

- ✓ 13% of the women experienced, while 14% of the men perpetrated, one or more acts of emotional violence in the 12 months preceding the study.
- ✓ 13.2% women experienced, and 5.8% men perpetrated, physical violence in the 12 months preceding the study.
- ✓ 2.7% of women that ever worked had been sexually harassed in the workplace.
- ✓ 1.4% of women had been sexually harassed by their school teachers.
- ✓ 12 093 women reported domestic violence to police in the year 2009-2010.
- ✓ The most commonly reported domestic violence-related offence is common assault.
- ✓ Police statistics for the year shows that 0.3% of women in Gauteng reported domestic violence. This shows a substantial proportion of underreporting of GBV.



Anita Ferreira.

Photo: Colleen Lowe Morna

I still get nightmares when I think about all the things that he did to me. The worst thing he did to me was to tie my hands to the bumper of a car and my feet to a tree, tear my clothes off and pour petrol over me, and tell me: "nobody will ever miss you. I will dump your body in a bush, or what is left you."

I have decided to tell my story because I hope that in doing so other women might avoid some of my mistakes, and in particular seek help.

I met Cyril Parkman in Rustenberg at the age of 32, while looking for a job. We were never married, but

he made use of a fraudulent certificate at that time. However, after three months of living together the daily physical and verbal abuse started.

I lived with this situation because I believed that he would change. Instead, the beatings became even more severe. He stabbed me in the stomach, in my throat and broke my finger when I tried to prevent him from stabbing me in the face. He even shot at me and then forced me to tell the police that I played with the gun.

He also denied me access to my children. He refused to let me call them. When he found out one day that I had used the phone to call my children, he started taking the phone to work.

He also prevented me from working. He would accuse me of having affairs and would arrive at my workplace and insult me.

On one occasion he told me to undress in front of his employees with the intention of raping me. I refused. His employees left out of embarrassment. He said that I am so useless that even black people don't want me and he raped me.

I blamed myself and did not see that this was abuse. I thought that this was normal in marriage as it happened in my parent's marriage. I only realised that it was abuse when I was sent to prison.

I also think I stayed in the relationship because I felt it was my duty, not for any religious reasons, but because I felt sorry for him. My partner was either unable or too lazy to do anything for himself.

I attempted to commit suicide to end my miserable life on many occasions. I drank poison and ran in front of trucks.

On the day of his death, he abused me violently and said that when he returned he was going to kill me. I was terrified. I realised that he was really going to kill me that day and I thought to myself that I had to fight for my survival and that it was either him or me. I was assisted by a lady who introduced me to the man who killed my partner.

When I went to prison I was scared. However, I felt that serving a prison term was better than living with him and the abuse. My experience in prison was not all negative. I made friends. I had mixed emotions when I left gaol. I had nowhere to stay. I

did not know where to go. At times I missed prison where I had people to talk to.

But soon after my release I went to the NISAA shelter where I was welcomed with open arms. I had been to many shelters but this one was very clean and I felt that I was going home.

I have many strengths that have helped me to survive through my plight. I have strong faith in God. I am a strong and resilient person and the fact that I can easily adapt to any situation made me a survivor. My message to women who are in abusive relationships is: Get out! Seek help!

Anita Ferreira participated in the first "I" Stories in 2004 and wrote her story of physical, emotional, economic and sexual violence. Ferreira was convicted of murder after hiring two hit men to kill her partner following almost a decade of indescribable abuse aimed at breaking down her body, her soul and her spirit.

Ferreira herself said it was an act of cowardice. The two hit men struck him while he lay passed out on the sofa. She helped them put his body in the boot of his car before watching them drive off with it.

Ferreira received a life sentence. She appealed. Her legal team put before the court the facts about post-traumatic stress. In a landmark judgment in April 2004 the court held that Ferreira's long history of severe abuse constituted "substantial and compelling circumstances" which permitted the Court to impose a lesser sentence than life imprisonment. The court gave her a six year sentence with credit for time served and suspended the rest.



South Africa justice system needs to respond more efficiently and effectively to GBV. Photo: Gender Links

The judgment recognises that women who have been abused and live in fear for their own lives for a long time can conclude that the only way out is to kill their abusive partners. Ferreira recognises that killing your partner is not the solution and before you reach that point you need to get out and get help.

There are no reliable national data for the prevalence of intimate partner violence, but the best population-based estimates, from 1998, identified a lifetime prevalence of physical violence of 25% and past-year prevalence of 10% in adult women in three provinces.

Studies undertaken with men, including population-based samples, and with subgroups of women, suggest that this prevalence might be an underestimate. More than 40% of men disclose having been physically violent to a partner and 40-50% of women have also

