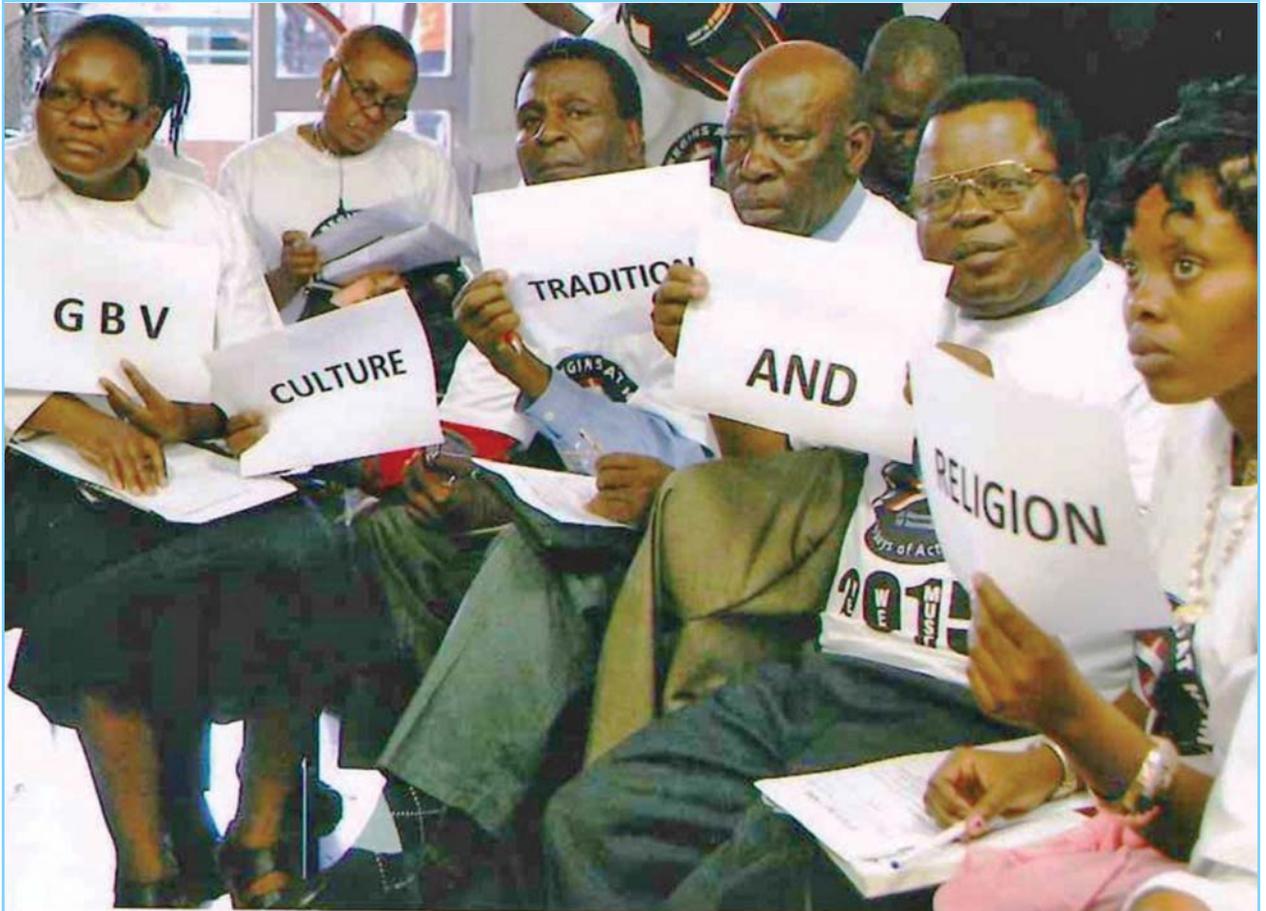


# EXTENT OF VIOLENCE



Participants attending the GBV, Culture, Tradition & Religion Cyber Dialogue during the 2012 Sixteen Days Campaign held in Gweru, Zimbabwe.

*Photo courtesy of Gweru City Council*

This chapter presents the extent of the different forms of violence experienced by women and perpetrated by men within and outside intimate relationships as reported mainly from the prevalence and attitudes survey and the qualitative “I” stories. A statistical and qualitative outline of the forms of violence against women is given in order to more fully evaluate the scale of such violence, while identifying gaps for future research.

### Characteristics of women and men participating in the survey

The final survey sample included 3326 women and 3274 men aged 18 years and above who were permanently resident in randomly preselected households. A table of actual numbers and proportions describing the sample is presented in Annex One. Some of the characteristics are that:

- Ninety-eight percent of women and 99% of men in the study were Zimbabwean nationals.
- The majority of women, (90%) and men (60%) in the sample uphold Christian beliefs.
- Forty two percent of women and men (52%) completed Ordinary Level. Fewer women, about 5% and 6% of men had a tertiary education qualification. A greater proportion of women (8%) than men (5%) had no schooling.
- The majority of women (77%) and men (59%) were unemployed in the 12 months before the survey.

### Relationship status and sex history

The majority of participants had been intimately involved or were currently involved in relationships, had sex and had a sexual debut after their 18th birthday. Ninety two percent of women and 87% of men had been in an intimate relationship. A greater proportion of men (81%) were involved in intimate relationships during the time of the survey compared to women (76%). Almost similar proportions of women (91%) and men (90%) had had sexual inter-

course in their lifetime. About a quarter of women (26%) and men (25%) had their sexual debut before the age of 18.

### Sexual and reproductive health and HIV

Eleven percent of women were diagnosed with STIs by a health practitioner at least once in their lifetime. Thirteen percent of women reported that they had a discoloured, smelly, itchy or uncomfortable discharge in their lifetime. Twelve percent of women experienced vaginal ulceration. Thirty percent of women in the sample had never tested for HIV. An even higher proportion of men (43%) said they never tested for HIV. For both women and men the majority of participants tested for HIV in the 12 months before the survey. Fifty eight percent of women and 41% of men tested in the 12 months before the survey. About a tenth (9%) of women and 13% of men tested 2-5 years before the survey. Three percent of women and two percent of men tested more than five years before the survey. Based on these findings, there is need for concerted efforts and programmes to encourage women to go for periodic HIV testing.

### Alcohol and substance use

Less than a tenth of women (9%) and about half of men (49%) interviewed drank alcohol in the 12 months to the survey. However, the majority of women (42%) were occasional drinkers. One in six women (15%) who drank alcohol were binge drinkers who took more than five drinks per occasion on a weekly basis. Over a quarter (28%), were regular drinkers and drank alcohol at least two times a week. Less than half (43.6%) of the women were in intimate relationships with men who drank alcohol while almost a tenth (10%) of women had partners that used drugs. Over half the men (56%) were regular drinkers and drank alcohol at least two times a week. Over a tenth (11%), were binge drinkers and took more than five drinks on a daily basis.

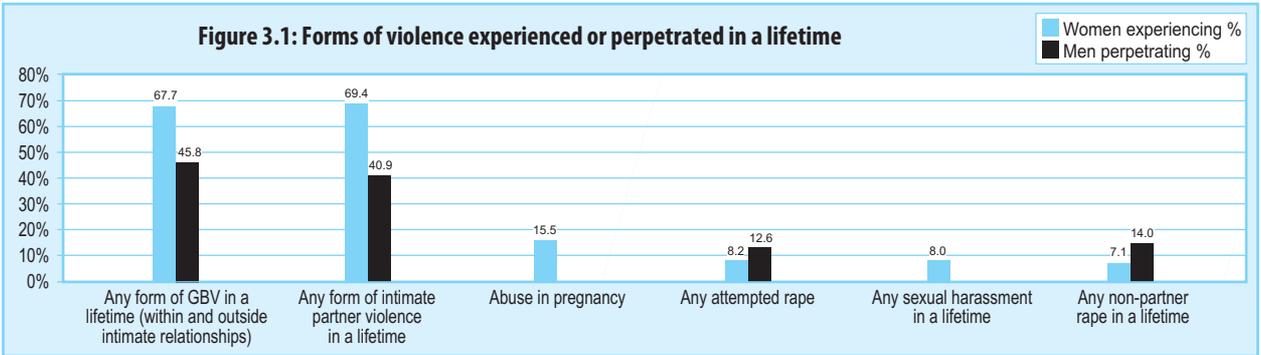


Figure 3.1 shows that 68% of the women interviewed experienced some form of VAW at least once in their lifetime while 46% of interviewed men reported ever perpetrating VAW at least once in their lifetime.

