

The 2005-06 ZDHS represents the first time Zimbabwe has included information on domestic violence in the survey. Domestic violence against women has been acknowledged worldwide as a violation of basic human rights, and an increasing amount of research highlights the health burdens, intergenerational effects, and demographic consequences of such violence (United Nations General Assembly, 1991; Heise et al., 1994, 1998; Jejeebhoy, 1998). The inclusion of the domestic violence module in the 2005-06 ZDHS is in recognition of the presence of gender-based violence as an economic, human right, and health issue in Zimbabwe. Gender-based violence is defined as any act of violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivations of liberty, where occurring in public or private life (United Nations, 1993, 1995). Domestic violence includes physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, or economic abuse committed by a person against a spouse, child, or any other person who is a member of the household, dependent, or parent of a child of that household. Domestic violence has negative health consequences on the victims and especially on the reproductive health of women.

Despite ongoing efforts to protect women and vulnerable populations against violence, there is still much to be done to protect victims and to further inform and educate the population about the problem. Moreover, in addition to baseline indicators presented in this chapter, a mechanism is needed to keep a database with locally updated statistics (United Nations Development Fund for Women, 2005).

The 2005-06 ZDHS included a special module designed to obtain information on the extent to which women in Zimbabwe experience domestic violence. The domestic violence module was administered to one eligible woman randomly selected in each household with the use of the Kish-grid technique.

Questions were included in the module to obtain information from ever-married women as to whether or not they had ever experienced various forms of emotional, physical or sexual violence at the hands of their current (most recent) husband/partner. Marital emotional violence was assessed by asking the woman whether or not her husband had ever said or done something to humiliate her in front of others; threatened to hurt or harm her or someone close to her; or insulted her or made her feel bad about herself. To assess the extent of marital physical violence, women were asked if the husband/partner had ever done any of the following: (1) pushed her, shaken her, thrown something at her, twisted her arm or pulled her hair; (2) slapped her; (3) punched her with his fist or with something that could hurt her, kicked her, dragged her, or beaten her up; (4) tried to choke her or burn her; (5) threatened her with a knife, gun, or other type of weapon; and attacked her with a knife, gun, or other type of weapon. The extent of marital sexual violence was assessed by asking whether or not the husband or partner had ever physically forced her to have sexual intercourse or forced her to perform any other sexual acts. Women who reported that they had ever experienced any form of violence were asked about the frequency with which each of the specific acts had occurred during the 12 months prior to the survey.

Although the module focused on the extent of marital violence, information also was obtained on any physical violence involving perpetrators other than the woman's current (last) husband that a woman may have experienced since her fifteenth birthday. Women who reported recent marital violence were asked about assistance they may have sought at the time the most recent episode of violence occurred.

The collection of data on domestic violence is challenging because women may not disclose issues of domestic violence. Collection of such sensitive information requires the establishment of rapport between the interviewer and the respondent. To prepare field staff in collecting data on domestic violence, they received special training on gender-based violence, focusing on domestic violence. Interviewers were instructed that interviews could only proceed when maximum privacy had been ensured. If privacy was not assured, the questions in the domestic violence module were not to be asked.

## **17.1 WOMEN EXPERIENCING PHYSICAL VIOLENCE**

There were 6,293 women who were asked questions on domestic violence in the 2005-06 ZHDS. In Zimbabwe, domestic violence occurs across all socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds. Table 17.1 presents the percent distribution of women age 15-49 who ever experienced any form of physical violence since the age 15, by background characteristics. The data show that over one-third of all women (36 percent) have experienced physical violence since they were 15.

Socioeconomic background has an impact on whether a woman has experienced physical violence in the past. There are many variations observed when reviewing the data by background characteristics. Forty percent of women in the 20-24 year age group have experienced physical violence at some point since age 15. They represent the age group with the highest prevalence of domestic violence experienced since the age of 15.

Fifty-five percent of divorced and separated women reported experiencing violence since age 15, compared with 39 percent for married women. Twenty-five percent of women who have never been married reported that they have experienced violence since age 15. One-third of divorced and separated women have experienced recent physical violence, compared with 24 percent of women who are married.

Twenty-eight percent of women with no children reported experience with violence since age 15; however, the percentages of reported violence in the same reference period for women with one or more children are between 39 and 41 percent.

Rural women were more likely than their urban counterparts to report having ever experienced violence (39 percent compared with 32 percent). The highest proportion of women ever subjected to physical violence is in Midlands where 55 percent of women reported that they had experienced physical violence since age 15. Women in Bulawayo reported the lowest percentages for ever experiencing physical violence since age 15 (18 percent).

Women who are employed but do not receive their payment in cash reported the highest percentage of ever experiencing violence since 15 years of age (50 percent).

Table 17.1 Experience of physical violence

Percentage of women age 15-49 who have ever experienced physical violence since age 15, by background characteristics, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Background characteristic	Percentage who have ever experienced physical violence since age 15 <sup>1</sup>	Number of women
<b>Current age</b>		
15-19	29.4	1,387
20-24	40.3	1,467
25-29	38.3	1,023
30-39	37.4	1,485
40-49	35.4	931
<b>Marital status</b>		
Never married	25.1	1,635
Married or living together	38.8	3,694
Divorced/separated	55.0	495
Widowed	34.2	469
<b>Number of living children</b>		
0	27.6	1,881
1-2	39.8	2,369
3-4	40.5	1,292
5+	38.6	751
<b>Residence</b>		
Urban	31.7	2,489
Rural	39.1	3,804
<b>Province</b>		
Manicaland	32.2	745
Mashonaland Central	41.4	515
Mashonaland East	46.8	553
Mashonaland West	39.7	555
Matabeleland North	26.1	347
Matabeleland South	35.1	326
Midlands	54.6	797
Masvingo	32.5	836
Harare	29.8	1,159
Bulawayo	18.3	460
<b>Employment</b>		
Not employed	31.4	3,454
Employed for cash	39.3	2,120
Employed not for cash	49.6	716
<b>Education</b>		
No education	39.6	251
Primary	39.7	1,974
Secondary	34.6	3,848
More than secondary	28.3	220
<b>Wealth quintile</b>		
Lowest	37.9	1,013
Second	42.2	1,048
Middle	41.1	1,096
Fourth	36.3	1,510
Highest	27.7	1,627
<b>Total</b>	<b>36.2</b>	<b>6,293</b>

Note: Total includes 2 cases missing employment information.

