



**MEASURING THE SHADOW PANDEMIC:**

**VIOLENCE AGAINST  
WOMEN DURING  
COVID-19**

**COUNTRY REPORT: JORDAN**

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In Jordan, women face an epidemic of violence which, with the addition of COVID-19, has led to a negative increase in vulnerability to all forms of violence against women (VAW). As a result, women felt less safe, have struggled with mental and emotional health issues, and increasingly found themselves in dangerous situations over the past year. The repercussions of COVID-19 vary in type and severity based on pre-existing factors, including socioeconomic status and vulnerability to other stressors. This research delves into the relationships between measures of VAW and related demographic, behavioural and socio-economic factors.

This study found that women's baseline feelings of safety in Jordan have worsened as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, whether it was inside or outside of their households, with significant negative impacts on their mental and emotional well-being as a result. Among factors associated with these feelings, external stressors such as food insecurity, family relations and access to support services stood out as having a significant impact not only on experiences of safety (or violence) but also on women's well-being overall.

# 1. INTRODUCTION

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Jordan's Population and Family Health Survey found that 19% of women aged 15–49 who had ever been married had experienced sexual violence from an intimate partner at least once in their lifetime and 21% had experienced physical violence.<sup>1</sup>

Since the pandemic began, rapid gender assessments conducted by UN Women using administrative data from police, VAW hotlines, and other service-providers suggest that the COVID-19 pandemic has increased risk factors for women and intensified some of the existing forms of VAW. In Jordan, early after the start of the pandemic, a rapid gender assessment conducted by UN Women reported that 62% of women respondents felt an increased risk of physical or psychological violence due to tensions caused by COVID-19.<sup>2</sup>

Measures implemented to limit the spread of the pandemic, such as lockdowns and curfews, have had an impact on VAW risk factors, especially for women and girls who faced multiple forms of discrimination. Lockdowns in Jordan have been consistent and strict throughout the country's two waves of COVID-19.<sup>3</sup> The Center for Global Development, in a series of collated reports on the impact of COVID-19 on VAW, reported a quadrupling of self-reported VAW cases in Jordan since the pandemic.<sup>4</sup>

Within this context, UN Women commissioned Ipsos to conduct a rapid gender assessment survey on the impact of COVID-19 on women's well-being and safety in 13 countries across regions. In adapting the surveying methodology to be feasible in the COVID-19 context, proxy measures on experiences of VAW were used to collect data on sensitive topics to reduce the risk to the respondents, and thus may not be directly comparable to other studies conducted before the pandemic.

Having reliable data that were collected in line with methodological, safety and ethical standards, without putting women at greater distress and risk of violence, was critical to informing where policies and programmes can respond to the UN's system-wide efforts to scale up actions to address VAW in response to the impact of COVID-19.

This report details the findings of the survey conducted in Jordan from 17 August to 15 September 2021. The survey was conducted with women aged 18 and older who had access to a phone – a population that estimated to be at least 68% of the total population of women aged 18 years and older in Jordan<sup>5</sup> – and there is a minimal gender gap in overall mobile phone ownership in the country.<sup>6</sup>

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1 Department of Statistics. 2018. [Jordan Population and Family Health Survey \(2017-18\)](#).

2 UN Women. 2020. "UN Women Rapid Assessment of COVID-19 on Vulnerable Women in Jordan" April.

3 Reuters. 2021. <https://graphics.reuters.com/world-coronavirus-tracker-and-maps/countries-and-territories/jordan/>

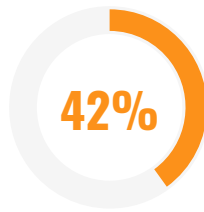
4 Center for Global Development. 2021. "Violence Against Women and Children During COVID-19—One Year On and 100 Papers In: A Fourth Research Round Up".

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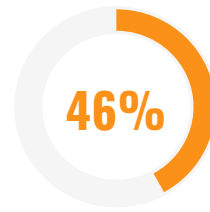
5 World Bank. 2020. "Mobile cellular subscriptions," World Bank data. <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/IT.CEL.SET?end=2020&locations=JO&start=2020>

6 Pew Research Center. [Mobile Connectivity in Emerging Economies p. 9](#)

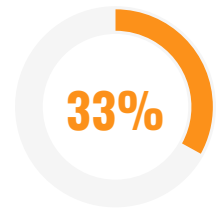
# KEY FINDINGS



Verbal Abuse



Denied Basic Needs



Sexual Abuse



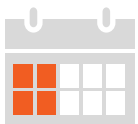
**13%**

of women feel unsafe in their homes.



**21%**

said this has gotten worse as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.



**38%**

of women live in households with conflict among adults at least weekly.



**39%**

said conflict between adults has become more frequent as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.



**40%**

of women think that the experience of verbal or physical abuse at the hands of a partner is common for women in their community.



**74%**

said this has gotten worse as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.



**41%**

of women think that physical harm, abuse and harassment are a problem for women in their community.



**11%**

of women think physical harm, abuse, and harassment has gotten worse since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.



**30%**

of women feel unsafe walking alone at night.



**6%**

of women feel unsafe walking alone during the day.



**24%**

of women think that it is common for women to be harassed in public.



# 2. EXPERIENCES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

## 2.1. Proxy measures of violence against women in the community

When considering the measures of violence against women at the community level in this study, it is important to be aware of the methods used. Due to the remote nature of this survey, indirect questions were asked as proxy indicators of VAW, so it was not possible to distinguish respondent experiences from those of other women in their community or whether this experience occurred within or outside of the household. Therefore, while data from this study should not be interpreted as prevalence data, it nevertheless provides critical information on the impact of COVID-19 on women's perception of safety and well-being.

With this understanding of the approach, more than half of the respondents (66%) said they either know a woman who has experienced a form of VAW (such as physical harm, denial of basic needs, sexual harassment, restrictions or verbal abuse), or have experienced this themselves at some point in their lives. Since the start of COVID-19, almost a quarter of respondents (22%) said they know a woman who has experienced a form of VAW or have experienced a form of VAW themselves. Verbal abuse and forced isolation were among the most common forms of VAW reported over a lifetime, and all forms of VAW were more likely to be reported by women who said they have experienced safety issues, whether in public

or in private. Similarly, since the start of COVID-19, women who felt unsafe, in public or private, were more likely than women in general to have experienced or know someone who has experienced VAW. Denial of basic needs and forced isolation were the most common forms of VAW occurring exclusively since the onset of the pandemic.<sup>7</sup>

In addition to personal experience of safety being associated with VAW, women who generated an income (73, compared to 64% of women who did not) or had children in the household (69%, compared to 58% of women who did not) were more likely to say that they have experienced, or know someone who has experienced a type of VAW in their lifetime.

