

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

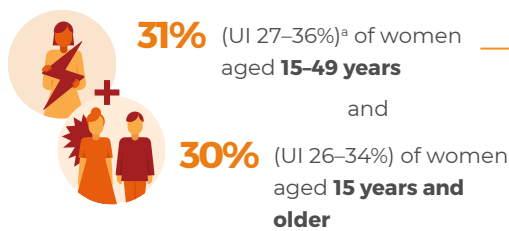
PREVALENCE ESTIMATES, 2018

“The data show unequivocally that violence against women is pervasive globally.”



These are the first estimates on violence against women produced during the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) era, 2015–2030.

THE 2018 GLOBAL COMBINED ESTIMATES INDICATE THAT OVERALL:



^a UI: uncertainty interval (95%).

...have been subjected to:

- **physical and/or sexual violence from any** current or former **husband or male intimate partner**, or to
- **sexual violence from a non-partner**, e.g. strangers, acquaintances, friends, peers, teachers, neighbours, family members, or to
- **both of these forms of violence combined** at least once in their lifetime (i.e. since the age of 15).



On average, **736 million** and up to **852 million women** who were aged 15 years or older in 2018 (nearly **1 in 3** women) have experienced one or both of these forms of violence at least once in their lifetime.

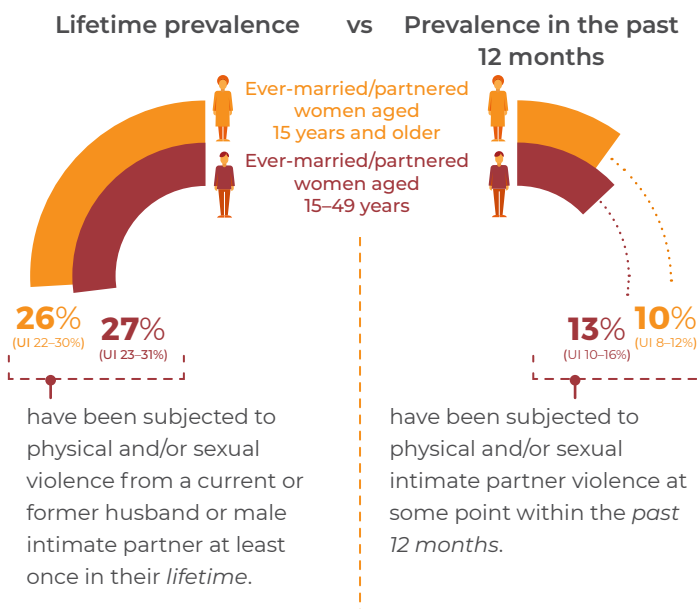
These estimates confirm that physical and sexual intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence remain pervasive in the lives of women and adolescent girls across the globe.

DATA COLLECTION

The results are based on data collected between 2000 and 2018. During this time, there has been an increase in the number of countries and areas with at least one population-based prevalence survey.



GLOBAL PREVALENCE ESTIMATES OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE



Intimate partner violence starts early.



Almost **1 in 4** ever-married/partnered adolescent girls (24%, UI 21–28%) in the youngest age cohort (15–19 years old) is estimated to have already been subjected to physical and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner at least once in their *lifetime*, and



16% of adolescent girls and young women aged 15–24 have been subjected to this violence within the *past 12 months*.

