

# EXTENT OF VIOLENCE



Women participating at a GBV Community Dialogue in Maruleng.

Photo by Ntombi Mbadlanyana

## Key facts

### *Lifetime prevalence*

- More than three quarters (77%) of women experienced some form of GBV at least once in their lifetime compared to 48% of men who perpetrated VAW at least once in their lifetime.
- About half of the women (51%) experienced while 44% of men perpetrated intimate partner violence.
- Thirty one percent of women experienced while 36% of men perpetrated emotional IPV in their lifetime.
- About a quarter (23%) of women experienced while 25% of men perpetrated physical IPV in their lifetime.
- Thirteen percent of women experienced and 14% of men perpetrated economic IPV in their lifetime.
- Seven percent of women experienced and 12% of men perpetrated sexual IPV in their lifetime.
- One in every five (21%) women with children reported abuse during pregnancy.
- Five percent of women reported being raped while 23% of men have raped a non-partner in their lifetime.
- Sixty-six percent of women who work reported that they had been sexually harassed in the workplace.

### *Past 12 months prevalence*

- Thirteen percent of women experienced while 21% of men perpetrated intimate partner violence in the 12 months before the survey.
- Ten percent of women experienced and 15% of men perpetrated emotional IPV in the 12 months before the survey.
- Seven percent of women experienced and 8% of men perpetrated economic IPV in the 12 months before the survey.
- Six percent of women experienced and 10% men perpetrated physical IPV in the 12 months before the survey.
- Three percent of women experienced and 7% of men perpetrated sexual IPV in the 12 months before the survey.
- Only one in six women who had been physically abused or raped by a non-partner reported it to the police.



Everything was fine until I (Snowy) married Leonard. We met while I was working at Shayandima in 2005 and we fell in love. In 2007, I went to a FET college for three years. In my final year while writing my last exams, I became pregnant. When I told Leonard the news, we agreed that I shouldn't tell anyone, but then he told his family. They then came to pay *lobola* and took me to stay with Leonard. It was nice staying with him until I gave birth to our baby boy.

After some months, I submitted my CV and began working at a mechanical company in Shayandima. My child went to a crèche. Leonard then started to control my every move and began saying that the baby must be two years old before he can go to crèche. I disagreed with him and said that I would pay for the baby's crèche fees. I worked until December 2011 until the company closed for Christmas. At work they thanked us for the work that we had done.

Around that time, Leonard started coming home angry all of the time, shouting at everyone. Even a small thing would become a big issue. If he didn't find his clothes cleaned, then he would start to complain about it. He took my phone because he said it wasn't necessary for me to have one. When I talked, he would hurt me physically but there wouldn't be scratches, bruises or swelling to show what he had done.

On 26 April 2012 in the evening he said, "There is no watching TV unless we will be watching soccer." I went to sleep. When I was sleeping, he came to bed complaining. I made a mistake and touched him as I turned in our bed. That's when the problems started. He asked me why I had touched him when I don't do what he wants me to do.

A woman has to respect her husband. You are abusing yourself by working for small change and you are abusing the child by leaving him with my mother

because you are always at work," he said to me. I responded to him. He said he would beat me because I was answering back to him while he was talking and I must keep quiet because he is my husband.

From there we started arguing and he slapped me on the face. I asked him, "Are you beating me?" and he said, "There's nothing you can do to me because I have done nothing to you." As we continued arguing, I pointed my finger at him. That's the last I remember from the incident.

I can't remember what happened next but around midnight I woke up under a mattress with wet pyjamas and water beside me. I tried to get up but my whole body was aching and when I looked around my husband wasn't in our room.

He was sleeping on a couch in the lounge. I called his brother's wife and explained to her what had happened. She told me to go to the police station because both of Leonard's parents have passed away.

The next morning I looked at myself in the mirror and saw that my eyes were red and my face was bruised and swollen. I took a bath and went to the Thohoyandou police station. They gave me a form to go to a doctor. I returned with the form completed. They told me to wait because there was a mistake. Instead of taking myself to a doctor I should have been accompanied to the trauma centre.