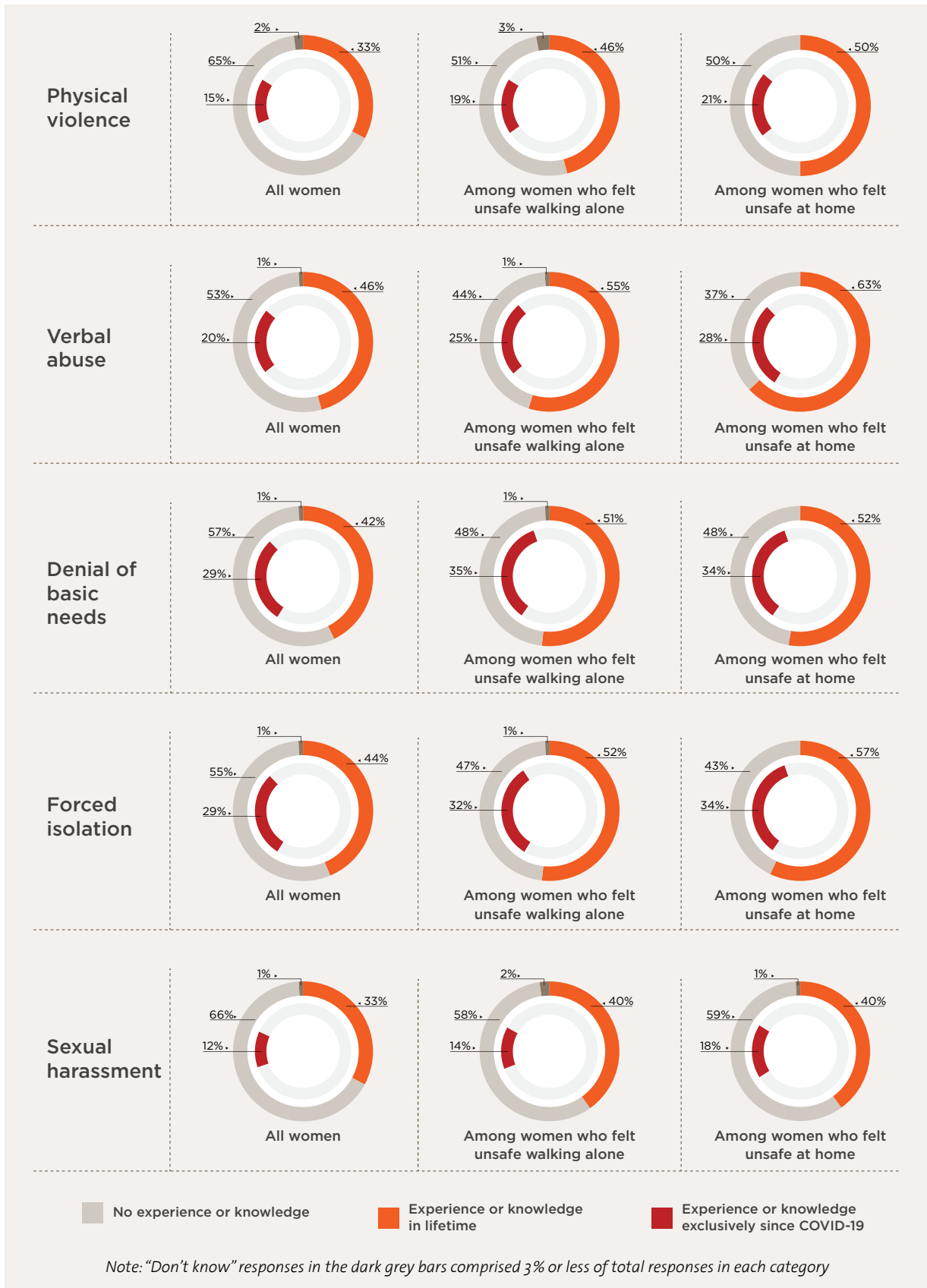
For women who generated an income, the experience of physical violence (40%, compared to 31%), verbal abuse (54%, compared to 43%), or sexual harassment (46%, compared to 29%) was significantly higher in their lifetime than those who did not generate an income. Women income-earners were no more likely to experience any singular type of VAW exclusively since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, and they were less likely to experience VAW generally only since the start of COVID-19 when compared to those who did not generate income (17%, compared to 24%), likely driven by increased experiences of denial of basic needs and forced isolation since COVID-19 among those who did not generate income.

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7 Cognitive testing of this question revealed that, for many women, forced isolation and denial of basic needs were influenced by COVID-19-related measures and economic stress. The results from this study suggest that women may bear a disproportionate burden when it comes to COVID-19 effects; however, it is important to keep the overall context in mind when interpreting study results.

**FIGURE 1**

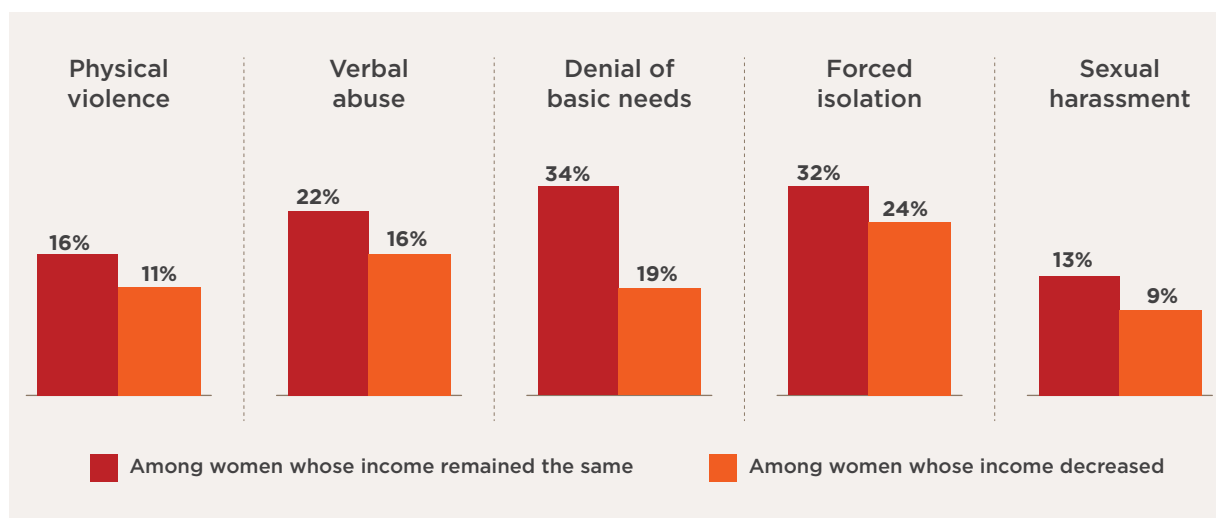
**Experience or knowledge of specific forms of VAW, over lifetime and since COVID-19**



Women with children in the household were also more likely than those without children in the household to have experienced almost all types of VAW in their lifetime: verbal abuse (50%, compared to 37%), denial of basic needs (44%, compared to 36%), forced isolation (47%, compared to 38%), or sexual harassment (35%, compared to 28%). Women with children in the household were also more likely to have experienced specific types of VAW exclusively since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes physical violence (16%, compared to 10% of women without children in the household) and verbal abuse (22%, compared to 15%).

