

IMPACT OF VIOLENCE BY HUSBANDS ON HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

NATIONAL STUDY ON VIOLENCE AGAINST
WOMEN IN VIETNAM 2019

ABOUT THE STUDY – OBJECTIVES, LEAD AGENCIES, SAMPLE SIZE AND METHODS

The 2019 study on violence against women consists of three parts: a quantitative study; a qualitative study; and economic costing of violence. It provides data on the prevalence, frequency and types of violence by husband as well as violence by perpetrators who are not husbands.

The quantitative survey was conducted by the General Statistics Office (GSO) at the request of the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA). The qualitative study was carried out by Center for Creative Initiatives in Health and Population (CCIHP), and the economic costing study was led by international experts commissioned by the United Nations Fund for Population (UNFPA). All three components have been integrated into one report.

A total of 5,976 women aged 15-64 years were interviewed in private by specially trained female interviewers, using a globally validated questionnaire (WHO methodology) and fully addressing ethical and safety issues.

All women who ever had a husband were asked whether they had experienced acts of physical, sexual, psychological and/or economic violence, while all women were asked about non partner physical and sexual violence. Retroactively measured child abuse (sexual and physical) also formed part of this study. Two different periods were measured: violence that occurred in the last 12 months preceding the interview (current violence) and in any period in the woman's life (lifetime experience of violence).

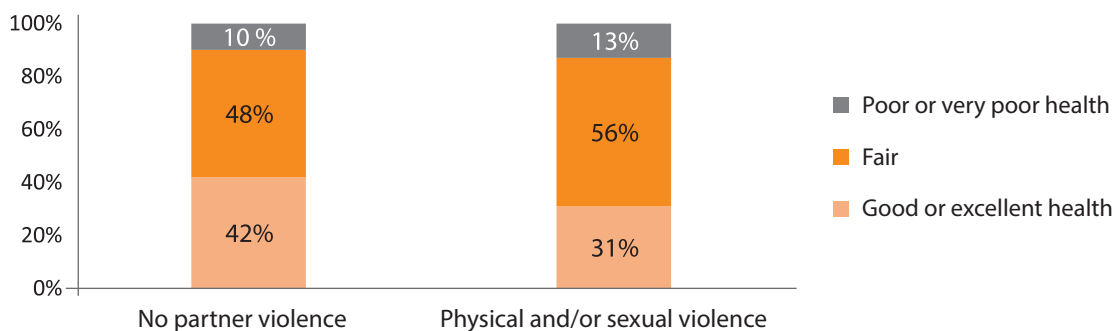
Qualitative methods (focus group discussions and interviews with key people) complemented the study.

SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON WOMEN'S HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Violence has a significant impact on health and well-being of many women. Women who had not experienced physical and/or sexual violence by a husband in their lifetime were more likely to self-report they were in "good or excellent health" and less likely to self-report "fair", "poor or very poor health" than women who had experienced violence

by a husband. While 42 per cent of women who did not experience violence report good or excellent health, only 31 per cent of women who experienced violence report the same. Similarly, while only 10 per cent of women who did not experience violence report poor or very poor health, this is higher (13 per cent) for women who experienced violence.

Women's self-reported health status, according to women's experience of physical or sexual violence by a husband, Viet Nam 2019 (N=5,553)



In addition, women who experienced violence by a husband were three times more likely to self-report multiple symptoms of mental distress (7 per cent) compared with women who had not experienced violence by a husband (2 per cent).