The most commonly reported form of VAW by women and men is IPV and the least reported is non-partner rape. Over two thirds, 69% of women experienced while 41% of men perpetrated IPV in their lifetime.

One in six (16%) of all ever pregnant women were abused during pregnancy. Eight percent of women said someone who was not their partner had attempted to rape them, while 13% of men admitted attempting to rape. Eight percent of women were sexually harassed either at work, school, while taking public transport or by a traditional healer or religious leader. Seven percent of women were raped by a non-partner while 14% of men raped a non-partner.

**Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)**

The term "intimate partner violence" describes physical, sexual, or psychological harm by a current or former partner or spouse. This section includes both spouses and dating partners, in current and former relationships, in the definition of intimate partner violence.

Currently or previously-partnered women were asked a series of questions about whether they had ever experienced specific violent acts and if so, whether this had happened in the 12 months preceding the survey. There are four main types of intimate partner violence (Saltzman et al. 2002):



*Sarudzai\** from Bindura, one of the "I" Story participants, faced a dilemma common to women in abusive marriages.

Sarudzai's boyfriend did not accept responsibility for fathering their first child. He physically abused her when she fell pregnant.

"We started to sleep together, though we were not married. I got pregnant, and two months later I went to live with him. He asked me if I really was pregnant, and I said I was not sure," she recounted.

"He began to abuse me, saying he was not responsible for my pregnancy. When he came home from work, he would pinch me, or subject me to some other form of physical abuse. I took an overdose of pills, hoping to die. When this failed, I thought of going back home, but was afraid because we had not told my relatives we were living together.

"When I gave birth he wouldn't hold his baby. I prayed, but nothing changed. I was battered with heavy sticks, and if I was carrying the baby I was ordered to put him down so that I could be 'disciplined'.

"Sometimes he used his fists, and physically abused the baby. No one helped me because everyone was afraid of him. Only his mother tried to stop him, but she would be overpowered."

**Physical violence** is the intentional use of physical force with the potential for causing death, disability, injury, or harm. Physical violence includes, but is not limited to, scratching; pushing; shoving; throwing; grabbing; biting; choking; shaking; slapping; punching; burning; use of a weapon; and use of restraints or one's body, size, or strength against another person.

**Sexual violence** includes the use of physical force to compel a person to engage in a sexual act against his or her will, whether or not the act is completed; attempted or completed sex act involving a person who is unable to understand the nature or condition of the act, to decline participation, or to communicate unwillingness to engage in the sexual act, e.g., because of illness, disability, or the influence of alcohol or other drugs, or because of intimidation or pressure; and abusive sexual contact.

**Psychological/emotional violence** involves trauma to the victim caused by acts, threats of acts, or coercive tactics. Psychological/emotional abuse can include, but is not limited to, humiliating the victim, controlling what the victim can and cannot do, withholding information from the victim, deliberately doing something to make the victim feel diminished or embarrassed, isolating the victim from friends and family.<sup>18</sup>

**Economic violence** involves denying the victim access to money or other basic resources, controlling the victims' finances to prevent them from accessing resources, working or maintaining control of earnings, achieving self-sufficiency, and gaining financial independence.

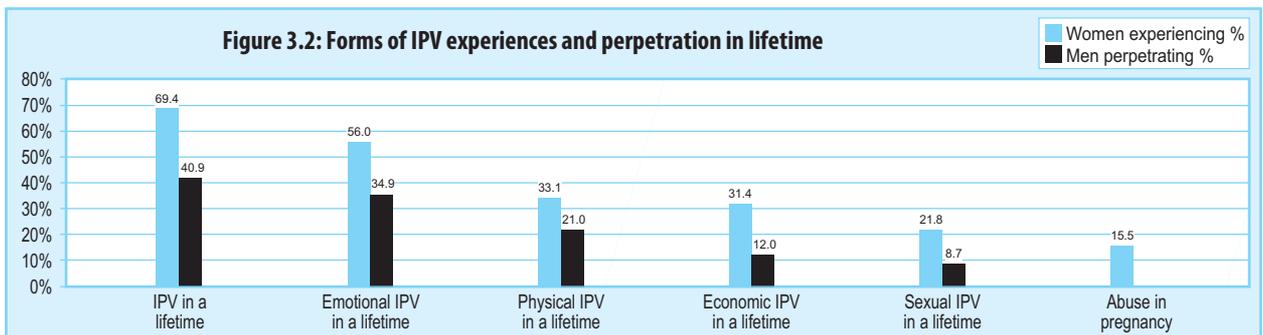


Figure 3.2 shows that the proportion of women reporting experience of all forms of IPV was greater than the proportion of men admitting perpetration. The most commonly experienced and perpetrated form of IPV is emotional IPV followed by physical then economic, sexual and lastly abuse in pregnancy. Over half (56%) of women experienced and 35% of men perpetrated emotional IPV in their lifetime. A third of women (33%) and about a fifth (21%) of men reported

physical IPV experience and perpetration respectively. About a third (31%) of women and 12% of men reported economic IPV experience and perpetration respectively. Twenty-two percent of women experienced and 9% of men perpetrated sexual IPV. About one in every six women (16%) who were ever pregnant were abused during at least one of their pregnancies.

<sup>18</sup> Saltzman et al 2002.

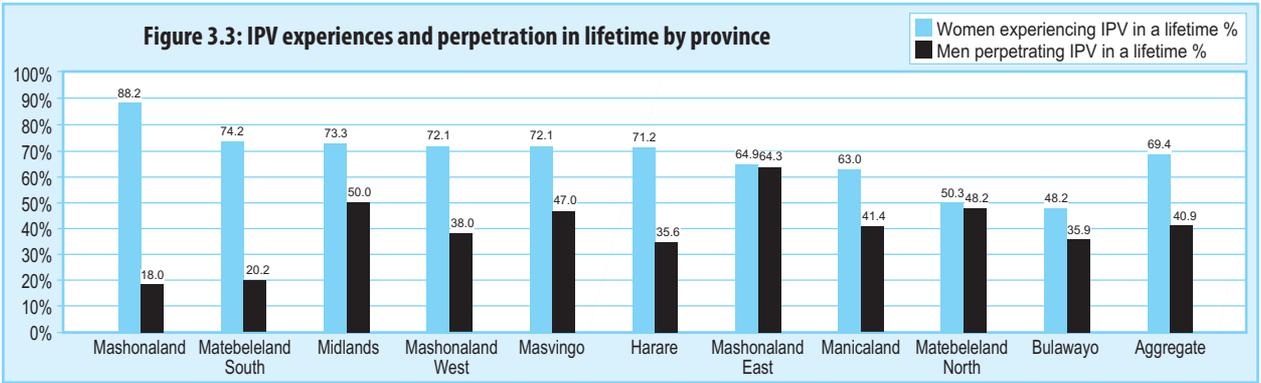


Figure 3.3 disaggregates the lifetime experience and perpetration of IPV by the different provinces. The IPV experience prevalence by province ranges from 48% to 88% while the perpetration prevalence ranges from 18% to 64%. Mashonaland Central province has the highest lifetime IPV experience prevalence with almost nine in every ten (88%) women reporting this.

The province however has the least reported perpetration prevalence, at 18%. There is need for further exploration into the disparity between the reported experience and perpetration prevalence. It appears that while women in Mashonaland Central province more openly disclosed their experience, men were less likely to disclose perpetration. This study did not further probe the reasons of why this could be the case.

Matebeleland South province had the second highest experience prevalence of 74%. This means three in every four women in the province reported experiencing IPV at least once in their lifetime. Similar to the findings for Mashonaland Central, the proportion of men disclosing perpetration is less than the proportion of women reporting IPV experiences. Only one in every five men (20%) admitted to perpetrating IPV at least once in their lifetime.

Midlands province had the third highest IPV experience prevalence. Seventy three percent of women and half of the men (50%) reported experience and perpetration respectively.



*Tendai\** from Harare shared how her husband became violent when she enquired about his whereabouts. Her story illustrates the different acts of IPV. She said, “My husband never showed me his salary slip, and on his own would decide about spending. He did not want me to visit his workplace. To ask him for anything invited violence into our home, and sometimes he would beat me severely, and then make me spend the night outside with the second baby.

He would use dangerous weapons to beat me, and I lost a tooth. I spent most of my time crying due to internal pains, and in one incident had five stitches on my forehead from his beatings. I reported the case to the police, but nothing happened. They told me that was how homes were run. I decided to go to my aunt with my two kids for advice.

My husband started coming home around midnight, and for fear of being abused or beaten, I could not ask the reason.

Mashonaland West province was the fourth highest in experience prevalence. Seventy-two percent of women and 38% of men reported experience and perpetration respectively.

