

Chapter 3

Key Facts on Violence Against Women in Seychelles

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Some key facts on VAW in Seychelles are presented here. They are excerpted from a national baseline survey, review of literature and statistics, an expert group consultation and focus group discussion.

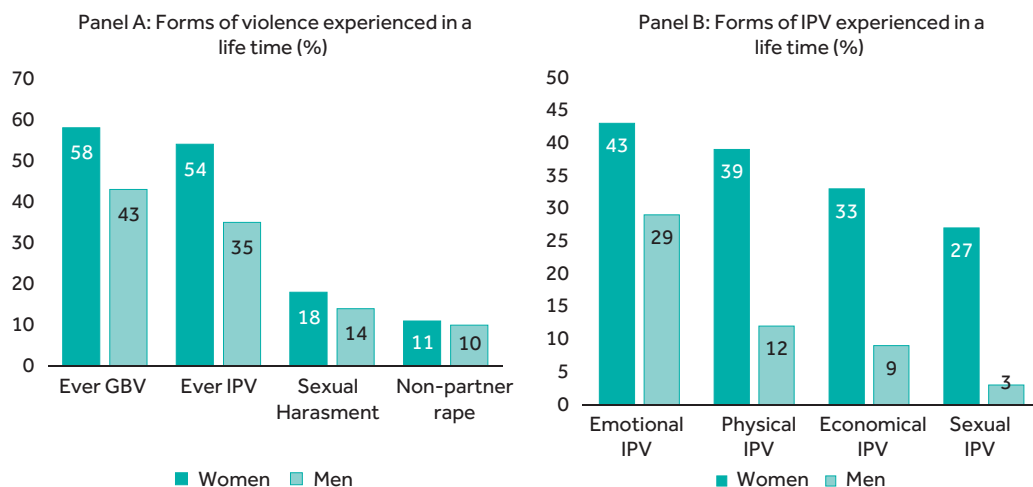
3.1 National baseline study

One of key data sources for Seychelles was the baseline survey conducted by Gender Links in collaboration with the Department of Family Affairs (Gender Links 2016). The study reported a high prevalence rate. The total sample size was 1,109: 578 women and 531 men. A survey instrument containing 300 plus questions was used to gather information from the sample respondents.

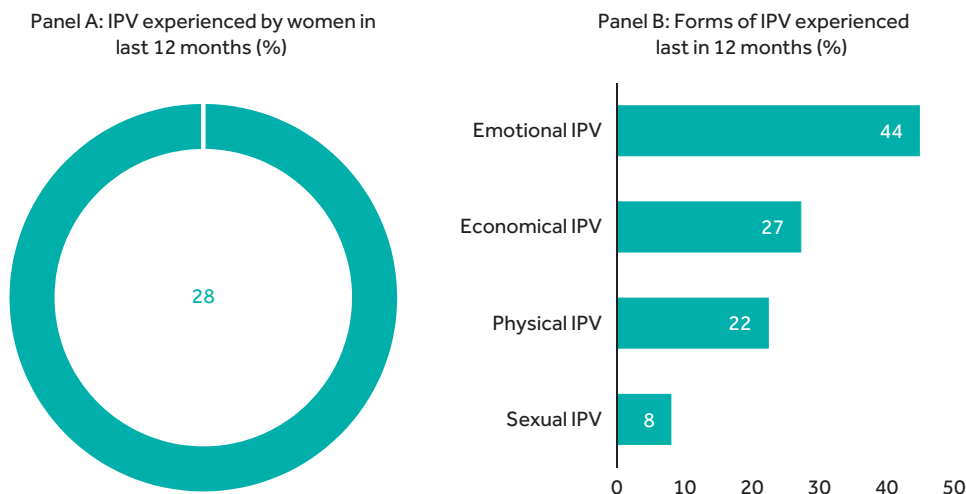
Some of the findings included:

- That high prevalence rates were found for both women and men. However, the prevalence rates were much higher for women

Figure 3.1 Forms of violence and IPV experienced in a life time (national baseline study)



Source: National baseline study (2016).

