

GET THE FACTS ABOUT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Framework

- UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, CEDAW, 1979, <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CEDAW.aspx>
- UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, 1993 [un.org/documents/ga/res/48/a48r104.htm](http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/48/a48r104.htm)
- CoE Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, Istanbul Convention, 2011 [coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/brief_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence/brief_en.asp)

Facts

- Recent global prevalence figures indicate that **35 percent** of women worldwide have experienced either intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime. <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs239/en/>
- On average, **30 percent** of women who have been in a relationship report that they have experienced some form of physical or sexual violence by their partner. <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs239/en/>
- An estimated **36 percent** of all U.S. women report ever having experienced intimate partner violence including rape, physical violence, and/or stalking. <http://kff.org/hiv/issue-brief/hiv-intimate-partner-violence-and-women-new-opportunities-under-the-affordable-care-act/>
- Globally, as many as **38 percent** of murders of women are committed by an intimate partner. <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs239/en/>
- Worldwide, up to **50 percent** of sexual assaults are committed against girls under 16. <http://www.endvawnow.org/en/articles/299-fast-facts-statistics-on-violence-against-women-and-girls-.html>
- The first sexual experience of some **30 percent** of women was forced. The percentage is even higher among those who were under 15 at the time of their sexual initiation, with up to **45 percent** reporting that the experience was forced. <http://www.endvawnow.org/en/articles/299-fast-facts-statistics-on-violence-against-women-and-girls-.html>
- Violence can result in physical, mental, sexual, reproductive health and other health problems, and may increase vulnerability to HIV. <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs239/en/>
- A 2014 study based on interviews with **42,000 women** across the 28 Member States of the European Union revealed that only **14 percent** of women reported their most serious incident of intimate partner violence to the police, and **13 percent** reported their most serious incident of non-partner violence to the police.
- Worldwide, more than **700 million** women alive today were married as children (below 18 years of age). More than one in three—or some **250 million**—were married before 15. Child brides are often unable to effectively negotiate safer sex, leaving themselves vulnerable to sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, along with early pregnancy. The fact that girls are not physically mature enough to give birth, places both mothers and their babies at risk. Poor girls are also 2.5 times more likely to marry in childhood than those living in the wealthiest quintile.

- Among ever-married girls, current and/or former intimate partners are the most commonly reported perpetrators of physical violence in all the countries with available data.
- Around **120 million** girls worldwide (slightly more than 1 in 10) have experienced forced intercourse or other forced sexual acts at some point in their lives.
- More than **133 million** girls and women have experienced some form of female genital mutilation (FGM) in the 29 countries in Africa and the Middle East where the harmful practice is most common. Beyond extreme physical and psychological pain, girls who undergo FGM are at risk of prolonged bleeding, infection (including HIV), infertility, complications during pregnancy and death.
- Trafficking ensnares millions of women and girls in modern-day slavery. Women and girls represent nearly **55 percent** of the estimated **21 million** victims of forced labor worldwide.
- Women in urban areas are twice as likely as men to experience violence, particularly in developing countries.
- Research conducted in different countries has documented associations between HIV and physical and/or sexual violence, both as a risk factor for HIV infection and as a potential consequence of being identified as living with HIV. A decade of cross-sectional research from African countries, including Rwanda, Tanzania, South Africa and more recently, India, has consistently found women who have experienced partner violence to be more likely to be infected with HIV.
- Women and girls are **80 percent** of the estimated **800,000** people trafficked across national borders annually, with the majority (**79 percent**) trafficked for sexual exploitation. Within countries, many more women and girls are trafficked, often for purposes of sexual exploitation or domestic servitude. <http://www.endvawnow.org/en/articles/299-fast-facts-statistics-on-violence-against-women-and-girls-.html>
- In the United States, **55 percent** of women living with HIV report intimate partner violence. <http://kff.org/hiv/aids/issue-brief/hiv-intimate-partner-violence-and-women-new-opportunities-under-the-affordable-care-act/>
- One study in Europe found that 60 percent of trafficked women had experienced physical and/or sexual violence before being trafficked, pointing to gender-based violence as a push factor in the trafficking of women. <http://www.endvawnow.org/en/articles/299-fast-facts-statistics-on-violence-against-women-and-girls-.html>
- Sexual violence, particularly during childhood, can lead to increased smoking, drug and alcohol misuse, and risky sexual behaviors in later life. <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs239/en/>
- A study found that women who had been physically or sexually abused were **1.5 times** more likely to have a sexually transmitted infection and, in some regions, HIV, compared to women who had not experienced partner violence. <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs239/en/>
- Children who grow up in families where there is violence may suffer a range of behavioural and emotional disturbances. These can also be associated with perpetrating or experiencing violence later in life. <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs239/en/>

See more at:

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/facts-and-figures>

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs239/en/>