Masvingo province was the fifth highest in experience prevalence similar to Mashonaland West. Seventy-

two percent of women and 47% of men reported experience and perpetration respectively.

Harare province was sixth in the experience prevalence. Seventy-one percent of women and 36% of men reported experience and perpetration respectively.

Mashonaland East province was seventh in experience prevalence but had the highest reported perpetration prevalence. Sixty-four percent of men admitted to perpetrating IPV at least once in their lifetime. The prevalence of perpetration in Mashonaland East province was almost similar to the experience prevalence reported by women (65%).

Manicaland province was eighth in the experience prevalence. Sixty-three percent of women and 41% of men reported experience and perpetration respectively.

Matebeleland North province was ninth in the experience prevalence. About a half of women (50%) and men (48%) reported experience and perpetration respectively.

Bulawayo province had the lowest lifetime IPV experience prevalence. About half of the women (48%) experienced IPV at least once in their lifetime.

A lower proportion of men (36%) disclosed perpetration.

Analysis of the 92 qualitative “I” stories collected depicts almost similar trends to those of the survey. Of the forms of violence disclosed, the predominant form is intimate partner violence and the most prevalent form is emotional violence.

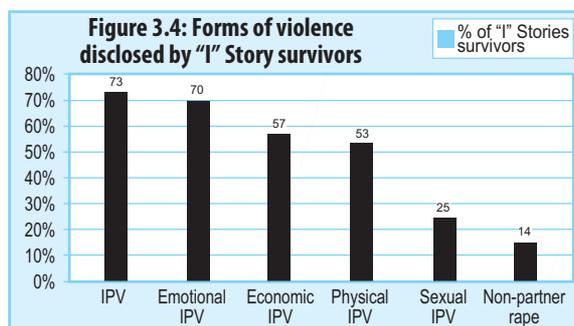


Figure 3.4 shows that similar to the survey, the most commonly reported form of violence during the “I” story workshops was intimate partner violence. Emotional IPV was most common while sexual IPV was the least common. Almost three quarters (73%) of women experienced IPV while 70% disclosed experience of emotional violence. The stories also show that one woman, can experience more than one form of violence.

### Past year prevalence

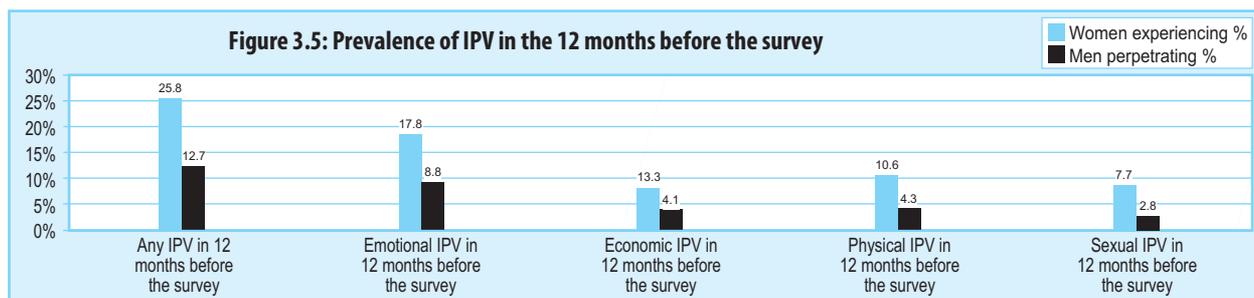


Figure 3.5 shows that over a quarter (26%) of women reported IPV experience while an eighth (13%) of men reported IPV perpetration in the 12 months before

the survey. As in the case of lifetime prevalence, emotional IPV (18%) constitutes the highest form of VAW. Economic IPV was the second highest (13%)

form of IPV in the last twelve months, followed by physical IPV (11%), and sexual IPV (8%).

For all the forms of violence, a greater proportion of women report experience compared to the propor-

tion of men that report perpetration. One in 12 men (8%) emotionally abused, 4% economically abused, 4% physically abused and 3% sexually abused their partners in the 12 months before the survey.

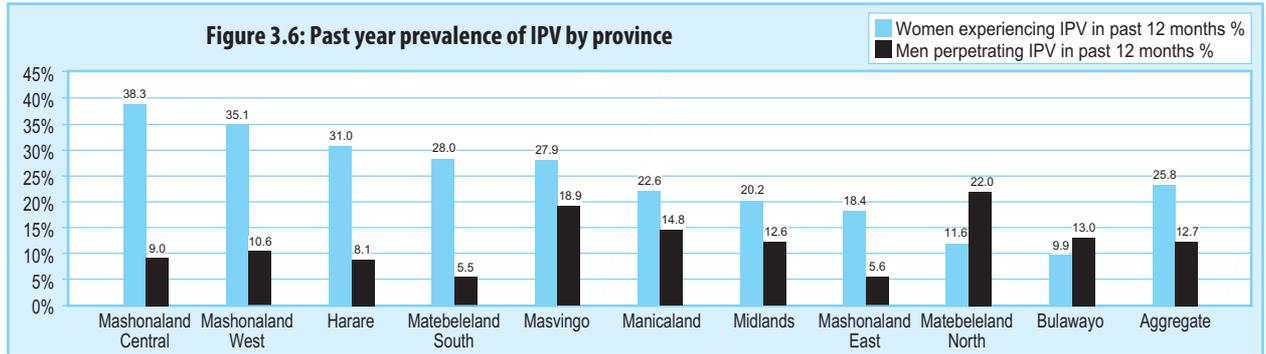


Figure 3.6 shows that the highest experience prevalence in the 12 months before the survey was recorded in Mashonaland Central (38%) and the least was recorded in Bulawayo (10%). The highest perpetration prevalence was recorded in Matebeleland North (22%) and the least was recorded in Matebeleland South and Mashonaland East (6%). Matebeleland North and Bulawayo are the only provinces where the perpetration prevalence reported by men was higher than the experience prevalence reported by women.

**Distribution by province**

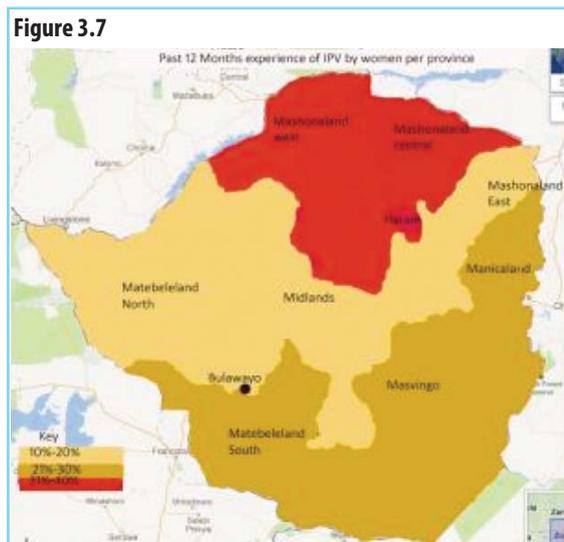


Figure 3.7 shows that the prevalence of IPV experienced by women in the past 12 months by province ranged from 10% in Bulawayo to 38% in Mashonaland Central. A zoning of the prevalence reported by women shows high prevalence in the more northern provinces including Mashonaland Central, Mashonaland West and Harare (shown in red), followed by those in the south and towards the east including Matebeleland South, Masvingo and Manicaland (shown in brown). Matebeleland North, Bulawayo, Midlands and Mashonaland (shown in yellow) have prevalence in the lower extent zone.

**Emotional IPV**

Emotional IPV was assessed by six questions that asked about a series of different acts that were controlling, frightening, intimidating or undermined women's self-esteem. Female 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.