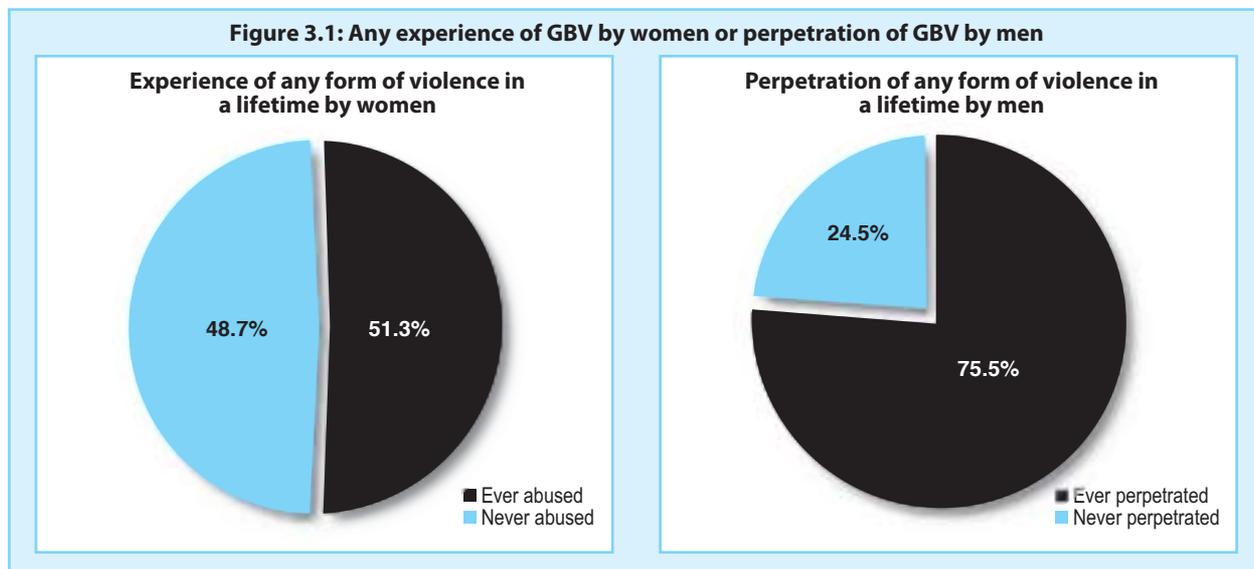
reported experiencing physical or sexual violence.¹⁸

This chapter presents the rates of the different forms of violence, including intimate and non-intimate partner violence. Where statistics were not easily available, desktop research was used to fill the gap. The prevalence and household survey did not measure some forms of GBV such as harmful cultural practice, hate crime, femicide and human trafficking.

Rate of GBV

Figure 3.1 illustrates that some 51.3% (263) of all women recruited in the study had experienced some form of GBV in their lifetime while 75.5% (370) of all men said they perpetrated some form of violence. About one in five (18.13%) women experienced and more than a quarter (29.0%) men said they perpetrated GBV in the past 12 months.

Figure 3.1: Any experience of GBV by women or perpetration of GBV by men



¹⁸ Jewkes et al 2009.

Experience and perpetration of different forms of GBV in a lifetime

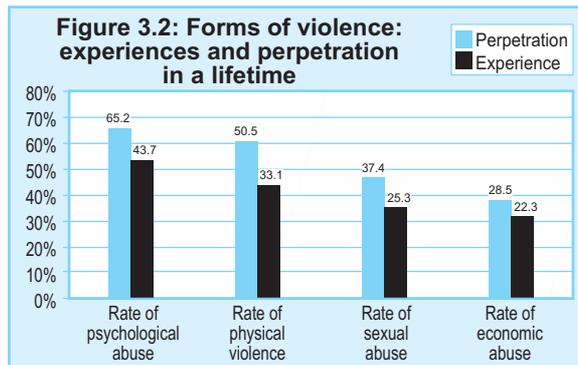


Figure 3.2 presents the prevalence of different forms of violence (emotional, physical, sexual and economic) experienced by women and perpetrated by men in the Gauteng sample. The graph shows that for all types more men disclosed perpetration than women reported experience of victimisation. The most common form of violence experienced by women and perpetrated by men was emotional violence, followed by physical, sexual and economic abuse.

Rate of emotional violence

In this survey, emotional abuse was assessed by six questions which asked about experience (or perpetration) of a series of different acts that were controlling, frightening, intimidating or undermined women's self-esteem. Women participants were asked if a male partner had ever insulted them or made them feel bad; belittled or humiliated them in front of other people; threatened to hurt them; stopped them from seeing friends; done things to scare or intimidate them; or boasted about or brought home girlfriends. Men were asked if they had done any of these things to a female partner. Although the questionnaire asked about the

frequency of acts of emotional violence, these are hard to assess as it is often ongoing within a relationship, taking multiple forms. This context provides a backdrop against which the (usually) more intermittent acts of physical and sexual violence occur. Emotional violence was reported by 43.7% women and perpetration disclosed by 65.2% men.

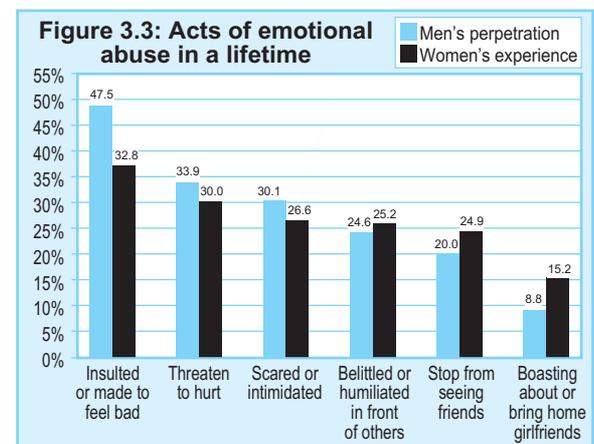


Figure 3.3 shows the prevalence of different types of emotionally abusive acts disclosed by women and men. The most common form of emotional abuse was men insulting women or making them feel bad, with nearly half of all men (47.5%) disclosing having done this and such experiences reported by a third of women (32.8%). A third of women had been threatened with violence by a partner and a quarter said they had been scared or intimidated. Attempts at social isolation in the form of stopping women from seeing friends were disclosed by one in five women.

