



MINISTERIO
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE 2019 MACRO- SURVEY ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Madrid, 19 November 2021

NIPO: 048-21-166-1



Executive summary of the 2019 Macro-Survey on Violence Against Women

The Macro-survey on Violence against Women is the **most relevant statistical operation** carried out in Spain on this type of violence. It is also the only official statistic to measure the prevalence of violence against women. It has been carried out approximately every 4 years since 1999 and is included in the National Statistical Plan. The Government Delegation against Gender Violence has been in charge of preparing the 2011, 2015 and 2019 editions. The 2019 Macro-survey is the sixth to be carried out in Spain. Its **main goal is to ascertain the percentage of women aged 16 and over living in Spain who have suffered or are currently suffering some type of violence because they are women.**

In 2015, the Macro-survey questionnaire was significantly modified in relation to previous editions (1999, 2002, 2006, 2011). With this change, which mainly took as a reference the Guidelines for the Production of Statistics on Violence against Women prepared by the United Nations Statistics Division, the aim was to measure more rigorously the reality of violence against women in Spain. **With the 2019 Macro-survey on Violence against Women, this process of improving the quality of the survey has continued.** The 2015 questionnaire has been taken as a starting point, and has been expanded to grasp more dimensions of violence, **the new questionnaire thus complying with all statistical requirements** of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (**Istanbul Convention**) and **responding to several measures of the Government Agreement against Gender Violence.**

The Government Delegation against Gender Violence has developed the methodology, designed the questionnaire and analysed the results. Meanwhile, the Sociological Research Centre (Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas), as the party responsible for the field network, has carried out the collection work (sample design, interviews, coding, filtering). The Macro-survey is aimed at women living in Spain aged 16 years old and over. **Interviews were conducted with a representative sample of 9,568 women.**

The **main new features** compared to the 2015 edition include: 1) introduction of a module of questions to measure **sexual harassment** and another module to measure **stalking**, 2) **extending the non-partner sexual violence module** to ask about all possible forms of sexual violence, to know the complaints, the request for formal and informal help, the satisfaction with the help received, etc. (questions that until now were only asked for intimate partner violence), and to know details about the episodes of sexual violence such as group aggressions or place of aggression, 3) extension of the items to measure sexual, psychological and economic violence in the couple, 4) new questions to know if any disability, in women who are disabled, is a consequence of episodes of violence, 5) new questions about injuries, hospital admission, sick leave and different physical or psychological consequences of the violence.

The aim of this work is to provide a detailed and current overview of the extent and forms of violence against women, and several other aspects related to it.

The following is a brief summary of the **MAIN RESULTS**. The study with the detailed results can be downloaded from the website of the Government Delegation against Gender Violence.



A. TOTAL VIOLENCE: INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE, PHYSICAL OR SEXUAL VIOLENCE BY NON-PARTNERS, SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND STALKING

- Firstly, the overall figure for violence that emerges from the survey results is shown. It should be noted that we refer to all violence measured in the survey, from undesired sexual leering to rape. Everyday violence experienced by women, be it more or less severe, but all of them being violence. The data obtained from this Macro-survey must be used to give them visibility and to develop public policies aimed at eradicating them.
- **1 out of every 2 women** (57.3%) living in Spain aged 16 or over have suffered violence during their lives because they are women. They account for **11,688,411 women**.
 - **1 out of 5** (19.8%) have suffered it in the **last 12 months**. This amounts to **4,048,273 women** aged 16 and over.
- Young women experience it to a greater extent: 71.2% of women aged 16 to 24 and 68.3% of women aged 25 to 34 have experienced some form of violence in their lifetime, compared with 42.1% of women aged 65 and over.

B. PHYSICAL OR SEXUAL VIOLENCE FROM A CURRENT PARTNER, PAST PARTNERS, OR NON-PARTNERED PERSONS

- Of the total number of women aged 16 years old and over living in Spain, **13.7%** (2,802,914 women) have suffered **sexual violence in their lifetime from any person** (current partner, past partners or persons with whom they have not had a partner relationship), and 1.8% (359,095 women) in the last 12 months.
- Of the total number of women aged 16 years and over living in Spain, **21.5%** (4,387,480 women) have suffered **physical violence in their lifetime by any person** (current partner, past partners or persons with whom they have not been in a relationship), and 1.7% (351,770 women) in the last 12 months.

