



Agency for Gender Equality of Bosnia and Herzegovina
Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees of BiH



PREVALENCE AND CHARACTERISTICS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN BIH 2013

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**PREVALENCE AND CHARACTERISTICS OF
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN BIH**

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AGAINST WOMEN IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

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Study „Prevalence and characteristics of violence against women in Bosnia and Herzegovina“ is first research of gender based violence against women in Bosnia and Herzegovina and is a result of cooperation of Gender Equality Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Gender center of Federation B&H and Gender center of Republic of Srpska who provided resources from FIGAP program, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of women (UN WOMEN). Study has been created in co-operation of Agency for Statistics of B&H, Republic Institute of Statistics of Republika Srpska and the Federal Institute of Statistics who conducted research about prevalence of violence against women in Bosnia and Herzegovina during September and October of 2012. Research has been conducted in compliance with methodology of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe but it also includes other components such as elements and determinants of violence, consequences of violence and addressing institutions and organizations for support to the victims of such violence.

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PREFACE

Violence against women and domestic violence, being one of the major challenges of Bosnian and Herzegovinian society, is a problem that has only recently been transferred from private into public sphere. For long time, partner and domestic violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina had been viewed as a private family thing. Intervention of society has gained in intensity in the recent decade with development of awareness that prevention of this form of violence is one of the imperatives in terms of protection of human rights.

It is quite hard to determine the level of prevalence of violence against women and family violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The main reason for that is to be found in the very nature of the problem – efforts to conceal it, not reporting cases of domestic violence, lack of a single statistical records and view that the domestic violence is a “private problem”. It is well known that the reported cases of domestic violence are considered to be just a “tip of the iceberg” because many more cases remain unreported; for this reason surveys are used as a tool to come up with an assessment of prevalence of this phenomenon. Lack of data remains a problem, not only for Bosnia and Herzegovina, but for other countries in the region and the world too.

The Gender Equality Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina has initiated **implementation of a survey of prevalence of violence against women in BiH** because data gathering, analysis and research, as very important segments, are a basis for development of programs and policies, and also for monitoring of their implementation.

Study of prevalence of violence against women in Bosnia and Herzegovina, being the first study of this kind in Bosnia and Herzegovina, has emerged as a result of a survey implemented by the Gender Equality Agency of BiH and the Entity Gender Centers, together with Institutes for Statistics and supported by the UNFPA and the UN WOMEN. The main purpose of the Study was to explore prevalence and incidence of various forms of violence against women in the sphere of private relations and broader community.

A special methodology has been developed for the needs of the first survey of gender based violence in BiH that has in its core the UNECE methodology, but also includes some additional components. This methodology was a result of efforts to ensure comparability with other countries using the methodology developed and applied by the UNECE, and at the same time understand some additional aspects of violence that are not covered by UNECE methodology, such as, for example, factors and determining features of violence, consequences and turning to organizations for support.

This study is important from the aspect of implementation of the **Gender Action Plan of Bosnia and Herzegovina**, which is a five-year strategic document in the field of gender equality, and which plans for implementation of similar research under the chap-

ter titled "Domestic violence, gender-based violence, harassment, sexual harassment and human trafficking".

The study of violence against women in BiH will be widely distributed and presented as it may serve as a guide in planning further activities of authorities at all levels, as well as the non-governmental organizations from all over Bosnia and Herzegovina.

*Director of Agency for Gender Equality of BiH
Samra Filipović - Hadžiabdić*

List of abbreviations

BiH	Bosna i Hercegovina	BiH	Bosnia and Herzegovina
CSR	Centar za socijalni rad	CSW	Center for social work
FBIH	Federacija Bosne i Hercegovine	FBIH	Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
FIGAP	Finansijski mehanizam za implementaciju Gender akcionog plana BiH		Financial mechanism for implementation of the Gender Action Plan of BiH
OCD	Organizacije civilnog društva	CSO	Civil Society Organizations
RS	Republika Srpska	RS	Republic of Srpska
VE/SE	Vijeće/Savjet Evrope	CE	Council of Europe
SZO	Svjetska zdravstvena organizacija	WHO	World Health Organization
UN	Ujedinjene nacije	UN	United Nations
UN Women	UN-ovo tijelo za ravnopravnost spolova i osnaživanje žena	UN Women	United Nations for Women
UNDP	Program Ujedinjenih nacija za razvoj	UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNFPA	Populacioni fond Ujedinjenih nacija	UNFPA	United Nations Population Found
UNECE	Ekonomska komisija Ujedinjenih naroda za Evropu	UNECE	United Nation Economic Commision for Europe
UNESCO	Organizacija Ujedinjenih nacija za obrazovanje, nauku i kulturu	UN ESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
CEDAW	Konvencija o ukidanju svih oblika diskriminacije žena	CEDAW	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

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Definitions

Gender based violence is any act that results or may result with physical, psychological, sexual or economic harm or suffering to women, including threats of such threats, that prevent a person or a group of person to enjoy their human rights and freedoms in public and private sphere of life (Law on Gender Equality in Bosnia and Herzegovina).

Harassment is any undesired gender-based behavior aimed at violating dignity of the person or group of persons or giving rise to intimidation, hostility, or demeaning, threatening or similar situations (Law on Gender Equality in Bosnia and Herzegovina).

Violence against women is understood as a violation of human rights and a form of discrimination against women and shall mean all acts of gender-based violence that result in, or are likely to result in, physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life (Council of Europe, Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence, Istanbul, 11 May 2011).

Gender-based violence against women shall mean violence that is directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately (Council of Europe, Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, Istanbul, 11 May 2011).

Domestic violence shall mean all acts of physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence that occur within the family or domestic unit or between former or current spouses or partners, whether or not the perpetrator shares or has shared the same residence with the victim (Council of Europe, Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence, Istanbul, 11 May 2011).

Victim shall mean any natural person who is subject to the conduct identified as violence against women or domestic violence (Council of Europe, Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, Istanbul, 11 May 2011).

Executive summary

The research of the prevalence of violence against women in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) was initiated by the Agency for Gender Equality BiH, in cooperation with the Gender Centre of Republika Srpska (RS) and the Gender Centre of the Federation BiH (FBiH) and with support from UNFPA and UN Women. Additionally, the main basis for the research was provided by the statistical offices of RS and the FBiH. The main motivation for conducting the research stemmed from the need to generate a high-quality empirical basis for implementation of policies and measures aimed at combating violence against women which are in accordance with strategies for promotion of gender equality and strategies aimed at combating violence against women and domestic violence, both on national as well as entity levels.

The goal of the research was to gain insight into: prevalence of different forms of violence against women, both domestic and outside of the household; to identify the main characteristics of different forms of violence against women; to identify key factors that influence violence against women; and, to examine the consequences of violence against women and women's experiences with institutions and organizations that provide support to women victims of violence. The survey was conducted on a sample of 3300 households and adult women in BiH, with appropriate representative subsamples for the RS and Federation BiH. Data has not only been collected from women, but also on the characteristics of the household itself. This has enabled the analysis of some important determinants of domestic and partner violence.

Violence against women has been defined in accordance with the Council of Europe's Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence where *“violence against women” is understood as a violation of human rights and a form of discrimination against women and shall mean all acts of gender-based violence that result in, or are likely to result in, physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.* According to the same Convention domestic violence *means all acts of physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence that occur within the family or domestic unit or between former or current spouses or partners, whether or not the perpetrator shares or has shared the same residence with the victim* (Council of Europe, Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, Istanbul, 11th May 2011).

This research analyses four main forms of violence: physical, psychological, sexual and economic violence. In terms of the perpetrators, a distinction has been made between partner violence, domestic violence, and violence in the wider community. Furthermore, a time dimension has been included in the research whereby a distinction has been made between experiences of violence during lifetime (from 15 years of age) and actual violence (experiences of violence in the past year). The analysis has focused on two key characteristics of violence: prevalence and rate (the frequency of violent acts). Apart from these key aspects, violence was also monitored according to 8 standard UNECE indicators.

Forms, prevalence and characteristics of violence against women

According to research findings, more than half of women surveyed (47.2% in BiH, 47.2% in the FBiH and the RS, 47.3%) experienced at least one form of violence from the age of 15. During the 12 months preceding the survey, 11.9% of women in BiH had experienced some form of violence (FBiH 12.7% and 10.6% in RS).

Findings indicate that the most frequent form of violence is psychological, with an overall prevalence of 41.9% during lifetime and 10.8% in the last year. The second most prevalent form of violence is physical with a prevalence rate of 24.3% during lifetime and 2.4% in the last year. Sexual violence has been experienced by 6% of women during their adult life, while 1.3% women have been victims of sexual violence in the last year.

Perpetrators of violence against women are most often former or current partners. Research findings show that partner violence is evident in 71.5% of cases. In general, there is a much higher risk of violence against women in intimate partner and domestic relationships than in the wider community.

Young women are more subjected to violence than older women (the prevalence rate of violence among women aged 18-24 is 56.38% and 44.2% in the case of women over 65 years). UNECE indicators indicate that young women are more subjected to actual physical violence, but that the prevalence of this form of violence during lifetime is higher among older women, except in the RS, where the rates remain the highest in the youngest category of women. Furthermore, women with poor health and disability are not spared from violence - prevalence rates are the same as in the sub-sample of healthy women and women without disabilities.

Data on the frequency of violence indicates that occurrences of violence are not individual incidents, but that these practices are systematically repeated.

Factors of violence against women in partner and domestic relationships

Factors of violence against women were examined only in the context of partner and domestic violence, but not in regard to violence in the wider community. Analysis indicated as significant predictors of the violence against women the type of settlement in which women live, the material standard of their family, cultural factors such as attitudes towards gender roles and culture of conflict resolution in the family, as well as the presence of various family problems.

The prevalence of domestic violence is higher in rural than in urban areas (49.2% vs. 44.3%). Material deprivation significantly increases the risk of domestic violence - 19.7% of women who do not live in deprived households have experienced violence compared to 26.3% of women from deprived households. In families where violence against women has been registered there are also pronounced patriarchal attitudes towards gender roles, although they are generally high throughout the sample. Furthermore, the culture of “tolerance towards violent conflict resolution” and the presence of various problems such as sick or immobile family member, alcoholism or aggressive behavior by family member/s, are all factors that increase the risk of violence against women. For example, findings show that in households where there are seriously ill or immobile members, more than a third

(33.4%) experienced violence, while the prevalence of violence against women in families without such difficulties was 19%. In households where problems with alcoholism have been identified, almost 60% of women have experienced violence, while this percentage is lower (20%) in households without such problems.

Consequences of domestic violence

The consequences of violence are numerous, both immediate, for example in the form of physical injuries, as well as longer term, covert and indirect. Indicators of the World Health Organization on women's health show numerous different symptoms which are more often registered in the case of women who have been subjected to violence than in the cases where they have not. For instance, women who have been victims of violence in the past year, are more frequently in bad moods and experience sadness (in 50.9% of cases of women victims of violence versus 24.7% of cases where women are not victims), anxiety and fear (46.1 % in the case of victims versus 22.4% where women are not victims), anorexia (24.4% vs. 17.8%), difficulties with concentration, clear thinking and learning (28.9% vs. 12.8%), and so on.

In addition to these various psycho-somatic complaints, severe consequences of violence are injuries which women acquire in the case of physical or sexual abuse. A total 11.4% of women have had some form of physical injury, but it is important to point out that 96% of these injuries were registered in cases where women experienced physical violence in their lifetime. Most frequent forms of injuries are scratches, bruises, undetermined physical pain, but there are also a significant proportion of women who have experienced loss of consciousness, severe bruising, inflammation, etc. Some women are also subjected to very severe forms of violence, and consequently suffered from fractures or even wounds inflicted by weapons. The perpetrators of these injuries are most frequently current and former partners, followed by fathers.

Experiences with services for support

One important research finding is that many women omit to recognize violence. There is a general lack of awareness of different forms of violence as well as recognition of personal experiences of violence. Although a large number of women reported different individual experiences of violence, they did not perceive themselves as victims of violence. For instance, 58.4% of women who have experienced physical violence in the past year said that they did not view themselves as victims of physical violence. An even smaller proportion of women recognize their exposure to physical, economic and sexual violence.

A small number of women victims of violence (actual and lifetime) take necessary steps in order to get out of this situation. About 17% of women who have experienced violence have, as a form of solution to their problem, tried separation, divorce, leaving the household, and only about 4% tried consulting.

In addition, there is a significant discrepancy between what women think and what they do. In most cases women think that victims of domestic violence should seek some form support from relevant institutions, but only 5.5% of women subjected to violence actually sought this support. Especially worrying are the reasons why women are not con-

tacting institutions. In the majority of cases these women did not contact institutions or organizations because they did not think they needed help. Other reasons included that they did not know who to contact, because of fear, shame, and low trust in institutions.

Research findings further show that services provided to women who seek support as victims of violence, are not always provided in accordance with the principle of full protection of women. Thus, there were cases in which the police and health care workers did not treat women in an adequate manner (they treated woman as the provokers of violence, perpetrators were not removed, incidents were not reported and women were not referred to the appropriate institution or organization). It should however be noted that women in most cases reported relatively positive experiences, that is, they assessed that the support given to them, at least in part, helped to solve their problem of exposure to violence.

Recommendations

Based on the research findings, recommendations for the improvement of policies and measures to combat violence against women were defined. These recommendations have been defined in cooperation with various stakeholders involved in the implementation of the project. Recommendations are focused on three key areas: establishing a system for monitoring violence against women, improving prevention and support services to women victims of violence, and raising awareness about violence against women.

Sažetak

Studija o rasprostranjenosti nasilja nad ženama u Bosni i Hercegovini nastala je na inicijativu Agencije za ravnopravnost spolova Bosne i Hercegovine, u saradnji sa Gender centrom RS-a i Gender centrom FBiH, uz podršku UNFPA i UN Women, a na osnovu istraživanja koje su proveli statistički zavodi RS-a i FBiH. Izrada studije motivirana je naporima da se omogući kvalitetna empirijska osnova za provođenje politika i mjera suzbijanja nasilja nad ženama, u skladu sa odgovarajućim strategijama za unapređivanje rodne ravnopravnosti, a posebno strategijama usmjerenim na suzbijanje nasilja nad ženama i nasilja u porodici, kako na državnom tako i na entitetskom nivou.

Cilj istraživanja bio je ustanoviti rasprostranjenost različitih formi nasilja nad ženama u porodici, ali i izvan porodice, i na taj način omogućiti identificiranje najvažnijih karakteristika različitih oblika nasilja nad ženama, ustanoviti ključne faktore njegovog ispoljavanja, te ispitati posljedice i iskustva žena u obraćanju institucijama i organizacijama za podršku. Istraživanje je provedeno na uzorku od 3.300 domaćinstava i punoljetnih žena u Bosni i Hercegovini, sa odgovarajućim reprezentativnim poduzorcima za Republiku Srpsku i Federaciju Bosne i Hercegovine. Podaci su prikupljeni ne samo o ženama, već i o karakteristikama njihovih domaćinstava, što je omogućilo da se analiziraju i neke važne determinante nasilja u porodici ili nasilja koje je počinio partner.

Nasilje nad ženama definirano je u skladu sa Konvencijom o sprečavanju i borbi protiv nasilja nad ženama i nasilja u porodici Vijeća Evrope kao *kršenje ljudskih prava i oblik diskriminacije nad ženama, a predstavlja sva djela rodno zasnovanog nasilja koja dovode ili mogu dovesti do: fizičke, seksualne, psihičke, odnosno finansijske povrede ili patnje za žene, obuhvatajući i prijetnje takvim djelima, prinudu ili proizvoljno lišavanje slobode, bilo u javnosti bilo u privatnom životu*. U skladu sa istom konvencijom, nasilje u porodici definirano je kao *svako djelo fizičkog, seksualnog, psihičkog, odnosno ekonomskog nasilja do kojeg dolazi u okviru porodice ili domaćinstva, odnosno između bivših ili sadašnjih supružnika ili partnera, nezavisno od toga da li učinilac dijeli ili je dijelio isto prebivalište sa žrtvom* (Vijeće Evrope, *Konvencija o sprečavanju i borbi protiv nasilja nad ženama i nasilja u porodici*, Istanbul, 11. maj 2011. godine).

Istraživanjem su obuhvaćena četiri osnovna oblika nasilja: fizičko, psihičko, seksualno i ekonomsko. Prema počiniocima i kontekstu, razlikovani su partnersko, nasilje u porodici i nasilje u široj zajednici. Prema vremenskoj dimenziji, registrirani su nasilje doživljeno tokom života (od navršene 15. godine) i aktuelno nasilje (doživljeno u posljednjih godinu dana). Praćene su i dvije ključne karakteristike nasilja: prevalencija (rasprostranjenost) i incidencija (učestalost ispoljavanja nasilnih činova). Pored ovih osnovnih aspekata, nasilje je praćeno i preko osam standardnih UNECE-ovih indikatora.

Oblici, prevalencija i karakteristike nasilja nad ženama

Prema nalazima istraživanja, više od polovine žena iz uzorka (47,2% u BiH, 47,2% u FBiH i 47,3% u RS-u) doživjelo je bar neki oblik nasilja nakon što je navršilo 15 godina. Tokom 12

mjeseci koji su prethodili istraživanju, neki oblik nasilja iskusilo je 11,9% žena u BiH (12,7% u FBiH i 10,6% u RS-u).

Nalazi ukazuju na to da je psihičko nasilje najrasprostranjenije, sa ukupnom stopom prevalencije od 41,9% tokom života i 10,8% u toku posljednjih godinu dana, te da iza njega slijedi fizičko nasilje, sa stopom prevalencije na životnom nivou od 24,3%, a tokom posljednjih godinu dana 2,4%. Seksualno nasilje doživjelo je tokom odraslog života 6% žena, dok je ovakvo iskustvo u toku posljednjih godinu dana imalo 1,3% žena.

Najšire je rasprostranjeno nasilje koje nad ženama vrše njihovi sadašnji ili bivši partneri, jer su oni počinioci u 71,5% slučajeva. U cjelini gledano, sfera intimnih partnerskih i porodičnih odnosa daleko je veći izvor opasnosti od nasilja za žene nego što je to šira zajednica.

Mlade su žene više izložene nasilju nego starije (stopa prevalencije kod žena starosti 18–24 godine iznosi 56,38%, a kod starijih od 65 godina 44,2%). UNECE-ovi indikatori zapravo ukazuju na to da su fizičkom nasilju tokom aktuelnog perioda najviše izložene mlade žene, ali da se na životnom nivou registrira veća prevalencija fizičkog nasilja kod starijih žena, osim u RS-u, gdje stope ostaju najviše za kategorije najmlađih žena. Žene slabijeg zdravlja i sa invaliditetom nisu pošteđene od nasilja – njihove stope prevalencije su iste kao i u poduzorku zdravih žena i žena bez invaliditeta. Podaci o incidenciji nasilja govore da nije riječ o pojedinačnim incidentima, nego o praksama koje se ponavljaju.

Faktori nasilja nad ženama u porodici i partnerskim odnosima

Faktori nasilja nad ženama ispitivani su samo u kontekstu partnerskog i nasilja u porodici, ali ne i u široj zajednici. Analizom je ustanovljeno da se kao značajni faktori nasilja nad ženama javljaju tip naselja u kome žena živi, materijalni standard njenog domaćinstva, kulturni činioci poput stavova prema rodnom ulogama i kultura reguliranja konflikata u porodici, kao i prisustvo različitih porodičnih problema.

Stope prevalencije nasilja nad ženama u porodici više su u seoskim sredinama nego u gradskim (49,2% prema 44,3%). Materijalna deprivacija značajno povećava rizike od porodičnog nasilja. Tako je nasilju izloženo 19,7% žena koje žive u domaćinstvima koja nisu deprivirana, a 26,3% žena koje žive u depriviranim domaćinstvima. U porodicama u kojima je utvrđeno nasilje nad ženama izraženi su patrijarhalni stavovi prema rodnom ulogama, mada su oni generalno visoki u cijelom uzorku. Kultura "tolerancije na nasilno rješavanje konflikata" povećava rizike od nasilja nad ženama u porodici, kao i prisustvo različitih problema poput bolesnog ili nepokretnog člana, alkoholizma ili agresivnog ponašanja člana/ova. Tako je u porodicama u kojima ima teško bolesnih ili nepokretnih članova više od trećine žena (33,4%) iskusilo nasilje, dok je u porodicama bez ovakvih teškoća bilo 19% žena koje su doživjele nasilje. U porodicama u kojima postoji problem alkoholizma gotovo 60% žena u čak 58,7% slučajeva iskusilo je nasilje, dok je u porodicama bez ovakvog problema 20% žena doživjelo nasilje.

Posljedice nasilja u porodici

Posljedice nasilja su brojne, kako one neposredne, oličene, naprimjer, u fizičkim povredama, tako i one dugoročne, skrivene i indirektno. Pokazatelji Svjetske zdravstvene organizacije o zdravlju žena izloženih nasilju ukazuju na niz različitih simptoma koji se kod žrtava

nasilja ispoljavaju znatno češće nego kod žena koje nisu izložene nasilju. Tako se kod žena koje su bile žrtve nasilja tokom posljednjih godinu dana češće javljaju loša raspoloženja, tuga (u 50,9% slučajeva kod žrtava nasilja naspram 24,7% kod onih žena koje nisu žrtve), osjećaj uznemirenosti, straha (u 46,1% slučajeva kod žrtava naspram 22,4% kod onih koje to nisu), gubitak apetita (24,4% prema 17,8%), teškoće kod koncentracije, jasnog razmišljanja, učenja (28,9% prema 12,8%) i dr.

Pored ovih različitih psihosomatskih tegoba, važne posljedice nasilja predstavljaju povrede koje žene zadobijaju prilikom fizičkog ili seksualnog zlostavljanja. U cijelom uzorku 11,4% žena je doživjelo neku vrstu fizičke povrede, no to je 96% onih žena kod kojih je utvrđeno da su bile izložene fizičkom nasilju na životnom nivou. Najčešće se ove povrede javljaju kao ogrebotine, modrice, neodređeni fizički bol, ali je značajan udio žena koje su doživjele i gubitak svijesti, veće modrice, podlive i sl. Pojedine žene izložene su veoma teškim oblicima nasilja, pa su zadobile prijelome kostiju ili čak rane nanijete oružjem. Povrede ženama najčešće nanose aktuelni i bivši partneri, a nakon njih očevi.

Iskustva sa uslugama podrške

Istraživanjem je registrirana nedovoljno razvijena svijest žena o tome koja iskustva predstavljaju različite forme nasilja i potom prepoznavanje da su takvom nasilju uopće izložene. Veliki broj žena koje su tokom istraživanja izvijestile o različitim pojedinačnim manifestacijama nasilja, uprkos tome, ne percipiraju sebe kao žrtve nasilja. Tako 58,4% žena koje su bile izložene fizičkom nasilju tokom posljednjih godinu dana tvrdi da nisu žrtve fizičkog nasilja. Još manji udio žena prepoznaje svoju izloženost psihičkom, ekonomskom i seksualnom nasilju.

Mali broj žena koje su imale ili imaju iskustvo nasilja preduzima korake da iz takve situacije izađe. Oko 17% žena izloženih nasilju pokušalo je rješenje potražiti u vidu rastave, razvoda, napuštanja domaćinstva, a tek oko 4% kroz pokušaje savjetovanja.

Pored toga, postoji i značajna diskrepancija između onoga što žene misle i što čine. Načelno, žene u većini slučajeva smatraju da kada postoji nasilje u porodici, žrtve treba da se obrate za podršku nekoj od nadležnih institucija, ali tek je 5,5% žena izloženih nasilju zaista i potražilo podršku neke od institucija. Posebno su zabrinjavajući razlozi zbog kojih se žene nisu obraćale institucijama. U najvećem broju slučajeva one se nisu obraćale za pomoć institucijama ili organizacijama zato što su smatrale da pomoć nije potrebna, a zatim zato što nisu znale kome se obratiti, zbog straha, sramote, niskog povjerenja u institucije i sl.

Kada su u pitanju ocjene postupanja službi u slučajevima kada su žene zatražile podršku, nalazi istraživanja ukazuju na to da nadležne službe ne postupaju uvijek u skladu sa principima pune zaštite žena. Tako su zabilježeni slučajevi u kojima policija i zdravstveni radnici nisu reagirali na adekvatan način (tretirali su ženu kao da je isprovocirala nasilje, nisu udaljili nasilnika, nisu prijavili slučaj ili uputili žrtvu na pravu instancu). Ipak, treba napomenuti da su žene u većini slučajeva navele relativno pozitivna iskustva, odnosno ocijenile su da je podrška ovih službi, bar djelimično, pomogla da riješe problem izloženosti nasilju.

Preporuke

Na temelju nalaza istraživanja definirane su i preporuke za unapređivanje politika i mjera za suzbijanje nasilja nad ženama. Ove su preporuke definirane uz učešće različitih aktera uključenih u provođenje projekta, i to u tri ključne oblasti: uspostavljanje sistema praćenja nasilja nad ženama, unapređenje prevencije i usluga podrške žrtvama nasilja i podizanja svijesti o nasilju nad ženama.

INTRODUCTION

Drafting of this Study was initiated under the project “Preventing and confronting gender based violence in BiH” that is being implemented by the Gender Equality Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Gender Center of the Federation of BiH and Gender Center of the Republika Srpska with support of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) with the intention of contributing to improved policy of combating gender based violence, which they define and implement.

The project has planned for a survey in three selected municipalities; however, in order to obtain information on prevalence of violence against women in the whole Bosnia and Herzegovina; the Gender Equality Agency, UNFPA and UN Women (the UN agency for gender equality and women empowerment) have initiated implementation of the survey at the country level. As a result, in addition to the funds secured under the Project, the Prevalence of Violence Against Women in BiH Survey was financially also supported by gender institutional mechanisms from the funds of the FIGAP¹ program and the UN Women.

The main goal of the survey was to prepare a baseline study on prevalence and characteristics of gender based violence against women in BiH. This thematic direction of the study of prevalence of violence against women was chosen as a result of an insight in gender inequality that manifests itself in BiH through significantly worse position of women in all areas of social life, including the area of private relations.

Implementing institutions of the violence against women prevalence study in BiH include Agency for Statistics of BiH, Republic Institute of Statistics of Republika Srpska and the Federal Institute of Statistics of the Federation of BiH.

The survey had a number of key objectives:

1. To enable determination of prevalence of various forms of violence against women in the sphere of private relationships and in broader community.
2. To provide understanding of major characteristics of various forms of violence against women.
3. To examine influence of various factors on manifestations of violence against women.
4. To examine the major consequences of violence and experiences of women when addressing support institutions and organizations.

The survey was done on a sample of 3300 women, and the sample was so defined to enable drawing inferences both at the level of BiH and at the entity level. Results of

1 FIGAP program is a five-year financial mechanism for implementation of the Gender Action Plan that is implemented jointly by gender institutional mechanisms in BiH and supported by a group of donors – development agencies of embassies of Sweden, Austria and Switzerland. One of priority areas of the FIGAP program is domestic violence and violence against women.

analysis are in their key aspects shown in parallel for the country and entity levels. Recognizing that no major differences exist between the entities with regards to majority of aspects, and that in the process of going deeper into analysis and doing additional classifications the number of units in reference sub-samples is reduced to level that does not allow statistically reliable drawing of conclusions, for such narrower aspects the findings are shown only for the country as a whole.

The study comprises six main units. The first describes legislative/institutional and strategic framework for improving gender equality and preventing and combating gender-based violence against women in BiH. The second explains theoretical and methodological framework of the survey. The third part describes characteristics of the sample, but also the social and family context in which women live, and which is of particular importance for understanding gender roles in the sphere of private relations and participation of women in community. The fourth part explores the main findings of prevalence and characteristics of overall identified violence against women, as well as some of its specific forms defined by type of harm inflicted to women (psychological, physical, sexual or economic), and by the perpetrators, i.e. by the relational context. The fifth part identifies the main factors of violence, or factors that increase the risk of manifestation of violence against women in context of partnership and family. The sixth part is about findings on consequences of violence and experiences of women who had addressed institutions, organizations and their informal social support networks. The seventh part summarizes the main conclusions, while the eighth provides recommendations for further institutional action, amendments to law and other activities that need to be taken with the aim of combating and preventing violence against women.

1. Institutional framework relevant to combating gender based violence against women in BiH

Gender-based violence against women is conditioned with social context in several ways: structural and cultural factors formulate gender relations in a society, but also the legislative framework, because the way this phenomenon is defined in conventions, declarations, laws and secondary legislation, strategies and action plans determines what will be understood as violence against women and what kind of policies, laws or other measures would be defined to regulate this occurrence in social terms.

This is the reason why this chapter discusses the most important legislative and institutional frameworks that determines conditions for defining, recognizing and combating violence against women.

Institutional framework relevant for defining the issue of violence against women in Bosnia and Herzegovina includes international conventions and other relevant documents that provide standards and directions for policies and activities, national legal framework and institutions of importance for implementation of policies and measures concerning monitoring status and combating violence against women.

1.1 International framework

Bosnia and Herzegovina is a member of the United Nations (UN) and the Council of Europe (CoE) and therefore a signatory to international documents for protection of human rights adopted at the level of those organizations. On the other hand, as a country in the process of stabilization and association with the European Union, it is obliged to follow and harmonize its legislation with the European legislation.

The United Nations have adopted a number of documents recognizing the women's right to enjoy rights in the areas where they were vulnerable, particularly in public and political life, but also in their private life¹:

- Convention on Political Rights of Women (1953)²
- Convention on Nationality of Married Women (1957)³
- Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages (1962)⁴

1 Petrić, N., Vidović, G. i Žigić, R. (2012). *Analiza usklađenosti zakona o zaštiti od nasilja u porodici (Republike Srpske) sa međunarodnim standardima, Fondacija „Udružene žene“*. Banja Luka.

