

Violence against women and girls

Forms, levels, consequences, causes & growing commitment to address it

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Any public or private act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women & girls, including threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty with the family or general community

**Violence
against women & girls**



Key messages

1. Violence against women & girls takes many forms – intimate partner violence, non-partner sexual violence, early & forced marriage, trafficking, female genital mutilation & honour killings.

Violence against women & girls takes many forms



Intimate partner violence:

the most common form of violence experienced by women & adolescent girls



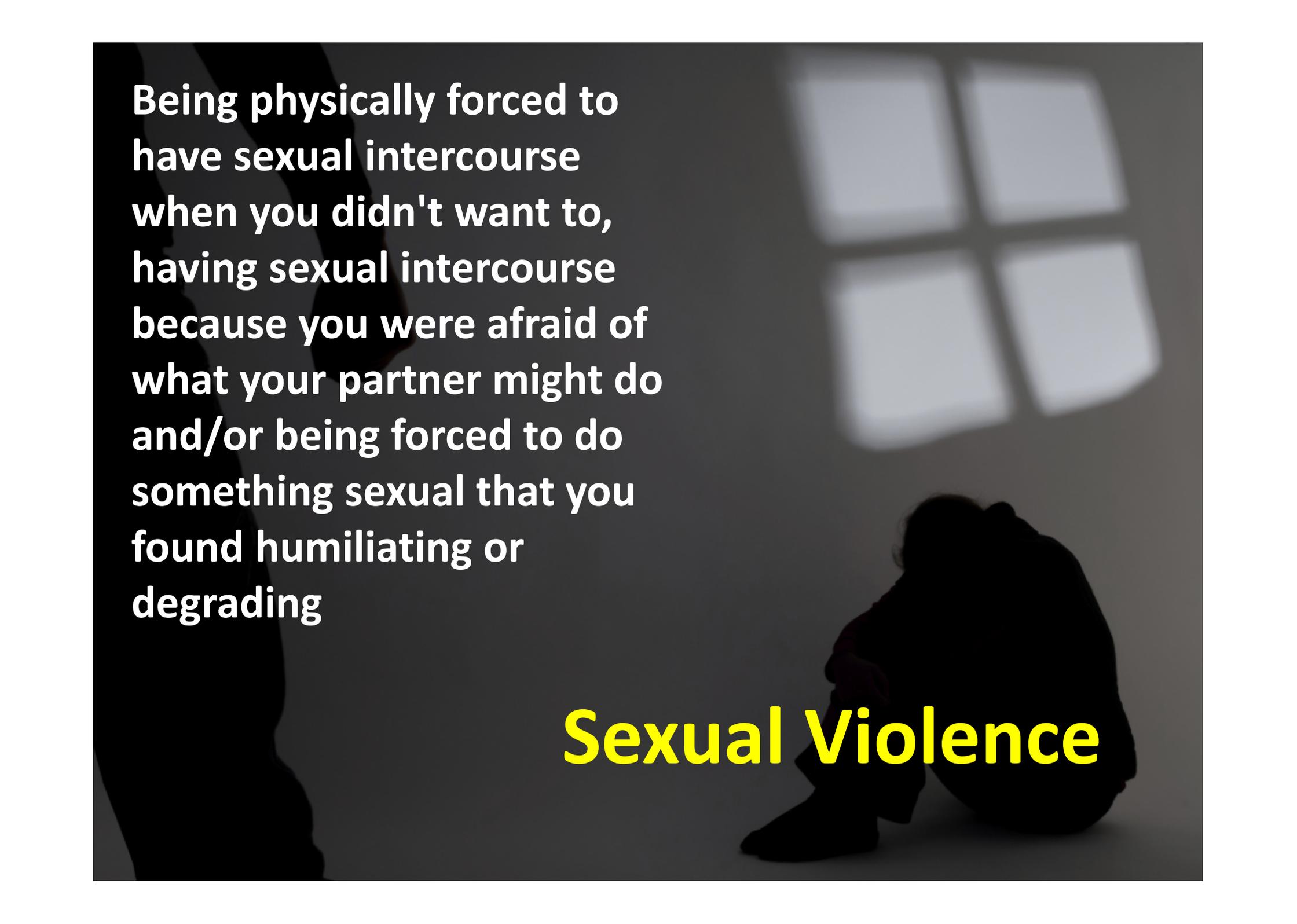
Experience of one or more acts of physical and/or sexual violence and/or emotional/psychological abuse by a current or former partner