A further form of emotional violence involves men boasting about, or bringing home, girl-

friends. One in seven women (15.2%) said that they had experienced this and nearly one in ten men (8.8%) disclosed having done this to a woman partner. In the past year, 13.0% of women said they had experienced one or more of these forms of violence, and 14.0% of men admitted to perpetrating such violence.

Rate of physical violence



Women reclaiming their right to safety and security in Vosloorus in 2008.
Photo: Adjoa Osei-Asibey

Experience of physical intimate partner violence was ascertained by asking five questions about whether women had been slapped, had something thrown at them, were pushed or shoved, kicked, hit, dragged, choked, beaten, burnt or threatened with a weapon.

Physical violence was the second most common form of violence reported in the survey.

Nicole Alexandra Rice participated in GL's 2007 "I" Stories. In her story *Finding myself again* Rice talks about the emotional and physical abuse she experienced from her partner: "I remember the pain, the unending pain, not physical pain caused by his fists, but emotional pain. The hurt and anguish that I suffered because he was capable of hurting me, and because I was imperfect, though I tried so hard to be perfect. I continuously blamed myself; I believed it was me who had to change. I believed I was the one who was flawed."

Overall 33.1% of women disclosed that this had ever happened and most of these women had experienced multiple forms of violence or violence on multiple occasions (30.8%). The prevalence reported here is higher than that disclosed in the MRC Three Province Study (25%), but the explanation may be largely due to improved questionnaire design methodology. More than half of men (50.5%) disclosed perpetration and usually more than once (43.4%).

More than one in eight women (13.2%) had experienced physical IPV in the past year, but fewer men disclosed recent perpetration (5.8%). Almost all women who disclosed having ever experienced physical violence (30.8% of all women interviewed) and almost all men disclosing perpetration (43.4% of the total) had experienced or perpetrated more than one episode of physical violence. Whilst there may have been

under-reporting of physical violence by those who had experienced or perpetrated it only once, the finding also suggests that physical violence is often experienced on multiple occasions. The rate of physical violence perpetration on multiple

Thandeka (not her real name) wrote her story during the "I" Story follow-up workshop. At age 16 she had been raped twice and was told that rape was her family's legacy. This is part of Thandeka's story: "I was raped at 14. When I told my mother she told me to forget about it because she and my grandmother had been raped. This is something that just happens in the family."

I was date raped when I was 16 and unfortunately got pregnant. This was only the second time I had sex. I didn't want a baby because I was a baby. I needed taking care of myself. I became a parent at 16.

I never told anyone about the rape. When my baby came into the world she was very ill, she had to be hospitalised in the intensive care unit. When I left the hospital that morning I went home and I didn't know how to feel."

occasions was higher than that disclosed by men in the Eastern Cape/KwaZulu-Natal study, where 30.7% of men disclosed multiple acts of physical violence.¹⁹

Rate of sexual violence

Sexual violence²⁰ in this research is non-consensual completed or attempted contact between the penis and the vulva or the penis and the anus involving penetration, however slight; non-consensual intentional touching, either directly or through the clothing, of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks. All the above acts qualify if they are committed against someone who is unable to consent or refuse.

Partner rape experienced by women was assessed by three questions inquiring if their current or previous husband or boyfriend had ever physically forced them to have sex when they did not want to; whether they had had sex with him because they were afraid of what he might do and whether they had been forced to do something sexual that they found degrading or humiliating. Rape of women by men who were not their partner was assessed by asking three questions. The first asked about whether they had been forced or persuaded to have sex against their will by a man who was not a husband or boyfriend, the second asked about whether they had been forced to have sex with a man when too drunk or drugged to stop him, and the third inquired about being forced or persuaded to have sex with more than one man at the same time. The latter is an indicator of gang rape.

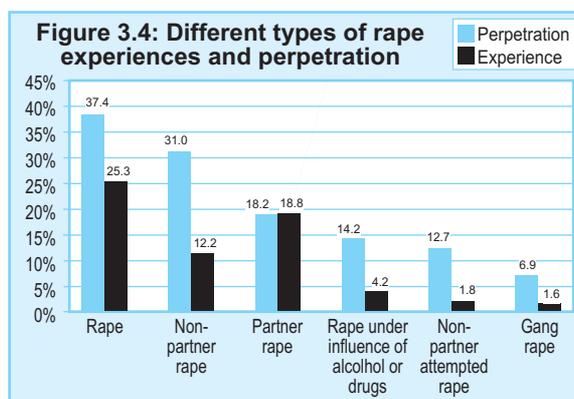


Figure 3.4 shows the prevalence of rape disclosed in the survey. Overall 25.3% of women had an experience of being raped by a man, whether a husband or boyfriend, family member, stranger or acquaintance while an even higher 37.4% of men admitted to ever raping a woman. Overall, 18.8% of women experienced intimate partner rape on one or more occasions, a figure nearly identical to the proportion of men disclosing perpetration.

In all, 12.2% of women disclosed that they had been raped by a man who was not their husband or boyfriend while 31.0% of men disclosed having raped a woman who was not a partner.

Additionally, 1.8% women had experienced an attempted rape, when a man had tried to force them but not succeeded, while 12.7% of men had attempted to rape a non-partner. Research found that 4.2% of women had been raped when drunk or drugged and 1.6% of women disclosed gang rape; 14.2% of men had forced

¹⁹ Jewkes et al 2009.

