

Cambodia Data Sheet on Intimate Partner Violence

Introduction

Violence against women is NOT just a women's issue, but affects every one of us. Domestic and sexual violence, human trafficking, and harmful practices such as early marriage, and gender-based violence are examples of violence against women that can occur within and outside the home.

In most cases, intimate partners (usually husbands) are the perpetrators of violence against women, and types of intimate partner violence can include physical, sexual or emotional violence.

This fact-sheet describes some of the key findings on intimate partner violence from the Domestic Violence module of the 2014 Cambodian Demographic and Health Survey (CDHS). Additional information within this factsheet on the relationship between intimate partner violence experience and health are drawn from the 2015 National Survey on Women's Health and Life Experiences.

Definitions ¹:

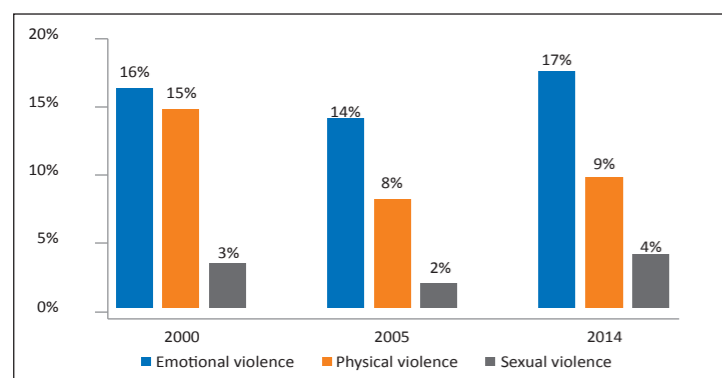
Violence Against Women: any act of gender-based violence that results in or is likely to result in physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women.

Intimate partner violence: Any violence by a current or former husband or boyfriend, including cohabitating sexual or non-sexual partners in couple relationships.

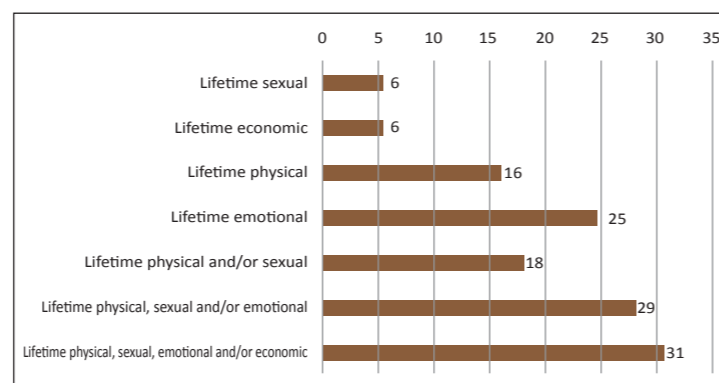
Intimate partner violence is common and is only reducing ²

- Over 30% of Cambodian women had experienced physical, sexual, emotional or economic intimate partner violence experience in her lifetime.
- Women were much more likely to report physical violence by an intimate partner than by any other person.
- Almost 3 times as many women had experienced intimate partner physical violence in her lifetime compared with women who had experienced physical violence by any other perpetrator.
- 85% of women who experienced sexual intimate partner violence also experienced other forms of intimate partner violence, such as physical or emotional violence.
- Between 2000 and 2014 there was evidence of a slight reduction in the proportion of women who reported experiencing physical intimate partner violence in the previous 12 months (from 89% to 60%).

Percentage of ever-partnered women reporting experience of intimate partner violence in the last 12 months, by violence type, and by year of survey



Percentage of ever-partnered women reporting experience of different types of intimate partner violence in her lifetime, by type of violence



50% of women who had experienced physical or sexual violence by intimate partner were injured.

Sources of Help for Women Who had experienced physical or sexual Intimate Partner Violence ³

- Of women who had experienced physical or sexual intimate partner violence, 49% reported that they never talked about it to anyone.
- Around 24% of women who had experienced physical or sexual intimate partner violence sought help from formal service providers or people in positions of authority.
- Of those women who did not seek help, 40% reported that they did not because they considered the violence was normal. A further 30% reported that they did not seek help because of fear or embarrassment.
- Amongst those who sought help from formal services, most went to local leaders (15%), the Police (11%), Health/hospital clinics or shelters (5%).

