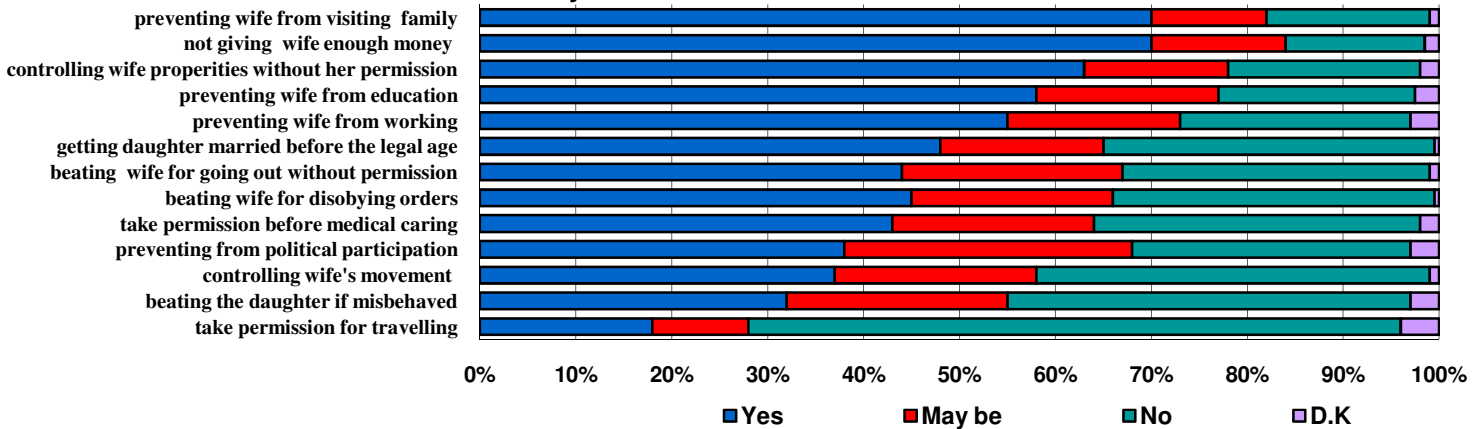


Violence Against Women - VAW

Introduction: CSO conducted Iraq Women Integrated Social and Health Survey (I-WISH) in July 2011 in cooperation with KRSO, ministry of health, ministry of woman affairs and other relevant public bodies, with support from United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and **Pan Arab** Population and Family Health Project (PAPFAM), as well as WHO, UN-Woman, UNICEF and UNDP. This survey is the first survey that addresses women issues on the basis of life cycle approach (adolescence, reproductive, after productive and elderly stages) from empowerment, health, reproductive health violence against women and other relevant social and health dimensions to establish a comprehensive database on Iraqi woman issues across life cycle. The innovation in I-WISH is the comprehensive approach beyond reproductive role of women, and the involvement of new modules on female adolescent and a module on man knowledge, perception and behavior in regard to women issues. The survey is based on a cluster multi-stage sample of 10,620 households derived from the listing frame of population census conducted in 2009. Following is the main findings on “Violence against women- VAW ”.

Perspective of VAW: The survey results indicated a gap between the international concept and Iraqi women concept on VAW. Although more than half Iraqi women agreed that not giving them enough money although it is available, preventing woman from visiting her family, preventing her from completing her education and preventing her from working is VAW, but most of them do not consider preventing woman from political participation, controlling her mobility by husband, beating daughters if they misbehaved as VAW. As for the source of VAW, 73 percent of women 15-45 years old reported that the main source is the husband, followed by father (53%), then other family members (43%), co-workers (20%), and health workers (18%).

Distribution of women 15-54 by their classification of selected behaviours as VAW



As for the place where women identified as a place exposed to VAW, the results confirmed that most of VAW incidents occur at home although they might be exposed to VAW in other places. The least incidents of VAW occurs in educational institutions and there are no differences by region. The main reason for the widely common VAW in Iraq according to women aged 15-54 years is due to the common misconceptions in cultures, misconception of families about ways of upbringing boys and girls, of religion, lack of awareness amongst men and women, lack of knowledge amongst women about their rights and women giving up and accepting violence. The results also confirmed that any effort for eradication of violence must start from home by changing behaviors and concepts of family members about women’s rights and by encouraging opposition of VAW.

Exposure to VAW: The survey reveals that according to zero tolerance approach, an important percentage of Iraqi women were victims of VAW during the past year in different places and by different people. About 46 percent of girls 10-14 years were exposed to violence at least once by a family member (father, mother, brother, sister) during the month preceded the survey. Furthermore, about 36% of currently married women were exposed at least to one of psychological/moral/emotional violence from husbands (e.g. preventing socialization, controlling movement, ignoring, not providing enough money, anger if talked to other man, etc), 23 percent to verbal violence (e.g insults, humiliation, intimidation, etc), while about 6 percent to physical violence (e.g. beating, pushing, etc).