²⁰ Violence and associated terms by Basil and Saltzman (2002).

a woman to have sex when she was too drunk or drugged to refuse and 6.9% of men had engaged in gang rape.

Experience of being raped by a stranger or acquaintance varied by age and race. Younger women less than 29 years old were twice as likely to disclose that they had been raped compared to women aged 30-44 years. Sexual violence often provided the context of their first experience of sex, with 8.5% of women describing this as forced or as rape. In other studies, about 7.5% women reported a forced first sexual intercourse at age 15 years or older.²¹

There is no comparable data on experiences of rape disclosed by women in South Africa, but a 2008 survey of men in KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape does present comparable data for men. In that study overall 28% of men disclosed having ever raped, 21% had raped a non-partner, 14% a partner and 9% had been involved in a gang rape.²² With the exception of gang rape, all these forms of rape were disclosed more often by men in Gauteng.

Rape in the past year

The prevalence of disclosure by women of rape in the past year was particularly high: at 7.8% it is nearly one in 12 women saying they had been raped in the past year. The proportion of men disclosing past year perpetration was lower at 4.7%. This figure was identical to the proportion of men disclosing past year rape perpetration in the Eastern Cape/KwaZulu-Natal survey.

Rate of reporting rape to the police

Only 3.9% of women who had been raped by a partner or non-partner had reported it to the police. Rape by an intimate partner was least reported. Only 2.1% of women raped by an intimate partner reported this to the police. A higher proportion of women (7.8%) who had been raped by a stranger or acquaintance had reported the incident. Thus one in 13 of the women who had experienced non-partner rape had ever reported this to the police and overall only one in 25 women who had been raped had reported it. About half of the survivors of violence who did report to police had confided in family members. The other half chose not to confide in either family or police. The majority of those that report to the police have also confided in family.

GL worked with Mo Afrika Tlhokomelo to gather stories from ex perpetrators of violence. Mo Afrika was established by six South African ex-convicts. Mo Afrika works with ex-convicts to help them reintegrate into society. In one of the stories Zakes (not his real name) described how he lived prior to being imprisoned, "My friends and I would sometimes go to taverns and we would jack-rol (rape) women and assault their boyfriends. The community hated us. Some members of the community would go to the police station to report us, but the case would not go to trial due to dockets "being lost".

Rate of economic violence

Economic or financial abuse takes many forms, including controlling the finances, withholding money or credit cards, giving a partner an allowance, making a partner account for all money spent, stealing or taking money from partner, exploiting a partner's assets for personal gain, withholding basic necessities (food, clothes, medications, shelter), preventing a partner from

²¹ Dunkle et al., 2004, Pettifor et al., 2009.

²² Jewkes et al 2009.

working or choosing a career, or sabotaging a partner's job by making them miss work.²³

Overall 22.3% of women in the sample experienced economic abuse and 28.5% of men disclosed perpetration. Nearly half of the women (9.3%) who said this had ever occurred had experienced economic violence in the past year compared to 5% men who said they had perpetrated such acts.

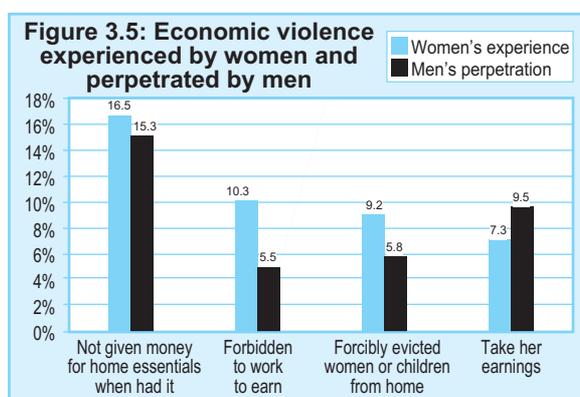


Figure 3.5 illustrates that the most common act of economic violence reported by women, and corroborated by men, was not being given money necessary to run the home when this money was available.

Nearly one in ten women were evicted from a home, a similar proportion to that reported by women in Mpumalanga in the MRC Three Province study in 1998 (9.2%).²⁴ Previous research has shown that evictions occurred following attempts by women to complain about extra-marital affairs or other forms of abusive behaviour



Many men believe it is their right to take their partners' wages.
Photo: Gender Links

such as spending money on girlfriends instead of family.

An even higher proportion of men (9.5%) said that they routinely take women's earnings.

Taking earnings was also reported through "I" Stories. In the case of Gladys Dlamini, her husband took her earnings and still refused to contribute to home essentials.

Gladys Dlamini (not her real name) wrote in her 2007 "I" Story titled *Taking a stand* about the emotional, physical and economic abuse she had experienced. This is an extract from her story: "When I married I had been working for four years. I had to give him my salary even though he was working too. He earned a lower salary than me. I complained about giving him my salary because both of us were earning. He said that he had paid *lobola* for me and everything I have is his and what he has is mine. In reality it was not like that because he took everything and did not share *his* salary with me."

²³ <http://www.4woman.gov/violence/types/emotional-cfm>.

²⁴ Jewkes et al 2009.

Multiple forms of Intimate Partner Violence



The term “Intimate Partner Violence” describes physical, sexual, or psychological harm by a current or former partner or spouse. This type of violence can occur among heterosexual or same-sex couples and does not require sexual intimacy.