<sup>1</sup> Includes women who experienced physical violence in the past 12 months

Experience of violence decreases with increasing education. For example, 40 percent of uneducated women and women with only a primary education reported that they have experienced some physical violence since age 15, compared with 28 percent of women with more than a secondary education.

Among wealth quintiles, there is no clear pattern with regard to experience with violence since age 15; however, women in the highest wealth quintile reported the lowest prevalence of violence (28 percent).

**Table 17.2 Persons committing physical violence**

Among women age 15-49 who have experienced physical violence since age 15, percentage who report specific persons who committed the violence, according to the respondent's marital status, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Person	Marital status		Total
	Ever married	Never married	
Current husband/partner	56.9	na	46.7
Former husband/partner	21.3	na	17.5
Current boyfriend	0.2	3.4	0.8
Former boyfriend	0.8	8.5	2.2
Father/stepfather	7.0	12.4	8.0
Mother/stepmother	9.6	21.2	11.7
Sister/brother	6.6	18.0	8.7
Daughter/son	0.4	0.1	0.4
Other relative	7.0	14.2	8.3
Mother-in-law	2.8	na	2.3
Father-in-law	0.3	na	0.3
Other in-law	3.6	na	3.0
Teacher	4.8	21.9	7.9
Employer/someone at work	1.1	1.8	1.3
Police/soldier	0.3	0.0	0.2
Other	3.0	4.3	3.2
Number of women	1,864	411	2,275

na = Not applicable

## 17.2 PERPETRATORS OF PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

Table 17.2 shows the percent distribution of women reporting any physical violence since age 15 by the person or persons who committed the acts of violence against them, according to marital status. Among women who experienced violence since age 15, a total of 47 percent reported that their current husband or partner was the perpetrator and 18 percent reported that the perpetrator was a former husband or partner. Twelve percent of all women who have experienced physical violence since age 15 reported that the perpetrator was their mother or stepmother.

Among ever-married women, 57 percent reported that their current husband was the perpetrator. For never-married women, 22 percent reported that a teacher was the perpetrator and 21 percent reported that their mother or stepmother was the perpetrator.

### 17.3 FORCE AT SEXUAL INITIATION

Table 17.3 presents the percentage of women age 15-49 who have ever had sexual intercourse and reported that their first sexual intercourse experience was forced against their will. Among women who have ever had sexual intercourse, 21 percent reported that their first sexual intercourse was forced against their will. Among the 453 women who reported that their first sexual intercourse occurred at age 15 or younger, 24 percent reported that sexual intercourse was forced against their will.

Table 17.3 Force at sexual initiation		
Percentage of women age 15-49 who have ever had sexual intercourse who say that their first experience of sexual intercourse was forced against their will, by age at first sexual intercourse and whether the first sexual intercourse was at the time of first marriage or before first marriage, Zimbabwe 2005-2006		
	Percentage whose first sexual intercourse was forced against their will	Number of women who ever had sex
<b>Age at first sexual intercourse</b>		
<15	23.7	453
15-19	22.0	3,192
20-24	19.3	1,063
25-29	6.4	108
30-49	*	9
Missing	16.1	205
<b>First sexual intercourse was:</b>		
At the time of first marriage/ first cohabitation	21.3	2,923
Before first marriage/ first cohabitation <sup>1</sup>	21.0	1,903
Missing	16.1	205
Total	21.0	5,031

Note: An asterisk indicates that a figure is based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases and has been suppressed.  
<sup>1</sup> Includes never-married women

### 17.4 EXPERIENCE OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Overall, 25 percent of women reported that they have experienced sexual violence at some point in their lives (Table 17.4). Twenty-eight percent of women age 20-39 reported experience with sexual violence.

Women who are employed were more likely than unemployed women to report sexual violence experience: 30 percent for women who were employed for cash and 33 percent for women who were employed but did not receive payment in cash. In comparison, 20 percent of unemployed women reported ever experiencing sexual violence. Divorced and separated women reported the highest percentage of sexual violence (44 percent), married women reported 29 percent, widows reported 27 percent, and never-married women reported 10 percent.

Table 17.4 Experience of sexual violence

Percentage of women age 15-49 who have ever experienced sexual violence, by background characteristics, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Background characteristic	Percentage who have ever experienced sexual violence <sup>1</sup>	Number of women
<b>Current age</b>		
15-19	15.5	1,387
20-24	27.6	1,467
25-29	27.9	1,023
30-39	28.4	1,485
40-49	26.7	931
<b>Employment</b>		
Not employed	20.4	3,454
Employed for cash	29.9	2,120
Employed not for cash	32.9	716
<b>Marital status</b>		
Never married	9.8	1,635
Married or living together	29.0	3,694
Divorced/separated	44.1	495
Widowed	27.2	469
<b>Residence</b>		
Urban	20.8	2,489
Rural	27.8	3,804
<b>Province</b>		
Manicaland	25.3	745
Mashonaland Central	32.8	515
Mashonaland East	34.4	553
Mashonaland West	32.3	555
Matabeleland North	10.0	347
Matabeleland South	14.7	326
Midlands	31.2	797
Masvingo	23.9	836
Harare	23.7	1,159
Bulawayo	9.4	460
<b>Education</b>		
No education	27.7	251
Primary	29.0	1,974
Secondary	22.8	3,848
More than secondary	26.0	220
<b>Wealth quintile</b>		
Lowest	28.0	1,013
Second	29.8	1,048
Middle	27.3	1,096
Fourth	25.8	1,510
Highest	17.9	1,627
Total	25.0	6,293

Note: Total includes 2 cases missing employment information.

<sup>1</sup> Includes those whose sexual initiation was forced against their will

Rural women reported a higher percentage of experience with sexual violence than their counterparts in urban areas (28 percent compared with 21 percent, respectively). Women in Mashonaland East were almost four times more likely to report sexual violence than women in Bulawayo (34 percent and 9 percent, respectively).

Education and wealth do not have a great impact on ever-experience with sexual violence. Women in each education group and wealth quintile are similarly affected with the exception of women in the highest wealth quintile, who reported the lowest percentage of experience with sexual violence (18 percent).

