.1%), judges (2.8%), a social service agency/organization (1.6%) and a shelter for women and girls (0.4%). No women sought help from the helpline and/or a local domestic violence coordinator; this finding can lead one to conclude that either women are not aware of the helpline and/or the local domestic violence coordinators, or that domestic violence survivors do not have confidence in these formal networks of support services.

Battered women who sought help were asked why they sought help. Table 6.20 shows the most common reasons battered women gave for seeking help were that friends or family encouraged them to seek help (63.5%), they knew that violence is unacceptable in relationships (62.6%), they could not endure more violence (58.8%), and they were badly injured (43.6%). Although fewer in number, 22.3% of women sought help because they saw their children suffering. In addition, 9.8% of women were afraid their husband/partner would kill them, 4.9% reported their husband/partner threatened to kill them, 4.7% said their husband/partner threw them out of the home, 4.3% said he threatened or hit the children, and 2.2% were afraid they would kill their husband/partner.

Table 6.20. From whom domestic violence victims sought help (weighted data)

Family	Women who sought help for domestic violence N=28,097 %
Own family	98.0
Husband/partner's family	40.4
Current/former husband/boyfriend	4.2
Informal networks	
Friend	6.7
Neighbour	11.9
Religious leader	1.7
Formal networks	
Doctor/health workers	3.1
Police	4.4
Lawyer	3.4
Judge	2.8
Social service agency/organization	1.6
Shelter for women and girls	0.4
Helpline	0.0
Local Domestic Violence Coordinator	0.0
Other	0.0

Table 6.21. Reasons why domestic violence victims sought help (weighted data)

	Women who sought help for domestic violence N=28,097 %
I could not endure more violence	58.8
I was badly injured	43.6
My friends or family encouraged me to seek help	63.5
He threatened or tried to kill me	5.9
I was afraid he would kill me	9.8
I saw the children were suffering	22.3
He threatened or hit the children	4.3
He threw me out of our home	4.7
I was afraid I would kill him	2.2
I know violence is unacceptable in relationships	62.6
Other	1.1

Table 6.22. Domestic violence victims who left home because of domestic violence (weighted data)

	Domestic violence (current) N=298,199 %	Domestic violence (ever) N=416,998 %	Physical and/or sexual violence (current) N=72,338 %	Physical and/or sexual violence (ever) N=186,272 %
Did you ever leave your home, even if for one night because of domestic violence	10.0%	8.8	18.3	12.1

Table 6.21 shows that few women who experienced domestic violence (10.0% current, 8.8% ever) and more specifically physical and/or sexual violence (18.3% current, 12.1% ever) ever left home because of domestic violence, even if for one night. The number of days they left home ranged from 1 to 20 days depending upon the woman, for an average of 2.1 days per women. A total of 36,879 women who ever experienced domestic violence left home for 76,486 days because of domestic violence (equivalent to 209.5 years).

Table 6.22 shows the reasons that battered women left home. The reasons varied greatly, including: they could not endure the violence (34.8%); they were encouraged by friends or family to leave (22.9%); they were injured badly (13.8%); their husband/partner threatened or tried to kill them (12.4%) and to hit the children (12.2%); they were afraid their husband/partner would kill them

(10.4%); they saw their children suffering (9.3%); and, their husband/partner threw them out of the house (4.7%).

Table 6.18 revealed the majority of women who experienced domestic violence did not seek help. Table 6.23 shows the most common reasons that women gave for not seeking help was that they felt the situation was not serious enough to complain (47.8%). Although fewer in number, 12.0% of battered women said they did not want to bring shame to the family, 10.9% were embarrassed, ashamed or afraid they would not be believed, and 9.7% thought they would be blamed.

A small proportion of women thought there was no reason to complain because violence is normal (6.8%), they were afraid of divorce or the relationship ending (6.5%), they were afraid of being threatened and the consequences or more violence (6.1%), they

Battered women in Albania continue to suffer in silence

Only 16.9% of women who 'currently' experienced domestic violence told someone about the violence, and only 8.4% sought help for domestic violence

Women who 'currently' experienced physical and/or sexual violence, or both, were nearly two times more likely to tell someone about the violence (30.8%) and two times more likely to seek help (18.5%)



Table 6.23. Reasons domestic violence victims left home (weighted data)

Reasons domestic violence victims left home the last time	Women who left home due to domestic violence N=37,405
	%
No particular incident	24.1
Encouraged by friends/family	22.9
Could not endure the violence	34.8
Badly injured	13.8
He threatened or tried to kill me	12.4
He threatened to hit the children	12.2
Saw the children suffering	9.3
Thrown out of the home	4.7
Afraid he would kill me	10.4
Encouraged by organization	0.0
Afraid I would kill him	.6
Other	0.7

were afraid of losing their children (6.0%), they did not know where to ask for help (4.9%), and they believed it would not help (4.2%). Data in Table 6.23 shows the reasons that battered women do not seek help for domestic violence vary significantly. Even when women do not seek help for domestic violence, the scars of domestic violence are still very real and often run deep in battered women, which is why battered women have a difficult time seeking help, seeing their options, and organizing the resources they need to leave a violent marriage/relationship.

Divorce and Separation Due to Domestic Violence

Table 6.24 shows that 93.9% of women who were separated from their husbands/partners were the victims of domestic violence; whereas 31.7% of divorcees and 35.9% of widows 'ever' experienced domestic violence.

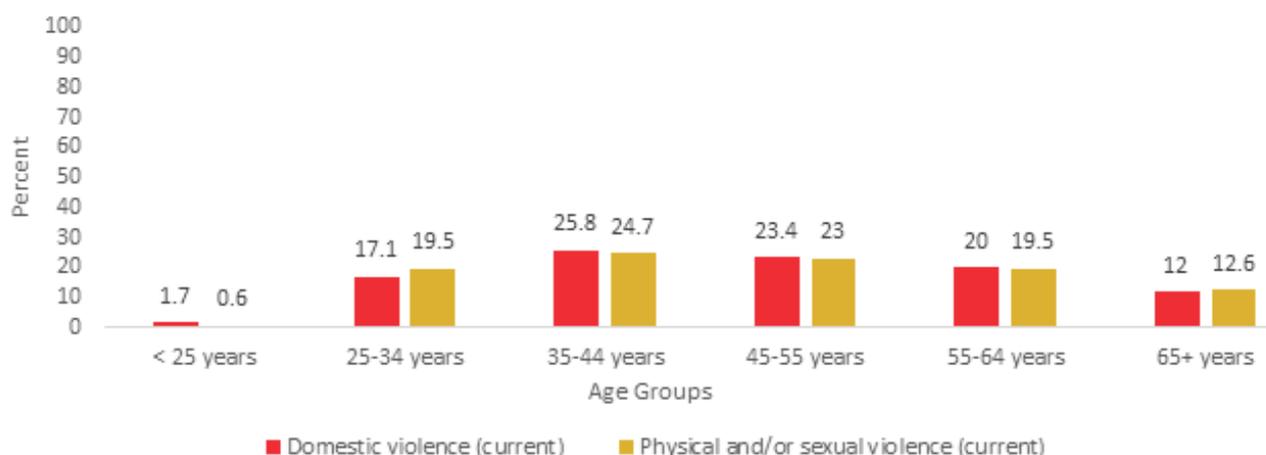
Table 6.24. Reasons why domestic violence victims did not seek help (weighted data)

	Domestic violence victims who did not seek help N=403,551
	%
I don't/didn't know where to ask for help	4.9
I believe it would not help/I know other women were not helped	4.2
I am/was afraid of being threatened and the consequences or more violence	6.1
I am/was embarrassed, ashamed or afraid I would not be believed	10.9
I am/was afraid of divorce or the relationship ending	6.5
I think/thought they will blame me	9.7
I think there is no reason to complain/violence is normal	6.8
The situation was not serious enough to complain	47.8
I am/was afraid of losing my children	6.0
I don't want to bring shame to my family	12.0
Other	0.9

Table 6.25. Divorce and separation due to domestic violence (weighted data)

	Domestic violence (ever) N=57,077	
	No	Yes
	%	%
Divorced	68.3	31.7
Separated	6.2	93.9
Widowed	64.1	35.9

Chart 6.20. Domestic violence perpetrator's age (weighted data)



Domestic Violence Perpetrators

Data was analysed to understand the demographic characteristics of perpetrators of domestic violence. Women were not specifically asked about the age of their perpetrator; the only data collected was age of the current/most recent husband/partner. Therefore, the ages of current/most recent husbands/partners were analysed among women who 'currently' experienced domestic violence and more specifically physical and/or sexual violence. Chart 6.20 shows that very few perpetrators were under 25 years of age, but more often age 24-35, 35-44 years, 45-55 years and 55-64 years of age. Fewer perpetrators were age 65 years or older. There is a small possibility that for some women the current/most recent husband/partner maybe different from the one who was the perpetrator of domestic violence; however, this would be in a majority of cases given the fact that the sample was women who were currently/ever married and/or lived with husband/partner, and 86.1% of the sample was currently married and living with their husband.

Chart 6.21 shows the level of education of perpetrators of domestic violence. Most domestic violence perpetrators had a lower secondary education (47.9%) or a secondary education (30.0%). Far fewer perpetrators had only a primary education (7.4%) or were without diploma (1.7%); however, these pro-

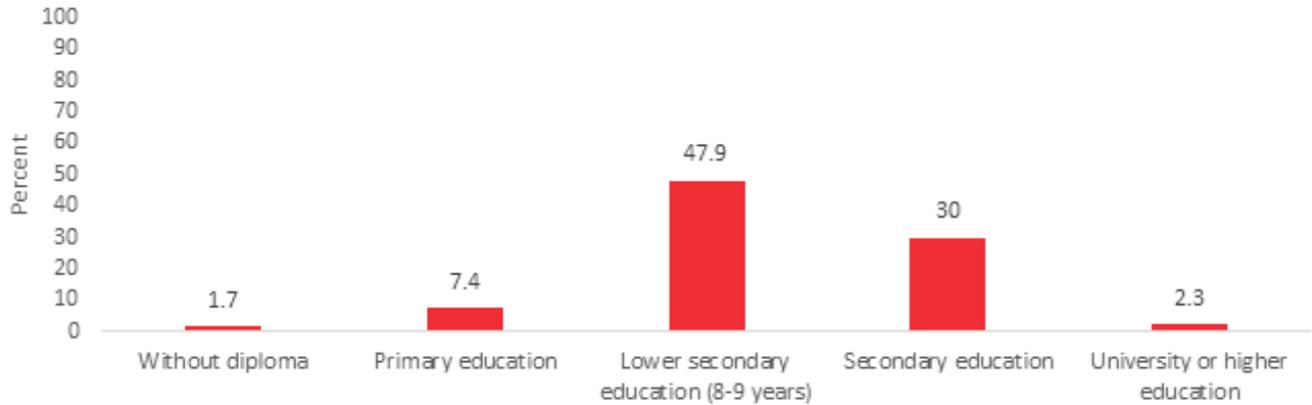
Table 6.26. Domestic violence perpetrator's work status (weighted data)

Current work status	Domestic violence (current)
	N=298,692 %
Working	68.7
Looking for work/unemployed	12.6
Retired	11.9
Student/studying	0.0
Disabled/long-term illness	2.5
Other	3.3

portions maybe more reflective of the proportion of men in the population with a primary education or less. It is notable that only 2.3% of domestic violence perpetrators had a university education or higher. These finding may reflect the fact that rates of domestic violence may be lower among university educated individuals, however, more research is needed to understand the relationship between levels of education and domestic violence.

Table 6.25 reveals the majority of domestic violence perpetrator were working (68.7%) at the time of the survey; only 12.6% were unemployed and looking for work, 11.9% were retired and 2.5% were disabled or had a long-term illness.

