

**UNSD-SIAP Regional Workshop on Improving the Integration of  
Gender Perspective into Statistics**

**Study on  
Domestic Violence against Women  
Sharing Experience from Viet Nam**

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# 1. Context before the study

- VN Gov. ratified several core international human rights treaties, including those on civil and political rights (ICCPR), economic, social and cultural rights (ICESCR), racial discrimination (CERD), gender equality (CEDAW) and child rights (CRC)
- The 2002 CPRGS identified gender inequality and domestic violence as obstacles to development.
- The Central Committee of the Communist Party issued Directive in 2005, which states that the government should “have in place specific plans and measures to prevent and combat domestic violence”.
- 2 laws on GE and DV but there is still a gap between the theory and practical implementation at all levels.
- Data on VAW from reporting system is not reliable, some small-scale quantitative and qualitative study could not show a national picture of VAW

## 2. Methodology and sample

**Quantitative component** : 4838 women in 63 provinces in Vietnam which representative for 6 regions in Vietnam

- To provide data on prevalence, causes, consequences, coping strategies, risk and protection factors ....
- Method: Population-based household survey – face to face interviews with women using structured questionnaire.

**Sampling**: Only one woman per household.

**Qualitative component**: 90 In-depth interviews and 12 Focus Group Discussions (in 3 provinces )

The research was initiated since June 2009 and the national report was launched in Nov 2010



## 3. Questionnaire adaptation

- Review of the WHO Multi-country Study survey questionnaire by the research team (version 10)
- Translation of the questionnaire into Vietnamese from English
- Sharing of the questionnaire with relevant authorities, experts, and other stakeholders working on gender in Viet Nam
- Discussions, adaptation of the questionnaire
- Pre-field testing of the questionnaire in Ha Noi and Tien Giang.
- Finalization of the questionnaire (also during the training course).

## 4. Identification of type of violence

- The word 'violence' was not used, but a range of behaviour-specific questions (acts)
- Women aged 18 - 60 years old were asked whether they have ever experienced behaviour-specific acts related to:
  - *Physical violence*
  - *Sexual violence*
  - *Emotional abuse*
  - *Economic abuse*
- The term 'ever married' and 'husband' includes 1% of women who ever have other partners (dating/cohabiting).

## *Physical violence by husband*

Has your husband ever.....

- Slapped or threw something at you that could hurt you?
- Pushed or shoved you or pulled your hair?
- Hit with his fist or with something else that could hurt you?
- Kicked, dragged or beat you up?
- Choked or burnt you on purpose?
- Threatened to use or actually used a gun, knife or other weapon against you?

**Moderate**

**Severe**



## *Sexual violence by husband*

- Were you ever physically forced to have sexual intercourse when you did not want to?
- Did you ever have sexual intercourse you did not want because you were afraid of what he might do?
- Ever force you to do something sexual that you found degrading or humiliating?
- Ever force you to have sex with another person?



## ***Emotional abuse by husband***

- Insulted you or made you feel bad about yourself?
- Belittled or humiliated you in front of other people?
- Done things to scare or intimidate you on purpose, e.g. by the way he looked at her, by yelling or smashing things?
- Threatened to hurt someone you care about?
- Threatened to or thrown you out of the home?



- *Physical violence after age 15 by others than husbands*
- *Sexual violence after age 15 by others than husbands*
- *Childhood sexual abuse (retrospectively asked before age 15 years) by others*

Childhood sexual abuse 2<sup>nd</sup> opportunity





# Reference periods

- Life time: did it ever happen?
- Current/past 12 months: did it happen in the past 12 months?

## 5. Safety & ethical issues

- The name of study changed to “*Women health and life experience*”, term “violence” not used in any documents for culturally sensitive reasons
- The guidelines on ethic and safety considerations from WHO applied strictly in all actions.
- Confidentiality agreement: All staff signed a confidentiality agreement as part of their work contract
- Informed consent: The invitation letter sent to selected women explained the elements in the informed consent: confidentiality, voluntary participation, right to refuse to answer, etc.
- The set of materials was given to the interviewed women well in advance
- One woman per household , One site, one day
- Interview venues: in a neutral location instead of the homes

# 6. Training schedule

## Week 1

- Sensitization to concepts of gender and violence
- Exposure to support options for women living with violence
- Aim and overview of the study questionnaire
- Interviewing techniques and safety measures