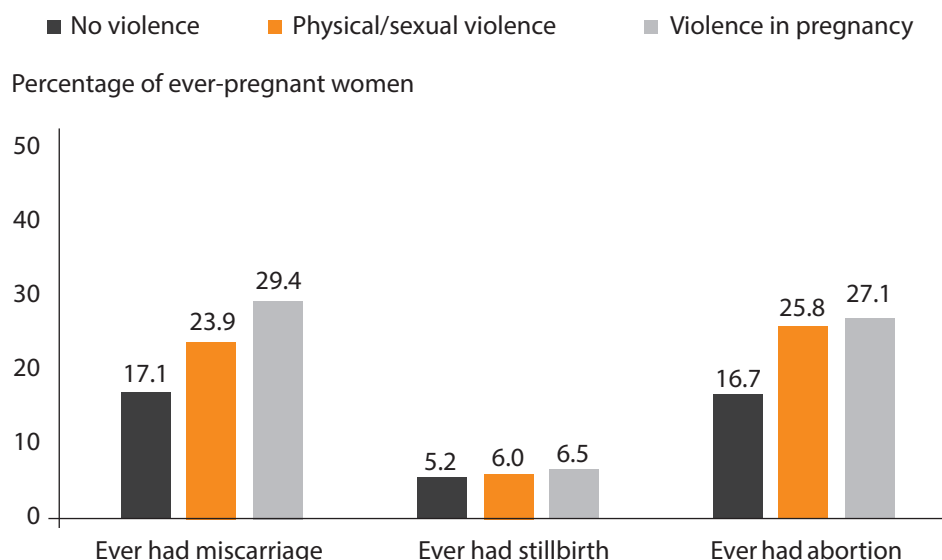
One in five (18 per cent) of women beaten during pregnancy reported being kicked or punched in the abdomen, thus posing a risk of harm to both the mother and the unborn child.

IMPACT ON SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Three per cent of women who had ever been pregnant were beaten during at least one pregnancy. Among women who were beaten in their last pregnancy, nearly all were beaten by the father of the unborn child.

Reproductive health outcomes were worse for women who experienced violence from their husband compared with women who had not experienced violence, in particular for those who experienced violence during pregnancy. They include miscarriages, stillbirths and abortions. For example, 26 per cent of women who experienced physical and/or sexual violence had an abortion compared to 17 per cent of women who had not experienced violence.

Reproductive health outcomes experienced by women, according to their experience of physical and/or sexual violence by a husband among those ever-pregnant, Viet Nam 2019 (N=5,239)

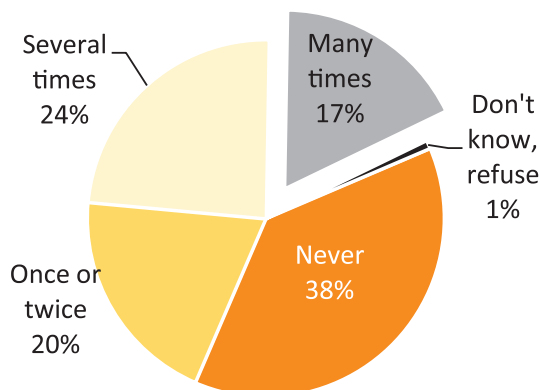


CHILDREN ARE IMPACTED BY LIVING WITH VIOLENCE

Sixty per cent of women who reported physical abuse by a husband also said that their children

had witnessed or overheard the violence. Nearly a quarter (24 per cent) of women said their children witnessed it several times and 17 per cent witnessed it many times.

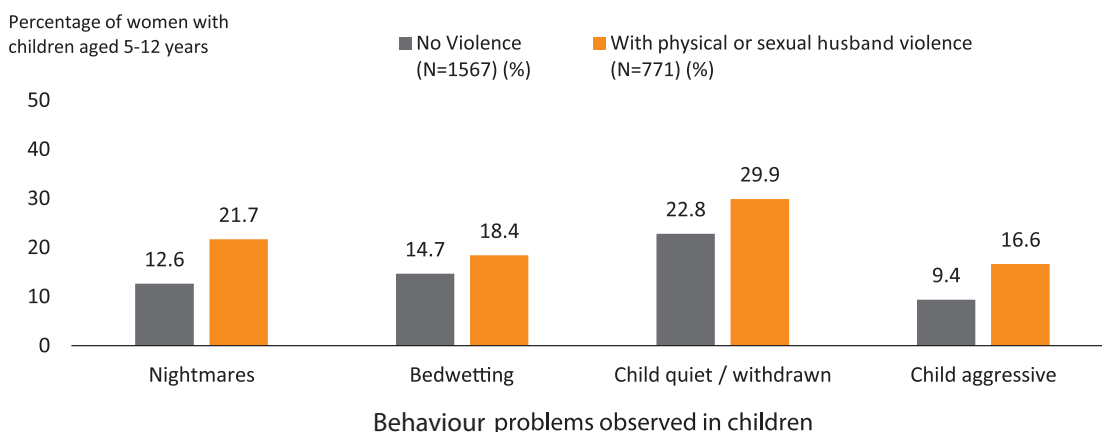
Children witnessing violence, according to women who ever experienced physical violence by a husband, Viet Nam 2019 (N=1,437)



Women who experienced physical and/or sexual violence by a husband were more likely to say that their children had behavioural issues, including

nightmares, bedwetting, being quiet or withdrawn, and aggressiveness, compared to women who had not experienced violence.