2 *Convention on the Political Rights of Women (1953)*. United Nations General Assembly. http://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/UNTS/Volume%20951/volume-951-A-2613-English_French.pdf.

3 *Convention on the Nationality of Married Women, (1957)*. United Nations General Assembly, <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/RESOLUTION/GEN/NR0/340/44/IMG/NR034044.pdf?OpenElement>.

4 *Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages, (1962)*. United Nations General Assembly. <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/convention.htm>

Soon it became obvious that it was necessary to adopt such a document that would cover the rights of women in all areas of life, in private and public spheres and as a result, in 1979 a Convention to Eliminate all Forms of Violence against Women⁵ that legally binds all the countries that have ratified it. The next document of great importance is the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action from 1995.⁶

There is a whole set of documents adopted by the Council of Europe that specifically deal with violence against women⁷:

- Declaration on policy of combating violence against women in Democratic Europe was adopted in 1993; this Declaration states that combating violence against women is a major political requirement of European countries.
- Recommendation 1450 (2000) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe – Violence against women was adopted in 2000. It recommends to the Committee of Ministers to draw up a European program to combat violence against women.
- Recommendation 1582 (2002) – Domestic violence against women was adopted in 2002. The recommendation calls on member states to treat the domestic violence as a political and public problem and violation of human rights.
- Recommendation 1681 (2004) – Campaign to combat domestic violence in Europe was adopted in 2004. This recommendation lived to see its operationalization – a campaign of combating violence against women, including domestic violence, was implemented 200-2008.
- Recommendation Rec (2002)5 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe⁸ is one of the most comprehensive documents that recommends measures aimed to combat violence against women.

Still, a significant move forward in improving international framework for combating violence against women was made with the so-called “Istanbul Convention” of the Council of Europe. ***This convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence was adopted in 2011.*** Bosnia and Herzegovina signed this Convention on March 8, 2013, and after this the process of its ratification followed.⁹

At the level of European Union, quite a number of directives, recommendations and resolutions were adopted that are concerned with violence against women, most important among them being the following:

- Resolution of the European Parliament on violence against women that was adopted in 1986 is not only declarative but also an operational document. Doc. A2-44/86
- Resolution of the European Parliament on the necessity to start a campaign throughout

5 *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, (1979)*. United Nations General Assembly. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/text/econvention.htm>.

6 *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, (1995)*. Fourth World Conference on Women. Available at:

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/fwcwn.html>.

7 Petrić, N., Vidović, G. i Žigić, R. (2012). *Analiza usklađenosti zakona o zaštiti od nasilja u porodici (Republike Srpske) sa međunarodnim standardima, Foundation „Udružene žene“*. Banja Luka.

8 *Recommendation Rec(2002)5 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the protection of women against violence and Explanatory Memorandum, Council of Europe, Autonomous Women's Center, Belgrade, Program for Development of Good Practices against domestic violence.* <http://womenngo.org.rs/images/prevod2002-web.pdf>.

9 *At the 25th session of the Presidency of BiH that was held on July 19, 2012, a decision was made of Bosnia and Herzegovina acceding this Convention.*

the European Union for zero tolerance for violence against women was adopted in 1977, Doc. A4-0250/1997.

At the level of the European Union, a Strategy for promoting equality between women and men in Europe 2010-2015¹⁰ was adopted. Eradication of gender based violence is stated as one of priorities¹¹. The existing documents concerning gender based violence are political priorities of democratic Europe and a guide to all member countries. They are expected to adopt laws that would be in line with resolutions as minimal standards, and to implement such laws. The same is expected of countries aspiring to join the EU, including Bosnia and Herzegovina¹².

1.2 Country framework of BiH

Legal basis for implementation of almost all international instruments for protection of human rights and freedoms is the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina¹³ that entered force on 14 December 1995, which under Article 2 prohibits discrimination on any grounds, including gender. Annex I of the Constitution of BiH titled "Additional Human Rights Agreements to be Applied in BiH" lists the conventions, treaties and pacts that will be complied with in the country, including, among others, the *Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination against Women* (1979) and *Convention on Nationality of Married Women* (1957).

Obligations of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as a signatory to these and other conventions, include harmonization of legislation and their implementation with standards that stem from international documents for protection of rights of women. In addition, as a country in the process of stabilization and association with EU, Bosnia and Herzegovina is obliged to meet at least minimum standards of women rights and protection of women from domestic violence that are required by recommendations, resolutions and directives of the EU.

The area of gender equality is more closely defined by the Law on Gender Equality in BiH¹⁴. This Law prohibits gender based discrimination and stipulates obligations of responsible authorities aimed at achieving equality between women and men in all areas of social life, particularly in education, employment, work and access to all kinds of resources, social protection, health care, sports and culture, public life, media, statistical records and protection by court. It also provides for obligation of all government institutions to work to harmonize their laws and secondary legislation with the Law on Gender Equality in BiH as well as with all international gender equality standards. Amendments to the Law on Gender Equality in BiH¹⁵ harmonize bring terms and definitions used in line with international standards and directive, and in 2010, Constitutional Committees of both houses of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH

¹⁰ European Commission (2010), *Strategy for promoting equality between women and men in Europe 2010-*

2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-10-430_en.htm.

¹¹ European Commission (2010), *Strategy for promoting equality between women and men in Europe 2010-*

2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-10-430_en.htm.

¹² Commission of The European Communities, (2005). COM (2005) 561 final, *Communication from the*

Commission 2005 enlargement strategy paper. Brussels.

¹³ http://www.ccbh.ba/public/down/USTAV_BOSNE_I_HERCEGOVINE_bos.pdf

¹⁴ *Zakon o ravnopravnosti polova u Bosni i Hercegovini*, "Official Gazette of BiH" no. 16/03.

¹⁵ *Zakon o izmjenama i dopunama Zakona o ravnopravnosti polova u BiH*, "Official Gazette of BiH" no. 102/09.

have adopted clarified text of the Law on Gender Equality in BiH¹⁶, making this law available in integrated form.

In terms of strategic framework, the most important document of this sort that is relevant from the aspect of achieving gender equality in all areas of social life is the Gender Action Plan for Bosnia and Herzegovina¹⁷. This document was adopted by Council of Ministers in 2006, and since the law provides for its periodic adoption, a new Gender Action Plan for the period 2013-2017 is currently in the process of drafting.

Strategy for Prevention and Combat against Domestic Violence of BiH for the period 2009-2011 was adopted by the Council of Ministers and approved by the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH¹⁸. This Strategy has taken into consideration and contains objectives and programs of measures from strategic documents in this area of the Republika Srpska and the Federation of BiH. Since the time for its implementation has expired, the process of developing new strategy is ongoing; the new strategy will be based, among other things, on obligations under CoE Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence. The listed laws and documents are the most important legislative framework and framework for incorporating gender equality principles in all areas of public and private life in BiH.

In early 2013, the Gender Equality Agency of BiH has started activities to develop a Strategy for implementation of the Council of Europe's Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence. This strategy is expected to provide a comprehensive strategic and political framework for implementation of principles and key objectives of the Convention, all for the purpose of improving the system of prevention of violence, ensuring conditions that are necessary for effective investigation and processing of the perpetrator and compensating damage to the victims of violence, and particularly for the purpose of identifying integrated policies of preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence on the basis of relevant administrative and alternative information on causes, extent and consequences of violence against women.

At the national level of Bosnia and Herzegovina gender equality is legislated in its core elements; however, other political/territorial units and social players are responsible to harmonize their legislation with such framework laws. The division of power in Bosnia and Herzegovina make various political and territorial units - first of all the entities (Republika Srpska and Federation of BiH) and cantons within the Federation of BiH - responsible for regulating different matters concerning gender equality in areas such as: education, labor and employment, health, social protection, domestic violence, culture, sports etc. With regards to various institutional mechanisms, the Law on Gender Equality provides for integration of gender in policies at all levels and all forms of government.

With regards to institutional gender mechanisms of legislative power in the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, a Committee for achieving gender equality was established. In the House of Representatives and the House of Peoples of the Parliament of the Federation of BiH established were: Gender Equality Committee of the House of Representatives and Gender Equality Commission of the House of Peoples, and in the Na-

¹⁶ *Zakon o ravnopravnosti polova u BiH – priječišćeni tekst*, „Official Gazette of Bosnia and Herzegovina”, no. 32/10.

¹⁷ http://www.figap.ba/files/GAP_BIH.pdf

¹⁸ *Strategija prevencije i borbe protiv nasilja u porodici za BiH za period 2009-2011*, "Official Gazette of BiH" no. 70/09

tional Assembly of the Republika Srpska there is the Committee for Equal Opportunities. Cantonal assemblies have also established gender equality committees, and most municipal assemblies/councils have boards/committees for gender equality.

In terms of the executive government, a Gender Equality Agency was formed under the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees in the Council of Ministers of BiH (established by Decision of the Council of Ministers from 2004 and started working in January 2005)¹⁹. The Gender Equality Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina gives its contribution to achieving gender equality by mainstreaming gender issues in all areas of private and public life.

At the entity level, there are the Gender Center of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina²⁰ and Gender Center – Center for Gender Equity and Equality²¹. In the framework of entity ministries, there are designated individuals for gender issues, and there is a coordinating board for gender equality operating within the Government of Una-Sana Canton.

1.2.1 Framework in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Gender Center of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina was established by Decision on Establishing Gender Center of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina²², for the purpose of carrying out technical and other activities related to implementation of principles of gender equity and equality and implementation of relevant international conventions and treaties for the needs of the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, technical bodies of the Government, Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, Federal Ministries and other federal institutions and agencies.

Pursuant to Article 27 of the Law on Gender Equality in BiH²³, Gender Center of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina is responsible for monitoring implementation of this Law at the level of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and submitting regular reports to the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and other institutions thereupon.²⁴

¹⁹ <http://www.arsbih.gov.ba/>

²⁰ http://www.fgenderc.com.ba/bh/o_gender_centru.html

²¹ <http://www.vladars.net/sr-SP-Cyrl/Vlada/centri/gendercentarrs/Pages/default.aspx>

²² Pursuant to Regulation on Establishing Gender Center of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina ("Official Gazette of Federation of BiH" No. 53/00 and 64/05) tasks of the Gender Center include the following: monitoring position of women and implementation of their rights provided for under national and international legislation, cooperating with Gender Equality Commissions of both houses of Parliament of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and cooperating with the Gender Center of the Republika Srpska; participating in drafting laws and general acts when identifying measures of responsible ministries for the purpose of achieving equal voice of men and women in development process; standing for and promoting equal rights and opportunities for men and women and organizing technical discussions and similar discussions on this topic; receiving initiatives related to legislative changes from the gender aspect; providing expert assistance in bilateral and multilateral relations in connection to the gender policy, cooperating with national and international non-governmental organizations, coordinating implementation of national and international programs, coordinating the process of drafting reports by responsible bodies that are submitted to international institutions pursuant to conventions adopted by BiH and other gender-related documents.

²³ Law on Gender Equality in BiH – clarified text (Zakon o ravnopravnosti polova, "Official Gazette of Bosnia and Herzegovina" no. 32/10)

²⁴ Pursuant to provision under Article 27 of the Law on Gender Equality in BiH, the Gender Centers have the following tasks: monitoring compliance of laws and other legislation, policies, strategies, plans and programs adopted at the level of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina with national and international gender equality standards; giving opinions on compliance of laws and other legislation, policies, strategies, plans and programs adopted at the level of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina with the provisions of this Law and other national and international gender equality standards and initiates their harmonization; monitoring and analyzing situation regarding gender

Strategic framework for combating domestic violence and violence against women in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina includes:

- Strategic plan for prevention of domestic violence in the Federation of BiH 2009-2010²⁵,
- Strategy for preventing and combat against domestic violence (2013-2017)²⁶.

Having in mind that the definition of domestic violence used in different pieces of legislation has not been harmonized, the Strategic Plan identifies activities aimed towards harmonization of definition of terms of domestic violence as well as activities related to establishing a harmonized approach in the whole Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina to education of professionals who provide appropriate services to victims of domestic violence. As a result of work on implementation of Strategic Plan, both houses of the Parliament of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted the new Law on Protection against Domestic Violence.

Implementation of the Strategic Plan provides foundations for adoption of a long-term comprehensive document, which is the Strategy for Prevention and Combat against Domestic Violence (2013-2017). Realization of goals set in this Strategy will ensure more effective protection of families with children by providing better conditions for work of support services for both victims of domestic violence and perpetrators of the violence.

The most important laws regulating the area of domestic violence in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina are:

- Criminal Code of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina²⁷
- Family Law of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina²⁸
- Law on Protection against Domestic Violence

New provisions brought along by the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence²⁹, which was adopted in December 2012 by the Parliament of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, include: providing more precise definition of domestic violence, prescribing emergency procedure for pronouncing protective measures having in mind their goal of providing protection to victims of violence, prescribing other forms of protection of victim of violence, such as identifying sources of financing for the safe houses, adopting programs and measures at Federation and cantonal levels for prevention, protection against and combating domestic violence, obligation to establish referral mechanisms in every

equality in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina; preparing and drafting regular and special reports on gender equality in various areas; preparing and drafting information documents, opinions and recommendation it submits to the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and other responsible agencies and bodies; receiving and considering applications, complaints and submissions by individuals or groups pointing at violations of a right provided under this Law in accordance with Unified Rules for Receiving and Considering applications for examining violations of the Law on Gender Equality in BiH; cooperating with institutional mechanisms for gender equality; representing and coordinating activities that fall under its scope of jurisdiction, at regional level; cooperating with non-governmental organizations working on protection of human rights and freedoms; providing technical and advisory support and assistance to all institutions of the system and other partners.

²⁵ Adopted at the 77th Session of the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina that was held on 13 November 2008.

²⁶ Adopted at the 77th Session of the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina that was held on 11 March 2013.

²⁷ Criminal Code of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina ("Official Gazette of Federation of BiH" No. 36/03, 21/04, 18/05 and 42/10).

²⁸ Family Law of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina ("Official Gazette of Federation of BiH" No. 35/05).

²⁹ Law on Protection against Domestic Violence (Zakon o zaštiti od nasilja u porodici), ("Official Gazette of Federation of BiH", No. 20/13)

local community and obligation to adopt multi-disciplinary approach to offering protection to the victims of violence, including the obligation to maintain statistics on reported cases of domestic violence.

Article 222 of the Criminal Code of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina treats any act of domestic violence as criminal offense, and the purpose of the Law on Protection against Domestic Violence is to protect victims of violence by pronouncing and implementing protective measures.

1.2.2 Framework in the Republika Srpska

Center for Gender Equity and Equality – Gender Center of the Republika Srpska³⁰ was established by a Decision of the Republika Srpska Government in December 2001 with the aim to provide support to introduction of gender equity and equality in all areas of life and work in Republika Srpska through laws, policies and programs³¹.

Strategic framework for protection of women against domestic violence in Republika Srpska includes the following documents: Action Plan for Combating Domestic Violence in the Republika Srpska (2007 – 2008)³² that was adopted by Decision of the Government of Republika Srpska in June 2007; Strategy for Combating Domestic Violence in Republika Srpska (2009 -2013)³³, as well as the Strategy of Family Development³⁴.

The most important laws that apply to the cases of domestic violence in the Republika Srpska include: Criminal Code of RS (Article 208 – Violence in family and violence in family union) and Law on Protection against Domestic Violence

In the Republika Srpska, the new (second in line³⁵) Law on Protection against Domestic Violence entered force in November 2012³⁶. It has remedied certain shortcomings of the previous law, such as: lack of definition of coordinated action of protection providers; lack of emergency protection measures that would provide timely provision to the victim; lack

³⁰ <http://www.vladars.net/sr-sp-cyrl/vlada/centri/gendercentarrs/Pages/default.aspx>

³¹ Mandate of the Gender Center of the Republika Srpska is to: monitor position of women and implementation of their guaranteed rights; monitor and coordinate activities related to implementation of the Law on Gender Equality in Bosnia and Herzegovina; participate in drafting laws and other pieces of legislation and general acts; work on introduction of gender equality standards; provide advisory assistance and support to establishing and improving institutional activities related to introduction and monitoring implementation of gender equality standards in all areas; participate in drafting reports of relevant bodies to international institutions (United Nations, European Union, Council of Europe, etc.) on situation under adopted conventions and other documents related to gender equality; inform public on important issues related to rights of women – human rights, work with the Government and act as advisory body in the area of gender equality- human rights; work with National Assembly of the Republika Srpska on the gender equality issues; cooperate with institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as regional institutions for gender equality; work with national and international non-governmental organizations; coordinate implementation of national and international programs; and performs other tasks in accordance with the Decision on Establishment and Law on Gender Equality in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

<http://www.vladars.net/sr-SP-Cyrl/Vlada/centri/gendercentarrs/OCen/Pages/default.aspx>.

³² Action Plan for combating domestic violence 2007-2008 (Akcioni plan za borbu protiv nasilja u porodici za 2007–2008. godinu) in the Republika Srpska, "Official Gazette of Republika Srpska" No. 58/07.

³³ Strategy for combating domestic violence in the Republika Srpska (Strategija za borbu protiv nasilja u porodici Republici Srpskoj), "Official Gazette of Republika Srpska", number 136/10.

³⁴ <http://www.vladars.net/sr-SP-Cyrl/Vlada/Ministarstva/impos/oPorodica/Pages/Dostignuca.aspx>

³⁵ Prethodni zakon usvojen je 2005.godine, a izmjene i dopune 2008. godine ("Službeni glasnik Republike

Srpske", br.118/05 i 17/08).

³⁶ Službeni glasnik Republike Srpske", broj 102/12.

of definition of the issue of safe houses as a measure of providing support to victims of domestic violence and measures proposed for remedying such shortcomings: introduction of emergency measures of protection against domestic violence, method and procedure for providing temporary shelter to victims of domestic violence in safe houses, obligation of all social partners to get involved in resolving the issue of domestic violence and establish expert teams, prohibition of publication of information on domestic violence, establishing the Counsel for combating domestic violence as advisory body of the Government of Republika Srpska, a distinction has been made between domestic violence as criminal offense and domestic violence as misdemeanor, the right of victims of domestic violence to access to all providers of protection free of any costs has been established, and fines for perpetrators of domestic violence have been increased.

Amendments to the Criminal Code of RS are currently in legislative procedure and the new solutions are expected to improve level of harmonization of this law with international standards for preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, and harmonize their provisions with the current Law on Protection against Domestic Violence, all for the purpose of its effective implementation in providing assistance to victims of violence.

In this way, a significant progress has been achieved in terms of harmonizing legislative framework related to combating domestic violence with other legislative acts of the Republika Srpska, as well as international standards for preventing and combating domestic violence, primarily the Convention of the Council of Europe on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.

2. Theoretic and methodology framework of the survey

Gender based violence is a manifestation and the means for reproducing disbalance of power between men and women that are conditioned by their unequal position in society as well as by cultural value patterns. Therefore, it is very important at the level of analysis, monitoring and even policies to start from this fundamental premise that **gender based violence**, whether it happens in privacy of a family, household, partner relations or in public arena, **is not an isolated, sporadic or extreme form of conflict, but instead follows from systematic gender inequality that exists simultaneously in private and public life.**

Picture of gender based violence in a society greatly depends on very definition of violence, and on methods used to study violence. At international level, there are a number of methodologies that are used for monitoring violence against women. Some of them are designed specifically to study some specific manifestations of violence, like physical or psychological violence, while others are more comprehensive¹. Some of them have been standardized and applied by international organizations (like WHO or UNECE methodologies), while others are more specifically designed to suit national, local or cultural contexts. Finally, some methodologies are more suited to the needs of applied policies, while others are more of scientific nature and rely on a theoretical and nominal mechanism that is not fully recognized in official legal definitions or strategies.

Methodology used in this survey is a combination of various approaches. It relies on some scientific and theoretical assumptions and concepts of studying violence against women, but it tailors them to suit the needs of practical policies. Therefore, in implementation of the study, it uses some official definitions of various forms of violence. Besides, due to the necessity of making the results of the survey comparable at international level, the methodology was so designed to also include main indicators and methodology standards of the UNECE methodology.

The text that follows will present some basic definition and conceptual basis for studying violence, followed with explanation of methods used for data collection and analysis.

2.1 Definitions of terms

In order to implement the survey of prevalence and characteristics of violence against women in BiH, it was necessary to formulate definitions of main terms in order to be able to measure and analyze this occurrence. This process of operationalization started from official definitions provided in the Convention on Preventing Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence of the Council of Europe. To remind, according to this

¹ So, for example, the CTS scale (Conflict Tactics Scale) (Straus, 1979), that had been influential in studying violence against women for long time, was limited to partner violence, and only physical, verbal and sexual; a whole range of methodologies are focused solely on studying psychological violence (Psychological Maltreatment of Women Inventory – PMWI, Index of Spouse Abuse – ISA, Measure of Wife Abuse – MWA, Abusive Behaviour Inventory – ABI, Abuse Risk Inventory – ARI) i sl.

Convention, **violence against women** is understood as a violation of human rights and a form of discrimination against women and shall mean all acts of gender based violence that result in, or are likely to result in, physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life. According to the same Convention, **domestic violence** shall mean all acts of physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence that occur within the family or domestic unit or between former or current spouses or partners, whether or not the perpetrator shares or has shared the same residence with the victim. (Council of Europe, Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence, Istanbul, 11 May 2011).

In order to be able to study violence against women, it was necessary to define three key dimensions: by **forms defined in terms of type of harm** that is inflicted to the victim, by type in terms of social space where the violence takes place, and by **relationship between the victim and perpetrator**, as well as by **time dimension**, or whether the violence is currently ongoing or has been an experience earlier in life.

In terms of defining violence by type of harm inflicted to the victim, this survey includes four manifestations of violence: **economic, psychological, physical and sexual**. It needs to be mentioned that these forms of violence have not been identified solely on the basis of scientific and technical definitions, or those applied, or used in the Convention, but these forms of violence are directly prohibited by law in BiH. Namely, the Law on Gender Equality in BiH, Article 6 stipulates under Paragraph 1, that gender-based violence is prohibited, while its Paragraph 2 states that the **gender based violence includes any action that causes or may cause inflict physical, psychological, sexual or economic damage or suffering to women, as well as threat to such action which prevent such person or group of persons to enjoy their human rights and freedoms and rights in public and private sphere of life.** (Law on Gender Equality in Bosnia and Herzegovina, clarified text, "Official Gazette of BiH" no. 32/10).

Each of the stated forms of violence has been identified on the basis of individual indicators that are shown in the following table.

Table 2.1: Indicators of various forms of violence

Form/Dimension of violence	Indicators
Economic violence	Restricted access to household money, combined with denial of money for personal needs ¹
	Taking away personal money
	Arbitrary spending of the money by one member of the domestic unit that deprives the household of sufficient funds needed for living during a month
	Prohibition of employment
Psychological violence in the form of control or restriction of freedom	Prohibition to see friends
	Restricting contact with biological family
	Insisting to know movements of the women at all times
	Anger if a woman talks to another man
	Suspicion and accusations of infidelity
Psychological violence in the form of emotional abuse	Restricting visits to doctor, health institutions
	Verbal humiliation (belittling, swearing, insulting) in private or in front of other people
	Ignoring, denying attention or conversation for more than an hour
	Causing fear by looking, yelling, breaking things, etc.
Physical violence	Threats to harm the respondent or a person close to her
	Slapping, throwing objects at
	Pushing, hair pulling
	Hitting with fist or an object
	Kicking
	Pulling
	Battering
	Biting
	Squeezing neck, strangulation
	Hitting hard against wall
Inflicting burns (by cigarette, stove plate, iron, or otherwise)	
Attacking with weapons or tools (knife, handgun, axe or similar)	
Sexual violence	Coercion to have sexual intercourse against will of the respondent
	Pressure to have sexual intercourse caused by fear
	Forcing respondents to do things during sexual intercourse that makes them feel humiliated
	Touching or other acts of sexual meaning done against the will of the respondent

According to the social context in which violence takes place, and considering relationships between the victim and perpetrator(s), one may distinguish between: **partner violence, domestic violence and violence in the broader community.**

Domestic violence is a violence perpetrated *within the framework of a domestic unit, family, or broader relations or partnerships*, irrespective of whether the persons live together or not. Or, as it has been more precisely defined in the Convention, the domestic violence means *all acts of physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence that occur within the family or domestic unit, or between former or current spouses or partners, whether or not the perpetrator shares or has shared the same residence*

with the victim (Council of Europe, Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence, Istanbul, 11 May 2011).

Violence that occurs in intimate relations and partnerships (partner violence) is a violence perpetrated by the current or former partner, whether or not the perpetrator is formally married or in informal partnership with the woman, and whether or not they live in the same housing unit.

Violence in broader community includes various forms of violence committed by known or unknown perpetrators who are not members of family or household, in immediate social networks or public space, like schools, health institutions, police, religious institutions, etc.

It needs to be mentioned that the partner violence is often seen as a part of domestic violence. That is how it is defined by legislative framework in BiH. However, the UNECE methodology (UNECE, 2010) views partner violence separately from violence perpetrated by other members of family or household, and because of that, this study considers and analyzes it separately.

With regards to time dimension, the study shall distinguish between:

1. current violence, or violence committed within the year prior to the survey (October 2011- October 2012);
2. Overall life experience of violence – violence experienced by women after reaching the age of 15;

In addition, the survey investigates two important characteristics of violence:

1. prevalence, or widespreadness of violence that is a measure of how widespread is the experience of violence and shows how many women in the total sample have experience violence, and most often is shown as a number of identified cases or percentage of reference group;
2. incidence, or frequency of violence, that shows how often the violence happens in those cases where it has been registered, and is typically shown as average number of violent events that have happened in one case or in a reference group, or it may be shown in descriptive terms (rarely, often, regularly, etc.).

In addition to these main definitions, one has to point at another conceptual basis of this survey. Namely, starting from the assumption of structural and cultural conditionality of violence, and having in mind that this is the first survey of this kind in BiH, a decision was made to extend the survey to include, in addition to prevalence and incidence of violence and the main characteristic of perpetrators, some other important dimensions. Those are, first of all, factors or determinants of violence that are important to be known in order to design adequate and effective measures to combat violence by hitting its causes. Also, the survey considers the issues of consequences of violence and perception of available support services, as well as experiences with support services, since these also need to be known in order to design measures better. This has reflected on the methodology of the survey that is explained in the following chapter.

2.2 Survey methodology

A specific methodology has been developed for the needs of the first survey of gender based violence in BiH that in its core has the UNECE methodology, but also includes some

additional components. Such methodology was a result of efforts to simultaneously provide for comparability with other countries, in accordance with methodology developed and applied by the UNECE, and take into consideration some additional aspects of violence that are not covered by this methodology, such as factors and determinants of violence, consequences and addressing the support institutions and organizations.

In terms of the UNECE methodology, it needs to be mentioned that the data collection instruments, as well as the data collection methods, apply the basic standards of this methodology. Questionnaires contain questions that may serve as basis for constructing 8 of 9 UNECE indicators²(UN ESC, 2011) that are shown in the following table.

Table 2.2: UNECE Indicators³

1.	Total and age-specific rate of women subject to physical violence in the last 12 months, by relationship with the perpetrator and frequency.
2.	Total and age-specific rate of women subject to physical violence during lifetime by relationship with the perpetrator and frequency.
3.	Total and age-specific rate of women subject to sexual violence in the last 12 months by relationship with the perpetrator and frequency.
4.	Total and age-specific rate of women subject to sexual violence during lifetime by relationship with the perpetrator and frequency.
5.	Total and age-specific rate of women subject to sexual and/or physical violence by current or former intimate partners in the last 12 months by frequency.
6.	Total and age-specific rate of women subjected to sexual and/or physical violence by current or former partners during lifetime by frequency.
7.	Total and age-specific rate of women subjected to psychological violence by the intimate partners.
8.	Total and age-specific rate of women subjected to economic violence by the intimate partners.

The basic theoretical starting point with regards to violence as structurally and culturally determined occurrence, necessity to include in the survey numerous dimensions related to social and familial context, as well as opinions on gender roles and violence, but also the need to ensure conducive conditions for a survey on such sensitive issues has led to the strategy of dual examination. In fact, **two questionnaires** were construed: one to collect **household information** (including relations, size of the household, as well as characteristics of relationship of power in the household) and another one to collect **data on the women**, their position in the household and family, quality of life, health, experience of violence, opinions about violence, as well as experiences with regards to access to social services for supporting victims of violence.

The data collection has been implemented by the Institutes for Statistics of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and of the Republika Srpska. In the field, the survey was implemented by interviewers who visited households in pairs. One would question

2 The genital mutilation indicator has been left out.

3 It needs to be said that classification by severity of violence will not be possible fully in accordance with the UNECE methodology because any violence is seen as prohibited, and for the first survey it is believed more important to examine some other aspects, like, for example, causes, consequences and experiences of support, than to go into details of specific manifestations of violence on the basis of which more and less severe forms may be distinguished.

the women in a separate room, while the other would gather other members (male and female) of the household and ask them questions from the household questionnaire. This has made it possible to talk to women on topics that are considered sensitive and that require special approach by the surveyor⁴. In order to successfully implement this task, the interviewers have undergone three-days training designed specifically for this survey.

