



# Intimate Partner Violence

# What is IPV?

**WHO (2014):** behavior by an intimate partner or ex-partner that causes physical, sexual, or psychological harm, including physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse, and controlling behaviors

No universal, operational definition and different terminologies that have significant implications:

## Intimate partner violence

## Domestic violence

# Dating violence

## Violence against women

## Spousal abuse

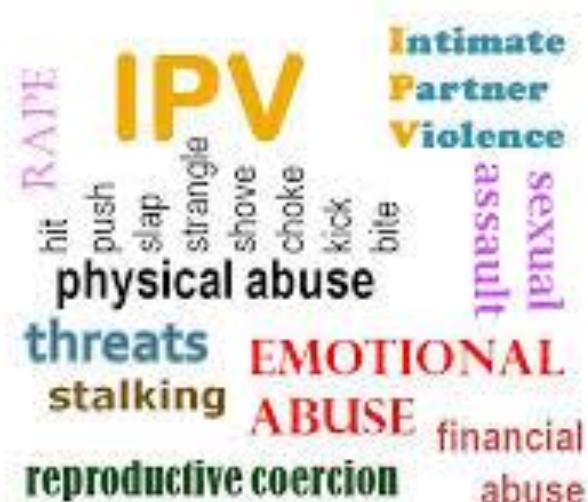
## Gender violence



# Types of IPV

**Physical abuse:** actions based on the intention to inflict physical harm on an intimate partner

**Sexual abuse:** the use or threat of physical violence or the exploitation of a partner's inability to offer resistance to force her or him to engage in sexual acts



**Psychological abuse:** insults and humiliation or controlling behavior by the partner; May have equal or even more lasting emotional effects than physical aggression

## ABUSE OCCURS

- Physical
- Sexual
- Emotional

## TENSION-BUILDING

- Abuser starts to get angry
- Minor incidents of abuse begin
- Communication breaks down
- Victim feels the need to keep the abuser calm
- Tension becomes too much
- Victim/family members feel like they are "walking on egg shells"

## RECONCILIATION/MAKING-UP

- Abuser apologizes for abuse, promises it won't happen again
- Blames victim for provoking the abuse
- Denies the abuse took place or says it wasn't as bad as the victim claims
- Gives gifts to the victim

## CALM

- Abuser acts like the abuse never happened
- No abuse is taking place
- Some promises made during the reconciliation/making-up phase are being met
- Victim hopes the abuse is over

# Rates

Difficult to measure given its hidden nature, disclosure, etc.

Rates of 3 types also differ, with the most common being psychological

High rates of co-morbidity: physical and sexual violence commonly accompanied by psychological abuse

