



WHO's landmark study documents the horrifying extent of violence against women by their intimate partners. It also clearly shows that violence against women demands a public health response, because the impact of such violence goes far beyond the immediate harm caused, affecting all aspects of women's future health.

This summary outlines the initial results of the study based on evidence collected from over 24 000 women by carefully trained teams of interviewers. It presents the findings from 15 sites in 10 countries representing diverse cultural settings: Bangladesh, Brazil, Ethiopia, Japan, Peru, Namibia, Samoa, Serbia and Montenegro, Thailand, and the United Republic of Tanzania.

Focusing on the prevalence of violence by intimate partners, and the associations

between such violence and women's physical, mental, sexual and reproductive health, the report also deals with non-partner violence, sexual abuse during childhood and forced first sexual experience.

Who do women turn to and whom do they tell about the violence in their lives? Although some women leave home and some fight back, the shocking answer in too many cases is nobody.

The report culminates in 15 recommendations to strengthen national commitment and action on violence against women by promoting primary prevention, harnessing education systems, strengthening health sector responses, supporting women living with violence, sensitizing criminal justice systems, and undertaking research and enhancing collaboration.

Summary report

WHO Multi-country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence against Women

Initial results on prevalence, health outcomes and women's responses



World Health Organization

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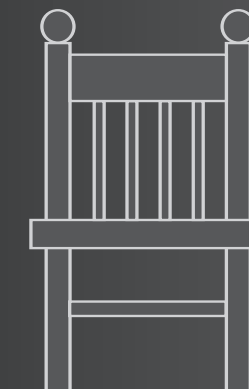


The World Health Organization was established in 1948 as a specialized agency of the United Nations serving as the directing and coordinating authority for international health matters and public health. One of WHO's constitutional functions is to provide objective and reliable information and advice in the field of human health, a responsibility that it fulfils in part through its extensive programme of publications.

The Organization seeks through its publications to support national health strategies and address the most pressing public health concerns of populations around the world. To respond to the needs of Member States at all levels of development, WHO publishes practical manuals, handbooks and training material for specific categories of health workers; internationally applicable guidelines and standards; reviews and analyses of health policies, programmes and research; and state-of-the-art consensus reports that offer technical advice and recommendations for decision-makers. These books are

closely tied to the Organization's priority activities, encompassing disease prevention and control, the development of equitable health systems based on primary health care, and health promotion for individuals and communities. Progress towards better health for all also demands the global dissemination and exchange of information that draws on the knowledge and experience of all WHO's Member countries and the collaboration of world leaders in public health and the biomedical sciences.

To ensure the widest possible availability of authoritative information and guidance on health matters, WHO secures the broad international distribution of its publications and encourages their translation and adaptation. By helping to promote and protect health and prevent and control disease throughout the world, WHO's books contribute to achieving the Organization's principal objective – the attainment by all people of the highest possible level of health.



“ After knowing I was pregnant, he changed. No more sweet and kind words from him... He would hit me and throw things at me. He meant to kill me. Once he lifted a table and threw it at me... I survived. Later that night, we fought. He used a broom to hit me several times. I was bruised all over. I was in such a great pain never experienced before... ”

Woman interviewed in Thailand

“ So I take a blanket and I spend the night with my children out in the cold because he is hitting me too much and I have to take the kids to stop him hitting them too. I would go up the mountain, and sleep there all night. I've done that more than ten times... ”

Woman interviewed in Peru



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Core Research Team, Steering Committee, and Country Research Teams

Core Research Team

Claudia García-Moreno (Study Coordinator), World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland
 Henrica A.F.M. (Henriette) Jansen, World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland
 Charlotte Watts, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), London, England
 Mary Ellsberg, Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH), Washington, DC, USA
 Lori Heise, PATH, Washington, DC, USA

Steering Committee

Jacquelyn Campbell, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, USA (co-Chair)
 Lucienne Gillioz, Bureau d'Égalité, Geneva, Switzerland
 Rachel Jewkes, Medical Research Council, Pretoria, South Africa
 Ivy Josiah, Women's Aid Organisation, Selangor, Malaysia
 Olav Meirik, Instituto Chileno de Medicina Reproductiva (ICMER), Santiago, Chile (co-Chair)
 Laura Rodrigues, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London, England
 Irma Saucedo Gonzalez, El Colegio de Mexico, Mexico City, Mexico
 Berit Schei, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway
 Stig Wall, Umeå University, Sweden

Country Research Teams

Bangladesh

Ruchira Tabassum Naved, ICCDR, B, Dhaka
 Safia Azim, Naripokkho, Dhaka
 Abbas Bhuiya, ICCDR, B, Dhaka
 Lars Ake Persson, Uppsala University, Sweden