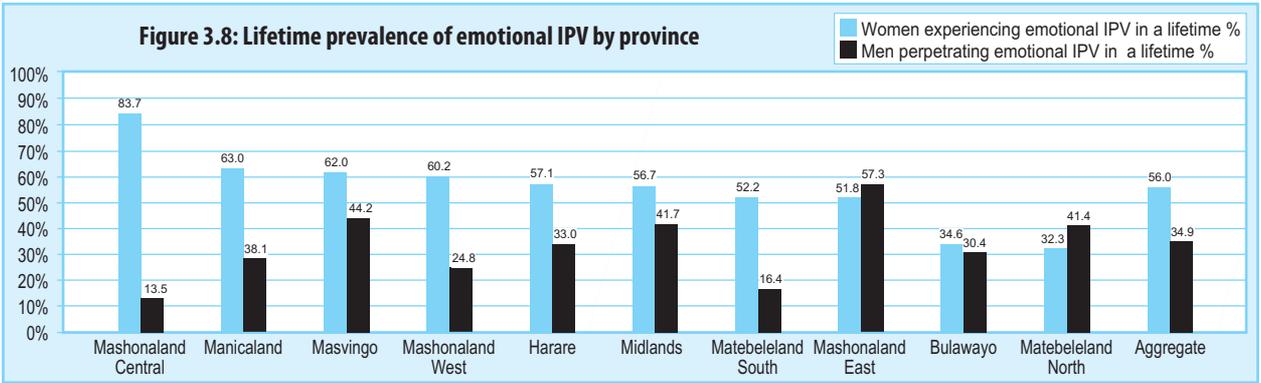


Figure 3.8 shows that, Mashonaland Central (84%) had the highest emotional IPV experience prevalence, followed by Manicaland (63%), Masvingo (62%), Mashonaland West (60%), Harare (57%), Midlands (57%), Matebeleland South (52%), Mashonaland East (52%), Bulawayo (35%) and lastly Matebeleland North (32%). The range of experience prevalence was from 32-84%.

In all provinces except Mashonaland East and Matebeleland North, the experience prevalence reported by women is higher than the perpetration prevalence reported by men. Mashonaland East has the highest perpetration prevalence (57%), while Mashonaland Central has the least (14%).

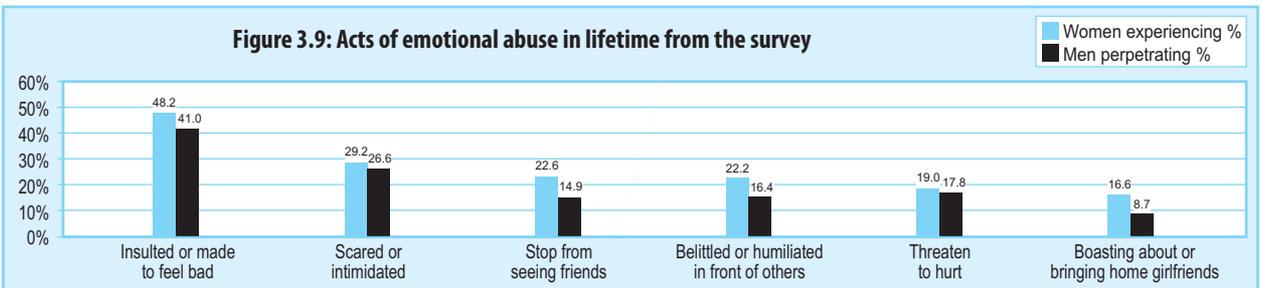


Figure 3.9 shows that the most common act of emotional violence experienced was being insulted or made to feel bad. Almost half (48%), of the women said they were insulted or made to feel bad by their partner. Forty one percent of men disclosed doing this. Twenty nine percent of women were scared or intimidated, 22% were stopped from seeing friends, 22% were belittled, 19% were threatened and 17%

said their intimate partners boasted about or brought home girlfriends.

Twenty seven percent of men intimidated, 15% stopped their partners from seeing friends, 16% belittled and 18% threatened to hurt their partners. Less than a tenth (9%) said they boasted or brought home girlfriends.

**Figure 3.10: Past year prevalence of emotional IPV by province**

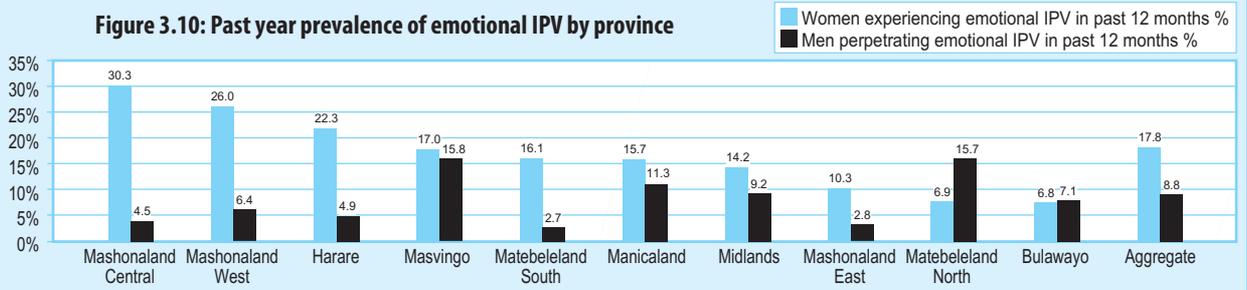


Figure 3.10 shows that Mashonaland Central has the highest past 12 months experience prevalence of emotional IPV (30%) while Bulawayo had the least (7%). However the highest perpetration prevalence was reported by men in Matebeleland North province (16%) and the lowest prevalence was in Matebeleland South (3%). Also unique to Matebeleland North is that the proportion of men disclosing perpetration (16%) is significantly higher compared to the proportion of women reporting experience (7%). The experience and perpetration prevalence in Bulawayo province is almost comparable. In the other eight provinces the proportion of women reporting emotional IPV experience is higher than the proportion of men reporting emotional IPV perpetration.

Acts of emotional violence referred to in the “I” stories include betrayal associated to extra-marital affairs, insults, name-calling, promiscuity of partners, being denied conjugal rights, rejection, being accused of promiscuity leading to questioning of children’s paternity, desertion, jealousy and controlling behaviours including being stopped from attending church or meeting friends.

### Physical IPV

Physical IPV was assessed in the survey 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. Similarly men were asked if they had done any of these acts to their intimate partners.



*Kim\** shared that her HIV positive husband physically abused her. She sustained injuries and was hospitalised after he assaulted her. Her story illustrates acts of physical abuse. She said, “When he tested positive, life became more difficult, he did not want me to go anywhere or even to talk to anyone, I was forced to stay in the house sleeping. I became a slave and I was left without an option but to stay with him. He threatened to kill me if I ran away.”

One day he came back home in the afternoon, threatening me with a knife and beating me up, forcing me to have unprotected sex. This was when I escaped with my kids again and ran to my sister’s house. My sister, Memory was very cross to the extent that she forced me to report the case and he was arrested. We went to court and he was sentenced to one month in prison.

One day after serving his prison term, he came where we stayed and destroyed everything in the house. Every night he would come to my sister’s house, shouting and banging doors, we had sleepless nights. One day, we bumped into each other and he started beating me. I was left to die. I was taken to hospital and he was arrested for the second time.

The day before he was arrested while I was in hospital, he came to my sister’s house. He smeared his faeces all over the doors and the veranda during the night.

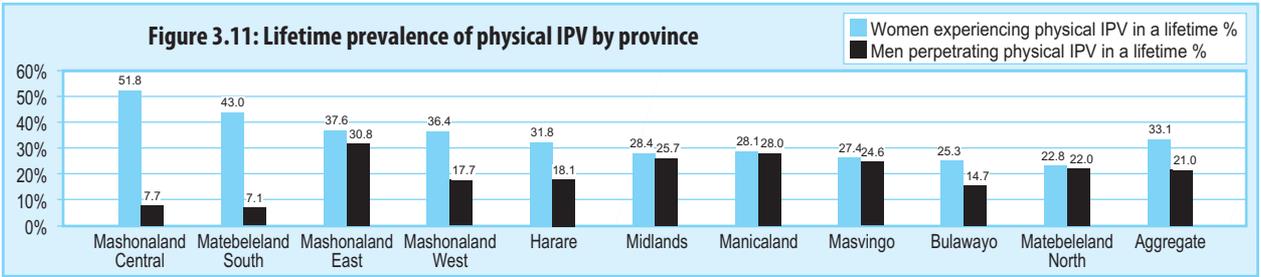


Figure 3.11 shows the prevalence of physical IPV by province. Again, Mashonaland Central has the highest experience prevalence (52%) and low perpetration prevalence (8%). Similarly, Matebeleland South also has high experience prevalence (40%) and the lowest perpetration prevalence (7%). In all provinces, the proportion of women reporting experience is higher than the proportion of men disclosing perpetration.

Only in Manicaland, is the experience and perpetration prevalence reported by women and men similar.

Fifty-three percent of women participating in the “I” stories were physically abused. The predominant act of physical abuse was beating. Other acts include choking, pushing, and destruction of property, threats to kill, slapping, kicking and biting.