I was told that the police officer who would be working in the evening will help me at 6pm and at that time it was around 4pm. I waited until 6pm, officers then took me to the Tshulungouma police station to open a case there. When I got there, the police told me to forgive Leonard but I disagreed and I said, "If you don't want to help me then you can leave it."

Why did they make me wait for such a long time? By then it was 7pm. The other police officer said I should be taken to the trauma centre to sleep there so that I can cool down and think about it. They took me to Tshilidzini Hospital trauma centre.

Snowy's story is an example of the different forms of violence that women experience within intimate relationships. Snowy's husband abused her emotionally, economically and physically. Snowy suffered injuries and sought help from the police and the doctor. However, she didn't get a favourable response from police as she had to wait for three hours before being referred to a trauma centre. Violence and injuries are the second leading cause of death and lost disability-adjusted life years in South Africa (Seedat et al 2009).

This chapter presents the extent of the different forms of GBV experienced by the women and perpetrated by the men within and outside intimate relationships as measured through the prevalence and attitudes

survey. The prevalence and household survey did not measure some forms of GBV such as harmful cultural practice, hate crime, femicide and human trafficking. Desktop research and qualitative first-hand accounts from survivors will be used to fill gaps where statistics were not easily available.

### GBV in lifetime

Researchers used two separate questionnaires in the prevalence and attitudes survey to determine lifetime experiences of GBV by women aged 18 and older and perpetration of GBV by men of similar age. Researchers first measured violence that occurred in a lifetime and then in the 12 months before the survey.

**Figure 3.1: Any experience or perpetration of GBV**

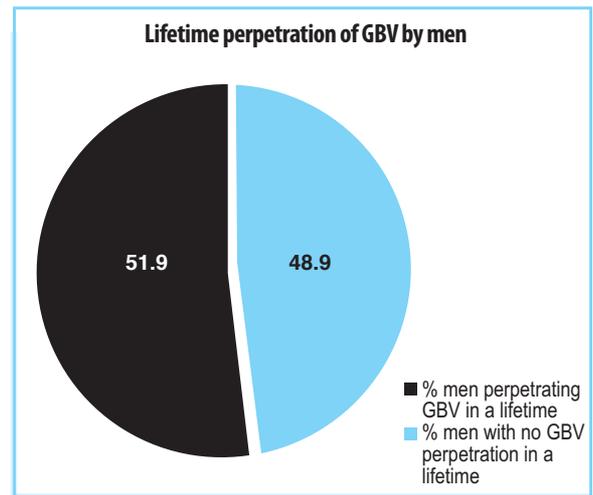
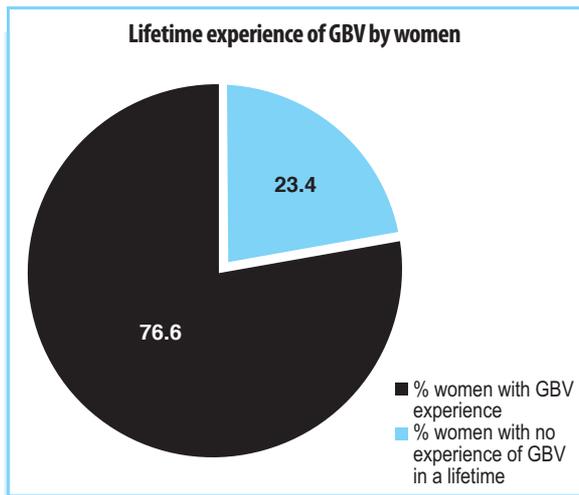


Figure 3.1 shows that more than three quarters of women interviewed (77%) reported experience of some form of GBV at least once in their lifetime while 48% of men reported ever perpetrating GBV in their lifetime. This measure of GBV includes any form of violence occurring within intimate partner relationships and sexual violence outside intimate partner violence. This finding is indicative of the high levels of lifetime experience of GBV among women in the province. It is also apparent that women in Limpopo province may be more likely to disclose experience

of victimisation than men disclose perpetration. This is markedly different from disclose rates in Gauteng province, where more men disclosed perpetration than women reported VAW. This finding is notable and worthy of further interrogation.