Brazil

Lilia Blima Schraiber, Faculty of Medicine, University of São Paulo, São Paulo
 Ana Flavia Lucas D'Oliveira, Faculty of Medicine, University of São Paulo, São Paulo
 Ivan França Junior, School of Public Health, University of São Paulo, São Paulo
 Carmen Simone Grilo Diniz, Feminist Collective for Sexuality and Health, São Paulo
 Ana Paula Portella, SOS Corpo, Gênero e Cidadania, Pernambuco
 Ana Bernarda Ludermitz, Medical School, Federal University of Pernambuco

Ethiopia

Yemane Berhane, Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa
 Ulf Hogberg, Umeå University, Sweden
 Gunnar Kullgren, Umeå University, Sweden
 Negussie Deyessa, Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa
 Maria Emmelin, Umeå University, Sweden
 Mary Ellsberg, PATH, Washington, DC, USA
 Yegomawork Gossaye, Umeå University/Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa

Atalay Alem, Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa
 Derege Kebede, Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa
 Alemayehu Negash, Umeå University/Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa

Japan

Mieko Yoshihama, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA
 Saori Kamano, National Institute of Population and Social Security Research, Tokyo
 Hiroko Akiyama, University of Tokyo, Tokyo
 Fumi Hayashi, Toyo Eiwa University, Tokyo
 Tamie Kaino, Ochanomizu University, Tokyo
 Tomoko Yunomae, Japan Accountability Caucus, Beijing, Tokyo

Namibia

Eveline January, Ministry of Health and Social Services, Windhoek
 Hetty Rose-Junius, Ministry of Health and Social Services, Windhoek
 Johan Van Wyk, Ministry of Health and Social Services, Windhoek
 Alvis Weerasinghe, National Planning Commission, Windhoek

Peru

Ana Gúezmes García, Centro de la Mujer Peruana Flora Tristán, Lima
 Nancy Palomino Ramírez, Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, Lima
 Miguel Ramos Padilla, Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, Lima

Samoa

Tina Tauasosi-Posiulai, Secretariat of the Pacific Community
 Tima Levai-Peteru, Secretariat of the Pacific Community
 Dorothy Counts, Secretariat of the Pacific Community
 Chris McMurray, Secretariat of the Pacific Community

Serbia and Montenegro

Stanislava Otašević, Autonomous Women's Center Against Sexual Violence, Belgrade
 Silvia Koso, Autonomous Women's Center Against Sexual Violence, Belgrade
 Viktorija Cucic, Medical School, University of Belgrade, Belgrade

Thailand

Churnrurtai Kanchanachitra, Mahidol University, Bangkok
 Kritaya Archavanitkul, Mahidol University, Bangkok
 Wassana Im-em, Mahidol University, Bangkok
 Usa Lerdsrisanthat, Foundation for Women, Bangkok

United Republic of Tanzania

Jessie Mbwambo, Muhimbili University College of Health Sciences, Dar es Salaam
 Gideon Kwesigabo, Muhimbili University College of Health Sciences, Dar es Salaam
 Joe Lugalla, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH, USA
 Sherbanu Kassim, Women Research and Documentation Project, Dar es Salaam

Preface

Violence against women by an intimate partner is a major contributor to the ill-health of women. This study analyses data from 10 countries and sheds new light on the prevalence of violence against women in countries where few data were previously available. It also uncovers the forms and patterns of this violence across different countries and cultures, documenting the consequences of violence for women's health. This information has important implications for prevention, care and mitigation.

The health sector can play a vital role in preventing violence against women, helping to identify abuse early, providing victims with the necessary treatment, and referring women to appropriate care. Health services must be places where women feel safe, are treated with respect, are not stigmatized, and where they can receive quality, informed support. A comprehensive health sector response to the problem is needed, in particular addressing the reluctance of abused women to seek help.

The high rates documented by the Study of sexual abuse experienced by girls and women are of great concern, especially in light of the HIV epidemic. Greater public awareness of this problem is needed and a strong public health response that focuses on preventing such violence from occurring in the first place.

The research specialists and the representatives of women's organizations who carried out the interviews and dealt so sensitively with the respondents deserve our warmest thanks. Most of all, I thank the 24 000 women who shared this important information about their lives, despite the many difficulties involved in talking about it. The fact that so many of them spoke about their own experience of violence for the first time during this study is both an indictment of the state of gender relations in our societies, and a spur for action. They, and the countries that carried out this groundbreaking research have made a vital contribution.

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码

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