

Understanding Gender-Based Violence among Adolescent Girls: Evidence, Risk Factors and Opportunities for Prevention

National Department of Health Knowledge Hub
Webinar: National Women's Month

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Research Council

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South African National GBV study 2022

Primary aim: To estimate the prevalence of various forms of GBV experienced and perpetrated by women and men aged *18 years and older* in South Africa

Multi-stage stratified random sampling design

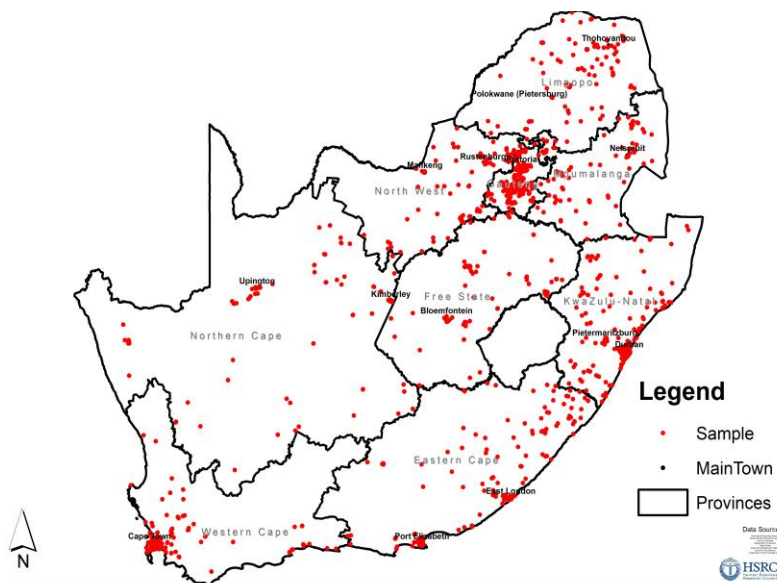
Small area layers (SALs) were stratified by province, race and locality type

A sample of 1 096 (SALs) was sampled from the national sampling frame of SALs

Half of the SALs (n=548) were for the women SALs and half for men SALs

Systematic random sample of 20 visiting points sampled in each SAL

Age domains reported: **18-24**, 25-34, 35-49, 50+



Prevalence

Quantifying GBV experiences

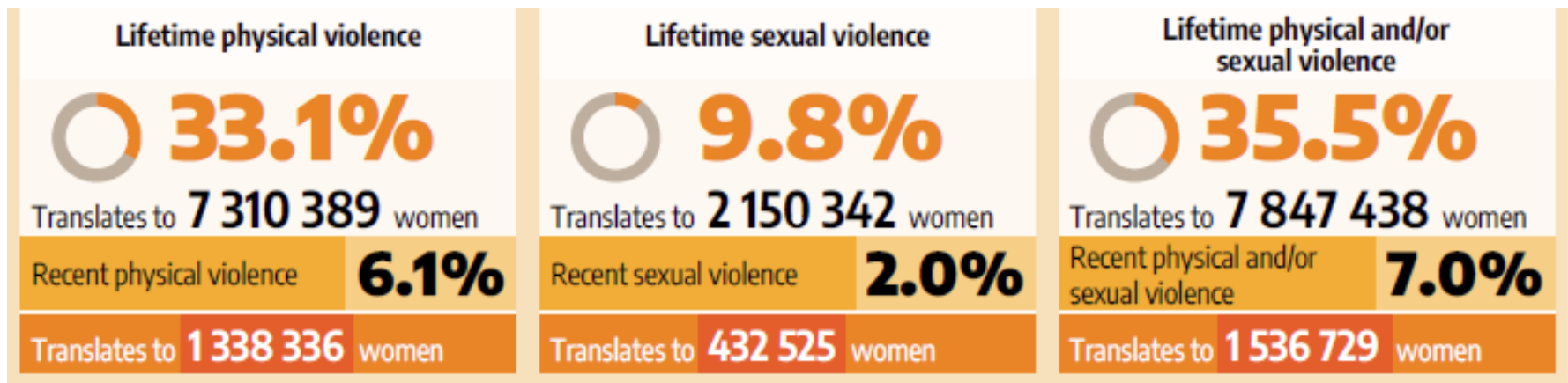


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Prevalence of any lifetime and recent violence among Women aged 18 and older



- Experiences of violence by intimate partner(s) or non-partner(s)
- Recent refers to past 12 months