2.3 Description of sampling

The sampling procedure was done by the responsible services in the Agency for Statistics of BiH and Institutes for Statistics of FBiH and RS. As it is well known, the most recent census in BiH took place in 1991. Since then, significant migrations of population have taken place. As there were no reliable sources that could be used as a framework for surveys based on sampled household as observed units, it was necessary to secure more up-to-date information to be used for sampling purposes. So in 2009, the updating of census circles was done for the third time⁵ (hereinafter: the Master Sample of census circles). Compared to 2006, new 1.500 census circles were selected in which basic information on all households and on household members were collected. The selection of census circles was done in the following way:

1. Two separate lists of census circles were formed representing two explicit strata. Stratum 1 contained information on census circles from whole BiH, excluding Brčko. Stratum 2 contained information on census circle only for Brčko.
2. In stratum 1, implicit stratification was done (by sorting). Sorting was done by entities, municipalities, within which the sorting was done by type of settlement (urban, other⁶) and settlements (code of settlement). As P. Lynn has said: "This will ensure distribution (dispersion) of sample by all municipalities (with exception of the small ones that may not be sampled) and shall contain proper share of urban/other households"⁷.
3. In stratum 2, implicit stratification was done by sorting by settlements (codes of settlement) within the type of settlements (urban, other)
4. A systematic selection of census circles was done in both strata. In stratum 1, 1,428 census circles were selected, and in the stratum 2, 72 census circles.

Thus formed Master Sample of census circles and households from 2009, which was determined and updated by statistical institutions in BiH, was used as a framework for this survey too. Target population of this survey are women in BiH aged 18 years or more (who in 2009 had been present in BiH for at least one year). This population did not include collective households, such as students' homes, homes for children, homes for the elderly, sick and pensioners, prisons, monasteries etc., nor homeless. The observation units were households and women aged 18 and more, and the sample was designed so that it is representative both at the level of individuals and the level of household with at least one female person aged 18 or more.

A stratified two-phase systematic sample was used, where the primary sampling units (the first phase units) were census circles, and the secondary sampling units (second phase units) were households. Selection of the female person within the household was the

4 More on this topic in Babović, Ginić, Vuković, 2010.

5 Territorial areas formed in 1991 that comprised at that time 80-120 households.

6 With respect to statistical typology used when forming the Master Sample for census circles, settlements in BiH were divided into two types: urban and "other" settlements. "Other" include semi-urban and rural settlements.

7 „Statistics in Transition“, Peter Lynn, June 2004 Vol. 6, No.6, pp. 953 – 977 – part „Development of a sampling method for household surveys in post-war Bosnia and Herzegovina“,

third phase of sampling, that was done by surveyors at the field, and which has a significant role in calculating weights.

Primary sampling units had already been selected by determining the Master Sample of census circles (1,500 census circles), in the way described in previous part of the text in the box, all with equal probability of being selected within the stratum.

Secondary sampling units were selected by a systematic method. It means that the method of selection was also random because the necessary jump has been calculated, while the starting point was randomly selected. Explicit stratification was done in accordance with territorial organization of BiH (entities and Brčko District) and type of settlement (urban/other), while the implicit stratification was additionally done by municipalities, census circles, number of women aged 18+ and age of the head. Households were allocated in proportion to the size of explicit strata. The following logics were used in defining a sample of 5,000 households:

According to experiences from similar surveys conducted in BiH in previous times and based on the results of surveys of this kind in Serbia, a calculation of minimum sample size for this survey in BiH was done. The result depends on the adopted assumptions of parameters entered into formula. The following assumptions were adopted:

1. Rate of liability of estimation of key parameter: 95%
2. Design effect of the sample: 1.5
3. Expected rate of non-response in the survey: 25%
4. Maximum estimation error that can be tolerated for 95% reliability rate: 5%
5. Rate of women aged 18+ in BiH population was adopted from the Household Expenditure Survey from 2007: 40.65%
6. Average household size in BiH: 3.27.

Since only one female person is interviewed in each household, it was initially decided to sample 3,300 households, proportionally to the size of explicit strata, with reserve of 51% of households in order to receive response from 3,300 units. This means that it had been decided to include additional 1,700 households in reserve. Ultimately, a decision was made to have total size of the sample of 5,000 households and that at least 3,300 units must provide complete response. Reserve households (1,700) in the selected sample (5,000 units) were identified in a systematic way.

Table 2.3: Sampling elements and basic sample structure

	Type of settlement	Number of household in master sample	Number of households in master sample with at least one female person aged 18+	Total number of households in expected response (sample)	Total number of households in sample (expected responding+reserve households)	Number of reserve households in the selected sample
FBiH	Urban	16,416	15,251	844	1,279	435
	Rural	24,338	22,926	1,269	1,922	653
RS	Urban	8,576	8,033	445	674	229
	Rural	14,850	13,410	742	1,125	383
BiH	Total	64,180	59,620	3,300	5,000	1,700

3. Characteristics of women from the sample and their immediate living context

As it has already been mentioned, the sample for this survey included 2113 women from the Federation of BiH and 1187 women from the Republika Srpska, and the information was gathered about the women, but also about their households. This has made several things possible: to look at the prevalence and characteristics of violence at national level (excluding Brčko) and at entity levels, and to look at it in the context of households and family relations when it comes to domestic violence. Here follows description of most important characteristics of the women and their living circumstances in comparative framework (national level and entity level).

3.1 Basic social and demographic characteristics of women in the sample

Majority of women live in areas that are classified by official statistics as “other” or “non-urban” territories. Lacking a different classification that would make a more explicit distinction between cities and villages, urban and rural areas, what has been classified as “other” may be understood as the village-like type of settlements or rural area. The following table shows that majority of women included in the survey live in such rural areas.

Table 3.1: Respondents by the type of settlement they live in

Type of settlement	%		
	BiH	FBiH	RS
Urban	39,4	39,8	38,8
Other	60,6	60,2	61,2
Total	100	100	100

In terms of age of women, the sample register high rate of elderly women (65 years or more) and this affects the data on general sample in terms of a series of characteristics, like education, activity, opinions about gender roles, etc.

Table 3.2: Respondents by age

Age groups	%		
	BiH	FBiH	RS
18-24	3,8	4,1	3,2
25-34	11,7	11,9	11,2
35-44	17,0	18,5	14,3
45-54	21,3	21,6	20,7
55-64	21,0	20,7	21,5
65+	25,3	23,2	29,1
Total	100	100	100

Educational characteristics of women are relatively bad. Around one third of the respondents both at the BiH level and at the levels of both entities have not completed primary school. If the women with no education and with primary education were taken together, because that is the group of people without qualification, it becomes obvious that half of women in the sample have no qualification of any sort. Some slight difference has been observed between FBiH where the percentage of women without classification is a bit above 50%, and RS where the percentage is little below 50%, but these differences are not statistically significant.

Table 3.3: Respondents by education

Highest level of completed education	%		
	BiH	FBiH	RS
Not completed primary school	25,3	25,2	25,5
Completed primary school	24,7	26,4	21,7
Secondary school 2-3 grades	19,2	18,7	20,0
Secondary school 4 grades for higher worker qualification	22,8	22,1	24,1
Tertiary education (2 or 4(5) post-secondary education)	8,0	7,5	8,8
Total	100	100	100

However, it is very important to observe that large discrepancy in education is seen between respondents of different ages. This poor educational structure of women in the sample is actually a consequence of higher rate of elderly women. More detailed information on education of women of various ages are attached (table's 1a-c). The data, for example, show that 70% of girls aged 19-24 have completed four-year secondary education (68,9% BiH, 67,1% in FBiH and 73,0% in RS). Around one fifth (20.1% at level of BiH, 19.4% in FBiH and 21.2% in RS) of young women (aged 25-34) have completed higher education, while among older working cohort (45-64) there is less than 10% of women with higher education. On the other hand, among women above 64 years of age, more than 80% are unqualified. Those are important inter-generational changes that influence the change in overall social position of women, their predisposition for economic participation and social power.

Considering the relatively bad educational structure of the respondents, it was important to learn reasons why they had not completed higher levels of education. Those reasons differ a great deal depending on at what educational phase the women gave up continued education, their age and generational reasons caused by differences in social and family context, and whether they lived in urban or rural areas. Detail information about this is provided here in Annex 1 to this study (table's 2a-c, 3a-c, and 4a-c), and here we will mention some of the most important things:

- Women without education (who are at the same time mostly elderly women) the external **pressure of family and customs** was the most frequent reason for leaving education.

- Among women who had completed four-year secondary education, most often the reason for not continuing is of internal nature, or in other words **lack of desire, motivation** to continue education at higher level – university levels. As the women with secondary education make the largest portion of group of younger women, these differences in external pressure by family and internalized lack of wish to continue with educational achievements may be seen as important inter-generational difference.
- Leaving education in order to work in agriculture or household is a reason more often offered by women with no qualification, in other words, prevalingly elderly women living in rural communities.
- Lack of funds or marriage emerge as relatively important reasons. In particular, the first reason is offered by women who had acquired only primary education or had completed 2-3 grades of secondary vocational schools, while the second one is often quoted by women with secondary education. Apparently, getting married was the decisive reason for almost one fifth of women with secondary education to give up studying at that stage in life.

3.2 Economic activity of women in the sample

Data concerning activity of women from the sample also suggest that they are in a quite unfavorable position. Share of inactive women, pensioners and housewives is quite large¹, while the share of employed women is small. The following table shows data from the whole sample, since we are interested in position of all women in the context of their exposure to violence, not to measure level and characteristics of activity of female population included in the survey. Of course, when the activity, employment and unemployment are seen only at the level of sub-sample of population of working age 18-64, the share of active women is somewhat larger (these data are provided in the Annex 1, Table 5).

Table 3.4: Respondents by activity

Categories by activity	%		
	BiH	FBiH	RS
Active	39.4	36.8	45.3
Formally employed	18.4	17.0	21.9
Informally employed	6.6	6.1	7.8
Unemployed	14.4	13.7	15.6
Inactive	60.6	63.2	54.7
Pensioners	21.0	19.9	22.8
Housewife's	33.4	37.4	26.3
Students (secondary/tertiary)	2.5	2.4	2.6
Other inactive	3.7	3.5	3.0
Total	100	100	100

¹ According to the definition of Labor Force Survey

3.3 Household and family characteristics

Most respondents live in households of medium size (2-5 members), and looking at relationships, in the so-called nuclear families that are made of parents and their children. Extended families (where individual relatives live together with nuclear families) and households with several families (comprising more than one nuclear family) are less represented in the sample. It should also be said that it is mostly the elderly women who live in single-person household. In 72% of cases such single-person households are made of women over 64, and in 20% of cases women aged 55-64. Therefore, this should not be seen as a trend of individualization or independence of younger women as most women live alone because they have lost their partner and family for various reasons.

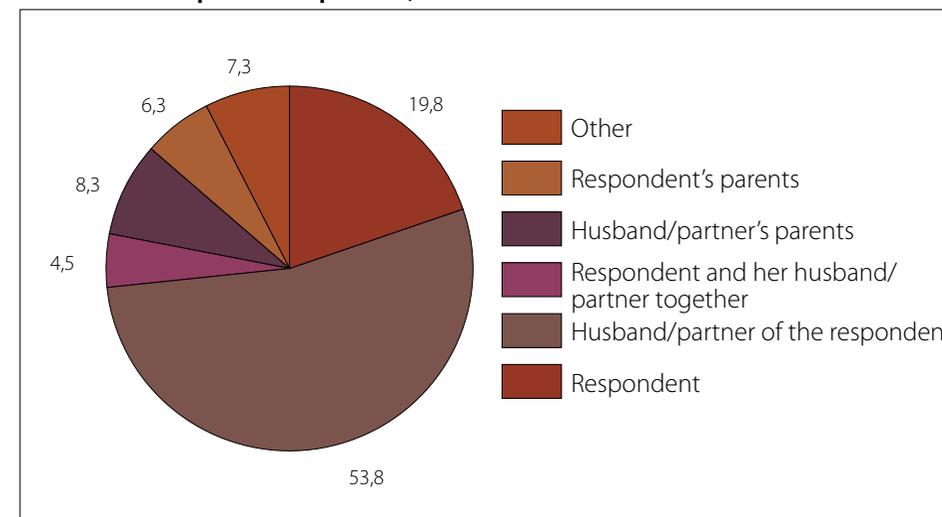
Table 3.5: Respondents by the type of household where they live

Households by kinship composition	%		
	BiH	FBiH	RS
Single person	11,8	10,4	14,2
Couples without children	18,8	17,9	20,3
Couples with children	38,9	41,6	34,0
Single parent	8,0	7,7	8,6
Extended family	11,0	10,2	12,5
Households with several families	9,0	9,1	8,9
Other	2,5	3,1	1,4
Total	100	100	100

3.4 Ownership status and ownership gap

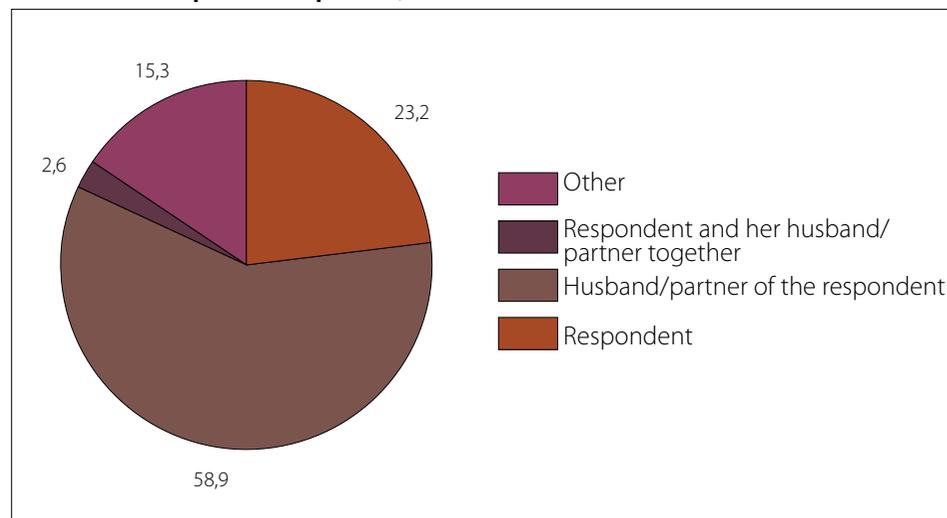
Most women from the sample live in the housing unit owned by the household (87% in BiH, 86% in FBiH, and 88% in RS). However, owner of the housing unit is most often the husband or partner of the respondent, as can be seen in the following chart.

Chart3.1: Ownership of house / apartment, BiH



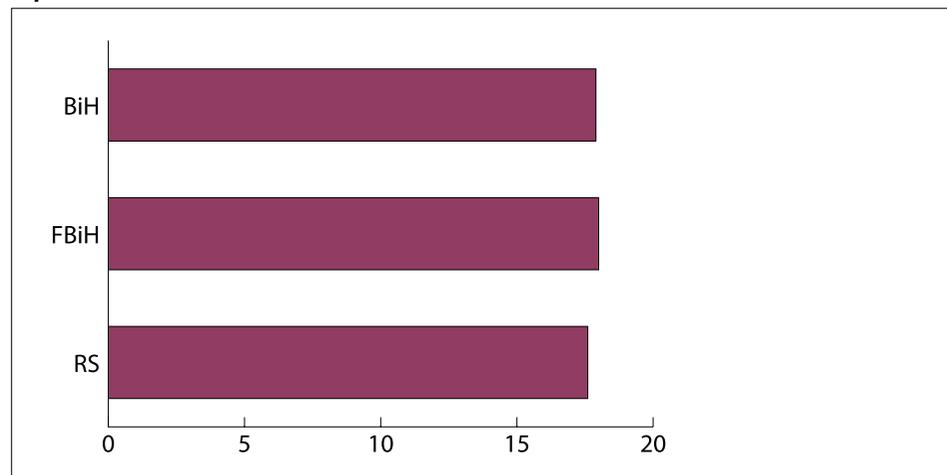
Besides the main housing unit, a smaller number of households (4.5 in BiH, 4.9 in FBiH and 3.9 in RS) also own business premises. In this case to the women respondents are less frequently owners of that space than their husbands/partners.

Chart 3.2: Ownership of business premises, BiH



Having in mind that most respondents live in rural areas, it is not surprising that almost half of their households own land (47% at national and entity levels). And once again, women are owners of those household resources only in a smaller number of cases.

Chart 3.3: Share of respondents who own at least one part of land that is in possession of their household



In terms of ownership of a vehicle, the respondents are even less frequently among owners. In total sample for BiH, 46% of households own at least one passenger vehicle. However, in only 14% of cases the women are owners of some of those vehicles (14.2% in BiH, 13.8% in FBiH and 14.9% in RS).

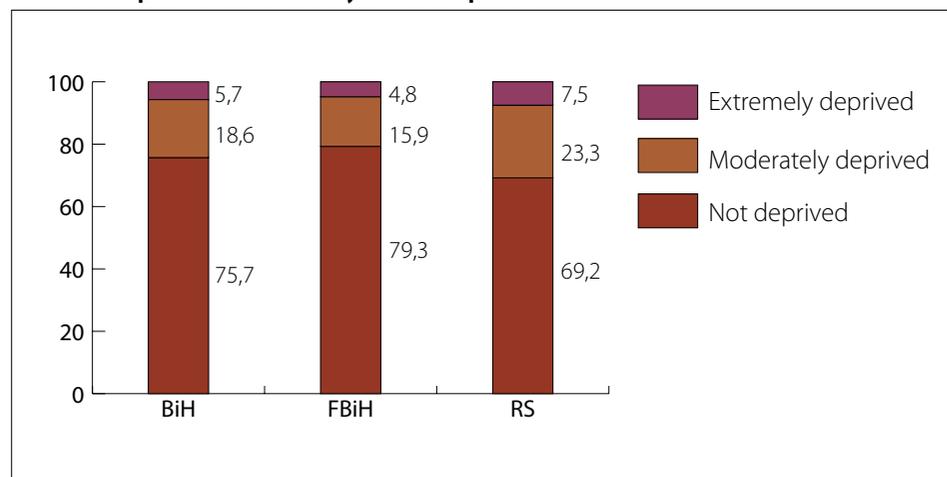
3.5 Material standards (wealth)

Living conditions in terms of material standard (wealth) are not good for many women in the sample. At the BiH level, in 73% of cases households are unable to amortize a sudden cost that is equivalent to the poverty line from 2011 (416.40 BAM). In FBiH there were 71,1% (443.60 BAM) of such households, and 66,5% (381.09 BAM) in RS.

Assessment of material standard and satisfaction of household needs of women in the sample has not relied only on the measure of financial poverty, but attempted a closer examination of material deprivation using indicators like **housing conditions** and **degree of satisfaction of main existential needs**. Assessment of material deprivation of households in the sample was done by formulating a complex index that is made of a number of indicators showing the ability to satisfy basic needs (like food, clothing and footwear, prescribed medicines, paying bills etc.), equipment of the housing space and household with some significant appliances (color TV, phone connection, mobile phone, refrigerator, washing machine, etc.) and conditions of living (having running water, toilets, electricity in the housing unit, etc.).² The data on such individual aspects of living standards in the households in sample are given in the Annex 1 (Tables X-X), and only final data on share of households where moderate or extreme deprivation were registered are shown here for BiH and for the two entities. The following chart shows that material deprivation is higher among households in RS, with higher number of both moderately and extremely deprived households.

² Measuring material deprivation was done in accordance with methods used for monitoring social exclusion in EU, taking into consideration experiences of the survey team with previous surveys of material deprivation. For the purposes of this survey, the composite index of material deprivation was constructed on the basis of three individual indices: 1. **Index of deprivation in meeting the needs** that includes following dimensions: a) inability to buy necessary food; b) inability to pay costs of housing for more than 3 months; c) inability to buy needed clothing and footwear for any member of the household; d) inability to secure good heating; e) inability to buy medicines prescribed by doctor (all households that exhibit deprivation with regard to 3 or more of the stated indicators are classified as deprived in this index); 2. **Index of apartment equipment** that includes possession of the following appliances: a) color television set; b) mobile phone; c) washing machine; d) refrigerator; e) telephone connection (all households that have declared lack of two or more of the said appliances have been classified as deprived); **Index of housing deprivation** includes the following components: a) less than 12m² of area per household member; b) inexistence of running water in the household; c) inexistence of toilet in the household and d) not having electricity connection (all household that have declared deprivation in at least one dimension of this indicator are declared as deprived). The composite index was then determined in the way that all households that have exhibited deprivation in at least one individual index are classified as deprived households.

Chart 3.4: Respondents' household by material deprivation



It is possible that this higher share of materially deprived households in RS was affected by the fact that in RS there are more women from vulnerable category of displaced persons. Actually, 18% of respondents in RS said they were displaced persons, as opposed to 4.3% in FBiH.

3.6 Division of work and care for family members

The survey registers various relationships in household and family. Numerous aspects of such relationships will be shown and analyzed later. Here we are going to point at only one aspect of such relationship that points at uneven distribution of house work and care for children, the elderly and the sick in the household. It is important to note that the method used for measuring division of housework is not sophisticated as in time spending surveys that are generally the best way to measure this burden. The results in the following table do not give any proportion of time different household members spend carrying out various household tasks, but instead reflect answer to the question who is **prevalingly** doing a specific type of work or responsibility in the household. Another important thing to mention is that the following table does not show responses by the women-respondents, but mostly responses of other household members who were providing answers on the household. The presented information clearly shows that in the sample, women are the ones performing all most important tasks related to maintaining household, while they only partially share with men the responsibility for care for children and the elderly/sick members of the household.

Table 3.6: Households where the female members (not necessarily the respondents) prevalingly perform the most important work of maintenance and family care

Type of work	%		
	BiH	FBiH	RS
Cooking meals	96.0	95.8	96.4
Washing dishes	95.6	94.9	96.2
Laundering	96.9	96.6	97.2
Ironing	96.6	96.3	97.5
Cleaning apartment	93.2	92.5	94.4
Care for young children	83.1	81.5	85.8
Care of school responsibilities of children	78.4	75.0	84.9
Care for the elderly/sick family members	70.2	73.5	80.7
Total	100	100	100

Such heavy disbalance in taking responsibility for house work is just one aspect through which the inequality in power between men and women is manifested, which in term serves as a basis for domestic violence. Other aspects of gender inequality will be discussed later in the text.

Summary

Among women in the sample, women from rural communities prevail, there is a high share of older women, women without qualifications or with low education levels and relatively low economic participation. In most cases those are familial women living in medium-size households. These women have thin ownership base because most often title on property or significant movable assets are their husbands or other male household members. On the other hand, they carry disproportionally higher burden of performing unpaid house work and responsibilities related to care for children and elderly or ill household members. Large is the share of women living in poverty and material deprivation, what makes their daily life difficult.

4. Forms, prevalence and characteristics of violence against women

As it has already been mentioned in chapter on methodology, forms of gender based violence may be distinguished on the basis of a number of criteria: by the kind of harm, injury inflicted on the victim, by perpetrators, and by the context in which the violence is perpetrated. In order to ensure a systematic presentation, we will feature prevalence and characteristics of different forms of violence by type of harm inflicted to the victim (psychological, physical, sexual and economic violence). However, these forms of violence will be viewed within the types of violence defined by perpetrators and kind of relationship with him, context in which the violence has taken place, so we will distinguish between: partner violence, domestic violence, and violence in the broader environment of the respondents. This kind of differentiation between violence committed by intimate partner, domestic violence and violence in broader community is also defined in the UNECE methodology.

In one part, proportions and characteristics of violence against women shall be presented by use of standardized UNECE indicators that were discussed in the methodology chapter, but the analysis will also be based on a series of other indicators too. At this point it will be important to explain that analyzing and reporting on proportions and characteristics of violence against women will not be limited to the UNECE indicators because they provide a relatively limited view of violence are not fully appropriate for the social context in BiH. Namely, the indicators are heavily focused on physical and sexual violence, much less on psychological violence that is considered to be more widespread, and according to various theories, it can be at least equally as harmful as physical violence. In addition, the UNECE indicators are largely focused on violence committed by intimate partner, while they frequently do not make distinction between domestic violence and violence in the broader community, thus dimming the picture of exposure to violence in various contexts of social relationships.

Having in mind high share of rural population in BiH, widespreadness of traditional social relations and low standard of living, as well as particularly well developed culture of family values, relations with members of primary family, family established by marriage and life in a household that often may be extended, have a great significance in formulating daily lives of women. In addition, having in mind experience of violence from war, as well as the experience of violence during the post-conflict recovery, violence in broader community needs to be viewed separately. For the said reasons, in the first parts of this chapter the picture of violence will be reconstructed on the basis of indicators defined for the needs of this analysis, while in the last part the situation will be presented on the basis of the UNECE indicators for the purpose of providing comparability with other countries that have used the same methodology.

4.1 Overall prevalence of violence against women

Before we present the findings on prevalence of violence against women, an important note has to be made. Findings on prevalence of experiences of violence in various forms should always be taken with certain reserve because women tend to conceal such personal experiences. When the surveys are done by interviews “face to face”, as suggested by various international research, the likelihood of women concealing their experiences and fails to tell about them to the surveyors is higher than when they are allowed to fulfill a questionnaire on their own. Since the UNECE methodology for surveying violence is based on such “face to face” interviews, one may expect that the data on prevalence of violence are actually the lower limit of real prevalence of violence that may be several times higher, as shown by studies conducted in United Kingdom and Germany (Walby, 2004).

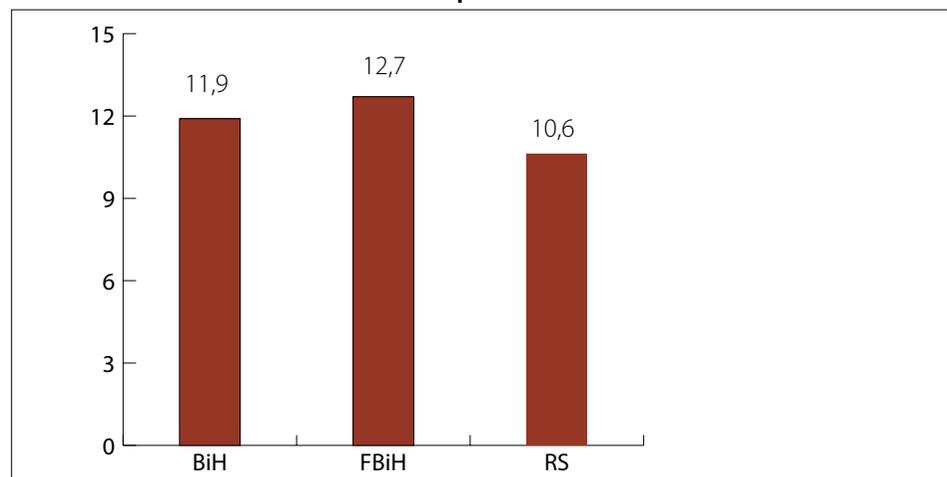
Based on the data received in this survey, it is apparent that 47.2% of women from the sample have been subjected to some form of violence (economic, physical, psychological or sexual) at some point after reaching the age of 15, committed against them by somebody from their immediate family or non-family environment (the likes of the current or former partner, family member, household, friends, colleagues etc.), an official or a stranger.

Table 4.1: Overall prevalence of violence against women

Experience of violence	BiH		FBiH		RS	
	n	%	N	%	n	%
Women who have experienced any form of violence after the age of 15	1.559	47.2	998	47.2	561	47.3
Women who have not reported any experience of violence	1.741	52.8	1.115	52.8	626	52.7
Total	3.300	100	2.113	100	1.187	100

The prevalence of violence gets significantly lower if only the period of 12 months preceding the survey is considered. The rates of current violence are shown in the next Chart and they suggest that during this period, every tenth women was subjected to some form of violence either in their immediate environment or in a broader community. Although the rate of current violence is somewhat higher in the Federation of BiH than in the Republika Srpska, the differences in this case are actually not statistically significant.

Chart 4.1: Prevalence rates of overall violence in past 12 months



When the prevalence of violence is viewed separately by various forms of violence, it becomes obvious that the psychological violence is the most widespread, followed by physical violence. High rate of older women in the sample certainly result with the prevalence rates being much higher at the lifetime level than in the past year. In addition, one may assume that the differences between the rates of current violence and violence experienced in the lifetime are not consequences solely of the length of the period considered, but probably also of the fact that women find it easier to admit experiences from the past than the current ones that affect them at present.

In terms of unexpectedly low prevalence of economic violence (for example, in Serbia, in similar socio-economic conditions, the same indicators provided the rate of more than 16%), this in part may also be a consequence of high rate of older women a high percentage of whom in fact are economically dependent on others, and rarely ask for money for personal spending or have money that could be taken away from them; this will be discussed further in the relevant chapter.

Table 4.2: Prevalence rates of various types of violence against women

Forms of violence	%					
	BiH		FBiH		RS	
	In the lifetime	Current	In the lifetime	Current	In the lifetime	Current
Psychological	41.9	10.8	43.4	11.9	39.1	8.9
Physical	24.3	2.4	23.0	2.7	26.5	1.9
Sexual	6.0	1.3	5.8	1.5	6.4	0.9
Economic	4.8	1.4	3.8	1.0	6.6	2.1

The data above show how many women have experienced any of the said forms of violence, the data in the following table suggest that these various forms of violence often occur together. They show that among women with registered experience of violence, as many as 46.8% have been subjected to multiple forms of violence. Most often that is the combination of psychological and physical abuse.

Table 4.3: Exposure to various types of violence

Forms of violence	%		
	BiH	FBiH	RS
Only experience of psychological violence	42.7	46.1	36.5
Only experience of physical violence	7.6	5.6	11.2
Only experience of sexual violence	0.8	0.7	0.9
Only experience of economic violence	2.1	1.4	3.4
Experience of psychological and physical violence	29.4	30.4	27.6
Other	17.4	15.8	20.4
Total	100	100	100

Women speak: Both psychological and physical violence

“I always tell him whatever I buy, and I always ask when I need something. He often refused lunch if it had not been properly salted or slightly burned, so I always had to make sure that everything was well cooked. If I ironed his shirt and it were not well ironed, he would crumble it and throw it in the corner. I had to ask him for permission whenever I wanted to go somewhere, I could never go anywhere without asking. He never allowed our daughters to go out, so they were ridiculed by their friends. Our daughter went to some sports competition once and did not return in time, he blamed me and made me feel bad. He slapped me once because I expressed suspicion that he had not been faithful to me (I had heard that he had somebody in another village – he is a bus driver so he is all over), we fought and finally he slapped me.”