### Intimate Partner Violence

The term "intimate partner violence" describes physical, sexual or psychological harm by a current or former partner or spouse. Researchers asked

currently- or previously-partnered women 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 IPV (Saltzman et al. 2002):

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>12</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.

The most predominant form of GBV experienced by women and perpetrated by men in Limpopo province

occurs within intimate partnerships. More than half (51%) of women interviewed experienced intimate partner violence, while 44% of men admitted to perpetrating it at least once in their lifetime.

### Lifetime prevalence

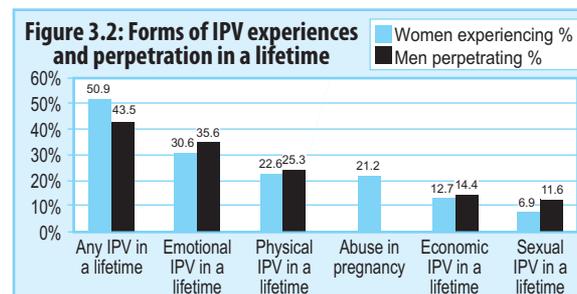


Figure 3.2 shows that the proportion of women reporting experience of all forms of IPV is greater than the proportion of men admitting perpetration. The most commonly experienced and perpetrated form of IPV is emotional followed by physical, then abuse during pregnancy, economic and lastly sexual abuse. Thirty-one percent of women experienced and 36% of men perpetrated emotional IPV in their lifetime. About a quarter of women (23%) and men (25%) reported physical IPV experience and perpetration respectively. More than a tenth of women (13%) and men (14%) reported economic IPV experience and perpetration respectively. Seven percent of women experienced and 12% of men perpetrated sexual IPV. About one in every five women (21%) who had ever been pregnant reported abuse during at least one of their pregnancies.

**Table 3.1: Experience of IPV and non-partner rape from "I" Stories**

	Physical IPV	Emotional IPV	Economic IPV	Sexual IPV	Non-partner rape
Experience	7	7	5	4	9

Sixteen female survivors of violence shared their stories. Nine (56%) of these women experienced non-partner rape while seven (44%) experienced intimate partner violence. All of the seven women who experienced IPV reported multiple forms of abuse including physical, emotional, economical and sexual. The most reported IPV is emotional and physical.

<sup>12</sup> Saltzman et al, 2002.

## Emotional IPV

Researchers assessed emotional IPV using six questions that asked about a series of different acts that control, frighten, intimidate or undermine women's self-esteem. The survey asked women participants 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. The survey asked men if they had done any of these things to a female partner.

The following excerpt is an example of the many insults that Promise Mudau received from her husband. *"One day he came back in the evening and found me sleeping. He said to me, house is dirty." "I want food." So I woke up and made the pap. Then he said I shouldn't bother cooking for him anymore, he can cook for himself. I said that was fine. He didn't eat the food. He saw a Purity bottle on the floor and said, "Nowadays you are lazy and the house is dirty."*

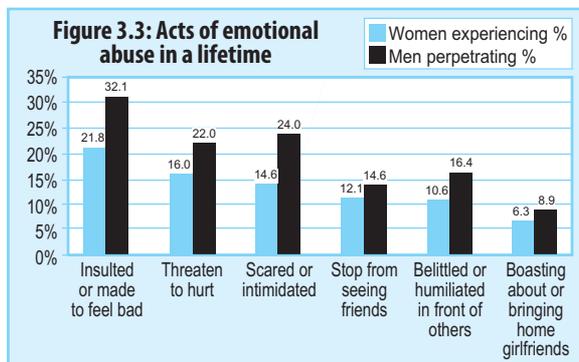


Figure 3.3 illustrates that emotional violence, such as insults, is the most common act of IPV. More than a fifth (22%) of the women said they had been insulted or made to feel bad by their partner. Thirty-two percent of men disclosed doing this. Sixteen percent of women had been threatened, 15% of women reported feeling scared or intimidated, 12% had been

stopped from seeing friends, 11% had been belittled, and 6% said their intimate partners boasted about or brought home girlfriends.