Almost all the men and women interviewed (more than 95%) had been in a heterosexual

relationship. In all, 75% of women and 84% of men said they were currently married or had a heterosexual partner; one percent disclosed having a partner of the same sex. Only 63% of women and 58% of men were in cohabiting relationships. Having more than one current partner was disclosed by 10% of women and 25% of men, and many women (28%) and men (25%) suspected or knew their partner had other partners.

Table 3.1 Intimate partner violence experience and perpetration in a lifetime

	Women - Experience %	Men - Perpetration %
Ever abused	51.2	78.3
Sexual only	2.3	1.9
Physical only	2.3	6.3
Emotional only	6.5	10.5
Economic only	0.6	1.0
Emotional and economic	5.3	6.1
Physical and sexual	0.6	0.7
Emotional, economic and sexual	2.5	2.4
Emotional, economic and physical	17.5	36.1
Emotional, economic, physical and sexual	13.8	13.3

Table 3.1 illustrates that 51.2% of partnered women had experienced some form of violence within an intimate partnership while 78.3% of partnered men disclosed perpetrating violence against a female partner. The proportions of women who experienced emotional, economic, physical and sexual violence and men who had perpetrated multiple forms of IPV are very similar at 13.8% and 13.3% respectively. The women referred to physical abuse occurring amidst episodes of verbal abuse from the partner. In a

few cases, physical or emotional abuse occurred as a reaction to a partner's pregnancy announcement.

Analysis of “I” Stories shows that many women who have been abused by their partners do not have the economic power to walk away from these relationships. Many women make excuses for abusive partners and many feel they are to blame for the abuse. Such acceptance of abuse and its normalisation makes it difficult to walk away.

Sexual harassment



"[A] pervasively hostile work environment of sexual harassment is never (one would hope) authorised, the supervisor is clearly charged with maintaining a productive, safe work environment. The supervisor directs and controls the conduct of the employees, and the manner of doing so may inure to the employer's benefit or detriment... It is by now well recognised that hostile environment sexual harassment by supervisors (and, for that matter, co-employees) is a persistent problem in the workplace."²⁵

Overall 2.7% of women who had ever worked disclosed that a man had hinted or threatened that they would lose their job if they didn't have

sex with him. In the Gauteng sample of women, 2% had been told they would have to have sex with a man in order to get a job.

Rate of sexual harassment by teachers

School-related GBV can be broadly clustered into two overlapping categories: explicit gender (sexual) violence, which includes sexual harassment, intimidation, abuse, assault and rape, and implicit gender violence, which includes corporal punishment, bullying, verbal and emotional abuse, a teacher's unofficial use of students for free labour and other forms of aggressive or unauthorised behaviour that is violent.²⁶

Sexual harassment by teachers was not very commonly reported, 1.4% of women in the sample said they had experienced GBV from a teacher. A similar proportion of women (1.0%) disclosed that a teacher/principal/lecturer ever hinted or threatened that they could fail exams, get bad marks, or that their schooling would be damaged if they did not have sex with him. A low proportion of women (1.2%) had been sexually touched by a teacher.

Rate of domestic violence reported to SAPS

A comparison of self-reporting of violence by the participants in the survey with results from an analysis of a South African Police Service (SAPS) dataset of all crimes committed against adults in Gauteng that were coded as "domestic violence" indicates a high degree of under-reporting.

²⁵ Quote by Judge Hennie Nel in *Sexual Harassment* by Charlene Smith.

²⁶ (Akiba et al., 2002) conducted a study on school violence in 37 nations, based on TIMSS data. This report viewed school violence largely in terms of delinquency, youth crime and classroom disruption. Although figures on rape are provided, there was no attempt to distinguish sexual violence from other forms of school violence.

Table 3.2: Prevalence of domestic violence as reported to SAPS 2008/2009

Sex	Frequency	Percentage	Census population*	Prevalence
Male	3 207	20.96	3 451 069	0.09%
Female	12 093	79.04	3 515 397	0.3%
Total	15 307	100		

The data from the South African Police Service (SAPS) for the period April 2008 to March 2009 (Table 3.2) shows that more women than men reported being survivors of domestic violence while more men than women were recorded as perpetrators.

Using the STATSA mid-year population estimate for Gauteng for 2009 and the reported cases of domestic violence, an estimated 0.09% of men and 0.3% of women reported a case of domestic

violence over the time period. These statistics for the victimisation of women are much lower than the one in five (18.13%) women who said they had experienced violence in the past year in the survey.

A comparison of the survey results and SAPS data results shows a substantial discrepancy. This is indicative of the high rates of under-reporting of domestic violence.

Table 3.3: Type of offence survivors reported to the police

Offence	Frequency	Percentage
Contravention of a protection order	533	3.48
Common assault	9667	63.19
Assault grievous bodily harm	4378	28.62
Murder	138	0.9
Crimen injuria	64	0.42
Attempted murder	137	0.9
Rape	303	1.98
Sexual assault	24	0.16
Sexual offence	11	0.07
Rape of wife by own husband	12	0.08
Attempted rape	7	0.05
Abduction	9	0.06
Any crime of indecent nature	3	0.02
Indecent assault	6	0.04
Compelled self-sexual assault	1	0.01
Attempted rape of wife by own husband	1	0.01
Compelled rape	5	0.03

Physical violence reported as common assault was the most reported form of GBV (Table 3.3). Nearly two thirds (63.19%) of cases opened were

for common assault. Over a quarter of cases (28.62%) were for assault with the intent to do grievous bodily harm.