In terms of types of violence by perpetrators, the data clearly show that the most prevalent is intimate partner violence. It occurs independently or in combination with other types of violence (violence by other relatives or persons from broader community) in 57.4% of cases at the level of BiH. In fact, the data in the following table tell us that the sphere of intimate partner relations and family relations is where most of violence against women in the sample takes place, making it actually less “safe” than street, school or other public spaces where women interact with others.

Table 4.4: Prevalence of various types of violence identified by the perpetrator context

Types of violence	%		
	BiH	FBiH	RS
Only experience of intimate partner violence (by current or former partner)	37.9	37.0	39.6
Only experience of domestic violence (other relatives or household members, except the partner)	14.1	12.5	16.9
Only experience of violence by people who are not partners or relatives	7.8	7.0	9.1
Combined partner and domestic violence	15.3	15.7	14.6
Combined partner and violence in broader community	4.2	5.0	2.9
Combined domestic violence and violence in broader community	17.4	19.5	13.7
Other	3.2	3.2	3.2
Total	100	100	100

From the surveyors' diary: multiple violence

Husband and son are alcoholics. Son has a wife and two children, but he still spends all his money on alcohol. When drunk, son takes the gun and threatens to kill everybody. Once he fought with his father, and his mother got in between them, so she ended up battered. The respondent's health does not allow her to earn any money, so she gets some from her sisters who work abroad. However, when her husband or son find that money, they take it by force and spend it on alcohol. She had surgeries on both her knees. When she got back from the hospital and was supposed to be recovering, her drunken husband waited for her at home and threatened and intimidated her, and finally took one of her freshly operated legs and pulled it repeatedly. She said the pain had been indescribable. She went to the doctor, but she did not tell him what had happened. Police had been called for domestic violence, but the things were worse after that so she never called them again. In addition, her husband used to force her to have sex with him, but he stopped doing that since she had surgery on her uterus.

Interestingly, no statistically significant difference in terms of exposure to violence of women of various ages is registered at the level of BiH and RS, but not also in the FBiH. The following table shows that generally speaking, young women are more susceptible to violence, but this difference is statistically significant only in RS and BiH, not so in FBiH.¹ Highest rates of violence have been registered among young and younger women in RS (age group 18-34). Such rates are mostly consequence of physical and psychological violence committed against respondents by their intimate partners.

¹ For the BiH level, value of statistic significance: Chi-Square = 23.155, Cramjer'sV = 0.084, p= 0.000; value of statistic significance: Chi-Square = 18.482, Cramjer'sV = 0.125, p= 0.002; for: Chi-Square = 9.206, Cramjer'sV = 0.066, p= 0.101.

Table 4.5: Overall violence rates for various age groups of women

Types of violence	%		
	BiH	FBiH	RS
18-24	56.8	54.0	63.2
25-34	56.4	54.4	60.2
35-44	46.8	46.4	47.6
45-54	47.5	47.0	48.4
55-64	44.2	43.7	45.1
65+	44.2	46.3	41.2

Very small (in terms of their statistical differences) variations are identified with regards to exposure to violence of women from rural and urban areas. The following table shows that the women in rural areas (that are by official statistics defined as "other" settlements) are more subjected to violence than women from cities. Here again statistically significant (albeit small) differences are registered at the level of BiH and RS, but not in FBiH.²

Table 4.6: Overall violence rates for women from urban and rural communities

Community type	%		
	BiH	FBiH	RS
Urban	44.3	45.2	42.5
Rural	49.2	48.5	50.3

The data suggest that women in poor health are not spared from violence – prevalence of various forms of violence is the same for them as for the women who declared being in good health. Among women in sample, 28.3% respondents said they were suffering from a chronic disease. Among them, as many as 47.3% were identified as victims of some form of sexual violence. Also, the sample included 5.2% of women with disability. Among them, the prevalence of violence was 48.5%. The situation is the same when looking at the prevalence of current violence – this rate among women with chronically diseases is 10.7%, and among women with disability – 11.8%.

Summary

The overall prevalence of gender based violence against women who had experienced violence since reaching 15 years of age is 47.2%, while the prevalence of current violence experienced in the previous 12 months is 11.9%. Prevalent forms of violence against women are psychological and physical violence, and combined psychological and physical violence. Most widespread is the violence committed by intimate partner (current and former) and seen overall, the sphere relationships with intimate partners and family is much more dangerous in terms of violence against women than the broader community. Young women are more subjected to violence than older women, particularly in RS, and rural women more than urban women, also in RS. Women in poor health or with disability

² For BiH level, value of statistical significance: Chi-Square = 7.595, Cramjer'sV = 0.048, p= 0.006; for RS value of statistical significance: Chi-Square = 6.811, Cramjer'sV = 0.076, p= 0.009; for: Chi-Square = 2.223, Cramjer'sV = 0.032, p= 0.136.

are not spared from violence – among them, the prevalence rates are the same as in the sub-sample of healthy women and women without disability.

4.2 Prevalence and characteristics of psychological violence against women

Methodology used for implementing the survey is based on such conceptual approach that distinguishes between two main forms of psychological violence: (1) form of controlling behavior and restriction of freedom of women; and (2) form of emotional abuse. The two forms of psychological violence are measured by a number of specific indicators that are shown in the following table.

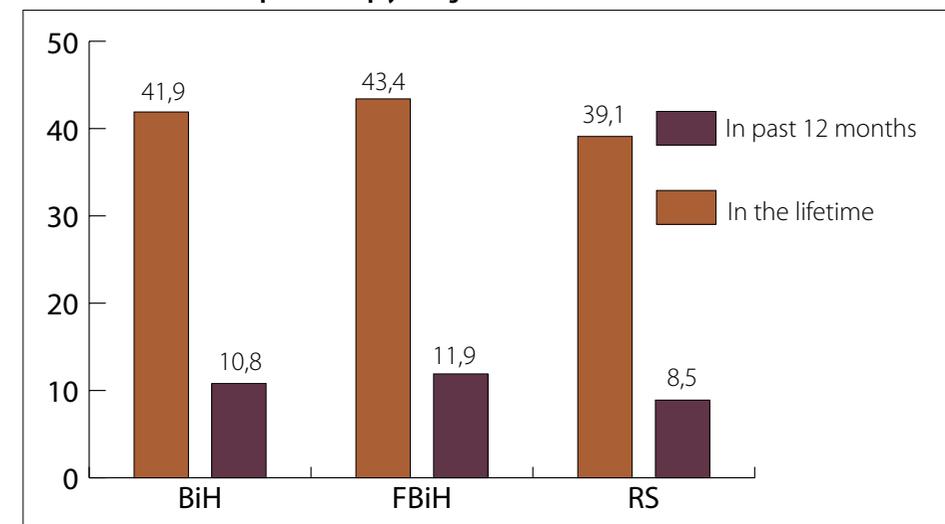
Table 4.7: Manifestations of psychological violence

Psychological violence in form of controlling and freedom restricting behavior	Prohibiting seeing friends
	Restricting contact with biological family
	Insisting to know movements of the women at all times
	Anger if a woman talks to another man
	Suspicion and accusations of infidelity
Psychological violence in form of emotional abuse	Restricting visits to doctor, health institutions
	Verbal humiliation (belittling, swearing, insulting) in private or in front of other people
	Ignoring, denying attention or conversation for more than an hour
	Causing fear by looking, yelling, breaking things, etc.
	Threats to harm the respondent or a person close to her

Presence of psychological violence in the form of controlling and freedom-restricting behavior has been examined only in the context of relations with intimate partner, whether current or former, while the presence of psychological violence in the form of emotional abuse has been examined in the context of partner relations, but also in the context of broader family and other relations in the community.

Looking at the psychological violence overall, whether in form of controlling behavior or emotional abuse, one can see that more than 40% of respondents in BH were subjected to psychological violence in their lifetime, while every tenth women was subjected to this violence in the past 12 months.

Chart 4.2: Women with experience of psychological violence



In most cases, physical violence the women experienced comes from their partners. As shown in the table below, in 39% of cases they experience this kind of violence only from their partners, while in additional 17% of cases, in addition to the partner, other family members or relatives appear as perpetrators of this violation, and in 5% of cases persons from broader community.

Table 4.8: Psychological violence experienced after age of 15 by perpetrators

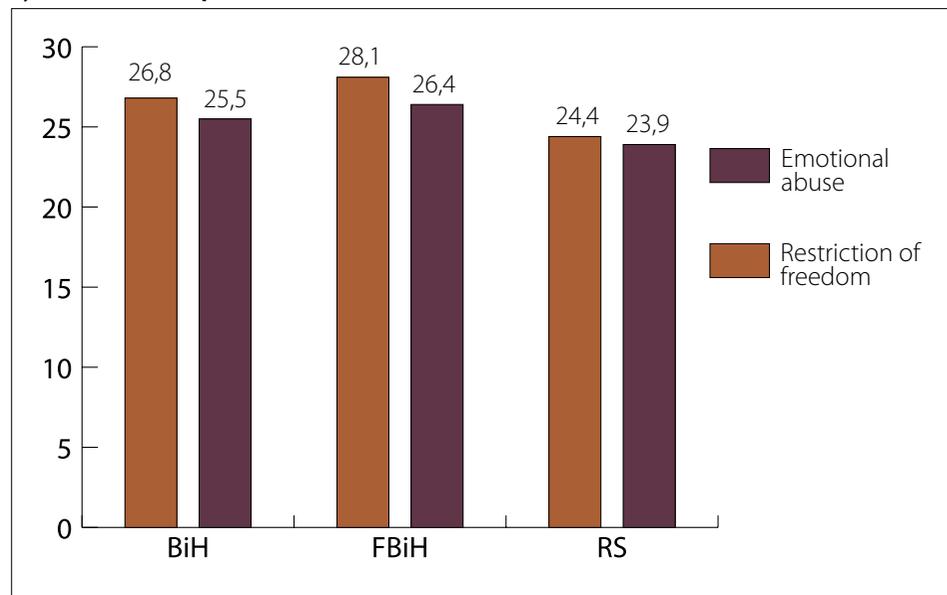
Psychical violence against women	%		
	BiH	FBiH	RS
Partner (current or former)	39.0	38.2	40.5
Other family members or relatives	8.2	8.0	8.8
Persons from broader community	8.5	7.5	10.3
Partner and other family members	16.9	16.9	17.0
Partner and persons from broader community	4.8	5.4	3.4
Family and persons from broader community	19.3	20.8	16.4
Other	3.3	3.2	3.4
Total	100	100	100

Characteristics of psychological violence are shown below by types identified on the basis of who and in what context perpetrates this violence against women.

4.2.1 Psychological violence by partners

Since the psychological violence in its two distinguishable forms – restriction of freedom and emotional abuse – has been examined in the context of partner relations, one may note that the former is more prevalent than the latter.

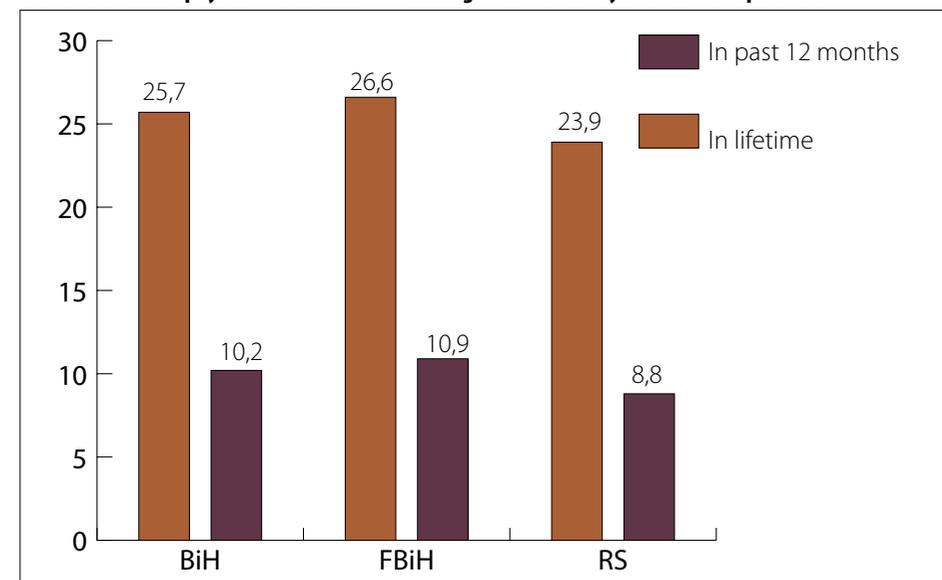
Chart 4.3: Prevalence of physical violence manifested as restriction of freedom and emotional abuse by current or former partner in the lifetime



Here one has to keep in mind that around 9% of women who had partners at the time when the survey was conducted were subjected to both forms of psychological violence simultaneously by current partner at the level of BiH, and 5.3% of women who had partners at any time in their lifetime were subjected to both forms of psychological violence by former partners.

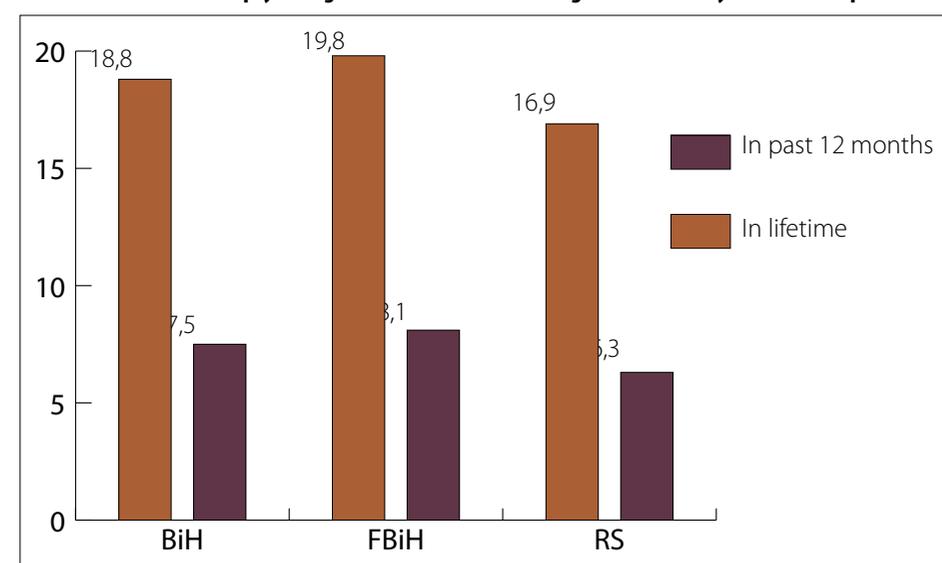
The following chart shows that around 26% of women who currently have a partner were subjected to psychological violence by current partner at the level of BiH, while corresponding percentage in FBiH was 27% and in RS 24%.

Chart 4.4: Rate of physical violence committed against women by their current partners³



Therefore, every fourth women who has a partner was subjected to psychological violence by her partner at some point, and every tenth women has been subjected to such violence in the past 12 months too. The rates of psychological violence that has been committed or is being committed by former partners are somewhat smaller. The following chart shows the rates for women in the sample who have ever had a partner in their lifetime. One should note that only 21 women in the sample had never had a partner, so this reference group has almost been evened with the overall sample.

Chart 4.5: Prevalence of psychological violence committed against women by their former partners⁴



³ Calculated for category of women who had partners at the time of conducting the survey.

⁴ Calculated for category of women who have ever had partners in their lifetime.

In most cases, violence had not been an isolated incident, but systematically repeated. Although the measure of frequency is not fully precise, the table below shows that in most cases this psychological violence happened several times in the past year, and in a small number of cases, it happened many times.

Table 4.9: Frequency of current psychological violence committed by current partner during the past year⁵

Frequency of violent situations in past 12 months	% of women with experience of partner violence					
	BiH		FBiH		RS	
	Control	Emotional abuse	Control	Emotional abuse	Control	Emotional abuse
Once	35.4	45.2	31.3	45.7	43.8	43.9
Several times	59.2	51.1	61.6	50.0	54.2	53.7
Many times	5.4	3.7	7.1	4.3	2.1	2.4
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Rates of psychological violence committed by current partner exceed the rates of violence committed by former partners, and around 5% of women who have ever had partners have had some experience of psychological violence in relationship with both former and current partner.

Table 4.10: Experience of psychological violence after 15 years of age committed by former or current partner, BiH

Observation unit	% of women who have ever had a partner		
	Perpetrator is the current partner	Perpetrator is the former partner	Perpetrators are both former and current partners
BiH	14.1	12.5	4.7
FBiH	15.4	13.2	4.5
RS	11.9	11.1	5.0

Younger women are more subjected to psychological violence by their partners than older ones. Rate of psychological violence committed by current partner is the highest among women aged 25-34. It remains at a relatively high level in other age groups to go down with respect to older women.

⁵ Data on frequency of psychological violence committed by former partners in past year are not shown because of very small number of such cases (31).

Table 4.11: Prevalence rate of psychological violence committed by current partners during the respondent's lifetime, by age groups

Indicator	% of all women in the sample		
	BiH	FBiH	RS
19-24	20.8	20.7	21.1
25-34	25.2	26.6	22.6
35-44	22.9	25.4	17.1
45-54	22.0	21.2	23.6
55-64	17.9	16.9	19.6
65+	10.3	12.7	7.0

From surveyors' notes: A story of a women victim of psychological violence

The respondent's husband was, as she put it "a model husband by all standards", he worked and brought money home, did not smoke or drink, did not cheat on her, never tried to hit her, but she suffered a different form of violence. He believed he was the head of the household, and nothing could be spent without his approval. "He was too stingy", she puts it. She was not allowed to cook or turn any appliance on except when the electricity is charged at a lower tariff. She was allowed to spend only a limited amount of electricity and if she exceeded it by 2 kw he would not talk to them, they would drink coffee with his back turned to her. When she could not stand it any more after 37 years of marriage, she requested her part of the house, and he told her to go "either under bridge, or under train". She then moved in with her daughter and has been living with her for four years now. After she had left, he burned down her garden and cut down all her plants in front of the house, even threatened to burn down her part of the house so she would get nothing. She said she would never go back to him!

4.2.2 Psychological domestic violence

Regarding psychological violence committed against women by other family members or relatives, or household members who are not their immediate blood relatives but are a part of family network of their partners or other relatives, it is obviously much less prevalent than the psychological violence committed by partners.

Table 4.12: Rate of psychological violence committed by family members or relatives in the lifetime and in the past 12 months

Indicator	%		
	BiH	FBiH	RS
Psychological violence in the lifetime	14.9	15.3	14.2
Psychological violence in past 12 months	2.8	3.3	1.9

Data on frequency of violence suggest that in the past twelve months, most women with regards to whom this violence had been registered were subjected to psychological

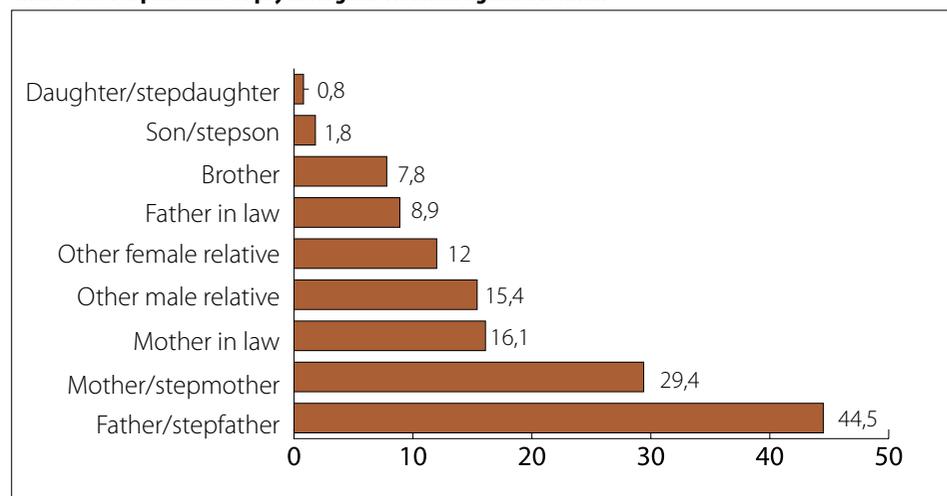
violence multiple times, and a large share of such women were subjected to violence many times, indicating that this violence occurs as systematic, permanent violence a large number of women are subjected to on regular basis.

Table 4.13: Frequency of psychological violence committed by family members or relatives in the past 12 months

Frequency	%		
	BiH	FBiH	RS
Once	24.8	24.7	25.0
Several times	54.1	55.7	50.0
Many times	21.1	19.6	25.0

The information on perpetrators points at significant gender differences. Fathers are most frequent perpetrators of psychological violence against women, although there is also a relatively high share of mothers and mothers in law.

Chart 4.6: Perpetrators of psychological violence against women⁶



The data point at a general pattern of psychological violence lifecycle where the violence is first committed by fathers to be continued by violence committed against women by their intimate partners.

4.2.3 Psychological abuse in broader community

Psychological abuse in broader community, i.e. outside of partner relationship and family circle has been studied as manifested in form of insults, disparagement, humiliation, threats or ignoring behavior. Data on prevalence of this kind of violence show that respondents have experienced fewer incidents of such violence committed by strangers than by family members (excluding partners).

⁶ The sum of responses exceeds 100% because the respondents were allowed to name several perpetrators if such was the case.

Table 4.14: Rate of psychological violence committed by persons outside of family, in the lifetime and during the past 12 months

Indicator	% of women who have ever had a partner		
	BiH	FBiH	RS
Psychological violence in the lifetime	13.3	14.3	11.5
Psychological violence in past 12 months	2.2	2.6	1.6

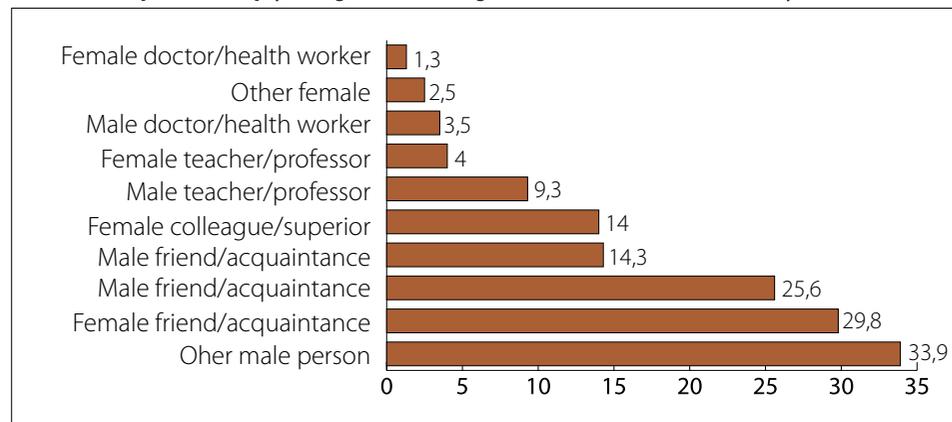
Although the psychological violence by persons from outside of family circle has been relatively rare in the past year, the data in the following table show that this was not a random set of incident, but systematic abuse the respondents are faced in broader community because in more than 2/3 of cases these were relatively frequent situations of violence.

Table 4.15: Frequency of psychological violence committed by persons from outside of family in past 12 months

Frequency	% of women who have ever had a partner		
	BiH	FBiH	RS
Once	28.2	26.9	31.6
Several times	54.9	59.6	42.1
Many times	16.9	13.5	26.3

Perpetrators of this kind of violence are most often some unknown individuals, but right after them come male friends or acquaintances, followed by female friends and acquaintances. However, what is concerning is relatively significant rate of psychological abuse committed by colleagues or superiors at work, or the abuse that should never exist – the one committed by official persons in institutions providing health or educational social services.

Chart 4.7: Perpetrators of psychological violence against women in wider community



Summary

Rae of psychological violence committed against respondents in their lifetime is 41.9%, and in the past 12 months 10.8%. Frequency data say that this is a systematic violence that repeats regularly. Younger women are more subjected to psychological abuse, and most often the perpetrators are partners, followed by fathers, then by unknown males and male friends/acquaintances.

4.3 Prevalence and characteristics of physical violence against women

Physical violence has been studied in the manifestations are shown in the following table. Whenever the respondent said during the interview that she had been subjected to at least one of the listed manifestations of physical violence, she was identified as a woman with experience of physical violence.

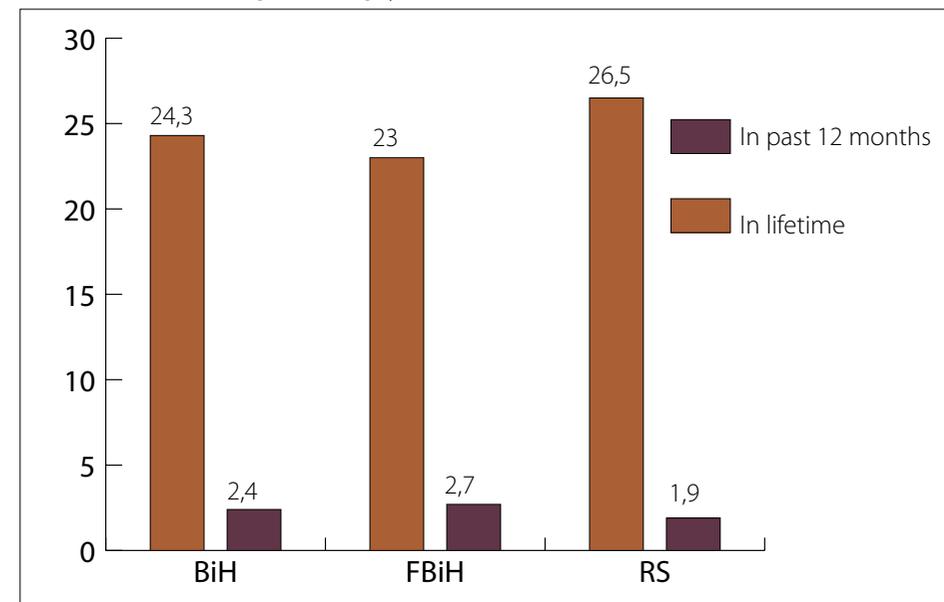
Table 4.16: Manifestations of physical violence that were used as identifiers of existence of physical violence

Manifestations of physical violence	Slapping, throwing objects at
	Pushing, hair-pulling
	Hitting with fist or object
	Kicking
	Pulling
	Battering
	Biting
	Squeezing neck, strangulating
	Powerful hit at the wall
	Inflicting burns (by cigarette, stove plate, iron, or otherwise)
	Attack with use of weapons or tools (knife, handgun, axe, or similar)

The following table shows data on share of women who had experienced at least one of the stated forms of physical violence in their lifetime and in the previous year. As can be seen, almost every fourth respondent has experienced physical violence at some point

after reaching the age of 15, while the percentage of women who experienced violence in the past 12 months is significantly smaller. The reason for this may be found in already mentioned fact that sample included a larger share of older women, but also the higher readiness to speak about experienced violence from the past than about the violence that happens in the current phase of her life.

Chart 4.8: Women with experience of physical violence



Data in table below suggest a concerning fact that women are often in their lifetime subjected to violence from various social circles. Around one fifth of women are subjected to physical violence by their partners, around one fourth to both domestic and partner violence, and around one fourth to both domestic violence and violence in the broader environment.

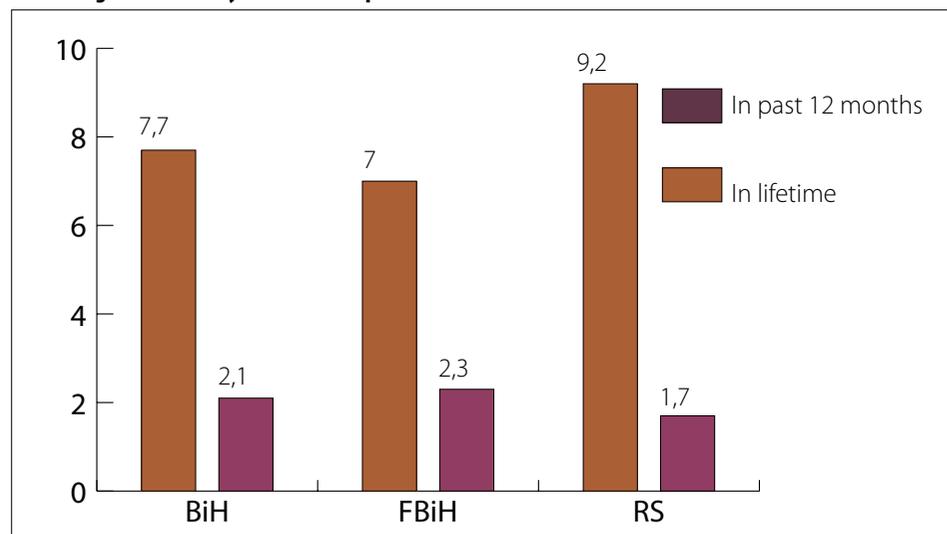
Table 4.17: Physical violence experienced after the age of 15 by perpetrators

Physical violence by perpetrators	% of women who experienced physical violence		
	BiH	FBiH	RS
Partner (current or former)	20.8	18.1	25.2
Other family members or relatives	19.0	16.6	22.6
Persons from broader environment	4.1	4.5	3.5
Partner and other family members	25.0	25.9	23.6
Partner and persons from broader environment	4.0	4.5	3.2
Family and persons from broader environment	26.2	29.4	21.3
Other	0.9	1.0	0.6
Total	100	100	100

4.3.1 Partner physical violence

Among the women who had a partner at the time of conducting the survey, 7.7% declared having had experience of physical violence committed against them by their current partner, while 2% of women at BiH level reported such experiences in the past year.