## Week 2

- Sampling procedures, including repeated visits to reduce non-response
- Pilot testing of questionnaire/module and all field procedures, including logistics, safety measures, supervisory procedures, debriefing and feedback sessions
- Final adjustments to questionnaire and field procedures
- Separate sessions for supervisors on supervisory procedures

# Training & Pilot test - preparations



## 7. Staff mobilization

- Field workers were mobilized from PSOs and GSO
- Field workers must be female,
- Age between 30 and 60 years old.
- Ability to interact with all classes of people, maturity and life experience
- 71 Fieldworkers were selected for the fieldwork.
- Field team composition: team leader, editor, 3 interviewers

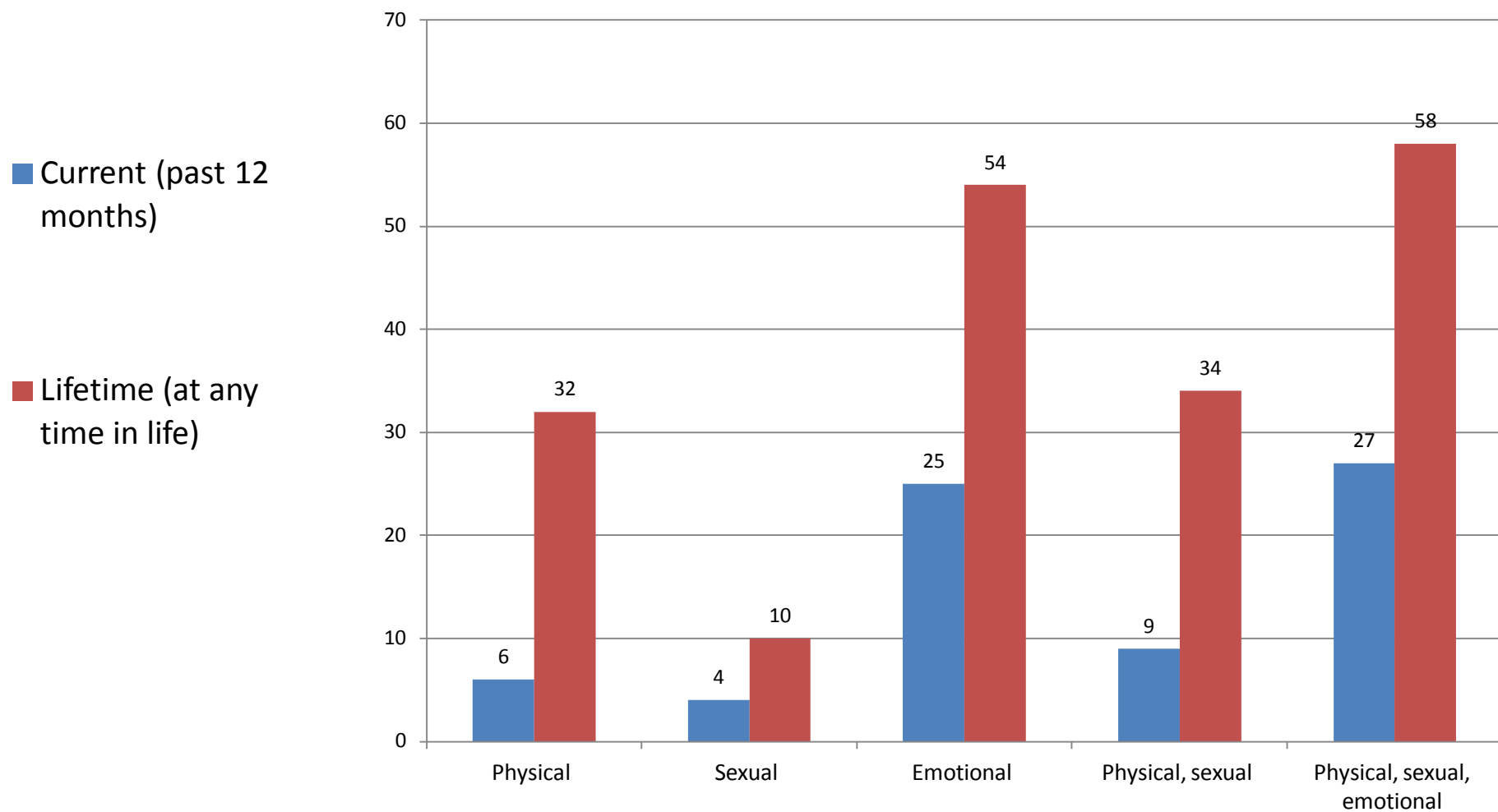


## 8. Key Findings

*“He beat me, then he pulled me like a dog from gate to inside house, my hair was messed up... My god, he took the small chair from the dining table, he took a brick to beat me... He took off his shoes and threw them at my face, that was painful. I ran away but I could not run fast enough, he took the chair and threw it towards me. ...”*

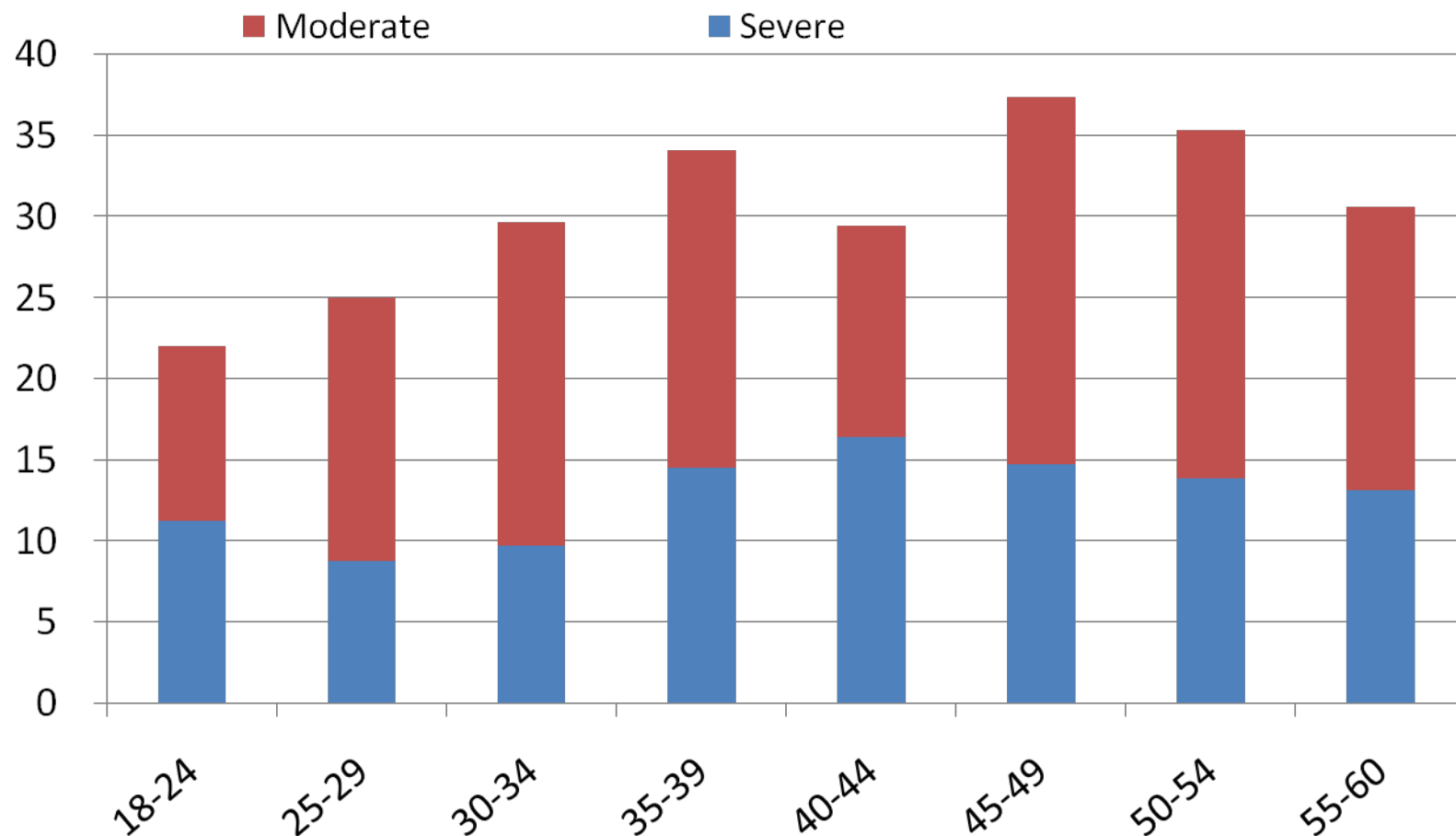


# Prevalence of ever-physical, sexual and or emotional violence by husband, among ever-married women, by region, Viet Nam 2010 (N=4561)