Table 3.4: Survivors by race and offence reported

Offence	Black	%	Coloured	%	White	%	Indian	%	Total	%
Contravention of a protection order	403	3.1	66	7.7	54	4.7	10	5.5	533	3.5
Common assault*	8 162	62.2	530	62	852	74.8	123	67.8	9 667	63.2
Assault with intent to do grievous body harm*	3 956	30.1	219	25.6	168	14.8	35	19.2	4 378	28.6
Murder	117	0.9	3	0.4	12	1.1	6	3.3	138	0.9
Crimen injuria	40	0.3	11	1.3	10	0.9	3	1.7	64	0.4
Attempted murder	97	0.74	5	0.6	33	2.9	3	1.7	138	0.9
Rape	292	2.2	17	2	5	0.4	1	0.6	315	2.1
Sexual assault	23	0.2	1	0.1	0	0	0	0	24	0.2
Sexual offence	9	0.1	1	0.1	0	0	1	0.6	11	0.1
Other	24	0.2	2	0.2	5	0.4	0	0	31	0.2
Total	13 123	100	855	100	1 139	100	182	100	15 299	100

There is an apparent racial bias in the crime categories registered in police statistics. White women and men were more likely to be survivors of common assault than other race groups (Table 3.4). Black/African women and men were more likely to report assault with the intent to do grievous bodily harm.

Hands and fists were the most commonly used weapons during episodes of violence reported to the police, with 60.46% of cases reporting this as the primary instrument. Blunt objects were commonly used (10.96%) and these included bats, batons and sticks. Sharp objects such as knives or screwdrivers were used as the primary weapon in 6.38% of cases reported to the police. Firearms were used in 1.21% of cases. Verbal abuse was reported as the primary instrument in about 1% of cases. A considerable amount (3.29%) of entries was

categorised into the non-applicable, unknown and other weapon groups.

There were, however, some potentially important limitations of the SAPS dataset that should be noted. It is unclear what the circumstances were

which led data capturers to use the “domestic violence” variable and this may have varied from station to station. No data on the relationship between the perpetrator and the survivor is available. This means that crimes occurring in a domestic setting such as an adult male child abusing an elderly male parent could have been captured as “domestic violence”. This affects the validity of the results and as such should be interpreted with some caution.

Mmabatho Moyo shared her “I” Story in 2007. The title of her story is *Walking away with nothing*. These are her words:

“In 2001, he came home just after midnight and woke me up demanding a cup of tea. I declined and he became aggressive. He threatened to shoot me to death. I woke up went to the kitchen in tears, plugged the kettle to make tea. Reaching for the cup in the cupboard, for some reason I decided to turn and as I did so, he released the trigger and shot me. Fortunately, the bullet did not go straight into my head but became lodged close to my scalp. I fell unconscious and woke up in hospital four months later. I was in hospital for 13 months because I could not speak or walk.”

Hate crimes against lesbians

On 1 December 2006 South Africa made history by becoming the fifth country in the world, and the first in Africa to legalise same-sex marriage.



Photo: Nomtandazo Mankazana

Although South Africa has some of the most progressive legislation around gay rights, many people, and even those in top government positions, do not publicly denounce hate crimes against homosexual people.

Argued from a cultural, religious or moral perspective, the ill-treatment of lesbian and gay people is prevalent in South Africa. Attacks on lesbians because of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity are a unique form of GBV. Hate crimes occur at the extreme end of a continuum that includes hate speech. Hate speech is dehumanising and is in itself a form of attack. Anecdotal evidence points to the prevalence of “corrective rape”, the rape of lesbians to “cure” them by making them straight.

Kebarileng Sebetoane told her story of being raped by a man she thought was her friend.

“I got a bit tense when he started giving me the 'you make me sick look'. He locked the door. I was really confused he was swearing at me and

saying how much he hates people who pretend. I then asked him what he was talking about. He was furious with the lesbian life I was living. He said that I should stop taking other people's girlfriends and that I was beautiful and capable of getting myself a boyfriend. I got angry and started arguing back. He slapped me on the face, and warned me not to shout at him or will regret it. He said: “Tonight I'm going to change you, and as from now on you are my girlfriend.”

Similarly, Lindiwe Radebe was attacked with a group of friends by several men:

“They surrounded me and started kicking me and continued calling me names. I remember one of them said 'You think you're a man wena stand up and fight!' I could not do anything. This went on for a couple of minutes. It was terrible. I only managed to stand up through God's mercy. But one of them continued slapping me and hitting me with fists while the other one attempted to throw a stone at my face. Fortunately, I managed to block the stone from hitting my face with my left hand but my thumb was hurt and was seriously bleeding.”²⁷



Lindiwe Radebe.

Photo: Colleen Lowe Morna

²⁷ *Is it a crime to be a woman who loves other women?* by Lindiwe Radebe.

Radebe recalls the re-victimisation by police officers who attended to her at the police station where she went to report the incident. Upon learning about her sexual orientation, the officer's attitude abruptly changed.

"I vividly remember him changing his facial expression. He looked at me and exclaimed 'What?' I repeated what I had said before - 'I am lesbian'. He stared at me again. My friend got irritated and answered on my behalf. She reiterated 'She said we are lesbian'. Then the real emotional trauma began. He started giving a lecture about how wrong and unholy it is to be a lesbian. I became really angry and asked him

if he wanted to help me or not. He told me that I had an attitude problem and that is when I asked to see the station commander."

