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**Measuring violence against women**

## **Security survey in Estonia 2008-2009, module on intimate partner abuse**

**Note by Statistics Estonia**

### *Summary*

This report includes a review of the Intimate partner abuse module in the Estonian Security Survey 2008–2009. The document describes background and aims of the survey as well as its main processes and feedback from the persons who were involved in the survey. The chapters focus on research theories of the intimate partner abuse, composition of the questionnaire, sampling details, the pilot survey, interviewers training, interview method, results as well as main conclusions of the survey. Statistics Estonia is gratified to share our experiences and knowledge in this domain.

## **I. Introduction**

1. At the end of 2008 and the beginning of 2009, Statistics Estonia conducted the Crime and Security Survey, with a goal of collecting data about the actual extent of crime in the country, sense of security of the Estonian population and abuse in intimate relationships. Provisionally, the survey was comprised of two parts: the first part was concerned with falling a victim to the crime and personal sense of security, the second part focused on studying intimate partner abuse.

2. All permanent residents of Estonia between the ages of 15 and 74 comprised the population of the survey. Data on intimate partner abuse were collected only from respondents with an intimate relationship experience: they either were in an intimate

relationship during the conduct of the survey or had been in an intimate relationship earlier. The first part of the survey was conducted by using face-to-face interviews. The information about intimate partner abuse was collected by using the self-completed questionnaire. A face-to-face interview was carried out only if the respondent asked for it. The conduct of the survey followed the principle that neither the interviewer nor the interviewee should come to harm as a result of participation in the survey. In order to ensure security, interviews were, whenever possible, conducted in private, the theme of intimate partner abuse was not introduced in the contact letter sent to the prospective respondent's home nor in information materials used by Statistics Estonia.

3. The respondents were given information booklets in Estonian and/or Russian for themselves or to pass on, in which victims of intimate partner abuse were encouraged to seek help, and which were equipped with the contact details of appropriate help organisations, shelters, support groups, etc. The information booklet was given to all respondents, irrespective of their answers.

### **Theories on the research of intimate partner abuse**

4. Collection and further analysis of violence-related knowledge serves as an essential precondition for preventing violence between intimate partners and for restricting the spreading of this phenomenon. International experience indicates that assessment of the extent of intimate partner abuse is a very complicated task because the topic is of a delicate nature and the use of currently available administrative statistics for that purpose involves a great risk of underestimating the problem.

5. Earlier surveys conducted in Estonia also reveal that the actual level of family violence is substantially higher than police statistics indicate.

6. For decades, intimate partner abuse has been a separate topic of research which can be approached from totally different theoretical standpoints. The majority of theories focus on the treatment of violence against women and the goal of relevant surveys is to measure the extent and consequences of violence against women.

7. An increasing number of surveys are conducted with a view to measuring the distribution of violence in society, and the population is interviewed in connection with that irrespective of the gender. Questions from Straus's Conflict Tactics Scale have been used to measure the extent of violence. These questions enable to measure the frequency and distribution of different types of violence. The questions of this scale are of a factual nature (for example: were you hit or not?) and leave less space for perceptual replies (for example: have you suffered?). However, as the critics of this scale have pointed out, the essence of violence cannot be analysed on the basis of such a survey due to its focus on the frequency of incidents (Brush 1990).

8. As the questions asked during the interview concentrate on the essence, causes and consequences of violence, respondents have more freedom to interpret violence and self specify the exposure to violence (Schwartz 2000). In this case, it may be up to the respondent to define the incident which happened to him/her as an act of violence or not and whether he/she considers himself/herself to be a victim of violence or not.

9. In any case, questions should be formulated with extreme care and one should be absolutely sure that the words used in formulating the question are targeted towards the purposeful measuring of the phenomenon concerned. Wording may lead to under- or overestimation, because people understand words in a different way. Therefore, multiple measurements prove to be relevant: one and the same question should be asked in different formulations. This method helps to eliminate discrepancies in understanding the question.

10. With respect to the range of interview methods, a face-to-face interview is more highly evaluated as it involves communication between the interviewer and the respondent, i.e. it is possible to ask things over again, to explain and specify matters. On the other hand, violence is such a sensitive topic that a face-to-face interview may lead to false answers.

## II. Questionnaire

11. Intimate partner abuse – the consequences of which are hard on the individual as well as society – is a widespread phenomenon in all cultures. Recognising the experience of mental, physical or sexual violence occurring in intimate relationships continues to be a taboo in Estonian society; there is no desire to discuss this topic of private life.

12. The experiences of other countries have shown that intimate partner abuse is a rather widespread type of criminal offence, while also being one of the most concealed, and when using police statistics there is a great danger of underestimating the distribution of this type of crime. In order for the Estonian state to be able to prevent and hinder violence in intimate relationships and assess the results of its actions, assessments of the distribution and specific questionnaires of intimate partner abuse are necessary in addition to other methods.

13. Indirectly, the surveys and analysis of this area enable:

- (a) for the attitudes of the public to be affected and changed;
- (b) to develop new, violence free awareness of values and behavioural norms;
- (c) to allow for victims of crime and intimate partner abuse to be offered more effective aid;
- (d) to assess existing measures and their efficiency;
- (e) to provide input for the amending or supplementing of legislation;
- (f) to place Estonia within an international context.

14. There have been no prior state surveys on crime victimization and violence in intimate relationship, but the Estonian Social Survey in 2004 contained a module “Crime, violence, safety”.

15. With the intent of developing a national safety survey, a working group was created at the beginning of 2007. Participating in the working group were Statistics Estonia, Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Justice and representatives of scientific institutions.

16. At the beginning of April 2007, a seminar was conducted in the Ministry of Social Affairs at the proposal of the working group in which Finnish colleagues presented methods of surveying violence at home. During the one-day seminar, it was discussed how to measure domestic violence, how to conduct interviews, how to monitor the quality of the survey, and how to compare data on the international level. In addition, presentations were made regarding surveys conducted in Finland and other countries, and plans were discussed for conducting a survey of violence in intimate relationships in Estonia.

17. At the very beginning, it was decided to divide the survey into two parts: studying falling victim to crime, and violence in intimate relationships. To work out the first half of the survey, it was decided to use the victimization survey coordinated earlier by the Ministry of Justice, and to guarantee the comparability of assessments with previous years.