Figure 3.2 IPV experienced in last 12 months (national baseline study)

Source: National base study (2016).

compared to men. GBV against women was 58 per cent, while 54 per cent experienced intimate partner violence (IPV).

- The life time experience of sexual harassment and non-partner rape by women were respectively 18 per cent and 11 per cent.
- IPV experienced by women during the previous 12 months was reported by 28 per cent of respondents. This rate forms an important parameter for the costing framework. IPV experienced during the previous 12 months by four different forms revealed diverse rates. The highest rate was emotional IPV experienced by 44 per cent of women, followed by economical IPV experienced by 27 per cent. Thirty per cent of the women reported experiencing physical and sexual IPV. These two rates (i.e. physical and sexual) are also part of the parameter group.

Other VAW-related key facts

1. Eighteen per cent of women and 14 per cent of men experienced sexual harassment, at school, the workplace or in public places.
2. Of the 172 women (i.e. 30% of the sample) who had experienced physical IPV, 46 women (i.e. 27%) reported sustained injuries, resulting in a total of 21 women (i.e. 12%) being bedridden.
3. The average number of days bedridden was three.
4. Almost 39 per cent of women took days off from work due to injuries they sustained.
5. The average number of days forgone was five.
6. There was serious under-reporting of violence.

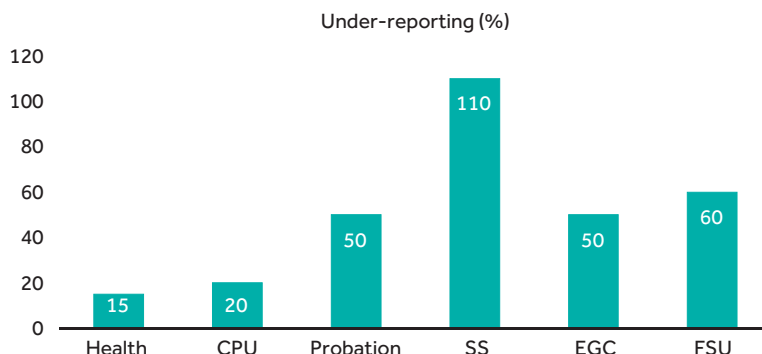
3.2 Administrative data

Governments, as well as non-government agencies, are usually responsible for addressing the GBV in a country. Administrative records or data thus constitute a highly important source of information for estimating the cost of violence. Seychelles is no exception. The following agencies were found to be involved in addressing GBV in Seychelles:

Agency	Support Service Areas
A. Government agency	
1. Department of Family Affairs	Policy and strategy formulation; awareness and training
2. Family tribunal	Law and justice; and protection
3. Family support unit	Shelter, protection and counselling
4. Police	Prevention and protection
4.1. Child protection unit	Protection
4.2. Family squad	Protection
5. Ministry of Health	Treatment and counselling
6. Ministry of Education	Education, monitoring and counselling
6.1. Children welfare unit	Monitoring, awareness and counselling
B. Non-governmental organisations/ civil society organisations	Shelter, awareness and counselling

Key observations:

- Data/statistics were not compiled properly to allow cases related to GBV to be identified.
- Information collection and generation processes were not digitalised.
- Costs of various services extended by government were not readily available.
- Agency-level annual budgets were not readily available.
- Proportion of agency staff and resources devoted to addressing GBV was not readily available.
- Loss of learning time at primary and secondary schools was reported to be high, in the range to 10 to 25 per cent (primary and secondary schools in Praslin).
- Addressing GBV in the workplace did not yet constitute an activity by the relevant agencies (Ministry of Labour and Employment).
- Under-reporting of actual events (Seychelles National Bureau of Statistics).

Figure 3.3 Extent of under-reporting (expert group consultation)

Source: Second in country mission.

Note: CPU = central planning unit; SS = social services (Praslin); EGC = expert group consultation; and FSU = family support unit.