Moreover, respondents that experienced a decrease in income in the past year were particularly likely to also have experienced a type of VAW exclusively since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, compared to those whose income has been stable. Additionally, women who said they or someone they know had experienced a type of VAW in their lifetime were more likely to experience severe food insecurity. These figures suggest a relationship between experiences of VAW, household dynamics, and structural and economic factors.

**FIGURE 2**  
Experience or knowledge of specific forms of VAW exclusively since the onset of COVID-19, by changes in income in past year



Younger women aged 18 to 29 were the most likely to experience, or know a woman who has experienced, forced isolation (45%) or sexual harassment (37%) in their lifetime, while middle-aged women (aged 40 to 49) were those most likely to have experienced physical violence (37%) or verbal abuse (53%), and older women aged 60 and older were those less like-

ly to have experienced or know a woman who has experienced of any type of VAW (16% physical violence, 22% verbal abuse, 25% resource restriction, 25% forced isolation and 12% sexual harassment). This may suggest that younger women are more open to discussing VAW, or it may suggest that they are more at risk of being exposed.

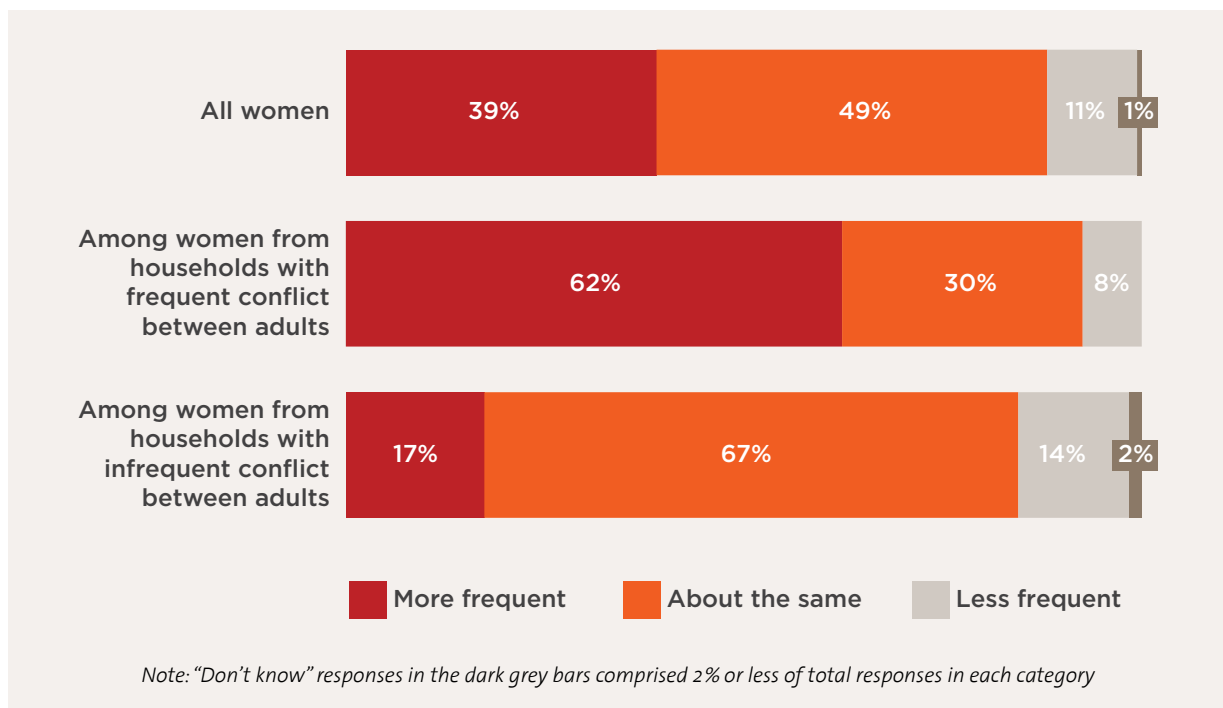
# 3. FEELINGS OF SAFETY

## 3.1. Personal safety inside the home

Regarding safety within the household, 2 in 10 women (21%) reported that over the past six months adults in their household have argued or had some sort of conflict among themselves

on a weekly basis. Nearly 2 in 10 respondents (17%) reported this happening daily. Almost 4 in 10 women (39%) said that conflicts between adults in their household have become more frequent since the onset of COVID-19.

**FIGURE 3**  
Changes in frequency of household conflict as a result of COVID-19



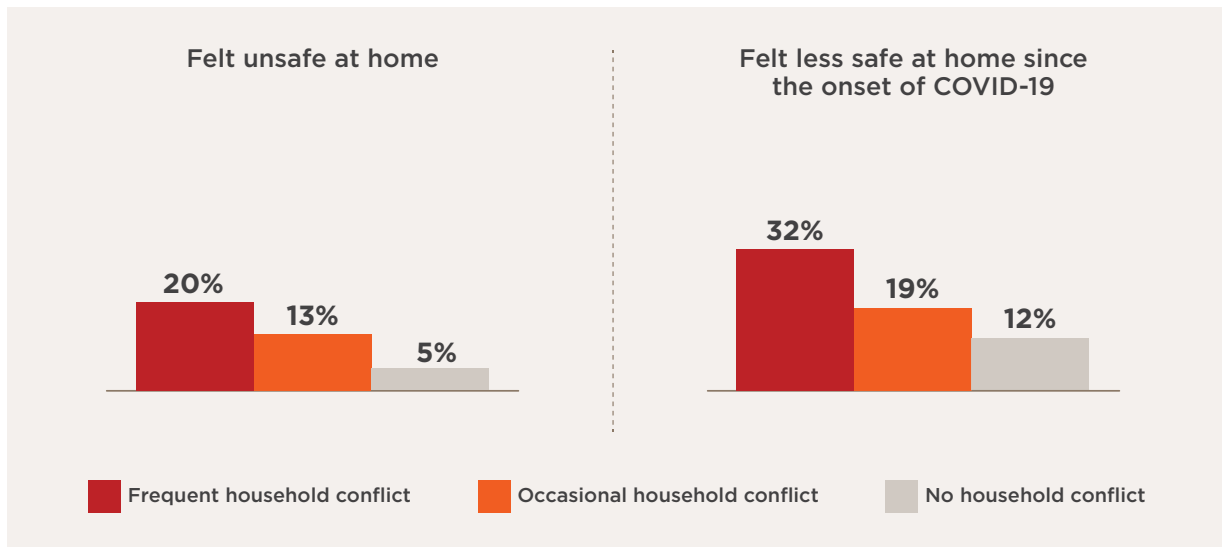
Women who generated an income for their household and those with children in the household were not significantly more likely than women generally to have conflict in their households; however, they were more likely to say that household conflict has become more frequent as a result of COVID-19. Further, those who experienced frequent household conflict were more than three times as likely (62, compared to those who experienced infrequent conflict 17%) to say that the occurrence of conflict has increased as a result of the pandemic, suggesting that the pandemic has escalated existing tensions in the household.

The experience of conflict also appears to be associated with feelings unsafe. While overall, more than 1 in 10 women (13%) said that they have felt unsafe in their household in the last six months, those who experienced frequent conflict (at least weekly) between adults in the household were four times as likely (20%) as those who experienced infrequent conflict (5%) to feel unsafe in their homes. More than 2 in 10 women (21%) said that the COVID-19 pandemic has made things worse in terms of how safe they feel in their homes.