18. Since a survey of violence in intimate relationships had never been conducted in Estonia before, focus was primarily directed towards developing the methodology of the

survey and the questionnaire. To create the questionnaire, the following international surveys were used as examples:

(a) survey by Statistics Canada, which has been conducted every five years since 1993. The interview method used is the telephone-interview;

(b) survey by the Office for National Statistics of the United Kingdom, which has been carried out each year since 1996. The interview method is CASI;

(c) survey by Statistics Finland, which was carried out in 1997 and 2005. The interview method is postal survey;

(d) in addition, material of surveys conducted in the USA, Australia, New Zealand and Netherlands was used, as well as international surveys conducted by World Health Organisation (WHO) and European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control. In the latter, the method used was face-to-face interviews.

19. In February 2008, the purpose of the survey and the methodology was introduced in Statistics Estonia's Population and Social Statistics Research Council.

20. At the beginning of 2008 the pilot safety survey was carried out, after which the final questionnaire for the Safety Survey was completed, consisting of two questionnaires:

(a) questionnaire on falling victim to crime,

(b) questionnaire on intimate partner abuse.

21. When preparing the questionnaire on falling victim to crime, previous victim surveys coordinated by the Ministry of Justice were relied upon.

22. Questions from the questionnaire on falling victim to crime, by topics:

(a) The detailed block of questions intended for victims regarding all crimes – frequency of occurrence, notification of police and reasons for not notifying, satisfaction with police actions;

(b) Questions about victim support, safety of the physical and social environment and the use of security methods;

(c) Questions on falling victim to fraud and on corruption;

(d) Background characteristics of the respondent and his/her household, including questions for filtering out intimate relationship experience about the respondent (screening questions), in order to determine the need to complete the second half of the survey.

23. The intimate partner abuse section of the interview was conducted with those respondents who were in intimate relationships or had been in intimate relationships. An intimate relationship is a relationship with a sexual undertone that need not involve sexual intercourse. The respondent's intimate relationship experience was clarified during the first part of the survey (screening questions) and he/she was not aware of the purpose of those questions. With the aid of questions, the persons with intimate relationship experience, who are/were married, are/were cohabiting or who have/had an intimate relationship with a person with whom they did not live together, were filtered out.

24. When developing the intimate partner abuse questionnaire, the principle that one general behavioural question provides fewer positive answers than numerous specific questions was taken into consideration. Therefore, it was decided that questions for the filtering out the experience with violence (screening questions) should be based on Straus's Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS), the validity and reliability of which have been repeatedly

proved. In order to increase validity and comparability, it was decided to use questions from previous questionnaires, when possible, for detailed questions.

25. Intimate partner abuse questionnaire questions:

(a) Questions for filtering out intimate partner abuse experience (screening questions);

(b) Detailed questions regarding the frequency of incidents, degree of offence and last event;

(c) Assessments on the distribution of intimate partner abuse in the society.

26. In order to reduce measurement errors, it was important that questionnaire's questions function purposefully. The questionnaires were not tested prior to the pilot survey; only a few cognitive interviews were conducted regarding the intimate partner abuse questionnaire. Detailed feedback was collected during the course of the pilot survey. Since no method of feedback collection allows for all types of measurement errors to be covered, all methods of feedback collection, which were practically possible without additional expenditures, were implemented.

### III. Sampling

27. The Safety Survey was a sample survey, which means that the population was assessed based on data collected from the sample. The object of the survey was a person. The survey sample was formulated based on the Population Register, using stratified systematic sampling.

28. The population was 1,035,596 persons, which was divided by region (three groups), gender and age (three groups) into a total of 18 strata.

29. There were 7,500 persons in the initial sample. In order to avoid the burden of respondents, those who had participated in previous Statistics Estonia's surveys were excluded. The final sample size turned out to be 7,267 persons.

30. The pilot survey conducted during the spring 2008 showed that the response rate is greatest among older people and varies by regions. Therefore, the inclusion probability depends on gender, age and region.

31. In order to generalize the results of the survey for the population, a corresponding weight was found for each respondent. The calculating of weights was comprised of the following stages:

(a) calculation of the design weights;

(b) non-response adjustment;

(c) calibration.

#### A. Design weights

32. Design weights are inversely proportional to the inclusion probabilities, i.e., design weight is found using a formula:  $dh = Nh/nh$ , where  $Nh$  is the number of 15–74-year-old people in the population in stratum  $h$  and  $nh$  is the sample size in stratum  $h$ . Weight  $dh$  indicates how many population objects the person belonging to the sample represents. A design weight is given to all sample persons (respondents as well as non-respondents).

## B. Non-response adjustments

33. In sample surveys, there is always a certain non-response, which results in bias of estimates. The logistical regression model was used for calculating the person response probability  $r_i$ , the independent variables of which were county group, gender, age and level of urbanization.

34. For non-response adjustment, the design weight of respondents was adjusted according to response probability, using a formula  $c_i = d_i / r_i$ .

## C. Calibration

35. The first stages of weight calculation failed to produce such a group distribution which would have precisely corresponded to the population distribution. In order to adjust for differences, the weights obtained from prior stages were calibrated with population numbers in the following categories: gender \* age group (intervals of five years), place of residence (county and Tallinn separately), level of urbanization (place of residence in the urban or rural area). In the Safety Survey, the basis for calibration was the size of the population of 15–74 year olds in the Statistical Database (as of 1 January 2008), from which, according to the data of the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Justice, the number of persons housed in institutions (for example, prison, children's home and care home) was deducted. Technical calibration took place using the software Bascula.

## IV. Pilot survey

36. In order to test questionnaire's relevance, the method and organisation of data collection, and the suitability of interviewers' training, a pilot survey was conducted in February and March 2008. Areas were selected in such a manner that respondents would be Estonians and non-Estonians and from the urban and rural areas, with preference given to areas where the level of falling victim to crime was higher.

37. The quota sample ordered for this, which included 416 persons, was used in the pilot survey. It was planned to question a total of 200 persons during the course of fieldwork. The survey was organised in five survey areas; the sample volume in each area was fixed (quotas) according to gender and age.

38. The number of respondents to the falling victim to crime questionnaire was 199; a total of 290 persons were contacted. The general response rate was 69 per cent.

39. The intimate partner abuse questionnaire was answered by 168 persons. 22 left it unanswered, of which 13 were men and 9 women.

40. Feedback was asked from respondents (respondent debriefing), as well as from interviewers (interviewer debriefing). Respondents were asked for feedback regarding both questionnaires immediately following the presentation of the main questionnaire's questions.

41. The feedback questions on the falling victim to crime questionnaire covered:

(a) the respondents' attitude towards the questionnaire and questions – whether the topic was too delicate, whether the questionnaire was tiring;

(b) errors in meta memory – respondents' previous opinion that no crime has been committed;

(c) incidents on which data had not been presented or had been presented misleadingly – the description of the same incident under several questions, failing to describe the incident, telescoping effect (describing events that took place more than three years ago).