Table 17.5 presents information on the women age 15-49 who have experienced sexual violence, by age at first experience of sexual violence according to current age. Six percent of women were age 14 or younger when they were first sexually assaulted, and 32 percent were between 15 and 19 years of age. Sixty-two percent of women who are currently 15-19 years of age reported that they have experienced their first sexual violence assault against them.

**Table 17.5 Age at first experience of sexual violence**

Percent distribution of women age 15-49 who have experienced sexual violence by age at first experience of sexual violence, according to current age, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Current age	Age at first experience of sexual violence						Total	Number of women
	Less than 10 years	10-14 years	15-19 years	20-49 years	Don't know <sup>1</sup>	Missing		
15-19	0.7	9.4	62.1	na	15.3	12.4	100.0	215
20-24	0.5	2.8	31.5	14.4	23.3	27.6	100.0	405
25-29	3.6	5.8	23.9	13.6	25.4	27.6	100.0	285
30-39	0.6	4.1	24.6	16.2	29.6	24.7	100.0	421
40-49	0.3	3.8	27.4	8.7	32.9	26.9	100.0	248
Total	1.1	4.8	31.8	11.9	25.8	24.6	100.0	1,575

<sup>1</sup> Includes women who report having ever experienced sexual violence committed only by their current husband if currently married or by most recent husband if divorced, separated, or widowed, and whose sexual initiation was not forced against their will. For these women, the age at first experience of sexual violence is not known.  
na = Not applicable

Table 17.6 presents information on women age 15-49 who have experienced sexual violence, and the percentage who reported specific persons committing sexual violence, according to age at first experience of sexual violence and marital status. Overall, the majority (65 percent) of women reported that their current or former husband, partner, or boyfriend committed the act of sexual violence. It is important to highlight that among women who were less than 15 years old when their first experience of sexual violence occurred, 7 percent reported that the perpetrators were a relative, 7 percent reported that the person was a family friend, and 4 percent reported that the person was a stepfather. Overall, 18 percent of the sexual violence against children is perpetrated by people who are probably trusted by the child's family.

Table 17.6 Persons committing sexual violence

Among women age 15-49 who have experienced sexual violence, percentage who report specific persons committing sexual violence according to age at first experience of sexual violence and current marital status, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Person	Age at first experience of sexual violence				Marital status		Total
	<15 years	15 years older	Don't know <sup>1</sup>	Missing	Ever married	Never married	
Current husband/partner	21.6	40.5	71.3	0.8	41.7	na	37.5
Former husband/partner	17.7	23.7	20.6	0.2	18.6	na	16.7
Current/former boyfriend	8.9	23.6	0.0	0.0	5.3	60.3	10.8
Stepfather	3.7	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.3
Other relative	7.1	1.5	1.3	0.0	1.1	3.9	1.4
In-law	1.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.6	0.1
Own friend/acquaintance	3.1	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.7	0.6
Family friend	7.2	0.6	0.0	0.2	0.6	1.9	0.7
Teacher	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1
Employer/someone at work	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.3
Police/soldier	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2
Priest/religious leader	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.1
Stranger	9.2	2.7	0.1	0.0	1.3	5.4	1.8
Other	19.6	3.4	2.7	24.1	8.6	14.7	9.3
Missing	0.7	1.6	3.5	74.8	21.0	12.0	20.1
Number of women	92	689	406	388	1,416	160	1,575

<sup>1</sup> Includes women who report having ever experienced sexual violence committed only by their current husband if currently married or by most recent husband if divorced, separated, or widowed, and whose sexual initiation was not forced against their will. For these women, the age of first experience of sexual violence is not known.  
na = Not applicable

## 17.5 EXPERIENCE OF DIFFERENT FORMS OF VIOLENCE

Table 17.7 shows information on the percentage of women age 15-49 who reported having experienced forms of physical violence, sexual violence, or both, by current age. Overall, 47 percent of women reported that they have experienced a form of physical or sexual violence whether it was physical abuse only, sexual abuse only, or both physical and sexual abuse. Almost two-fifths of women age 15-19 reported that they have experienced some form of physical or sexual violence (37 percent). Half of women between the ages of 20 and 39 years reported that they have experienced one or both forms of violence.



Table 17.7 Experience of different forms of violence

Percentage of women age 15-49 who have experienced different forms of violence by current age, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Age	Physical violence only <sup>1</sup>	Sexual violence only <sup>2</sup>	Both physical and sexual violence <sup>3</sup>	Total percentage of women who reported physical and/or sexual violence <sup>4</sup>	Number of women
15-19	21.6	7.8	7.7	37.1	1,387
15-17	23.5	6.2	5.7	35.4	806
18-19	19.1	9.9	10.5	39.6	581
20-24	21.9	9.2	18.4	49.5	1,467
25-29	21.0	10.7	17.2	48.9	1,023
30-39	22.8	13.7	14.6	51.1	1,485
40-49	20.6	11.9	14.8	47.3	931
Total	21.7	10.6	14.4	46.7	6,293

<sup>1</sup> Women who reported physical violence only  
<sup>2</sup> Women who reported sexual violence only. Includes forced sexual initiation.  
<sup>3</sup> Women who reported that they were both physically and sexually abused. Includes forced sexual initiation.  
<sup>4</sup> Total women who reported physical abuse, sexual abuse, or physical and sexual abuse.

## 17.6 VIOLENCE DURING PREGNANCY

Women experience violence in all stages of their life. In the 2005-06 ZDHS, women who had had a pregnancy (whether it resulted in a live birth or not) and those who were currently pregnant at the time of the survey were asked whether they experienced any type of physical violence during any of their pregnancies and who administered that violence. Table 17.8 presents these findings according to selected background characteristics. Eight percent of women reported that they experienced violence when they were pregnant.

Violence during pregnancy occurs at all ages. Women in the 20-24 year age group reported the highest prevalence of experiencing violence while pregnant (11 percent). Divorced or separated women were more likely than married women to have experienced violence during pregnancy (18 percent and 7 percent, respectively). However, it is interesting that never-married women are also more likely than married women to have experienced violence during pregnancy (10 percent compared with 7 percent, respectively).