Intimate Partner Violence



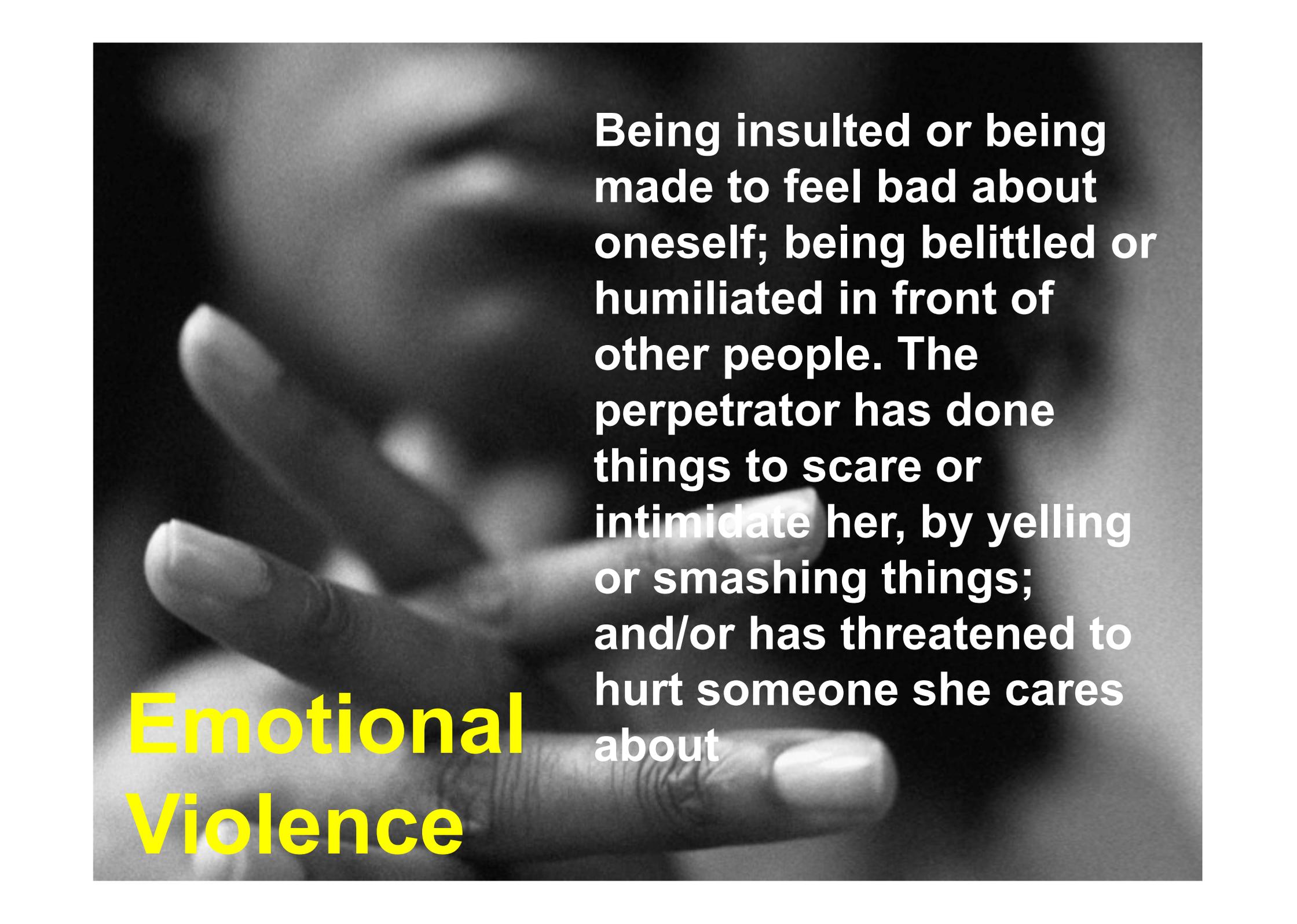
Being slapped, having something thrown at you that could hurt you, being pushed or shoved, being hit with a fist or something else that could hurt, being kicked dragged or beaten up, being choked or burnt on purpose, and/or being threatened with or actually having a gun, knife or other weapon used on you

Physical Violence

The background of the slide features a dark grey gradient. On the left, a large, dark silhouette of a person's legs and lower body is visible, suggesting a standing figure. On the right, a smaller silhouette of a person is sitting on the floor, hunched over with their head buried in their hands, conveying a sense of despair or distress. In the upper right background, a window with four panes is visible, with light streaming through, creating a soft glow. The overall mood is somber and oppressive.