Cases of hate crime, or crimes perpetrated against minorities as a direct result of their membership in that minority group have been well documented. Hate crime against homosexuals, including corrective rape; the rape of a lesbian woman in an attempt to either "correct" her sexual orientation, or punish her for being gay, is not a new phenomenon and has been on the increase in recent years. Politicians did not publicly condemn the murder of prominent lesbian Eudy Simelane.



Politicians choose to be silent about sexuality and homophobia

Despite the fact that hate crimes are proving to be real and pervasive issues worthy of concern in South Africa, politicians still do not speak out openly about them.

In April 2008, Eudy Simelane, a 31-year-old ex-professional football player for Banyana Banyana and vocal activist for the gay and lesbian rights, was stabbed multiple times, gang raped and left for dead in a ditch. Although the motive of her attackers remains contested, Simelane's work as an activist against hate crime, and her openness about her sexual orientation as a lesbian woman, led fellow activists, members of the public and the media to believe that the attack may have been motivated by homophobia.

Four men were put on trial for Simelane's murder; two were convicted and sentenced while the

other two were acquitted due to insufficient evidence.

Despite the media coverage, very few statements made by political functionaries condemning the crime were reported by the media.

The reason for the silence of politicians is unknown; however, in focus groups conducted to explore public perception, the suggestion was that the silence may have been the intentional avoidance of a social and cultural hot topic. One focus group participant stated "I think they should have said something, because they are influential, and they know people listen, maybe through that they could have educated people." Others felt the silence was favourable to functionaries making controversial statements like President Jacob Zuma had about homosexuals: "when I

was growing up, *unqungili* (homosexuals) could not stand in front of me. I would knock him out." (*Mail & Guardian*, 5 March 2010).

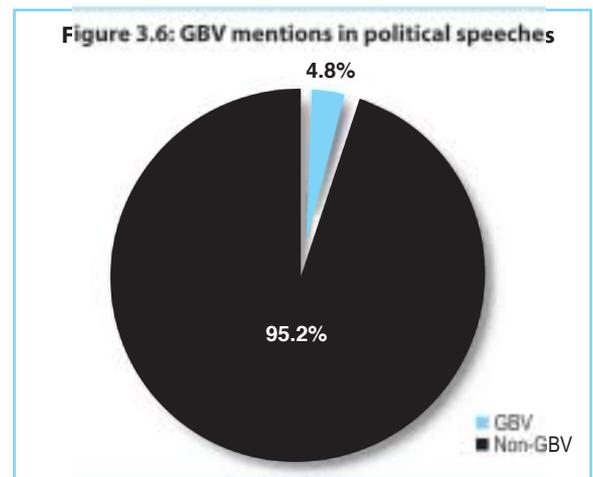
One participant said: "if you cannot be sincere in what you say about these things then you should

keep quiet". Findings from focus group discussions with men and women show that as an audience they were disappointed at the failure of political functionaries to use this unfortunate incident to educate people and raise awareness about hate crimes.

GBV is not a priority in the prevailing political discourse

An analysis of 1956 available official speeches by politicians shows that political leaders and other government functionaries do not speak enough and with sufficient depth about GBV in official speeches.

Figure 3.6 shows that in an analysis of a selection 1956 official speeches made by key political functionaries between April 2009 and March 2010, only 4.8% mentioned or were about GBV. Of these, 83.8% made a passing reference to GBV while only 16.2% addressed the issue of GBV directly. An example of these passing remarks is in a speech by President Zuma celebrating the 35th anniversary of Mitchells Plain. The reference



was: "The poverty, unemployment, domestic violence, abuse as well as crime must be attended to with much vigour by all spheres of government."

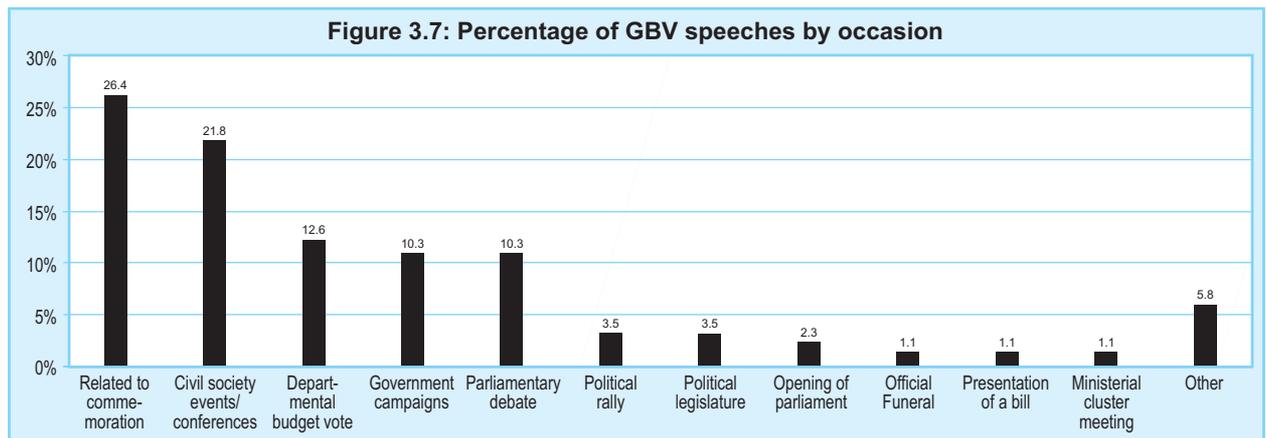
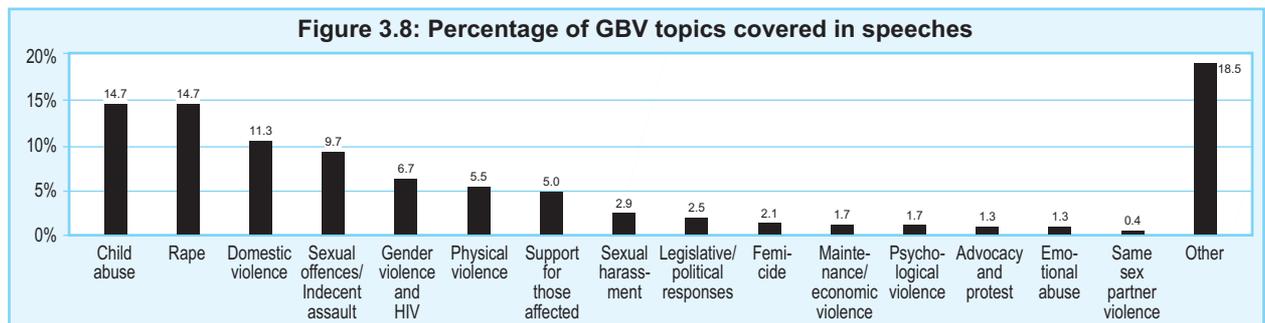