There is not much difference between women in rural and urban areas with respect to their risk of facing physical violence during pregnancy; 9 percent of rural women and 8 percent of urban women reported experiencing violence during pregnancy. However, there are notable variations by province. Women in Midlands (16 percent), Mashonaland West (11 percent), and Bulawayo (11 percent) reported the highest prevalence of violence during pregnancy.

Looking at education and wealth, women with a primary education and women in the second, middle, and fourth wealth quintiles reported the highest level of violence during pregnancy; 9 percent of women in each of these groups experienced physical violence when they were pregnant. Women with more than a secondary education and women in the highest wealth quintile were least likely to have experienced violence when they were pregnant (6 percent each).

Table 17.8 Violence during pregnancy

Among women age 15-49 who have ever been pregnant, percentage who have ever experienced physical violence during pregnancy, by background characteristics, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Background characteristic	Percentage who have ever experienced physical violence during pregnancy	Number of women who have ever been pregnant
<b>Current age</b>		
15-19	7.1	296
20-24	11.2	1,074
25-29	7.0	945
30-39	8.4	1,444
40-49	6.5	914
<b>Marital status</b>		
Never married	9.8	201
Married or living together	7.3	3,553
Divorced/separated	18.0	461
Widowed	5.8	459
<b>Number of living children</b>		
0	2.2	262
1-2	8.6	2,369
3-4	9.2	1,292
5+	7.9	751
<b>Residence</b>		
Urban	7.6	1,652
Rural	8.7	3,022
<b>Province</b>		
Manicaland	5.4	580
Mashonaland Central	8.1	419
Mashonaland East	6.1	470
Mashonaland West	10.6	431
Matabeleland North	6.7	268
Matabeleland South	9.3	243
Midlands	16.2	605
Masvingo	5.8	632
Harare	5.8	745
Bulawayo	10.5	280
<b>Education</b>		
No education	7.8	242
Primary	9.3	1,676
Secondary	7.9	2,589
More than secondary	6.0	167
<b>Wealth quintile</b>		
Lowest	8.3	837
Second	9.4	870
Middle	8.9	820
Fourth	8.6	1,158
Highest	6.4	989
Total	8.3	4,674

## 17.7 MARITAL CONTROL BY HUSBAND OR PARTNER

Marital violence refers to violence perpetuated by partners in a marital union. A series of questions were included in the 2005-06 ZDHS to elicit the degree of marital control exercised by the spouse or partner over the respondent. Attempts by male spouses/partners to closely control and monitor their female counterparts have been found to be among the most important early warning signs, as well as correlates of violence in a relationship. Controlling behaviours most often manifest themselves in terms of extreme possessiveness, jealousy, and attempts to isolate the woman from her family and friends. Because the accumulation of such behaviours is more significant than the display of any single behaviour, the proportion of women whose husbands display at least three of the specified behaviours is highlighted.

In order to determine the degree of marital control by husbands of their wives, women were asked whether they experienced any of a list of specific acts of controlling behaviours by their husbands, such as the husband is jealous or gets angry if she talks to other men, accuses her of being unfaithful, does not permit meetings with female friends, tries to limit contact with her family, insists on knowing where she is at all times, and does not trust her with any money. Table 17.9 presents the percentage of ever-married women whose husbands or partners display each of the listed behaviours, by selected background characteristics.

Table 17.9 shows that the main controlling behaviours women experienced from their husbands were being jealous or angry if she talks to other men and her husband's insistence on knowing where she is at all times (57 percent and 44 percent, respectively). Just under one-quarter of ever-married women said that their husbands frequently accuse them of being unfaithful (23 percent), 17 percent said their husbands do not permit them to meet their female friends, 14 percent report that their husbands do not trust them with money, and 13 percent said that their husbands try to limit their contact with their families. One in four women reported that their spouses display three or more of the specific behaviours, while one-third of women reported that their spouses do not display any of the behaviours.

Overall, differences in the proportions reporting various controlling behaviours are not extremely large across the demographic and socioeconomic categories shown in Table 17.9. Divorced or separated women are, however, noticeably more likely to report that their last husband or partner displayed three or more controlling behaviours.

