

IN BRIEF

Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in Georgia

Introduction

Violence against women (VAW) is a pervasive violation of human rights and a global public health problem. VAW manifests in various forms of physical, sexual, emotional and economic violence that occurs in both private and public spaces. It undermines the mental and physical health and well-being of women and girls and has serious implications for their own development and advancement, as well as their contribution to the broader economy.

Aligned with Istanbul Convention and EU recommendations, the National Statistics Office of Georgia (Geostat) and UN Women, with the generous support of the European Union and the “[Making Every Woman and Girl Count](#)” (Women Count) regional programme for Europe and Central Asia, conducted a second national survey on VAW in 2022, five years after the first national study on VAW was conducted in 2017. The findings have provided the Georgian Government and international and non-governmental organizations with the updated data needed to better understand VAW and to make evidence-based decisions when formulating policies and programmes to end VAW.

This brief focuses specifically on intimate partner violence (IPV), drawing on findings from the 2022 VAW survey. The purpose is to highlight the prevalence, forms, and drivers of IPV in Georgia and to inform evidence-based policy and programming.

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) refers to behaviour by an intimate partner or ex-partner that causes physical, sexual or psychological harm, including physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse and controlling behaviours. This is one of the most common forms of violence experienced by women globally. Unless otherwise stated, the data presented in this brief refer to violence perpetrated by male partners.

BOX 1

How was the survey conducted?

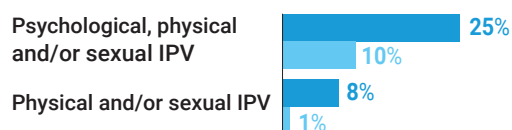
A nationally representative survey on the prevalence of violence against women was conducted in October and November 2022 through computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) and covered 3,300 women and 1,104 men aged 15–69.

The survey was designed in accordance with international best practices, as well as ethical and safety guidelines for research and data collection on VAW.

Questions directed to women were designed to measure the nature and extent of their experiences of intimate partner violence, non-partner violence, sexual harassment, stalking, and violence and neglect before the age of 18, as well as their own attitudes and perceived social norms related to gender equality and VAW. Questions directed to men, on the other hand, captured only their experiences of abuse and neglect before the age of 18 and their attitudes and perceived social norms related to gender equality and VAW.

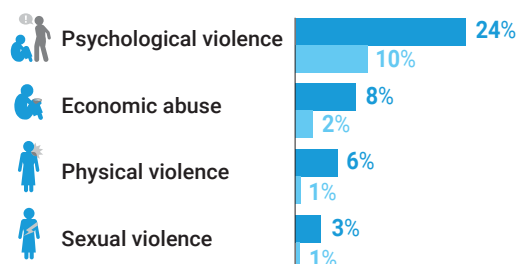
KEY FINDINGS

1 in 4 ever-partnered women have experienced at least one form of IPV in their lifetime



■ Lifetime prevalence ■ Current prevalence *

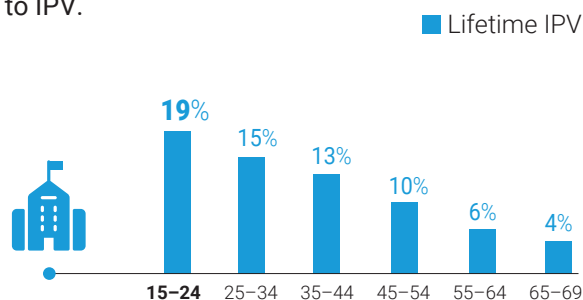
* 'Current' refers to the time period comprising the 12 months prior to the interview.



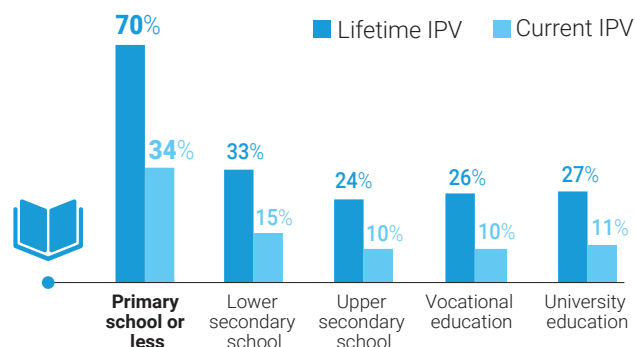
Dating violence is particularly high, with **38%** of women reporting lifetime IPV and **18%** reporting current IPV by their **boyfriend/fiancé**.

IPV disproportionately affects women based on their age, education, income and disability

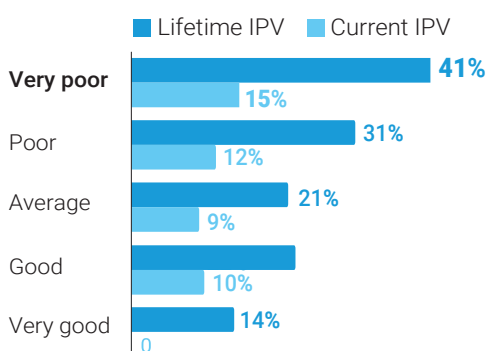
The current IPV rate is highest among women aged **15-24** - every fifth women was subject to IPV.