Chart 6.21. Domestic violence perpetrator's level of education (weighted data)

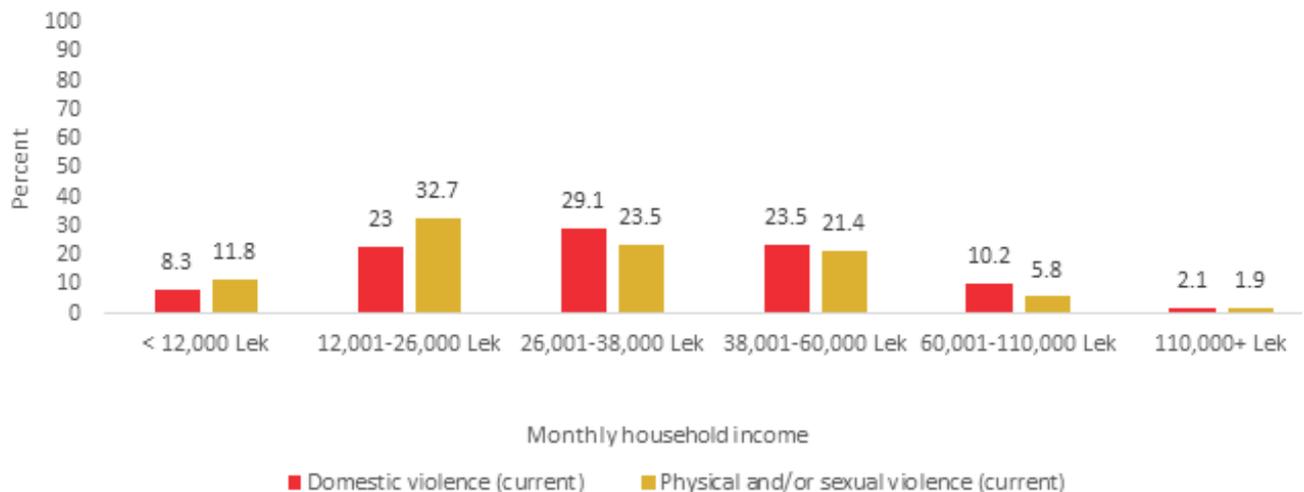


Household Income and Domestic Violence

Although respondent's do not always report accurate household incomes, Chart 6.22 shows the relationship between current experiences of domestic violence and household income. It appears that women who experienced physical and/or sexual violence in the 12 months prior to the interview were more likely to report household incomes of <12,000 Lek (11.8%) and 12,001-26,000 Lek (32.7%) per month, compared to women who were cur-

rently experiencing domestic violence (8.3% and 23.0% respectively). Women who experienced domestic violence in the 12 months prior to the interview were nearly two times more likely to report household incomes of 60,001-110,000 Lek (10.2%) per month, compared to women who experienced physical and/or sexual violence (5.8% respectively). This data may reflect the fact that women in higher income brackets were more likely to experience coercive controlling behaviours, psychological violence and/or economic violence, than physical and/or sexual violence.

Chart 6.22. Relationship between domestic violence and household income (weighted data)



CHAPTER 7



NON-PARTNER VIOLENCE

It is well documented that women and girls are at risk of physical and/or sexual violence by non-partners in the context of the family and home, and in public spaces. In 2005, WHO global estimates were that 7.2% of women experienced sexual violence by a non-partner in their lifetime.¹⁹⁷

The 2013 EU-wide survey on VAWG found that 22.0% of women experienced physical violence by someone other than their partner since the age of 15.¹⁹⁸ This study focused on both physical and sexual non-partner violence experienced by women since the age of 15 at the hands of both family members and other relatives, and non-family members. This chapter reveals the prevalence of non-partner physical and sexual violence experienced by women since the age of 15, and reveals the perpetrators of non-partner violence against women and the help seeking behaviours of women who experienced non-partner violence.

Experiences of Non-Partner Violence Since Age 15

Table 7.1 shows that among women age 18-74, 18.2% 'ever' and 2.4% 'currently' experienced one or more of the four types of physical and/or sexual non-partner violence since the age 15 by someone other than their husband/boyfriend. Women were more likely to experience non-partner physical violence (17.3% ever, 2.3% current) than non-partner sexual violence (1.3% ever, 0.1% current).

Table 7.1. Experiences of non-partner violence since age 15 (weighted data)

	Total sample N=1,040,726	
	Ever %	Current %
Experienced physical and/or sexual non-partner violence since age 15 (one or more of the 4 types)	18.2	2.3
Since age 15, a non-partner hit, slapped, kicked or done something else to physically hurt (physical violence)	17.3	2.3
Experienced sexual non-partner violence since age 15 (one or more of the 3 types)	1.3	0.0
Since age 15, a non-partner touched you sexually when you did not want them to or attempted to touch you sexually, but did not succeed at forcing you to have sexual intercourse	0.0	0.0
Since age 15, a non-partner forced you into sexual intercourse when you did not want to, for example by threatening you, holding you down or putting you in a situation where you could not say no	1.0	0.0
Since age 15, forced you to have sex when you were too drunk or drugged to refuse	1.1	0.0

Chart 7.1. Experience of non-partner violence by age group (weighted data)

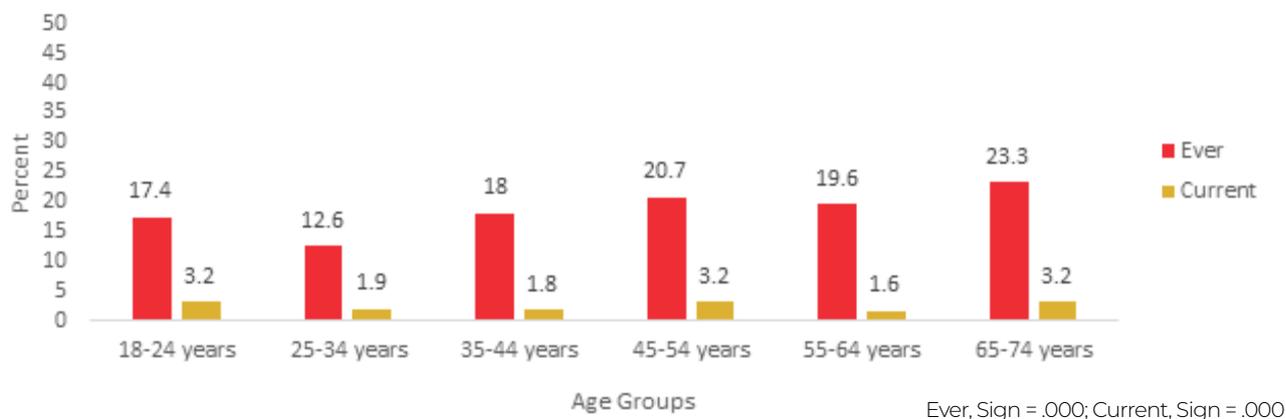
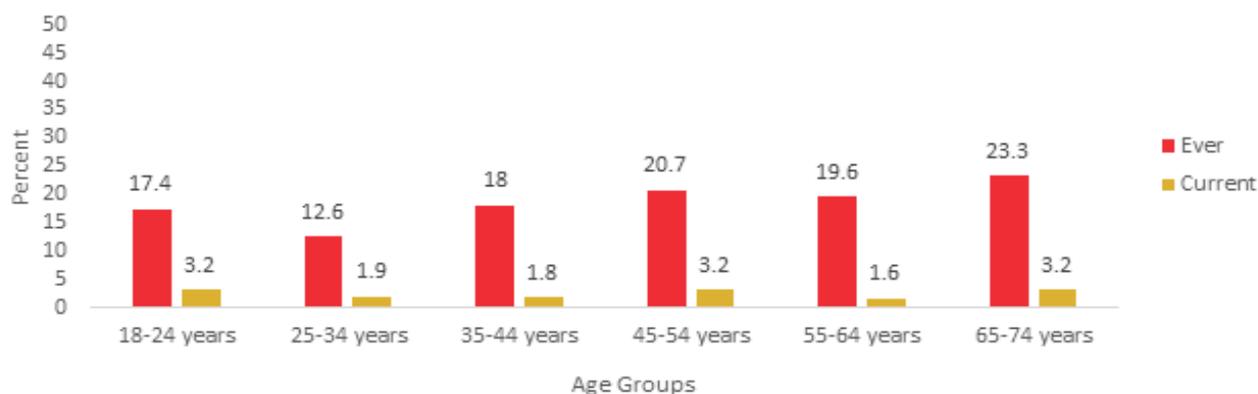


Chart 7.2. Number of types of physical and/or sexual non-partner violence experienced (weighted data)



Further analysis was conducted to understand the relationship between age and experiences of non-partner violence. Chart 7.1 shows that women age 45 and older were significantly more likely to experience non-partner violence since the age of 15, compared to women age 18 to 44 years of age. Women age 25-34 years of age were least likely to report experiencing non-partner violence in their lifetime. Far fewer women reported experiencing non-partner violence in the 12 months prior to the survey, but women age 18-24 (3.2%), 45-54 years (3.2%) and 65-74 years (3.2%) were more likely to 'currently' experience non-partner violence, compared to women age 25-34 (1.9%), 35-44 years (1.8%) and 55-64 years (1.6%). The higher rates of 'current' non-partner violence among women age 65-74 years may reveal that women in this age group are at increased risk of elder abuse at the hand of family members.

Chart 7.2 show most women experienced only one type of non-partner violence listed in Table 8.1 in their lifetime (17.4%); however, some women experienced two or three of the different types of non-partner physical and/or sexual violence, or both in their lifetime. Among women who experienced non-partner violence since the age of 15 in the 12 months prior to the interview, they reported experiencing only one type of non-partner violence.

Experiences of Child Sexual Abuse

Women were asked if they ever experienced sexual violence during childhood (0-17 years of age). Table 7.2 show that 3.1% of women age 18-74 reported they had been sexually abused during childhood (i.e., they had been touched sexually when they did not want or was made to do something sexual that they did not want).

Perpetrators of Non-Partner Physical Violence

Table 7.3 shows among women who ever experienced non-partner physical violence since the age of 15, as many as 3 out of 4 or 76.1% reported the perpetrator was a mother/step-mother and more than 1 out of 2 or 58.0% reported the perpetrator was a father/step-father. These

Table 7.2. Experiences of child sexual abuse (weighted data)

	Total sample N=1,040,726
	%
Ever been touched sexually when you did not want or was made to do something sexual that you did not want when you were a young girl between 0 and 17 years	3.1

Table 7.3. Perpetrators of non-partner physical violence (weighted data)

	N=180,039
	%
Mother/step-mother	76.1
Father/step-father	58.0
Sister/Brother	28.0
Step-sister/Step-brother	0.9
Daughter/Son	0.4
Other relative	6.6
Mother-in-law	3.0
Father-in-law	0.6
Other-in-law	2.1
Friend/acquaintance	1.7
Classmate/schoolmate	11.1
Neighbour	7.2
Teacher	35.7
Employer	0.2
Coworker	0.2
Police/soldier	0.0
Community leader	0.1
Religious leader	0.0
Stranger	0.2
Other	0.3

findings likely indicate that a significant proportion of women were victims of domestic violence at the hands of their parents since the age of 15.