Prevalence of any lifetime and recent violence among Women aged 18-24



- Experiences of violence by partner(s) or non-partner(s)
- Recent refers to past 12 months

Lifetime and recent intimate partner violence (IPV) among Women aged 18-24

Physical IPV

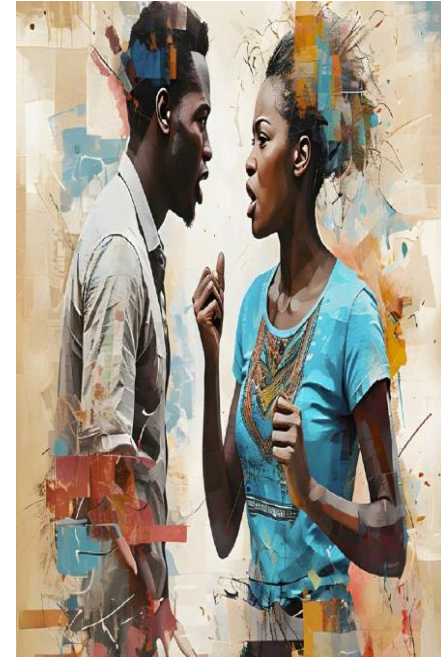
- **Ever** experienced: **25.0%**
- **Recently** experienced (past 12 months): **10.6%**

Sexual IPV

- **Ever** experienced: **7.7%**
- **Recently** experienced (past 12 months): **4.1%**

Physical and/or Sexual IPV

- **Ever** experienced: **26.2%**
- **Recently** experienced (past 12 months): **12.2%**



Lifetime and recent intimate partner violence (IPV) among Women aged 18-24

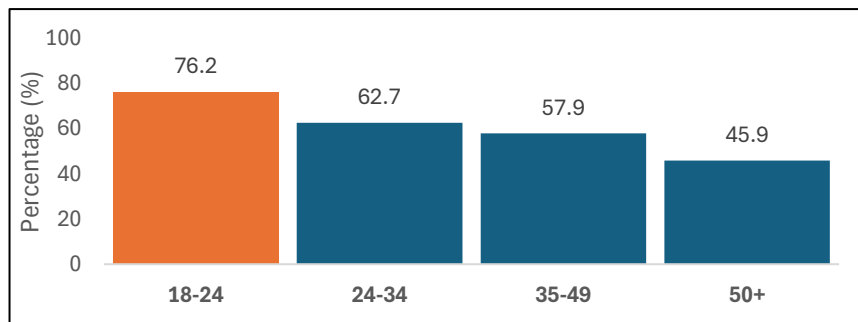
Emotional abuse from a partner

- **Ever** experienced: **23.9%**
- **Recently** experienced (past 12 months): **14.1%**

Economic abuse from a partner

- **Ever** experienced: **9.0%**
- **Recently** experienced (past 12 months): **8.0%**