42. Feedback on the security questionnaire was requested at the end of the questionnaire. Questions covered the ease of use of the entry programme and the respondent's prior contact with computers.

43. Interviewer feedback dealt with training and interviewing. Feedback on training was collected on the basis of a standard questionnaire on the last day of training. The interviewer had the opportunity to make notations next to each question on the questionnaire, if he or the respondent was unclear about something in relation to the question. The interviewer was also able to write notes in the space at the end of the questionnaire.

44. In the self-completed questionnaire, the feedback questions for the interviewer were added to the main questionnaire separately as blocks, in which data were collected about whether and how self-completed questionnaires were completed.

45. After each interview the interviewers also completed a feedback questionnaire, in which there were:

(a) evaluation scales for the most important questions – whether and what type of problems occurred, as well as the frequency of the occurrence of problems;

(b) open questions mainly regarding the completion of the self-completed questionnaire.

46. Debated in focus groups with interviewers immediately following the end of fieldwork were questions which, based on interviewer feedback, proved to be the most problematic. General organisation of the survey and training were also discussed.

47. According to the feedback from the pilot survey and an analysis of survey results, changes were made in the training of interviewers and questionnaires. Among other things, the previous name of the survey was changed from "Victim and Violence Survey" to the more neutral "Safety Survey".

48. In the questionnaire concerning falling victim to crime, it was decided to shorten the reference period and request data about incidents that took place during the last 12 months.

49. It was also decided to amend the wording of some of the questions and definitions (for example, clarification questions on intimate relationship experience, definition of abuse, questions about notifying the police, details related to robberies, etc.) and to specify some questions.

50. In the questionnaire covering the intimate partner abuse, questions were elaborated in order to differentiate between terror and everyday bickering. A question was added to the end of the survey in order to clarify the distribution of intimate partner abuse as a problem in the society. In order to ensure the safety of the respondent and the interviewer fake questionnaires were prepared, which are to be given to the violently acting partner of the respondent, if necessary. Even though these questionnaires were not needed during the pilot survey, it was decided to use the same safety method in the main survey.

51. You may find more information in 2009 Safety Survey Methodology Report <http://www.stat.ee/dokumendid/50566>.

## V. Interviewer training

52. In order to organise the intimate partner abuse survey, the standard training of interviewers – where they are trained to be familiar with the questionnaire and conduct interviews – does not suffice. Interviewers must be familiar with intimate partner abuse and relate to those being interviewed without judgement and with empathy. In order to achieve this, training is required in which intimate partner abuse and its effects on victims, intimate partner abuse related myths and ensuring the safety of themselves, as well as of those being interviewed, are covered. This is why it was decided to include psychologists, counsellors and people working with victims in the training of interviewers.

53. After the analysis of the pilot survey training, it was decided to reduce the theoretical and increase the practical part; thus the training of interviewers before the main survey was comprised of the following parts:

- (a) introduction to the organisation of the survey and fieldwork;
- (b) introduction to the questionnaire of falling victim to crime and practical exercises;
- (c) introduction to the questionnaire of intimate partner abuse and practical exercises;
- (d) overview of the distribution of family violence, its nature and the opportunities for providing assistance;
- (e) overview of the ensuring of safety during the interview.

54. During the course of practical training all interviewers conducted an interview with sample respondents, who provided answers according to legend agreed upon previously.

55. During the organisation of the survey, opportunities were thoroughly analysed on how to ensure the safety of the interviewer and the respondent. The interview is not meant to place the safety in jeopardy, increase the likelihood of future violence or deepen emotional trauma.

56. The interviewers must also be able to cope with their own emotions. Therefore, interviewers were taught to pay attention to the following:

(a) If possible, the interview is to be conducted without a third person present in the room. Eighty-eight per cent of interviews were conducted in this manner. Conducting the interview in private was especially important due to the intimate partner abuse questionnaire. Even so, 6.5 per cent of the spouses or partners of respondents with intimate relationship experience were also present during at least the first part of the survey. In order to ensure privacy, it was possible to have conducted the interview elsewhere, away from the home of the respondent. This opportunity was used by interviewers in 10 per cent of interviews.

(b) Respondents are to be given special leaflets with crisis telephone numbers and the contact information for shelters.

(c) When introducing the survey, the part on intimate partner abuse is not to be discussed.

(d) It is recommended that familiar people not be questioned. Therefore, interviewers could be switched between rural areas.

## VI. Interview method

57. The interview method used in the survey was Computer-Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) and a Computer-Assisted Self-Interview (CASI). Since 2005, Statistics Estonia has been using a laptop computer in face-to-face interviews. In an exceptional situation (for safety reasons, due to technical breakdown, or other such reason) the interviewer is allowed to use a paper questionnaire. General rules also applied during the completion of the first part of the Safety Survey. 98.3 per cent of interviews were conducted by interviewers using a laptop computer; a paper questionnaire was used in only 1.7 per cent of interviews.

## VII. Results

58. Three fourths of the 15–74-year-olds with intimate relationship experience are of the opinion that intimate partner abuse is so widespread that it can be regarded a problem of the whole Estonian society. However, not all persons on whom physical injuries have been inflicted as a result of intimate partner abuse look upon intimate partner abuse as a problem of Estonian society. Also, not all persons consider the last similar incident experienced by them as a case of intimate partner abuse or offence. International surveys have also suggested that often enough persons having committed an act of violence consider themselves victims and victims accuse themselves of having provoked the violence directed against them. According to the estimations of experts, couples with violence problems do not seek professional help often enough. It is more than obvious that ignorance and inability to look upon intimate partner abuse as a problem, in case of which the persons involved should seek help, facilitate the occurrence of it.

59. Violence is a problem which is possible to solve. If we can handle this problem without taking sides, if we are aware of the extent and causes thereof, then we are also able to help the persons who experience such problems. But talks about intimate partner abuse are associated with several myths which make impartial acknowledgement of intimate partner abuse as a problem and the analysis thereof more difficult.

60. It is rather complicated to estimate the extent of intimate partner abuse, because accusing attitudes towards the victim and the fear of consequences which the disclosure of the act of violence may lead to causes a situation where a lot of victims do not testify in public their experiences of violence. The victims also do not always acknowledge their partner's violent behaviour, this is especially so in case of mental violence. According to the Survey conducted in 2009, a half of the 15–74-year-olds stated that they had at least once in their life been exposed to intimate partner abuse, 39% had been exposed to mental abuse, a third to physical abuse and 4 per cent to sexual intimate partner abuse since the age of 15. More than a half have repeatedly been exposed to intimate partner abuse, almost a fifth (18 per cent) — for more than five times.