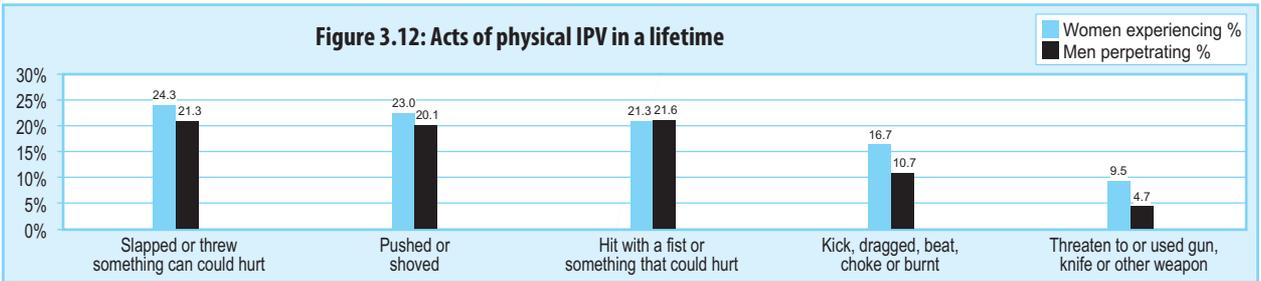


Figure 3.12 shows that the most common act of physical IPV reported by women is being slapped or having something thrown at them that could hurt. A quarter of women (24%) and a fifth (20%) of men reported this. Twenty three percent of women were pushed or shoved; 21% were hit with a fist or dangerous object; 17% were kicked, dragged, choked or burnt and 10% were threatened with a gun or other weapon.

Twenty percent of men pushed or shoved; 22% hit a partner with a fist or dangerous object, 11% kicked, dragged, choked or burnt and 5% threatened a partner with a gun or other weapon.

**Table 3.1: Frequency of physical IPV**

Criteria	Women experiences (%)	Men perpetration (%)
Never	66.9	79.0
Once	10.5	9.5
More than once	22.6	11.5

Table 3.1 shows that the majority of women that experienced physical IPV in fact experienced this on more than one occasion. About one in every four (23%) women participating in the survey experienced physical IPV more than once in their lifetime. Similarly, the majority of men perpetrating sexual or physical

IPV have done so more than once. About one in eight men participating in the survey perpetrated physical violence more than once in their lifetime.

### Extent of reporting physical IPV in lifetime

Women who reported experience of physical IPV in their lifetime were asked whether they reported the incidents to the police or health facility.

Criteria	%
Proportion of ever partnered women who were physically abused, injured and who sought medical attention in lifetime	2.6
Proportion of ever partnered who were physically abused and who reported abuse or threats to police in lifetime	2.4

**Speak Out!** *Maidei\** from Bindura spoke of how her HIV positive husband sexually abused her and insisted on unprotected sex and became violent when she refused. "One day he was not well and went to the clinic, where he tested HIV-positive. The situation became worse, and I ran away with my kids. He caught me and beat me, pushing my head against a wall. I managed to escape through the help of a friend. This was all because I had refused to have unprotected sex, and he was saying he had spent a lot of money on my expenses.

After seven months Paul changed into a monster, and wanted to fulfil his 'experiment'. All along we had had protected sex, but one day he came home and said we would no longer use condoms. I refused, and several times he beat me. I did not tell anyone. I would sleep outside the house with my kids. When I refused to have sex with him he would throw my things outside, and shout all sorts of names in front of my kids."

Table 3.2 shows that three percent of women were physically abused by intimate partners and sought medical attention as a result of the injuries sustained. Two percent of physically abused women reported their experiences to the police.

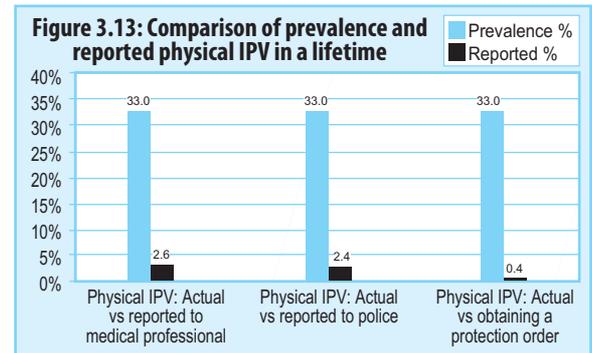


Figure 3.13 shows that there is huge underreporting of physical IPV both to police and to health care facilities. Only one in thirteen women (2.6%) who were physically abused by intimate partners in their lifetime sought medical attention after injuries. A lower proportion of women reported the incident to the police. One in every fourteen (2.4%), of physically abused women in the survey reported the case to the police. An even less proportion (0.4%) obtained a protection order against a physically abusive partner.



Providing counselling and care at the Adult Rape Clinic, Zimbabwe. Photo courtesy of Adult Rape Clinic

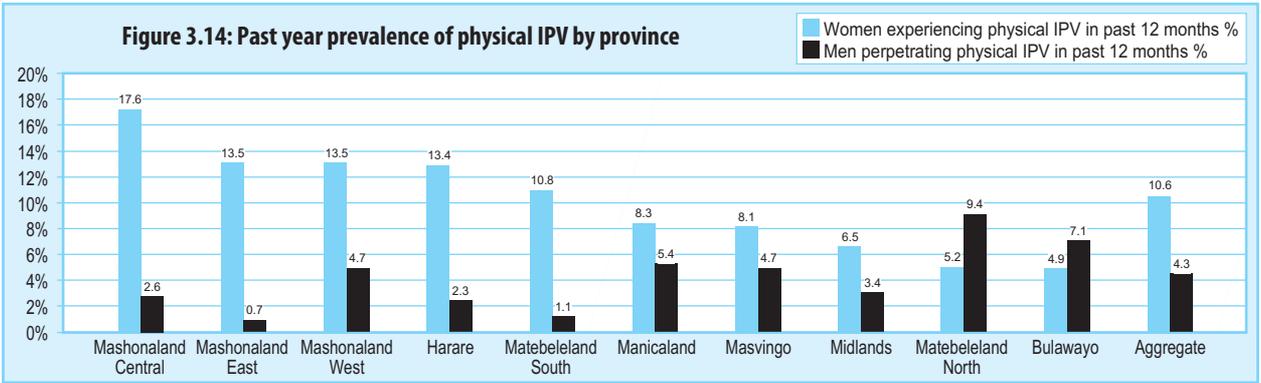


Figure 3.14 shows the prevalence of physical IPV by province in the past 12 months. The experience prevalence ranged from 18% in Mashonaland Central to 5% in Bulawayo. The perpetration prevalence

ranged from 9% in Matebeleland North to 0.7% in Mashonaland East province. A greater proportion of men compared to women reported perpetration in Matebeleland North and Bulawayo.

**Table 3.3: Extent of reporting physical IPV in past 12 months**

Criteria	%
Proportion of women who experienced physical IPV in 12 months before the survey	10.6
Proportion of women who experienced physical IPV in 12 months before the survey and reported incident to police	1.7
Proportion of women, who experienced physical IPV in 12 months before the survey and who sought medical attention	1.5

Table 3.3 shows the significant underreporting of physical IPV to police and to health care facilities in the 12 months before the survey. Only one in every six women (1.7%) who were physically abused by their partners reported to police while only one in seven women that were physically abused sought medical attention after injuries.

**Sexual IPV**

The study assessed sexual IPV experienced by women using three questions. These covered: 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.

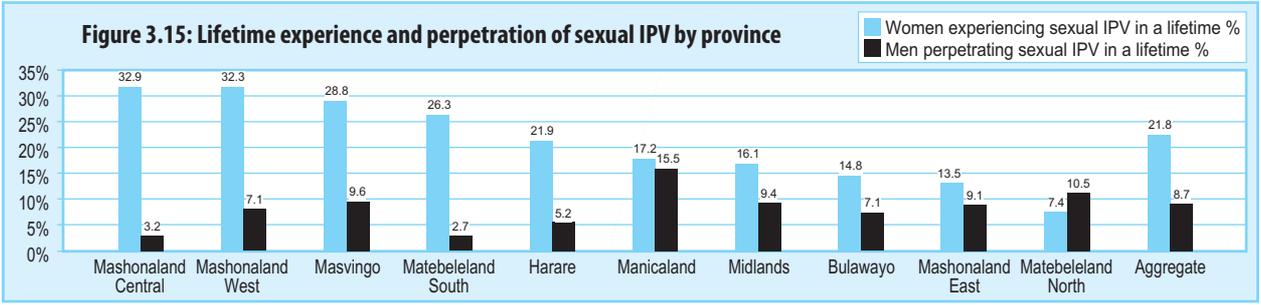


Figure 3.15 shows that, both at national and provincial level, a higher proportion of women than men reported sexual IPV. Above a fifth (22%) of women experienced while less than a tenth (9%) of men disclosed perpetration. Again, the highest prevalence of sexual IPV experience was recorded in Mashonaland Central (33%) and the lowest in Matebeleland North (7%). Only in Matebeleland North did a higher proportion of men (11%) compared to women disclose sexual IPV (7%).