C. NON-PARTNER SEXUAL VIOLENCE

1- Prevalence

- **Of the total number of women aged 16 years and over living in Spain, 6.5% (1,322,052 women) have suffered sexual violence at some time in their lives from a person with whom they do not have or have not had a partner relationship**, and 0.5% (103,487) in the last 12 months.
 - **3.4% (703,925 women)** of all women aged 16 and over have experienced sexual violence in childhood (before the age of 15).
- **2.2% (453,371 women) of the total number of women aged 16 and over living in Spain have been raped at some time in their life.**
- 74.6% of women who have been raped have also experienced other situations of sexual violence.



- 13.7% of women who have experienced some form of sexual violence report having been **raped while under the influence of alcohol or drugs**. They account for 0.9% of women aged 16 and over (181,258 women).

2- Offenders

- **99.6%** of the women who have suffered sexual violence experienced it at the hands of a **male aggressor**.
- **21.6%** of the women who had suffered non-partner sexual violence reported that the **aggressor** was a male **relative**, **49.0%** a male **friend or acquaintance** and 39.1% said that the aggressor was an unknown man. When interpreting these results, it should be borne in mind that they include all sexual assaults, from rape to molestation. In the 2015 Macro-survey it was seen that the type of offender was very different in rapes¹, than in other forms of sexual violence.

3- Frequency of sexual violence

- 50.4% of the women who have suffered non-partner sexual violence state that this violence has taken place only once, versus **49.6%** who say that it **has happened on more than one occasion**. Of those who respond that it happened more than once, 41% say that sexual violence happened at least once a month.

4- Collective aggressions and place of aggression

- **12.4%** of women who have experienced non-partner sexual violence state that **more than one person was involved** in any of the sexual assaults.
- 44.2% of women who have suffered non-partner sexual violence state that the aggression happened in a **house** (18.5% in their own home, 20.1% at the aggressor's home, 9.7% in someone else's home), 17.8% in bars or discos, and 32% say that it happened in open areas such as streets or parks.
 - **In the case of women who have been raped, the percentage of those who mention a house as the place of one of the sexual assaults is significantly higher (59.1%).**

5- Reporting

- **8% of the women who have suffered non-partner sexual violence have reported** some of these aggressions to the Police or the Court. This percentage rises to 11.1% if complaints filed by another person or institution are also taken into account.
- Women who had not reported the sexual violence they had suffered to the police or to the courts themselves were asked about their **reasons for not reporting it**. **The most frequent reason is "I was a minor, I was a girl", which is given by 35.4% of women**. This is followed by not attaching importance to what happened (30.5%), shame

¹ 2015 Macro-survey: while in the case of molestation and similar forms of sexual assault the percentage of strangers is just over 50%, **in the case of rape only 18.8% have been committed by strangers**. Due to restrictions on the length of the questionnaire designed for the 2019 Macro-survey, it has not been possible to ask specifically about the aggressor in the case of rape, so this updated information is not available, but this data is not expected to vary significantly over a four-year period. In the 2019 Macro-survey, 74.6% of women who have been raped have also experienced other situations of sexual violence. So, considering the results of 2015, it is reasonable to think that, in many cases, the aggressor is unknown in the case of molestation and an acquaintance in the case of rape.



(25.9%), the fact that the aggression happened "in other times when people didn't talk about these things" (22.1%) and fear of not being believed (20.8%).

- **In the case of women who have been raped, the most common reasons are shame (40.3%) and having been a minor when the sexual violence took place (40.2%).** 36.5% cite fear of not being believed and 23.5% fear of the aggressor.

6- Formal and informal help-seeking as a result of sexual violence

- 10.2% of women who have suffered sexual violence sought psychological help to cope with what happened (21.8% in the case of women who have suffered rape) and 6.5% sought medical help (14.4% in the case of women who have suffered rape). The rest of the services are rarely mentioned. **84.1% of victims of sexual violence and 67.2% of women who have been raped have not sought formal help after the event.**
- 39.9% of women who have suffered non-partner sexual violence told a friend (girl), 28.3% told their mother, 15.5% told a friend (boy), 15.2% told their father and 14.0% told their sister. **26.6% said they did not tell anyone.** Women who had told someone in their environment about the sexual violence they had suffered were asked about the reaction of the person they told. In all cases, the assaulted woman was broadly supported, ranging from 70% to 93.4%. On the other hand, the women who answered that the person they told about the episodes of non-partner sexual violence reacted in a supportive way were asked if this person advised them to report the violence. In no case does the percentage of those who advised reporting reach 50% (37.9% of mothers, 42.9% of fathers, 30.5% of partners, 20.1% of friends, to give a few examples).