61. In a year, one couple out of ten experiences violence in their relationship and as little as a half of them experience mental intimate partner abuse only. The extent of intimate partner abuse is similar in cities and in rural areas, in county centres and small villages. No discrepancies can be detected in exposure to different types of intimate partner abuse either. Similarly, both Estonians and non-Estonians have been exposed to intimate partner abuse, although non-Estonians have asserted an escalating exposure to mental intimate partner abuse in the recent year.

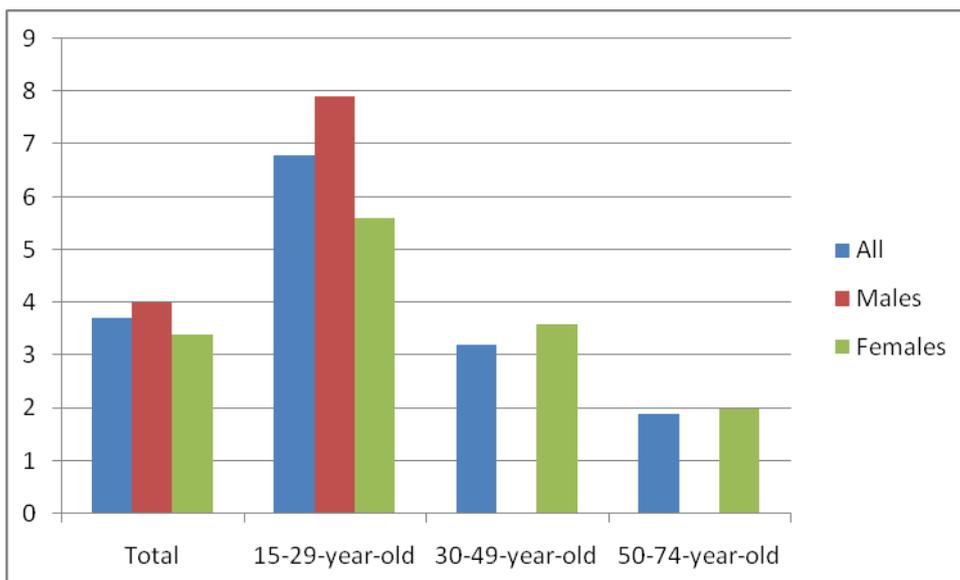
62. Intimate partner abuse has been experienced by spouses who live in a common-law relationship as well as by those who are in intimate relationship but do not cohabit. Every twentieth of the persons with the intimate partner abuse experience during the past five years had already broken up with their partner when the last incident of violence took place;

about a third (29 per cent) did not cohabit with their partner any longer although their relationship had not broken up. The rest were in cohabitation: 37 per cent in a common-law marriage and 28 per cent married. By the time when the last incident occurred, a fourth of respondents reported that they had been living together their partner for more than five years, and a third — from one to five years.

63. Having children in the family does not reduce the risk of falling victim to intimate partner abuse. Partners who have suffered intimate partner abuse rather belong to households with children: every tenth 15–74-year-old person living in a household with children has been exposed to mental intimate partner abuse and about the same number of persons (7 per cent) have also fallen victim to physical intimate partner abuse. In households without children, the share of persons with such an experience is almost twice as small (5 per cent and 4 per cent, respectively).

64. Over the last year, physical intimate partner abuse was experienced by 46,800 persons. A half of them had episodes of minor physical violence — the partner threw something at them that could hurt them, pushed or shoved or slapped them. Over the last five years, 16 per cent of the 15–74-year-olds with intimate relationship experience had experienced one type of physical violence, but every tenth had already experienced at least two types, every twentieth — at least three types, and 3 per cent at least four types of physical violence in their intimate relationship.

Figure 1  
**Men and women subject to physical violence in the last 12 months by age**  
 (percentage).



65. According to data of the Estonian Security Survey 2009 3.7 per cent of persons have been victims of the physical assault during the last 12 months. 4 per cent of men and 3.4 per cent of women have been victims of the physical assault. Significant share of the victims of the physical assault are the young (15–29-year-old) men. 7.9 per cent of them have been assaulted when the share of the women of the same age is 5.6 per cent. The share of all the persons in this age group assaulted physically during the last 12 months is 6.8 per cent. The rate of the assaulted persons decreases in older age groups. In age group 30-49 it decreases to 3.2 per cent and in age group 50-74 it decreases below 2 per cent. Although there are no sufficient male respondents in the survey that would provide reliable data for males above

30 years, it may be asserted that there are slightly more women in these age groups who have been assaulted.

66. About two thirds (2.3 per cent) of the assaulted people experience threatening, the rest of them (1.4 per cent) experience physical violence. The share of women is higher among those who have been threatened and males experience more physical violence.

Figure 2

**Men and women subject to physical violence in the last 12 months by severity of the violence**

(percentage)