In addition, 1 out of 3 or 35.7% of women identified the perpetrator of non-partner physical violence as a teacher, 1 out of 4 or 28.0% of women reported the perpetrator was

Table 7.4. Perpetrators of non-partner sexual violence (weighted data)

Experienced non-partner sexual violence since age 15 (ever) N=21,254	
	%
Mother/step-mother	4.4
Father/step-father	5.2
Sister/Brother	3.5
Step-sister/Step-brother	0.0
Daughter/Son	0.0
Other relative	2.4
Mother-in-law	0.0
Father-in-law	0.0
Other-in-law	1.9
Friend/acquaintance	5.4
Classmate/schoolmate	15.1
Neighbour	2.4
Teacher	7.1
Employer	0.0
Coworker	1.0
Police/soldier	0.0
Community leader	0.0
Religious leader	0.0
Stranger	3.3
Other	0.0

Table 7.5. Help-seeking behaviours for non-partner violence (weighted data)

Experienced non-partner violence (ever) N=189,697	
	%
Ever told anyone about the non-partner violence they experienced	6.6
Ever sought help for the non-partner violence they experienced	4.6

their sister/brother (sibling violence), and 11.1% reported the perpetrator was their classmate/schoolmate. Women identified a wide range of other perpetrators, but to a lesser extent.

Perpetrators of Non-Partner Sexual Violence

Table 7.4 shows that among women who ever experienced non-partner sexual violence since the age of 15, those who identified their perpetrators identified classmates/schoolmates (15.1%), teachers (7.1%), friend/acquaintances (5.4%), fathers/step-fathers (5.2%), mothers/step-mothers (4.4%), and strangers (3.3%). A significant proportion of women declined or refused to identify the perpetrators of non-partner sexual violence.

Help-Seeking Behaviours for Non-Partner Violence

Table 7.5 shows that among women who ever experienced physical and/or sexual non-partner violence, only 6.6% ever told anyone about the non-partner violence they experienced and 4.6% sought help for non-partner violence.

Table 7.6 shows the majority of women who sought help for non-partner violence sought help from family, including their own family (85.3%), their husband/boyfriend's family (15.5%) and/or their current/former husband/boyfriend (2.6%). Quite a few women also sought help from informal networks, such as neighbours (16.6%) and friends (12.1%); only 1.1% of women sought help from religious leaders. Very few women sought help from formal networks, however, those who did sought help from the police (8.3%), courts/judge (4.7%), doctors/medical personnel (2.6%), lawyers (2.2%) and a social service agency/organization (2.2%). Among women who sought help, Table 7.7 shows the majority of women sought help for non-partner violence because their friends and/or family encouraged them to seek help (70.8%). A significant proportion of women also reported seeking help because they could not endure more violence (45.9%) and they were badly injured (43.9%). Some women also sought help because they believed what happened to them was not

Table 7.6. From whom women sought help for non-partner violence (weighted data)

Family	Non-partner violence victims who sought help
	N=8,656 %
Own family	85.3
Husband/boyfriend's family	15.5
Current/former husband/boyfriend	2.6
Informal networks	
Friend	12.1
Neighbour	16.6
Religious leader	1.1
Formal networks	
Doctor/medical personnel	2.6
Police	8.3
Lawyer	2.2
Courts/Judge	4.7
Social service agency/organization	2.2
Shelter for women and girls	0.0
Helpline (0800 11112)	0.0
Local Domestic Violence Coordinator	0.0
Other	2.7

Table 7.7. Reasons for seeking help for non-partner violence (weighted data)

	Non-partner violence victims who sought help
	N=8,656 %
I could not endure more violence	45.9
I was badly injured	43.9
My friends or family encouraged me to seek help	70.8
The man who did this to me threatened or tried to kill me	2.2
I was afraid the man who did this to me would kill me	0.0
The man who did this to me threatened my family	3.5
What happened to me was not acceptable, it was a crime	17.4
Other	22.4

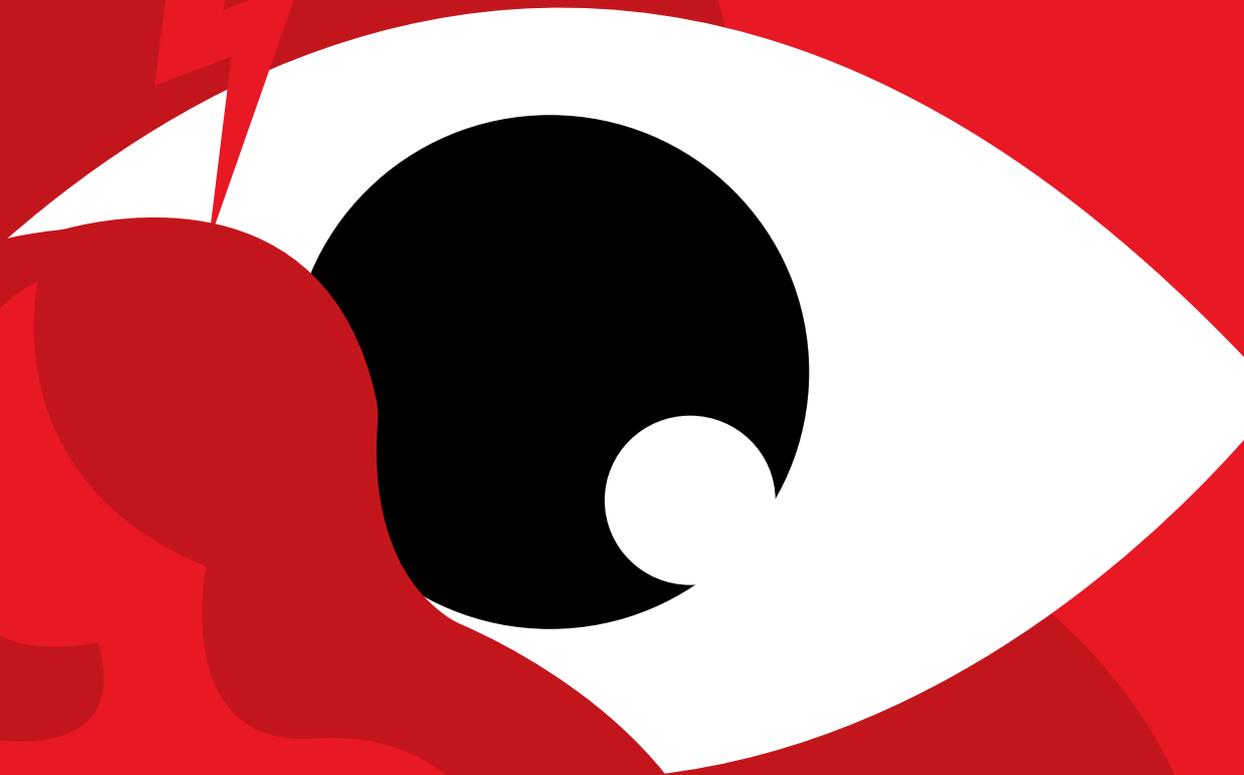
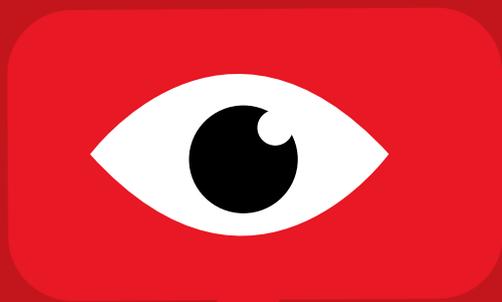
acceptable and was a crime (17.4%), because the man who committed the violence threatened their family (3.5%) and/or threatened or tried to kill them (2.2%).

Finally, Table 7.8 shows the various reasons that the majority of women who experienced non-partner violence chose not to seek help. The most common reasons for not seeking help was because they thought the situation was not serious enough to complain (38.1%). Some respondents also reported they did not seek help because they did not want to bring shame to the family (10.9%), they thought they would be blamed (9.6%) and they were embarrassed, ashamed or afraid they would not be believed (9.0%). Some women even reported there is no reason to complain because violence is normal (7.0%), they didn't know where to ask for help (4.9%), and they believed it would not help the situation (2.7%).

Table 7.8. Reasons for not seeking help for non-partner violence (weighted data)

	Non-partner violence victims who did not seek help
	N=181,041 %
I don't/didn't know where to ask for help	4.9
I believed it would not help/I know other women were not helped	2.7
I am/was afraid of being threatened, the consequences of more violence	3.0
I am/was embarrassed, ashamed, or afraid I would not be believed	9.0
I am/was afraid of the relationship ending	1.5
I think/thought they will blame me	9.6
I think there is no reason to complain/ violence is normal	7.0
The situation was not serious enough to complain	38.1
I don't want to bring shame to my family	10.9
Other	1.0

CHAPTER 8



SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Sexual harassment is unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical harassment of a sexual nature that constitutes a breach of the principle of equal treatment between men and women; therefore it is recognized as a form of sex discrimination, sexual abuse and VAWG¹⁹⁹

Existing studies about sexual harassment most often focus on workplace and educational environments; this survey, however, adopted a broader scope, asking women first if they experienced specific forms of sexual harassment in any situation, then asking them in more detail where the incident occurred and who was involved.²⁰⁰

The survey covered four possible forms of sexual harassment which were unwanted and offensive according to respondents:²⁰¹

- Physical forms of harassment - unwelcome touching, hugging or kissing.
- Verbal forms of harassment – sexually suggestive, offensive, comments or jokes; intrusive, offensive questions about private life; intrusive, offensive comments about a woman's physical appearance.
- Non-verbal forms of harassment – receiving or

being shown offensive, sexually explicit pictures, photos or gifts; somebody indecently exposing themselves.

- Cyber-harassment – receiving unwanted, offensive, sexually explicit emails or SMS messages; inappropriate, offensive advances on social networking website or internet chat rooms.

This chapter presents findings on women's experiences of sexual harassment. The survey asked women about six specific sexual harassment acts that women felt to be unwanted and which they experienced as offensive and/or intimidating. It also explores the relationship between age and experiences of sexual harassment, as well as where women tend to experience sexual harassment and the perpetrators of sexual harassment.

Bear in mind, estimates concerning the extent of sexual harassment are based on women's personal experiences and the subjective meaning respondents attach to what might be considered unwanted and offensive conduct; existing research has shown that women differ in their perceptions of what behaviour constitutes sexual harassment.^{202, 203} Variation in ascribed subjective meaning has been shown to be affected by women's overall level of awareness and information about their legal rights and existing laws, as well as gender cultures (such as the recognition of gender equality and non-discrimination on the grounds of sex versus cultures that 'permit' or 'reward' harassment of women) and the prevalent social and cultural values, norms and attitudes in a society.^{204, 205} Thus, women's preconceived notions of what constitutes 'sexual harassment' can differ significantly from country-to-country. To minimize culturally determined variations in subjective interpretations of sexual harassment, this survey did not ask respondents about 'sexual harassment' as an issue; rather, respondents were asked about experiencing specific unwanted and offensive acts. Nevertheless, there may still be differences in the degree to which women in different cultural contexts find the described acts offensive or intimidating.²⁰⁶

Experiences of Sexual Harassment

Table 8.1 shows that 18.1% of women age 18-74 'ever' and 8.5% 'currently' experienced one or more of the six types of sexual harassment measured. More specifically, 12.2% of women reported someone other than their husband/boyfriend 'ever' made comments about their body and/or physical appearance that made them feel uncomfortable, embarrassed and/or offended; 5.1% of women experienced this type of sexual harassment in the 12 months prior to the survey. In addition, 5.9% of women reported someone other than their husband/boyfriend asked them intrusive questions about their sexual, intimate and/or private life in a way that made them feel uncomfortable, embarrassed and/or offended; 2.6% of women experienced this type of sexual harassment in the 12 months prior to the survey.