About 24% of the men surveyed had intimidated a partner, 16% belittled a woman, 15% stopped their partners from seeing friends and 22% threatened to hurt a partner. About 9% of men boasted about, or brought home, girlfriends. Emotional abuse tends to have enduring negative effects on its victims and sometimes even has greater impact than physical abuse on women's psychological functioning, particularly within the areas of depression and posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD).<sup>13</sup>

## Acts of emotional IPV from the "I" Stories

A significant number of women had been cheated on by a partner. Some of the men even bragged about it to their partner. Women commonly report that a partner has called them names such as lazy, dirty, liar, etc. Other forms of emotional abuse included being humiliated in front of people and ill treatment of children by the partner, an extreme example of the latter is a case in which a father raped his own daughter.

Promise\* also had to endure physical abuse from her husband. *"On that day, Ndivhuwo\* beat me with a piece of iron and my body was swollen and blue. I went to my grandmother's home and left our son with Ndivhuwo\* because I couldn't run away carrying him. My grandmother told me not to get Ndivhuwo\* arrested because he is the father of my child."*

## Physical IPV

Researchers assessed physical IPV by asking five questions about whether women had been slapped, had something thrown at them, had been pushed or shoved, kicked, hit, dragged, choked, beaten, burnt or threatened with a weapon. Similarly, the survey asked men if they had done any of these acts to their intimate partners.

<sup>13</sup> Pico-Alfonso, 2005. Psychological intimate partner violence: the major predictor of posttraumatic stress disorder in abused women. *Neuroscience and Biobehavioral Reviews* 29 (2005) 181-193.

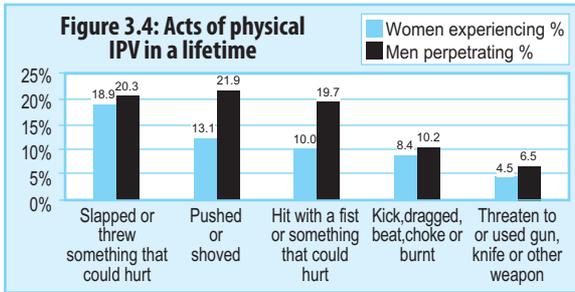


Figure 3.4 illustrates that a greater proportion of men reported various acts of physical IPV. The most common act reported by women is being slapped or having something thrown at them. About a fifth of women (19%) and 20% of men reported this. Thirteen percent of women had been pushed or shoved; 10% had been hit with a fist or dangerous object; 8% had been kicked, dragged, choked or burnt and 5% said they had been threatened with a gun or other weapon.

Twenty two percent of men pushed or shoved; 20% hit a partner with a fist or dangerous object, 10% kicked, dragged, choked or burnt a partner and 7% threatened a partner with a gun or other weapon.

Criteria	Women experiences (%)	Men perpetration (%)
Never	77.4	74.8
Once	11.9	12.0
More than once	10.7	13.2

Table 3.2 shows that a larger number of men who perpetrated physical IPV did it on more than one occasion. About one in every seven (13%) men participating in the survey perpetrated physical IPV more than once in their lifetime. A lesser proportion of men (12%) perpetrated physical IPV once in their lifetime.

In contrast, more women who experienced physical IPV reported it as a one-time incident. About one in eight of women (12%) participating in the survey experienced physical violence once in their lifetime while 11% experienced this more than once. These

findings indicate the often recurrent nature of physical IPV within relationships.

### Extent of reporting physical IPV in lifetime

The survey asked women who reported experience of physical IPV in their lifetime whether they reported the incidents to the police or a health facility.

Criteria	%
Proportion of women who had been physically abused or injured in an intimate partnership in their lifetime and who sought medical attention	2.3
Proportion of women who had been physically abused in an intimate partnership in their lifetime and reported it to police	2.7

Table 3.3 shows that almost similar proportions of women who experience physical IPV report to the police and health services. About three percent of women who had been physically abused by intimate partners reported it to the police while 2% sought medical attention as a result of the injuries sustained.