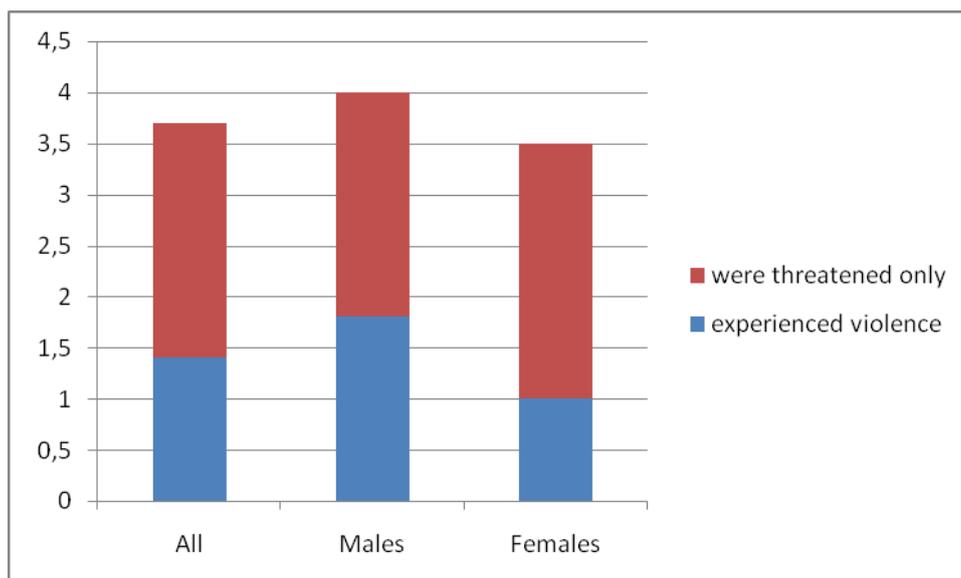
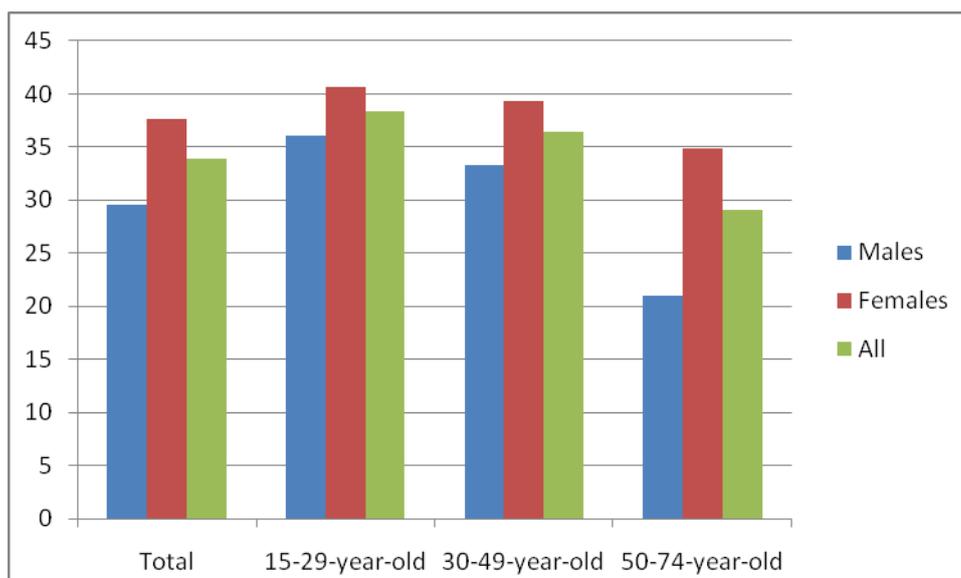


Figure 3

**Men and women subject to physical violence by intimate partner since the age of 15 by age group**

(percentage)

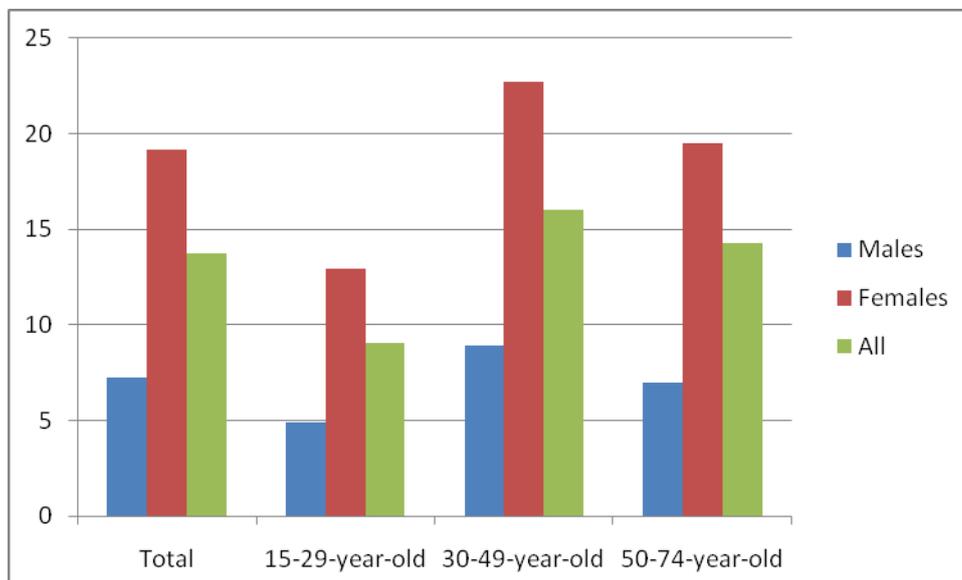


67. The most common physical violence between intimate partners is slapping, 23 per cent of people have experienced it (males 22.5 per cent and females 23.5 per cent). The slapping with hand is most common violence experienced by men. The most common violence that is experienced by women is pushing so that she gets hurt. 28 per cent of women have experienced that.

68. The severe violence of the intimate partner, i.e. hitting with a fist or hard object, battering, strangling, choking, burning, attacking with a weapon or object that could be used as a weapon or forcing to sexual intercourse either by threatening or by physical force since the age of 15 are experienced by 14 per cent of the inhabitants with intimate partnership experience. 7 per cent of males and almost three times more (19 per cent) of women among them. These cases are more common in age group 30-49. 9 per cent of men and 23 per cent of women in this age group have experienced severe violence by intimate partner.

Figure 4.

**Men and women subject to severe physical violence by intimate partner since the age 15 by age group**  
(percentage)



69. The severe physical violence has been experienced by 1.6 per cent of men and 10.4 per cent of women. In addition 4.9 per cent of females have experienced at least once strangling, choking or burning by intimate partner. 1.4 per cent have experienced attack by knife, other sharp object or shooting and 6.8 per cent of them have been forced to sexual intercourse by intimate partner. Among males last indices are too low to get reliable results from the survey.

70. In Estonian Security Survey 2009 there were only questions of verbal and physical harassment experienced by all males and females that are related to sexual violence. Questions on raping were asked only in case of incidents that are related to intimate partnership.

71. About 4.4 per cent of Estonian 15-74-year-old inhabitants experience harassment every year. 1.9 per cent of them are males and 6.6 per cent females. The highest rate of those who have been harassed is among younger persons i.e. in age 15-29. Later on this indicator decreases significantly. 14.4 per cent of women and 3 per cent of men experience

harassment in younger age groups. 2 per cent of the population have experienced physical harassment, and 3.6 per cent verbal harassment. 5.5 per cent of women and 1.4 per cent of men per year have experienced the latter. 3 per cent of females experience also physical harassment (mostly younger women). The data of the survey are not sufficient to give reliable information on how many men fall into physical harassment but it can be asserted that they are also younger persons in general.