7- Consequences of non-partner sexual violence

- 16.2% of women who have suffered sexual violence at some point in their lives from a person with whom they do not have or have not had a partner relationship, have suffered physical **injuries as a result** of this violence at some point in their lives, a percentage that rises to **37.8% among women who have suffered rape.**
 - 25.0% of women who have been raped have had cuts, scratches, bruises or pain and 18.7% have had injuries on their genitalia. These percentages contrast with the popular belief that rape must leave visible physical scars.
- 53% of the women who have experienced non-partner sexual violence say that it has had **psychological consequences** for them, a percentage that rises to **78.9%** among rape victims.
- 12.7% of women who have suffered sexual violence have used some substance (**medication, alcohol or drugs**) to cope with what happened. This percentage rises to **26.6% among rape victims.**
- Among women who have a disability and have experienced non-partner sexual violence at some time in their lives, 14.3% say that the **disability** is a consequence of these episodes of sexual violence.
- **Sexual violence has long-lasting consequences on the health of affected women**, and this results in them attending various health care services more frequently, even if the episodes of sexual violence occurred in the past. Thus, for example, 43.7% of women victims of sexual violence and 58.8% of those who had been raped stated that they had used an emergency service for some problem or illness in the 12 months prior to the interviews, compared to 28.3% of those who had never suffered sexual violence. Similarly, 22.3% of women victims of sexual



violence and 31.9% of those who have been raped have visited a psychologist, psychotherapist or psychiatrist for themselves in the 12 months prior to the interviews, compared to 9.7% of those who have never suffered sexual violence. 41.6% of women victims of sexual violence and 49.4% of those who have been raped report having been forced, in the 12 months prior to the interviews, to stay in bed one day for health reasons compared to 26.8% of those who have never experienced non-partner sexual violence.

- While 6.5%² of women 16 or older who have never suffered sexual violence have had **thoughts of suicide** at some time in their lives, the percentage rises to 27.7% among women who have suffered some type of non-partner sexual violence, and reaches **38.2% of women who have been raped** at some point in their lives. That is, women who have been raped are almost **6 times more likely to have suicidal thoughts than women who have never experienced sexual violence**.

D. NON-PARTNER PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

- Of the total number of women aged 16 years and over living in Spain, 13.4% (2,737,358 women) have suffered physical violence at some time in their lives from someone with whom they do not have or have not had a partner relationship, and 0.9% (177,530 women) in the last 12 months. Some 8.7% (1,778,550 women) have experienced physical violence before the age of 15.
- The most frequently mentioned aggressors are the father (23.4% of women who have suffered non-partner physical violence say they were assaulted by the father) and unknown men (17.5%), followed by the mother (16.0%). The next most mentioned link is female classmates (14.8%) and male classmates (11.6%).
- Of the total number of women aged 16 and over who have suffered physical violence at some point in their lives from someone with whom they do not have or have not had a partner relationship, 41.2% have suffered injuries as a result of this violence at some point in their lives.

E. SEXUAL HARASSMENT

- The survey asked about a series of unwanted behaviours with a sexual connotation: insistent or leering stares, unwanted physical contact, indecent exposure, sending sexually explicit pictures or photos that have made the woman feel offended, humiliated, or intimidated, to name a few examples.
- Of the total number of women aged 16 years old and over living in Spain, **40.4% (8,240,537 women) have suffered sexual harassment at some time in their lives**, and 10.2% (2,071,764) have suffered this harassment in the last 12 months.
 - 18.5% (3,778,356) of all women aged 16 or over living in Spain have suffered sexual harassment in childhood (before the age of 15).

² This percentage is only 2.9% among women who have never suffered any type of violence asked about in the survey, a percentage that reveals even more clearly the impact of violence on women's health.



- 74.9% of women who have experienced sexual harassment (30.3% of women aged 16 and over) report having experienced insistent or leering stares that made them feel intimidated, and 40.4% (accounting for 17.5% of those aged 16 and over) have experienced unwanted physical contact such as unnecessarily close proximity, molestation by touching parts of their body or kissing, to give some examples.
- 98.2% of women who have experienced sexual harassment experienced it from a male **aggressor**. 73.9% of women who have suffered sexual harassment and have responded to the question about the sex of the aggressor say that the aggressor was an unknown man, 34.6% say that it was a male friend or acquaintance and 17.3% say that the aggressor was a man from their work environment.
- **75.2%** of women who have experienced sexual harassment say it has happened **more than once** compared to 24.1% who say it has only happened once.
- 2.5% of the women who have suffered sexual harassment reported it to the Police or the court and 1.2% went to a medical or psychological care service. It is more usual to tell someone around you about the sexual harassment: 40.3% of women who have suffered sexual harassment talked about it with a friend, 19.5% with a family member and 14.8% with their partner or ex-partner. 39.6% say they did not tell anyone.