Table 17.9 Degree of marital control exercised by husbands

Percentage of ever-married women age 15-49 whose husband/partner ever demonstrates specific types of controlling behaviours, according to background characteristics, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Background characteristic	Percentage of women whose husband:								Number of women
	Is jealous or angry if she talks to other men	Frequently accuses her of being unfaithful	Does not permit her to meet her female friends	Tries to limit her contact with her family	Insists on knowing where she is at all times	Does not trust her with any money	Displays 3 or more of the specific behaviours	Displays none of the specific behaviours	
<b>Current age</b>									
15-19	55.6	23.3	19.4	10.2	44.2	10.6	27.8	31.8	317
20-24	60.5	24.6	19.1	15.7	47.9	15.2	29.1	29.2	1,053
25-29	59.1	23.1	16.7	13.6	44.9	13.7	26.9	31.2	928
30-39	57.0	21.8	16.5	12.3	41.8	13.0	24.1	33.1	1,436
40-49	53.5	22.5	14.9	12.0	39.9	14.1	23.6	39.3	923
<b>Employment</b>									
Not employed	55.8	22.7	15.9	12.6	41.9	12.2	24.7	35.0	2,337
Employed for cash	60.9	23.8	19.1	14.6	46.3	15.5	28.0	29.4	1,707
Employed not for cash	53.6	21.3	15.3	11.0	42.4	14.5	24.5	35.2	612
<b>Number of living children</b>									
0	53.6	22.6	16.2	11.0	41.8	9.8	22.9	35.2	413
1-2	60.2	22.5	17.7	14.1	46.0	14.2	27.9	30.2	2,218
3-4	57.9	24.0	17.3	12.1	40.9	13.9	24.7	33.4	1,279
5+	50.3	22.4	14.9	13.0	41.8	14.1	23.8	39.5	748
<b>Marital status and duration</b>									
Currently married	55.2	21.1	14.4	11.2	42.3	12.0	23.5	34.6	3,694
Married only once	53.8	19.7	13.3	10.3	41.5	11.4	22.2	35.7	3,180
0-4 years	55.4	19.7	14.9	10.8	43.4	11.8	25.1	33.6	968
5-9 years	56.7	19.5	15.1	10.6	44.1	12.0	23.4	32.7	792
10+ years	51.1	19.8	11.3	9.6	38.7	10.8	19.6	38.8	1,420
Married more than once	63.6	30.1	21.2	17.2	47.2	15.7	31.3	27.3	514
Divorced/separated	71.9	38.0	35.4	28.0	54.8	26.4	46.1	21.3	495
Widowed	59.7	21.1	18.0	12.6	41.9	13.8	23.7	33.0	469
<b>Residence</b>									
Urban	58.8	21.0	16.9	12.1	43.4	13.8	25.8	33.0	1,638
Rural	56.6	24.0	17.1	13.7	43.7	13.7	26.0	33.0	3,020
<b>Province</b>									
Manicaland	64.7	27.7	23.6	21.0	42.8	17.3	32.5	28.8	585
Mashonaland Central	60.4	28.8	21.4	16.2	49.1	16.1	29.7	29.4	430
Mashonaland East	49.7	22.3	16.8	14.1	38.7	15.8	26.7	39.0	475
Mashonaland West	63.7	25.3	16.9	13.7	40.4	10.8	24.3	28.4	429
Matabeleland North	54.1	25.7	9.5	4.8	44.4	10.2	21.7	33.6	246
Matabeleland South	45.5	18.8	10.3	8.0	47.0	7.3	20.3	35.5	222
Midlands	57.4	19.6	14.7	8.5	52.8	12.7	22.8	27.4	614
Masvingo	57.4	22.1	18.4	16.5	42.8	12.7	26.4	35.6	645
Harare	58.0	19.3	14.4	9.1	38.1	13.4	24.3	35.8	753
Bulawayo	51.2	21.2	17.8	14.3	42.7	17.4	25.8	40.9	259
<b>Education</b>									
No education	52.3	23.4	20.5	14.7	44.3	17.4	27.7	39.0	243
Primary	55.3	24.3	17.3	13.3	44.5	13.9	26.2	33.9	1,692
Secondary	60.1	22.2	16.7	13.2	43.1	13.2	25.7	31.1	2,549
More than secondary	45.3	20.1	13.7	9.1	41.0	14.2	23.1	43.0	173
<b>Wealth quintile</b>									
Lowest	55.7	26.8	17.1	13.8	45.0	15.3	26.8	33.6	827
Second	58.7	24.8	18.4	12.2	44.3	14.2	27.5	30.6	865
Middle	55.8	21.5	16.4	15.5	44.4	13.0	25.8	34.1	827
Fourth	61.6	23.6	18.5	14.9	47.5	14.5	28.0	29.4	1,168
Highest	53.9	18.4	14.4	9.3	36.4	11.6	21.4	38.1	971
<b>Total</b>	57.4	22.9	17.0	13.1	43.6	13.7	25.9	33.0	4,658

Note: Husband/partner refers to the current husband/partner for currently married women and the most recent husband/partner for divorced, separated, or widowed women. Total includes 2 cases missing employment information.

## 17.8 FORMS OF SPOUSAL VIOLENCE

Table 17.10 shows the percentage of ever-married women by their experience of physical, sexual, and emotional spousal violence. It should be noted that different types of violence are not mutually exclusive and women may report multiple forms of violence. Research suggests that physical violence in intimate relationships is often accompanied by psychological abuse and, in one-third to over half of cases, by sexual abuse (Krug et al., 2002). The data show that 30 percent of ever-married women reported having ever experienced any form of physical violence, 19 percent reported any sexual violence, and 27 percent reported any emotional violence.

	Ever	In the past 12 months <sup>1</sup>		
		Often	Sometimes	Often or sometimes
<b>Physical violence</b>				
Any	29.5	7.1	18.2	25.3
Pushed her, shook her, threw something at her, twisted her arm, or pulled her hair	12.0	3.2	7.1	10.3
Slapped her	25.3	5.3	16.2	21.6
Punched her with his fist or with something that could hurt her; kicked, dragged, or beat her	12.1	3.6	6.9	10.5
Tried to choke her or burn her on purpose	7.5	2.5	4.3	6.7
Threatened her or attacked her with a knife, gun, or any other weapon	2.5	1.0	1.3	2.3
<b>Sexual violence</b>				
Any	18.9	4.8	7.9	12.7
Physically forced her to have sexual intercourse with him even when she did not want to	10.5	3.9	6.0	10.0
Forced her to perform any sexual acts she did not want to	10.9	4.0	6.2	10.1
Sexual initiation was with current or most recent husband and was forced <sup>2</sup>	8.1	na	na	na
<b>Emotional violence</b>				
Any	27.3	8.2	19.7	27.9
Said or did something to humiliate her in front of others	10.7	3.6	7.2	10.8
Threatened to hurt or harm her or someone close to her	9.7	3.5	6.2	9.7
Insulted her or made her feel bad about herself	23.0	6.7	16.8	23.6
Any form of physical and/or sexual violence	38.2	9.9	20.5	30.5
Any form of physical and sexual violence	10.2	4.2	5.2	9.3
Any form of emotional, physical, and/or sexual violence	47.1	13.7	27.5	41.2
Any form of emotional, physical, and sexual violence	6.5	4.1	2.7	6.8
Number of ever-married women	4,658	4,188	4,188	4,188

Note: Husband/partner refers to the current husband/partner for currently married women and the most recent husband/partner for divorced, separated, or widowed women.  
na = Not applicable  
<sup>1</sup> Excludes widows  
<sup>2</sup> Excludes women who have been married more than once because their sexual initiation could not have been with the current/most recent partner

The most common forms of spousal physical violence are slapping (25 percent), followed by punching, kicking, dragging, or beating (12 percent), and pushing, shaking, throwing, twisting arm, or pulling hair (12 percent). Twenty-two percent of women reported that they had been slapped within 12 months preceding the survey.