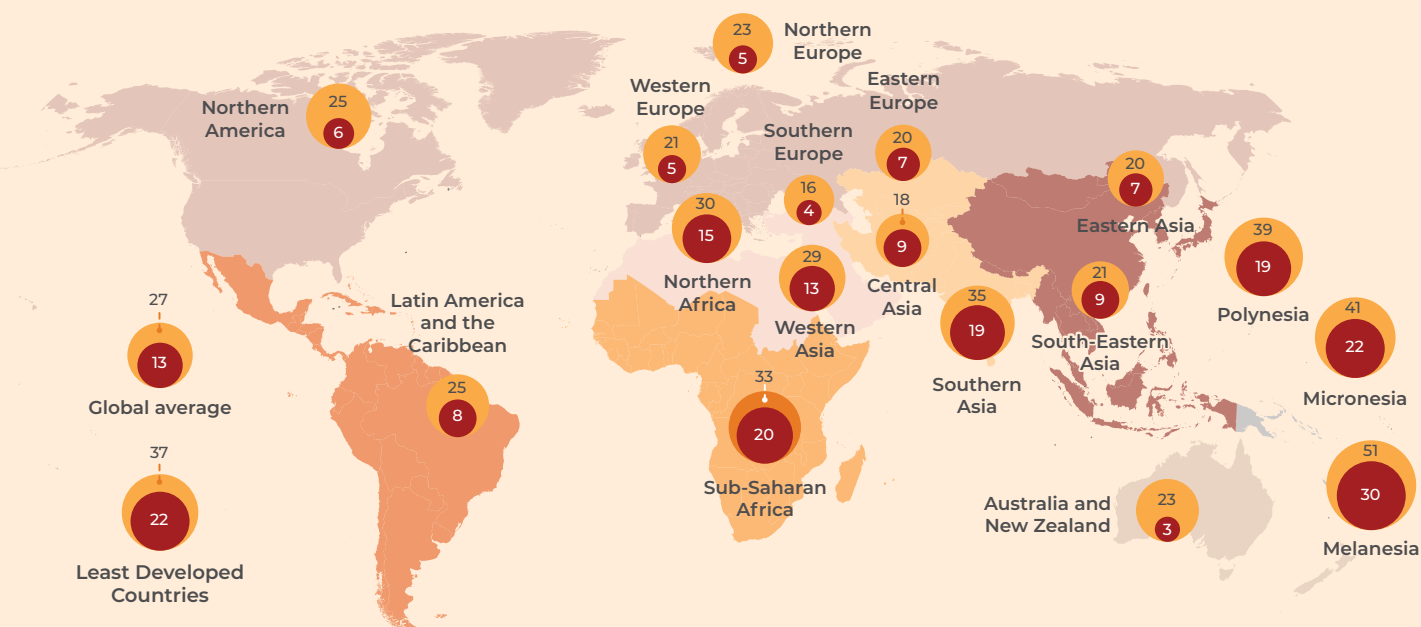


Global prevalence estimates show that **6% of women** over the age of 15 have been subjected to **NON-PARTNER SEXUAL VIOLENCE** at least once in their lifetime.

REGIONAL PREVALENCE ESTIMATES OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

This map shows regional variations between lifetime and past 12 months prevalence of physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence among ever-married/partnered women aged 15–49 for SDG regions.^b

“The variations in the prevalence of violence seen between countries and regions highlight the fact that this violence is not inevitable, and that it can be prevented.”



lifetime prevalence IPV (%)

past 12 months prevalence IPV (%)

Details about SDG regional and subregional groupings can be found at: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/regional-groups/>

^bThe size of the bubbles is proportionate to the prevalence of intimate partner violence, which varies widely across regions and countries. Generally, prevalence of both is higher in low- and middle-income countries and regions. Differences between higher- and lower-income regions are starker with past 12 months prevalence. The smaller difference between lifetime and past 12 months prevalence in these lower- and middle-income countries and regions may indicate that women in these countries have more limited ability or support to leave abusive relationships.

URGENT ACTION IS NEEDED



Policy and laws – Institute and implement laws and regulations that promote gender equality (e.g. girls' and women's equitable access to secondary education, paid employment and property/inheritance rights, as well as laws imposing sanctions for violence against women).



Data – Strengthen data collection, reporting and use. Invest in high-quality surveys on violence against women and improve measurement of the different forms of violence that women (including older women) and adolescent girls are subjected to.



Prevention – Support and scale up nationalized and localized evidence-driven programmes and strategies for prevention. Promote and support community-based and women's organizations' efforts to end violence against women and girls.



Services – Scale up comprehensive, accessible and quality survivor-centred services for women affected by violence and their children through capacity-building of service providers in all sectors (e.g. health, judicial, education, social). Strengthen joined-up multisectoral responses to better respond to and prevent violence against women.



Support – Empower and invest in autonomous women's rights organizations to apply their expertise in addressing violence against women and guide decision-making in programming and policy-making.



Society – Challenge norms and attitudes that discriminate against women and girls, especially regarding the acceptability of violence against women, including through school- and community-based programmes and interventions.



Download the full report [here](#). For more information contact vawestimates@who.int



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This report was produced by the WHO Department of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Research (SRH), including HRP, for the United Nations Inter-Agency Working Group on Violence Against Women Estimation and Data (VAW-IWGED) and the Technical Advisory Group (TAG).