Figure 5

**Men and women subject to sexual harassment in the last 12 months by age**

(percentage)

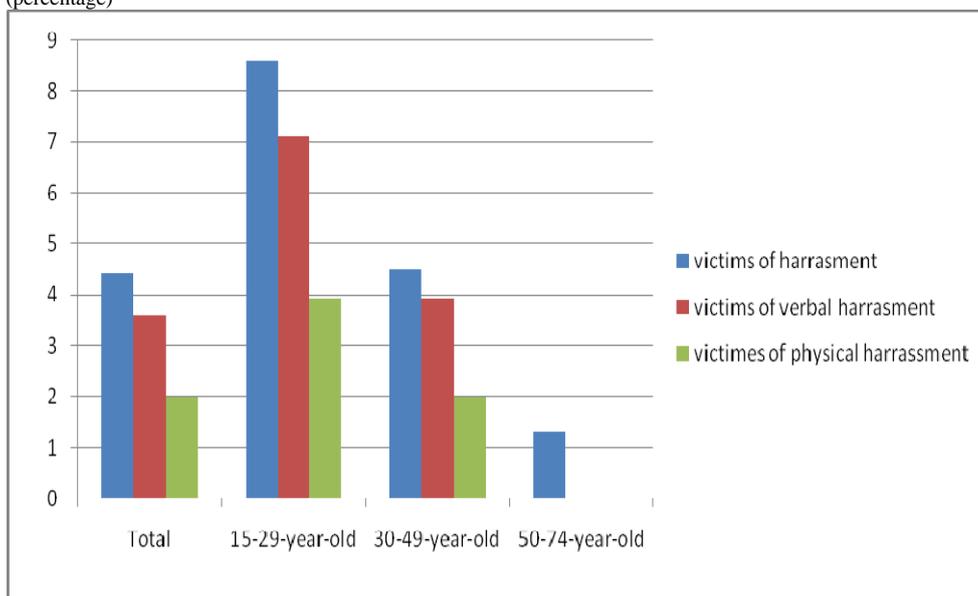
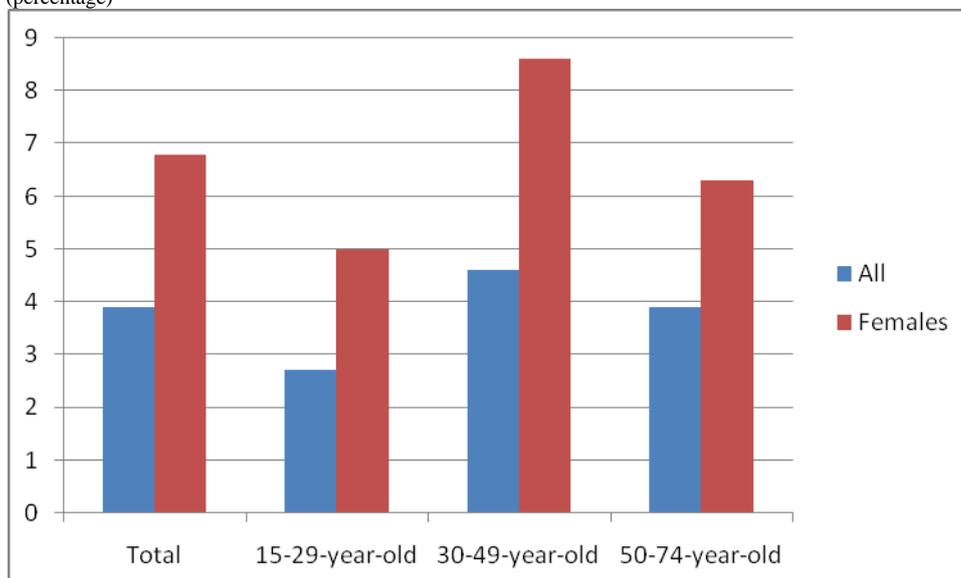


Figure 6

**Women subject to forced sexual intercourse by partner in the last 12 months by age**

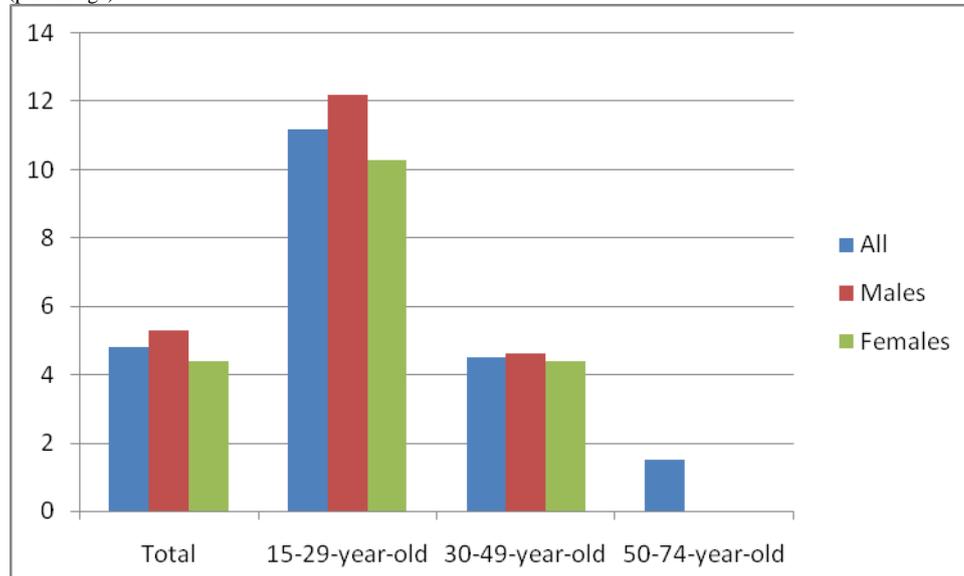
(percentage)



72. According to the survey, mostly females have been forced either by threatening or by force in sexual intercourses by their intimate partner. Although also males have experienced that, their share is significantly lower. The biggest rate of the victims of forced sexual intercourse is among middle-aged females. 8.6 per cent of them are subject to forced