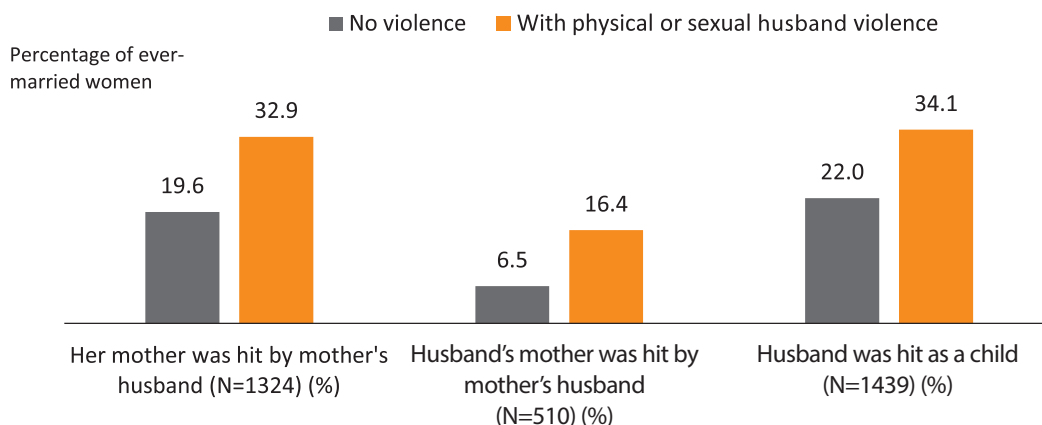
Well-being of children aged 5-12 years, as disclosed by women with children in this age group, according to their experience of physical and/or sexual violence by a husband, Viet Nam 2019 (N=2,338)



Living with violence can impact on children across generations. **Men's exposure to violence as a child was found to be a risk factor for becoming a violent husband.** This applied to

men being abused as children and/or witnessing violence between their parents. These findings were similar to the study in 2010.

Women reporting violence against her own mother, against her husband's mother, and against her husband when he was a child, according to their experience of physical and/or sexual violence by a husband



ECONOMIC COSTS OF VIOLENCE

The 2019 study reveals that violence against women is costing the country an estimated 1.8 per cent of GDP per year (2018). This is due to the costs associated with living with violence, as well as productivity loss as explained below.

Women experiencing violence from their husband incurred costs related to the violence, such as health expenses, repairing/replacing damaged goods, and costs associated with staying away from home and/or leaving home. **On average, women who experienced physical and/or sexual violence by a husband spent about 26 per cent of their annual income on expenses related to that violence.**

The impacts of violence continue to affect women over their lifetime and are often reflected in their earnings. Women who experienced violence by their husband often experienced a loss of productivity at work due to poor concentration or disruption (time-off for related illness or injury, loss of confidence and husband's disruption to work).

Experiences of violence from a husband also resulted in absenteeism from work and an inability to do unpaid household and care work. **More than one in ten (12 per cent) of working women who experienced physical and/or sexual violence by their husband in the last 12 months missed work for an average of 8 days. Women's unpaid care work was also impacted.**

Women also said that their husbands missed work due to the violence they perpetrated (for example, the perpetrator sometimes leaves the house or may not go to work). Results from the 2019 study and the previous 2012 Viet Nam Costs of Violence Study, both showed that **on average men missed 6 days of work in the past 12 months due to violence perpetration.**

Productivity loss, combined with absenteeism due to violence by a husband, is likely to result in a decline in annual earnings of 31 per cent in a woman's lifetime compared with women who do not experience violence.

This decline in income may lead to children's disadvantage by limiting access to food, educational and leisure opportunities, as well as healthcare and other support services.

*The impact of violence on their work among ever-married working women who experienced physical and/or sexual violence by a husband, Viet Nam, 2019 (N= 1,791)**



*Total does not equal to 100 as multiple responses were possible

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