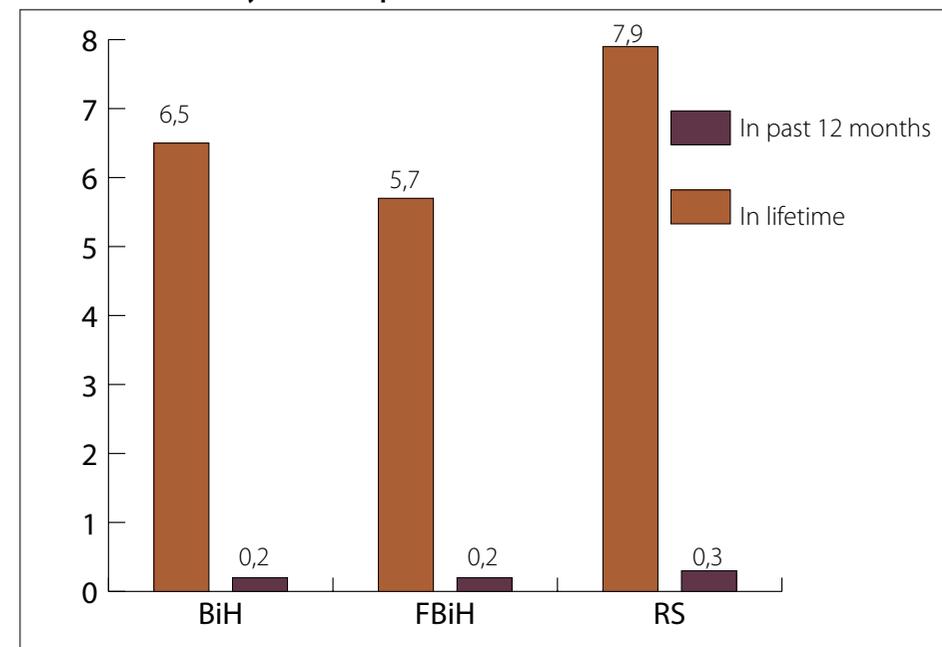
Chart 4.9: Prevalence of physical violence that has been committed or is being committed by their current partners⁷



Somewhat smaller percentage of women have reported experiences of physical violence committed against them by former partners in their lifetime, while the rate women who declared experiencing physical violence by former partners in past 12 months is very small.

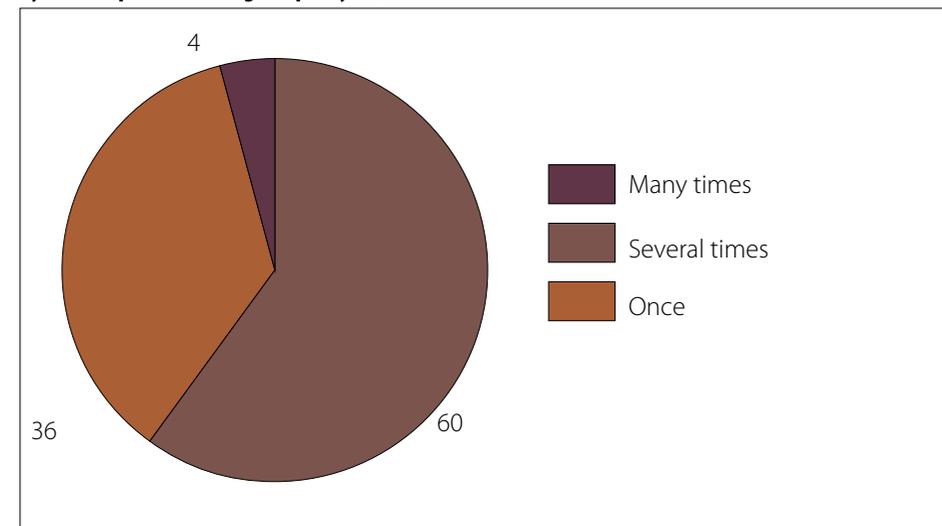
⁷ Calculated for the category of women who had partners at the time when the survey was conducted.

Chart 4.10: Prevalence of physical violence that is being committed or has been committed by their former partners⁸



In this case too, as in the case of psychological violence, in most cases this is obviously not an isolated incident but systematic abuse, because physical violence happened several times in past year in 60% of cases.

Chart 4.11: Frequency of current psychological violence committed by current partner during the past year,⁹ for level BiH



⁸ Calculated for the category of women who have ever had partner.

⁹ Data on frequency of physical violence committed by former partners in the past 12 months are not shown here due since there were very few of such cases (31).

When the prevalence of physical violence is viewed differentiated by categories of respondents, it becomes obvious that the prevalence is the highest among middle aged women (45-54).

Table 4.18: Prevalence rates of physical violence committed by current partners during the lifetime of the respondent, by age groups

Indicator	% of all women in the sample		
	BiH	FBiH	RS
19-24	-	-	-
25-34	4.4	4.8	3.8
35-44	4.8	3.3	8.2
45-54	7.5	6.1	10.2
55-64	5.8	5.5	6.3
65+	5.7	6.5	4.6

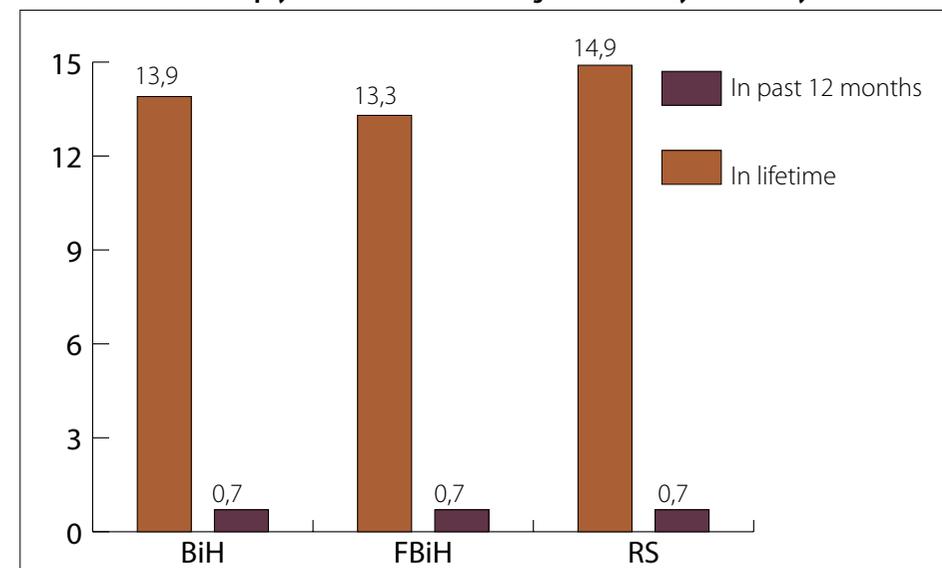
Women speak: severe physical violence

“He used to beat me with a cable that he had specially woven to beat men of 8 cables, each thick as a finger... It weighted 25 kg. He never let me go to my home village, and when I went (escaped) to my mother’s for 10 days, he would come, apologize, promise he would never be violent again, I go back to him, and things go back to what they were in 10 days. When we sit somewhere in public, whenever a man was near, young or old, he would wake me up and say let’s go home. He was jealous of actors on TV, when I watched a film he would ask me if I would do it with the actor. When I fed a small kitten in front of the house, he killed it with a stick before my very eyes. When I said I had to go to hospital because I was hurting from his beating, he prohibited it, but I had to go and I escaped to the bus, and he followed me the whole time. He also used to beat his father. The whole house shook when he yelled, and sometimes I spent a night out in the fields...”

4.3.2 Physical domestic violence

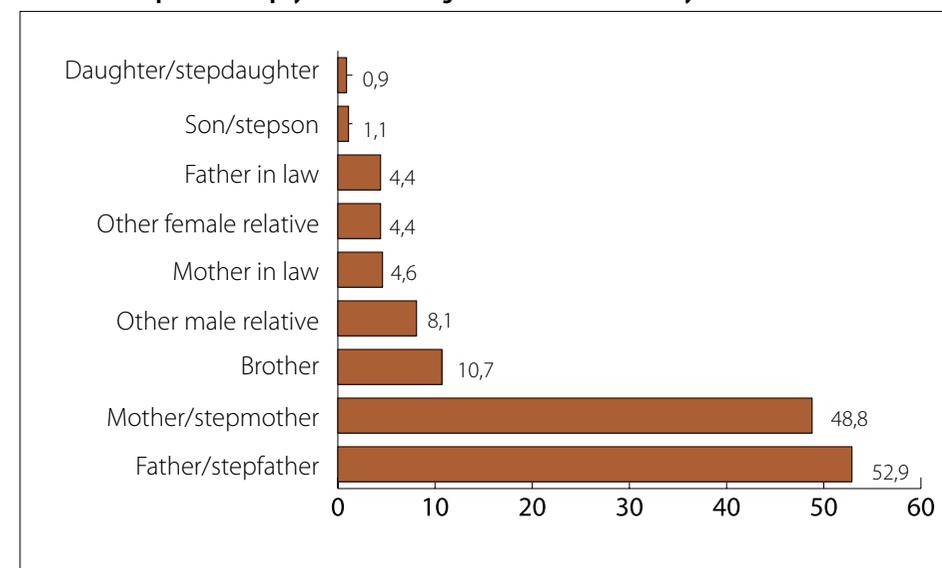
The data suggest that the prevalence of physical violence committed against women by family members exceeds the prevalence of physical violence committed by partner, at least with regards to the whole life after the age of 15. However, the rate of ongoing physical violence is very small, lower than the rate of physical violence committed by current partner.

Chart 4.12: Prevalence of physical violence committed against women by other family members



Most frequently, physical violence against women is committed by parents, by fathers only a little bit more than by mothers. This suggests that physical punishment is still considered allowed, if not desirable “measure of disciplining and educating” children.

Chart 4.13: Perpetrators of physical violence against women in the family¹⁰



¹⁰ The sum of responses exceeds 100% because the respondents were allowed to name several perpetrators if such was the case.

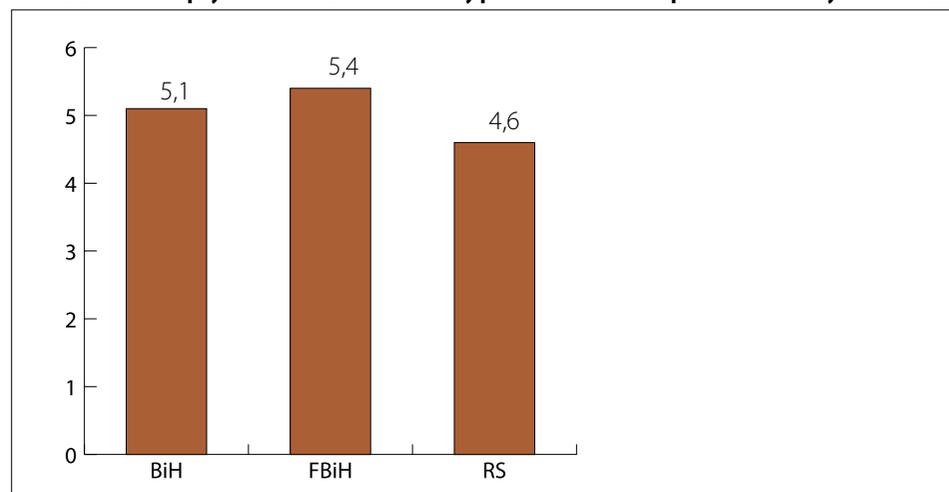
From surveyers' diary: violent foster parents

The respondent became orphan as a baby, so her uncle and aunt raised her. Her uncle had not been good to her, and she said that he had used to yell, swear, pull her braids, her hair. He also prohibited her to go to school after the first grade of primary school although she had been excellent student.

4.3.3 Physical violence in broader community

Women in the sample were the least subjected to physical violence by persons who had not been in partner or familial relationship with them. Around 5% of women were subjected to some form of physical violence by strangers in their lifetime, while only 10 women had such experiences in the past 12 months.

Chart 4.14: Rate of physical violence committed by persons who are not partners or family members



Almost half of women who were subjected to physical violence outside of partner and familial relationships were assaulted by a person they knew, somebody from their environment. One fourth of them were attacked by men who were their friend or acquaintance, while every tenth women was attacked by female friend or acquaintance; 9% of men who committed violence were their teachers or professors at the time of committing the violence.

Summary

One fourth of women have suffered physical violence in their lifetime. Threat of physical violence comes most frequently from family members, first of all parents, while it is the smallest with regards to perpetrators from broader environment. When it does occur, physical violence by partner is typically systematic and recurring.

4.4 Sexual violence

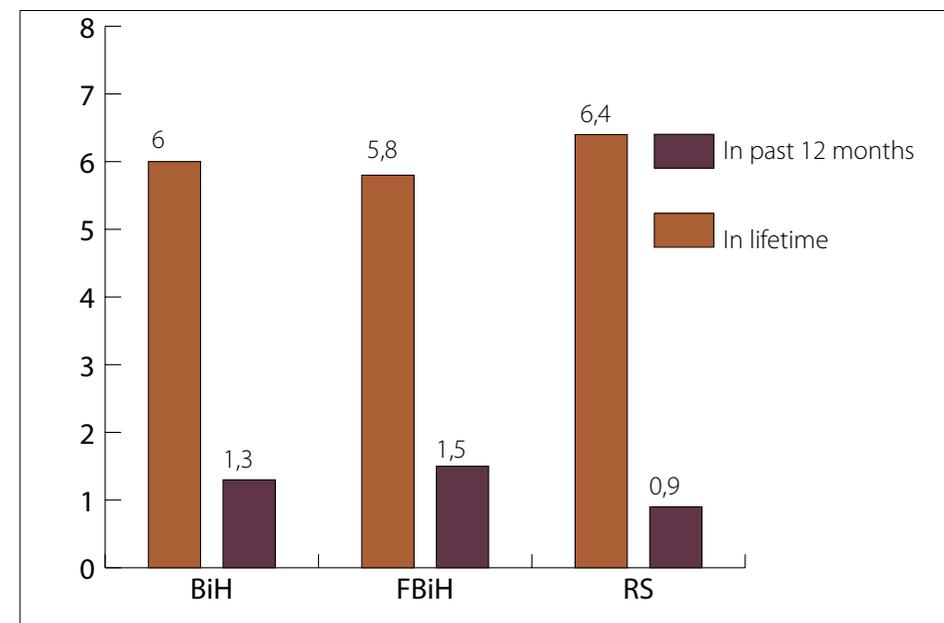
Sexual violence has been examined in a number of specific forms shown in the following table.

Table 4.19: Manifestations of sexual violence used as identifiers

Sexual violence	Being forced to engage in sex against the will of respondent
	Agreeing to sexual act out of fear
	Being forced to do things during sex that made them feel humiliated
	Being touched or subjected to other acts with sexual meaning against the respondent's will

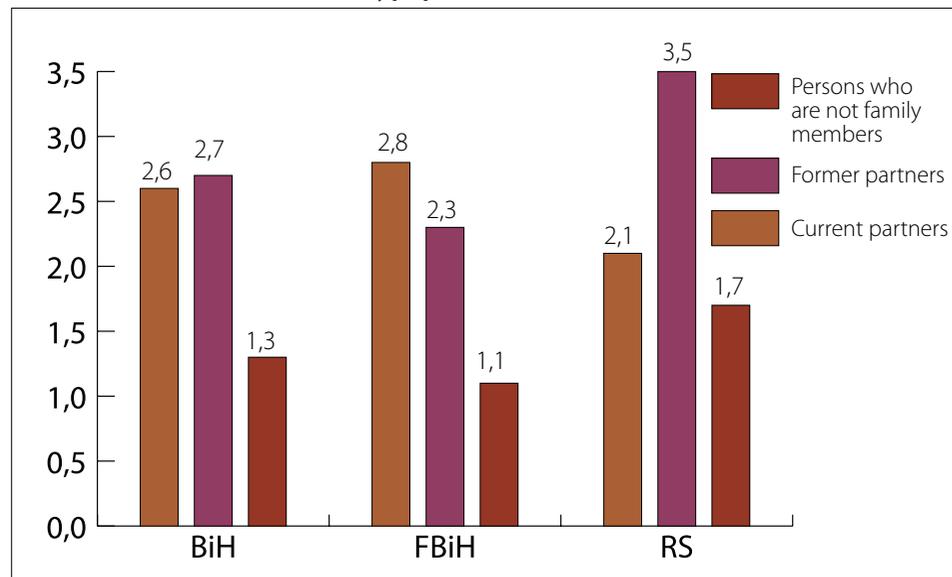
The survey results suggest that 6% of women from the sample had been subjected to sexual violence in some form after they reached the age of 15, while 1% of women reported having such experiences in the past year.

Chart 4.15: Rate of sexual violence



Looking only on partner violence one may see that the rate of sexual violence committed by current and/or former partners in lifetime are for BiH 5.1%, for FBiH 5.0%, and for RS 5.2%. It may also be seen that the rates of sexual violence committed by former partners in RS are higher than the rates of violence committed by current partners, what is not the case in FBiH. In addition, sexual violence committed by current partners occurs in a very small number of cases (only 10), what makes any analysis impossible.

Chart 4.16: Rates of sexual committed by perpetrators¹¹



Among women who were victims of sexual violence committed by partner in the past year, as many as 71% were victims of such violence more than once.

Summary

In this sample, sexual violence was experienced by 6% of respondents in their lifetime, and 1% in the past 12 months. Sexual violence committed by current or former partner was experienced by 5% women in BiH. In the Federation of BiH, prevalence of sexual violence by current partner is higher than the prevalence of sexual violence by former partners, while the situation is the opposite in RS.

4.5 Economic violence

Economic violence is a form of violence that is often neglected. Therefore, the instrument of its identification are not equally well developed as instruments for identifying and measuring other forms of violence. In addition, it seems that economic violence is even more determined by social and cultural customs and measures suitable for one social context are not easily transferrable in different social contexts. Survey of violence in BiH uses the indicators recommended by the UNECE, as well as those that were used in various other surveys, including the survey in Central Serbia. Those indicators are shown in the table below.

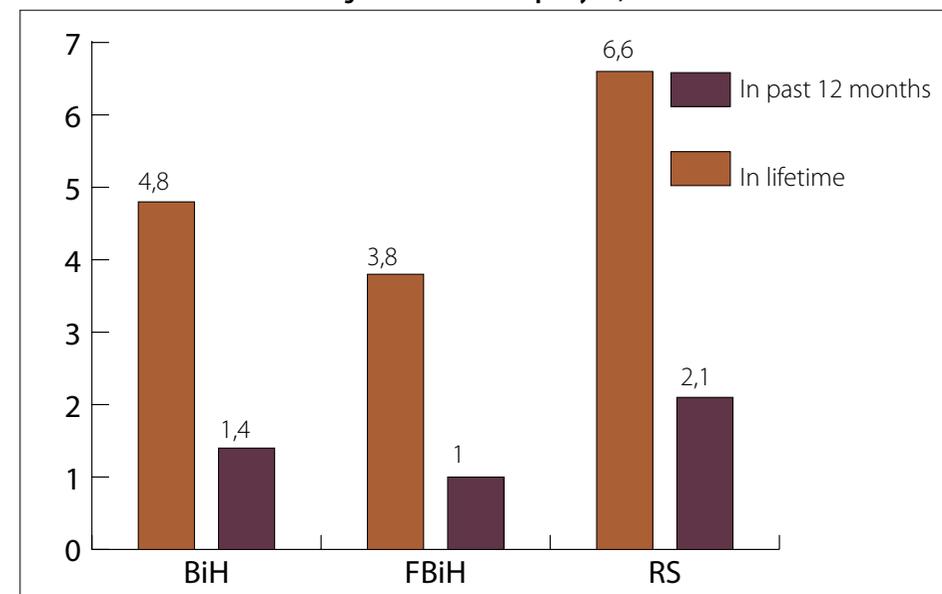
¹¹ Only for women who had experience of sexual violence.

Table 4.20: Manifestations of economic violence used as identifiers

Economic valiance	Limited access to money in the household. Denial of money for personal needs ¹
	Taking away personal money
	Arbitrary spending of the money by one member of the domestic unit that deprives the household of sufficient funds needed for living during a month
	Prohibition of employment

The said indicators applied in BiH register an extremely low level of economic violence. It has already been mentioned before in this study that a possible reason for this is the specific social and economic context and demographic characteristics of the sample. The measures applied may have been inappropriate for the situation of high share of older women from rural areas in the sample, and future attempts to measure economic violence should focused more on identification of more appropriate instruments for its examination.

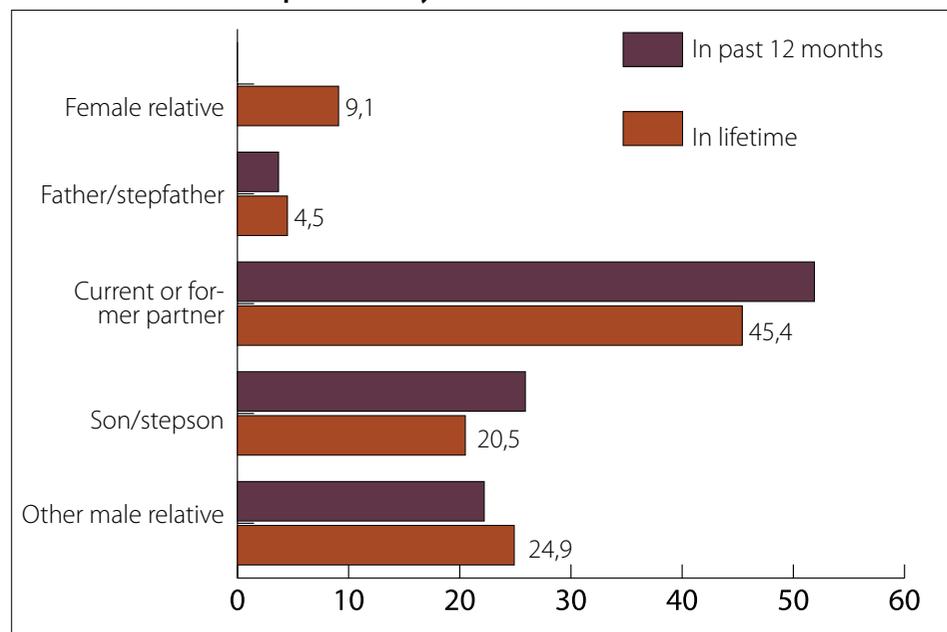
Chart4.17: Economic violence during lifetime and in the past year, in %



Since a relatively small number of women have been found suffering economic violence, this form of violence will be presented only for the BiH level. When women have no money they would be free to use for their personal spending and thus are forced to ask other household or family members for it and more often than not denied it, the perpetrators of this violence are most frequently the partners (in 71% of cases), followed by sons (10% of cases).

With regards to the form of economic violence that manifests as taking away the women’s personal money, the share of partners among perpetrators is somewhat lower, but the share of sons and other male relatives is higher than in the previous case.

Chart 4.18: Persons who took personal money from women



In the conditions that the household budgets are centralized it happens that the person who has most of the power to dispose with household budget spends the money irresponsibly and leaves the members without sufficient means for life. This is another form of economic violence that is most frequently committed by partners (in 91% of cases of economic violence).

Summary

Economic violence has been registered in a relatively small number of cases, most probably owing to the fact that the measures were not adequate enough for the specific context in BiH, especially in the situation of high share of older women from rural areas in the sample. In those cases when economic violence has been registered, the most frequent perpetrators are the partners, and then sons of the respondents.

4.6 Violence against women seen through the UNECE indicators

When monitoring gender based violence, the UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe) applies nine standardized indicators that make it possible to monitor situation at international level and ensure data comparability. In the survey of violence against women in BiH 8 out of 9 indicators were collected¹² and this chapter is looking at the situation with violence against women through prism of these indicators.

¹² Genital mutilation has not been included in this survey.

Indicator 1: Total and age-specific rate of women subjected to physical violence in the last 12 months by relationship to the perpetrator and frequency.

Standardized monitoring of the first indicator distinguishes physical violence by the perpetrators who had been classified as partners (current and former) and other perpetrators who are not partners (family members, relatives, friends and acquaintances, as well as official persons from women’s environment and strangers). In addition, the total prevalence irrespective of who the perpetrator is looked at. The following tree tables show prevalences of current physical violence by age categories of women. In line with the findings presented earlier, the data shown here suggest that young women have been more subjected to physical violence in the last 12 months than the middle-aged or older women. However, it is very important to note here that such dispersed classification gives insufficiently reliable results because the number of women in those narrower categories classified by age, perpetrators and observation units is too small, sometimes below the threshold that provides statistical confidence, like in the case of RS.

Table 4.21a: Total and specific age rates of physical violence committed against women in past 12 months, by relationship with the perpetrator, BiH

Age	Any partner		Anybody but the partner		Anybody (partner or persons who are not partners)		Total women
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
19-24	0	0	3	2.4	3	2.4	125
25-34	11	2.9	6	1.6	16	4.2	385
35-44	12	2.1	6	1.1	14	2.5	560
45-54	15	2.1	5	0.6	18	2.6	703
55-64	9	1.3	6	0.9	12	1.7	692
65+	9	1.1	7	0.8	16	1.9	835
Total	56	1.7	33	1.0	79	2.4	3300

Table 4.21b: Total and age-specific rates of women subjected to physical violence in the past 12 months, by relationship with the perpetrator, FBiH

Age	Any partner		Anybody but the partner		Anybody (partner or persons who are not partners)		Total women
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
19-24	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	87
25-34	8	3.2	3	1.2	11	4.4	252
35-44	7	1.8	4	1.0	9	2.3	390
45-54	11	2.4	4	0.9	14	3.1	457
55-64	8	1.8	4	0.9	10	2.3	437
65+	6	1.2	6	1.2	12	2.4	490
Total	40	1.9	21	1.0	56	2.7	2113

Table 4.21c: Total and age-specific rates of women subjected to physical violence in the past 12 months, by relationship with the perpetrator, RS

Age	Any partner		Anybody but the partner		Anybody (partner or persons who are not partners)		Total women
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
19-24	0	0	3	7.9	3	7.9	38
25-34	3	2.3	3	2.2	5	3.8	133
35-44	5	2.9	2	1.2	5	2.9	170
45-54	4	1.6	1	0.4	4	1.6	246
55-64	1	0.4	2	0.8	2	0.8	255
65+	3	0.9	1	0.3	4	1.2	345
Total	16	1.3	12	1.0	23	1.9	1187

The data on incidence of violence, i.e. the frequency of violent events indicate that in most cases this is a recurring violence, whether committed by partners or other persons.

Table 4.22: Frequency of physical violence committed in last 12 months by perpetrator¹³, u %

Frequency	BiH		FBiH		RS	
	Partner	Others	Partner	Others	Partner	Others
Once	36,0	16,1	36,1	19,0	35,7	10,0
Several times	60,0	51,6	58,3	42,9	64,3	70,0
Many times	4,0	16,1	5,6	23,8	0	0
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Indicator 2: Total and age-specific rate of women subjected to physical violence during lifetime, by relationship to the perpetrator(s) and frequency.

With regards to the total physical violence experienced by women since the age of 15, the situation is somewhat different. Age difference this time work to the benefit (or detriment) of older women, at least at the levels of BiH and in FBiH. Namely, these age categories show highest prevalence of physical violence during lifetime, while in RS the highest prevalence has been registered with younger women once again. The following three tables show the data for levels of BiH, FBiH and RS respectively, and statistical confidence of presented values is this time significantly higher for all observed units.

¹³ Frequency with respect to former partners has not been shown due to small number of cases.

Table 4.23a: Overall and specific age groups of physical violence committed against women in lifetime, by relationship with the perpetrator, BiH

Age	Any partner		Anybody but the partner		Anybody (partner or persons who are not partners)		Total women
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
19-24	4	3.2	22	17.6	25	20.0	125
25-34	39	10.1	68	17.7	89	23.1	385
35-44	56	10.0	81	14.5	115	20.5	560
45-54	87	12.4	120	17.1	168	23.9	703
55-64	73	10.5	121	17.5	164	23.7	692
65+	122	14.6	171	20.5	240	28.7	835
Total	381	11.5	583	17.7	801	24.3	3300

Table 4.23b: Overall and specific age groups of physical violence committed against women in lifetime, by relationship with the perpetrator, FBiH

Age	Any partner		Anybody but the partner		Anybody (partner or persons who are not partners)		Total women
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
19-24	3	3.4	11	12.6	13	14.9	87
25-34	21	8.3	40	15.9	52	20.6	252
35-44	32	8.2	52	13.3	73	18.7	390
45-54	46	10.1	79	17.3	99	21.7	457
55-64	47	10.8	82	18.8	107	24.5	437
65+	73	14.9	102	20.8	143	29.2	490
Total	222	10.5	366	17.3	487	23.0	2113

Table 4.23c: Overall and specific age groups of physical violence committed against women in lifetime, by relationship with the perpetrator, RS

Age	Any partner		Anybody but the partner		Anybody (partner or persons who are not partners)		Total women
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
19-24	1	2.6	11	28.9	12	31.6	38
25-34	18	13.5	28	21.1	37	27.8	133
35-44	24	14.1	29	17.1	42	24.7	170
45-54	41	16.7	41	16.7	69	28.0	246
55-64	26	10.2	39	15.3	57	22.4	255
65+	49	14.2	69	20.0	97	28.1	345
Total	159	13.4	217	18.3	314	26.5	1187

Information about perpetrators of physical violence against respondents show that the violence committed by non-partners is mostly committed by fathers, and then mothers

Table 4.24: Non-partner violence during lifetime by perpetrators

Perpetrators	BiH		FBiH		RS	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Father/stepfather	243	41,7	143	39,1	100	46,1
Mother/stepmother	126	21,6	79	21,6	47	21,6
Other male relative	71	12,2	45	12,3	26	12,0
Other female relative	19	3,3	15	4,1	4	1,9
Male colleague/superior	7	1,2	3	0,8	4	1,8
Female colleague/superior	2	0,3	1	0,3	1	0,5
Male friend/acquaintance	25	4,3	14	3,8	11	5,1
Female friend/acquaintance	8	1,4	8	2,2	0	0
Male teacher/professor	8	1,4	5	1,4	3	1,4
Female teacher/professor	1	0,2	1	0,3	0	0
Other	73	12,4	52	14,2	21	9,6
Total	583	100	366	100	217	100

Indicator 3: Total and age-specific rate of women subjected to sexual violence in the last 12 months by relationship to the perpetrator(s) and frequency.