**FIGURE 4**

**Perceptions of women's safety in the household, by frequency of household conflict**



Women aged between 40–49 years, who lost income in the last year, or who had children in the household were more likely to feel unsafe in their homes than the average. Additionally, women who felt unsafe in their homes were more than twice as likely compared to women who felt safe to experience severe food insecurity. This reinforces the view that external stressors and family composition alike can significantly impact household dynamics.

When asked why they have felt unsafe in their homes, women cited inability to reach out for help, living with people they cannot trust, and verbal abuse as the main reasons. Women who felt unsafe at home and were aged 18 to 29 were more likely to say they were living with people they could not trust (43, compared to 25% of women 30 and older).

**FIGURE 5**

**Reasons for women feeling unsafe in their homes (among the 13% who reported feeling unsafe)**



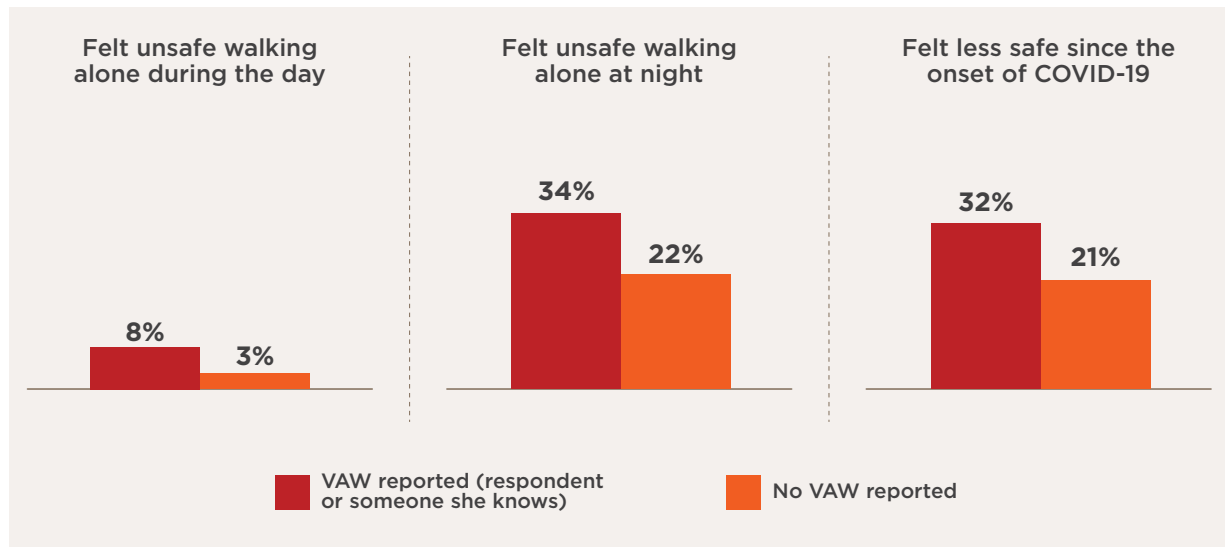
### 3.2. Personal safety in public spaces

Within their communities, the majority of women said they feel safe walking around the areas where they live during the day (93%), but this drops to 67% when asked about walking alone at night. While feelings of safety were consistent across age groups during the day, younger women aged 18 to 29 were significantly more likely to feel unsafe when alone at night (35%), particularly when compared to women aged 60 and over (11%), a group which was also the most likely to say they never leave the house alone (31%).

Additionally, women who said they think VAW is a problem in the community were significantly more likely to say they felt unsafe walking around alone, whether it was during the day (10%) or at night (40%). Women who said they or another woman they know had experienced a type of VAW in their lifetime are also more likely to feel unsafe walking around alone during the day (8%, compared to 3% of those who have not experienced VAW directly or indirectly) or at night (34%, compared to 22%), pointing to the societal implications that VAW can have on women's feelings of safety in public.

**FIGURE 6**

**Perceptions of safety while out in public, by experience or knowledge of VAW in a lifetime**



The study suggests that feelings of safety in one's community have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, with nearly 3 in 10 (29%) women saying they feel less safe alone at night since the start of COVID-19. Lessened feelings of safety in public spaces since the onset of COVID-19 were particularly pronounced

among women who said they were already feeling unsafe walking alone during the day or at night (47%, compared to 21% of those always felt safe), suggesting that the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated existing safety issues for women in Jordan already feeling at risk.

# 4. PERCEPTIONS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

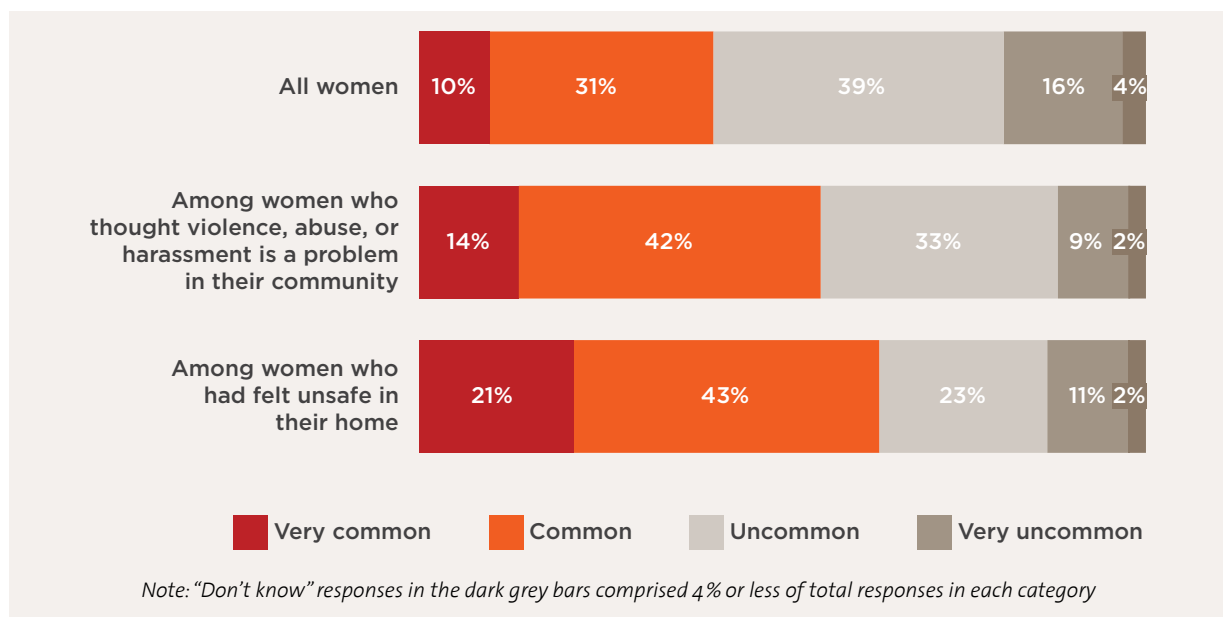
## 4.1. Women’s perceived safety inside the home

When considering the broader community, 40% of women said that they think that the experience of verbal or physical abuse at the hands of a partner is common for women. This number is particularly high among women who are employed (48%) but there is only a slight increase among those who have children in the household (42%). However, for women who have felt unsafe in their home or reported frequent conflict in their household

this number jumps to 64% and 52%, respectively, and among women who said that they or another woman they know has experienced a type of VAW it is 56%.

