



# SPECIAL RELEASE

## Violence Against Women: Results of 2017 National Demographic and Health Survey

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Gender-based violence against women has been acknowledged worldwide as a violation of basic human rights. Increasing research has highlighted the health burdens, intergenerational effects, and demographic consequences of such violence (United Nations 2006). United Nations defines gender-based violence as any act of violence that results in physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women, girls, men, and boys, as well as threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty.

The NDHS 2017 included a Woman’s Safety Module designed to collect information on domestic violence. Only one eligible woman per household was selected to receive this module. In households with more than one eligible woman, one respondent was randomly selected. The module can be administered only if complete privacy can be obtained; among the women eligible, less than 1 percent could not be interviewed because privacy could not be attained. This special release presents results of 2017 NDHS on Violence Against Women in Western Visayas.

### *One in every Five women age 15-49 experienced physical violence at age 15*

In Western Visayas, 21.6 percent of women age 15-49 experienced physical violence. In the past 12 months preceding the survey, 5.6 percent of women experienced physical violence and 0.6 percent of women experienced it often (Table 1).

**Table 1 Percentage of Women age 15-49 who have experienced physical violence since age 15 and percentage who have experienced physical violence during the 12 months**

Percentage who have experienced physical violence since age 15*	Percentage who have experienced physical violence in the past 12 months		
	Often	Sometimes	Often or Sometimes**
21.6	0.6	5	5.6

\* Includes violence in the past 12 months. For women who were married before age 15 and reported physical violence only by their husband/partner, the violence could have occurred before age 15.

\*\* Includes women for whom frequency in the past 12 months is not known.

### *About 3.4 percent of ever pregnant women age 15-49 experienced physical violence during pregnancy*

**Table 2 Percentage of women age 15-49 who have experienced physical violence during pregnancy, Western Visayas, NDHS 2017**

Percentage who experienced violence during pregnancy:
3.4



### *Seven out of 100 of women age 15-49 have experienced sexual violence, and about 2 of these women experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months preceding the survey*

**Table 2 Percentage of women age 15-49 who have ever experienced sexual violence and percentage who experienced sexual violence in the 12 months preceding the survey, Western Visayas, NDHS 2017**

Percentage who have experienced sexual violence:	
Ever*	In the past 12 months
7.4	1.7

\* Includes violence in the past 12 months.

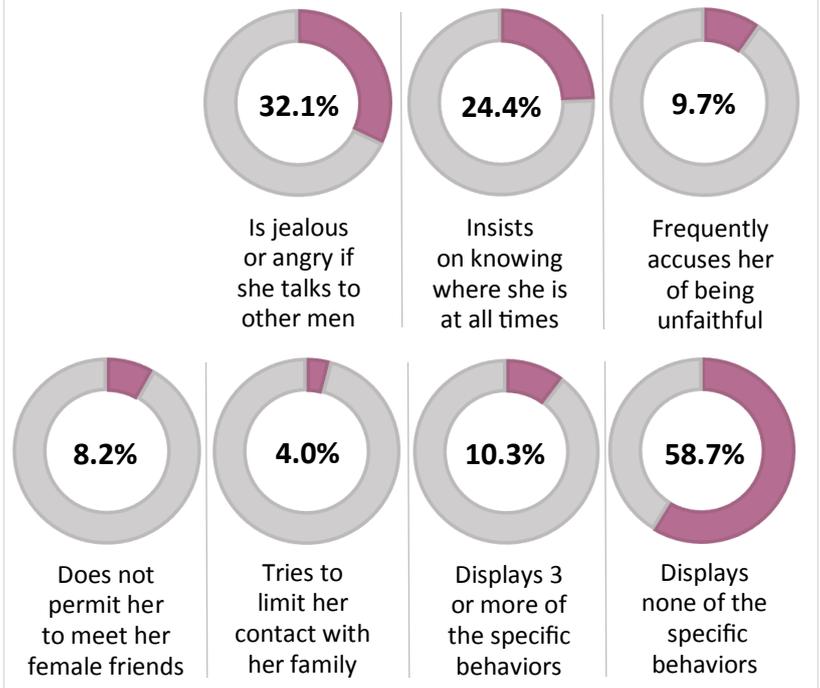


## Marital Control

*Most common controlling behavior of husband/partner to married women age 15-49 is jealousy or anger when talking to other men*

About 10.3 percent of ever-married women age 15-49 reported that their current or most recent husband/partner displayed at least three specific types of controlling behaviors. One in every three women experienced jealousy or anger from their husband/partner (32.1%) while approximately one in four women experienced husband/partner insisting to know their whereabouts all the time (24.4%). Moreover, one in ten ever-married women said that their husband/partner frequently accuses them of being unfaithful (9.7%). Only 4.0 percent of women reported that their husband/partner tries to limit their contact with their family (Figure 1).