F. STALKING

- The survey asked about behaviours carried out by the same person repeatedly in a way that caused fear, anxiety or distress to the woman interviewed: obscene, threatening, annoying or silent phone calls, the woman being followed or spied on, having things of hers intentionally damaged or having inappropriate proposals made to her on the internet or social networks, to name a few examples.
- Of the total number of women aged 16 and over living in Spain, **15.2% (3,095,357) have suffered stalking at some point in their lives**, and 3.0% (613,917) have suffered this harassment in the last 12 months.
 - 3.7% (759,577) have experienced stalking in childhood (before the age of 15).
- 47.2% of women who have been stalked (7.2% of women aged 16 and over) report having suffered obscene, threatening, annoying or silent phone calls, and 40.6% (6.2% of women aged 16 and over) have been followed or spied on, to give some examples.
- 87.9% of women who have suffered stalking experienced it from a male **aggressor**. 39.9% of the women who have suffered stalking and have answered the question about the sex of the aggressor, say that the aggressor was a male friend or acquaintance, 33.6% say that it was an unknown man and 21.3% say that the aggressor was their current or former male partner. 6.7% mentioned a male classmate as the aggressor and 3.1% said that the aggressor was a female classmate.
- 20.1% of women who have suffered stalking say that it lasted less than two weeks, 27.9% say it lasted between 2 weeks and 3 months, 25.1% between 3 months and a year, and for 24.7% the duration of stalking was more than a year.



- 33.2% of the women who have suffered stalking affirm that it took place at least once a week, and 26.0% every day or almost every day. That is to say, **almost 60% of the women who have suffered stalking suffered it on a weekly or daily basis.**
- 12.1% of the women who have suffered stalking at some point in time in their lives reported it to the Police or the Court and 4.5% went to a medical or psychological care service. The percentage of complaints to the Police or the Court, although low, is higher than the percentage of complaints of sexual harassment or non-partner sexual violence.
 - It is more usual to tell someone around you about the stalking: 43.7% of women who have suffered stalking talked about it with a friend, 32.7% with a family member and 19.4% with their partner or ex-partner. 22.8% say they did not tell anyone.

G. INTIMATE PARTNER OR EX-PARTNER VIOLENCE

1- Prevalence

- Of the total number of women aged 16 years old and over living in Spain, **14.2% (2,905,489 women)** have suffered **physical and/or sexual violence** from a partner, current or past, at some point in their lives. **1.8% (374,175 women)** have suffered physical and/or sexual violence from a current or former partner in the **last 12 months**.
- The table below shows the main prevalences of intimate partner violence throughout life and in the last 12 months.

*Summary of lifetime and 12-month prior to the interview prevalence of violence by a partner (current or past)
(%=percentage)*

	Throughout life		Last 12 months	
	% of total women resident in Spain aged 16 years and over	Estimated number of women suffering violence	% of total women resident in Spain aged 16 years and over	Estimated number of women suffering violence
1. Physical	11.0%	2,234,567	1.0	194,478
2. Sexual	8.9%	1,810,948	1.3	269,852
3. Physical and/or sexual	14.2%	2,905,489	1.8%	374,175
4. Emotional	23.2%	4,744,106	5.4%	1,101,661
5. Control	27.0%	5,500,704	6.6%	1,355,620
6. Económica	11.5%	2,350,684	2.0%	407,793
7. Miedo	13.9%	2,827,243	3.7%	761,844
8. Psychological (emotional, control, economic, fear)	31.9%	6,517,062	10.6%	2,164,006
9. Total violence (3+8)	32.4%	6,605,825	10.8%	2,197,691

- 96.9% of women who have suffered physical violence and/or sexual violence from a current or former partner also report having suffered some type of psychological violence (emotional, control, economic or fear).



2- Frequency of violence

- 25.0% of women who have suffered **physical violence** from their **current partner** say that this violence has occurred only once compared to **75% who say that it has happened more than once**.
 - In the case of women who have suffered violence from **past partners**, 17.3% say it happened only once, while **82.5%** say it **happened more than once**.
- 10.0% of women who have suffered **sexual violence** by their **current partner** say that this violence has only happened once, compared to **86.2%** who say that it has happened **more than once**.
 - In the case of women who have suffered sexual violence from **past partners**, 11.1% say it happened only once, while **88.8%** say it **happened more than once**.
- 14.9% of the women who have suffered **emotional psychological violence** from their **current partner** state that this violence has occurred only once compared to **84.3%** who state that it has happened **more than once**.
 - In the case of women who have suffered violence from **past partners**, 8.2% say it happened only once, while **91.3%** say it **happened more than once**.