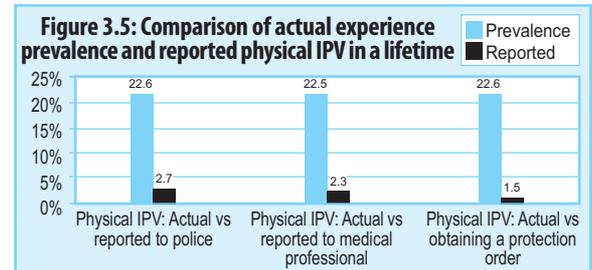


Figure 3.5 shows that there is widespread under-reporting of physical IPV both to police and to health care facilities. Only one in eight women who had been physically abused by intimate partners reported it to the police. A lower proportion of women - one in ten - sought medical attention after physical abuse. One in fifteen women obtained a protection order against a physically abusive partner.

### Acts of physical violence from the "I" Stories

Beating using fists or objects such as broomsticks or stones is the most common act of physical violence by intimate IPV partners. Several women also reported

having been threatened with a knife. Many women also reported being punched or slapped. Some women reported that their partner had destroyed important documents.

### Sexual IPV

Sexual violence<sup>14</sup> 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 contact between the mouth and the penis, vulva, or anus; non-consensual penetration of the anal or genital opening of another person by a hand, finger, or other object; non-consensual intentional touching, either directly or through the clothing, of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks.<sup>14</sup> All the above acts qualify if they have been committed against someone who is unable to consent or refuse. Sexual violence is therefore an umbrella term for either completed or attempted sex acts without the survivor's consent, or involving a survivor who is unable to consent or refuse.

Keketso said, *"He took out his knife and started to undress me. Then he started raping me. He raped me for two to three hours between 5 and 7pm. After that he told me that he wanted to be with me for the rest of his life and that the next day he wanted to go with me to Pretoria because if he lets me go, I would get him arrested."*

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 had been afraid of what he might do and whether they had been forced to do something sexual that they found degrading or humiliating.

Table 3.4 shows that the majority of women who experienced sexual IPV said it had occurred on more

than one occasion. Four percent of women participating in the survey experienced sexual IPV more than once in their lifetime while three percent experienced this only once. Similarly, the majority of men perpetrating sexual IPV have done so more than once. Seven percent of men participating in the survey perpetrated sexual IPV more than once in their lifetime while five percent did this once.

**Table 3.4: Frequency of sexual IPV**

Criteria	Women experiences (%)	Men perpetration (%)
Never	93.0	88.4
Once	2.9	5.1
More than once	3.9	6.6

### Economic IPV

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 every penny spent, stealing or taking money from a partner, exploiting a partner's assets for personal gain, withholding basic necessities (food, clothes, medications, shelter), preventing a partner from working or choosing a career, or sabotaging a partner's job by making them miss work.<sup>15</sup>

Tivhu said, *"My husband didn't allow me to go to school because he said if I become educated then I would run away from him, but my parents insisted that I should go back to school. I continued going to school and passed my grade 12 at the end of the year. He didn't even allow me to go to work because he said, "A woman who works becomes a prostitute."*

This study looks at several types of economic IPV: 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.

<sup>14</sup> Violence and associated terms by Basil and Saltzman (2002).

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.4woman.gov/violence/types/emotional-cfm>

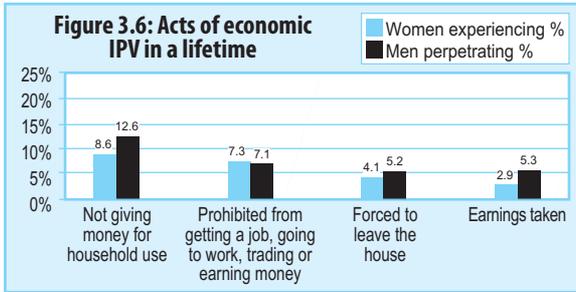


Figure 3.6 shows that women most commonly experience having money withheld for the household while men reported withholding money. Nine percent of women reported that a partner refused to contribute to the family welfare and give her money for household use when in a position that he could provide. One in eight men (13%) admitted to doing this.