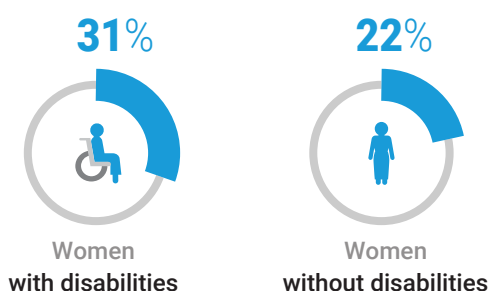
Lifetime and current IPV rates are highest among women with a **primary education or less**.



Lifetime and current IPV is highest among women from households that reported themselves to be **very poor**.

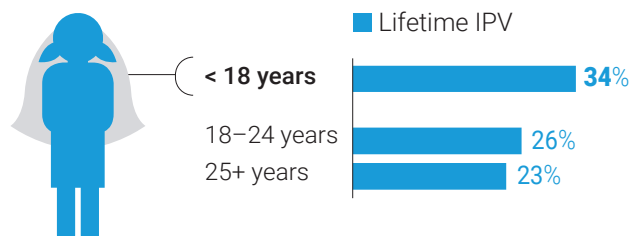


Women with **functional difficulties** are more likely to have experienced IPV during their lifetime than those women who did not report any functional difficulty.

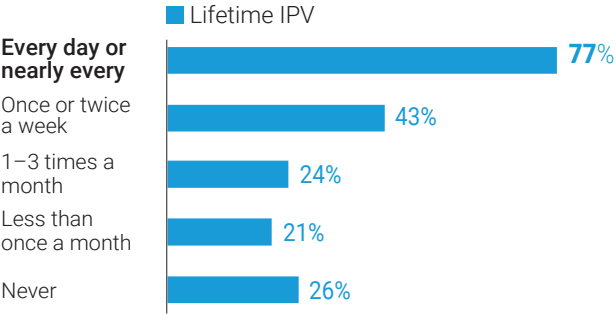


Child marriage and partners' excessive alcohol consumption, increase the risk of IPV

Women who entered into their **first marriage/union before the age of 18** have a significantly higher prevalence of lifetime and current IPV compared to others.



Women whose husbands or partners consumed **alcohol every day** or nearly every day in the past 12 months were **three times more** likely to experience lifetime IPV than those whose husbands or partners drank alcohol less frequently.

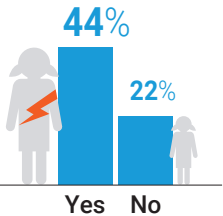


Childhood exposure to violence increases the risk of experiencing or committing IPV in adulthood

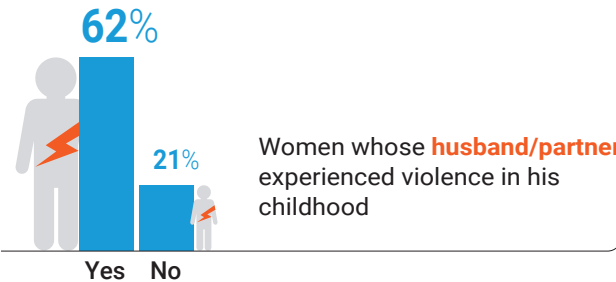
Women who experienced violence in their childhood are more than **twice as likely** to have experienced lifetime IPV as women with no exposure to violence in their childhood.

■ Lifetime IPV

Women who reported physical or emotional abuse in childhood



Women whose husbands/partners experienced violence during childhood are nearly **three times more** likely to have experienced IPV in their lifetime compared to those whose partners did not experience violence as children.

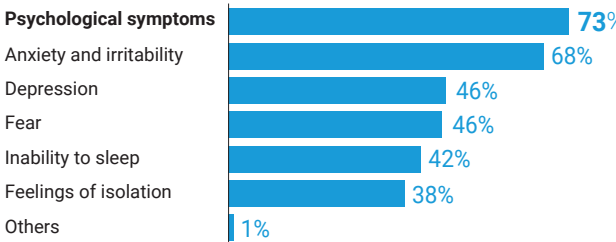


IPV has damaging effects on mental and physical health of women

19% of women who experienced physical and/or sexual IPV were **injured**, and **14%** needed **health care**.

Nearly **3 in 4 women** experience one or more psychological symptoms as a result of experiencing physical and/or sexual IPV.

17% of women who have experienced physical and/or sexual IPV also thought about purposely **hurting themselves or ending their life**, while **9%** actually acted upon it: They purposely hurt themselves or tried to end their life.