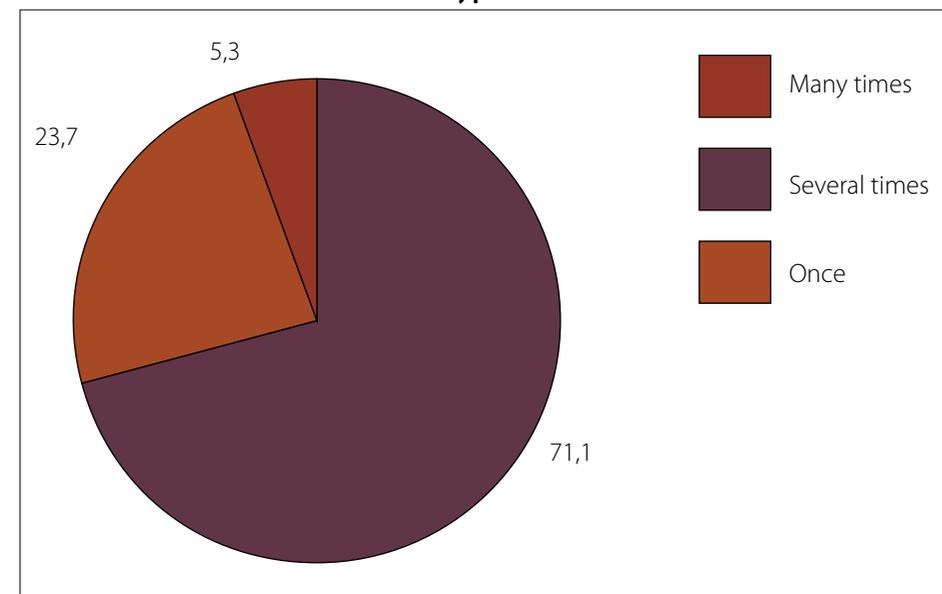
Considering relatively small number of women who declared having experienced sexual violence during the 12 months preceding the survey, it was not possible to classify the information simultaneously by age and by territorial units of observation. Because of that, the following table features only the data for BiH level. The data show the highest prevalence of sexual violence among women aged 25-44.

Table 4.25: Total and age-specific rate of sexual violence committed against women in the last 12 months, by relationship with the perpetrator, BiH

Age	Any partner		Anybody but the partner		Anybody (partner or persons who are not partners)		Total women
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
19-24	2	1.6	1	0.8	2	1.6	125
25-34	8	2.1	0	0.0	8	2.1	385
35-44	12	2.1	2	0.4	12	2.1	560
45-54	12	1.7	2	0.3	12	1.7	703
55-64	7	1.0	1	0.1	7	1.0	692
65+	1	0.1	0	0.0	2	0.2	835
Total	41	1.2	6	0.2	43	1.3	3300

As already suggested above, sexual violence is rarely an isolated incident, but has happened several times in the last year.

Chart 4.19: Rate of sexual violence committed by partners in the last 12 months



Indicator 4: Total and age-specific rate of women subjected to sexual violence during lifetime by relationship to the perpetrator(s) and frequency.

Since more women have reported having experience of sexual violence during lifetime, age-specific prevalences are shown separately for the national level and for two entities, as well as by categories of perpetrators. The presented data suggest that the rates of sexual violence committed by partner exceed the rates of violence committed by other perpetrators, with no significant difference in different age groups, except in case of the youngest women whose number is the smallest, not allowing to draw any reliable conclusions.

Table 4.26a: Total and age-specific rates of sexual violence committed against women during lifetime, by relationship with perpetrator, BiH

Age	Any partner		Anybody but the partner		Anybody (partner or persons who are not partners)		Total women
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
19-24	3	2.4	3	2.4	5	4.0	125
25-34	19	4.9	8	2.1	24	6.2	385
35-44	30	5.4	15	2.7	38	6.8	560
45-54	33	4.7	16	2.3	41	5.8	703
55-64	35	5.1	7	1.0	41	5.9	692
65+	47	5.6	7	0.8	49	5.9	835
Total	167	5.1	56	1.7	198	6.0	3300

Table 4.26b: Total and age-specific rates of sexual violence committed against women during lifetime, by relationship with the perpetrator, FBiH

Age	Any partner		Anybody but the partner		Anybody (partner or persons who are not partners)		Total women
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
19-24	2	2.3	2	2.3	3	3.4	87
25-34	12	4.8	6	2.4	16	6.3	252
35-44	18	4.6	10	2.6	23	5.9	390
45-54	19	4.2	8	1.8	23	5.0	457
55-64	25	5.7	3	0.7	28	6.4	437
65+	29	5.9	3	0.6	29	5.9	490
Total	105	5.0	32	1.5	122	5.8	2113

Table 4.26c: Total and age-specific rates of sexual violence committed against women during lifetime, by relationship with the perpetrator, RS

Age	Any partner		Anybody but the partner		Anybody (partner or persons who are not partners)		Total women
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
19-24	1	2.6	1	2.6	2	5.3	38
25-34	7	5.3	2	1.5	8	6.0	133
35-44	12	7.1	5	2.9	15	8.8	170
45-54	14	5.7	8	3.3	18	7.3	246
55-64	10	3.9	4	1.6	13	5.1	255
65+	18	5.2	4	1.2	20	5.8	345
Total	62	5.2	24	2.0	76	6.4	1187

Indicator 5: Total and age-specific rate of women subjected to sexual or physical violence by current or former intimate partner in the last 12 months, for sub-sample of women who have ever had a partner

This indicator is specific as it strives to look at the combined prevalence of physical and sexual violence. The women subjected to both kinds of violence are identified only once among women recognized as victims of violence, instead of being registered twice – once as victims of physical violence, and second time as victims of sexual violence. These rates have been calculated for the category of women who have ever had a partner in their lifetime. However, as mentioned before, an extremely small number of women in the sample has never had a partner, so one can say that this reference group is not much different from the sample overall. The data presented in the following table suggest that rates of physical and/or sexual violence are the highest among younger and middle-aged women (age group 25 to 54).

Table 4.27: Total and age-specific rates of physical and/or sexual violence committed by current or former partners during the last 12 months

Age	BiH			FBiH			RS		
	n	%	Total women who have had partners	n	%	Total women who have had partners	n	%	Total women who have had partners
19-24	1	0.8	118	0	0	82	1	2.8	36
25-34	15	3.9	383	11	4.4	251	4	3.0	132
35-44	18	3.2	559	11	2.8	389	7	4.1	170
45-54	21	3.0	701	16	3.5	456	5	2.0	245
55-64	13	1.9	687	11	2.5	434	2	0.8	253
65+	9	1.1	831	6	1.2	489	3	0.9	342
Total	77	2.3	3279	55	2.6	2101	22	1.9	1178

Indicator 6: Total and age-specific rate of women subjected to sexual or physical violence by current or former intimate partner during lifetime, for sub-sample of women who have ever had a partner

This indicator registers violence in the same way as the previous one, except that it considers violence the women have been subjected to during lifetime, after the age of 15. In this case, the data show the highest prevalence among the oldest women, suggesting a sort of “accumulation” of violence during lifetime, i.e. that probability of experiencing physical and/or sexual violence increases with age.

Table 4.28: Total and age-specific rates of physical and/or sexual violence committed by current or former partner during lifetime

Age	BiH			FBiH			RS		
	n	%	Total women who have had partners	n	%	Total women who have had partners	n	%	Total women who have had partners
19-24	6	5.1	118	4	4.9	82	2	5.6	36
25-34	49	12.8	383	27	10.8	251	22	1.7	132
35-44	66	11.8	559	40	10.3	389	26	15.3	170
45-54	93	13.3	701	50	10.9	456	43	17.6	245
55-64	82	11.9	687	53	12.2	434	29	11.5	253
65+	134	16.1	831	80	16.4	489	54	15.8	342
Total	430	13.1	3279	254	12.1	2101	176	14.9	1178

UNECE indicator 7: Total and age-specific rate of psychological violence committed against women by their current or former intimate partners in the last 12 months, for the women who have ever had a partner

Basically, the UNECE methodology uses one indicator to monitor psychological violence that measures its prevalence in the form of control and emotional abuse in the last 12 months, only for the group of women who have ever had a partner.

The data in the following table show that at the level of BiH, during the year preceding to the survey, around 8% of women were subjected to psychological violence by current or former partners. Violence that takes the form of controlling and freedom restricting behavior is more prevalent than emotional abuse, and 2.6% of women were subjected to both manifestations of psychological violence, both at the level of BiH, and at the levels of two entities.

Table 4.29: Rates of psychological violence committed against women their current or former partners in the last 12 months¹⁴

Indicator	% of women who have ever had a partner		
	BiH	FBiH	RS
Rate of psychological violence manifested as controlling behavior	5,2	5,3	4,8
Rate of emotional psychological violence	4,8	5,0	4,3
Total rate of psychological violence	8.3	8.8	7.3

¹⁴ Only for women who have ever had a partner.

Indicator 8: Total and age-specific rate of economic violence committed against women by their current or former intimate partners in the last 12 months.

And finally, as it has been said several times already, the results of measuring economic violence should be used with reservation. The extremely low values of current economic violence presented in the table below are assumed to be more due to the fact that the instruments used were insufficiently appropriate for the social context in BiH than to the inexistence of economic abuse.

Table 4.30: Total rates of economic violence committed against women by their current or former intimate partners in the last 12 months

Unit	% of women who have ever had a partner
BiH	1,2
FBiH	0,9
RS	1,6

Summary

UNECE indicators suggest that mostly the young women are subjected to physical violence; however, at the level of lifetime, in BiH and FBiH higher prevalence of physical violence is registered among older women, while in the RS the rates remain the highest for the category of the youngest women. Rates of physical violence committed by partners exceed rates of physical violence committed by other persons. The data on frequency of violence suggest that these are rarely isolated incident, but rather recurring practice. Mostly younger and middle aged women are subjected to sexual violence, as opposed to the youngest and the oldest women. Psychological violence committed by partners more often takes the form of controlling and freedom-restricting behaviors, while the current economic violence is found to be extremely low, supposedly due to insufficiently appropriate measures and not due to inexistence of this occurrence.

5. Factors of violence against women

In order to combat violence effectively, one needs to understand its underlying causes that should then be targeted by appropriate measures. Investigating causes of violence is not an easy task, particularly having in mind multitude of its manifestations and the fact that it happens in different contexts, each of which may be determined by a specific set of factors. Because of that, this chapter will look separately at the factors of partner and domestic violence, leaving out examination of factors related to violence in broader environment. Violence in broader environment encompasses some very different forms depending on the context, perpetrators (whether it is a “coincidental” violence committed by strangers, acquaintances, officials in various institutions, colleagues or persons with power, etc.), so any examination of various sub-types and factors related to them would require a separate study that would, first of all, have to be based on thorough examination of various forms of violence. That has not been objective of this study, where the emphasis is primarily on partner, and then on domestic violence, while all other forms of violence in broader environment have been surveyed only in their main aspects.

5.1 Factors of violence committed by partners

Factors of partner violence have been examined on the sub-sample of women who had partners at the time of conducting survey, whether formally married to them or not, or had a partner with whom they had emotional relationship, but did not live with. There were 2,396 such women in the sample, or 72.6%.

In the attempts to understand underlying causes of partner violence against women, the importance of four groups of potential factors has been examined: characteristics of the women, characteristics of their partners, characteristics of their relationship and characteristics of the household where they live. In terms of characteristics of the women, the line between a number of their individual characteristics – such as the age, education, employment status, monetary contribution to their household, health status, patriarchal upbringing or religiousness – and violence has been examined. The analysis showed that statistically significant (but not very strong) predictor of partner violence was only the level of education of women. Data shown in the table below show that prevalence of partner violence diminishes with increased level of education of women.

Table 5.1: Prevalence of partner violence by education of women¹

Highest level of completed education	% of women having partners		
	BiH	FBiH	RS
No education	31.3	32.9	28.2
Primary school	30.5	29.3	33.7
2-3 grades of secondary school	28.5	27.4	30.5
4 grades secondary school	23.7	24.7	22.2
Higher or high school (two or more years post-secondary education)	19.8	20.6	18.4

Interestingly, the age of respondents does not show up as a significant predictor of partner violence. It is a significant determinant only if the prevalence of partner violence is considered at the level of the sample as a whole. In this case, the data suggest that the youngest and the oldest women are least subjected to violence by their current partners. However, reasons for this may be found in the fact that they often do not have partners at the current time, so they are “protected” from partner violence by that simple fact. When the age is put under control in the context of partner relationships and the manifestations of partner violence only with respect to those women who had partners at the time of conducting the survey are considered, the age stops being a significant factor. Differences among women of different age groups who have partners disappear and become statistically insignificant.

With regards to the characteristics of the partner, even larger number of characteristics has been examined, including age, education, employment status, monetary contribution to the household, health status, alcoholism, drug abuse, participation in war and patriarchal upbringing. Significant predictors of violence seem to be education, alcoholism of the partner and his “difficult nature”. One interesting thing is that the partner’s participation in war showed no statistical significance. One possible explanation for this might be that almost half of respondents’ partners have participated in war, and as a result of high prevalence of this characteristic, it has lost its discriminatory value.

The following table shows the same direction of determination as in the case of respondents’ education. With increased level of partner’s education, they get less violent towards their partners, what contradicts reasonable observation that can often be heard that the violence “is equally present everywhere, among the educated and the uneducated, among the rich and the poor”.

¹ Result of significance test for BiH: Chi-Square=16.621, Cramjer’s V=0.083, p=0.002; results of the significance test for FBiH: Chi-Square=9.342, Cramjer’s V=0.077, p=0.053; results of the significance test for RS: Chi-Square=34.730, Cramjer’s V=0.171, p=0.000.

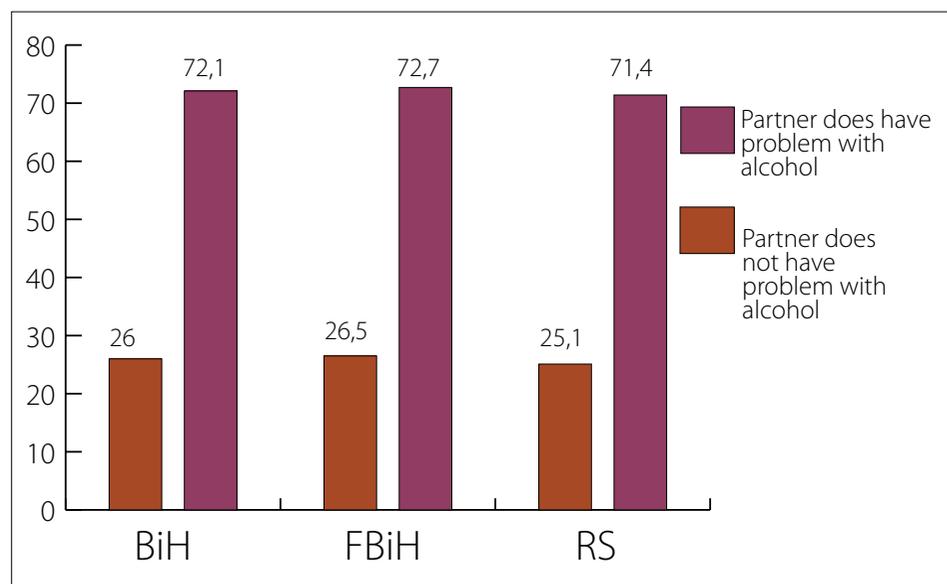
Table 5.2: Prevalence of overall partner violence by level of education of the partner²

Highest level of completed education	% of women who have partners		
	BiH	FBiH	RS
No education	31.3	33.9	28.3
Primary school	33.8	32.2	37.0
2-3 grades of secondary school	29.3	29.8	28.4
4 grades secondary school	24.4	23.4	26.7
Higher or high school (two or more years post-secondary education)	19.2	23.5	11.6

The strongest predictors of partner violence against women are certain pathological behaviors of the person. One of them is alcoholism, and another is lack of readiness of the partner to control his rage, not to react with aggression. This latter characteristic is often described as “difficult nature”. The problem of drug addiction has not reported by any of the women in the sample, so no conclusions can be drawn in this case about this otherwise strong predictor of violence that we know about from surveys in different social context.

It needs to be mentioned that only 86 women in the sample reported during the survey that their partners had the problem of alcoholism. The numbers are almost equal in FBiH and RS (51.2% against 48.8%). The following chart illustrates partner violence rates in conditions when the partner does not have problem with alcohol and when he does. It is apparent that the violence is much more prevalent when the partner is addicted to alcohol.

Chart 5.1: Presence of intimate partner violence when the partner is alcoholic³

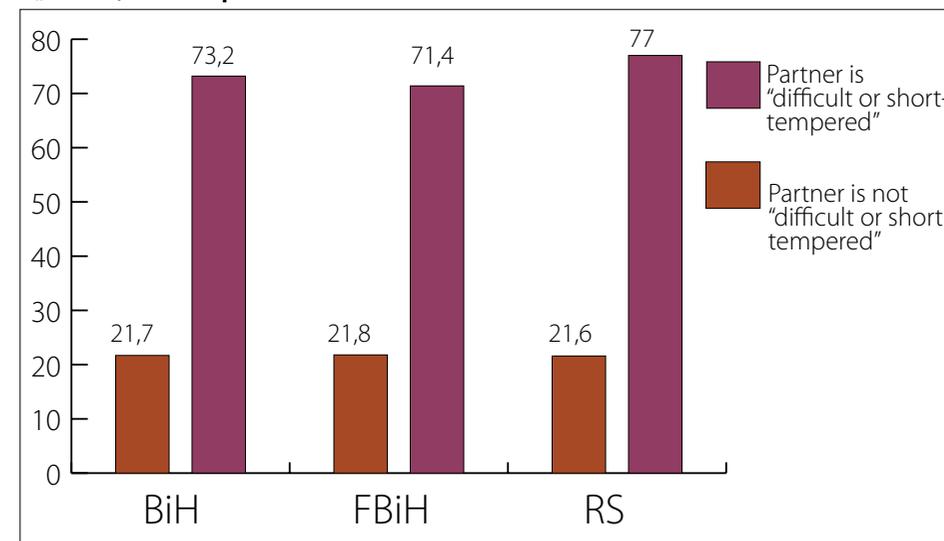


² Results of significance test for BiH: Chi-Square=23.117, Cramjer's V=0.099, p=0.000; rezultati testa za FBiH: Chi-Square=11.889, Cramjer's V=0.087, p=0.018; results of significance test for RS: Chi-Square=18.494, Cramjer's V=0.150, p=0.001.

³ Results of significance test for BiH: Chi-Square=87.949, Cramjer's V=0.192, p=0.000; rezultati testa značajnosti za FBiH: Chi-Square=45.507, Cramjer's V=0.170, p=0.000; results of significance test for RS: Chi-Square=43.071, Cramjer's V=0.228, p=0.000.

The situation is quite similar with regards to the other mentioned problem – aggressive behavior that is often described as the problem of having “difficult, short tempered” nature. In such cases again prevalence of partner violence is many times higher than in cases when respondents’ partners do not suffer from this behavioral problem.

Chart 5.2: Presence of partner violence dependant on whether the partner is „difficult, short-tempered”⁴

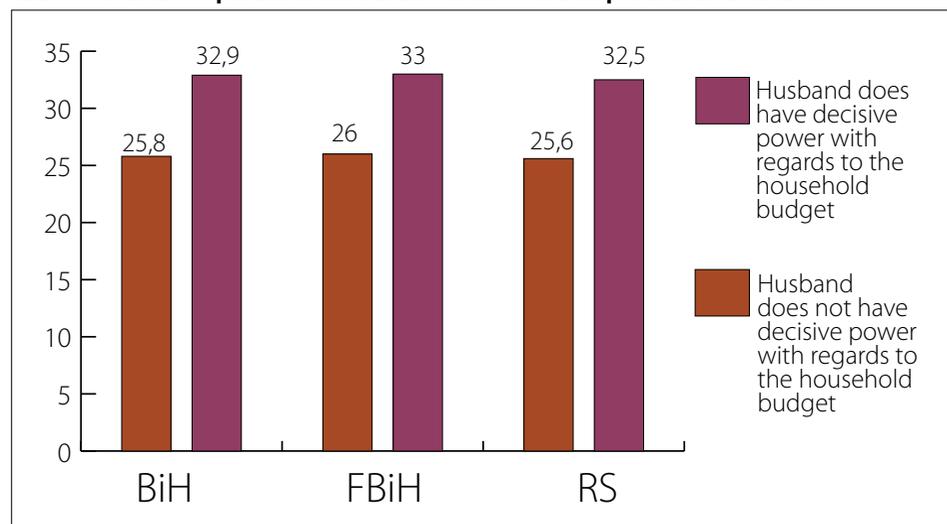


Besides these factors related to individual characteristics of women and their partners, some characteristics of their partner relationship and of the household in which the respondents live were also examined. So, for example, effects of whether the respondents were formally married to their partners or not, whether they have children or not, in what kind of household they live, whether their living standard is characterized with material deprivation and whether the partner has decision making power in the household were examined through the lenses of money management. Analysis disclosed a statistically strong connection between partner violence and material deprivation on one hand, and dominant power of the partner in managing household budget on another.

The data on higher prevalence of partner violence in cases where the partner has clearly larger power of decision making about household budget actually point at the very foundation of violence – disbalance of power. The relations of power that are characterized with patriarchal allocation of power provide basis for violence against women as an instrument of maintaining control and reproducing the given disbalance of power.

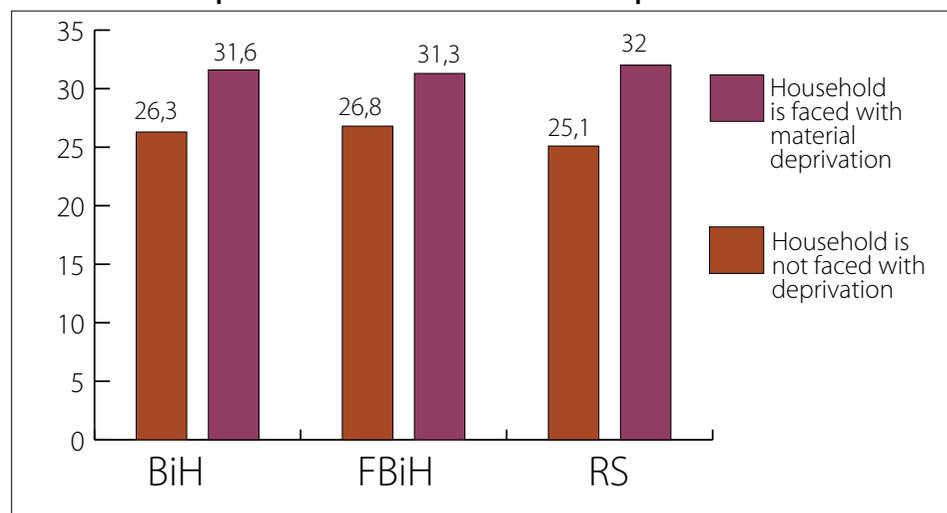
⁴ Results of significance test for BiH: Chi-Square=322.905, Cramjer's V=0.367, p=0.000; rezultati testa značajnosti za FBiH: Chi-Square=203.715, Cramjer's V=0.360, p=0.000; results of significance test for RS: Chi-Square=120.167, Cramjer's V=0.381, p=0.000.

Chart 5.3: Presence of partner violence in the context of decisive power in the household⁵



And finally, the analysis suggests that an important predictor of partner violence is material deprivation. When couples are faced with poverty and material deprivation, probability of manifestation of partner violence against women increases. One may see in the presented chart that partner violence occurs in almost one third of materially deprived households, compared to one fourth of households that are not faced with deprivation.

Chart 5.4: Presence of partner violence in the context of material deprivation⁶



⁵ Results of significance test for BiH: Chi-Square=11.318, Cramjer's V=0.069, p=0.001; rezultati testa značajnosti za FBiH: Chi-Square=7.538, Cramjer's V=0.069, p=0.006; results of significance test for RS: Chi-Square=3.771, Cramjer's V=0.067, p=0.052.

⁶ Results of significance test for BiH: Chi-Square=6.003, Cramjer's V=0.050, p=0.014; rezultati testa značajnosti za FBiH: Chi-Square=2.482, Cramjer's V=0.040, p=0.044; results of significance test for RS: Chi-Square=4.072, Cramjer's V=0.071, p=0.044.

Summary

The analysis identified following factors as significant predictors of partner violence:

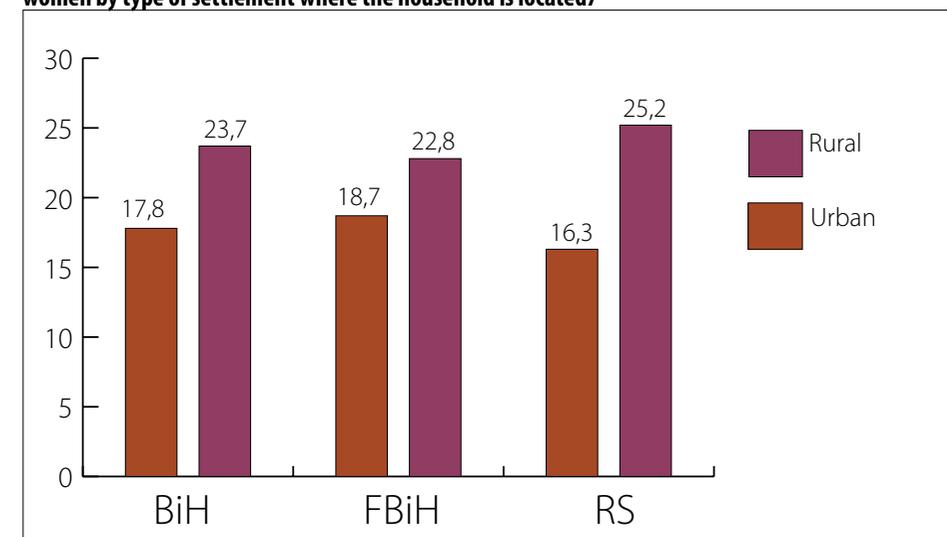
- level of education of women;
- level of education of the partners;
- alcohol addiction of the partner,
- “difficult, or short-tempered” nature of the partner;
- dominant power of the partner;
- material deprivation.

Prevalence of partner violence diminishes with increasing education of women and their partners. Partners' addiction to alcohol and his “difficult” nature greatly increase the risk of them being violent against women. The core of partner violence is to be found in disbalance in power manifested also through partners' dominance in decision making about household budget, and material deprivation increases the risks of manifestation of partner violence against women in the sample.

5.2 Factors of domestic violence

For the purpose of determining most important predictors of domestic violence against women, a number of potential factors have been examined, ranging from structural (territorial and economic position of the household), through cultural (existence of patriarchic opinions and characteristics of family culture of resolving conflicts) to presence of various family problems (diseases, addictions, dysfunctional family relations). As already mentioned before, but now confirmed in the analysis, the type of settlement where the family lives is a strong predictor of domestic violence. Prevalence of domestic violence against women is much higher in rural than in urban areas, as can be seen on the following chart.

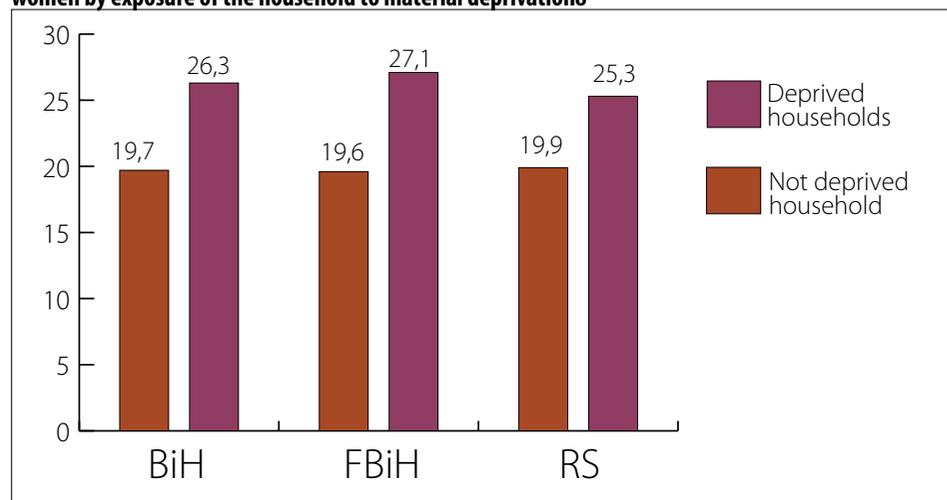
Chart 5.5: Prevalence rates of domestic violence against women by type of settlement where the household is located⁷



⁷ Results of significance test for BiH: Chi-Square=15.941, Cramjer's V=0.070, p=0.000; rezultati testa značajnosti za FBiH: Chi-Square=5.076, Cramjer's V=0.049, p=0.024; results of significance test for RS: Chi-Square=13.240, Cramjer's V=0.106, p=0.000.

As in case of partner violence, also in the case of domestic violence, material deprivation is strongly linked to risk of violence. The following chart shows higher prevalence of domestic violence in families whose daily life is marked with material deprivation, both at BiH level, and at the levels of both entities.