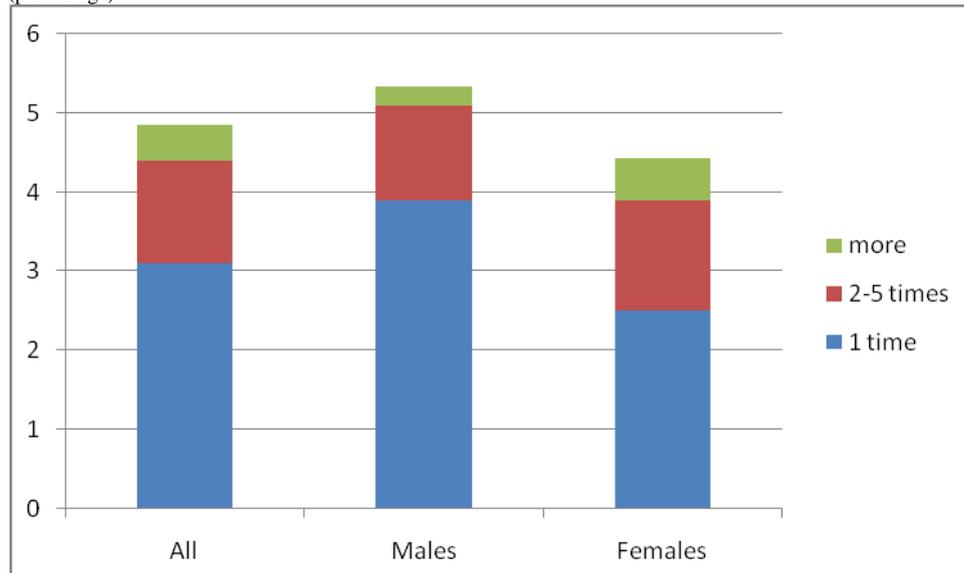
intercourse by intimate partner. Unlike the rate of harassment, the share of females subject to rape is the lowest (5 per cent) in younger age groups.

Figure 7  
**Men and women subject to sexual and/or physical violence by current or former intimate partner since the age of 15 by age group**  
 (percentage)



73. The share of both males and females who have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by intimate partner is 4.8 per cent, of whom 5.3 per cent are males and 4.4 per cent females. The bigger share of these individuals subject to this indicator is in younger age group which means that either older people do not remember these incidents or the share of the victims has increased significantly during the years.

Figure 8  
**Ever-partnered men and women subject to sexual and/or physical violence by current or former intimate partner in the last 12 months by frequency**  
 (percentage)



74. 5.3 per cent of males and 4.4 per cent of females are subject to sexual and/or physical violence in the last 12 months. Most of them have experienced that one time, but 1.7 per cent have experienced it repeatedly and 0.4 per cent even six times or more.

Figure 9

**Ever-partnered men and women subject to sexual and/or physical violence by current or former intimate partner since the age of 15 by age group**

(percentage)

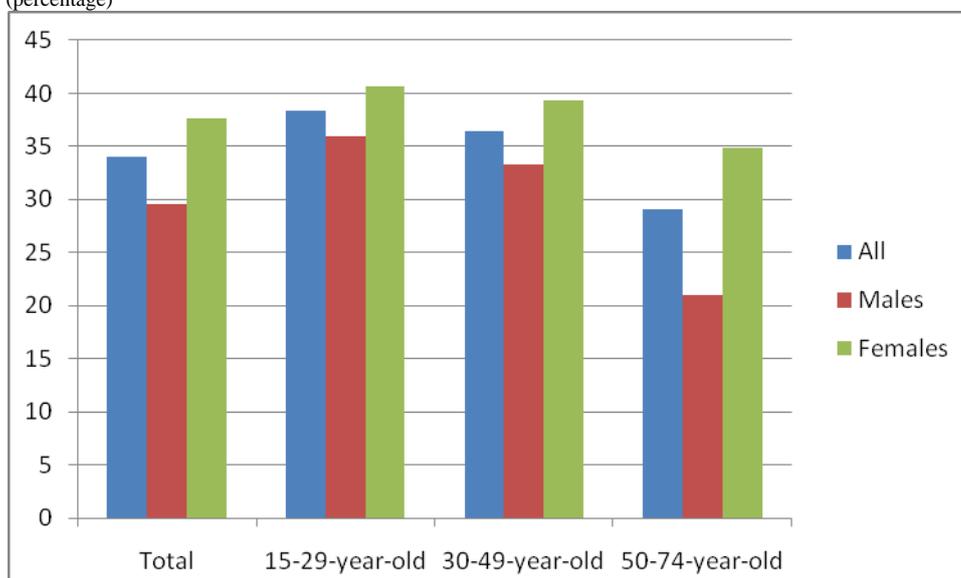
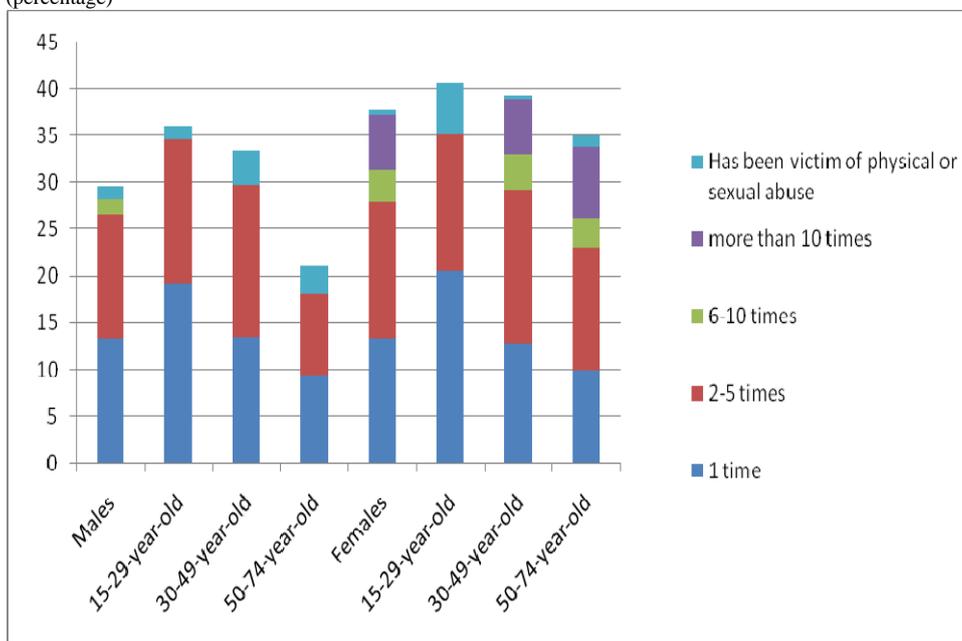