The second most common act of economic IPV experienced by women and perpetrated by men involves women being prohibited from pursuing income generating activities. Seven percent of women experienced this while 7% of men said they had prohibited partners from pursuing paid work or trading. Four percent of women had been evicted from their home and 3% had been forced to hand over their earnings.

### Acts of economic IPV from the “I” Stories

“I” Stories participants most commonly write about being prohibited to work or go to school. If women insisted on working, their male partners called them prostitutes. Another form of economic IPV occurs when a male partner refuses to provide for his family. In some instances the partner would look after his parents, siblings or girlfriend at the expense of his wife and children. Other men tended to take money from their partner without her consent. Women also commonly reported that they had been chased out of the home by their partner.

### Abuse in pregnancy

This study explored the prevalence of IPV among pregnant women. Men often blame their abusive behaviour on a pregnancy. Abuse in pregnancy may

also be a continuation of a longstanding abusive relationship that gets worse after a woman becomes pregnant. It may also commence because of various reasons, such as unintended pregnancy or suspicion of birth control sabotage. The research asked women if they experienced acts of abuse during a pregnancy.

*“In 2000 when I was nine months pregnant with my last child my husband was chasing after me. I fell and broke my leg. I gave birth before my leg could heal. Soon after the birth I returned to the hospital to be sterilised.”*

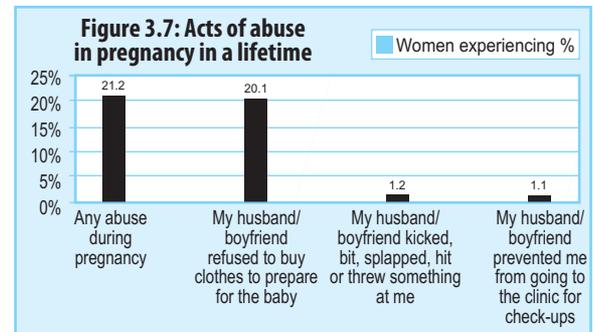


Figure 3.7 shows that a fifth of all women (21%) reported abuse during pregnancy. The survey found economic abuse to be the most predominant form. This involved male partners refusing to contribute to preparations for the baby. A fifth (20%) of women reported this. One percent of women said they had been physically abused during pregnancy or prevented from seeking antenatal care.

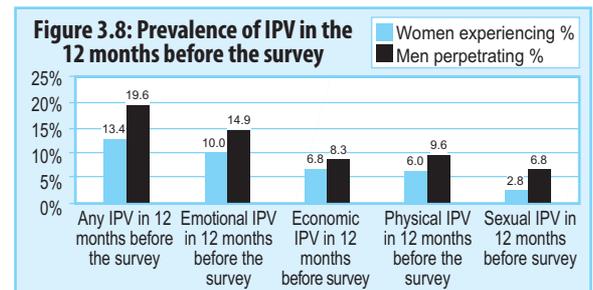


Figure 3.8 shows that one in seven (13%) women reported IPV experience while a fifth (20%) of men reported IPV perpetration in the 12 months before

the survey. Similar to the lifetime prevalence trends, the most common form is emotional IPV. A tenth of women (10%) reported experiencing it, while 15% of men reported perpetrating emotional IPV. However, economic IPV is also common, followed by physical IPV (6%) and sexual IPV (3%). A greater proportion of men reported perpetration of all forms of IPV.

These findings indicate significant current prevalence of IPV in Limpopo province, highlighting a need for strategic action. It is necessary to develop plans that aim to reduce the different forms of violence, particularly the predominance of emotional IPV. It is also important to tackle sexual violence by intimate partners alongside combating sexual violence in the context of non-partner experiences.

