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

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

The 2018 Global Combined Estimates indicate that overall:

31% (UI 27–36%) of women aged 15-49 years and
30% (UI 26–34%) of women aged 15 years and older

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

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

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

Data Collection

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

Global Prevalence Estimates of Intimate Partner Violence

Lifetime prevalence vs Prevalence in the past 12 months

Intimate partner violence starts early.

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

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

Global prevalence estimates show that 6% of women over the age of 15 have been subjected to non-partner sexual violence at least once in their lifetime.
Policy and laws – Institute and implement laws and regulations that promote gender equality (e.g. girls’ and women’s equitable access to secondary education, paid employment and property/inheritance rights, as well as laws imposing sanctions for violence against women).

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

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

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

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

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

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