Figure 10

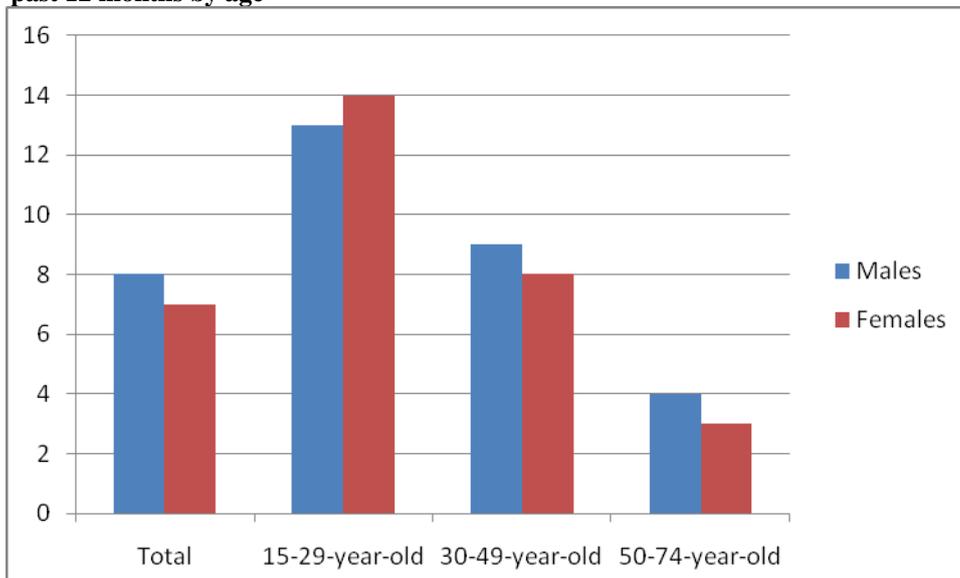
**Ever-partnered men and women subject to sexual and/or physical violence by current or former intimate partner since the age of 15 by frequency**

(percentage)



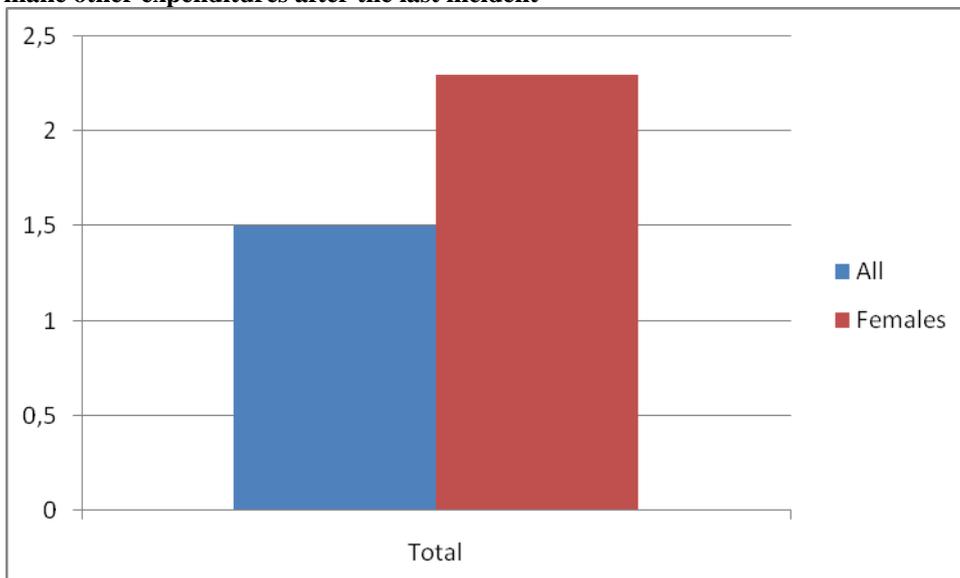
75. The share of physically or sexually abused persons is higher in younger age groups. But compared to the males there are also much higher rate of the elderly women who have experienced (or who remember) their incidences in their youth.

Figure 11  
**Men and women subject to psychological violence by the intimate partner in the past 12 months by age**



76. 8 per cent of men and 7 per cent of women admit that they have experienced physical violence during last 12 months. In older age groups, their share decreases, and in older groups there are more males who experience psychological violence.

Figure 12  
**Persons who had to buy medicaments, new clothes or other things to replace broken ones or had to make other expenditures after the last incident**



77. A total of 1.5 per cent of people have had to make expenditures after the last incident. Most individuals who have had to spend some money after the last incident are females (2.3 per cent), and usually it happens with the middle-aged females.

78. Violence should not be an inherent part of intimate relationship. However, over a year, one couple out of ten experiences intimate partner abuse and only a half of them are exposed to only mental intimate partner abuse. Inasmuch as intimate relationship involves

two partners, it is natural that both partners have equally experienced it. Nevertheless, men mostly suffer minor violence, and women – more severe and repeated violence: for example, over a half of the women who had been exposed to physical intimate partner abuse had suffered more severe physical abuse – their partner had hit them with a fist, beaten, strangled, choked or burned them, attacked with a weapon or forced them into a sexual intercourse. Therefore, physical injuries resulting from physical violence are different by men and women and 80% of men who have suffered physical violence in intimate relationship over the last five years got no physical injuries during the last such episode. Thus, intimate partner abuse is spread among women as well as men. Similarly, violent acts have been perpetrated by both men and women, but considerably more women suffer violence.

79. Intimate partner abuse can be encountered in urban as well as rural regions, in different social layers and in both better and worse coping families. Violence has been experienced by higher and lower educated people. Intimate partner abuse has been suffered by employed and unemployed persons, although the unemployed have to a larger extent been exposed to intimate partner abuse during the recent year.

## **VIII. Conclusions**

80. The survey module provides an overview of the spread and influences of the intimate partners' violence. The results of the survey show that the violence in partnership relations is a serious and widespread problem in Estonia. Seventy-five per cent of the respondents admitted that in Estonian society there are problems with intimate partner abuses. The survey indicated also to several similarities in men's and women's subjection to violence in partnership relations but it showed also a lot of differences how they perceive violence on them.

81. However, the survey module gives data on incidents of the physical and or sexual violence of the intimate partner and gives information on cohabitation with a partner, use of alcohol or drugs and results of the incidents. It does not include detailed questions on violent partner's profile as well as questions on witnesses' profile. The questionnaire does not include any questions on habits of the alcohol and drug use of the partners as well as questions on cause of the violence. There lacks also a possibility to distinct clearly whether the respondent is victim or attacker to whom the partner offered resistance.

82. Although the questionnaire was not yet enough detailed to analyse all the desired aspects of the intimate partner abuses, its importance on mapping the spread of the violence in intimate partner relations cannot be underestimated. Its importance should also be seen in raising the awareness of the existence and nature of the intimate partner violence as well as sharing the information of the helpful institutions and contacts in Estonia. The survey also provided a needful experience and solid ground for the further researches in this topic. The next Security Survey together with intimate partner's violence module will be conducted by Statistics Estonia in 2013.

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