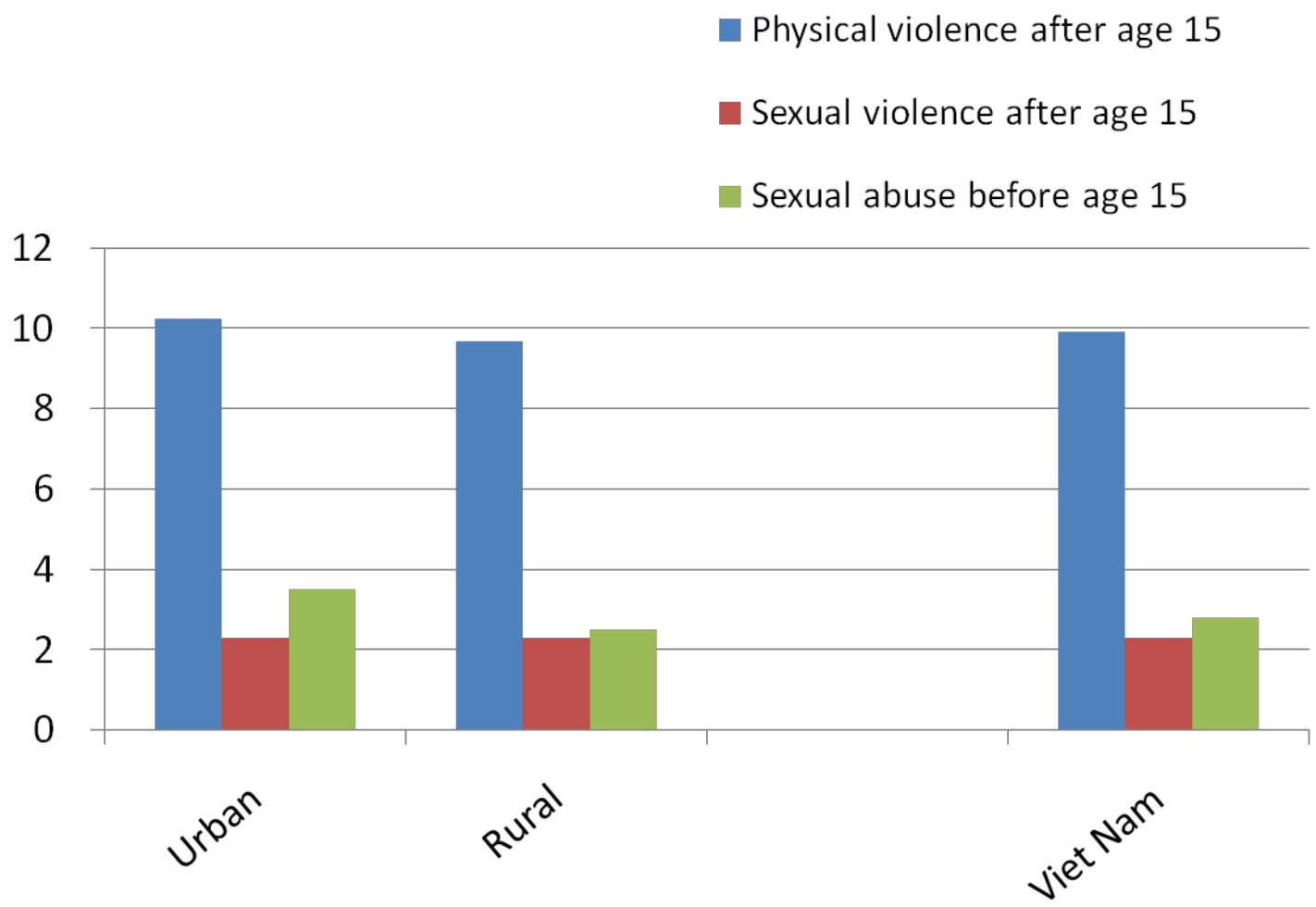


# Prevalence of moderate and severe physical violence by husband, among ever-married women, by age, Viet Nam 2010

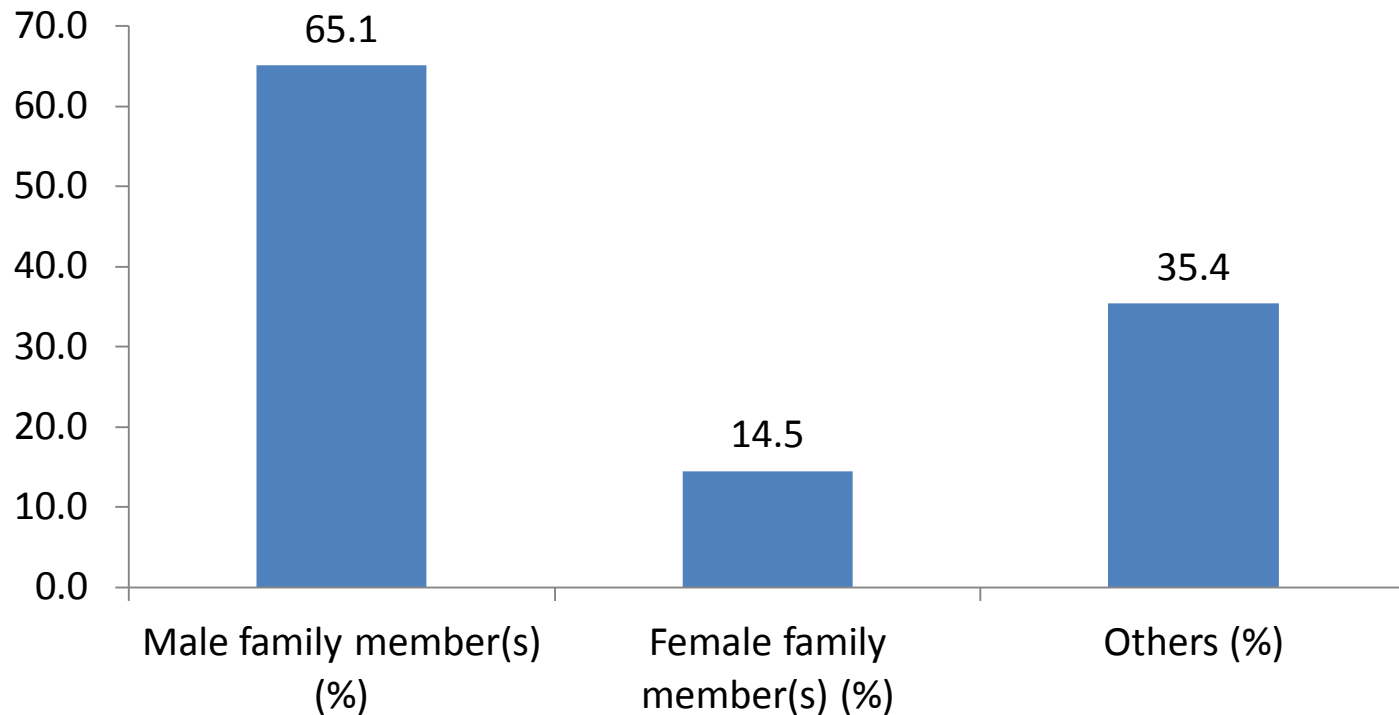