Furthermore, 9 percent were exposed to sexual violence (e.g forced intercourse, humiliating sexual behavior, etc). In addition, about 23 percent of women 15-54 years reported to be exposed to any type of violence in the street/market against 11 percent in the transportation means, while 26% of women (55+) were exposed to emotional violence from family members.

Violence from Husband: During the year that preceded the survey, many women experienced violence from husband. About 6.5 percent of currently married women got married in an exchange way of marriage where the brother of the wife marries the husband's sister. This percentage is little higher in rural areas and in Kurdistan compared with other governorates. Ways of violence differs in its recurrence; for example, one-third of women who experienced physiological, physical or sexual violence were exposed to that more than once in a month. Concerning the impact of violence on the victims, the survey results showed that 2.3 percent of physical violence victims had been scratched, wounded or had some broses.

Less than 1 percent led to an eye, ear, deep injuries or led to broken bones or teeth miscarriages. Level of violence differs governorate; for example, in Al-Anbar 30 percent of men refuse to let the wife go to health cent without company. In Al-Qadesiah 40 percent of men insist to know where the wife is all the time, one-quarter of men in Diyala insulted their wives at least once during the year that preceded the survey, and one-fifth of married women in Missan were victims physical violence.

	Psychological violence %	Verbal violence %	Physical violence %
Prevent seeing friends	11.3	humiliation 15.1	Beating 5.4
Prevent seeing relatives	10.4	undermine 7.5	Physical threaten 0.3
Ignore her	12.0	disrespect 12.8	
Prevent from education	3.7	Insulting 10.1	

Violence in other places: One fifth of women 15-54 years reported to experience some kind of kinds of physical, verbal and sexual violence in the street, This percentage is higher in urban areas than rural areas and is less in Kurdistan than other districts in Iraq. Transportation means is the second place of violence (10.5%) and it is higher in urban areas than rural areas. The percentage is also higher in the Iraq other governorate when compared with Kurdistan region.

Assessment of official efforts to combat VAW: Women clearly noticed the effort made in KRG, where about four-fifths of the region have heard of KRG effort against VAW, followed by the organizations of civil society in Kurdistan.

while the rest of the governorates of Iraq; although the government issues a list of those who oppose VAW, but that is less than two thirds of women did not hear the government's efforts in this area. It was also noted the low prevalence of anti-violence interventions by the United Nations in the rest of Iraq governorates (26.2%) compared with its activity in the Kurdistan Region (61.1%) This applies on civil society organizations and international non-governmental organizations

	Percentage of women reported to hear about combating VAW				
	Iraq	Kurdistan	Other governorates	Urban	Rural
Government	39.2	80.4	31.5	39.7	38.0
United Nations	31.6	61.1	26.1	34.9	23.1
Civil society	30.8	64.0	24.7	33.9	22.8
International NGOs	23.8	56.8	17.6	26.7	16.0

Distribution of women by first shelter to think if exposed to VAW					
	Iraq	Other Gov	Kurdistan	urban	rural
Family	89.3	92.0	74.7	89.1	90.0
Friends	2.8	2.0	7.2	3.0	2.1
Police	2.8	2.0	7.0	2.9	2.5
Religious/civil leader	5.1	4.0	11.1	5.0	5.3
	100	100	100	100	100

Distribution of women by second shelter to think if VAW continued					
	Iraq	Other Gov	Kurdistan	urban	rural
Family	64.2	66.8	50.1	62.7	67.8
Friends	10.2	10.8	7.2	10.4	9.8
Police	14.6	13.2	22.4	15.8	11.7
Religious/civil leader	5.4	5.5	5.1	5.4	5.5
NGO	1.4	0.4	7.0	1.7	0.8
Media	4.1	3.3	8.4	4.1	4.2
Total	100	100	100	100	100

Shelter of VAW survivals: Family is considered as the first shelter for VAW survivals. Some women go to friends especially in Kurdistan and if VAW continues women go back again to families or police or to religious leader. In Kurdistan women go to police more than any other areas of Iraq. More than one-third of women 36.9 percent believe that women who are victims of VAW must go to the police and this percentage is higher in Kurdistan 48.9 percent comparing to other districts where 34.7 percent of women said that VAW victims must go to the police and In urban areas 38.7 percent of women think that VAW victims should go to the police while in rural areas only 32.4 percent of women agreed. It is remarkable that women trust the police as an authority to go to in case of VAW; it is higher in Kurdistan (61.6%) compared with other governorates (47.4%).