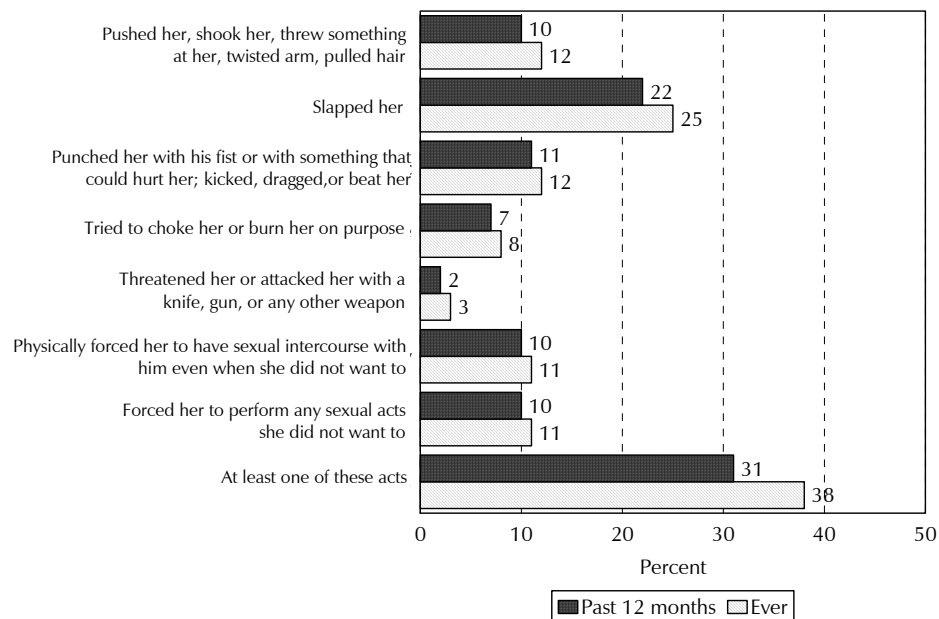
With respect to spousal sexual violence, 11 percent of women reported their spouse or partner forced them to have sexual intercourse and the same percentage said they were made to perform other sexual acts against their will. Ten percent of ever-married women reported experiencing both acts of spousal sexual violence during the 12 months preceding the survey.

The most common form of emotional spousal violence is a spouse insulting or making his wife feel bad about herself (23 percent), followed by humiliating her in front of others (11 percent) and threatening to harm her or someone close to her (10 percent). The percentages are similar for wives experiencing all three of these forms of emotional violence during the 12 months preceding the survey.

During the past year, 41 percent of ever-married women reported that they had experienced some form of spousal emotional, physical, and/or sexual violence. Thirty-one percent reported experiencing any form of physical and/or sexual violence within the same period.

Figure 17.1 shows the proportion of ever-married women who have ever experienced different forms of violence by their current or last husbands and experienced violence during the 12 months preceding the survey.

**Figure 17.1 Percentage of Ever-married Women Who Have Experienced Violence by Their Current or Last Husband (Ever and in the Past 12 Months)**



ZDHS 2005-2006

Table 17.11 presents the percentage of ever-married women by their experience of emotional, physical, or sexual spousal violence, according to selected background characteristics. Women age 15-24 are more likely than older women to have experienced emotional, physical, or sexual violence (51 percent). Sixty-two percent of women who are employed but do not receive payment in cash reported that they have ever experienced any form of spousal abuse. Women with five or more children are more likely than women with fewer children to experience any form of spousal abuse (50 percent). Divorced and separated women reported the largest percentage of all three forms of spousal violence (64 percent). There is little variation by duration of marriage.

Rural women are more likely than their urban counterparts to have experienced emotional, physical, or sexual violence (50 percent and 41 percent, respectively). There is much variation by province, with women in Midlands reporting the highest percentage of spousal abuse (64 percent) and women in Bulawayo (28 percent) reporting the lowest percentage.

Overall, women with a secondary or higher education reported a lower percentage of spousal violence than uneducated women or those with a primary education. While a higher wealth status is also associated with a lower occurrence of spousal violence, it is important to note that over one-third of women in the highest wealth quintile have experienced some form of spousal emotional, physical, or sexual violence. Over half of ever-married women who reported experiencing any form of spousal abuse also reported that their father beat their mother (54 percent).

Table 17.11 Spousal violence by background characteristics

Percentage of ever-married women age 15-49 by whether they have ever experienced emotional, physical, or sexual violence committed by their husband/partner, according to background characteristics, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Background characteristic	Emotional violence	Physical violence	Sexual violence	Physical or sexual violence	Emotional, physical, or sexual violence	Number of women
<b>Current age</b>						
15-19	25.1	25.9	30.3	44.0	50.7	317
20-24	30.9	33.2	20.9	41.5	50.5	1,053
25-29	30.9	30.3	17.2	37.1	47.3	928
30-39	25.2	27.2	17.1	35.0	44.3	1,436
40-49	23.5	29.3	17.2	38.7	46.0	923
<b>Employment</b>						
Not employed	22.9	27.5	15.6	34.5	42.0	2,337
Employed for cash	28.3	30.5	21.4	40.4	48.6	1,707
Employed not for cash	41.4	34.6	24.8	46.3	62.4	612
<b>Number of living children</b>						
0	21.1	23.1	21.8	34.7	42.3	413
1-2	28.7	28.9	19.1	37.2	46.9	2,218
3-4	26.2	31.9	17.2	39.3	47.2	1,279
5+	28.4	30.8	19.8	41.3	50.0	748
<b>Marital status and duration</b>						
Currently married	28.2	28.0	18.2	36.9	46.7	3,694
Married only once	26.9	27.7	18.6	37.0	46.2	3,180
0-4 years	24.5	24.8	20.2	35.6	43.6	968
5-9 years	28.3	31.2	18.5	38.8	47.6	792
10+ years	27.8	27.8	17.6	37.0	47.1	1,420
Married more than once	36.3	29.7	15.3	36.1	49.9	514
Divorced/separated	46.0	44.6	26.8	53.7	63.8	495
Widowed	0.3	25.3	16.6	32.4	32.4	469
<b>Residence</b>						
Urban	23.8	26.1	14.5	32.8	41.2	1,638
Rural	29.2	31.4	21.3	41.2	50.3	3,020
<b>Province</b>						
Manicaland	23.2	22.1	25.0	35.9	42.8	585
Mashonaland Central	24.3	34.7	24.3	45.9	49.2	430
Mashonaland East	24.4	38.5	22.9	47.7	54.9	475
Mashonaland West	31.5	33.6	18.6	40.5	51.0	429
Matabeleland North	26.1	24.9	4.2	26.6	39.4	246
Matabeleland South	27.0	26.6	9.7	30.9	43.1	222
Midlands	46.3	33.9	27.8	47.6	64.2	614
Masvingo	26.2	29.8	15.3	35.9	44.0	645
Harare	21.1	27.1	16.3	34.9	41.0	753
Bulawayo	17.1	17.0	7.2	19.8	27.6	259
<b>Education</b>						
No education	28.4	34.5	19.1	42.1	47.2	243
Primary	27.3	32.5	19.6	41.9	49.9	1,692
Secondary	27.4	28.0	18.8	36.5	45.9	2,549
More than secondary	23.7	16.3	13.7	23.1	36.7	173
<b>Wealth quintile</b>						
Lowest	31.1	32.7	21.0	42.3	51.0	827
Second	31.8	35.6	21.3	44.9	53.9	865
Middle	28.7	29.3	24.2	41.1	52.4	827
Fourth	25.0	28.9	17.8	37.3	44.9	1,168
Highest	21.6	22.2	11.8	27.5	35.8	971
<b>Respondent's father beat her mother</b>						
Yes	32.5	36.2	22.8	44.9	54.3	1,562
No	24.1	26.1	15.9	34.0	42.6	2,645
Don't know	28.6	27.4	23.9	41.5	49.7	424
<b>Total</b>	<b>27.3</b>	<b>29.5</b>	<b>18.9</b>	<b>38.2</b>	<b>47.1</b>	<b>4,658</b>