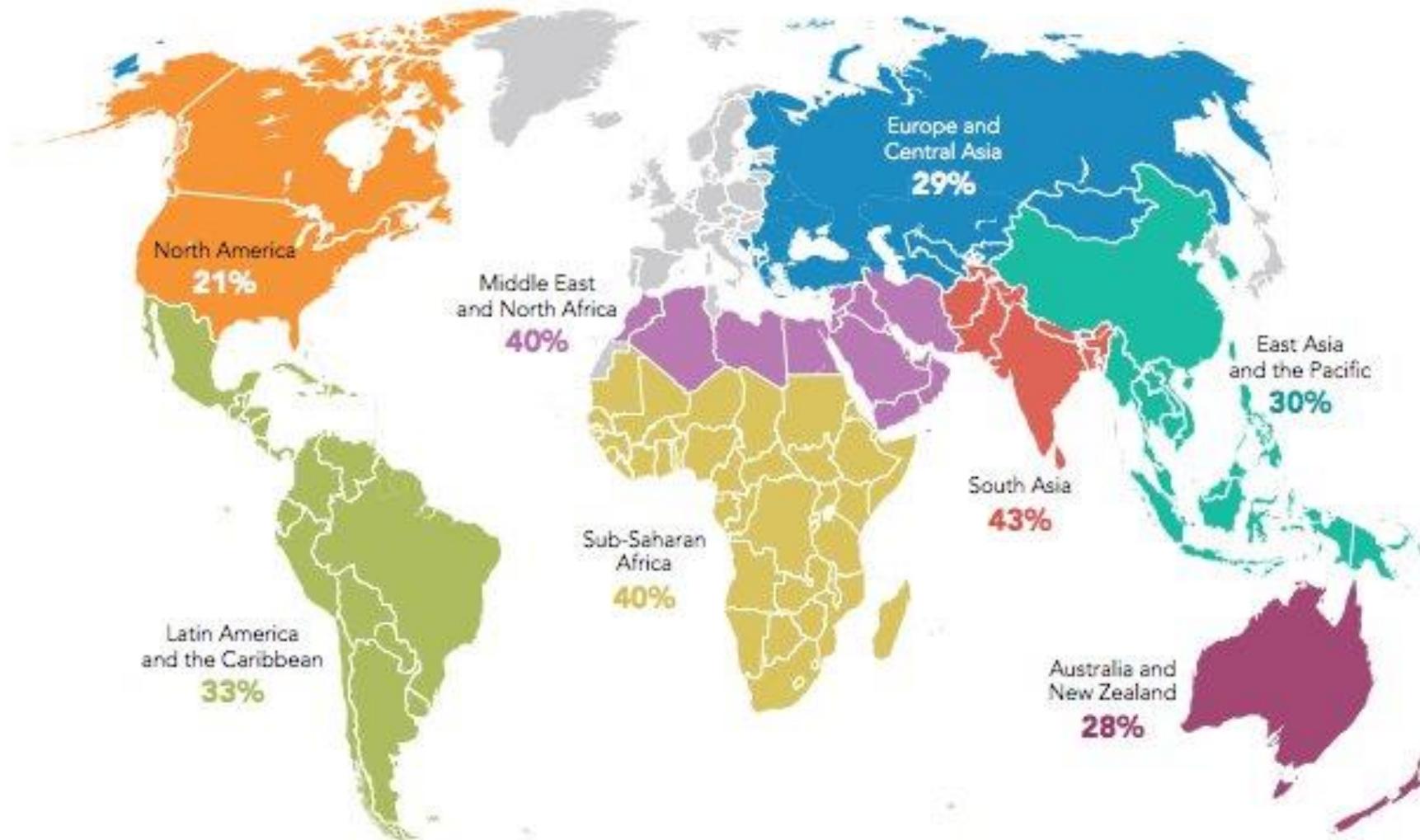
WHO conducted multi-country analysis and found globally:  
30% of women had experienced IPV  
38% of murders of women are committed by an intimate partner

Culture plays a significant role



**FIGURE 3.2**

Share of ever partnered women who have experienced physical or sexual intimate partner violence during their lifetime



Source: Preliminary analysis of WHO (World Health Organization), global prevalence database (2013) using World Bank regions.<sup>24</sup>

Note: Areas shaded in grey are not calculated or do not have relevant data.

# Rates

## General population



Ireland:

39% of women reported violence victimization; of these, 46% were injured

UK:

10% of men and 11% of women reported perpetrating violence

18% of men and 13% of women reported victimization of physical abuse

# Rates

## General population

Mexico:

12.1% of women reported  
victimization of physical  
violence, 10% sexual violence



Nicaragua:

52% of women reported victimization of physical violence,  
31% during pregnancy, 21% sexual abuse

# Rates

## General population

Norway:

15% of women reported victimization of moderate physical violence, 5% severe physical violence



New Zealand:

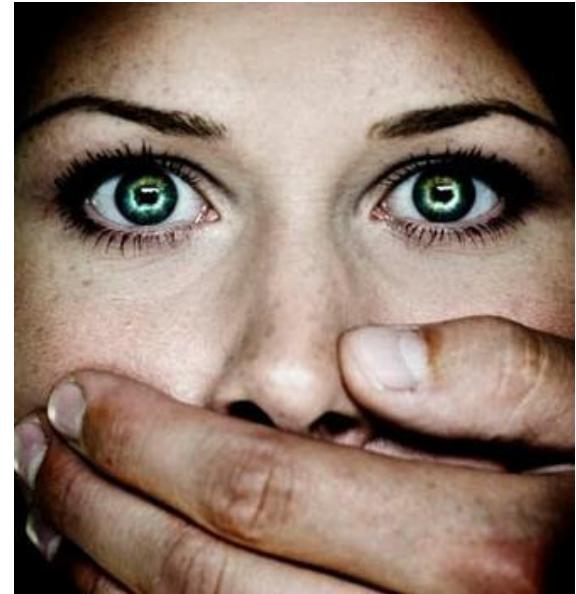
67.4% of men and 76.9% of women reported victimization of unwanted sexual activity; 19% of men and 21% of women reported victimization of physical violence