Only in Manicaland, was the perpetration (16%) and experience (17%) prevalence almost comparable. The difference between sexual IPV experience prevalence and perpetration prevalence is somewhat greater than the other forms of IPV and warrants further exploration.

An almost similar proportion of women (25%) participating in the “I” stories workshops were sexually abused by their intimate partners at least once in

their lifetime. This included being forced to have sex, demand for sex after beating, forced to have unprotected sex and denied conjugal rights.

**Table 3.4: Frequency of sexual IPV**

Criteria	Women experiences (%)	Men perpetration (%)
Never	76.2	91.3
Once	4.1	3.8
More than once	17.8	4.9

Table 3.4 shows that as with physical IPV, the majority of women that experienced sexual IPV in fact experienced this on more than one occasion. Seventeen percent of women participating in the survey experienced sexual IPV more than once in their lifetime. Similarly, the majority of men perpetrating sexual or physical IPV have done so more than once. Five percent of men participating in the survey perpetrated sexual IPV more than once in their lifetime.

**Figure 3.16: Past year prevalence of sexual IPV by province**

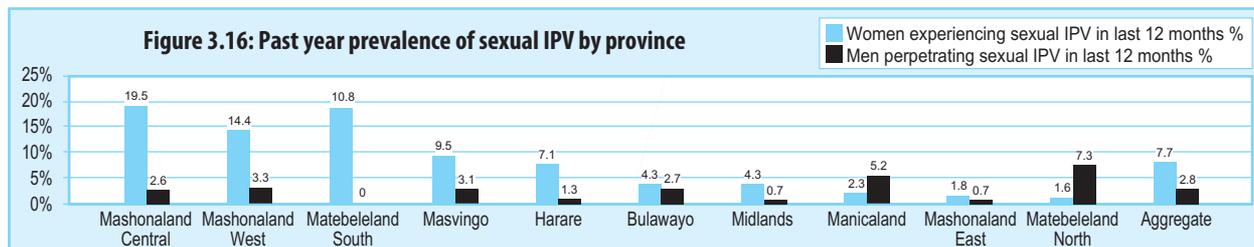


Figure 3.16 shows that the experience prevalence of sexual IPV in the 12 months before the survey ranged from 20% in Mashonaland Central to 2% in Matebeleland North and Mashonaland East. Conversely, Matebeleland North also had the highest prevalence of perpetration (7%). Only in Matebeleland North and Manicaland is the perpetration prevalence reported by men higher than the experience prevalence reported by women.

### Economic IPV

Acts of economic IPV in this study include withholding money for household use, prohibiting a partner from earning an income, taking a partner's earnings or

forcing a partner and children to leave the house in which they were staying.



Women pound maize in Zimbabwe.

Photo by Trevor Davies



Sipho\* from Ntabazinduna shared how her husband refuses to contribute to the family welfare and she has to take the sole responsibility of providing for the children. Her story illustrates experience of economic IPV.

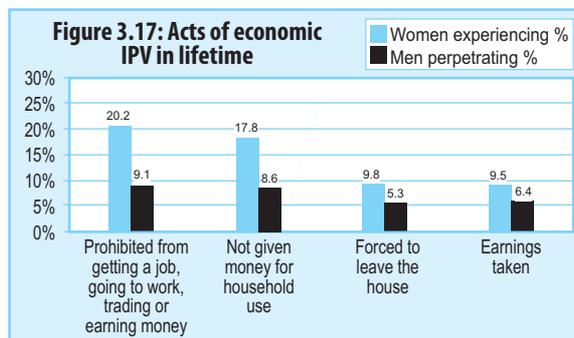
Sipho said, "After my mother died, I married a man from Maxheleni. I left home as well as my career and stayed with him. He was then unemployed, but is now self-employed as a gold panner. We have two children, but he never contributes financially for their care.

I paid hospital bills and bought them clothes, as he hid his money from me. We went on living like that for two years, until I reported him to his aunt. His family intervened, and the situation got better for a while, then worsened again. My husband does not know the cost of children's clothing, as he has never bought any. My children are clothed by relatives and generous people.

I suffered and regretted leaving my job. I think my husband sees us as birds, born clothed, because he doesn't care about us.

Figure 3.17 shows that the most common act of economic IPV experienced or perpetrated include the

prohibition to getting a job or trading and activities associated with generation of income. A fifth (20%) of women reported being prohibited by partners while 9% disclosed prohibiting partners to pursue paid work or trading. The second most common form was refusal of partner to provide money for household use, being evicted from the matrimonial home and being forced to hand over earnings.



Over half (57%) of the women were economically abused. Acts of economic abuse reported include a partner not supporting his children, being prohibited from working or participate in income generating activities, demand for money, gambling away all earnings, a partner stealing wages, being abandoned during pregnancy, being evicted or locked out from the matrimonial home.

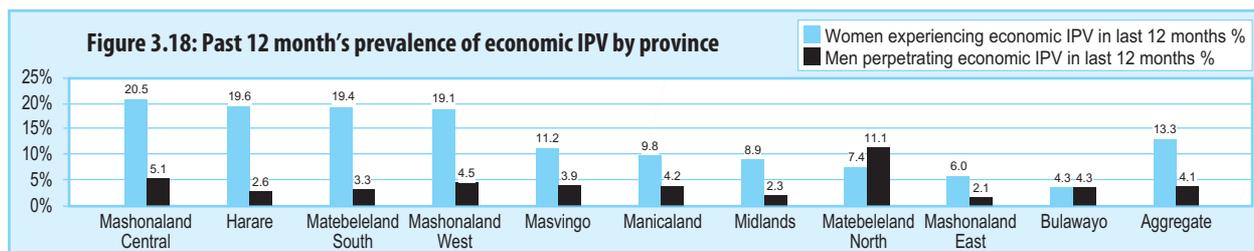


Figure 3.18 shows the prevalence of economic IPV in the 12 months before the survey. The experience prevalence ranges from 21% in Mashonaland Central to 4% in Bulawayo. The perpetration prevalence ranges from 11% in Matebeleland North to 2% in Mashonaland East.

### Multiple forms of IPV

The majority of women (72%) that were abused by their partners experienced more than one form of IPV. This finding confirms the notion that when violence occurs, it most often manifests in different forms. Anna's\* story illustrates how women can experience different forms of VAW.



## **Perseverance in an abusive marriage** **By Anna\* (Harare)**

In 1992 I married my loving husband Norest\* customarily and our life seemed to be the best of all marriages. Three years down the line in 1995 my life started to change. He started to show his true colours and revealed his jealous behaviour openly to me. He gave me a lot of do's and don'ts of which I felt them more oppressing to me. However to my lover I openly asked him why he was doing all that to me and he told me that I must obey everything he said since I am under him.

That year he asked me to wed him at the magistrate's court. He lied to my parents that he would finish paying lobola after the wedding so they agreed. I knew he was lying since he was not working. He did not want me to socialise with other people and forced me to stay indoors unless we went out together.

My life changed and worsened by being beaten, being accused of doing something I did not do, threatening to kill me with his hammer which he kept in the bedroom. If I tried to defend myself he would threaten to kill me and kill himself since he said our marriage would be broken only by death. If I had wisdom of our future, I would have divorced him in those early years of our marriage. We went to church together and the elders of the church could tell I had problems. If they approached me he would interrupt the discussions until they realised that they should talk to both of us. Counsellors from our church and relatives came and went but nothing changed our situation, only to blame me of the truth I told them. Through all this counselling, he knew people at church knew his character so he stopped going to church and started to drink beer.

Many years passed surviving in that violent relationship and kept praying for better days. I tried to help him that maybe one day the Lord would untie him from the devil's bondage. This hope made me to persevere through this violent life. The abuse affected me up to a point that even now if I see people fighting I get affected. If I see horror movies I see as if the blood is being sucked from my body since he always threatens to suck my blood

from my neck. He always chokes me on my neck and bites me until blood comes out. If I see a person drunk I feel unstable and afraid of that person.

I faced all these effects but could not leave this abusive relationship because I trusted that the Lord was going to change him through my prayers. I started to blame myself for not being able to help him since he always blamed me for being a failure. He always undermined me until I felt helpless and worthless thereby causing me to lose confidence in whatever challenge I faced. This lack of confidence destroyed my life such that I could not share my problems with other people and seek help.