**Figure 1 Percentage of ever-married women age 15-49 whose husbands/partners have ever demonstrated specific types of controlling behaviors, Western Visayas, NDHS 2017**



## Spousal Violence

*About 30 percent of ever-married women have experienced any of the three forms of spousal violence*

Almost three in ten ever-married women age 15-49 have experienced any form of physical, sexual, or emotional violence by their current or most recent husband/partner, and about two in ten women experienced these in the past 12 months preceding the survey (Table 3 and 4). Women are more likely to have experienced spousal emotional violence (25.1%) than spousal physical violence (12.4%) or spousal sexual violence (4.3%) (Table 3).



One in every four ever-married women experienced spousal emotional violence

**Table 3 Percentage of ever-married women age 15-49 who have ever experienced emotional, physical, or sexual violence committed by their current or most recent husband/partner, Western Visayas, NDHS 2017**

Emotional violence	Physical violence	Sexual violence	Physical and sexual	Physical and sexual and emotional	Physical or sexual	Physical or sexual or emotional
25.1	12.4	4.3	3.1	3.0	13.6	29.3

Notes: Husband/partner refers to the current husband/partner for currently married women and the most recent husband/partner for divorced, separated, or widowed women.

**Table 4 Percentage of ever-married women age 15-49 who have experienced emotional, physical, or sexual violence by any husband/partner in the past 12 months, Western Visayas, NDHS 2017**

Emotional violence	Physical violence	Sexual violence	Physical and sexual	Physical and sexual and emotional	Physical or sexual	Physical or sexual or emotional
17.5	4.8	2.4	1.8	1.8	5.4	18.3

Notes: Any husband/partner includes current, most recent, and, for women married more than once, all former husbands/partners.

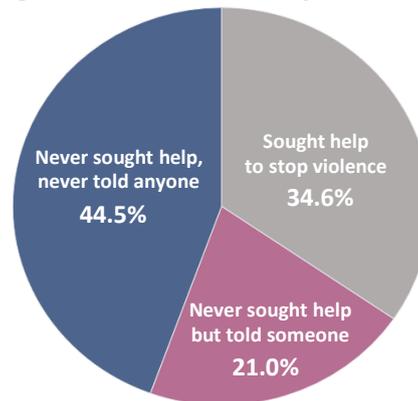
Out of 100 ever-married women who have experienced spousal violence, three of them have experienced a physical, sexual and emotional violence committed by their current husband/partner, while about 2 of them experienced all three forms of spousal violence in the past 12 months preceding the survey (Table 3 and 4).

## Help-seeking Behavior

*Almost half of women who have experienced physical or sexual violence never sought help nor told anyone about the violence*

For every ten women age 15-49 who have experienced physical or sexual violence five women have never sought help to end the violence or told anyone about the violence, three women have sought help to stop the violence and two of them told someone about the violence but did not seek help (Figure 2).

**Figure 2 Percent Distribution of Women Age 15-49 Who Have Ever Experienced Physical or Sexual Violence by Their Help-seeking Behavior, Western Visayas, NDHS 2017**



## Awareness of anti-violence protection orders

*Nine out of ten women are aware of Barangay Protection Order*

**Figure 3 Percentage of Women Age 5-49 who are Aware of the Barangay Protection Order, the Temporary Protection Order, and the Permanent Protection Order, Western Visayas, NDHS 2017**



age 15-49 are aware of Barangay Protection Orders, 74 percent are aware of Temporary Protection Orders, and 69 percent are aware of Permanent Protection Orders (Figure 3).

## Awareness of places to seek help

*Nine out of ten women are aware of Barangay Protection Order*

About 9 in 10 women are aware that they can seek help from violence at the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Regional Center for Women or Girls (94.1%), from the Philippine National Police (PNP) Women and Children's Protection Desk (94.0%) or from the Barangay Violence against Women (VAW) Desk (90.9%). About 8 in 10 women are aware that they can get help from the Women and Children's Protection Unit (84.2%) or Public Attorney's Office of the Department of Justice or any public legal assistance office (78.8%). Six out of ten women are aware that they can seek help at the Temporary Protection Desk or Permanent Protection Desk under RA 9262 (63.4%) and from Civil society organizations, NGO's, and people's organizations that provide services to victims of violence against women (63.3%) (Figure 4).