# Rates

## General population

Germany:

21.6%-44.7% of men and 6% of women reported perpetrating sexual violence



11.7%-17.6% of men reported victimization of sexual violence; 6% of men reported victimization of physical violence

30.3%-54.5% of women reported victimization of sexual violence; 3.6% mild, 33.7% moderate, and 1.6% severe

# Rates

## General population



### The Netherlands:

10.6% of women reported  
perpetrating some type of violence

20.8% of women reported  
victimization of violence; 9% mild,  
4.8% moderate, 6.3% severe

### Ethiopia:

45% of women reported victimization of physical violence; of  
these, 76% slapped, 53% kicked or hit, 34% beaten

# Rates

## Health centers/emergency rooms:

Australia:

4.1%-8.5% of men had been victims of some type of abuse; of these, 11.9%-38% included a weapon and 10%-12.3% included sexual abuse



16.1%-19.3% of women had been victimized by some type of abuse; of these, 17.5%-21.1% reported the use of a weapon, and 28.7%-28.8% reported sexual abuse

# Rates

## Health centers/emergency rooms:

### Tanzania:

37.6% women reported  
victimization of physical abuse,  
16.3% sexual abuse



### Crisis centers:

### Jamaica:

95% of women had been victims of physical assault, while  
59% had been victims of sexual assault

# Risk Factors

## Ecological framework

**Society**: includes norms granting men control over female behavior, acceptance of violence as a means of conflict resolution, and rigid gender roles

**Community**: includes poverty, low socioeconomic status, and unemployment, as well as isolation of women and family

**Relationship**: includes marital conflict and male control of wealth and decision-making in the family

**Individual perpetrator**: includes biographical experiences, such as witnessing marital violence as a child, an absent or rejecting father, being abused as a child, and alcohol abuse

# Risk Factors

## Perpetration

- Lower levels of education
- Exposure to child maltreatment
- Witnessing family violence
- Harmful use of alcohol/substances
- Attitudes that are accepting of violence and gender inequality
- Past history of violence
- Communication issues
- Antisocial personality disorder
- Having multiple partners
- Suspect partner infidelity

## Victimization

- Lower levels of education
- Exposure to child maltreatment
- Witnessing family violence
- Harmful use of alcohol/substances
- Attitudes that are accepting of violence and gender inequality
- Past history of violence
- Communication issues



# Motivation

In order to fully understand Intimate Partner Violence, we must consider the motivational basis behind it

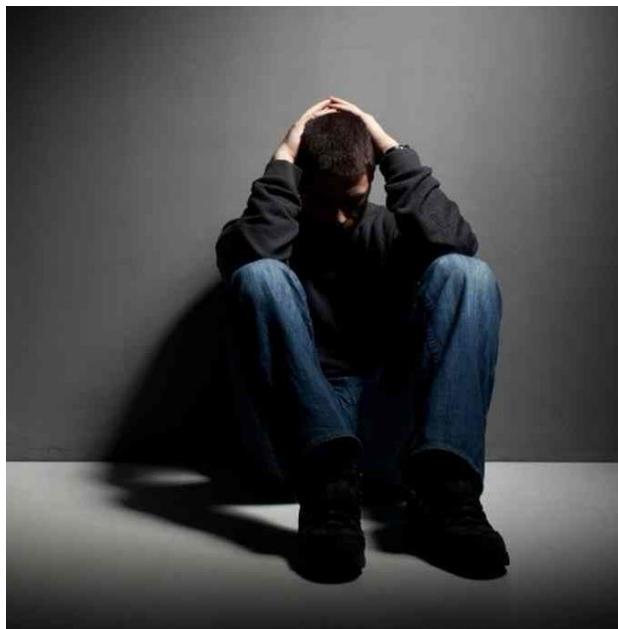
**Common couple violence:** arises in the context of a specific argument, is likely to be mutual, unlikely to involve serious injury or escalate over time, and the most common form of intimate partner violence in the general population

**Intimate terrorism:** based on the desire to exert control over the partner, is shown more frequently in a particular relationship, less likely to be mutual, and more likely to lead to serious injury and to escalate over time

**Violent resistance:** shown in response to a violent attack from the partner, is perpetrated almost exclusively by women

# Consequences

Consequences have been studied primarily for female victims



Impacts:



Physical health

Health behaviors

Chronic conditions

Reproductive health

Mental health