I was abused sexually. He demanded that we have anal sex, threatening to insert objects in my private parts, forcing me to do what is done in pornography and forcing me to have sex even when I didn't feel like. He also abused me emotionally asking me endless questions and accusing me of having boyfriends, threatening to hurt me and the children, tearing and burning my clothes, threatening to burn the house and locking us out of the house. He also abused me economically by not allowing me to go to work and asking me for money which I did not have and disturbing me when I was at my workplace. He also abused me physically, pushing me, pulling my hair, choking my throat until I felt I could not breath, using dangerous weapons like a big knife which he kept in the bedroom.

With all this abuse he did to me, I felt like asking for forgiveness even if I had not done anything wrong to him. Although I was facing these experiences, I was not allowed to ask for help or to watch women's programmes which came out on TV like Musasa adverts. He would ask me to change the channel. All our relatives were now aware of his abusive behaviour. Norest's father is the one who went to Musasa on my behalf to seek help. I was afraid to go to Musasa because I thought Norest would know that I am trying to report the issue. I desperately needed help and peace so I visited Musasa and I asked for a protection order. Now I am staying at peace and can understand all the abuse that I went through. It was an abnormal life.

## Abuse in pregnancy

This study explored the prevalence of IPV by pregnant women which may have been prompted or intensified by pregnancy. Abuse in pregnancy may be due to a longstanding abusive relationship that continues when a woman becomes pregnant. It may also commence because of various reasons such as

unintended pregnancy or suspicion of birth control sabotage.

Women participating in the survey were asked if they experienced acts of abuse during any of their pregnancies.



*Sarudzai\** from Harare shared how she was abused during her first pregnancy. Her story illustrates abuse in pregnancy as a result of conflict about paternity.

She said, "We started having sex before we married. I got pregnant, and two months later I went to live with him. He asked me if I really was pregnant, and I said I was not sure. Later when I confirmed my pregnancy he began to abuse me, saying he was not responsible. When he came home from work he would pinch me, or subject me to some other form of physical abuse. I took an overdose of pills, hoping I would die. When this failed I thought of going back

home, but was afraid, because we had not told my relatives we were living together.

We always had sex, but sometimes things were hectic. I started pretending to be asleep when he got back from work. He would ask me what the matter was, and I lied, saying I was not well. He would then prepare his food and leave nothing for me.

When I gave birth he wouldn't hold his baby. I prayed, but nothing changed. I was battered with heavy sticks, and if I was carrying the baby I was ordered to leave him so that I could be 'disciplined'."

**Figure 3.19: Lifetime prevalence of abuse in pregnancy by province**

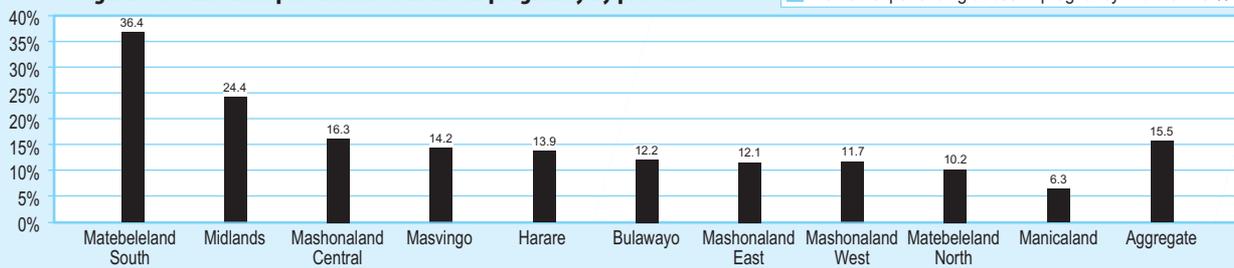


Figure 3.19 shows that over a third (36%) of ever pregnant women in Matebeleland South reported experiencing abuse in pregnancy at least once in their lifetime. The second highest prevalence was in Midlands (24%), followed by Mashonaland Central (16%), Masvingo (14%), Harare (14%), Bulawayo (12%), Mashonaland East (12%), Mashonaland West (12%), Matebeleland North (10%) and lastly Manicaland (6%).

**Figure 3.20: Acts of abuse in pregnancy in a lifetime**

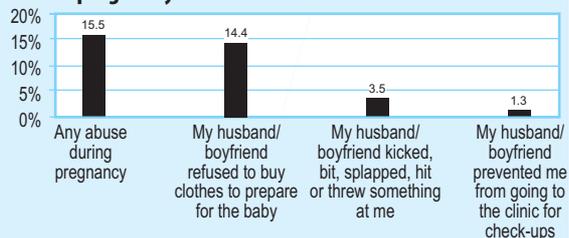


Figure 3.20 shows that one in every six women that were ever pregnant report abuse during pregnancy. The most common form of abuse was economic and involved refusal by partner to contribute to buy clothes to prepare for the baby. Fourteen percent of ever pregnant women reported this. One in twenty five (4%) of women were physically abused during pregnancy and about one percent were prevented from going to the clinic for antenatal care.

### Non-partner rape

The definition of rape according to the Zimbabwe Criminal Code is when *“a male person knowingly has sexual intercourse or anal sexual intercourse with a female person and, at the time of the intercourse the female person has not consented to it or there is a real risk or possibility that she may not have consented to it”*. The Code also specifies that rape is not limited to penetration of the male organ but can include the use of an object, or engagement in fellatio or cunnilingus.

The World Report on Violence and Health defines sexual violence against women as (Jewkes, Sen & Garcia-Moreno 2002): *“any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts to traffic, or otherwise directed against, women’s sexuality, using coercion (i.e. psychological intimidation, physical force, or threats of harm), by any person regardless of relationship to the victim, in any setting, including but not limited to home and work”*.

This research dealt with parts of the Criminal Code and the WHO definition. The research uses the term “rape” to refer to the use of force or coercion to obtain sex against a person’s will or when they are unable to freely give (or withhold) consent. The study assessed rape of women by men by asking three questions. These covered: whether a man, who is not a husband or boyfriend, forced or coerced a woman to have sex against her will; whether a woman had been forced to have sex with a man when too drunk or drugged to stop him, and whether men forced the women to have sex with more than one man at the same time. The latter is an indicator of gang rape. Men were asked whether they had ever done any of these acts of forced sex.



Tsitsi\* was raped by her cousin but her family was not supportive and forced her not to talk about it. Her story also illustrates the conspiracy to silence that is associated with being a rape victim.

She said, “I narrated the whole story to my aunt (my mother’s sister) and later reported the case to the police at Chivi Township. My cousins were arrested but they were released on bail. The family members discussed the matter and they withdrew the report that I had made arguing that it was not proper for me to cause the arrest of a relative. The story was talked about in our district and my grandmother accused me of tarnishing the family name. She ordered me to go and stay with my mother in Chiredzi. I was chased from the house with no bus fare and I walked until my feet were swollen. I thought of committing suicide but I was assisted by some people whom I had met and told my story. They got me a job as a helper.

### Lifetime prevalence

Overall 7% of women reported experience while 14% of men reported forced sex with a woman who was not an intimate partner in their lifetime. Over half of women that were raped (3.7%) said they had experienced this more than once and a higher proportion of male rape perpetrators (9%) said they had only done so once in their lifetime.

In all provinces, the prevalence of rape reported by men is higher than that reported by women.

On the other hand 14% of women participating in the “I” stories were raped by non-partners. Of these, the majority could identify the rapists with only a few of the survivors reporting that the men that raped them were strangers

### Under reporting of rape

Women that were raped by non-partners were further asked whether they had reported the incidents to the police or if they had sought medical help.

**Table 3.5: Extent of reporting rape and accessing services in lifetime**

Criteria	%
Proportion of all women who were raped in lifetime	7.1
Proportion of all women who were raped and reported incident to police in lifetime	0.7
Proportion of all women, who were raped and who sought medical attention in lifetime	0.4
Proportion of all women, who were raped and who accessed PEP in lifetime	0.2
Proportion of all women, who were raped and sought professional counselling in lifetime	0.3

Table 3.6 shows that the majority of rape survivors do not report to the police and to health care facilities. Only one in every ten women (0.7%) who were raped by non-partners had reported to the police. Only one in every 18 (0.4%) women who were raped sought medical attention. These findings show an even higher extent of underreporting of non-partner rape compared to physical IPV.

### Past year prevalence

In the 12 months before the survey, less than two percent (1.6%) of women were forced into sex by a non-partner while 1.8% of the men had forced sex with non-partners. The highest prevalence of forced sex experience was recorded in Mashonaland West while the least was reported in Matebeleland North. The highest forced sex perpetration prevalence was recorded in Bulawayo province (4%) and the least was recorded in Mashonaland East.