3- Reporting

- **21.7% of women who have suffered physical, sexual or emotional violence or who have felt fear (VFSEM)³ from a partner, current or past, have reported⁴** (the woman herself or another person or institution) any of these aggressions to the police or to the court. Extrapolating the percentage to the population, we obtain that **1,109,509 women** aged 16 and over have reported intimate partner violence.
 - If only those who have suffered **physical and/or sexual violence are taken into account, the percentage of complaints is somewhat higher, reaching 32.1%**.
 - **Percentages differ greatly if we differentiate between the violence reported on the current partner and past partners:** 5.4% of women who have suffered physical, sexual or emotional violence or who have felt fear (VFSEM) from their current partner and 25.0% of women who have suffered VFSEM from a past partner have reported (12.5% and 34.3% respectively for those who have suffered physical or sexual violence).
- Women who have not reported to the Police or the Court about the VFSEM suffered by their partners or ex-partners are asked about their **reasons for not reporting**. In the case of women who have suffered **violence from their current partner**, the most frequently mentioned reason for not reporting the **violence** was that they had solved it on their own (49.1%) or that they did not consider the violence to be important (46.4%). In the case of

³ This group of women was referred to the complaint and consequences block, which was not done for those who had suffered controlling or economic violence. They account for 25% of women aged 16 and over (5,108,454 women)

⁴ **Although it may seem that this percentage is significantly lower than in the 2015 Macro-survey (28.6%), it is important to note that the percentages are not comparable because the 2015 Macro-survey did not refer those who had suffered emotional violence to this module. If the percentage of women who have suffered physical, sexual or fear violence from a partner is calculated, it would reach 28.7%, identical to that of 2015. Therefore, there is no change in the reporting rate between the 2015 and 2019 editions.**



women who have suffered **violence from past partners**, the most mentioned reason for not reporting is that they have solved it on their own (53.4%) and have ended the relationship (31.8%). Lacking own economic resources is mentioned by 2.6% of women in the case of current partner violence and by 3.1% in the case of past partners.

- If we analyse the response to this question of women who have suffered **physical or sexual violence** from their partners and who have not reported it themselves, neither to the Police nor to the Court, the reasons given for not reporting it do not vary much with respect to those mentioned by those who have suffered VFSEM. In the case of **violence in the current partner**, 47.2% mentioned that they had solved it on their own, and 37.3% considered that what happened was of very little importance. The percentages of those who have not reported for fear of the aggressor (10.6%) or for shame (11.4%) are somewhat higher. 5.4% did not report because they lacked financial resources. As for women who have suffered **physical or sexual violence from past partners**, the most frequently mentioned reason for not reporting is that they have solved it alone (48.5%) and that the relationship has ended (32.1%). The percentages of those who say that they have not reported because of fear of the aggressor (15.6%) or because of shame (16.6%) are somewhat higher than in the case of those who have suffered physical, sexual or emotional violence from past partners. 4.2% did not report because they lacked financial resources.
- Women with a complaint (filed by themselves or by another person or institution) are asked about **their partner's reaction to the complaint**. In the case of women who reported violence from past partners, 27.3% said that as a result of the report the relationship ended, 21.9% said that the partner continued to behave in the same way, and 20.6% said that the behaviour worsened.
- Women who have reported violence (themselves or another person or institution) are asked whether they withdrew the complaint. 21.3% of women who reported violence from past partners withdrew it. Among these women, the most mentioned reason for withdrawing the complaint was fear (24.7%) followed by "he is/was the father of my children" (21.9%), "he promised her that it would not happen again" (19.0%), "she felt sorry for her partner" (19.0%) and "they separated" (18.1%).