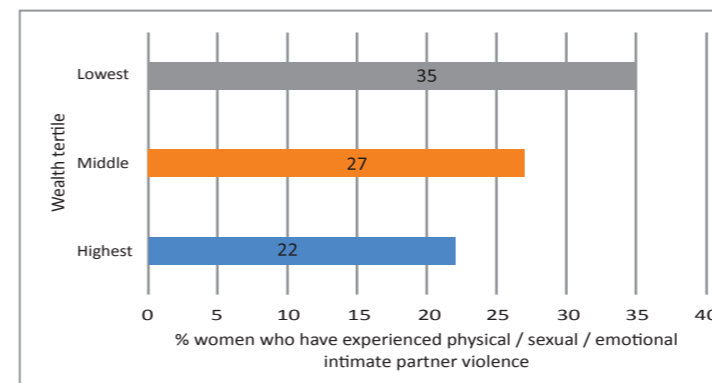
People that the respondent told about the violence



Poorer women are more likely to experience intimate partner violence than rich women

- As wealth quintile increased, the proportion of women who had experienced any type of intimate partner violence reduced.

Percentage of women who experienced physical, sexual or emotional intimate partner violence in her lifetime by wealth quintile ⁴



Violence in Pregnancy

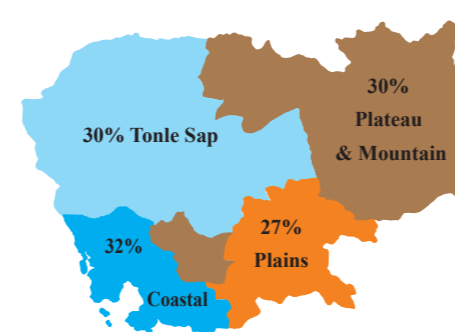
- Women who have more living children are more likely to report having experienced physical violence in at least one pregnancy.
- Rural women were almost twice as likely as urban women to report experiencing physical violence during pregnancy.
- The proportion of women experiencing physical violence during pregnancy was higher for women with no education or in the lower wealth quintiles compared with women who were educated or who were in higher wealth quintiles.

Factors associated with Intimate Partner Violence Experience

- The lifetime experience of physical, sexual or emotional intimate partner violence was approximately equal across all regions of Cambodia.
 - The proportion of women with 5 or more children who experienced intimate partner violence (physical, sexual or emotional) was about 3 times greater than women with no children (43% versus 13%).
 - The proportion of women with no education who experienced physical, sexual or emotional violence was 2 times greater than women with secondary education or higher (38% versus 18%).
- Key factors associated with Cambodian women's experience of intimate partner violence included:

- Her intimate partner got drunk often
- Her intimate partner displayed a higher number of marital controlling behaviours
- She was fearful of their intimate partner
- Low education for both the woman and her intimate partner
- The respondent reported that her father had beat her mother when she was young
- There was a higher number of living children.

Percentage of women experiencing physical, sexual or emotional intimate partner violence, by region, Cambodia



Recommendations for Policy Interventions

The following recommendations are derived from the secondary analysis of the 2014 Cambodian DHS. Where results presented corroborated those described in the National Survey on Women's Health and Life Experiences Report (2015), the recommendations have been aligned with those suggested in the latter report.

Promote gender equality and women's empowerment

International evidence is supported by data presented within this report, that where a woman has more resources available, she is less likely to have experienced violence in the previous 12 months.

Challenge social norms related to the acceptability of violence against women

Half of the women who participated in the CDHS endorsed at least one reason that it was acceptable for a man to beat his wife. 27% of men believe that a husband is justified in beating his wife for any of the specific reasons (burns the food, argues with him, goes out without telling him, neglects the children, refuse to have sexual intercourse with him).

Promote non-violent ways of being a man that are oriented towards equality and respect

Intimate partners were reported as perpetrators of physical violence by three times as many women that the next most frequently recorded perpetrator.

Promote healthy families and violence free environments for children

Women exposed to intimate partner violence between their parents as a child are more likely to experience physical or sexual violence by their intimate partners.

Address alcohol abuse

High levels of alcohol consumption were associated with increased risks of violence.

Further investment in support services

Additional investment should consider on-going training for formal support services, actively marketing their services, and ensuring sufficient resources are available to respond to increased need.

Ensure a comprehensive and coordinated approach to respond to and prevent violence against women.

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1: WHO: Violence against women, 2016 fact-sheet

2: CDHS 2000, 2005 & 2014.

3: National Survey on Women's Health and Life Experiences, 2015

4: CDHS 2014

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