**Being physically forced to
have sexual intercourse
when you didn't want to,
having sexual intercourse
because you were afraid of
what your partner might do
and/or being forced to do
something sexual that you
found humiliating or
degrading**

Sexual Violence



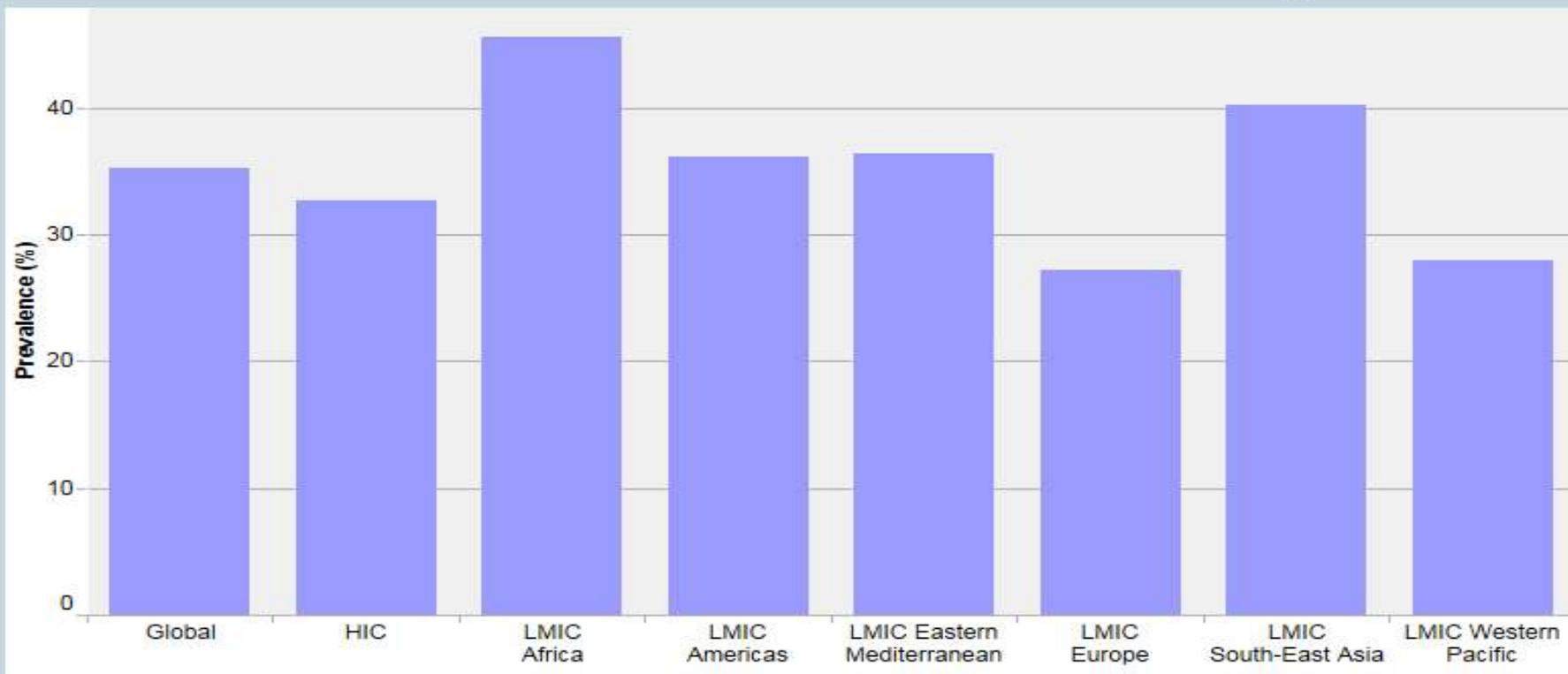
Emotional Violence

Being insulted or being made to feel bad about oneself; being belittled or humiliated in front of other people. The perpetrator has done things to scare or intimidate her, by yelling or smashing things; and/or has threatened to hurt someone she cares about

Key messages

1. Violence against women & girls take many forms – intimate partner violence, non-partner sexual violence, early & forced marriage, trafficking, female genital mutilation & honour killings.
2. Levels of violence against women & girls in Asia-Pacific region are comparable to global levels. Like elsewhere there is considerable underreporting to police & health/social service statistics.