4- Seeking Formal Help

- **66.9%**⁵ of women who have experienced VFSEM from a partner **have not sought formal help after the event**.
- **27.0%**⁶ of the women who have suffered VFSEM from a current or former partner have contacted a **health service** (doctor, health centre, psychologist/psychiatrist, pharmacy) due to the physical, sexual or emotional violence they have suffered from a current or former partner at some point in their lives. They account for **1,380,606 women**.
 - 7.2% (367,779) have turned to **social services**.
 - 28.9% (1,477,723 women) have sought help from **health or social services** because of the physical, sexual or emotional violence they have experienced from a current or former partner at some point in their lives.
 - **38.9% (1,989,731 women) have reported or sought formal help** (socio-health services, legal services, NGOs/women's associations, shelter, Church/religious organisation, 016 telephone number) because of

⁵ Data not directly comparable with the 2015 Macro-survey. See section 11.1 of the study for further explanation.

⁶ Data not directly comparable with the Macro-survey 2015. See section 11.1 of the study for further explanation.



the VFSEM they have suffered from a partner. Considering that it has been estimated that 5,108,454 women aged 16 and over have experienced VFSEM by an intimate partner, there would be **3,118,723 women who have not reported or sought formal support services**.

5- Seeking informal help

- 50.7% of women who had experienced VFSEM from a partner told a friend, 36.2% told their mother, and 25.4% told their sister. **22.1% have not told anyone around them what happened**.
- Women who, having VFSEM from a partner, have told someone in their environment about what happened were asked about this person's reaction. In general, **the most common reaction is to advise leaving the relationship**, although the differences between those who have suffered violence from the current partner and those who have suffered violence from past partners are very significant: for example, while among those who have suffered violence from the current partner the percentages of family members who advise leaving the relationship range from 24.4% (other male relative of her family) to 57.1% (father), in the case of those who have suffered violence from past partners the family support percentages range from 75.3% (mother) to 87.5% (other male relative of her family).
 - **In the case of violence exercised by the current partner, it is relatively frequent that the woman has been advised to give the partner another chance, with percentages ranging between 20% and 30%.** However, women who have suffered violence from past partners have listened the advice to give the partner another chance in much lower percentages (8.4% at most, in the case of mothers).
 - On the other hand, the percentage of women who were reprimanded for their attitude is almost non-existent.
 - The percentages of women who report that the person around them reacted with indifference are somewhat higher, although they are still small, especially in the case of violence perpetrated by past partners.
 - If we analyse what happens to women who have suffered physical or sexual violence and who have told someone around them about what happened, in the case of the current partner, the percentage of those who advise leaving the relationship increases considerably and those who advise giving another opportunity decrease.
- In the case of women who have suffered VFSEM from the **current partner**, the percentage of those who, having been advised to leave the relationship, **offered emotional or material support** is very high, over 90% in all cases. However, the percentage of those who **advise reporting** is much lower (26.3% of mothers, 35.7% of sisters, 27.9% of female friends).
 - In the case of women who have experienced VFSEM from **past partners**, the percentage of those who, having been advised to leave the relationship, offered **emotional or material support** is very high, over 94% in all cases. However, the percentage of those who **advise reporting** is lower (with percentages ranging from 38.7% in the case of mothers to 68.8% of women neighbours or co-workers).



6- Leaving the violence behind

- Women who had experienced VFSEM from a past partner were asked whether **they ended the relationship as a result of the violence**. **77.4%**⁷ answered affirmatively. Among women who have suffered physical and/or sexual violence, the percentage is slightly higher (82.8%).
- **Reporting the violence, seeking help from a formal service** (doctor, lawyer, social services, etc.) **or talking about it with someone close to you** (mother, friend, father, etc.) **all increase the chances of ending the violent relationship**. If we look globally at women who have sought help with at least one of the three options and compare it with those who have not, we see that while **81.9% of women who have reported or sought formal or informal help because of past partner violence broke off the relationship because of the violence, the percentage drops to 49.6% among those who neither reported nor sought formal or informal help**. Although in strict terms we cannot speak of a causal link⁸ it does seem that **any type of action in the sense of sharing what happened has a positive impact on the end of violence**. Hence the importance of disseminating information about available resources and good awareness-raising campaigns.