### Sexual harassment

Sexual harassment is defined as any unwelcome sexual advance, request for sexual favour, verbal or physical conduct or gesture of a sexual nature, or any other behaviour of a sexual nature that might reasonably be expected or be perceived to cause offence or humiliation to another. Such sexual advance or request arises out of unequal power relations.

Women participating in this study were asked whether they had experienced sexual harassment in the workplace, schools, while using public transport or when seeking help from traditional or religious leaders.

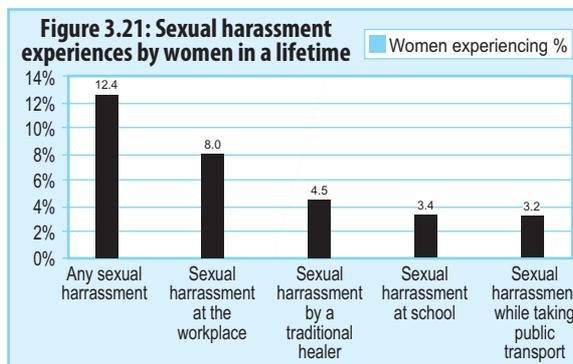
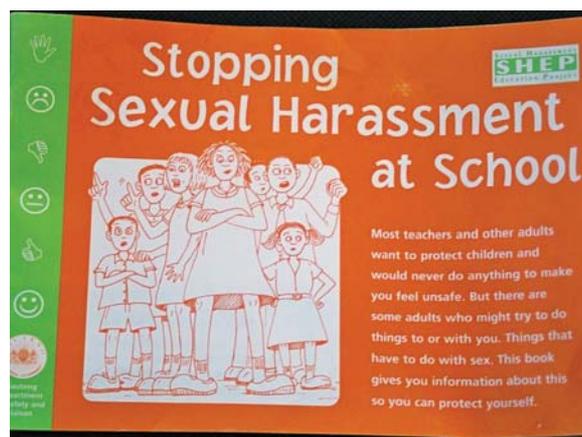


Figure 3.21 shows that overall one in every eight women experienced some form of sexual harassment in their lifetime. The most common form of sexual harassment occurred in the workplace (8%), followed by sexual harassment by traditional healers or religious leaders (5%), then at school (3%) and lastly while using public transport (3%). These findings show that women are vulnerable to abuse even in the public sphere.



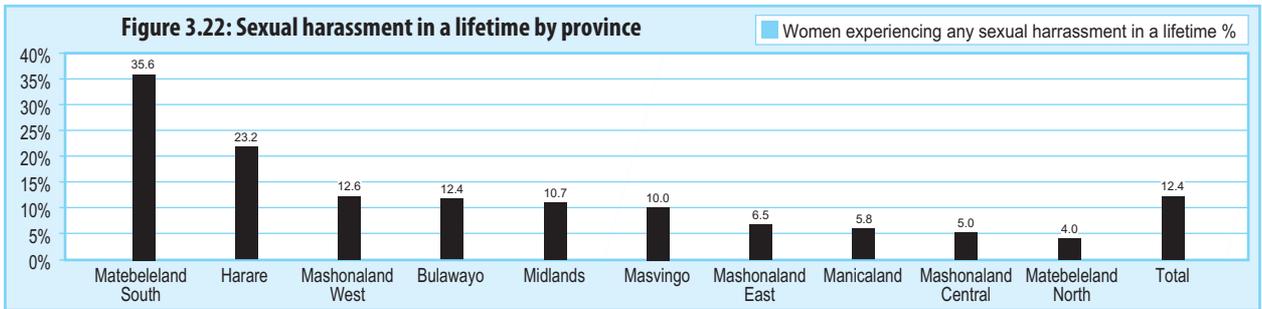


Figure 3.22 shows that the highest prevalence of experience of sexual harassment was recorded in Matebeleland South (36%), followed by Harare (23%), Mashonaland West (13%), Bulawayo (12%), Midlands

(11%), Masvingo (10%), Mashonaland East (7%), Manicaland (6%), Mashonaland Central (5%) and lastly Matebeleland North (4%).

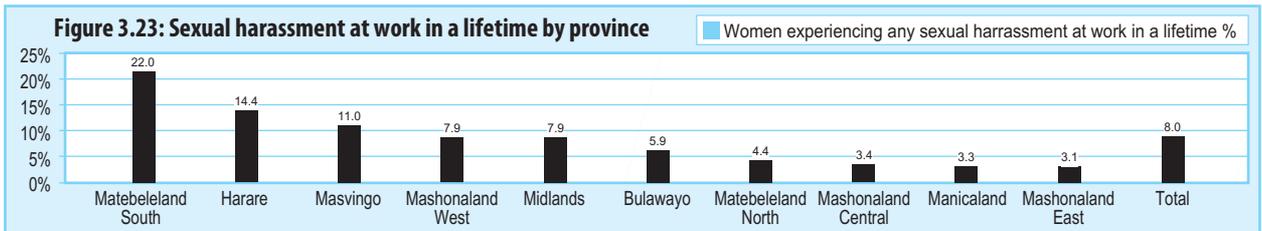


Figure 3.23 shows that the highest prevalence of any experience of sexual harassment in the workplace was recorded in Matebeleland South (22%), followed by Harare (14%), Masvingo (11%), Mashonaland West (8%), Midlands (8%), Bulawayo (6%), Matebeleland North (4%), Mashonaland Central (3%), Manicaland (3%) and lastly Mashonaland East (3%).

### Sexual harassment by province

One in every eight women (12%) in Matebeleland South was sexually harassed at school. Seven percent of women in Harare, four percent of women in Masvingo, three percent of women in Mashonaland West, two percent of women in Bulawayo, two percent of women in Mashonaland East, two percent of women in the Midlands province, one percent of women in Manicaland and one percent of women in Mashonaland Central were sexually harassed at schools.

### Discussion

The prevalence of IPV in this study is evidence that the home is one of the most unsafe spaces in our society. The violence reported also appeared cyclical in that women reported multiple incidents. The study, like the ZDHS 2010-2011, identifies Mashonaland Central as having the highest overall IPV prevalence and prevalence of all forms of IPV.

Special emphasis should be placed on emotional and economic prevalence. These forms, while being shown to be highly prevalent, are often not addressed.

The findings of this research indicate higher levels of violence in some cases than those reported in the ZDHS 2010-2011, the most recent VAW related survey. The prevalence of emotional IPV reported by women in the VAW Baseline research (56%) was remarkably higher than that reported through the ZDHS 2010-

2011 (27%). The overall prevalence of emotional violence reported in this study is twice that reported in the ZDHS 2010-2011. The prevalence of emotional violence per province is also higher in this study compared to the ZDHS 2010-2011.

In terms of distribution, Matebeleland North is consistently the province with the lowest emotional IPV prevalence reported in both studies. While Manicaland had the highest emotional IPV prevalence in the ZDHS, it is second in the VAW Baseline study.

The results of this study also indicate slightly higher prevalence of physical IPV both at national and in most provinces. Another consistency in the VAW prevalence trends is that in both studies the highest physical IPV prevalence was reported in Mashonaland Central and the lowest in Matebeleland North. Only in Manicaland, is the prevalence in the VAW research lower than that reported in the ZDHS 2010-2011. The greatest difference in prevalence was recorded in Matebeleland South (11%).

The overall prevalence of sexual IPV in this study is lower than that reported in the ZDHS 2010-2011. However, at provincial level the prevalence of sexual IPV from this study was higher in Mashonaland Central, Masvingo, Mashonaland West, and Matebeleland South compared to the ZDHS 2010-2011. In contrast the prevalence of sexual IPV from this study was lower in the Harare, Bulawayo, Manicaland, Midlands, Mashonaland East and Matebeleland North provinces.

These differences can be attributed to the difference in study designs, sampling methods, inclusion criteria and definitions of outcomes.

While this study was a standalone survey targeted at men and women aged 18 and above, the ZDHS only had a single module on domestic violence amongst other modules measuring different parameters. The ZDHS included only women aged 15 to 49 years in the measurement of domestic violence. The ZDHS measured violence perpetrated by a spouse hence reference to “spousal violence” while the VAW Baseline Study measured IPV more broadly to include intimate partners who may be in relationships or cohabiting but are not necessarily married. In this regard, the prevalence in this study could be higher due to the fact that cohabiting or dating couples are included in the analysis.

These findings may also be indicative to the greater sensitivity of dedicated studies to measure sensitive subjects as compared to attaching them onto another broad-based survey.

Another emerging finding of this research is that women are more likely to report IPV experience while men are more likely to report non-partner rape perpetration.

Although the prevalence reported by men is generally lower than the experience reported by women, the high degree of corroboration underscores the high levels of violence.