# Prevalence of violence by persons other than husband, among all interviewed women, Viet Nam 2010

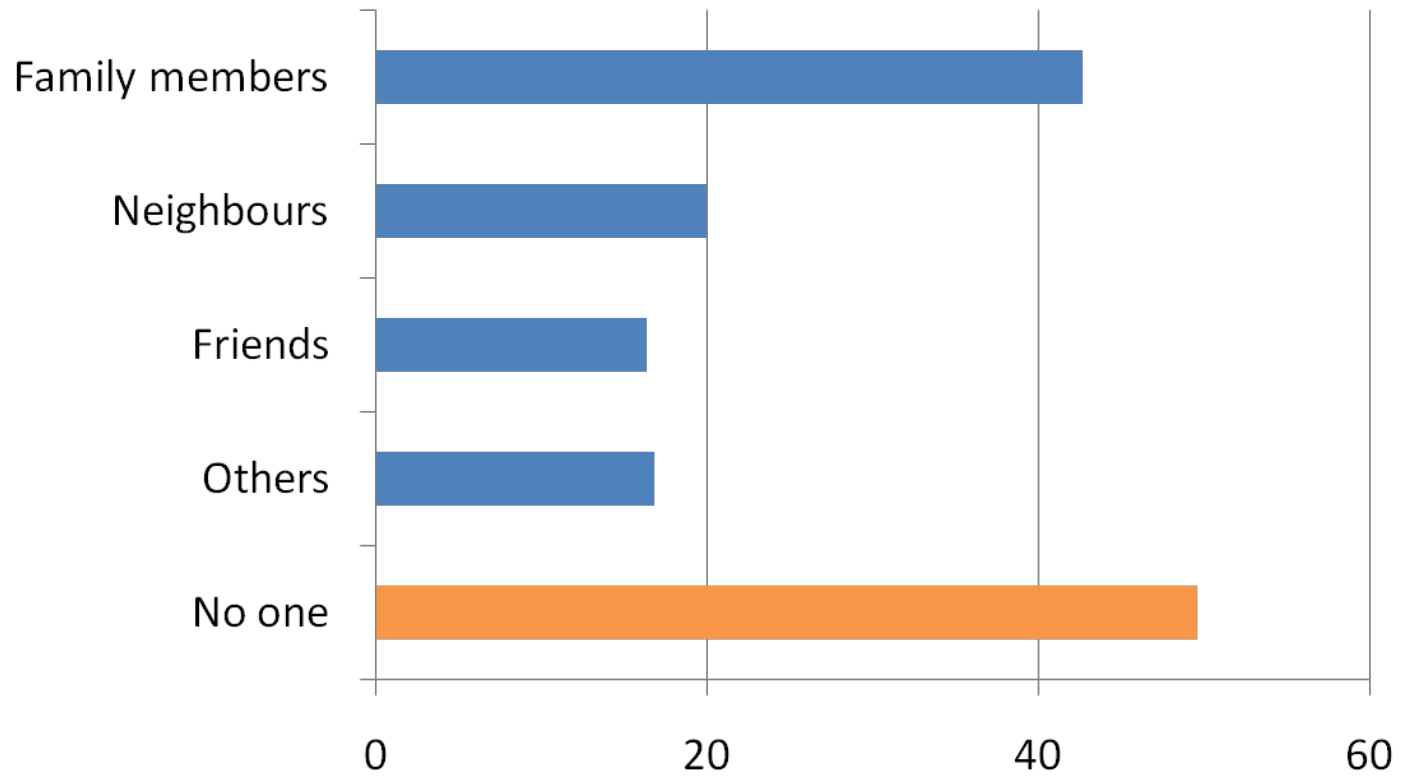


Perpetrators of non-partner physical violence, as reported by women who experienced such violence (since the age of 15 years)





## Proportion of women who told someone, among women who experienced physical or sexual violence by husband, Viet Nam 2010 (N=1546)