Table 8.1. Experiences of sexual harassment (weighted data)

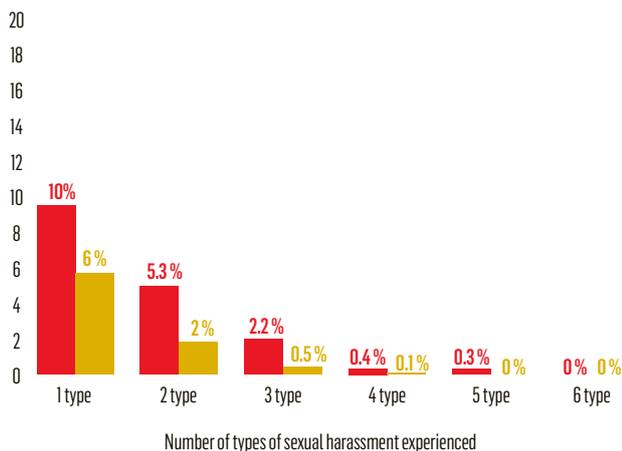
	Ever %	Current %
Experienced sexual harassment (one or more of the 6 types)	18.1	8.5
Anyone (other than husband/boyfriend) touched, hugged or kissed you in a sexual way without your permission, but did not try and/or force you to have sex of any kind	4.0	0.8
Anyone (other than husband/boyfriend) showed or exposed the private parts of their body or 'flashed' their genitals to you when you did not want or against your will	4.5	0.5
Anyone (other than your husband/boyfriend) sent or showed you sexually explicit or pornographic pictures, photos or gifts that made you feel uncomfortable, embarrassed or offended	1.4	0.6
Anyone (other than your husband/boyfriend) asked you intrusive questions about your sexual, intimate or private life that made you feel uncomfortable, embarrassed or offended	5.9	2.6
Anyone (other than your husband/boyfriend) made comments about your body and/or physical appearance that made you feel uncomfortable, embarrassed or offended	12.2	5.1
Anyone (other than your husband/boyfriend) sent you offensive or unwanted sexually explicit emails or text messages and/or inappropriate advances on social networking websites	1.9	1.2

In addition, 4.5% of women reported someone other than their husband/boyfriend showed or exposed the private parts of their body or 'flashed' their genitals to them against their will, and 4.0% reported being touched, hugged and/or kissed in a sexual way without their permissions; fewer than 1.0% of women experienced these two types of sexual harassment in the 12 months prior to the survey. Far fewer wom-

en reported being sent offensive and/or unwanted sexually explicit emails, text messages and/or inappropriate advances on social network sites (1.9%); however, 1.2% of women experienced this type of sexual harassment in the 12 months prior to the survey. Only 1.4% of women reported being sent and/or shown sexually explicit or pornographic pictures, photos and/or gifts that made them feel uncomfortable, embarrassed and/or offended.

Chart 8.1 show that some women experienced more than one type of sexual harassment listed in Table 9.1. Although 10.0% of women 'ever' experienced one type of sexual harassment, 5.3% experienced two types, 2.2% experienced three types, and fewer than 1.0% of women experience three to four types of sexual harassment in their lifetime. In the 12 months prior to the interview, 6.0% of women experienced one type of sexual harassment, 2.0% experienced two types, and fewer than 1.0% experience three to four types of sexual harassment.

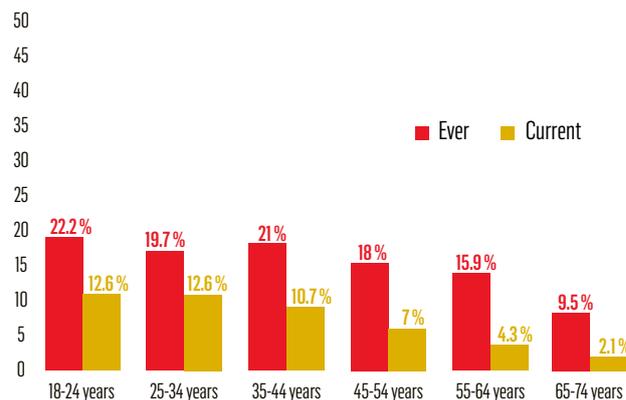
Chart 8.1. Number of types of sexual harassment experienced (weighted data)



Relationship Between Age and Sexual Harassment

Data was analysed to explore the relationship between women's age and their experiences of sexual harassment (ever and current). Chart 8.2 shows that women age 18-24 years (22.2%), 25-34 years (19.7%) and 35-44 years (21.0%) were more likely to ever experience sexual harassment compared to women 45-54 years (18.0%), 55-64 years (15.9%) and 65-74 years (9.5%). Similarly, women age 18-24 years (12.6%), 25-34 years (12.6%) and 35-44 years (10.7%) were significantly more likely to experience sexual harassment in the past 12 months prior to the interview, compared to women 45-54 years (7.0%), 55-64 years (4.3%) and 65-74 years (2.1%). It is notable that women between 45 and 74 years of age experienced sexual harassment in the 12 months prior to the survey; this data demonstrates that sexual harassment can happen to women, regardless of age.

Chart 8.2. Relationship between age and sexual harassment (weighted data)



Ever, Sign = .000; Current, Sign = .000

Places Where Sexual Harassment Occurs

Women who reported experiencing sexual harassment were asked where each of those incidents occurred. Table 8.2 offers summative data from Table 8.3, which reveals where each of the different types of sexual harassment occurred. Data in Table 8.2 shows that most incidents of sexual harassment experienced by women occurred on a road/street (82.9%). In addition, 42.3% of incidents of sexual harassment occurred in schools, 38.3% of incidents occurred in markets/shops, 29.1% occurred when a woman was in her home, and 25.8% occurred in the workplace. Women also experienced sexual harassment inside cars, buses and other means of transport (19.9%), bars, restaurants and discos/clubs (17.5%), someone else's home (15.7%), field or natural areas (14.4%), and at the sea, lake, river or other body of water (13.5%). Only 1.2% of women reported experiencing sexual harassment in the perpetrator's home.

Table 8.2. Places where sexual harassment occurs (weighted data)

	N=188,866
	%
My home	29.1
Perpetrator's home	1.2
Someone else's home	15.7
On a road/street	82.9
Market/shop	38.3
School	42.3
Workplace	25.8
Inside a car, bus or other transport	19.9
Sea, lake, river or other body of water	13.5
Field or natural area	14.4
Bar, restaurant, disco/club	17.5
Other location	1.0

Table 8.3 shows where women experienced each of the different types of sexual harassment. In particular, women who reported being touched, hugged and/or kissed in a sexual way without their permission were most likely to experience this form of sexual harassment in schools (46.7%), as well as on roads/streets (29.2%), inside a car, bus or other means of transport (28.8%), and in markets/shops (15.0%). In comparison, women who experienced having someone show or expose their private body parts or 'flash' their genitals when they did not want or against their will were most likely to experience this form of sexual harassment on a road/street (79.9%); some women also experienced this type of sexual harassment in markets/shops (23.4%), in the workplaces (16.8%), at the sea, lake, river or other body of water (13.5%), and in a field or natural area (10.7%). Women experienced these two types of sexual harassment in other locations as well, but to lesser extent.

Table 8.3 also shows that women who had someone send or show them sexually explicit or pornographic pictures, photos or gifts that made them feel uncomfortable, embarrassed and/or offended most often experienced this form of sexual harassment in their home (42.5%). Some women also experienced this type of sexual harassment in schools (20.4%) and on a road/street (14.5%). Women who reported being asked intrusive questions about their sexual intimate and/or private life that made them feel uncomfortable, embarrassed and/or offended experienced this form of sexual harassment in a multitude of places, including in schools (32.3%), in their own home (24.5%), in someone else's home (22.7%), in the workplace (19.7%), in bars, restaurants and discos/clubs (18.0%), in fields or natural areas (16.9%), on a road/street (14.6%), in markets/shops (12.4%) and more. Similarly, women who had someone make comments about their body and/or physical appearance in a way that made them feel uncomfortable, embarrassed and/or offended also experienced this form of sexual harassment in a multitude of places, but most often on roads/streets (67.1%), but also in markets/shops (37.3%), schools (24.5%), in the workplace (16.5%), in their home (16.5%), inside a car, bus or other transport (12.4%), in a bar, restaurant and disco

club (11.6%), and in someone else's home (10.0%).

Finally, women who had someone send them offensive or unwanted sexually explicit emails or text messages and/or inappropriate advances on social net-

working websites most often experienced this form of sexual harassment in their home (53.1%). Some women also experienced this type of sexual harassment in the workplace (19.7%), school (16.2%), and in a bar, restaurant and disco club (10.7%).

Table 8.3. Places where women experience sexual harassment by type of sexual harassment (weighted data)

	Anyone ever touched, hugged or kissed you in a sexual way without your permission, but did not try and/or force you to have sex of any kind? N=41,464	Anyone ever showed or exposed the private body parts or 'flashed' their genitals to you when you did not want or against your will? N=47,303	Anyone ever sent or showed you sexually explicit or pornographic pictures, photos or gifts that made you feel uncomfortable, embarrassed or offended? N=14,912	Anyone ever asked you intrusive questions about your sexual, intimate or private life that made you feel uncomfortable, embarrassed or offended? N=61,582	Anyone ever made comments about your body and/or physical appearance that made you feel uncomfortable, embarrassed or offended? N=127,180	Anyone ever sent you offensive or unwanted sexually explicit emails or text messages and/or inappropriate advances on social networking websites? N=20,161
My home	3.7	0.8	42.5	24.5	16.5	53.1
Perpetrator's home	0.7	0.0	1.0	1.3	0.8	0.0
Someone else's home	2.9	2.6	0.0	22.7	10.0	2.7
On a road/street	29.2	79.9	14.5	14.6	67.1	5.3
Market/shop	15.0	23.4	0.0	12.4	37.3	0.0
School	46.7	6.7	20.4	32.3	24.5	16.2
Workplace	8.5	16.8	1.8	19.7	16.5	19.7
Inside a car, bus or other transport	28.8	1.5	0.0	7.4	12.4	0.0
Sea, lake, river or other body of water	8.7	13.5	0.0	5.3	9.7	0.0
Field or natural area	8.9	10.7	3.0	16.9	5.6	2.3
Bar, restaurant, disco/club	6.6	1.8	9.2	18.0	11.6	10.7
Other location	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	3.3

Perpetrators of Sexual Harassment

Women who experienced sexual harassment were asked about their relationship to the person who sexually harassed them. Table 8.4 offers summative data from Table 8.5, which reveals perpetrators of each of the different types of sexual harassment. Data in Table 8.4 shows that women reported strangers (79.3%) and friends/acquaintances (51.2%) committed most incidents of sexual harassment, followed by neighbors (33.4%) and classmates/schoolmates (32.6%). Fewer women reported relatives/family members (16.8%), coworkers (13.8%) and current/former boyfriends (10.1%) sexually harassed them. In addition, as few 1.0% of women reported employers, teachers, police/soldiers and community leaders were the perpetrators of sexual harassment. No women identified religious leaders as the perpetrators of the different types of sexual harassment measured in Table 9.5.

Table 8.4. Perpetrators of sexual harassment (weighted data)

	Experienced sexual harassment (ever) N=188,866
Current/former boyfriend	10.1
Friend/acquaintance	51.2
Classmate/schoolmate	32.6
Neighbour	33.4
Teacher	0.1
Employer	1.3
Coworker	13.8
Police/soldier	0.5
Community leader	0.3
Religious leader	0.0
Relative/family member	16.8
Stranger	79.3
Other	0.7

Table 8.5 shows the perpetrators of sexual harassment vary by type of sexual harassment. In particular, women who reported being touched, hugged and/or kissed in a sexual way without their permis-

sion were most likely to identify classmates/schoolmates (46.7%) and strangers (30.5%) as the perpetrators. Some women also reported their current/former boyfriends (17.3%) and friends/acquaintances (17.2%) were the perpetrators of this type of sexual harassment. Women identified a few others as their sexual harassers, but to a lesser extent. The majority of women who had someone show or expose their private body parts or 'flash' their genitals when they did not want or against their will identified the perpetrators as strangers (90.4%).