Additionally, women who said that experiencing abuse at the hands of a partner is very common were twice as likely to be food insecure (19%) when compared to those who said that it is very uncommon (9%). These data reinforce the idea that women’s own household financial situations play a large role in how they perceive safety for women in the community more broadly.

**FIGURE 7**  
Perceptions of partner abuse, by perceptions of safety



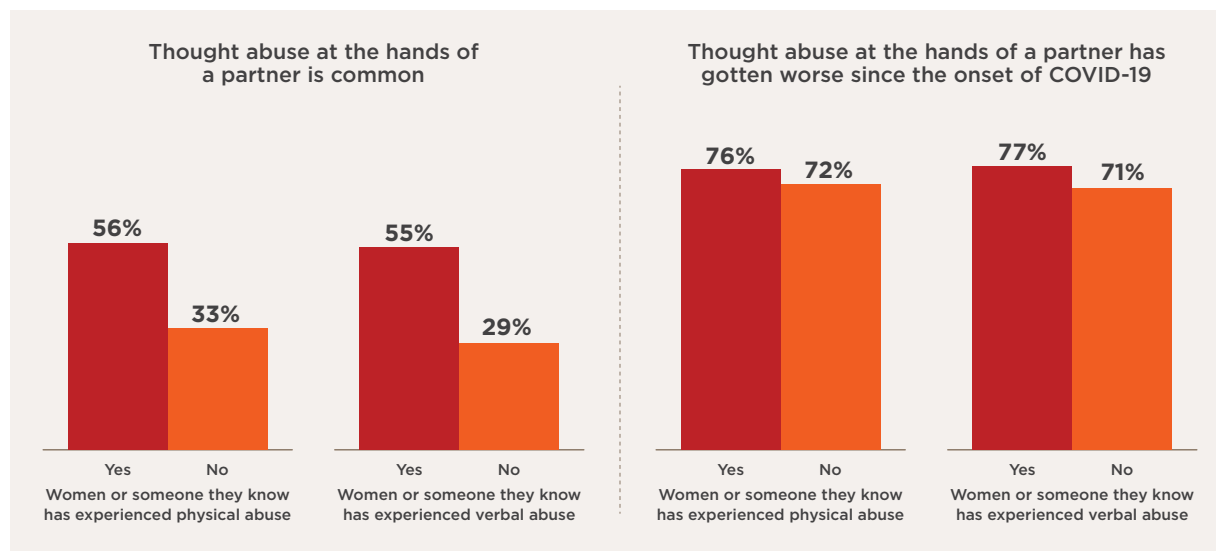
About three-quarters of women (74%) indicated that the pandemic has made physical and verbal abuse at the hands of a partner worse since the start of the pandemic, and among women who said that physical and verbal abuse at the hands of a partner is common this increases to 85%. This finding is particu-

larly noteworthy as it is nearly twice the proportion of women overall who say that abuse at the hands of a partner is common, suggesting that even in situations where abuse may not be perceived as common, the majority of women believe that the COVID-19 pandemic has led to increased violence.

Women who generated an income and those with children in the household were especially likely to indicate that domestic abuse is common (46 and 42%, respectively). They were also especially likely to say that safety has gotten worse since the pandemic (79 and 76%, respectively).

Women who perceived VAW to be a problem in their community or who said that situations of abuse at the hands of a partner were common were also more likely to say that safety has gotten worse (81 and 85%, respectively).

**FIGURE 8**  
**Perceptions of partner violence, by experience or knowledge of VAW in lifetime**



These data points suggest that women may be including their own experiences of VAW and safety when reporting on the experiences of women in their community, making them more likely to think that abuse and safety issues at home are common in the community overall.

Similar to experiences of violence outside the home, 75% of women said that they believe that women would seek help if they experienced verbal or physical abuse at the hands of a partner. However, women with a primary-level education or less were far more likely than those with higher levels of education to say that women would seek help (82%) while those with a college degree or higher were far less likely (68%), a pattern which does not appear in reporting violence in public spaces.

Again, similar to experiences of violence outside the home, 66% of women said that they believed women would seek support primarily from family, indicating a lack of trust in au-

thorities such as police. In fact, more women said that they would primarily seek help from women's centres, groups or NGOs (13%) than the police (6%) in situations of violence inside the home, despite 72% of women being aware of legal support or help in reporting the incident or dealing with police. Women who have felt unsafe in their own home were less likely to seek support primarily from family (56%) and nearly twice as likely to primarily go to women's centres, groups or NGOs (21%), perhaps indicating trust issues with household or family members.

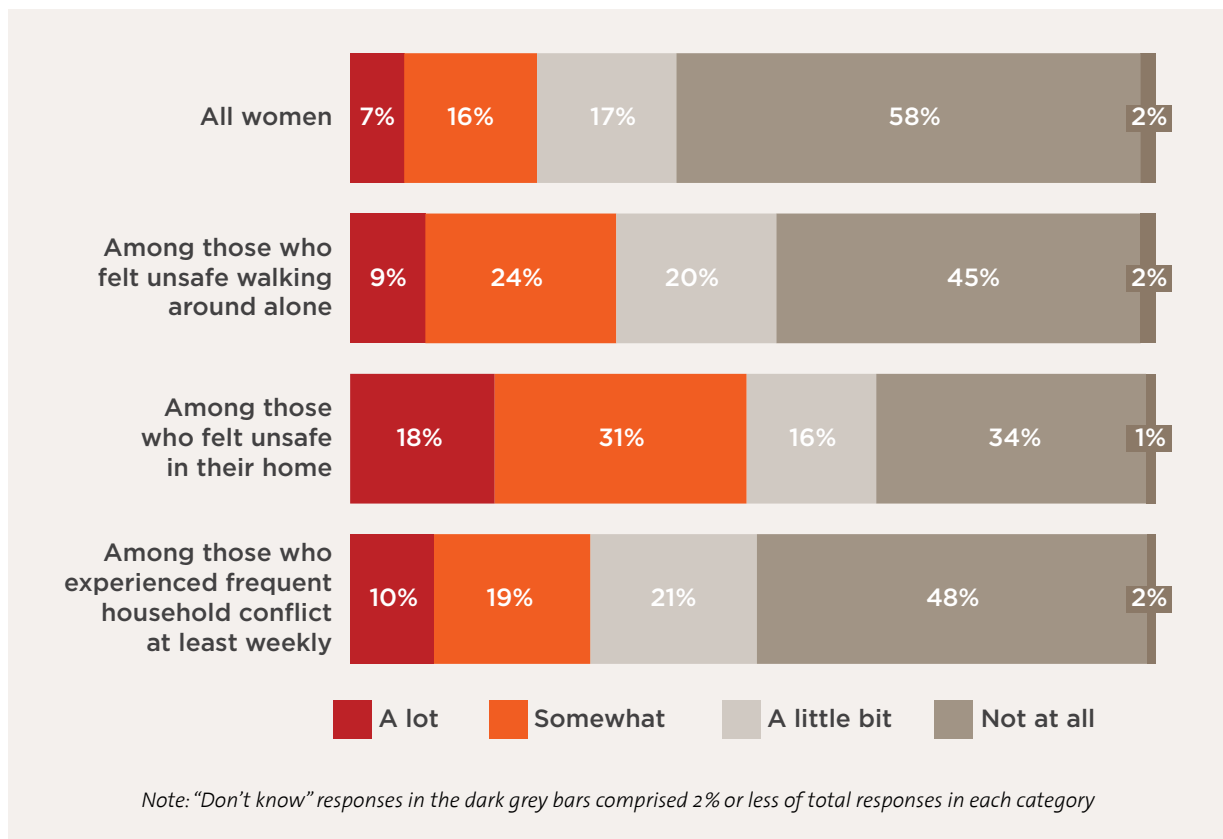
While three-quarters of women (74%) said that they knew of places that would help with basic needs, less than half (43%) said that they knew of services for women that help by providing financial support. These numbers dropped among women who said they have felt unsafe in their homes, to 27% and 56% respectively, suggesting that much more could be done to build awareness among affected populations.