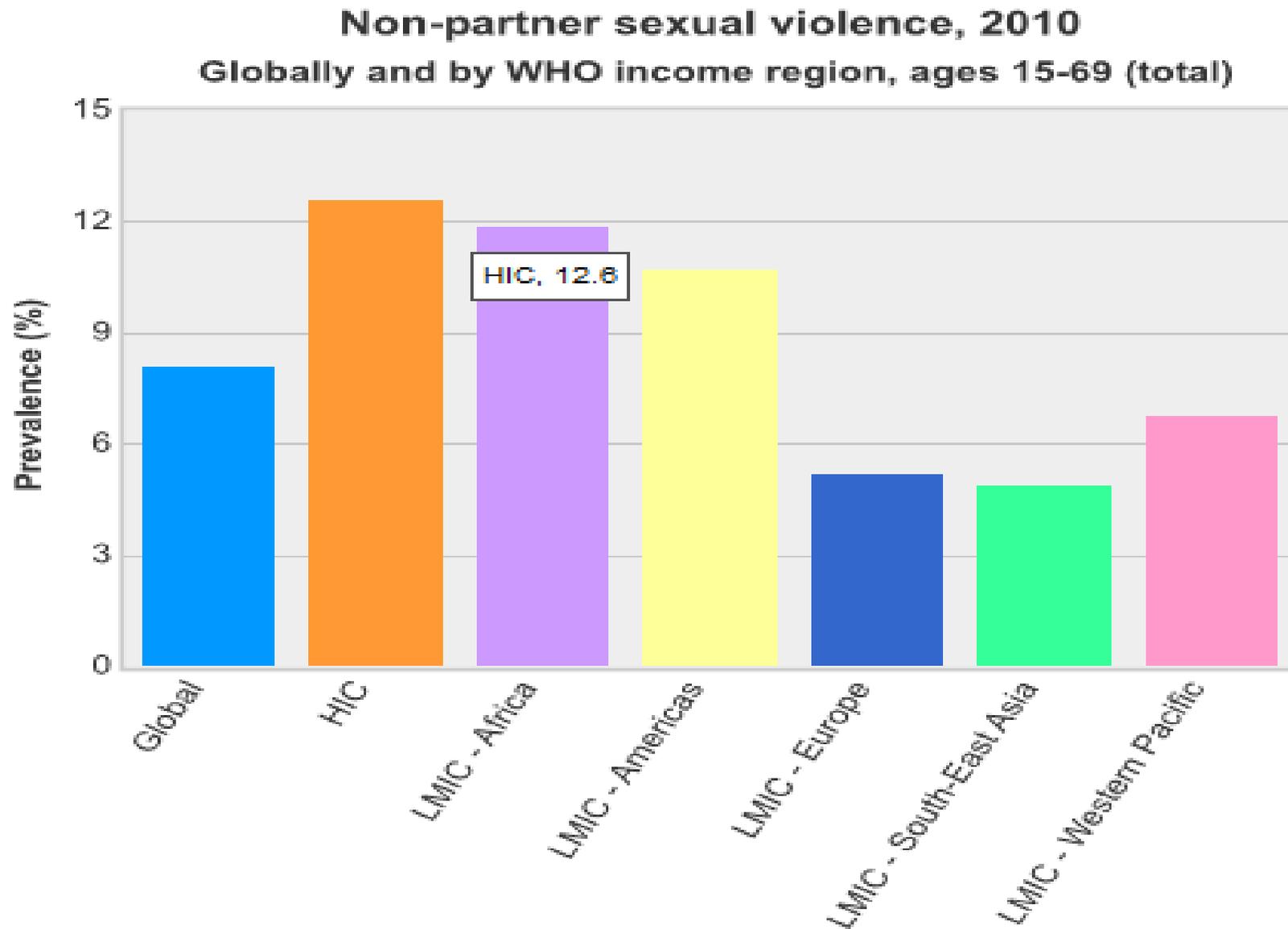
Prevalence of intimate partner violence and/or non-partner sexual violence, 2010
Globally and by WHO income region, ages 15-69 (total)