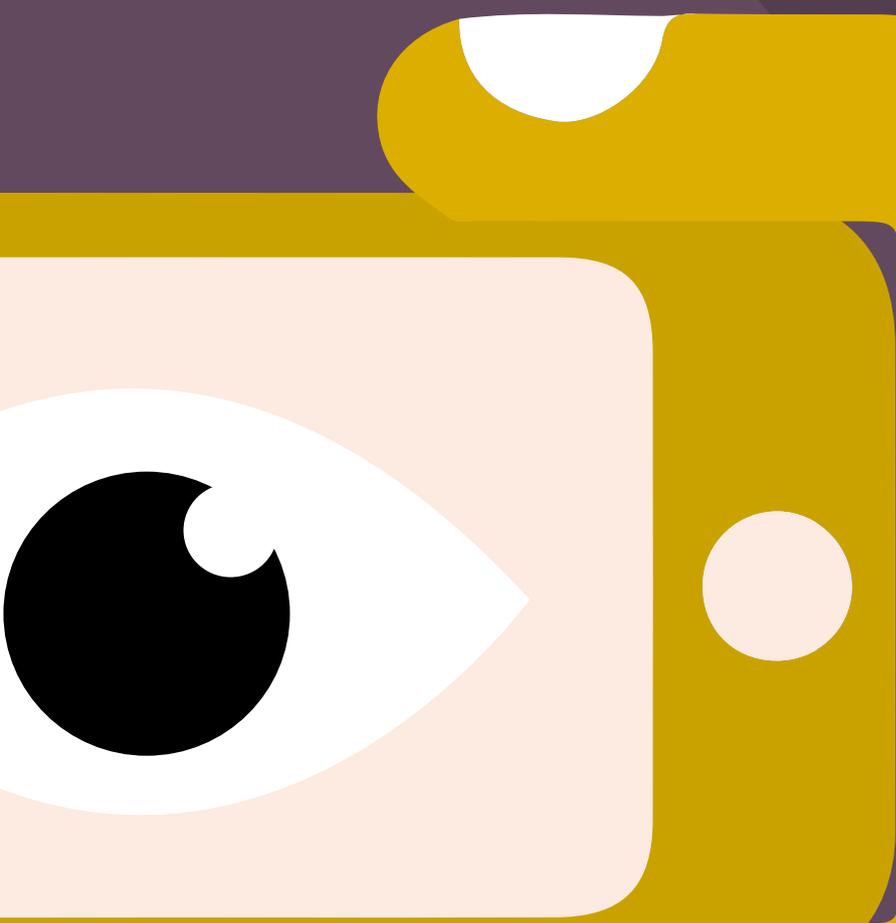
Table 8.5 also shows that women who had someone send or show them sexually explicit or pornographic pictures, photos and/or gifts that made them feel uncomfortable, embarrassed and/or offended most often identified the perpetrator as strangers (66.8%); yet, some women reported friends/acquaintances (12.3%) and current/former boyfriends (9.0%) were the perpetrators of this type of sexual harassment. Women who reported being asked intrusive questions about their sexual intimate and/or private life in a way that made them feel uncomfortable, embarrassed and/or offended reported the perpetrators of this form of sexual harassment was most often friends/acquaintances (68.1%). Some women identified the perpetrators of this type of sexual harassment were neighbors (27.7%), relatives/family members (24.5%), classmates/schoolmates (23.7%), coworkers (16.8%) and strangers (14.6%).

Women who had someone make comments about their body and/or physical appearance in a way that made them feel uncomfortable, embarrassed and/or offended reported the perpetrators were most often strangers (45.8%), friends/acquaintances (35.2%) and neighbours (30.9%). Some women also reported classmates/schoolmates (18.2%), relatives/family members (12.3%) and coworkers (9.2%) were perpetrators of this type of sexual harassment. Finally, women who had someone send them offensive or unwanted sexually explicit emails or text messages and/or inappropriate advances on social networking websites most often identified the perpetrator as strangers (85.6%), but some women also identified the perpetrators as classmates/schoolmates (14.3%).

Table 8.5. Perpetrators of sexual harassment by type of sexual harassment (weighted data)

	Anyone ever touched, hugged or kissed you in a sexual way without your permission, but did not try and/or force you to have sex of any kind? N=41,464	Anyone ever showed or exposed the private body parts or 'flashed' their genitals to you when you did not want or against your will? N=47,303	Anyone ever sent or showed you sexually explicit or pornographic pictures, photos or gifts that made you feel uncomfortable, embarrassed or offended? N=14,912	Anyone ever asked you intrusive questions about your sexual, intimate or private life that made you feel uncomfortable, embarrassed or offended? N=61,582	Anyone ever made comments about your body and/or physical appearance that made you feel uncomfortable, embarrassed or offended? N=127,180	Anyone ever sent you offensive or unwanted sexually explicit emails or text messages and/or inappropriate advances on social networking websites? N=20,161
Current/former boyfriend	17.3	0.0	9.0	2.4	0.7	3.0
Friend/acquaintance	17.2	1.7	12.3	68.1	35.2	1.1
Classmate/schoolmate	46.7	1.9	3.8	23.7	18.2	14.3
Neighbour	8.2	6.9	0.0	27.7	30.9	0.0
Teacher	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0
Employer	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.3	1.4	0.0
Coworker	6.5	1.6	3.0	16.8	9.2	0.7
Police/soldier	0.9	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Community leader	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0
Religious leader	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Relative/family member	0.4	0.7	0.0	24.5	12.3	2.3
Stranger	30.5	90.4	66.8	14.6	45.8	85.6
Other	1.9	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0

CHAPTER 9



STALKING

Like intimate partner domestic violence, stalking is a crime of power and control.²²³ Stalking generally refers to “harassing or threatening behavior that an individual engages in repeatedly, such as following a person, appearing at a person’s home or place of business, making harassing phone calls, leaving written messages or objects, or vandalizing a person’s property.

These actions may or may not be accompanied by a credible threat of serious harm, and they may or may not be precursors to an assault or murder.²⁰⁷ The Council of Europe, Parliamentary Assembly defines stalking as a “repetition of acts intruding into a person’s life which increase in intensity over time. There are many ways in which such an intrusion can take place. One of them called cyberstalking, is persistent and threatening intrusion online. Stalking causes distress, anxiety or fear. It is a form of violence in itself but can lead to other forms of violence, including murder.”²⁰⁸

In general, stalking behaviors may include persistent patterns of leaving or sending the victim unwanted items or presents that may range from seemingly romantic to bizarre, following or lying in wait for the victim, damaging or threatening to damage the victim’s property, defaming the victim’s character, or harassing the victim via the Internet by posting personal information or spreading rumors about the victim.²⁰⁹ Stalking may involve acts which are indi-

vidually innocuous, but combined they are intended to undermine the victim’s sense of safety.²¹⁰ Stalking is most often committed by people known to the victim or with whom the victim has had a prior relationship, such as a current/former intimate partner and an acquaintance; some women, however, are stalked by strangers.^{211,212}

Stalking can be carried out in person or via electronic mechanisms (referred to as cyberstalking). Cyber-stalking involves the pursuit, harassment, or contact of others in an unsolicited fashion initially via the internet and/or email. Cyberstalking can intensify in chat rooms where stalkers systematically flood their target’s inbox with obscene, hateful and/or threatening messages and images.²¹³ Cyber-stalkers may also assume the identity of his/her victim by posting information (fictitious or not) and soliciting responses from the cybercommunity. Cyber-stalkers may use information acquired online to further intimidate, harass, and threaten their victim. Although cyberstalking does not involve physical contact with a victim, it is still a serious crime.²¹⁴

The Council of Europe Istanbul Convention calls on the parties to the Convention to criminalise the intentional conduct of repeatedly engaging in threatening conduct directed at another person, causing the victim fear for their safety. Albania's Criminal Code has a law on stalking, which is defined as "a threat or repeated actions intended to cause a continuous and grave sense of anxiety or fear for a person's security, the security of their relatives or the security of a person with whom they are related sentimentally, or intended to force them to change their lifestyle" (Article 121/a). This survey focused on measuring incidents of stalking experienced by women, without using the term stalking.²¹⁵ This chapter presents survey results as an estimate of what proportion of women have been stalked in their lifetime and in the 12 months prior to the interview (current), and the specific forms of stalking they experienced. It also explores the relationship between age and experiences of stalking, and perpetrators of stalking.

Experiences with Stalking

Table 9.1 shows that 12.6% of women age 18-74 'ever' experienced one or more of the six types of stalking measured, and 6.9% experienced stalking in the 12 months prior to the survey. More specifically, 8.9% of women experienced having someone repeatedly make offensive, threatening and/or silent phone calls to them, and 4.6% had someone repeatedly send them emails, text messages and/or messages on social networking websites that were offensive and/or threatening; respectively, 4.5% and 2.5% of women experienced each of these two types of stalking in 12 months prior to the interview. Only 1.6% of women reported someone repeatedly sent them letters, cards and/or gifts that were unwanted, offensive and/or threatening, and 1.2% reported someone repeatedly loitered or waited for them outside of their home, workplace and/or school without legitimate reason, then deliberately followed them. Less than one percent of women experienced having someone repeatedly post offensive comments about them on the internet and/or share intimate photos and/or videos of them on social network sites, and had someone repeatedly and deliberately damage their property or break into their home.

Table 9.1. Experiences of stalking (weighted data)

	Total sample N=1,040,726	
	Ever %	Current %
Experienced stalking (one or more of the 6 types)	12.6	6.9
Any person repeatedly sent you emails, text messages or messages on social networking websites, such as Facebook and WhatsApp, that were offensive and/or threatening	4.6	2.5
Any person repeatedly sent you letters, cards or gifts that were unwanted, offensive or threatening	1.6	0.2
Any person repeatedly made offensive, threatening or silent phone calls to you	8.9	4.5
Any person repeatedly posted offensive comments about you on the internet or shared intimate photos or videos of you on social network sites, such as Facebook and WhatsApp?	.1	0.0
Any person repeatedly loitered or waited for you outside of your home, workplace or school without legitimate reason, then deliberately followed you around?	1.2	0.2
Any person repeatedly and deliberately damaged your property or broke into your home?	.2	0.0

Table 9.2. Ability to identify unwanted contacts or harassing behaviours as stalking (weighted data)

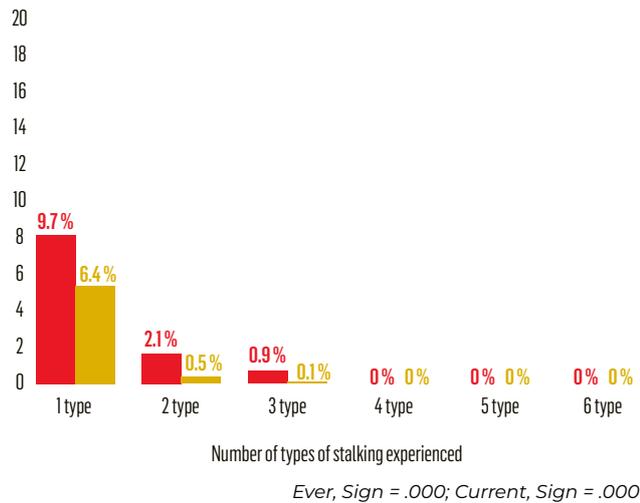
Considered the series of unwanted contacts or harassing behaviours to be stalking	Experienced stalking (ever) N=131,630 %	Experienced stalking (current) N=71,777 %
Yes	35.6	39.4
No	60.0	54.0
Don't know	1.6	1.5

Ever, Sign = .000; Current, Sign = .000

Table 9.2 shows that only 35.6% of women who ever experienced one or more of the six different types of stalking listed in Table 9.1 considered the unwanted contacts or harassing behaviours to be stalking. Similarly, only 39.4% of women who currently experienced stalking considered the unwanted contacts or harassing behaviours to be stalking. These findings demonstrate that women generally do not know what constitute stalking.