## 4.2. Perceptions of violence against women in the community

When asked about violence, abuse of the harassment of women in their community, about a quarter (23%) of women said that they believe they are at least somewhat of a problem and an additional 17% said that they are a little bit of a problem. The perception of a problem was higher for younger women aged 18 to 29, of whom 27% thought that violence,

abuse and the harassment of women are a problem in their community, compared to 11% of women 60 and older. Women with children in the household were more likely to say they think they are a problem compared to women who do not have children in the household (25 versus 18%, respectively). Women who have themselves experienced safety issues, whether in public spaces or in the home, were also more likely to think that VAW was a problem in their community.

**FIGURE 9**  
Extent to which violence, abuse or harassment of women is a problem in the community



1 in 10 women (11%) said that they think violence, abuse or the harassment of women in their community have gotten worse since the onset of COVID-19, while more than three-quarters (77%) said that they have stayed the same. Women who said that they have experienced safety issues, whether they were inside (21%) or outside (18%) the home, were more likely than those who felt safe within their

home or outside of it (9 and 8%, respectively) to say that violence, abuse or the harassment of women have gotten worse since the onset of COVID-19, suggesting that while pre-pandemic conditions may not be substantially different, those that had pre-existing exposure or risk are more likely to feel that the impacts of the pandemic enhanced their sense of risk.

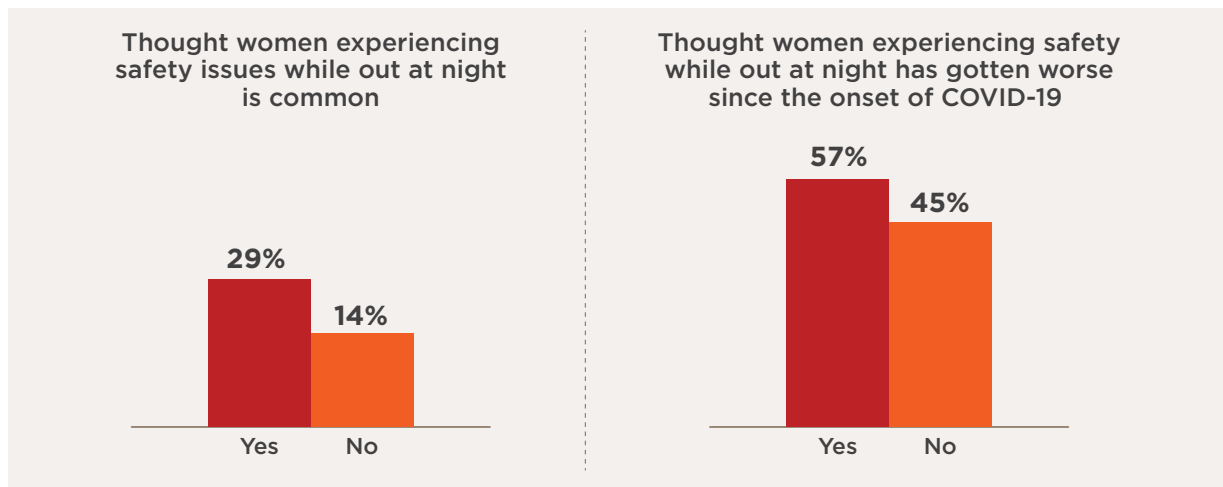
### 4.3. Women’s perceived safety in public spaces

When it comes to women’s perception of safety in public, a quarter (24%) of women said they think it is common for women to experience harassment and safety issues in public at night, consistent with the 30% of women who said that they themselves feel unsafe at night. Similar to the patterns above, younger women aged 18 to 29 were more likely than those aged over 29 to say that it is common for women to experience harassment and safety issues in public at night (28%), particularly when compared to those aged 60 or older (11%). This correlates with data on mobility, where women aged 60 and older were more than three times

as likely to say they never leave the house alone compared to women aged 18–29 (16% and 5%, respectively). Women who said that they or someone they know had experienced a form of VAW in their lifetime were more than twice as likely than those who did not to say that facing safety issues when alone at night is common for women (29%, compared to 14%).

Approximately half of women (53%) said that things have gotten worse in terms of feelings of safety since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in terms of experiencing safety and harassment issues when alone at night. This view is slightly higher among women who said that they or someone they know had experienced a form of VAW in their lifetime (57%, compared to 45% of those who did not).

**FIGURE 10**  
Perception of women’s safety in public at night, by experience or knowledge of VAW in a lifetime



A majority of women (82%) expected that women experiencing harassment or abuse in public spaces would seek help, and nearly half of these women (48%) said that they expected women would seek help primarily from family – twice the number of women who said they would seek help primarily from the police (25%), despite a high awareness (72%) of services that assist with reporting incidents to the police. Younger women (aged 18 to 29) were less likely (77%) than women older than 29 years to expect that women would seek help primarily from family.