Ever experienced controlling behaviours: **76.2%**



Associated factors



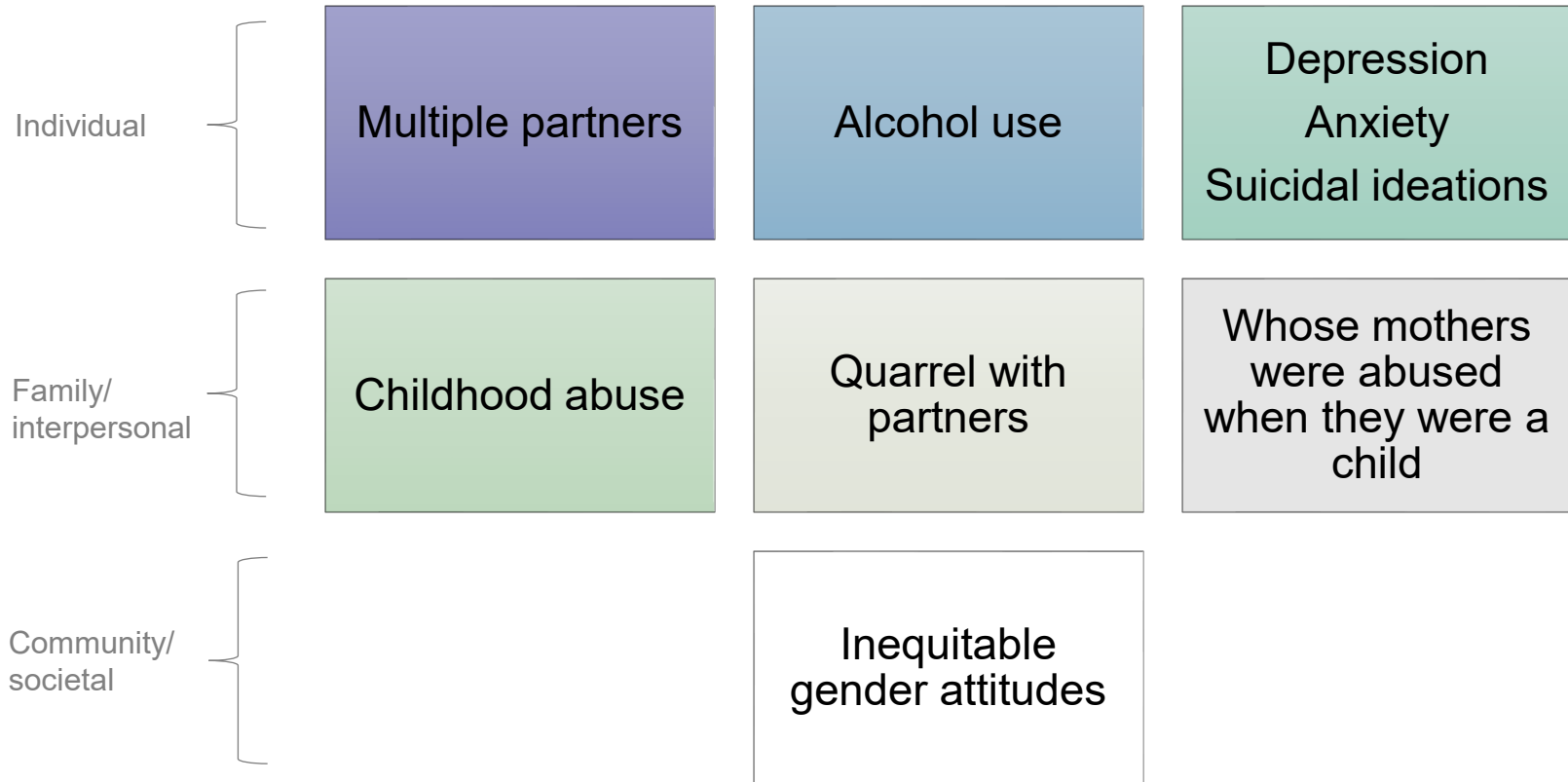
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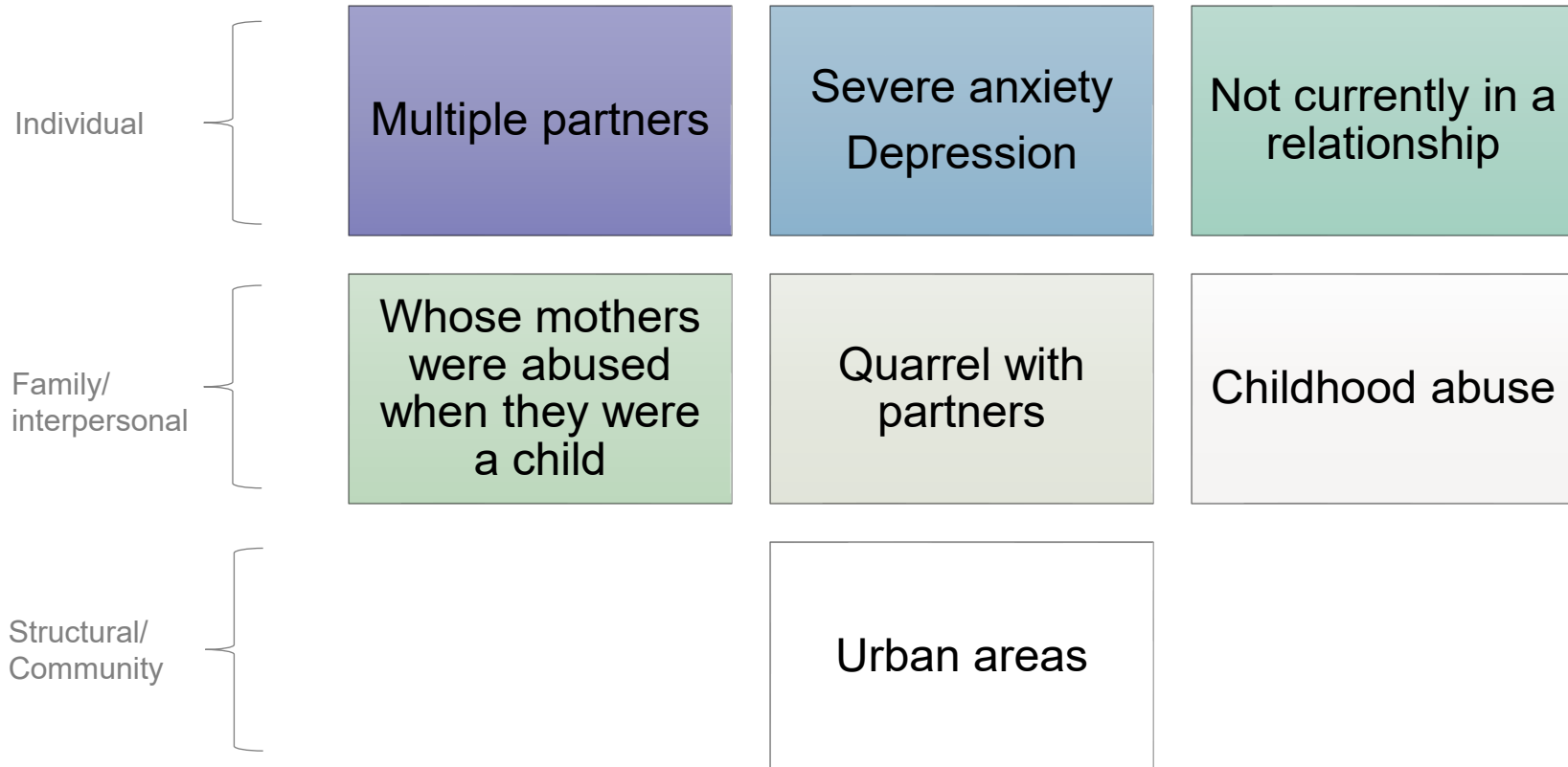