Chart 9.1 shows that most women experienced only one type of stalking behaviour listed in Table 9.1, however, some women experienced two or three different types of stalking behaviours.

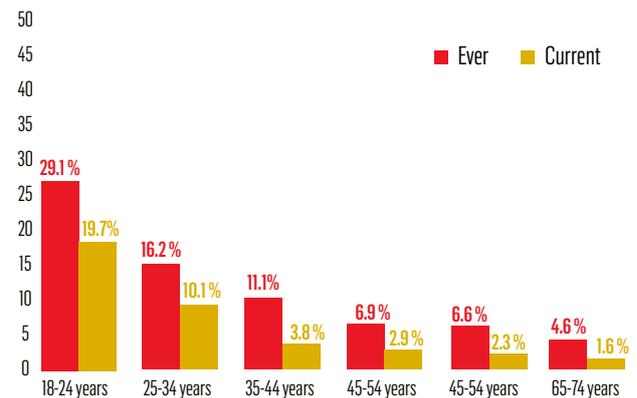
Chart 9.1. Number of types of stalking experienced (weighted data)



Relationship Between Age and Stalking

Data was analysed to explore the relationship between women's age and their experiences with stalking. Chart 9.2 shows that women age 18-24 (29.1%) were significantly more likely to 'ever' experience stalking, compared to women in each of the other age groupings. Similarly, women age 18-24 (19.7%) were significantly more likely to 'currently' experience stalking, compared to women in each of the other age groupings. Bear in mind, however, that some women between 25 and 74 years of age experienced stalking in the 12 months prior to the survey.

Chart 9.2. Relationship between age and stalking (weighted data)



Ever, Sign = .000; Current, Sign = .000

Perpetrators of Stalking

Women who experienced each of the different types of stalking were asked about their relationship to their stalker(s). Data in Table 9.3 shows that 97.0% of women reported strangers were their stalkers. A small proportion of women reported they were stalked by classmates/schoolmates (14.7%), current/former boyfriends (13.8%), friends/acquaintances (10.8%), current/former husbands (8.9%), neighbours (7.1%), coworkers (3.5%) and employers (2.0%). Fewer than one percent of women were stalked by police/soldiers and relatives/family members.

Table 9.3. Perpetrators of stalking (weighted data)

	Experienced stalking (ever) N=131,630 %
Current/former husband	8.9
Current/former boyfriend	13.8
Friend/acquaintance	10.8
Classmate/schoolmate	14.7
Neighbour	7.1
Teacher	1.8
Employer	2.0
Coworker	3.5
Police/soldier	.1
Community leader	0.0
Religious leader	0.0
Relative/family member	0.5
Stranger	97.0
Other	3.2

Table 9.4 shows the perpetrators of stalking vary by type of stalking. In particular, among women who reported someone repeatedly sent them emails, text messages and/or messages on social networking websites that were offensive and/or threatening were most likely to identify strangers (71.7%) as the perpetrators. Some women also identified current/former boyfriends as the perpetrators (20.9%) of this type of stalking.

Women who reported someone repeatedly sent them letter, cards and/or gifts that were unwanted, offensive and/or threatening were most likely to identify the perpetrators as strangers (50.3%), followed by classmates/schoolmates (30.8%), friends/acquaintances (22.9%), current/former boyfriends (19.7%) and current/former husbands (12.2%). The majority of women who experienced having someone repeatedly make offensive, threatening and/or silent phone calls to them identified the perpetrator as strangers (85.8%). In comparison, women who reported having someone repeatedly post offensive comments about them on the internet or share intimate photos and/or videos of them on social networking sites were more likely to identify the perpetrator as a friend/acquaintance (11.7%).

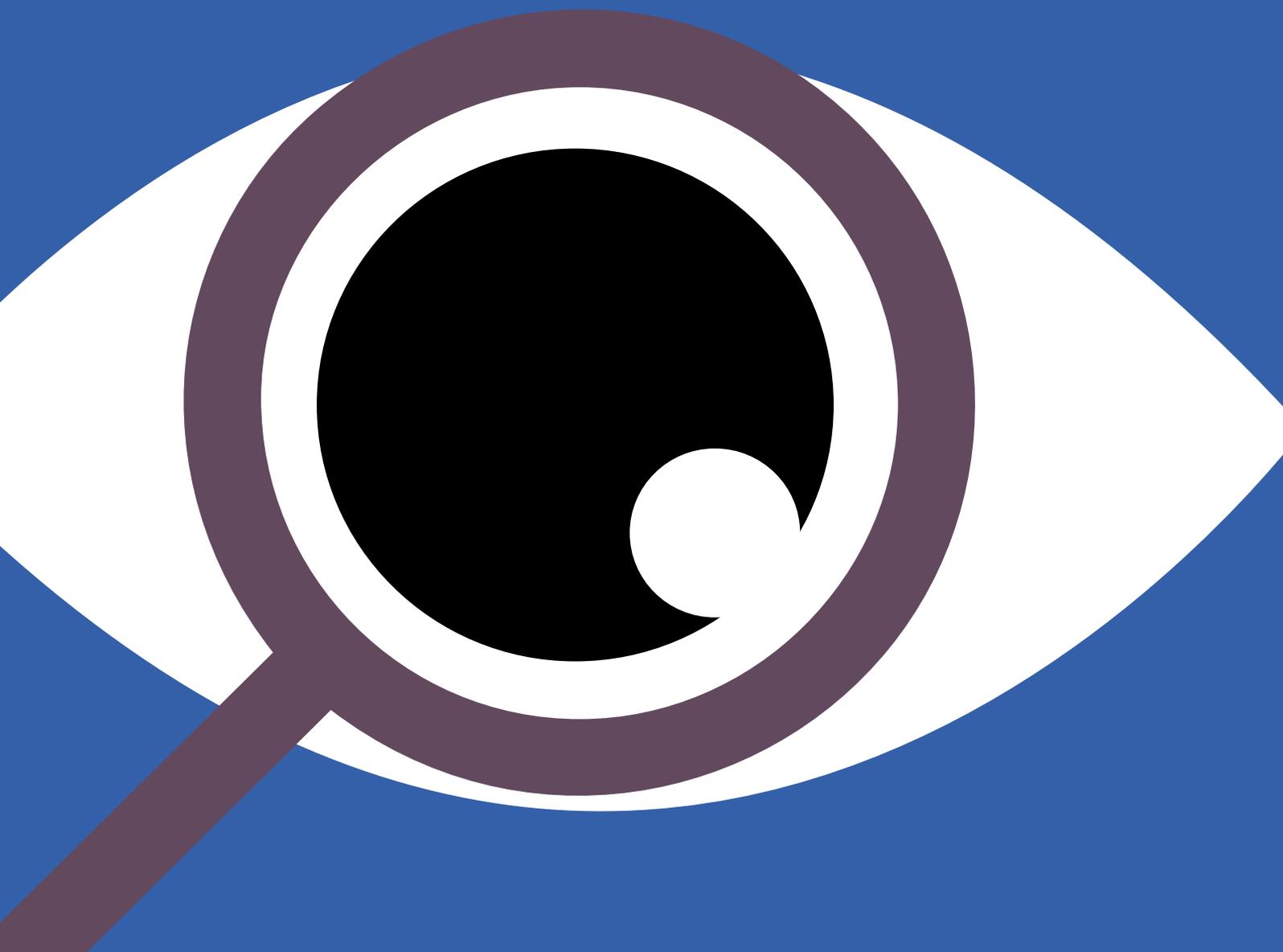
Table 9.4 shows that women who reported someone repeatedly loitered or waited for them outside of their home, workplace and/or school without legitimate reason, then deliberately follow them around most often identified strangers (41.3%) and current/former husbands (35.8%) as the perpetrators. Some women also identified classmates/schoolmates (14.3%) and current/former boyfriends (7.3%) as the perpetrators of this type of stalking.

Finally, women who reported someone repeatedly and deliberately damaged their property and/or broke into their home, most often identified the perpetrator as a current/former husband (35.9%), current/former boyfriend (35.9%), stranger (32.0%) and/or neighbour (22.8%).

Table 9.4. Perpetrators of stalking by type of stalking (weighted data)

	Any person repeatedly sent you emails, text messages or messages on social networking websites that were offensive and/or threatening N=,47,470	Any person repeatedly sent you letters, cards or gifts that were unwanted, offensive or threatening N=16,357	Any person repeatedly made offensive, threatening or silent phone calls to you N=92,860	Any person repeatedly posted offensive comments about you on the internet or shared intimate photos or videos of you on social network sites? N=1,162	Any person repeatedly loitered or waited for you outside of your home, workplace or school without legitimate reason, then deliberately followed you around? N=12,306	Any person repeatedly and deliberately damaged your property or broke into your home? N=2,056
Current/former husband	6.0	12.2	1.9	0.0	35.8	35.9
Current/former boyfriend	20.9	19.7	3.6	0.0	7.3	35.9
Friend/acquaintance	4.8	22.9	8.0	11.7	5.1	0.0
Classmate/schoolmate	4.1	33.8	10.6	0.0	14.3	9.4
Neighbour	1.4	2.4	7.5	0.0	6.8	22.8
Teacher	0.0	0.0	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Employer	.5	0.0	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Coworker	.8	1.9	3.4	0.0	4.4	9.4
Police/soldier	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.4
Community leader	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Religious leader	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Relative/family member	1.7	0.0	.6	0.0	1.6	0.0
Stranger	71.7	50.3	85.8	0.0	41.3	32.0
Other	0.0	1.0	4.3	0.0	0.0	0.0

CHAPTER 10



CONCLUSIONS

This study was the third study of VAWG conducted by INSTAT. INSTAT applied international standards to collect data on VAWG, including not only domestic violence, but also dating violence, non-partner violence, child sexual abuse, sexual harassment and stalking, and the negative consequences of violence for women and their help-seeking behaviours.

The 2018 NVAWS also measured social norms related to VAWG and women's perceptions of the seriousness of VAWG in Albania, and the importance of legislation related to VAWG. To measure VAWG prevalence, this study utilized methodologies and standardized questionnaires utilized in the 2007 and 2013 NDVS, and advanced by the WHO multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence and the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) models for studying violence against women. In keeping with the FRA, the decision was made in the case of the 2018 NVAWS to sample women up to the age of 74, unlike the 2013 NDVS which capped the upper age limit at 55 years and the 2007 NDVS which capped the upper age limit at 49 years.

Given the increase in the upper age limit of women who were sampled to 74 years in the 2018 NVAWS, it was hypothesized that their presence in the sample would skew the results to show a decrease in inti-

mate partner domestic violence where one does not really exist, particularly if the 2018 NVAWS data were compared with data from the 2013 NDVS. This hypothesis was grounded in the assumption that women over 55 years of age are often less likely to experience violence in the 12 months prior to the interview. During the analysis and report writing process, data was analysed for only women age 18-55 (similar to the 2013 NDVS) to test this hypothesis and the findings were that the hypothesis was false. When data from the 2018 NVAWS was analysed only for women age 18-55, the prevalence of current experiences of intimate partner domestic violence decreased two to three percentage points. Based upon these findings, comparisons of prevalence rates of different populations samples can be made from the 2013 NDVS to the 2018 NVAWS.