Note: Husband/partner refers to the current husband/partner for currently married women and the most recent husband/partner for divorced, separated, or widowed women. Total includes 2 cases missing employment information.



## 17.9 VIOLENCE BY SPOUSAL CHARACTERISTICS AND WOMEN'S INDICATORS

Because the most frequent perpetrator of spousal violence is the woman's husband, it is important to observe the husband's characteristics to help understand their relationship with the violence. Table 17.12 presents information on ever-married women's spousal violence by husband's characteristics and empowerment indicators. Although differentials vary somewhat by the plethora of characteristics presented in the table, there is no clear pattern among the characteristics. Spousal violence in Zimbabwe is universal in that it cuts across all socioeconomic groups. As expected, alcohol consumption is highly associated with spousal violence.

	Emotional violence	Physical violence	Sexual violence	Physical or sexual violence	Emotional, physical, or sexual violence	Number of women
<b>Husband's/partner's education</b>						
No education	24.1	29.6	17.2	38.3	42.3	178
Primary	30.2	34.1	20.3	43.8	52.3	1,281
Secondary+	26.4	27.5	18.5	36.1	45.3	3,099
Don't know/missing	23.5	32.8	16.4	34.1	42.5	99
<b>Husband's/partner's alcohol consumption</b>						
Does not drink	20.4	16.0	13.2	24.2	35.0	3,777
Drinks/never gets drunk	41.8	88.5	32.7	100.0	100.0	43
Gets drunk sometimes	50.8	87.3	42.9	98.9	99.1	504
Gets drunk very often	69.2	88.4	46.4	97.8	98.4	317
Don't know/missing	*	*	*	*	*	16
<b>Spousal age difference<sup>1</sup></b>						
Wife older	26.1	34.7	16.2	42.5	48.1	116
Wife same age	30.4	37.6	14.0	41.1	48.9	101
Wife' 1-4 years younger	28.5	28.2	18.5	37.4	47.3	1,245
Wife' 5-9 years younger	25.9	28.0	18.7	37.4	45.7	1,362
Wife' 10+ years younger	31.2	25.8	17.4	34.2	46.9	854
Missing	*	*	*	*	*	17
<b>Spousal education difference</b>						
Husband better educated	27.2	30.4	19.5	39.5	47.5	2,134
Wife better educated	31.3	31.9	20.4	41.7	51.4	884
Both equally educated	25.7	27.0	17.5	35.0	44.6	1,441
Neither is educated	19.7	26.1	20.1	38.3	40.7	69
Don't know/missing	23.7	28.5	14.3	29.5	40.6	130
<b>Number of marital control behaviours displayed by husband/partner</b>						
0	12.0	14.3	10.3	21.8	28.0	1,537
1-2	24.5	25.1	16.5	34.8	45.3	1,914
3-4	45.0	50.5	31.0	59.7	71.0	796
5-6	63.0	66.3	39.1	74.2	80.3	411
<b>Number of decisions in which wife participates</b>						
0	34.2	33.2	19.0	40.8	49.7	132
1-2	31.1	36.4	23.4	47.0	54.3	289
3-4	27.7	27.1	17.7	35.9	45.9	3,273
<b>Number of reasons given for refusing to have sexual intercourse with husband</b>						
0	23.4	29.1	18.9	38.5	44.8	532
1-2	28.8	30.6	19.1	39.3	48.6	1,655
3	27.2	28.9	18.8	37.5	46.5	2,470
<b>Number of reasons for which wife beating is justified</b>						
0	24.2	24.4	14.8	32.2	41.5	2,431
1-2	29.6	33.6	22.2	43.6	51.9	1,082
3-4	30.8	34.0	21.7	42.6	52.0	824
5	33.7	42.5	31.7	54.9	60.2	321
Total	27.3	29.5	18.9	38.2	47.1	4,658

Note: Husband/partner refers to the current husband/partner for currently married women and the most recent husband/partner for divorced, separated, or widowed women. An asterisk indicates that a figure is based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases and has been suppressed.

<sup>1</sup> Includes only currently married women

## 17.10 FREQUENCY OF SPOUSAL VIOLENCE

The frequency of spousal violence is an indicator of the prevalence of domestic violence. Table 17.13 shows the percent distribution of ever-married women reporting any kind of emotional, physical, or sexual violence by how often it occurred in the 12 months prior to the survey, according to their background characteristics. The data show that 8 percent of ever-married women who have ever experienced emotional violence by their husband/partner did not experience any at all during the past 12 months, while 65 percent experienced emotional violence sometimes and 27 percent experienced it often. Among ever-married women who have experienced physical or sexual violence by their husband/partner, 13 percent reported that this did not happen within the past year, 59 percent reported that it occurred sometimes, and 28 percent reported that physical or sexual violence occurred often during the past year.