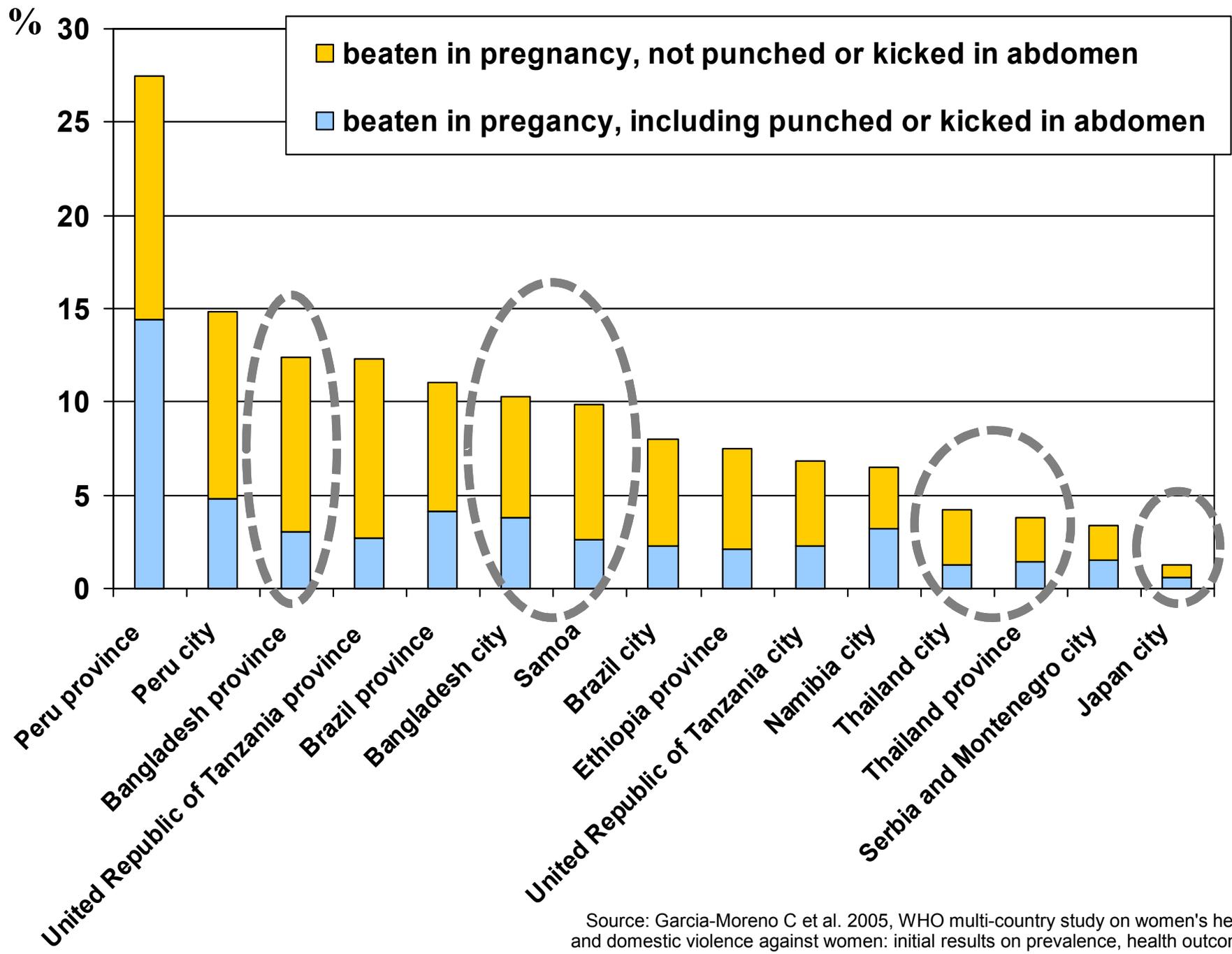
LMIC = Low- and middle-income countries
HIC = High-income countries

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35% women globally, **38%** in WHO's South East Asia region & **25%** in WHO's Western-Pacific region have experienced physical &/or sexual violence by an intimate partner and/or non-partner

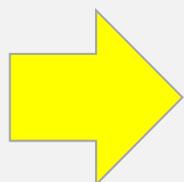


7% of women globally, **5%** in WHO's South East Asia & **7%** in WHO's Western Pacific region have experienced non-partner sexual violence.

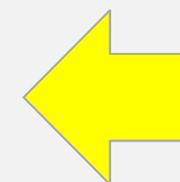


Source: Garcia-Moreno C et al. 2005, WHO multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence against women: initial results on prevalence, health outcomes and women's responses.

Violence starts early in lives of women



Age group, years	Prevalence, %	95% CI, %
15–19	29.4	26.8 to 32.1
20–24	31.6	29.2 to 33.9
25–29	32.3	30.0 to 34.6
30–34	31.1	28.9 to 33.4
35–39	36.6	30.0 to 43.2
40–44	37.8	30.7 to 44.9
45–49	29.2	26.9 to 31.5
50–54	25.5	18.6 to 32.4
55–59	15.1	6.1 to 24.1
60–64	19.6	9.6 to 29.5
65–69	22.2	12.8 to 31.6



Lifetime prevalence of intimate partner violence by age group among ever-partnered women (WHO, 2013)