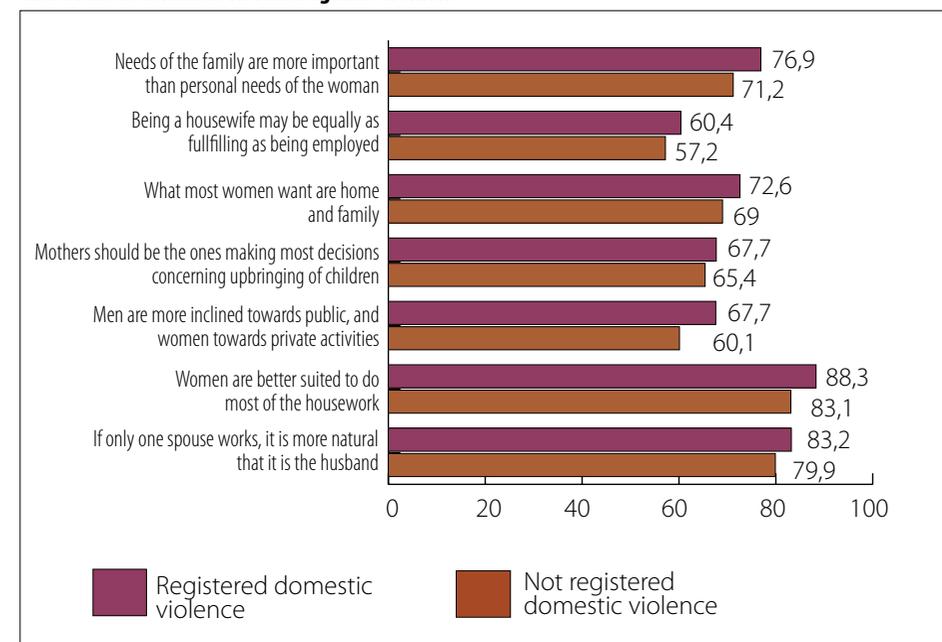
Chart 5.6: Prevalence rates of domestic violence against women by exposure of the household to material deprivation⁸



Cultural factors are also strongly linked to the risks of domestic violence against women. Although the whole sample exhibits a high agreement with extremely patriarchal opinions about gender roles, the following chart shows that this agreement is stronger in households where domestic violence takes place than in households where such violence has not been detected.

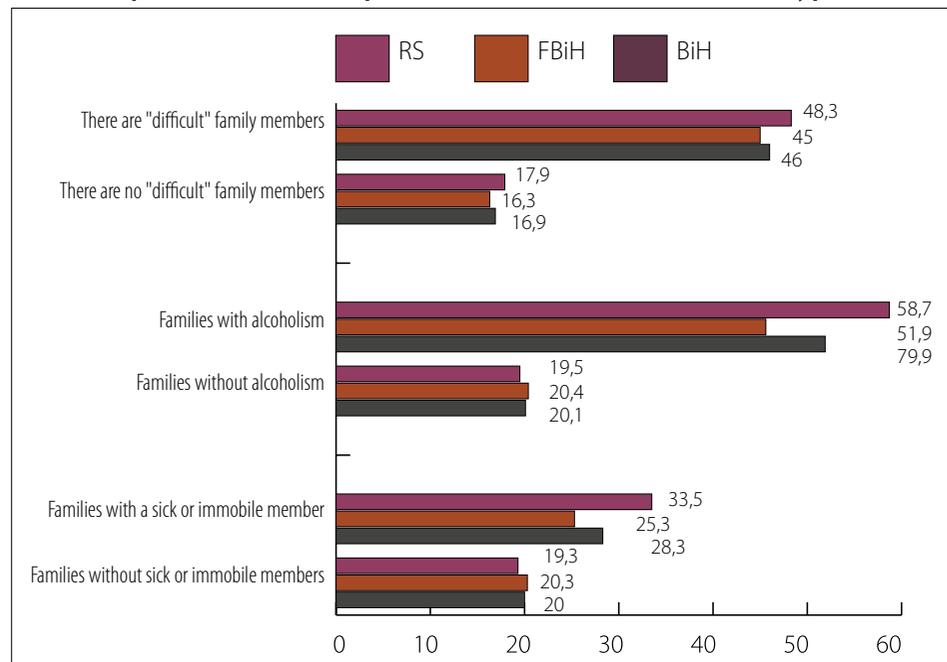
⁸ Results of significance test for BiH: Chi-Square=15.628, Cramjer's V=0.069, p=0.000; rezultati testa značajnosti za FBiH: Chi-Square=11.655, Cramjer's V=0.075, p=0.001; results of significance test for RS: Chi-Square=4.317, Cramjer's V=0.061, p=0.038.

Chart 5.7: Opinions about gender roles in households with and without domestic violence against women



Besides such opinion on gender roles, in terms of risk of domestic violence also important is the specific family culture of dispute resolution. It is only natural that disagreements occur in every family and the disputes need to be resolved. However, mechanisms used to resolve such disagreement are defined by family norms about what are allowed or acceptable ways of conflict resolution. In families where domestic violence against women has been registered, the argument is very volatile, with lots of yelling, while this style of resolving disagreement occurs in only 23% of families where domestic violence has not been registered.

Presence of various family problems also increases risk of domestic violence against women. The following chart shows that presence of a sick or immobile person in the household, alcoholism, aggressive behavior of a family member or members significantly increase risk of violence against women.

Chart 5.8X : Specific domestic violence prevalence rates in the context of various family problems

It needs to be noted that the participation of family members in 1990-ies war has not appeared as a significant predictor of domestic violence against women.

Summary

The analysis identified following factors as important predictors of domestic violence against women:

- Type of the settlement where the family lives,
- Material standard of living;
- Cultural factors, like opinions on the gender roles and culture of resolving conflicts in the family;
- Presence of various problems in the family.

Prevalence of domestic violence against women is higher in rural than in urban areas. Material deprivation significantly increases risk of domestic violence against women. In families where the domestic violence has been detected, patriarchal opinions on gender roles are stronger, although they are generally strong across the sample. The culture of "tolerating violent conflict resolution methods" increases the risk of domestic violence against women, as does the presence of various problems, like having a sick or immobile family member, alcoholism, or aggressive behavior of family member(s).

6. Consequences of domestic violence and addressing support services

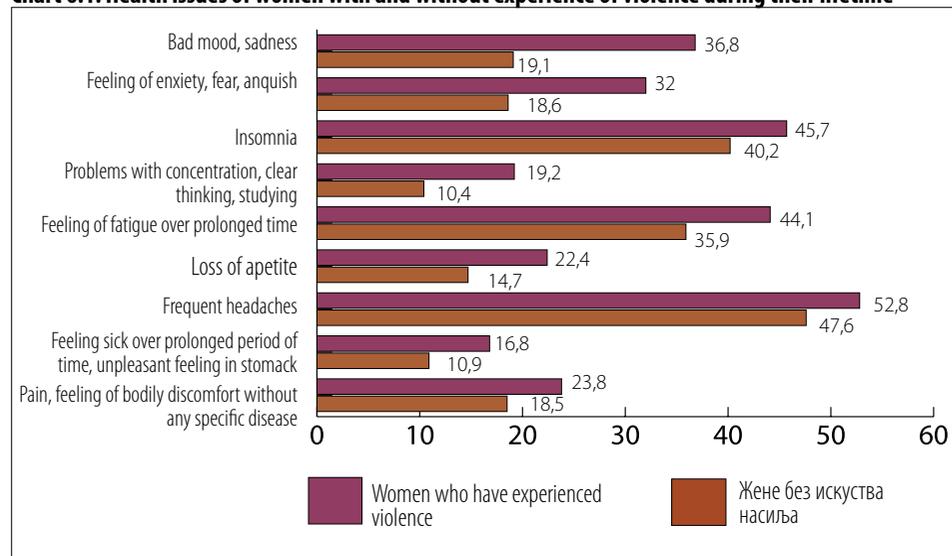
Consequences of violence and reliance on various support services were examined primarily in the domain of privacy – partner and domestic violence. Because of the complexity of violence in public sphere, its different nature and inclusion of many various forms of violence (by officials, strangers, violence in horizontal social networks like one committed by friends or colleagues, etc.) it was left out of this part of analysis.

6.1 Consequences of violence and strategies for coping with violence

Violence results with numerous consequences, both direct ones that manifest in, say, physical injuries, and the long-term ones, hidden and indirect. Due to large cope of issues covered with this survey it was not possible to ask about more details concerning consequences of violence. However, attempts have been made to secure at least main indication of key physical and psychological consequences. In order to achieve this purpose, use has been made of an instrument otherwise used on international scale by the World Health Organization (WHO, 2011).

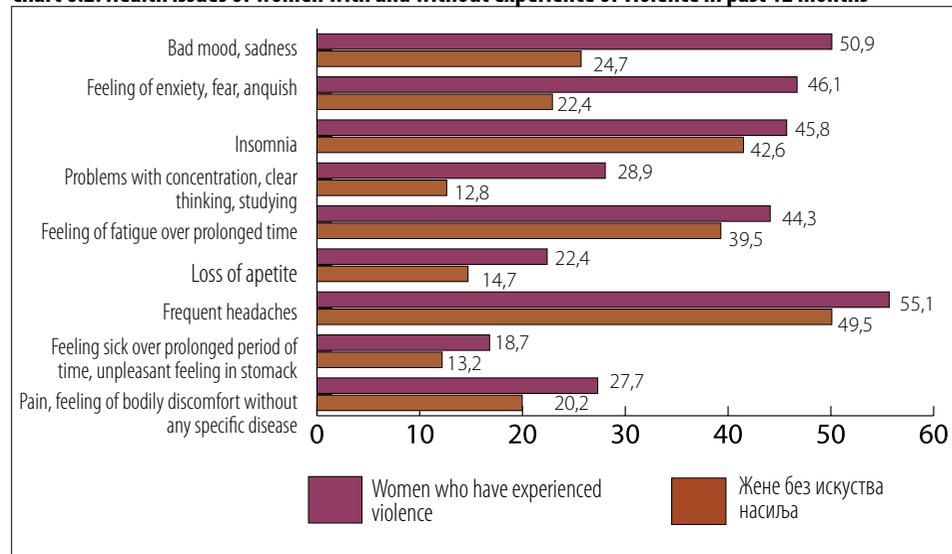
Based on large experience with surveys of violence against women in global context, the World Health Organization has established that women subjected to domestic violence often develop specific health problems that the women often fail to link to a specific disease. Those problems may also stem from stress caused by other reasons; however, they are most often found combined in the women who are subjected to abuse. The following chart shows the findings on subjective perception of these problems parallelly by women with and without experience of violence. Obviously, all listed system occur a lot more frequently among women who are victims of abuse than among those who are not.

Chart 6.1: Health issues of women with and without experience of violence during their lifetime



The information on existence of health problems in the last 12 months has been examined with regards to women whose exposure to violence in the past year was detected. Again, the presence of listed system was much more often to be found among women victims of violence than among those who are not. The feelings of sadness, bad mood, anxiety, anguish, as well as problems to think clearly or rationally, diminished ability to concentrate particularly stand out.

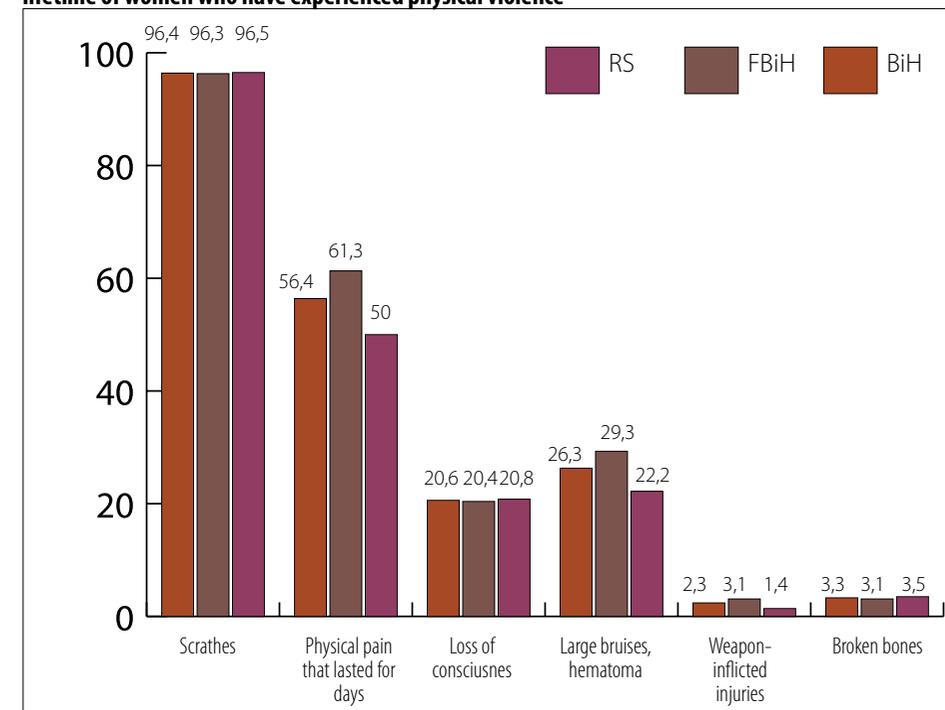
Chart 6.2: Health issues of women with and without experience of violence in past 12 months



In addition to the listed psycho-somatic problem, injuries the women sustain when physical or sexually abused are also serious consequences of violence. In the whole sample, 376 women had sustained physical injuries during lifetime as a result of physical

violence. This makes 11.4% of the sample, but 96% of women who were found to be subjected to physical violence during lifetime. Most of the injuries are scratches, bruises, unspecified physical pain, but a significant rate of women have experienced loss of consciousness, major bruises, hematoma, even weapons-inflicted injuries.

Chart 6.3: Injuries caused by physical violence during lifetime of women who have experienced physical violence



Most frequently, those who injured women in their lifetime were their partners and fathers. The following table shows that danger of injury is the largest from two close figures of women – their fathers and partners – much more frequently than from men from their broader environment. One exception is only the higher prevalence of injuries inflicted by male non-relatives than injuries inflicted by fathers in the Federation of BiH.

Table 6.1: Persons who have inflicted physical injuries during lifetime

Person who has inflicted injuries	% of women who were exposed to physical violence in lifetime		
	BiH	FBiH	RS
Current partner	16.9	16.3	17.6
Former partner	31.1	32.5	29.8
Father/stepfather	23.6	11.4	35.1
Mother/stepmother	7.5	8.1	6.9
Other male relative	9.5	6.5	12.2
Other female relative	7.0	8.9	5.4
Male non-relative	18.9	22.7	15.3
Female non-relative	9.9	16.2	3.9

Since a small number of respondents (36) reported having sustained an injury in the last 12 months due to being subjected to physical violence, any deeper classification is not possible. At the level of BiH, 97% respondents were scratched and bruised, 44% felt physical pain that lasted during the day after the act of violence, 17% lost consciousness as a result of a blow, 33% sustained heavy bruising, hematoma, burns or cuts, and 6% were wounded by weapons. In most cases, those who inflicted the injuries were the current partners of the respondents (64%) followed by former partners and sons (11% each), while other relatives or non-relatives are less represented.

6.2 Experiences with support networks, organizations and institutions

In order for women to be able to adequately stand up to violence they are exposed to, the first thing they need is clear recognition of violence, and appropriate information on legislated rights on protection and actual possibilities of receiving support from various stakeholders in community.

Data from the survey suggest that there is a significant difference between women who have had experiences of violence and those who have not with regards to perception of "acceptability" and sanctioning of violence. The women who had been subjected to violence or still are tend to have more tolerant attitude towards violence than the women without such experiences.

Table 6.2: Treatment of violence in the opinion of women with and without experience of violence

Perception of acceptability of violence	%	
	Women without experience of violence	Women with experience of violence
Physical assault of one person against another during an argument is perfectly normal way of resolving disagreements	0.1	0.2
Physical assault of one person against during an argument is a bad way of resolving disagreements, but is acceptable when happens only occasionally	7.5	13.6
Physical assault of one person against another during an argument is a violence that is an unacceptable way to resolve disagreements	57.8	54.1
Physical assault of one person against another during argument is a criminal offense punishable by imprisonment	34.6	32.1
Total	100	100

Chi-Square=32.993, Cramjer's V=0.102, p=0.000

Insensitivity to violence, i.e. insufficiently developed awareness on what experiences constitute various forms of violence, followed with recognition of being subjected to such violence, is another occurrence registered in the survey. Just to remind, the methodology of the survey has never foreseen any direct questions of women as to whether they might be victims of some form of violence; instead, we asked them about various individual experiences that are considered to constitute violence. At the end of the interview, the respondents were asked whether they believed they were victims of some form of violence. During the analysis, these responses were cross-checked in order to see to what extent the women with regards to whom violence had been detected recognize their being subjected to such form of violence. Data shown in the following table show that a large number of women who had informed the surveyors on various individual manifestations of violence still do not perceive themselves as victims of violence. So 58.4% of women who had been subjected to physical violence in the last year claimed they were not victims of physical violence. Judging by the data from the table, even smaller share of women recognize their exposure to psychological, economic or sexual violence.

Table 6.3: Self-perception of exposure to various forms of violence

Perception of exposure to violence	%	
	Women without experience of violence	Women who have experienced the given form of violence in the last 12 months
Women who believe they are NOT victims of physical violence	99.0	58.4
Women who believe they are NOT victims of psychological violence	98.0	73.2
Women who believe they are NOT victims of economic abuse	98.2	68.9
Women who believe they are NOT victims of sexual abuse	99.7	81.4
Total	100	100

A small number of women who have experienced or still experience violence are taking steps to leave such situation. The following table shows that only a small percentage seek solutions like separation, divorce, leaving the household, and even smaller percentage seeks solutions by attempting counseling.

Table 6.4: Attempts to find a way out of violent situation of women who were exposed to partner violence

Attempts	%		
	Tried once	Tried several times	Never tried
To separate from or divorce the partner	8.9	7.9	83.3
To leave the household for a short time	8.0	10.4	81.6
To permanently leave the household	4.3	4.8	90.9
To try to make the perpetrator leave the household	2.9	6.3	90.7
To encourage the partner to go to marriage counseling	1.3	2.4	96.3

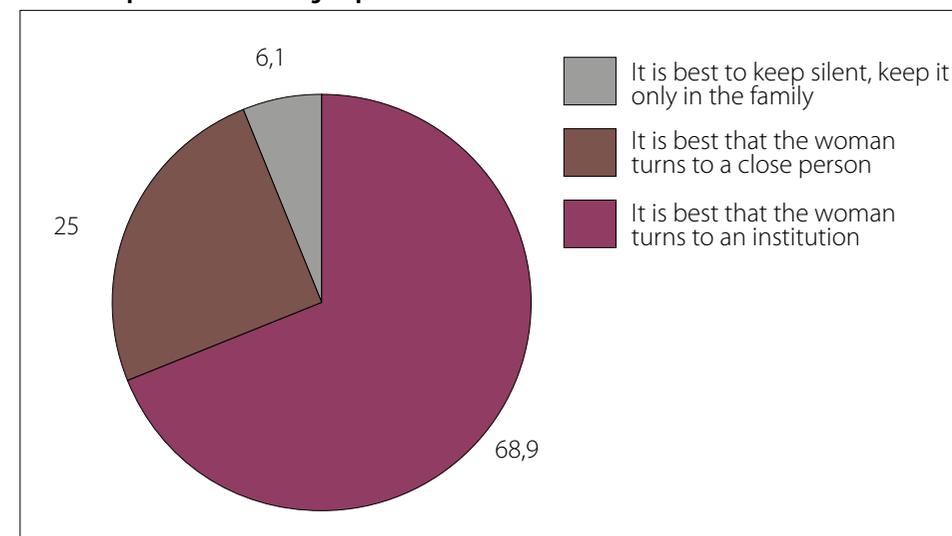
From the surveyors' diary: vicious circle of violence

The respondent has been suffering and seeing violence from early childhood by her father and mother. She got married at 15, and continued to be abused. She lived in extended family and she suffered a lot and all kinds of things by everybody. She was not even aware that this had not been communication... She says she had nowhere to go any way, and for what she has now, she says that her children and her grandchildren keep her alive. Her face looks quite old, she has beautiful blue eyes, but very sad.

About seeking help from institutions and organizations, generally speaking, most women believe that when there is domestic violence, the victims should turn to a responsible institution for support; however, as it will become apparent later, those who are actually

subjected to violence rarely do turn to institutions and organizations for support.

Chart 6.4: Opinion about seeking help in cases of domestic violence



At the level of general opinions there are significant differences between women who have been subjected to violence and those who have not. Among the former ones, there are fewer of those who think women should turn to institutions, and more of those who believe that one should keep silent about violence and keep it as a family secret.

Table 6.5: Opinion about seeking help in cases of domestic violence in women with and without experience of violence

Opinion about support seeking	%	
	Women without experience of violence	Women with experience of violence
It would be best that the woman turns to an institutions	73.0	64.4
It would be best that the woman turns to a close person	24.1	26.0
It would be best to keep quiet about everything, keep it in the family	2.9	9.6
Total	100	100

However, what raises concerns is the fact that the women do not sufficiently recognize which institutions and organizations are responsible for domestic violence. When asked to mention some institutions they know would provide them support in cases of domestic violence, 13% of women could not mention even one; most women recognized importance of the police, but not so many know about centers for social work and specialized safe houses.

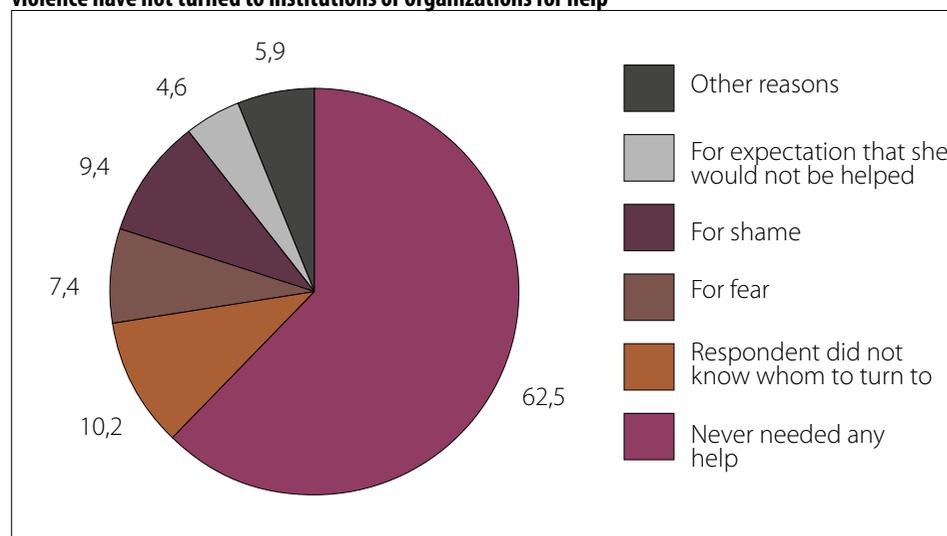
Table 6.6: Recognizing relevant institutions and organizations for supporting women victims of domestic violence

Institutions identified by the respondents	%
Police	55.0
Centers for social work	24.8
Health institutions: hospital, health center, emergency health services	6.8
SOS hotline	7.3
Court, prosecution	1.0
Non-governmental organizations and women association	4.8
Attorneys	0.3
Church, religious institutions	1.2
Safe house	15.7
There are no such institutions	0.6
Does not know	13.5

When asked whether they have ever turned to an institution or organization in connection to the violence committed against them by their partner or other family member, only 5.5% of women with experience of partner or domestic violence responded affirmatively. However, a closer analysis showed that more women have in fact addressed institutions, but had not been aware of that when responding to direct question because they did not include visits to doctors after sustaining injuries, etc.

Particularly worrisome are the reasons why the women decided not to address the institutions. In most cases, they did not turn to institutions or organizations because they had felt they needed no help, or because they did not know whom to turn to, for fear, shame, low trust in institutions.

Chart 6.5: Reasons why the victims of partner and/or domestic violence have not turned to institutions or organizations for help



Women tend to much more often turn for help to their informal support measures than to institutions or organizations. As the following table shows, in most cases they turn to their parents or family for help, and among institutions, they most frequently turn to the police.

Table 6.7: Turning for help of women subjected to partner and/or domestic violence

Whom did they turn to for help	% of women who have turned to somebody for help
Parents or relatives	64.0
Friends, male or female	24.7
Neighbors	7.3
Police	30.0
Center for social work	18.7
Attorney	4.0
Court	6.7
SOS hotline service	0.7
Went to the safe house	0.7
Non-governmental organizations	0.7
Representatives of religious community	0.7

In addition to the main information on whether the women subjected to violence have turned for help to institutions and which institutions did they turn to, we also wanted to learn more about their experiences with support services – to what extent their support has actually helped them resolve their problem. Below in the text we are going to pay attention to experiences with individual institutions or organizations.

From surveyors’ diary

The main respondent does not trust that official institutions could help her and protect her because she has seen negative examples of other victims of violence who were not adequately taken care of. “If I divorced him, I would have nothing, my husband would take it all away from me, he would bribe the court, and then where would I go and what would I live off?” “Children threatened him never to touch me again, but he keeps yelling. And I just move away to avoid making him even angrier, and so...”

Support by health services

It has already mentioned before that 96% of women who had been subjected to physical violence sustained some sort of physical injury. Only 20% of them (or 273 women) sought medical help (there are no significant differences between FBiH and RS regarding this aspect). Only 8 women in the sample sought medical help for the injuries they sustained in domestic violence incidents in the last 12 months.

The following table shows reasons why the women who sustained physical injuries

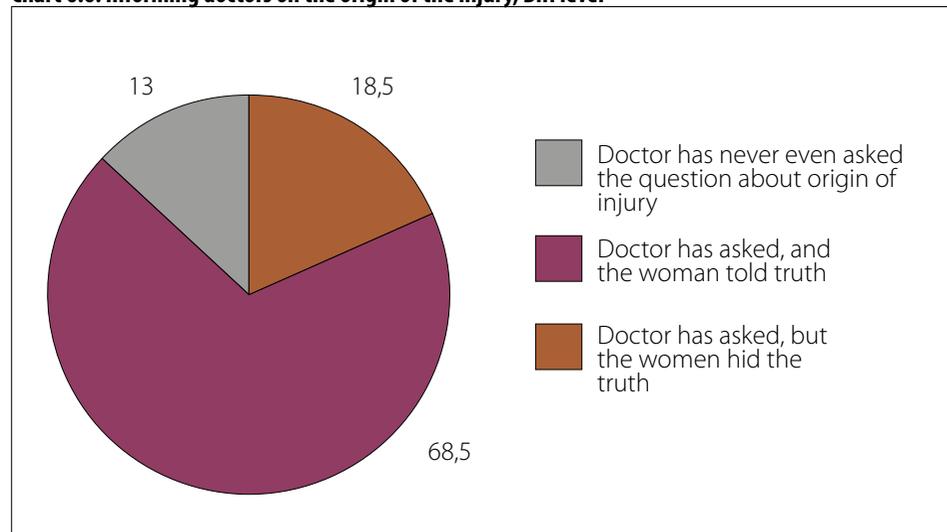
in domestic violence incidents have failed to seek medical help. The data are from all women who had ever in their lifetime sustained injuries in domestic violence act. Due to relatively small number of responses, the data cannot be shown separately by entities, but the differences are not significant anyway. The presented data show that prevailing reason for this was their own assessment that the injury was small and required no medical treatment. Other reasons respondents offered included shame and fear that the person who had inflicted the injury finds about it.

Table 6.8: Reasons for women who sustained injuries in domestic violence incidents not to seek medical assistance¹

Reasons	% of all women who sustained bodily injury
Injury was small	55.3
The respondent did not know who to turn to	5.9
No doctor in the village	7.2
Respondent has no health insurance	1.3
Respondent was ashamed	21.7
Respondent was afraid that the perpetrator would find out	23.0
Other	3.3

Women who did seek medical assistance did so most frequently in the emergency service (in 41.0% of cases), health center (31.1%), hospital (26.2%) or elsewhere (1.6%). They sought this assistance alone (in 39% cases) or with help of neighbors, family or friends (39%), or with help of the police (17%), center for social work (4%) or perpetrator (2%). Worrying fact is that in 13% cases doctor has never even asked about origin of injury, what would be his basic official duty.

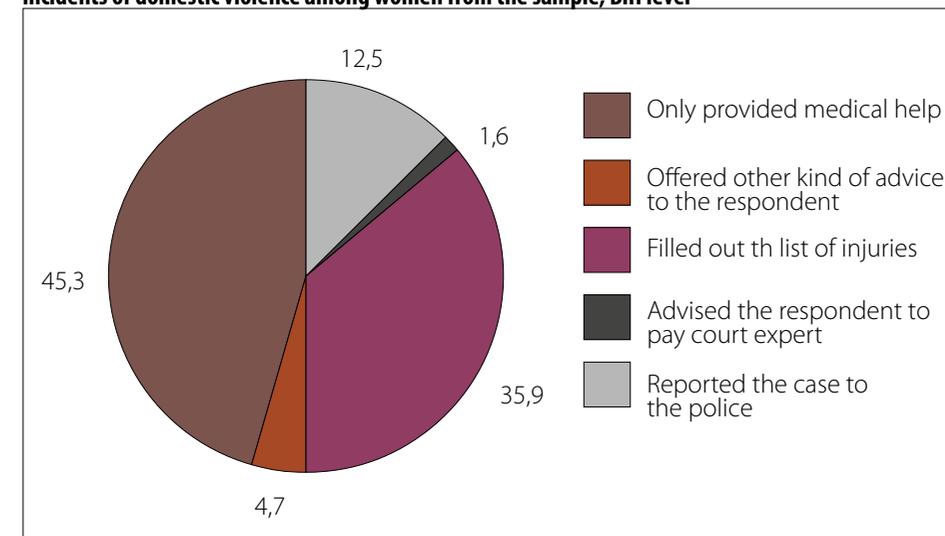
Chart 6.6: Informing doctors on the origin of the injury, BiH level



¹ Because of the possibility to provide multiple responses, total number exceeds 100%.5.9

Another worrisome fact is that in almost half of the cases the doctor only provided medical help and took no further steps in processing the case that could provide basis for legal support.

