

PRESS RELEASE

National study in Turkey finds 4 out of 10 women beaten by their husband

For the first time Turkey has official statistics, which show that violence by husbands is the most common form of violence in the lives of married women, much more than assault by strangers and acquaintances.

The study shows the grim reality of violence against women happening behind closed doors.

During the summer of 2008, 24048 households in 51 provinces in the whole country were visited by 150 trained interviewers who asked 12795 women aged 15-59 years, in a confidential and sensitive way, about their experiences of domestic violence and other types of violence. Also the opinions and experiences of many other people were documented, such as men, representatives of NGOs and professionals.

The National research on Domestic Violence against women was funded by the European Union. The Directorate General of the Status of Women was the beneficiary, and the project was carried out by a consortium of ICON-Institut Public Sector, Hacettepe Institute of Populations studies and BNB.

The study revealed that levels of violence varied between NUTS-1 regions and that between 26% and 57% of ever-married women experienced physical or sexual violence by a husband at least once in her life. In regions where the level of violence was high the nature of the violence was also more serious.

Women who experienced violence by a husband are on average twice as likely to have poor health and mental problems, compared to women who have not. This includes suicidal thoughts and attempts. One out of 10 women reported being beaten during pregnancy.

The results also show that partner violence is very much a hidden problem. For many women the interviewer was the first person they had ever told what happened to them.

Women very rarely seek help from health, police or other support services.

The report of this study contains the statistics as well as many stories as written up from the mouths of women.

For more information please contact: <http://www.ksgm.gov.tr>

11 February 2009



This project is funded by the European Union



The Directorate General of the Status of Women is the beneficiary of this project



CFCU is the Contracting Authority of this project



PUBLIC SECTOR

ICON-Institute Public Sector is the main contractor and leading consortium partner



Hacettepe Institute of Population Studies is consortium partner, implementing the project



BNB Consulting is consortium partner, supporting the project implementation

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FACT SHEET

National Research on Violence against Women in Turkey - Key findings:

- The most common form of violence in the lives of married women is the violence perpetrated by her husband.
- 39 percent of women reported physical violence (slapped, beaten, pushed, hit with fist, kicked, choked, burnt or threatened or attacked with a weapon).
- 15 percent of women reported sexual violence (physically forced to have sex, have sex out of fear or forced to do something degrading or humiliating).
- Sexual violence goes almost always together with physical violence; 42 percent of women reported physical or sexual violence, or both.
- Not only lower educated women are exposed to violence. Among higher educated women as much as 3 out of 10 have been exposed to physical or sexual violence by their husbands.
- Besides physical and sexual violence, the study also looked at emotional and economic abuse by husbands.
- One out of each 4 ever-married women, who have been exposed to physical or sexual violence, have been injured as a result of violence.
- One out of 10 women has reported to have been beaten during her pregnancy.
- Violence against women is mostly a hidden problem, and nearly half of the women experiencing violence had not talked about it with anybody before being interviewed.
- The women very rarely seek help from health institutions, police or other support services.
- Women who have experienced physical or sexual violence by husband or partner are having more general and mental health problems than women who have not experienced violence.
- One third of the women who experienced physical or sexual violence by husband or partner have thought about ending their lives in any period of their lives.
- About one in five women, married or single, have experienced physical violence and 3 percent sexual violence by someone other than their partners since they were 15 years old, for example their own and their spouses' families, relatives, acquaintances from school or work, and strangers.
- 7 percent of women reported sexual abuse as a child (before they were 15 years old).

The results of the research will constitute the basis of the measures that will be taken to combat domestic violence against women.



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