Prevalence of childhood sexual abuse girls below 15 years

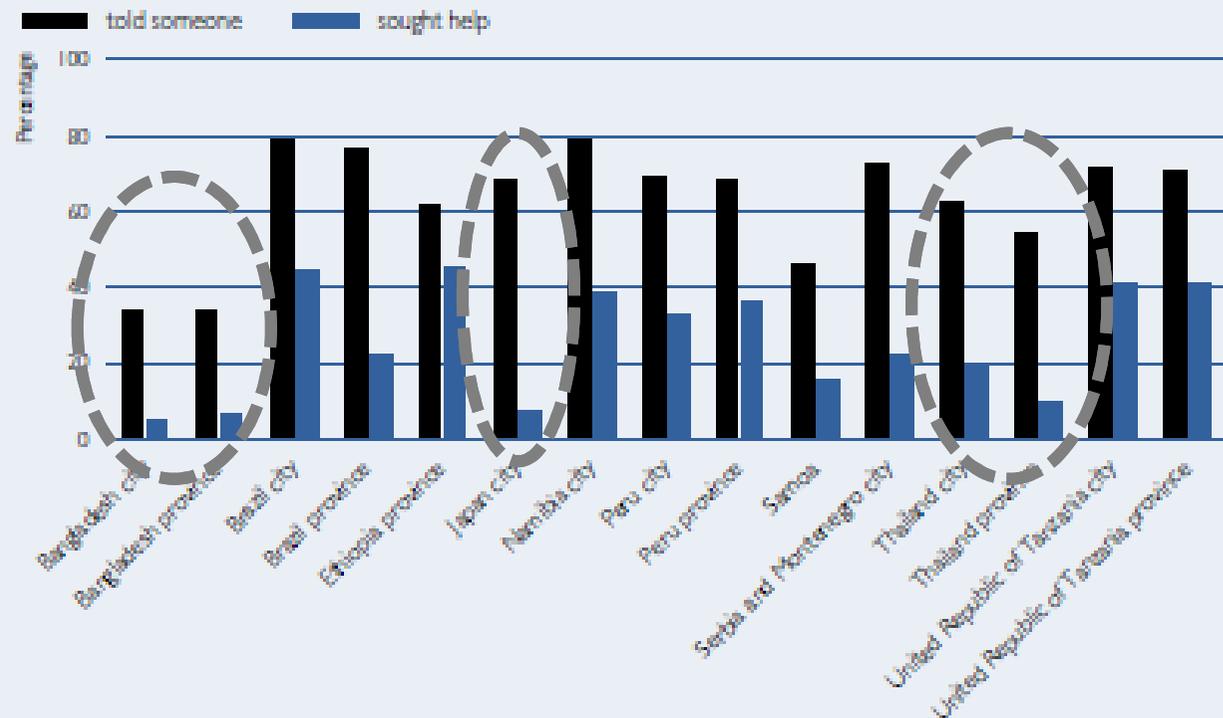
Table 6.1 Percentage of respondents reporting sexual abuse before the age of 15 years, by site

Site	Face-to-face report			Anonymous report			Best estimate ^a
	n	(%)	Total no. of respondents	n	(%)	Total no. of completed cards	(%)
Bangladesh city ^b	119	7.4	1602	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	7.4
Bangladesh province ^b	16	1.0	1527	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1.0
Brazil city	92	7.8	1172	136	11.6	1172	11.6
Brazil province	85	5.8	1473	128	8.7	1473	8.7
Ethiopia province	7	0.2	3014	211	7.0	3014	7.0
Japan city	131	9.6	1361	188	13.8	1361	13.8
Namibia city	73	4.9	1492	318	21.3	1492	21.3
Peru city	276	19.5	1414	264	18.7	1413	19.5
Peru province	145	7.9	1837	328	18.1	1814	18.1
Samoa ^c	30	1.8	1640	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1.8
Serbia and Montenegro city	28	1.9	1453	52	3.6	1453	4.2
Thailand city	117	7.6	1534	137	8.9	1543	8.9
Thailand province	60	4.7	1280	63	4.9	1280	4.9
United Republic of Tanzania city	79	4.4	1816	195	10.7	1816	12.2
United Republic of Tanzania province	60	4.2	1443	124	8.5	1451	9.5

Source: Garcia-Moreno C et al. 2005, WHO multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence against women: initial results on prevalence, health outcomes and women's responses.

Statistics reported to police, health or social services are under-estimates

Figure 9.3 Percentage of ever physically abused women who had told someone about their experience of intimate-partner violence compared with the percentage of ever physically abused women who had sought help, by site