Criteria	%
Proportion of women who experienced physical IPV in 12 months before the survey	6.0
Proportion of women who experienced physical IPV in 12 months before the survey and reported incident to police	3.8
Proportion of women, who experienced physical IPV in 12 months before the survey and sought medical attention	1.6

Table 3.5 shows significant underreporting of physical IPV. However, more women reported physical IPV in the 12 months before the survey than that which happened over their lifetimes, suggesting a general increase in women's reporting of physical IPV. Two in every three women (4%) who had been physically abused by their partner reported it to police. One in every four physically abused women sought medical attention after injuries.

### Non-partner rape

The study assessed this by asking three questions: Had a man (not a husband or boyfriend) forced or persuaded women to have sex against their will? Had the woman been forced to have sex with a man when too intoxicated to stop him? Had the woman been forced to have sex with more than one man at the same time? The latter is referred to as gang rape. The

survey asked men whether they had ever forced women into any of these acts.

### Lifetime prevalence

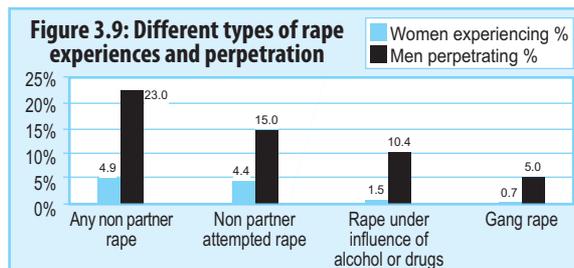


Figure 3.9 shows that a greater proportion of men reported non-partner rape perpetration compared to the proportion of women reporting that they had been raped. Fifteen percent of men attempted to rape, 10% raped a drunken or drugged woman without her consent and 5% participated in a gang rape. The story outlined below is a survivor's account of non-partner rape in South Africa.



My story began on a Wednesday, 8 August 2012. My friend Shonie and I (Naledi) were waiting for a taxi coming from a church service, around 8pm. When we reached the bus stop a man approached us. The man greeted us and joined us in trying to get a lift.

As we were waiting one car stopped a short distance away from us. We began to run towards it. When the driver realised that it was not only the two of us, he drove off. This happened with three other cars.

We decided to move past the man so that when we stopped a car he would be behind us. As we approached where he was standing he grabbed my hair. I was wearing a weave at the time. I was scared and started screaming, he hit me with a fist on my nose and I lost my balance and I tripped and fell alongside the road. He didn't let go of my hair, he continued to pull me.

My friend managed to run for her life. She was nowhere to be found. The perpetrator took a knife out of his back trouser pocket and ordered me to get up and move from the roadside into the nearby bushes. I was crying and in shock. I asked him what he wanted. He didn't answer; he just punched me in my face again.

I took my phone out and offered it to him. I said, "If it's the phone and money you want then you can have them and leave, but please spare my life."

He took the phone and put it in his back pocket together with the R50 note I had for transport. He ordered me to lie down which I didn't want to do. When I refused, he punched me on the nose again. I saw blood coming out of my nose. He started kicking me everywhere and I lost my balance and fell to the ground.

He put back his knife and sat on my legs, he put his hand on my blouse and tried to remove my bra, then he was touching my breast. I screamed and said "Oh my Jesus," then he suddenly stopped touching me and hit me on the head with a nearby brick. He took off my trousers and panties, and touched my private parts with his hands.

He unzipped his trousers, and then ordered me to open my legs. I still refused, and he hit me again with a brick on my left eye. He started raping me. While he was busy doing that I managed to take my phone out of his back pocket without him realising. As I did that, the knife fell out of his pocket on the ground. I managed to move my body so I was lying on his knife and he couldn't see it. Then I immediately grabbed him by his neck with both of my hands.

He screamed and hit me once again with a fist but I didn't let go. He got up and tried to search for his knife and I also got up and screamed. He ran away and I also managed to run to the nearest house for help. They called a satellite police station and it didn't even take the police 20 minutes to come. They took me to the hospital because I was bleeding from my nose and I had a cut on my leg.