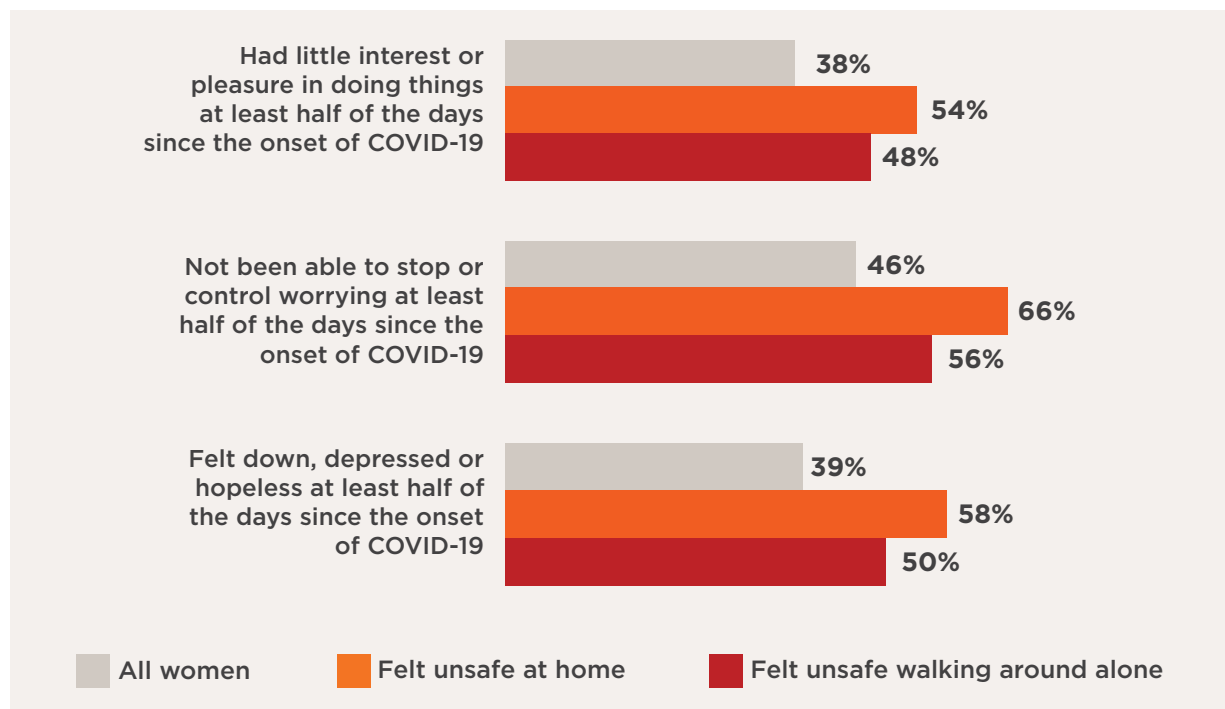
Although women cited an increased sense of anxiety and fear outside of the household during the pandemic, over half of women (57%) said that they leave their house at least once a week. That said, over 7 in 10 (72%) have limited their social interactions due to constraints related to the COVID-19 pandemic. This was slightly more common among women who said that they or another woman they know have experienced a type of VAW (75%).

# 5. IMPACTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Emotions and experiences of personal safety in and out of the home may be strongly associated with women’s attitudes and perspectives towards issues that arise in their life and their ability to handle them, as well as their generally mental and emotional well-being. Women

who said that they had felt unsafe, and particularly those who said that they had felt unsafe at home, were much more likely to show signs of depression and hopelessness than the overall sample, which was already more than a third of the female population in the country.

**FIGURE 11**  
**Measures of mental health, by feelings of safety**



In addition to safety issues being associated with mental and emotional well-being, certain women were more likely than their peers to report COVID-19 mental health impacts. Examples include: women with lower education levels (58% not able to control worrying and 44% feeling down and depressed at least half the days since the onset of COVID-19), and respondents who said that they have a disability (60% not able to control worrying, 47% had little interest in doing things, and 48% feeling down and depressed at least half the days

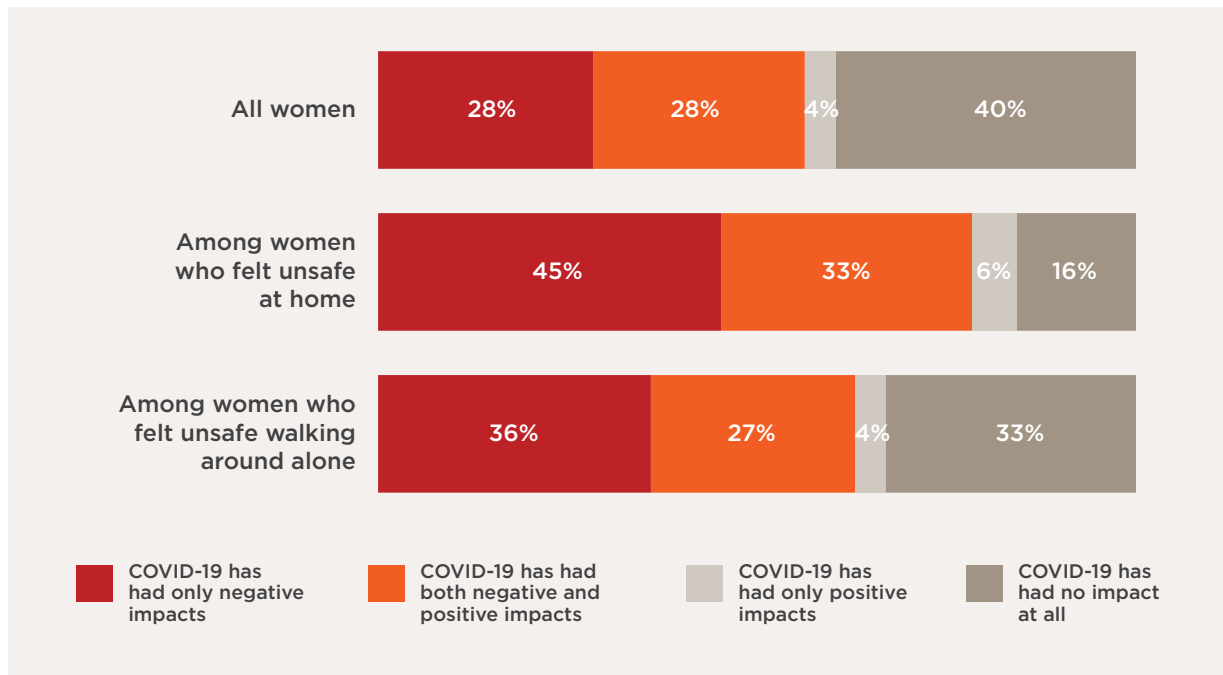
since the onset of COVID-19). Single women were less likely to say they experienced uncontrollable worrying more than half the days since the onset of COVID-19 (35, compared to 58% of separated, divorced, or widowed women, and 48% of partnered women), and more likely to say that the pandemic has not had any impact on their mental and emotional well-being (47, compared to 37% of separated, divorced, or widowed women, and 38% of partnered women).



Women who had reported experiencing safety issues, however, were much more likely to say that the pandemic has had only negative impacts on their mental and emotional

health compared to women who had not experienced safety issues, regardless of whether those safety issues were inside or outside the household.

**FIGURE 12**  
Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health, by feelings of safety



Additionally, women who felt a negative impact of COVID-19 on their mental or emotional health were twice as likely to be moderately or severely food insecure (48%) compared to women whose mental and emotional health was not affected (24%). This suggests, as previous reports have found, that the negative impacts of COVID-19 are felt the strongest by those already experiencing hardship.