3 in 4 women who experience violence do not seek help

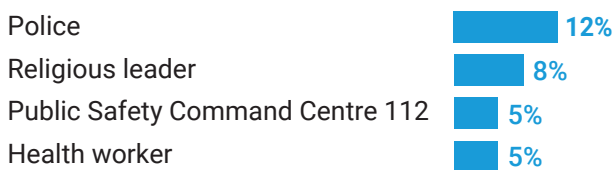
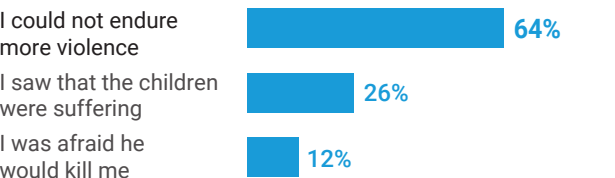
Nearly **4 in 10 women** who experienced physical and/or sexual violence from a partner **never told anyone** about it.



Fewer than **1 in 4 women** who experienced physical and/or sexual IPV **sought help** from a formal organization or individual.



6 out of 10 of these women **sought help** because they could not endure any more violence.



Recommendations:

1

Strengthen prevention measures:

- Move prevention of IPV up the political agenda.
- Develop and implement comprehensive prevention programmes targeting young women and men, especially those aged 15–24.
- Focus on educational and awareness-raising campaigns targeting the general public as well as professionals engaged in prevention and response to address the root causes of VAW, including gender inequality and harmful social norms.

2

Enhance support services:

- Increase the availability and accessibility of support services for women experiencing IPV, including shelters, crisis centres, helplines and mental health and legal aid services.
- Train healthcare providers, social workers and law enforcement officers to recognize and respond to IPV cases effectively.

3

Promote economic empowerment:

- Implement programmes to improve the economic status of women, particularly those from very poor households.
- Establish an inter-agency platform to conduct vocational training and find employment opportunities to help women achieve financial independence.

4

Address risk factors:

- Promote community-based programmes that raise awareness and address substance abuse and its impact on domestic violence.
- Closely monitor enforcement and implementation of the legislation, policies and programmes focused on the prevention of child marriages.
- Provide targeted education and support to families and communities to discourage child and early marriages.

5

Improve data collection and research:

- Continue to conduct regular surveys and research on VAW to monitor trends and evaluate the effectiveness of interventions.
- Ensure that data-collection methods are aligned with international best practices and ethical guidelines.
- Establish unified approaches of data collection and analysis among State institutions.

6

Raise awareness and encourage reporting:

- Launch public awareness campaigns to encourage women to report IPV and seek help.
- Collaborate with community leaders and organizations to create a supportive environment for survivors of IPV.

Next steps:

Estimating the economic costs of VAW in Georgia

Under Phase II of the Women Count programme and based on data from the VAW survey in Georgia, UN Women is currently developing a study to estimate the economic costs of violence against women. The study focuses on quantifying the costs of inaction—the economic burden resulting from the failure to prevent or respond to violence. These costs are borne not only by survivors but also by their families, communities and the broader economy. The study also explores the relationship between IPV and various socioeconomic and health-related factors, such as education, employment and well-being.

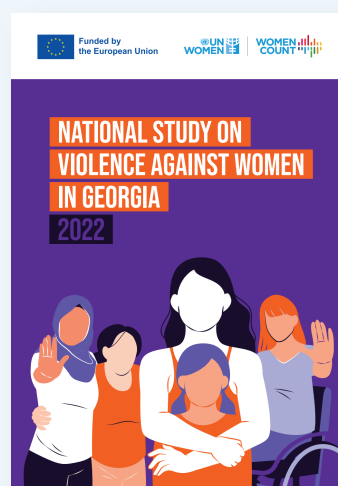
In addition, the study will estimate the costs of action, including current expenditures on services, prevention mechanisms and interventions aimed at supporting survivors and reducing violence. By identifying budgetary gaps, the study will provide policy-makers with evidence to guide more effective and equitable resource allocation. The methodology was validated by key governmental and non-governmental stakeholders. Data collection has been completed, and the final study is expected to be published by the end of 2025.

BOX 2

About Women Count

Women Count is UN Women's flagship gender data programme which aims to create a radical shift in how gender statistics are prioritized, produced and used to inform policy change. In the Europe and Central Asia region, the programme began in 2018, supporting countries to close gender data gaps and strengthen SDG monitoring. In Albania, Georgia, and Kyrgyzstan, Women Count is scaling up support to meet growing demand for data on women's economic empowerment, gender-based violence, governance, and the environment. At the regional level, the programme focuses on creating an enabling environment, increasing data production, improving data accessibility and use, and fostering peer learning across countries.

DOWNLOAD



National study on violence against women in Georgia

<http://unwo.men/mw5R50X6M5s>

Opportunities for collaboration and current partners

To learn more about Women Count, visit:

<https://data.unwomen.org>

For more information on UN Women's support to Georgia on the national survey on VAW report and gender data, contact:

geo@unwomen.org

For opportunities to collaborate, write to:

eca.genderdata@unwomen.org

The study was conducted by UN Women in partnership with Geostat within the framework of the "Ending Violence against Women and Girls in Georgia" project funded by the European Union and UN Women's flagship programme "Making Every Woman and Girl Count" (Women Count) in Europe and Central Asia, which currently benefits from the generous support of the Governments of Australia, France, Ireland and Sweden.