Chart 6.7: Actions taken by doctors in cases of injuries received in incidents of domestic violence among women from the sample, BiH level



Provision of support by the police

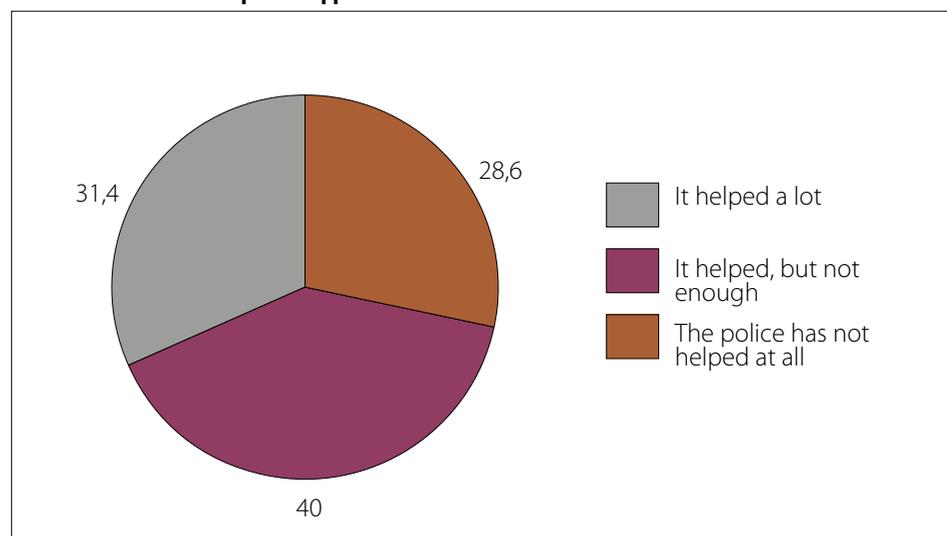
We have examined attempts to turn to the police for support and studied them against reference group of women who had been subjected to physical and sexual violence, assuming it would be little probably that the police would be called in cases of emotional or psychological violence. According to the findings of this survey, only every twentieth woman subjected to physical and/or sexual violence has called the police, and in additional 2.8% cases, the police have been called by somebody else. So in the end in 87% of cases of psychical and sexual violence continue without intervention by the police. Data in the following table show us what the police have done in those cases when they were invited to intervene (respondents were invited to check several procedures by the police, if that was the case).

Table 6.9: Police action in case of reported physical and sexual violence against women from the sample

Police action	%
Police did not respond to the call	4.4
Police has arrived, talked to the perpetrator and left	41.2
The police has warned and calmed the perpetrator down	30.9
The police treated the respondent as though she had provoked the perpetrator	2.9
The police took the perpetrator to the police station	33.8
The police took the respondent to the police station	2.9
The police took the respondent to a health institution	10.3
The police reported the case to the center for social work	11.8
The police has filed criminal report against perpetrator	13.2
The police has filed misdemeanor report against perpetrator	4.4
The police took away weapon from the perpetrator	1.5

Data in the table point at some unfavorable circumstances regarding the police action. First of all, it is unacceptable that the police refuse to respond when called, no matter how few were such incidents. Secondly, the police just coming in and talking to the perpetrator and the victim, and then leaving is inadequate behavior. Even less acceptable is that respondents are treated as though they had provoked the incident. The said findings point at the conclusion that police actions need to be very much standardized and improved, what would make it easier for women to seek police support when subjected to violence.

Chart 6.8: Assessment of police support



Provision of support by Center for Social Work

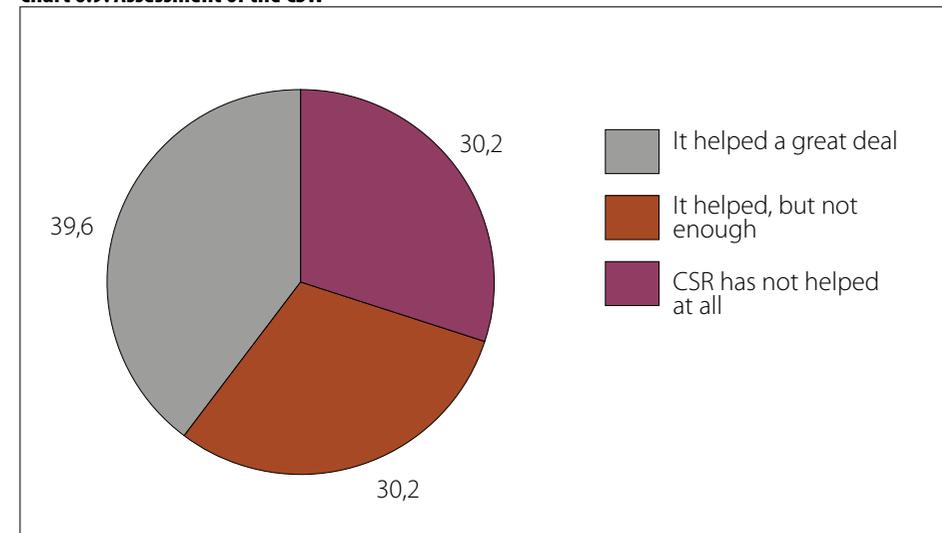
We have examined experiences with support offered by center for social work on the sub-sample of women who had the experience of partner or domestic violence of any kind. As we could see in data shown above, around 19% of women with experience of partner or domestic violence turned to centers for social work seeking help. According to information obtained from respondents, the most frequent form of assistance is good legal advice. The data here show that in a small number of cases, the CSR would report the case to the police.

Table 6.10: Actions of the officials in Centers for Social Work in cases of partner and/or domestic violence against women from the sample

Actions of the CSR	%
Offered legal assistance and advice	52.5
Offered opportunity to talk and receive support	55.0
Advised the respondent to report the case to the police	12.5
CSR workers reported the case to the police	7.5
They visited respondent's home	22.5
Offered to the respondent to move to a safe house, and she agreed	2.5
Started court proceedings for pronouncing protection measures	5.0
Provided information to the respondents on whom she can turn for help	20.0

Most of the respondents who had addressed social work centers believed their support was at least partially useful.

Chart 6.9: Assessment of the CSW



Very small share of women turned to non-governmental organizations or specialized services like the SOS hotline service or safe house (0.7% for each). Because of such small number of cases, analysis to evaluate such services is not possible.

And finally, the survey attempted to examine access to system of justice and protection through legal instances.

Provision of support by system of justice

Among women who had been or still are subjected to partner and/or domestic violence, 43 sought solutions through system of justice. In 16%, the court decided in misdemeanor proceedings, in 34% in criminal proceedings, and in 50% cases it was litigation². Since the number of such cases is small, in the continued analysis we will avoid presenting findings in percentages – or do further classification, because use of such small sub-samples is not statistically reliable.

With regards to violence-related misdemeanor proceedings, 13 proceedings were conducted in connection with violence against 9 respondents. In five cases the misdemeanor reports were filed by respondents themselves, in three cases by the police, and in two cases by lawyers hired by respondents, in two cases this happened on the initiative by CSR and in one case misdemeanor report was filed with help of an NGO. 6 cases were concluded: in two cases the perpetrators were received suspended sentence, and in two cases they were sentenced to imprisonment, and in two cases the charges were dropped.

In 19 cases of violence against respondents criminal proceedings were initiated. This procedure was started by police report in 10 cases, on initiative of the respondent herself in 8 cases or at initiative of the CSR in one case. 10 of those criminal cases have been concluded: in one case the perpetrator received suspended sentence, in four cases he was sentenced to imprisonment, and 5 defendants walked free.

In 7 cases protection measures were imposed in the case because of the violence committed against the respondent. The measures were pronounced at request of the respondent in 3 cases, and in additional 4 at request by CSR or the police. In two cases, such measures were pronounced against friends or acquaintances, and in remaining cases against the partner.

And finally, 29 respondents were able to assess the effect of the court proceeding on the perpetrator and their safety. In 8 cases respondents said that the amount of violence went down, and in 21 case that it stopped completely.

Generally speaking, findings on perception of available institutions and addressing institutions and organizations for help in situations of being subjected to domestic violence show a very undesirable situation. One gets impression that still a lot more needs to be done to improve and develop services of social support in cases of domestic violence.

Summary

Being subject to violence has serious consequences on women – from direct physical injuries in cases of physical and sexual violence, to chronic psycho-somatic problems.

² Questionnaire included no question concerning outcome of civil proceedings (litigations).

However, women often fail to develop successful strategies to leave the vicious circle of violence, and they fail to perceive themselves as victims of violence. They rarely chose to turn to institutions and organizations for help and support, and when they do, their experiences are not always positive because the responsible services do not always act in accordance with the principle of providing full protection to women. Still based on results of relatively limited in terms of numbers experiences with various support services, most women's experiences are positive, or in other words, the women find that those services have at least partially helped them deal with the problem of violence.

7. Conclusions and RECOMMENDATIONS

This survey has offered significant findings that help understand situation regarding gender based violence against women in BiH, and based on that understanding, develop and implement adequate and effective measures. In this part, first we will summary main conclusions stemming from the prior analysis. After that, the findings of this survey will be viewed in the context of obligations undertaken by signing the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and some recommendations concerning further development of policies and measures in accordance with the findings of this survey and obligations under the Convention will be proposed. The third part will present some more specific recommendations developed by the Working Group having in mind direct results of the survey and existing institutional and political contexts.

7.1 Main conclusions of the survey

The survey on which this study of gender based violence against women in BiH is based relies on the basic assumption that **gender based violence is not an isolated, sporadic or extreme form of conflict, but stems from systematic gender inequality that are simultaneously established in spheres of public and private life.** The findings of this survey have identified many characteristics of violence in terms of its prevalence in various forms, characteristics depending on the perpetrators and contexts of its occurrence, factors and mechanisms of its manifestation, consequences and women's experiences with support services. The picture of violence against women obtained on the basis of this survey is very bad. Women in BiH are exposed to high risk of violence, first in her immediate, intimate environment of relationship with her partner and family, and then in broader community.

The sample is characterized with large share of women from rural areas, older women with no or low qualification and relatively low economic participation. In most cases, those are familial women living in medium-size households. The women have very thin ownership basis because more often than not owners of the property or important movables are their husbands or other male household member. On the other hand women tend to carry disproportionately larger burden of unpaid housework and responsibilities related to care for children and elderly and sick household members. Large is the share of women who live in conditions of poverty and material deprivation, what makes their life hard.

As many as 47% of women have been subjected to some kind of violence at some point after the age of 15 (physical, psychological, sexual or economic violence); in the 12 months preceding the survey this was reported by 11% of women.

The most frequent form of violence the women are exposed to be **psychological** and **combined psychological and physical** violence. Highest prevalence has the violence

committed against women by their **partners** (current or former) and seen overall, **the sphere of intimate partner and family relationships is by far more dangerous in terms of exposure to violence than broader community.** Young women are more exposed to violence than the older ones, particularly in RS. Women in poorer health or with disability are not spared of violence – their prevalence rates are the same as rates in the sub-sample of healthy women without disability.

- **Psychological violence rate** committed against the respondents during their lifetime is 41.9%, and in the last 12 months 10.8%. Data on frequency suggest that we are talking about systematic and recurring violence. Psychological violence mostly affects younger women, and after the partners, most common perpetrators are the fathers and then male strangers and friends/acquaintances.
- **Physical violence** was experienced by one quarter of all women in their lifetime. Physical violence is mostly committed by family members – parents first of all, then partner – while it is rarely committed by perpetrators from broader environment. When it occurs, physical partner violence is typically systemic and recurring.
- **Sexual violence** prevails in our sample with 6% during lifetime and 1% in the last 12 months. Prevalence of sexual violence committed by current partners in Federation BiH is somewhat higher than prevalence of violence committed by former partners, while the situation in RS is the opposite.
- **Economic violence** been registered in a relatively small number of cases, most probably owing to the fact that the measures were not adequate enough for the specific context in BiH, especially in the situation of high share of older women from rural areas in the sample. In those cases when economic violence has been registered, the most frequent perpetrators are the partners, and then sons of the respondents.

UNECE indicators add to the picture. They suggest in the current period, mostly young women are subjected to physical violence, but during lifetime, at level of BiH and FBiH, higher prevalence of physical violence against older women is registered, except in RS where rates remain the highest in the category of youngest women. Prevalence of physical violence by partners exceed the rate of physical violence committed by other persons. The data on frequency of violence suggest that these are not sporadic incidents, but recurring practices. Mostly younger women and middle-aged women are subjected to sexual violence, compared to the youngest and the eldest women. Psychological violence by partner more often takes form of controlling and freedom restricting behavior than of emotional abuse, and current economic violence is extremely low, assumingly due to insufficiently appropriate measures – not lack of this violence.

Factors of violence are numerous and of different nature – structural, cultural and individual. The analysis identified following factors as important predictors of domestic violence against women:

- Type of the settlement where the family lives,
 - Material standard of living;
 - Cultural factors, like opinions on the gender roles and culture of resolving conflicts in the family;
 - Presence of various problems in the family.
- Prevalence of domestic violence against women is higher in rural than in urban areas.

Material deprivation significantly increases risk of domestic violence against women. In families where the domestic violence has been detected, patriarchal opinions on gender roles are stronger, although they are generally strong across the sample. The culture of “tolerating violent conflict resolution methods” increases the risk of domestic violence against women, as does the presence of various problems, like having a sick or immobile family member, alcoholism, or aggressive behavior of family member(s).

Significant predictors of partner violence include:

- level of education of women;
- level of education of the partners;
- alcohol addiction of the partner,
- “difficult, or short-tempered” nature of the partner;
- dominant power of the partner;
- material deprivation.

Prevalence of partner violence diminishes with increasing education of women and their partners. Partners’ addiction to alcohol and his “difficult” nature greatly increase the risk of them being violent against women. The core of partner violence is to be found in disbalance in power manifested also through partners’ dominance in decision making about household budget, and material deprivation increases the risks of manifestation of partner violence against women in the sample.

Being subjected to violence has serious consequences on women – from direct physical injuries in cases of physical and sexual violence, to chronic psycho-somatic problems. However, women often fail to develop successful strategies to leave the vicious circle of violence, and they often lack clear perception of themselves as victims of violence and that they have various rights and possibilities to receive protection. Although in principle they believe that women subjected to violence should turn to institutions for help, they rarely do so in practice. They actually do not recognize to a sufficient extent various institutions that could provide them support, and reasons for limited address to the institutions include, in addition to insufficient information, lack of confidence in institutions, shame and opinion that these things should be resolved within family, that they can deal with it on their own, etc.

When they do turn to institutions for support, they most frequently go to the police with regards to cases of physical violence, or health institutions in case of injuries, while other institutions, like CSR, are less present. Women tend to turn to non-governmental organizations and specialized support services, such as the SOS hotline service or safe house the least. However, although in small number of cases, and in spite of experiences of some respondents showing that in a number of cases the responsible institutions (first of all health services and police) have failed to proceed adequately or in the interest of full protection of women, the findings of this survey suggest that this support, no matter how imperfect and limited, was effective in most cases. Because of this, significant efforts should be put in future to improve these various forms of support and inform women and encourage them to use those forms of support.

7.2 Conclusions and recommendations in the context of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence

Findings of this study call on a series of programs and measures that need to be undertaken by institutions of BiH and its entities to address identified measure and kind of violence against women, risk factors of violence and consequences for victims of violence, their families and community at large. This study should serve as valuable resource in better identification of this specific issue and crating well informed, relevant and targeted policies of prevention of violence against women, support and assistance to victims of violence, and processing perpetrators and ensuring reparation to the victims.

In this context, it is particularly important to take into consideration requirements and standards of due diligence that are placed before BiH under international and European legislation, including the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence. Provisions of this Convention declare that the signatory countries are obliged to take legislative and other measures to prevent, investigate, punish and provide reparation to the victim in case of violence committed by actors who do not represent the state (Article 5, paragraph 2). Due diligence regulation impose obligation onto the signatory countries to provide conditions for preventing, investigating, punishing and securing reparations (this may include restitution, compensation of damage, rehabilitation, satisfaction, guarantees of non-repetition of the offense) for acts of violence, and non-compliance with this implies responsibility of the state, and not only the perpetrator of violence (Article 30, paragraph 2). Therefore, by signing this Convention, BiH has also accepted the stated obligations.

Having in mind provisions of the Council of Europe Convention, as the first act of the Council of Europe in the area of preventing and combating violence against women that legally binds signatory countries, the Institutions of BiH will soon face a number of challenge related to implementation of this Convention. Still, findings of this study clearly identify issues that should receive special attention as specifically identified kinds, risks and consequences of violence against women in BiH. This would enable designing of a framework for policies and measures in accordance with the Council of Europe Convention that would respond specifically and in a targeted fashion to the specific issues of violence against women in BiH.

The study has shown that almost half of women in BiH had been subjected at least once in their lifetime to some of four, for the purpose of this study separated kinds of violence – physical, psychological, sexual and economic, and the most prevalent form of violence against women in BiH, according to the findings of this survey, is the psychological violence, on its own or in combination with physical violence. Having analyzed key characteristics of psychological violence – controlling behavior and restricting women’s freedom; and emotional abuse that is most frequently committed by the partner (present or former), but also by the father, and the repetition of which makes it systematic, one is driven to the conclusion that psychological violence against women is a direct consequence of understanding of what should be the role of women and their subordinate position in family and society. The same may be said for other manifestations of violence. Such

findings of this study directly show the necessity of creating public policies that contribute to ensuring equality between men and women in all spheres of life and implementing gender sensitive practices that would restrict the opportunities for discriminating against women and putting them into submissive and stereotyped status. With regards to this, the Council of Europe Convention instructs its signatory countries to ensure mechanisms for preventing gender-related discrimination (article 4, paragraph 2), taking into account specifically that the gender inequality is one of the key causes of violence, and discrimination of women is one of the key reasons for tolerating violence against women.

According to the findings of the study, certain groups of women are more exposed to violence than others: for example, women living in rural areas are more susceptible than women living in urban areas. In addition, women with chronically diseases or disability are no spared from violence. Those findings suggest the possibility of particular vulnerability of these groups due to their potential isolation from policies of prevention, protection and support, and also access to justice in cases of violence. For this reason it will be necessary to take specific measures to include these groups in relevant policies and practices. The study has not dealt with minorities per se (taking into consideration their ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, health status or possibly status of immigrant or asylum seeker) within the study sample, but their double exclusion (based on invisibility of violence and their minority status) can be assumed. This will require ensuring inclusive policies and practices of prevention, protection and access to justice. Council of Europe Convention imposes implementation of its principles and provisions without discrimination on any grounds, including sex, gender, race, skin color, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, being member of national minority, property status, birth, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, health status, disability, marital status, status of a migrant or refugees, or any other status (Article 4, paragraph 3).

Prohibition of discrimination and ensuring gender equality are mutually interrelated and make an integral part of prevention of violence against women. BiH has comprehensive constitutional, legislative and even strategic framework that prohibits discrimination, on one hand, and violence against women on the other. Still, prevalence of violence presented in this study demands special preventive activities, better guarantees of gender sensitive actions and practices, and programs and measures to raise awareness on violence against women. Considering the findings of this study concerning level of education as relative predictor of violence, continued efforts need to be taken to increase share of young girls and boys, particularly in rural areas and minority groups, in education system. When reviewing school curricula, special attention needs to be paid to gender equality, confronting stereotypical perception of gender roles, non-violent dispute resolution methods (article 14.) and maximize the role of boys and men in preventing violence against women (article 12, paragraph 4). All of these are also standards stipulated under the Council of European Convention.

Material deprivation has been recognized in the findings of this study as an important risk factor for violence against women. Although this is material deprivation of the whole family, not only the victim, economic empowerment of women may help restrict violence, not only through improving material status of the family, but also by achieving higher gender equality. It is not necessary to particularly emphasize that violence, although initially caused by material deprivation in some cases, also contributes to further deprivation

in terms of its economic costs for individuals, family and society as a whole. The Council of Europe Convention thus instructs all signatory countries to design women empowerment programs (Article 12, paragraph 6), including their economic empowerment. In addition, as a separate prevention and awareness raising measure, a survey on economics and price of violence could be implemented and assessment made of how much funds would have been saved if more efforts were put into preventive activities.

Perception of violence by victims, but also by other persons and institutions, as presented in this survey, explains the high level of tolerance of violence. This conclusion can be drawn from a number of key findings of this study. For example, registered low level of sexual violence and economic violence suggests that victims do not recognize these types of violence, particularly in a context of partnership. Generally, findings of the study suggest that those who suffer violence do not accept their status of a victim. This can also explain very low level of addressing institutions for help, as well as the belief that they did not need help, that the injury inflicted by physical violence is too minor to go to doctor because of it, or to take other measures to help themselves and their families. The finding of the study that in the whole sample, regardless whether the violence has been detected or not, patriarchal opinions on gender roles are generally strong. Although this was not a topic of the survey, religious beliefs, or various interpretations of religion, combined with patriarchal position may lead to unacceptable justification for violence both by the perpetrator and by the victim. Such status requires special measures to raise awareness and provide information on rights to non-violence and possibilities to receive protection from violence. In the context of raising awareness as a form of prevention, the Council of Europe Convention instructs signatory countries to conduct campaigns and programs to raise awareness of violence against women and domestic violence, and share information on governmental and non-governmental measures for violence prevention in cooperation with governmental and non-governmental agencies for protection of human rights and gender equality, and particularly with women organizations (Article 13).

Considering that one of the findings of this study was that alcoholism is a strong predictor of violence against women, the necessary conclusion is recommendation is to invest into and implement programs of primary, secondary and tertiary prevention in the area of mental health and addictive disorders.

Findings of the study show limited involvement of institutions in resolving problem of violence against women and provision of appropriate protection and support to victims. Obviously, victim support provision system is not comprehensive, its individual parts are not mutually and sufficiently linked, people working in these institutions are not sufficiently trained to recognize various types of violence against women or to provide appropriate protection. Also, it becomes evident from the findings of the survey that institution that could provide help to victims are not visible enough, they do not provide sufficient information on opportunities of victims to receive protection and support and they have not sufficiently placed themselves at disposal of those who need them. This is the conclusion of part of analysis that suggests that victims tend not to turn to institutions because, among other things, they do not whom to turn to.

Another problem identified in this study is that, even when they do turn to the institutions, victims often fail to receive effective help. With regards to this, additional efforts and training need to be provided to people who work in health institutions, police, centers

for social work and judiciary, and establish an integrated and multi-disciplinary system to provide protection and support to victims of violence throughout the state of BiH. This protection needs to be available to all victims without discrimination or exclusion and it should include the obligation of reporting violence by the protection providers, risk evaluation and protective measures, general and specialized support services, effective investigation by the police agencies and prosecution, effective prosecution of perpetrators on the basis of properly obtained evidence, ensuring relevant support to vulnerable witnesses (including special measures for children) and punishments proportional to the severity of the offense. These are some of the standards prescribed by the Council of Europe Convention that are recognized as holding particular relevance in the context of BiH considering the already achieved progress in designing referral mechanisms and multi-sectoral victim protection protocols because, judging by his prevalence survey, this system needs to be further improved.

Although only one small part of the study dealt with the role of judicial bodies in cases of violence against women from the sample for this survey, area of access to justice, avoiding impunity for violence, provision of legal aid to the victim, support to victim and her children as witnesses, and provision of reparation are among key elements of due diligence and obligation of the state to prevent and combat violence against women. With respect to this, a proposal has been made to harmonize policies and practices in BiH with provisions of the Council of Europe Convention in the part that concerns substantive and procedural laws.

Study of prevalence and characteristics of violence against women in BiH provides direct contribution to designing integrated policies for preventing and combating violence against women by providing dark numbers of violence and supplementing data from administrative sources that are necessarily only about the registered cases of violence. Having in mind the invisible dimension of violence against women, as it is rarely reported to the official institutions due to failure non-recognition, fear or distrust in institutions, the violence prevalence study provides a comprehensive picture of violence against women in BiH and as such may be used as a basis for defining integrated policies of preventing and combating violence against women, as imposed by the Council of Europe Convention (Article 11, paragraph 2). The data on prevalence, factors and consequences of violence should be used in future as baseline for a follow-up periodic survey for the purpose of evaluating policies and adjusting them when necessary. This kind of survey needs to be institutionalized and regular monitoring of administrative information ensured as they provide key inputs for policy creators in BiH, informing domestic public and sharing information and data with other countries and international organizations, particularly with regards to reporting on implementation of the Council of Europe Convention to the GREVIO expert group (Article 11, paragraph 3).

7.3 Recommendations by the working group

Based on the presented findings of the survey of prevalence, characteristics of violence against women in BiH, and on the approach to support services, a number of recommendations has been drafted that might contribute to combating violence against women, improving systems of monitoring and support. Recommendations have been divided in three areas: monitoring system, protection system, and awareness raising and sensitiation activities.

7.4 Establishing system of regular monitoring of situation and trends concerning gender based violence

- On periodical basis, the situation should be monitored on a representative sample. Such monitoring should become part of regular statistical surveys, meaning that it should be given appropriate legislative basis and resources, both financial and technical.
- Methodology and instruments used in this baseline survey should be used as a basis for future surveys in order to provide comparability of findings, with possible limited modification that may be required.
- Periodical survey and its instruments need to be tailored to suit legislative framework, so that the efficacy of the judicial system in processing cases of violence must be established too.
- Data bases maintained with key institutions involved in support system: health institutions, CSR, the police, judiciary, as well as the non –governmental sector that provides support services to victims of violence. In order to achieve this goal, a detail plan of steps that need to be done should be prepared in order to provide for harmonization of records.
- Additional quantitative, in-depth surveys should be implemented that would provide better insight into the limits of “tolerance of violence”, as well as into the obstacles that prevent women from turning more to institutions and organizations for support.
- Additional surveys should be done that would provide basis for assessing social costs of violence against women and its consequences for development processes.

7.5 Improving system of protection of women against violence

- Every institution must have clear protocol on what to do in situation of violence against women - domestic violence and partner violence – that will clearly spell out every step that needs to be made. Such protocol should provide for a coordinate, multi-dimensional approach that would clearly define roles and responsibility of each stakeholder at every level. It is equally important that relevant institutions really act in accordance with such protocol and to have a mechanism for supervising work of institutions and their compliance with protocols on cases of domestic violence.
- Establish of clear roles and good standards for evaluating quality of services for every institution involved in system for protecting women against domestic violence and partner violence: the police, centers for social work, bodies of the judiciary, health and education institutions. It would also be necessary to establish clear system of supervision and evaluation of such institutions.
- Improve understanding of people working in those institutions of gender equality, gender based violence and specific features and issues in the area of partner violence and domestic violence against women. To this end, it will be necessary to introduce accredited training for officials in institutions that are part of the support system.
- In addition to providing services to victims of domestic violence against women, the work of the institutions should also include prevention of violence against women in family. With regards to this, it will be necessary to plan appropriate measures to inform population very specifically about services and educate them on the subject of domestic violence against women.
- Improve the provision of information to women about protection services offered by

- institutions, and this needs to be done in a way that is acceptable to them, not simply by advertising a phone number.
- Develop capacities of local communities in terms of gender based violence in general, and domestic violence against women in particular in order to make them capable of acting as initiator and bearer of these activities of networking local institutions that provide support.
 - Ensure cooperation between institutions and organizations of civil society that are concerned with the issue of violence against women and provide various forms of support to victims of domestic or gender based violence.
 - Enhance monitoring and registering of support programs offered by civil sector organizations need to be improved.
 - Improve measures, protocols, activities and awareness of officials in the system of protection need to be improved to provide better recognition and adequate response in cases of other kinds of violence besides the physical: psychological, sexual and economic.
 - Programs should also focus on perpetrators of violence against women. In addition to specific programs designed for work with perpetrators of violence, programs that influence the factors that increase risk of violence should also be implemented, like programs for treating and preventing addiction diseases that have been identified in the survey as a risk factor that mostly increases the probability of women in a family/violence experiencing violence. In addition, what perpetrators of violence often lack, and what the respondents describe as “difficult and short tempered” personality, are anger management techniques.
 - Make services accessible to all women- victims of violence – including women with disability, women from ethnic minorities, women of low educational and socio-economic status, women in the countryside.

7.6 Raising awareness of the population and women empowerment

- Raise awareness of gender equality among women and men, weaken patriarchal patterns of power among future generations.
- Develop women’s awareness of violence as well as their capacities to recognize violence, clearly identify it and know how to legally sanction such forms of violence, or combat them otherwise.
- Encourage networking and inclusion of women in various organizational forms, including self-help organizations.
- Responsible institutions should establish in their programs clearer connection between economic empowerment of women and prevention of violence against women.
- The survey shows that women have a problem perceiving themselves as “victim of violence”. In connection with this, some alternative terminology should be considered that will encourage women’s self-perception of being a subject, not object and approach them as persons capable of helping themselves and others with their experience of violence, not merely as persons who need help. For such purposes, the term “women with experience of violence” may be used.
- As it was shown that women victims of domestic violence frequently seek informal

- support and help, mostly from their relatives, conditions should be put in place for them to advise victims to use institutional forms of help. In this regard, general public should be educated in the field of gender inequality, domestic violence and violence against women, and informed on available institutions and services provided by them.
- Work should be done with educational institutions to better equip them to have more influence on changes in perception of violence as acceptable or common form of communication in family. Information and knowledge of equal gender relations and non-violent communication must be incorporated throughout the whole educational system, from pre-primary to higher education, so that the new generations would be raised on values of gender equality, respect and tolerance.
 - Media need to be continually held responsible to formulate their contents in accordance with principles of gender equality, and pay special attention to combating domestic violence.
 - Formulate customized prevention programs for various groups and stakeholders. Special programs of peaceful conflict resolution should be targeted at families, particularly those that have problematic relations.

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