3.3 Expert group consultation

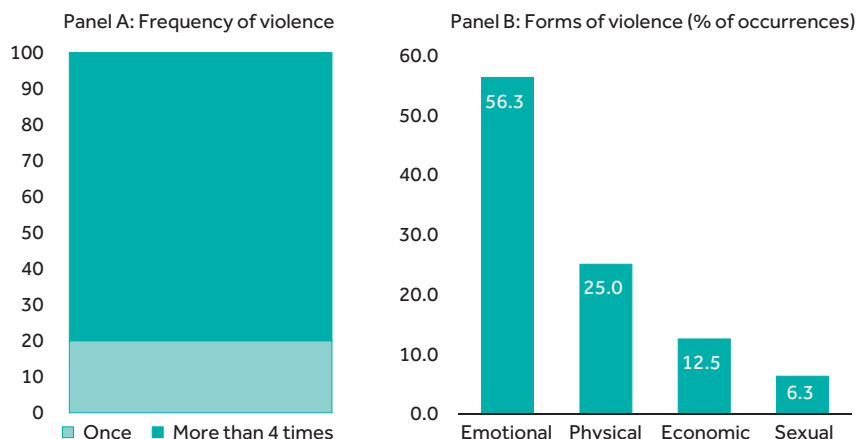
As part of information collection as well for validation, an expert group consultation was arranged during the second mission (February–March 2018). Among others, the expert group also validated the findings of the extent of under-reporting by various government agencies. This is reported in Figure 3.3.

3.4 Focus group discussion with survivors

Estimating the cost of VAW is data demanding. In most countries, the required data are not readily available; Seychelles is no exception in this respect. Various approaches have been attempted to gather new information, as well as to cover the obvious data gaps. Reviews of available administrative and survey data identified several gaps which needed be filled from different sources. One important and perhaps reliable source is to gather information from violence survivors. A focus group discussion (FGD) with 12 survivors was conducted by the Family Affairs Department, with support from the project during the February–March mission. Key findings of the FGD are provided below.

Key characteristics of the respondents

- Age – mean: 43; minimum: 27; maximum: 54
- Employment – employed: 80%; self-employed: 10%; unemployed: 10%
- Have children below age 16 – No: 10%; Yes: 90%

Figure 3.4 Frequency and forms of violence (focus group discussion)

Source: FGD.

- *Number of children* – No child: 10%; 1 child: 30%; 2 children: 40%; 3 children: 20%
- *Percentage of survivors who sought help* – 20%

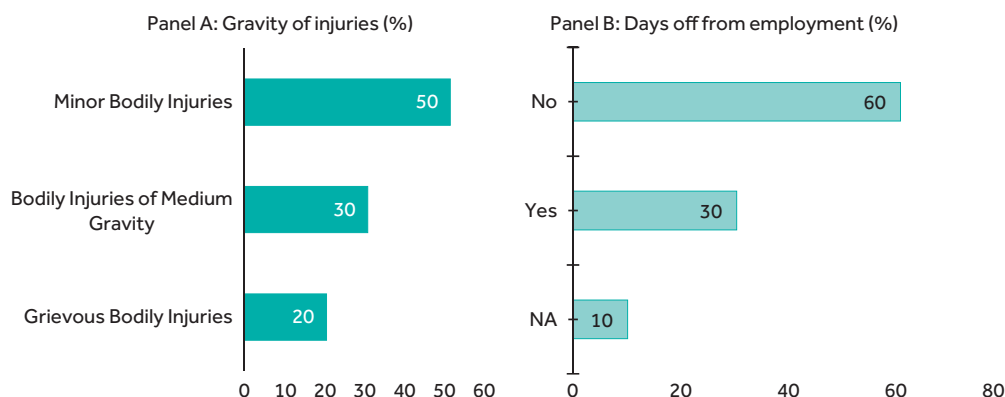
Frequency and forms of violence

A very important aspect of the VAW captured through the FGD was the high-frequency repeat victimisation which was not reported by the national GBV baseline survey. According to the FGD, 80 per cent of the respondents experienced violence more than four times during the 12-month time period. This was a key finding. Forms of violence were in line with findings of the national baseline survey, with emotional violence the most prominent (Figure 3.4).