The 2018 NVAWS relied upon a standardized questionnaire with globally accepted measures

and indicators. The measures of social norms and attitudes related to VAWG were grounded in international literature on measuring social norms and standardized questions and measures that were used in a 2018 study of social norms on VAWG and harmful practices in Malawi, conducted under the aegis of UN Women Malawi.²¹⁶

Prevalence Rates of Different Population Samples

Data and findings presented in this report provide important information on women's experiences with sexual and gender-based violence, and provides greater understanding into the nature and prevalence of VAWG in Albania, along with factors that contribute to women and girl's victimization, the places where violence occurs, and the perpetrators of such violence. This study represents a significant step in monitoring patterns and trends in women's experiences with not only domestic violence, building upon the 2007 and 2013 NDVS, but also filling data gaps as it relates to women's experiences with non-partner violence since the age of 15, child sexual abuse, sexual harassment, and stalking. This study responds to concerns about data deficiencies and obligations under The Istanbul Convention.

In general, data in this report provides evidence that VAWG in Albania is widespread. In particular, as many as 1 out of 2 or 52.9% of women age 18-74 experienced one or more of five types of violence (intimate partner violence, dating violence, non-partner violence, sexual harassment and/or stalking) during their lifetime, and 1 out of 3 or 36.6% of women experienced one or more of these five types of violence in the 12 months prior to the interview. In addition, 3.1% of women experienced child sexual abuse before the age of 18.

Research worldwide has found that intimate partner violence is one of the most prevalent forms of violence experienced by women in most countries around the world.^{217,218,219} Similarly, findings from this study confirm that intimate partner violence against

women are widespread problems in families and communities throughout Albania. This study found that 47.0% of women age 18-74 who were ever married and/or lived with a partner experienced one or more of the five types of intimate partner domestic violence (controlling behaviours, economic violence, psychological violence, physical violence and/or sexual violence) in their lifetime, and 33.7% experienced one or more of the five types of intimate partner domestic violence in the 12 months prior to the interview. More specifically, 21.0% of women age 18-74 'ever' and 8.2% 'currently' experienced physical and/or sexual violence, or both, at the hands of their husbands/partner.

Among women who had ever been pregnant, the 2018 NVAWS found that 1.1% of women had 'ever' been hit, slapped, kicked or physically abused during pregnancy (this is similar to findings in the 2013 NDVS that 1.3% of women age 18-55 were physically abused during pregnancy); women who 'ever' experienced physical violence in their marriage/relationship were two times more likely to be physically abused during pregnancy (2.3%). Among women who were physically abused during pregnancy, 30.5% were physically abused during their last pregnancy and 10.1% had been punched and/or kicked in the abdomen while pregnant. Only 9.0% of women age 18-74 years sought help for intimate partner domestic violence.

The 2013 NDVS found among ever partnered women age 18-55 that 59.4% of women 'ever' experienced intimate partner violence, and 53.7% of women experienced intimate partner violence in the 12 months prior to the survey. More specifically, the 2013 NDVS found that 24.6% of women age 18-55 'ever' experienced physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence, and 16.2% experienced physical and/or sexual violence, or both in the 12 months prior to the survey. The 2013 NDVS did not distinguish between intimate partner domestic violence and dating violence, as was done in this study. In comparison, the 2018 OSCE-led Survey on the Well-being and Safety of Women found that 19.0% of women age 18-74 experienced intimate partner violence since the age of 15 and 19.0% experienced physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 15. In the 12 months prior

to the OSCE-led survey, 7.2% of women age 18-74 experienced physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence. Findings from these three studies provide estimates for the proportion of women who experience IPV in their intimate relationships. It is important to understand that depending upon the sample, including ages of women included in the sample, the prevalence of IPV can vary, and different measures of IPV can result in different prevalence rates. For instance,

This 2018 NVAWS also found that among all women aged 18-74, 18.2% 'ever' experienced non-partner violence since the age of 15, of which 17.3% experienced non-partner physical violence and 1.3% experienced non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime; 3.4% of women experienced non-partner violence during the 12 months prior to the survey. Only 4.6% of women sought help for non-partner violence. The 2013 NDVS found among women age 18-55 that 6.9% of women experience non-partner physical violence; non-partner sexual violence was not measured in the 2013 NDVS. In addition, the 2018 OSCE-led study in Albania found that 11.0% of women age 18-74 experienced non-partner violence since the age of 15, of which 11.0% of women experienced non-partner physical violence and 1.0% experienced non-partner sexual violence.²²⁰ Data from these three findings reveals no one study generates the same prevalence rates, but they do provide understanding that 11.0% to 18.0% of women in Albania have experienced non-partner violence since the age of 15.

This 2018 NVAWG also found that 18.1% 'ever' experienced sexual harassment and 8.5% experienced sexual harassment in the 12 months prior to the survey, and 12.6% 'ever' experienced stalking and 6.9% experienced stalking in the 12 months prior to the survey. In comparison, the 2018 OSCE-led survey in Albania found that 13.0% of women age 18-74 experienced stalking since the age of 15 and 4.3% experienced stalking in the 12 months prior to the survey, and 34.0% of women experienced sexual harassment since the age of 15 and 17.2% experienced sexual harassment in the 12 months prior to the survey.²²¹ While both of these studies provide similar estimates for the proportion of women who 'ever' and 'current-

ly' experience stalking in Albania, the estimates for the proportion of women experienced sexual harassment in their lifetime ranged from 18.0% to 34.0%, and the proportion of women who experienced sexual harassment in the 12 months prior to the survey ranged from 8.0% to 17.0%.

Given this data, VAWG cannot be seen as a marginal issue that touches only some women and girl's lives in Albania. VAWG affects the majority of women and girls, and results in children's exposure to violence, particularly in the home when children witness violence against their mothers and become direct and/or indirect victims of domestic violence. This finding is demonstrated by the significant proportion of women who reported experiencing non-partner violence since the age of 15 at the hands of parents, step-parents and siblings, as well as in-laws. Also, women exposed to non-partner violence since the age of 15 were found to be at increased risk of experiencing intimate partner violence in adulthood. These findings support international work which links intimate partner violence with intergenerational domestic violence. Partner's alcohol use/abuse was also linked to the prevalence and severity of intimate partner domestic violence and women's risk and severity of domestic violence injuries.

Data revealed that the majority of women who experience intimate partner violence and non-partner violence do not seek help for the violence, although the majority of women tell someone about their experiences of violence. Most women seek help from their own family and informal networks, such as friends, neighbours and in some cases religious leaders; however, very few women seek help from formal sources, such as victim support service providing agencies, the health system, police and/or the justice system. The scale of VAWG revealed in this study is not reflected by administrative data presented in Chapter 1, because as data on women's help-seeking behaviours revealed, VAWG survivors do not report their experiences of violence to the police or justice officials. In response, significant efforts need to be made by the government to create a climate where women can report incidents of VAWG, and where these reports will be taken seriously and

followed up on so that women receive the support and protection they need, and the justice they deserve. Currently, the fact that so many incidents are not reported means that many offenders can act with impunity.²²²

This study also revealed that 52.2% of women age 18-74 maintained all or most people in the community believe violence between a husband and wife is a private matter and that others should not intervene, and 46.5% maintained all or most people in the community believe a woman should tolerate some violence to keep her family together. In addition, 1 out of 4 women maintained all or most people in the community believe that when a woman is beat by her husband she is partly to blame or at fault, and that a woman should be ashamed or embarrassed to talk to anyone outside of her family about abuse or violence in her marriage. These social norms can contribute to the prevalence of intimate partner domestic violence against women and keep battered women trapped in abusive and violent relationships.

Despite these social norms related to intimate partner violence, 75.4% of women reported family/marital

violence against women is a major problem in Albania, and 70.8% of women maintained sexual violence against women and girls is a major problem in Albania. In addition, 69.9% of women maintained sexual harassment of women and girls is a major problem in Albania, and 68.4% reported stalking of women is a major problem in Albania. These data demonstrate women recognize VAWG, in all of its forms, is a major and serious problem in Albania. In recognition of the pervasiveness and seriousness of VAWG in Albania, 83.0% of women maintained it is very important to have laws in Albania that protect women and girls from violence in their marriage/families, and 81.9% maintained it is very important to have laws in Albania that protect women and girls from sexual assault and rape.

Effort such as this to monitor patterns and trends in intimate partner domestic violence are important and will enable the GoA, including policy- and decision-makers, as well as development partners and service providers to assess the impact of legislative reforms, policy developments, programming and referral mechanisms that aim to improve prevention, protection and intervention efforts and EVAWG initiatives.

ANNEX A

EXAMPLE MEASURES, INDICATORS AND QUESTIONS RELATED TO SOCIAL NORMS

Measure	Example Indicators	Example Questions
Individual attitudes toward wife beating	Proportion of men/women who agree with the statement, "If a woman disobeys her husband she should be beaten."	To what extent do you agree with the statement: There are times when a woman deserves to be beaten by her husband: a) Strongly agree b) Agree c) Neither agree or disagree d) Disagree e) Strongly agree
Individual behaviours	Perpetration of wife beating in the last 12 months (men) Experience of wife beating in the last 12 months (women)	In the last 12 months, how often have you hit, slapped, or beat your wife? In the last 12 months, how often has your partner or husband hit, slapped or beat you?
Beliefs about typical behaviour	Proportion of men/women who believe most other men in their community beat their wives if they disobey	How many of your male friends do you think sometimes hit their wives for disobeying them? (men) a) All of them b) Most of them c) About half of them d) A few of them e) None of them Answers A and B may be indicative of social norms
Beliefs about appropriate behaviour	Proportion of men/women who believe that the practice of wife beating is acceptable within the community	If a man in this community beats his wife if she disobeyed him, do you think most of your male friends would . . . ? a) Approve of his action b) Disapprove of his action c) Think it was none of their business Answer A would be indicative of social norms, and C may be indicative of a social norm that wife beating is a private matter
Social sanctions/ rewards for non-compliance	The proportion of me/women who agree with the statements: If a husband does not beat his wife if she disobeys, other men in the community will think less of him. Real men control their wives.	To what extent do you agree with the statement: If a husband does not beat his wife if she disobeys, other men in the community will think less of him. a) Strongly agree b) Agree c) Neither agree or disagree d) Disagree e) Strongly agree Answers A and B may be indicative of social norms

Source: Alexander-Scott, M., E. Bell & J. Holden (2016). *DFID Guidance Notes: Shifting Social Norms to Tackle Violence Against Women and Girls*. London: VAW Helpdesk, p. 16.