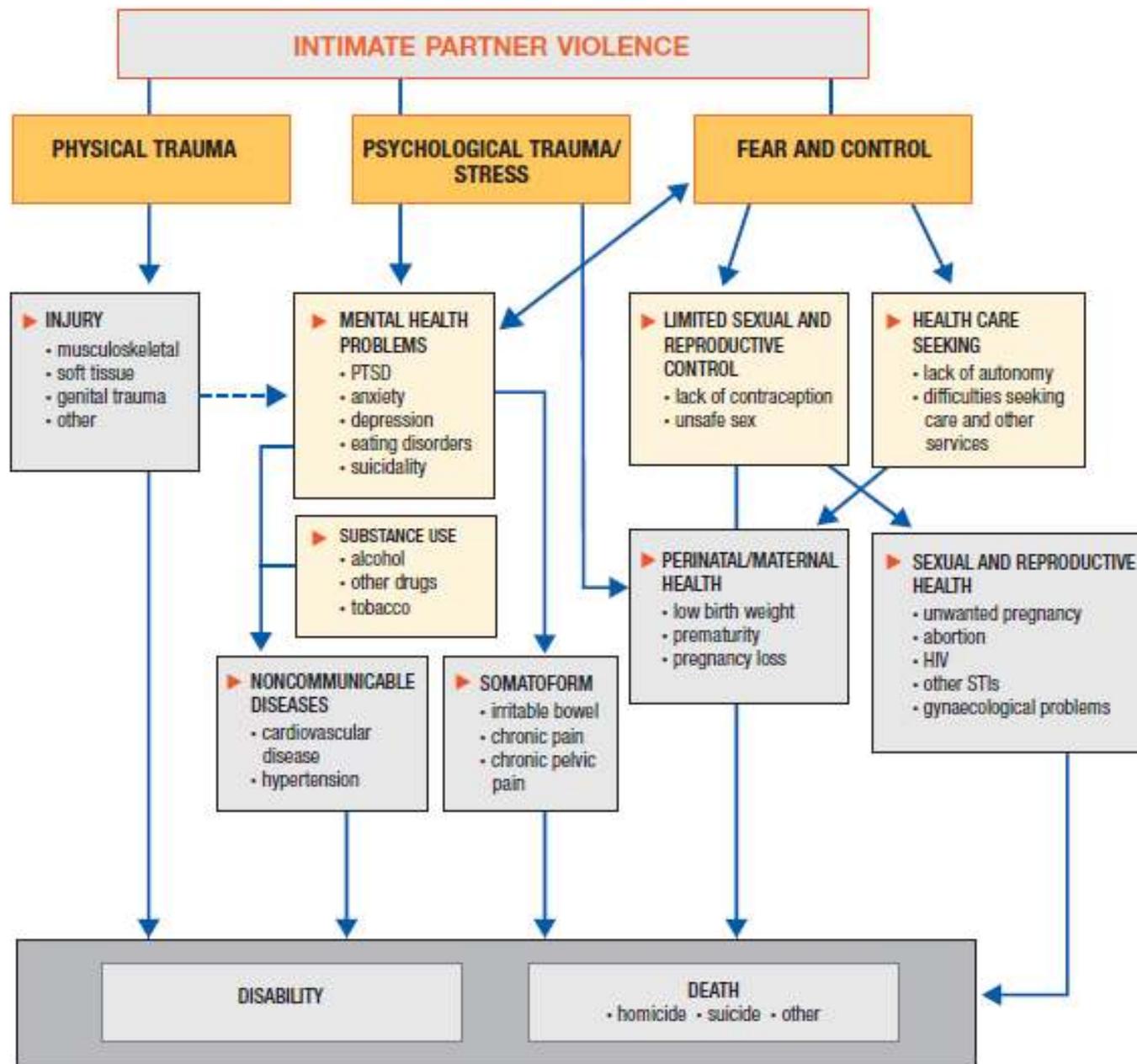


Only **10%-30%** of victims seek institutional support

Key messages

1. Violence against women & girls take many forms – intimate partner violence, non-partner sexual violence, early & forced marriage, trafficking, female genital mutilation & honour killings.
2. Levels of violence against women & girls in Asia-Pacific region are comparable to global levels. Like elsewhere there is considerable underreporting to police & health/social service statistics.
3. Violence against women & girls has health, social & economic consequences for individuals, families, communities & societies.

