



WHO Multi-country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence against Women World Health Organization



WHO's landmark study documents the horrifying extent of violence against women by their intimate partners. It also clearly shows that violence against women demands a public health response, because the impact of such violence goes far beyond the immediate harm caused.

This report presents the initial results based on evidence collected from over 24 000 women from 15 sites in 10 countries representing diverse cultural settings: Bangladesh, Brazil, Ethiopia, Japan, Peru, Namibia, Samoa, Serbia and Montenegro, Thailand, and the United Republic of Tanzania. The study used carefully trained teams of interviewers and a standardized and robust method to collect data, which allows the results to be analysed across settings and internationally.

Focusing on the prevalence of violence by

intimate partners, and the associations between such violence and women's physical, mental, sexual and reproductive health, the report also deals with non-partner violence, sexual abuse during childhood and forced first sexual experience.

Women have their own coping strategies: some leave home and some fight back. But many turn to nobody and tell no one, fearing that they will be despised or disbelieved.

The report culminates in 15 recommendations to strengthen national commitment and action on violence against women by promoting primary prevention, harnessing education systems, strengthening the health sector's response, supporting women living with violence, sensitizing criminal justice systems, undertaking research and enhancing collaboration.

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Initial results on prevalence, health outcomes and women's responses



World Health Organization

ISBN 92 4 159358 X



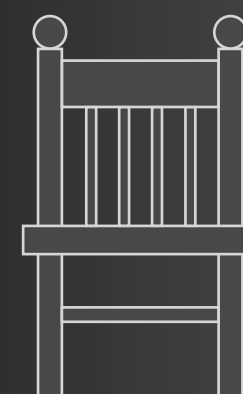


The World Health Organization was established in 1948 as a specialized agency of the United Nations serving as the directing and coordinating authority for international health matters and public health. One of WHO's constitutional functions is to provide objective and reliable information and advice in the field of human health, a responsibility that it fulfils in part through its extensive programme of publications.

The Organization seeks through its publications to support national health strategies and address the most pressing public health concerns of populations around the world. To respond to the needs of Member States at all levels of development, WHO publishes practical manuals, handbooks and training material for specific categories of health workers; internationally applicable guidelines and standards; reviews and analyses of health policies, programmes and research; and state-of-the-art consensus reports that offer technical advice and recommendations for decision-makers. These books are

closely tied to the Organization's priority activities, encompassing disease prevention and control, the development of equitable health systems based on primary health care, and health promotion for individuals and communities. Progress towards better health for all also demands the global dissemination and exchange of information that draws on the knowledge and experience of all WHO's Member countries and the collaboration of world leaders in public health and the biomedical sciences.

To ensure the widest possible availability of authoritative information and guidance on health matters, WHO secures the broad international distribution of its publications and encourages their translation and adaptation. By helping to promote and protect health and prevent and control disease throughout the world, WHO's books contribute to achieving the Organization's principal objective – the attainment by all people of the highest possible level of health.



“ After knowing I was pregnant, he changed. No more sweet and kind words from him... He would hit me and throw things at me. He meant to kill me. Once he lifted a table and threw it at me... I survived. Later that night, we fought. He used a broom to hit me several times. I was bruised all over. I was in such a great pain never experienced before... ”

Woman interviewed in Thailand

“ So I take a blanket and I spend the night with my children out in the cold because he is hitting me too much and I have to take the kids to stop him hitting them too. I would go up the mountain, and sleep there all night. I've done that more than ten times... ”

Woman interviewed in Peru