The impacts of violence against women in public and private spaces was also observed when analysing women’s socialization and

movement patterns. Women who felt unsafe walking alone, whether it was during the day or at night, were significantly less likely to leave the house daily (18%) when compared to those that never felt unsafe in public (24%). Additionally, women who said that they have felt unsafe in their home were more likely to say that COVID-19 has limited their interactions with their friends and social groups (79, compared to 71% of women who said that they have not felt unsafe in their homes).

# 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

The impacts of COVID-19 on VAW in Jordan are significant. Women in Jordan encounter violence in public and in private spaces, at the hands of strangers and by those closest to them. With around 38% of women likely experiencing moderate or severe food insecurity at the time of the study and 66% saying they had lost income, mostly due to the COVID-19 pandemic, external stressors that can increase the risk of VAW are on the rise.

As a result of the intersectionality of VAW, policy and programmatic interventions require tailoring to the factors driving different experiences of violence. Not only does the type of response that is best-suited to address VAW vary based on the specific experiences of women, but the resources they seek out vary as well. This work stresses the importance of partnering with the existing infrastructure that supports women in vulnerable situations to empower communities with the full suite of resources they may need to support women. Considering this, the research supports three recommendations:

**1. Interventions that are meant to address VAW should consider how policy interventions in other areas may alleviate some of the root causes of VAW, including through fully integrating VAW measures in post-COVID-19 recovery plans as an opportunity to build back better.**

This study has provided insights into some of the factors associated with VAW, such as income fluctuations, food insecurity, lower education levels and having children in the household. Each of these substantive areas encompasses its own policy domain where there are programmatic interventions that are specifically tailored to move the needle. However, as we have seen, the double burden of COVID-19, in addition to external stressors such as financial hardships and food insecurity,

increase women's vulnerability to VAW, requiring all policy interventions, and particularly those created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, to incorporate gender mainstreaming. Within this, the role of social protection policies can be particularly powerful in alleviating many of the structural and economic root causes of VAW.

For instance, while awareness of many services that support women is high, the data show low expected usage. This suggests that policy interventions, such as those that enhance the quality and accessibility of the response services available to women survivors of violence, as well as the efficiency in the treatment of cases in order to reinforce trust in authorities, are vital to improving the reporting of VAW and the usage of these services. Among the support mechanisms listed, mental health support services had the lowest awareness, at just 29%, suggesting that mental health awareness and psychosocial support programmes should be expanded, and that current programmes could improve awareness and usage, while destigmatizing VAW as something that should only be dealt with within the family.

**2. VAW-focused programmatic interventions should address traditional gender roles and as well as the limits of trust in institutions, capitalizing on community-level infrastructure such as women's organizations.**

With women's roles being governed by traditional cultural and social norms, most surveyed women reported assuming non-income-earning (93%) and caregiver (68%) roles in the household. Women who ventured outside were more likely to report experiences and knowledge of various forms of VAW, whether in public or inside their own homes. While the majority of women in Jordan generally feel safe, responses to the proxy indicators of VAW clearly show a large disconnect, as

women tend to say that experiences of VAW are much more common in their community than their reporting of their own personal safety suggests. Similarly, although most women know what resources are available to them, few say they think a woman would avail herself of those resources should she encounter violence. This suggests that significant programming should be undertaken to sensitize women to VAW and how it can be addressed.

Additionally, given the substantial role that social and gender norms have in Jordan, it is critical that any such interventions work to strengthen women's trust in institutions and carefully address intra-household conflicts, working to engage men along with women. If community-level infrastructure such as women's centres or community-based programming can be further strengthened by leveraging existing social networks, this will allow for better access to referral pathways for women who experience VAW and encourage more effective reporting with less fear of consequences.

Both media and the education system have significant roles to play in advancing traditional gender norms and in encouraging women to speak about their experiences with VAW. Messaging around gender starts early

in a child's life. Thus, educational reform, reinforced by strong messages in the media that show women in empowered roles, could have a significant impact on eradicating the underlying structures that contribute to continued cycles of violence.

### **3. Support further research that goes beyond understanding VAW prevalence to examine its underlying social norms and behavioural drivers, particularly around breaking taboos and help-seeking behaviour.**

While this study provides insightful information about the current state of VAW in Jordan, further research that seeks to understand the social norms and behavioural drivers that underlie the experience of VAW and help-seeking behaviours is critical in order to end VAW in Jordan. In-depth qualitative research is particularly useful in unpacking the "how" and "why" behind attitudes and behaviours and, through this, building a more thorough framework of the underlying social and gender norms and the reasons women experience VAW and seek help. This research could help to develop campaigns to end VAW in Jordan and support women survivors of such violence, making them feel more safe and comfortable seeking help through official channels.

# 7. METHODOLOGY

The survey was fielded via Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing using random-digit dialing to mobile numbers between 17 August and 15 September 2021. The total number of completed interviews was 1,204. During the survey period, COVID-19 infection rates were some of the lowest Jordan has seen in the past year, averaging less than 1,000 new cases per day, which is 13% of the country's highest peak (from March 2020).

The sample was drawn via random-digit dialing among the population of mobile phone numbers, so the sample population is limited to women aged 18 or over with mobile phone access. Women over age 60 were also specifically targeted with an existing database to ensure adequate coverage of this age group. However, the percentages for each age group from this survey match the percentages for each age group from Jordan's Census data.<sup>8</sup>

Age group	Percentage of adult women based on Census data	Percentage of adult women from sample data
18–29	37%	37%
30–39	24%	25%
40–49	18%	18%
50–59	11%	11%
60+	10%	8%

<sup>8</sup> Department of Statistics. N.D. Census population data. <http://dosweb.dos.gov.jo/population/population-2/>

# DEFINITIONS

**Community:** A term referencing the geographic area in which the respondent lives.

**Food insecurity:** This study used the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)'s formulation to measure food insecurity, with an eight-statement battery. These data can be used to establish estimates of the proportion of the sample who were moderately or severely food insecure, which can also be disaggregated by other variables of interest through the use of the FAO Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) module. Any references in the report to prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity represent estimates of the prevalence and should be interpreted as such.

**Partnered:** A term referring to women who were married or living/cohabiting with a partner

**Violence against women:** Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or was likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.

**Felt unsafe walking alone:** Refers to women who indicated that they felt "not very safe" or "not safe at all" walking alone outside during the day (at question Co2) or during the night (at question Co3).

**Experienced or knew someone who had experienced VAW:** Refers to women who indicated that they, or another woman they knew, had experienced any form of VAW. "Since COVID-19" is added to indicate women who indicated that these incidents had only been occurring since the start of the pandemic.

**Experienced frequent conflict:** Refers to respondents who indicated that they experienced conflict or arguments in their homes at least once a week during the last six months (at question C19).

**Experienced infrequent conflict:** Refers to respondents who indicated that they experienced conflict or arguments in their homes "once or twice" or "never" during the last six months (at question C19).

**Violence, abuse and harassment are a problem the community:** Refers to respondents who indicated that physical harm, abuse or harassment of women is "a lot", "somewhat", or "a little bit" of a problem where they live (at question Co7).

**Violence, abuse and harassment are not a problem the community:** Refers to respondents who indicated that physical harm, abuse or harassment of women is "not at all" a problem where they live (at question Co7).

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