7- Consequences of intimate partner violence

- **46.6%** of women who have suffered physical violence and/or sexual violence from a current or former partner at some point in their lives (1,353,938 women) have suffered **injuries** as a result of this violence, and 3.8% (109,841 women) in the last 12 months.
- **70.0%** of the women who have suffered VFSEM from a partner declare that the episodes of violence have had **psychological consequences** for them.
 - 37.5% mentioned having suffered anxiety and 33.9% depression. Among those who have suffered physical or sexual violence, 47.3% have suffered anxiety and 45.4% depression.
- **One in four** (24.4%) women who have suffered **VFSEM** from a partner or ex-partner and **one in three** (33.0%) women who have suffered **physical or sexual violence** from a partner or ex-partner have used some substance (**medication, alcohol or drugs**) to cope with what happened.
- **17.5% of women with disabilities who have suffered VFSEM from a partner or ex-partner say that their disability is a consequence of their partner's violence**. This percentage rises to 23.4% in the case of women with disabilities who have suffered physical or sexual violence.
- **Gender violence has long-lasting consequences on the health of the women affected and this causes them to seek different health care services more frequently**, even if the episodes of intimate partner violence have occurred in the past. Thus, for example, 41.9% of the women who had suffered lifetime physical or sexual violence from a partner and 36.6% of those who had suffered any type of lifetime intimate partner violence stated that they had used an emergency service due to a given problem or illness in the 12 months prior to the interviews, compared to 25.8% of those who had never suffered intimate partner violence. In the same way, 20.9% of women who have suffered lifetime physical or sexual violence from a partner and 17.5% of those who have suffered any

⁷ This percentage is not directly comparable with that of the 2015 Macro-survey. See section 14.1 of the study for a more detailed explanation.

⁸ In the sense that it cannot be known which comes first: the partnership breakdown or seeking help.



type of lifetime intimate partner violence have visited a psychologist, psychotherapist or psychiatrist for themselves in the 12 months prior to the interviews, compared to 7.1% of those who have never suffered intimate partner violence. 37.6% of the women who have suffered physical or sexual violence during their lives from a partner and 36.0% of those who have suffered any type of lifetime intimate partner violence say that in the 12 months prior to the interviews they were forced to stay in bed at least one day for health reasons, compared to 23.8% of those who have never suffered intimate partner violence.

- While **4.7%**⁹ of women aged 16 and over who have never experienced intimate partner violence have had **thoughts of suicide** at some point in their lives, the percentage rises to **18.5%** among women who have experienced some form of intimate partner violence in their lives, and reaches **25.5%** of **women who have experienced physical or sexual violence from a partner** in their lives (i.e., they are **5 times more likely** to have thoughts of suicide than women who have never experienced intimate partner violence).

8- Minors (children) affected by intimate partner violence

- Gender violence does not only affect women, it also has a significant impact on their children or other children living in the household.
- **89.6%** of women who have experienced VFSEM from an intimate partner, who had children at the time of the violence and who respond that their children witnessed or heard the violence against the mother, say that the **children were minors at the time** of the violence.
- **51.7%** of the women who have suffered intimate partner violence, who had children at the time of the episodes of violence, who say that their children witnessed or heard the violence against the mother, and who say that the children were minors when the episodes of violence occurred, state that the **children themselves suffered violence at the hands of the violent partner**.
- **1,678,959 minors live in households where women are currently suffering** some form of **violence** (physical, sexual, controlling behaviours, emotional, economic or fear) **from the partner**.
 - 265.860 children live in households where the woman interviewed is currently experiencing physical or sexual intimate partner violence.

H. WOMEN WHO ARE ESPECIALLY VULNERABLE TO VIOLENCE

1- Women with an accredited disability equal to or greater than 33%

- Women with documented disabilities have experienced **non-partner sexual violence** in their lifetime at a **higher rate (10.3%)** than women without documented disabilities (**6.2%**).
- The prevalence of lifetime intimate **partner violence** among women with documented disabilities is **higher** than among women without documented disabilities in all cases. Thus, for example, 20.7% of women with an accredited

⁹ This percentage is only 2.9% among women who have never suffered any type of violence asked about in the survey, a percentage that reveals even more clearly the impact of violence on women's health.



disability have suffered physical or sexual violence from a partner, compared with 13.8% of women without an accredited disability.

- Women with a proven disability **report** the partner's physical, sexual or emotional violence to a **greater extent (30.8%)** than women without a disability (**20.9%**). This result shows that, **although in general, women with a certified disability have a higher prevalence of intimate partner violence than women without a disability, they also report this violence to a greater extent.**
 - The same is true for seeking formal help: **50.5% of women with disabilities have sought formal help** (medical, psychological, have gone to social services, etc.) as a result of the physical, sexual or emotional violence from one of their partners, **compared to 31.1%** of women without an accredited disability who have suffered physical, sexual or emotional violence.