Pathways & health effects of Intimate Partner Violence



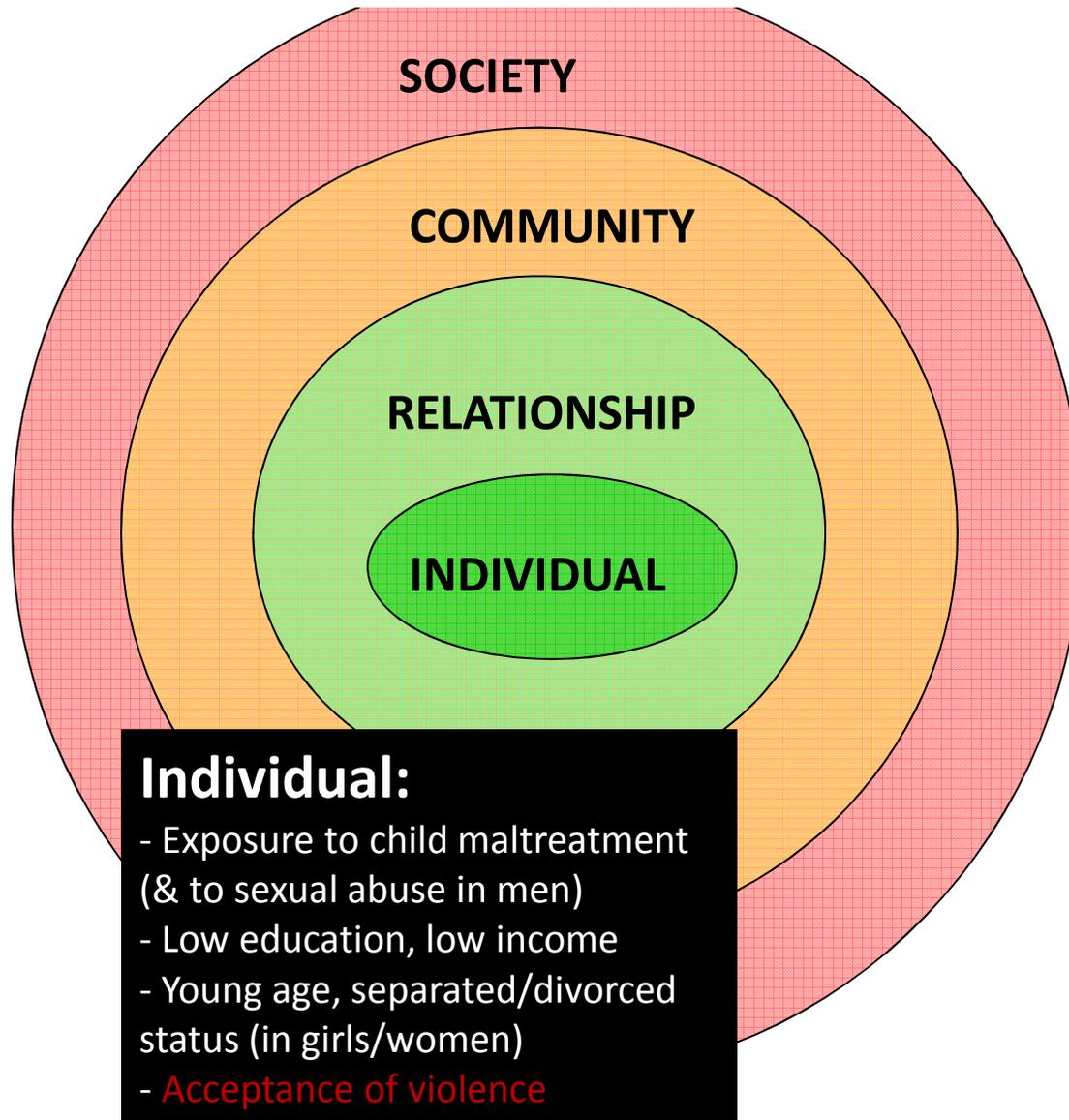
Inter-generational & socio-economic consequences

Effects on children of women who experience abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Higher rates of infant mortality & mortality• Physical injury• Behavior problems• Anxiety, depression, suicide• Poor school performance• Increased likelihood of experiencing & perpetrating violence as adults
Effects on families	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduced ability to work• Lost wages• Impaired family function
Social and economic effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Costs of services incurred by victims & their families• Lost workplace productivity• Perpetuation of violence

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3. Violence against women & girls has health, social & economic consequences for individuals, families, communities & societies.
4. Childhood abuse & gender inequality are the main risk factors for intimate partner & non-partner sexual violence. There is growing evidence of a number of predisposing factors at the individual, relationship, family, community & societal levels.

Childhood abuse & gender inequality are the main risk factors for violence against women & girls



Individual:

- Exposure to child maltreatment (& to sexual abuse in men)
- Low education, low income
- Young age, separated/divorced status (in girls/women)
- Acceptance of violence

Society:

- Gender & social norms accepting of violence & ideologies of male entitlement
- Women's lack of access to education, employment & family resources
- Lack or poor enforcement of laws & policies on violence against women & girls

Community:

- Unequal gender norms that condone violence against women & weak community sanctions

Relationship:

- Men's control over women
- Marital dissatisfaction
- Multiple partners

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3. Violence against women & girls has health, social & economic consequences for individuals, families, communities & societies.
4. Childhood abuse & gender inequality are the main factors for intimate partner & non-partner sexual violence. There is growing evidence of a number of predisposing factors at the individual, relationship, family, community & societal levels.
5. There is widespread global consensus & commitment to end violence against women & girls.

**World Health Assembly 2014 Resolution
approved by WHO's member states on:
Strengthening the role of the health systems
in addressing violence, in particular
against women & girls and against children**



**Health sector's role
in addressing
violence against
women & girls:**

Provide

Comprehensive health services for survivors



Collect data

about prevalence, risk factors and health consequences



Inform

policies to prevent violence against women



Prevent violence

by fostering and informing prevention programs



Advocate

for the recognition of violence against women as a public health issue



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4. Childhood abuse & gender inequality are the two risk factors for intimate partner & non-partner sexual violence. There is growing evidence of a number of predisposing factors at the individual, relationship, family, community & societal levels.
5. There is widespread global consensus & commitment to end violence against women & girls.