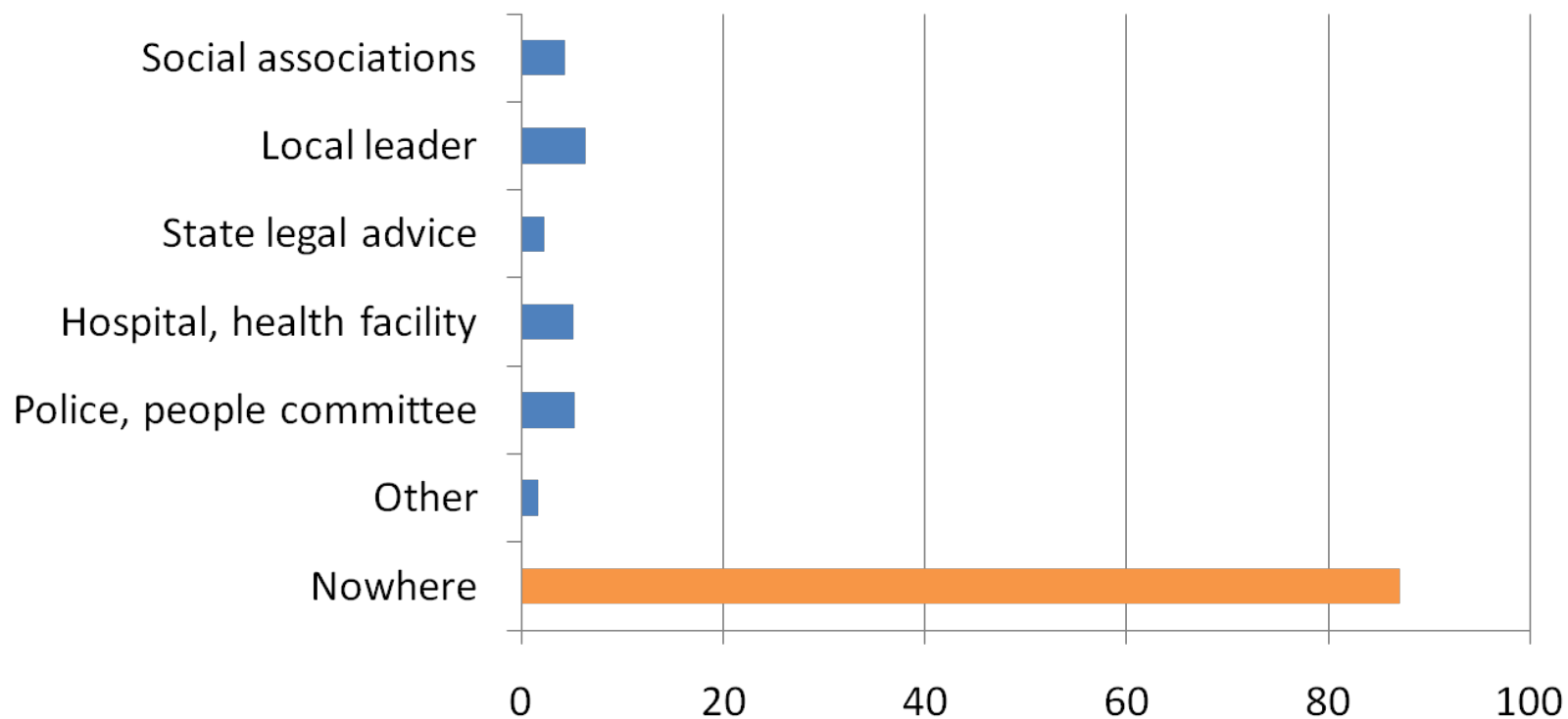




*“When he threatened me too much, I went to village headman to ask for support. However, he did not listen to me. He said ‘This is your family matter. You can do what you want’.”*



# Proportion of women who sought help from official agencies, among women who experienced physical or sexual violence by husband, Viet Nam 2010 (N=1546)



## 9. More than a number

Interviews complete after 1.5 hour (85min)

Questions on feeling of interviewees after interview completion

*(better, the same or worse after interview)*

- 80% respondents felt better after the interview.
- 90% victim of violence stated that they felt better after the interview
- 99% agree to be contacted again.



## More than a number... (*cont.*)

*“I feel a lot better having talked with you. I could not figure out why I told you all these secrets of my life that even my mother is not aware of. I thank you very much for listening to my unhappy stories. I’ll take your advice. I will not kill myself.”*

*“I think women who suffered from violence should raise their voice and ask for help or for counseling. It can vary case by case but we should not keep silent. **Keeping silent is dying.**”*

*Respondents in quantitative component*

# More than a number...

*“I did not sleep that night and in my mind was still the image of the woman who had been beaten up by her husband and traumatized spiritually”.*

*“I kept recalling her eyes and her face when she told me about her story of misery...”*

*“She came to see me hoping to get help. Since I could not help her directly in any way I felt so bad and kept thinking of her. It’s been more than 5 months since the survey ended I still can not get over the terrible feeling of not have been of any help.”*

Quantitative interviewers

You can find the report at

[http://www.gso.gov.vn/default\\_en.aspx?tabid=487&ItemID=10693](http://www.gso.gov.vn/default_en.aspx?tabid=487&ItemID=10693)

***THANK YOU!***