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Lifetime Physical IPV was higher in these groups of ever-partnered women :



Lifetime sexual IPV was higher in these groups of ever-partnered women:



Disability

- Higher rates of GBV experiences among women who had a disability
- Low statistical power to assess in AGYW

Men

Factors associated with IPV perpetration

IPV perpetration was higher among ever partnered men with:

- Multiple partners
- Poor mental health - Depression
- Hazardous alcohol use
- High Childhood trauma
- Inequitable norms and attitudes about gender relations



Discussion and Recommendations

Addressing and preventing GBV among AGYW requires coordinated efforts from:

- **social, health and mental health services** to coordinate support services and focus on enhancing interventions for substance use, mental health, and gender-affirming care.
- **child protection and family support** to focus on early detection of childhood exposure to violence, provide family support programmes, and address intergenerational trauma.
- **educational and community-based interventions** to advance gender equality education, promote healthy relationships, and conduct community education workshops.
- **legal and law enforcement services** to work on enforcing domestic violence laws and strengthening legal frameworks.
- **research and policy development** to develop social policies, design long-term strategies to address and develop intersectionality-informed and culturally relevant interventions, and design comprehensive approaches for GBV prevention.
- **economic cluster, treasury, donors and developmental partners** to support the intersectionality-informed sector and community-based interventions that are required to address GBV and reduce incidence, and to support prevention programmes, including care and support services and GBV research across the country.



Individual level interventions

- Increase young women's **decision-making autonomy**
- Learning interventions for adolescents on **shifting perceptions/norms on gender inequality**, the importance of mutual consent and building healthy relationships
- Increase **boys' and men's awareness/consciousness of psychological violence** such as controlling/manipulating behaviours and economic control
- **Early detection** of GBV cases



Individual level interventions

Address the associated factors:

- **Mental health services** for survivors of GBV, children who witness GBV, and men
 - Interventions aimed at **healing traumatic** impact of witnessing or being exposed to domestic violence for children or young people in the home
- **Age-appropriate anti-violence programmes** for children and youth focusing on child abuse, bullying, and all forms of violence
- Risk reduction for **substance use and risky sexual behaviours**

Beyond individual level interventions

- Family strengthening interventions
 - address intergenerational trauma, family safety, positive parenting
- Adolescent friendly, safe, private spaces in health facilities and support services
- Monitoring and assessing GBV laws
- Enhance women's economic power
- Changing gender norms and attitudes in communities
 - Government communication campaigns
 - Community initiatives

Thank you



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