**Figure 4 Percentage of Women Age 5-49 Who are Aware of Various Places Where They Can Seek Help from Violence, Western Visayas, NDHS 2017**



- A - DSWD Regional Center for Women/Girls
- B - PNP Women and Children's Protection Desk
- C - Barangay Violence Against Women (VAW) Desk
- D - Women and Children's Protection Unit
- E - Public Attorney's Office of the Department of Justice or any public legal assistance office
- F - Temporary Protection Desk or Permanent Protection Desk under RA 9262
- G - Civil society organizations, NGO's, and people's organizations that provide services to victims of violence against women

## Initiatives to end VAW

Significant progress has been made by both the government and non-government organizations in the Philippines in terms of addressing and eliminating VAW.

Republic Act No. 9262, otherwise known as the Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004 penalizes all forms of abuse and violence within the family and intimate relationships. The Act classifies violence against women and children (VAWC) as a public crime. The Inter-Agency Council on Violence Against Women and Their Children (IACVAWC) was created by virtue of Republic Act No. 9262 (Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004). To ensure the effective implementation of the law, twelve (12) agencies comprised the council tasked to formulate programs and projects to eliminate VAW based on their respective mandates, develop capability programs for their employees to become more sensitive to the needs of their clients, and to monitor all VAW initiatives. These agencies are:

- Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)
- Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)
- Civil Service Commission (CSC), Commission on Human Rights (CHR)
- Philippine Commission on Women (PCW)
- Department of Justice (DOJ)
- Department of Health (DOH)
- Department of Education (DepEd)
- Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)
- Philippine National Police (PNP)
- Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC)
- National Bureau of Investigation (NBI)

### **Other Philippine Laws related to VAW**

- RA 3815: The Revised Penal Code
- RA 7877: Anti-Sexual Harassment Act of 1995
- RA 8353: Anti-Rape Law of 1997
- RA8369: The Family Courts Act of 1997
- RA 8505: Rape Victim Assistance and Protection Act of 1998
- RA 9208: The Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003
- RA 9710: Magna Carta of Women

### **VAW Hotlines in Western Visayas**

Crisis Intervention Unit  
M.H. del Pilar, Molo, Iloilo City  
(033) 503-3797

Home for Girls  
Brgy. Pungtod, Cabatuan Iloilo  
(033) 522-8941 / 09298028112

Regional Center for Women (RCW)  
Brgy. Wari-Wari New Lucena, Iloilo  
(033)-3960393 / 0908-7234350 / 09209478081 /09396414373

## Technical Notes

The 2017 Philippines National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) was designed to provide data for monitoring the population and health situation in the Philippines. The major objective of the survey is to provide current data on key demographic and health indicators, particularly data on household and respondent characteristics, fertility levels, fertility preferences, marriage and sexual activity, knowledge and use of family planning methods, childhood mortality, maternal and child health, knowledge on HIV/AIDS prevention, and domestic violence, and other health-related issues such as health insurance coverage in the Philippines.

In the NDHS 2017, information was obtained from never-married women on their experience of violence committed by anyone and from ever-married women on their experience of violence committed by their current and former husbands/partners and by others. More specifically, violence committed by the current husband/partner (for currently married women) and by the most recent husband/partner (for formerly married women) was measured by asking all ever-married women if their husband/partner ever did the following to them:

*Physical spousal violence: push you, shake you, or throw something at you; slap you; twist your arm or pull your hair; punch you with his fist or with something that could hurt you; kick you, drag you, or beat you up; try to choke you or burn you on purpose; or threaten or attack you with a knife, gun, or any other weapon*

*Sexual spousal violence: physically force you to have sexual intercourse with him even when you did not want to, physically force you to perform any other sexual acts you did not want to, or force you with threats or in any other way to perform sexual acts you did not want to*

*Emotional spousal violence: say or do something to humiliate you in front of others; threaten to hurt or harm you or someone close to you; insult you or make you feel bad about yourself; not allow you to engage in any legitimate work or practice your profession; control your own money or property or force you to work; destroy your personal property, pets, or belongings or threaten or actually harm your pets; have other intimate relationships*

In addition, information was obtained from all women (married and unmarried) about physical violence committed by anyone (other than a current or most recent husband/partner) since they were age 15 by asking if anyone had hit, slapped, kicked, or done something else to hurt them physically. Similarly, information was gathered from all women about experiences of sexual violence committed by anyone (other than a current or most recent husband/partner) at any time in their life, as a child or as an adult, by asking if they were forced in any way to have sexual intercourse or to perform any other sexual acts when they did not want to. Married women include both women who said they were married and women who said they were living with a man as if married.



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