Figure 3.7 shows that the majority of speeches (26.4%) addressing GBV in any form are made during specific commemorative days. At these times GBV is referred to as a women's issue, not a human rights issue. The only other time that GBV is dominant is during the annual

16 Days of No Violence against Women and Children campaign. During this time, media pick-up on GBV stories is very high. Politicians include GBV in their speeches in addition to wearing the white ribbon to demonstrate their support to ending GBV.



The top four topics most mentioned in speeches were rape and child sexual abuse (both 14.7%); domestic violence (11.3%) and sexual offences/indecent assault (9.7%). Gender violence and HIV (6.7%), physical violence (5.5%) and support (5%) for those affected were mentioned much less.

Politicians hardly made mention of sexual harassment (2.9%) which is an urgent problem in schools, institutions of higher learning and the work place. Legislative/political responses, which should be high on the agenda of political functionaries, were mentioned in 2.5% of speeches.

Femicide is a form of GBV that is on the rise, with men killing their partners as a result of domestic violence. It is not yet well understood as a form of GBV and does not feature prominently in prevention campaigns. Political leaders need to speak more about it and place it within the public discourse around GBV.

Non-physical violence and emotional abuse were hardly mentioned by political functionaries: Emotional abuse was addressed in just 1.3% of speeches and psychological violence in 1.7% of speeches. Combined non-physical violence/ abuse made up only 7.6% (combining emotional abuse, psychological violence, maintenance/ economic violence and sexual harassment).

Only 1.3% of the speeches made reference to advocacy and protest. The 365 Days National Action Plan (NAP) to End GBV in South Africa is an integrated, overarching strategy to address all forms of GBV. The South Africa NAP has not been effectively implemented since its launch in March 2007 and it appears to have fallen off the political agenda.

Political functionaries do not engage with same-sex violence, only 0.4% of speeches mention the topic.

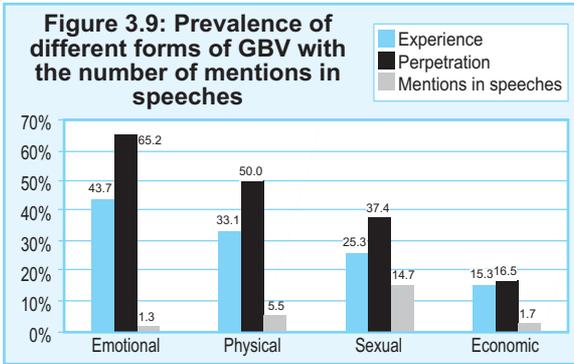


Figure 3.9 shows that politicians are not in touch with the forms of violence women are experiencing. More women are experiencing emotional violence than any other form of violence. Men are perpetrating very high levels (65.2%) of emotional violence against women yet politicians are only speaking about it in 1.3%, or 25 out of 1956 speeches. The trend is similar for economic violence.

More women are experiencing, and more men perpetrating, physical violence 33.1% and 50% respectively, than sexual and economic violence. Political speakers mention the subject in just 5.5% of their speeches.

Even though sexual violence is mentioned in 14.7% of the speeches made by political functionaries, it is low relative to women's

experience (25.3%) and men's perpetration (37.4%).

Conclusion

The levels of GBV experienced by women and perpetrated by men in the Gauteng sample, both in their lifetimes and in the last year, are alarming. In all instances the levels of perpetration by men in the Gauteng sample are higher than the levels of GBV experienced by women.

Emotional violence constitutes the highest proportion of violence experienced by women at 43.7%, and perpetrated by men (75.5%) in the Gauteng sample. Police statistics for the year shows that 0.3% of women in Gauteng reported domestic violence. This shows a substantial proportion of underreporting of GBV.

The prevalence figures emerging from the Gauteng GBV Indicators study is showing a disjuncture between what politicians perceive to be the key GBV priorities and what is actually happening on the ground.

Overall it is clear that political functionaries do not engage with GBV in their speeches and therefore are not putting GBV on the public agenda.