ANNEX B

UNWEIGHTED TABLES FOR KEY INDICATORS

Annex Table 1. Sample of women by prefecture (unweighted data)	
Prefectures	Total sample n=3,443
	n
Berat	163
Dibra	166
Durres	323
Elbasan	364
Fier	396
Gjirokaster	88
Korce	264
Kukes	104
Lezhe	168
Shkoder	264
Tirana	932
Viore	211

Annex Table 2. Women who responded to the intimate partner domestic violence (unweighted data)	
Age group	Women age 18-74 years who are currently/ever married and/or lived with husband/boyfriend n=3,314
	n
18-24 years	91
25-34 years	294
35-44 years	648
45-54 years	881
55-64 years	930
65-74 years	599

Annex Table 3. Experiences of intimate partner domestic violence (unweighted data)		
	Women age 18-74 years who are currently/ever married and/or lived with husband/boyfriend n=3,314	
	Ever n	Current n
Experienced intimate partner domestic violence (one or more of the 5 types)	1,512	987
Coercive controlling behaviors	1,294	673
Economic violence	214	214
Psychological violence	1,016	574
Physical violence	605	201
Sexual violence	279	83
Physical and/or sexual violence, or both	709	229

Annex Table 4. Experiences of coercive controlling behaviours by husband/partners (unweighted data)		
	Women age 18-74 years who are currently/ever married and/or lived with husband/partner n=3,314	
	Ever	Current
	n	n
Experienced coercive controlling behaviors (one or more of the 7 types)	1,294	673
Get jealous/angry if you talk to other men	1,223	541
Accused you of being unfaithful	196	79
Tries to restrict or does not permit you to meet friends	519	277
Tries to restrict your contact with your parents or other relatives	166	85
Controls you because he wants to know where you are all the time	499	336
Limits/restricts you from getting health care	28	9
Pressure or forced you to provide passwords for your mobile phone, email or social media accounts	158	111

Annex Table 5. Experiences of economic violence by husbands/partners (unweighted data)	
	Women age 18-74 years who are currently/ever married and/or lived with husband/partner n=3,314
	n
Experienced economic violence (one or more of the 3 types)	214
Prohibits you from getting a job, going to work, trading, earning money or participating in income generating projects	115
Takes your earnings from you against your will or controls your money or properties against your will	126
Refuses to give money that you need for household expenses even when he has money for other things (such as alcohol or cigarettes)	89

Annex Table 6. Experiences of psychological violence by husbands/partners (unweighted data)		
	Women age 18-74 years who are currently/ever married and/or lived with husband/partner	
	Ever n	Current n
Experienced psychological violence (one or more of the 8 types)	1016	574
Insulted you/made you feel bad about yourself	809	407
Spoke to you in a way that makes you feel stupid and worthless	631	300
Said/did something that made you feel humiliated in front of other people	338	131
Said things that made you feel scared, such as "if you will not be mine, no one else will have you"	142	39
Insisted on knowing where you are in a way that made you feel controlled or afraid	263	120
Threatened to hurt you or someone else you care about	36	14
Destroyed things that are important to you, such as your personal property, your pet or other belongings	60	30
Made you feel incompetent as a parent	218	108

Annex Table 7. Experiences of physical violence by husbands/partners (unweighted data)		
	Women age 18-74 years who are currently/ever married and/or lived with husband/partner n=3,314	
	Ever n	Current n
Experienced physical violence (one or more of the 11 types)	1,016	574
Slapped you	579	179
Pulled your hair	150	58
Thrown something at you that could hurt you	122	39
Thrown, pushed, shook or dragged you	91	38
Hit you with his fists or something else that could hurt you	63	35
Kicked or beat you	59	23
Slammed you against the wall or something else	32	11
Choked you	9	()
Threatened/attacked you with a knife, gun, other weapon	5	()
Cut or stabbed you on purpose	()	0
Burned you on purpose	4	0

Note: () data not published with warning on low number of observations, $n \leq 3$

Annex Table 8. Experiences of sexual violence by current or former husband/boyfriend (unweighted data)		
	Women age 18-74 years who are currently/ever married and/or lived with husband/partner n=3,314	
	Ever	Current
	n	n
Experienced sexual violence (one or more of the 3 types)	279	83
Forced you to have sexual intercourse when you did not want to, for example by threatening you or holding you down	133	49
Forced to perform sexual acts that you did not want or found degrading or humiliating	32	()
Had sexual intercourse with your husband/partner because you were afraid of what he would do if you refused	232	72

Note: () data not published with warning on low number of observations, $n \leq 3$

Annex Table 9. Domestic violence injuries among women who experience physical violence (unweighted data)		
	Physical violence (ever) n=605 n	Physical violence (current) n=201 n
Experienced domestic violence injuries (one or more of the 9 types)	349	145
Fear, anxiety, depression, feelings of isolation, sleeplessness and/or irritability	332	118
Cuts, scratches, aches, redness or swelling and/or other minor marks	145	50
Eye injuries, dislocations, sprains and/or blistering from burns	28	14
Head injuries, concussions and/or hearing loss	11	()
Abdominal injuries	13	()
Deep wounds, broken bones, broken teeth, blackened or charred skin from burns or any other serious injury	8	()
Loss of memory	5	()
Miscarriage	13	()
Permanent injury or disfigurement	8	0

Note: () data not published with warning on low number of observations, $n \leq 3$

Annex Table 10. Experiences of non-partner violence since the age of 15 (unweighted data)		
	Total Sample n=3,443	
	Ever n	Current n
Experienced physical and/or sexual non-partner violence since age 15 (one or more of the 4 types)	666	81
Since age 15, a non-partner hit, slapped, kicked or done something else to physically hurt (physical violence)	632	78
Experienced sexual non-partner violence since age 15 (one or more of the 3 types)	51	()
Since age 15, a non-partner touched you sexually when you did not want them to or attempted to touch you sexually, but did not succeed at forcing you to have sexual intercourse	0	0
Since age 15, a non-partner forced you into sexual intercourse when you did not want to, for example by threatening you, holding you down or putting you in a situation where you could not say no	37	0
Since age 15, forced you to have sex when you were too drunk or drugged to refuse	41	0

Note: () data not published with warning on low number of observations, $n \leq 3$

Annex Table 11. Experiences of sexual harassment (unweighted data)		
	Total Sample n=3,443	
	Ever n	Current n
Experienced sexual harassment (one or more of the 6 types)	592	239
Anyone (other than husband/boyfriend) touched, hugged or kissed you in a sexual way without your permission, but did not try and/or force you to have sex of any kind	102	12
Anyone (other than husband/boyfriend) showed or exposed the private parts of their body or 'flashed' their genitals to you when you did not want or against your will	169	64
Anyone (other than your husband/boyfriend) sent or showed you sexually explicit or pornographic pictures, photos or gifts that made you feel uncomfortable, embarrassed or offended	26	7
Anyone (other than your husband/boyfriend) asked you intrusive questions about your sexual, intimate or private life that made you feel uncomfortable, embarrassed or offended	179	65
Anyone (other than your husband/boyfriend) made comments about your body and/or physical appearance that made you feel uncomfortable, embarrassed or offended	389	147
Anyone (other than your husband/boyfriend) sent you offensive or unwanted sexually explicit emails or text messages and/or inappropriate advances on social networking websites	49	31

Annex Table 12. Experiences of stalking (unweighted data)		
	Total sample n=3,443	
	Ever n	Current n
Experienced stalking (one or more of the 6 types)	288	116
Any person repeatedly sent you emails, text messages or messages on social networking websites, such as Facebook and WhatsApp, that were offensive and/or threatening	63	37
Any person repeatedly sent you letters, cards or gifts that were unwanted, offensive or threatening	46	8
Any person repeatedly made offensive, threatening or silent phone calls to you	198	77
Any person repeatedly posted offensive comments about you on the internet or shared intimate photos or videos of you on social network sites, such as Facebook and WhatsApp?	4	()
Any person repeatedly loitered or waited for you outside of your home, workplace or school without legitimate reason, then deliberately followed you around?	44	7
Any person repeatedly and deliberately damaged your property or broke into your home?	9	()

Note: () data not published with warning on low number of observations, $n \leq 3$

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- 36 Albania remains one of the poorest countries in Europe with a GDP of USD \$13.1 billion in 2017. The population of Albania is affected by significant economic disparities that affect citizen's access to basic health, education, and social care and protection; the country's Gini coefficient of 34.5 (2013) is the third highest in the region and the pattern indicates growing inequalities. The Government aims to reverse this trend

and put the country on a path of sustainable and equitable growth through ensuring macroeconomic stability and competitiveness and by investing in people and social cohesion. These objectives of the National Strategy for Development and Integration 2015-2020 (NSDI II) are underpinned by the strategic objective of ensuring good governance and rule of law, which will pave the way for the ultimate aim of EU accession. Gender is mainstreamed in the NSDI II, yet despite the progress that has been made to establish a legal and policy framework for the advancement of women's rights and gender equality, and fight violence against women, inequalities are pervasive.

- 37 Albania has ratified a number of global conventions and regional treaties related to gender issues, including: Universal Declaration of Human Rights; Beijing Platform for Action; Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women; 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (commonly known as the Istanbul Convention).
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- 44 OSCE-Led Survey on Violence Against Women Well-Being and Safety of Women, 2019
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- 49 It addresses concerns related to VAW and domestic violence

(DV), including among others the need to challenge prevalent stereotypes and increase awareness among populations that violence against women and girls should not be tolerated under any circumstances, and to effectively tackle all forms of VAW and against girls, including child and forced marriage, sexual harassment and sexual violence and calls on the responsible state bodies to improve the relevant legislation.

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- 52 In 2010, the law "On Measures Against Violence in Family Relations" was amended. The amendments included a commitment to set up a national centre for services of social care for victims of domestic violence. It also included a focus on confidentiality of victim's personal data and information, enhancing coordination and referral mechanisms to support and rehabilitate domestic violence victims, and enhancements to protection orders.
- 53 The number of individuals who turned to the court because of violence and the number of protection orders issued by the courts reportedly increased during the period of the NSGE-DV for 2007-2010 (courts in large cities and smaller town can grant protection orders); however, the execution structures find it hard to execute protective orders issued by the courts.
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- 56 In 2011, the first government-run shelter for domestic violence victims was also opened in Tirana.
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- 90 Haarr, 2014.
- 91 Given the fact that Albania's Criminal Code 130/a defines domestic violence as "beating and any other act of violence against the person who is spouse, former-spouse, or former cohabitant, next to kin or relatives by marriage with the author of the penal offense, with the consequence of attacking his physical, psycho-social and economic integrity", the term intimate partner domestic violence is used throughout this report to clarify that the focus is only on women's experiences of domestic violence from their intimate partners (only among those women who were or had been married and/or lived with a partner. Intimate partner violence outside of a cohabitating relationship is defined in this report as dating violence.
- 92 The DHS survey documents and questionnaires, specifically the Module on Domestic Violence, were the main source.
- 93 The Network Against Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence was established in 1998 and includes Refleksione, the Counseling Center for Women and Girls, the Center for Legal Civic Initiatives, the Gender Alliance for Development Center, and the Shelter for Women and Girls.
- 94 Module 1, Information Module (MODHI) was developed in alignment with the 2013 NDVS.
- 95 Module 2, Module of Household Structure (MODHL) was developed in alignment with the 2013 NDVS.
- 96 Module 3, Marriage Module, the use of contraceptives and sexual behaviour (MODMA) was developed in alignment with the 2013 NDVS.
- 97 Module 4, Module of Domestic Violence (MODDV) was developed in alignment with the 2013 NDVS with some revisions and additions based upon a review of the Georgia and Jamaica VAWG studies.
- 98 Module 5, Module of Dating Violence (MODDA) was developed in keeping with MODDV, except for the exclusion of MODDV questions that were specific to a marital and cohabitating relationship.
- 99 Module 6, Module of Non-Partner Violence (MODNP) was developed in keeping with the 2013 NDVS and inclusion of questions related to non-partner sexual violence developed based upon UNICEF's Violence Against Children Survey (VACS) and the inclusion of help-seeking behaviours for non-partner violence. Help-seeking behaviours questions were similar to those in the MODDV that was used in the 2013 NDVS.
- 100 Module 7, Module of Sexual Harassment (MODSH) was developed based upon a review of the Violence against women: An EU-wide survey (2014) and UNICEF's VACS and questions deemed relevant to the Albanian context were included.
- 101 Module 8, Module of Stalking (MODST) was developed based upon a review of the the Violence against women: An EU-wide survey (2014) relevant to the Albanian context were included.
- 102 Module 9, Module of Social Norms and Attitudes Related to VAWG (MODSNA) was developed based upon a desk review international literature on studying social norms and attitudes related to VAWG and a review of the 2018 Study of Perceptions of Social Norms on Violence against Women and Girls, and Harmful Practices in Malawi
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- 124 Paluck et al., 2010, p. 9.
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- 136 Paluck et al., 2010, p. 11.
- 137 Paluck et al., 2010, p. 12.
- 138 Paluck et al., 2010, p. 12.
- 139 Alexander-Scott, Bell & Holden, 2016, p. 11.
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