**Table 3.6: Frequency of non-partner rape**

Criteria	Women experiences (%)	Men perpetration (%)
Never	95.0	77.3
Once	2.8	13.2
More than once	2.1	9.5

Table 3.6 shows that about 3% of women experienced non-partner rape once. A higher proportion of men had raped (13%) women on one occasion. Two percent of women had been raped, while 10% of men raped, more than once.

#### *Under-reporting of rape*

Researchers asked women who had been raped by non-partners further questions about whether they had reported it to police or if they had sought medical help.

**Table 3.7: Extent of reporting rape and accessing services in a lifetime**

Criteria	%
Proportion of all women who were raped in lifetime	4.9
Proportion of all women who had been raped and reported incident to police in lifetime	0.8
Proportion of all women who had been raped and sought medical attention in lifetime	1.0
Proportion of all women who had been raped and accessed PEP in lifetime	0.6
Proportion of all women who had been raped and sought professional counselling in lifetime	0.6

Table 3.7 shows the significant underreporting of non-partner rape by women victims, both to police and to health care facilities. Only one in every six women who had been raped by non-partners reported it to police. A fifth of rape survivors accessed PEP or sought professional counselling. One in every five women who had been raped sought medical attention. This finding appears low but it is actually considerably higher than what is found in the annual crime statistics reports. The SAPS Annual Crime report found that 0.17% of women reported a sexual offence in 2011.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>16</sup> Total number of sexual offences 2011/2012 (31 299)/total female adult midyear population 2011 (18 229 333).

## Sexual harassment

Sexual harassment means 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 advances or requests arise because of unequal power relations (SADC Protocol on Gender and Development). Researchers asked women if they had experienced sexual harassment in the workplace, schools, whilst using public transport, or when seeking help from traditional or religious leaders.

**Table 3.8: Sexual harassment lifetime prevalence**

Sexual harassment in a lifetime	Limpopo %
Any sexual harassment in lifetime	54.8
At workplace	65.7
At school	57.3
Touched sexually by a conductor/taxi driver/taxi rank marshal	0.9
A traditional healer said I should have sex with him	1.2

About two thirds (66%) of women in Limpopo reported being sexually harassed in the workplace. In many cases men either hinted or threatened that a woman would lose her job if she did not have sex with him. It is also common for women to be asked for sex in order to get a job. The high prevalence of sexual harassment in the workplace in Limpopo province warrants further research.

Sexual harassment in school in this study means disclosure that a teacher or principal or lecturer had hinted or threatened that a student could fail exams, get bad marks, or that their schooling would be adversely affected, if they failed to return a sexual favour. Again, the prevalence of this is remarkably high in Limpopo province. More than half (57%) of women in Limpopo who had attended school said they had been sexually harassed at school. Based on the high prevalence of this type of sexual harassment in Limpopo province compared to elsewhere, it will be important for institutions or organisations specialising in GBV prevention programmes to develop materials and interventions aimed at curbing this widespread problem.



Capricorn Municipality at the Take Back the Night march, Seshego, Limpopo.

Photo by Nomthi Mankazana

## Conclusion

This chapter has explored the extent of GBV in its various manifestations in the Limpopo province. GBV can either be between intimate partners or non-intimate partners. The study juxtaposed perpetration rates against experience rates to give a clear picture on the variances. Emotional violence featured as the most common form of abuse reported by women and disclosed by men, followed by physical then economic and lastly sexual abuse. Ironically, despite this area being the most commonly experienced form of violence, police statistics do not capture emotional violence. GBV survivors have limited access to psychological services. A fifth (21%) of all women reported abuse during pregnancy.

A greater proportion of men compared to women reported non-partner rape perpetration as well as other acts of physical IPV. This section also noted the significant underreporting of both physical IPV and non-partner rape to the police and health care facilities in the 12 month before the survey. Limpopo recorded exceptionally high prevalence rates of sexual harassment at both the workplace and in school.

In light of these findings there is a need to develop strategies aimed at reducing the different forms of violence, particularly emotional IPV, predominant in this study. It is also necessary to tackle sexual violence perpetrated by intimate partners, noting that sexual violence is often addressed only in the context of non-partner experiences.