Gravity of injury

Gravity of injuries has serious cost implications in terms of treatment and number of temporary incapacity days. Usually injuries are categorised into three types, depending on the extent of wound and required treatment: (i) minor bodily injuries; (ii) bodily injuries of medium gravity; and (iii) grievous bodily injuries. Twenty (20) per cent of respondents experienced grievous bodily injuries. For bodily injuries of medium gravity and minor bodily injuries, the respective figures were 30 and 50 per cent. This was important information for the costing exercise.

Thirty per cent of respondents took days off from employment due to injuries. The average number of days absent from work was around five (Figure 3.5).

Figure 3.5 Gravity of injury and days off from work (focus group discussion)

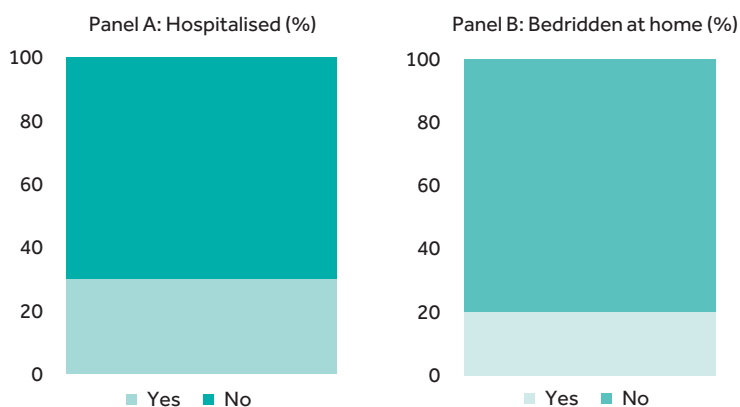
Source: FGD.

Bedridden due to injury

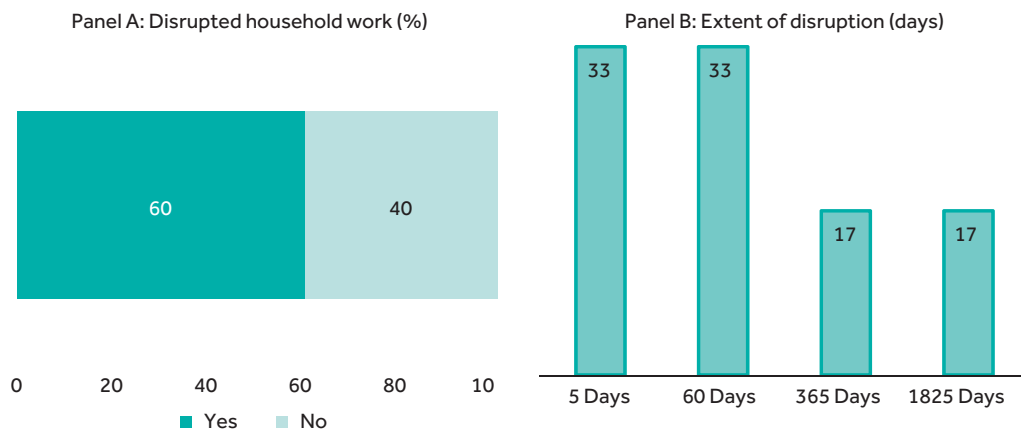
An inevitable outcome of grievous injuries is either hospitalisation or being bedridden at home. Thirty (30) per cent of respondents had to spend a night in hospital due to the gravity of injuries and 20 per cent were bedridden at home (Figure 3.6).

Household work

Violence usually disrupted household activities regularly performed by the survivors. Sixty (60) per cent of respondents said domestic violence had disrupted their household work. This was in line with global experiences. What was interesting was the extent of disruption. More than 30 per cent argued that the violence left long-lasting deleterious effects, resulting in

Figure 3.6 Bedridden (focus group discussion)

Source: FGD.

Figure 3.7 Disruption of household work (focus group discussion)

Source: FGD.

disruption of normal household work for more than 12 months. In terms of extent of disruption, 33 per cent said that 60 days of household work had been disrupted (Figure 3.7). On average, the hourly disruption rate in a typical day was five hours.

Reference

Gender Links (2016), 'Gender Based Violence: National Baseline Study in Seychelles', Johannesburg, South Africa, December.