2- Young women aged 16 to 24

- Young women have experienced **non-partner sexual violence** in their lifetime at a **higher rate (11.0%)** than women aged 25 and over (**6.0%**).
- Young women who have suffered non-partner sexual violence **have told people around them to a greater extent (84.8%)** than women aged 25 and over (70.1%). The differences arise mainly because young women have discussed sexual violence with (girl) friends (68.1%) or (boy) friends (31.1%) to a greater extent than women aged 25 and over (33.8% and 12.1%, respectively).
- 89.2% of women aged 16 to 24 have reported, sought formal help or discussed non-partner sexual violence with people around them, compared with 72.6% of women aged 25 and over.
- The **prevalence of sexual harassment** among women aged 16 to 24 is **much higher** than among women aged 25 and over: **60.5%** have been **sexually** harassed at some time and 34.7% before the age of 15, compared with **38.0%** and 16.6% respectively among women aged 25 and over.
- The **prevalence of stalking** among women aged 16 to 24 is **higher** than among women aged 25 and over: **26.2%** have suffered it on some occasion and 13.0% before the age of 15, compared to **13.9%** and 2.6% respectively among women aged 25 and over.

3- Women aged 65 or more

- Women aged 65 and over show lower prevalence of intimate partner violence than those aged 16-64.
 - The lower prevalence of violence among older women is explained by a lower incidence of violence in past partners. In contrast, if we look at what happens with the current partner, older women show higher prevalence of violence than women who are under 65.
- Women aged 65 and over have used formal support services as a result of physical, sexual or emotional violence of past partners to a lesser extent (25.1%) than women aged 16-64 (37.3%). The differences are mainly due to lower attendance of women aged 65 and over at psychological or psychiatric care services.



- Older women have told people around them about the violence they have suffered to a lesser extent than other women: 54.5% of women aged 65 and over have told people around them about the physical, sexual or emotional violence suffered by one of their partners, compared to 81.3% of women aged 16 to 64 who have suffered physical, sexual or emotional violence.
 - This result shows that **older women hide the violence experienced to a much greater extent than other women**, with all the implications that this entails.
- **Women aged 65 and over have broken up with a past partner as a result of violence to a much lesser extent** (49.9%) than women aged 16-64 (81.4%). However, the reason they give at a higher extent for the end of the violent relationship is the death of the partner (65+: 13.3%, 16-64: 0.7%).
- Older women have experienced lifetime non-partner sexual violence in a lower proportion (2.8%) than women aged 16-64 (7.7%).
 - Older women who have suffered non-partner sexual violence have told people around them to a lesser extent (52.2%) than women aged 16 to 64 (75.2%).

4- Women born abroad

- The incidence of intimate partner violence is higher among foreign-born women than among Spanish-born women.
 - They have reported the partner's physical, sexual or emotional violence to a greater extent (28.6%) than those born in Spain (20.0%).
- Foreign-born women have suffered non-partner sexual violence during their lives in a slightly higher proportion (9.8%) than Spanish-born women (6.0%).
 - **5.2% of foreign-born women have been raped by a person other than their partner or ex-partner compared to 1.8% of Spanish-born women.**
- Foreign-born women declare having suffered sexual violence from male relatives to a greater extent than Spanish-born women (37.5% vs. 17.6%) and to a lesser extent from male strangers (27.4% vs. 42.0%).
- 28.9% of women who were born in another country and have suffered sexual violence say that the sexual violence took place exclusively in Spain, 60.2% say that it happened abroad and 10.9% say that it took place both in Spain and abroad. On the contrary, 97% of women who were born in Spain and have suffered sexual violence affirm that it took place exclusively in Spain.

5- Women living in small towns

- In general, the differences according to the size of the municipality are small.
- The larger the size of the municipality of residence, the higher the percentage of women who have verbalised the violence suffered from their partners or ex-partners through reporting, seeking formal or informal help: 66.9% of women living in municipalities with up to 2,000 inhabitants, 78.5% of women living in municipalities with between 2,001 and 10,000 inhabitants, and 83.3% of women living in municipalities with more than 10,000 inhabitants.



- The prevalence of sexual harassment among women living in small municipalities is lower than that of those living in larger municipalities: 33.4% of those living in municipalities of 2,000 inhabitants or less have experienced it at some time, 10.8% in the last 4 years, 7.2% in the last 12 months and 16.2% before the age of 15, compared to 36.4%, 16.4%, 9.1% and 16.3% respectively of women living in municipalities with between 2,001 and 10,000 inhabitants, and 41.6%, 19.0%, 10.5% and 19.1% respectively of women living in municipalities with more than 10,000 inhabitants.

Madrid, 10 September 2020

Full study available for download at:

<https://violenciagenero.igualdad.gob.es/violenciaEnCifras/macroencuesta2015/Macroencuesta2019/home.htm>