Table 17.13 Frequency of spousal violence among those who report violence

Percent distribution of ever-married women age 15-49 (excluding widows) who have ever suffered emotional violence committed by their husband/partner, by frequency of violence in the 12 months preceding the survey, and percent distribution of those who have ever suffered physical or sexual violence committed by their husband/partner, by frequency of violence in the 12 months preceding the survey, according to background characteristics, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Background characteristic	Frequency of emotional violence in the past 12 months				Number of women	Frequency of physical or sexual violence in the past 12 months				Number of women
	Often	Sometimes	Not at all	Total		Often	Sometimes	Not at all	Total	
<b>Current age</b>										
15-19	23.0	64.2	12.8	100.0	80	22.4	70.9	6.7	100.0	105
20-24	27.8	65.5	6.8	100.0	326	25.8	65.2	9.0	100.0	391
25-29	26.4	68.3	5.3	100.0	287	26.5	64.5	9.0	100.0	307
30-39	26.9	63.3	9.8	100.0	363	33.0	50.3	16.7	100.0	409
40-49	28.4	62.4	9.2	100.0	215	29.2	49.0	21.9	100.0	254
<b>Employment</b>										
Not employed	29.8	62.9	7.3	100.0	535	30.2	56.9	12.9	100.0	671
Employed for cash	30.0	61.3	8.6	100.0	481	30.5	56.5	12.9	100.0	563
Employed not for cash	15.6	75.6	8.8	100.0	254	17.6	67.8	14.6	100.0	233
<b>Number of living children</b>										
0	24.8	69.7	5.6	100.0	87	22.6	72.5	4.9	100.0	108
1-2	27.7	62.8	9.5	100.0	637	25.8	61.3	12.9	100.0	709
3-4	27.1	66.5	6.4	100.0	335	33.6	54.9	11.5	100.0	406
5+	25.6	66.9	7.5	100.0	211	29.4	49.8	20.8	100.0	242
<b>Marital status and duration</b>										
Currently married	24.9	69.6	5.5	100.0	1,043	26.3	62.9	10.8	100.0	1,223
Married only once	22.8	71.7	5.5	100.0	856	25.2	63.8	11.0	100.0	1,038
0-4 years	29.4	65.4	5.2	100.0	238	20.5	73.4	6.1	100.0	282
5-9 years	24.5	71.6	3.9	100.0	224	27.9	64.9	7.2	100.0	284
10+ years	17.9	75.5	6.6	100.0	395	26.5	57.3	16.1	100.0	471
Married more than once	34.6	59.8	5.6	100.0	186	32.1	57.9	10.0	100.0	186
Divorced/separated	36.7	43.5	19.9	100.0	227	38.5	36.4	25.2	100.0	243
<b>Residence</b>										
Urban	26.9	65.2	7.9	100.0	388	29.7	57.5	12.8	100.0	439
Rural	27.1	64.8	8.2	100.0	882	27.7	58.9	13.4	100.0	1,028
<b>Province</b>										
Manicaland	34.8	64.3	0.9	100.0	136	43.1	55.5	1.4	100.0	154
Mashonaland Central	33.3	55.5	11.1	100.0	105	21.6	61.5	17.0	100.0	161
Mashonaland East	44.2	52.0	3.8	100.0	116	36.5	50.4	13.0	100.0	187
Mashonaland West	20.8	70.6	8.6	100.0	135	21.5	63.1	15.4	100.0	151
Matabeleland North	13.7	58.1	28.2	100.0	64	7.0	59.8	33.2	100.0	61
Matabeleland South	5.6	79.1	15.4	100.0	60	5.0	67.4	27.6	100.0	59
Midlands	15.9	81.5	2.6	100.0	284	21.2	75.3	3.5	100.0	248
Masvingo	30.4	52.2	17.4	100.0	169	26.3	50.8	22.9	100.0	194
Harare	40.5	54.2	5.3	100.0	157	41.3	48.8	9.9	100.0	204
Bulawayo	20.8	76.1	3.1	100.0	44	38.3	47.7	14.0	100.0	48

Continued...

Table 17.13—Continued

Background characteristic	Frequency of emotional violence in the past 12 months				Number of women	Frequency of physical or sexual violence in the past 12 months				Number of women
	Often	Sometimes	Not at all	Total		Often	Sometimes	Not at all	Total	
<b>Education</b>										
No education	23.1	70.6	6.3	100.0	69	28.9	53.0	18.2	100.0	81
Primary	29.6	62.0	8.4	100.0	461	28.1	56.3	15.6	100.0	578
Secondary	26.4	65.9	7.7	100.0	699	28.4	60.9	10.7	100.0	781
More than secondary	(14.7)	(70.6)	(14.7)	100.0	41	(29.3)	(52.5)	(18.1)	100.0	27
<b>Wealth quintile</b>										
Lowest	25.8	66.6	7.6	100.0	258	26.2	60.0	13.8	100.0	292
Second	29.9	63.2	6.9	100.0	275	26.0	61.1	12.9	100.0	331
Middle	23.2	66.8	10.0	100.0	237	32.1	52.2	15.7	100.0	272
Fourth	25.9	64.8	9.3	100.0	291	25.7	61.1	13.2	100.0	353
Highest	30.6	63.0	6.4	100.0	210	34.0	56.2	9.8	100.0	218
Total	27.0	64.9	8.1	100.0	1,270	28.3	58.5	13.2	100.0	1,466

Note: Table excludes widows who were not asked about spousal violence in the past 12 months. Husband/partner refers to the current husband/partner for currently married women and the most recent husband/partner for divorced, separated, or widowed women. Total of women who have experienced emotional violence in the past 12 months includes 1 case missing employment information. Figures in parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted cases.

## 17.11 ONSET OF SPOUSAL VIOLENCE

To study the timing of the onset of marital violence, the 2005-06 ZDHS asked ever-married women who experienced physical or sexual spousal violence when the first episode of violence took place after marriage. Table 17.14 shows the interval between marriage and the first episode of spousal physical or sexual violence.

Table 17.14 Onset of spousal violence

Percent distribution of ever-married women by number of years between marriage and first experience of physical or sexual violence by their husband/partner, if ever, according to marital status and duration, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Marital status and duration	Years between marriage and first experience of violence <sup>1</sup>								Total	Number of women
	Experienced no violence	Before marriage	<1 year	1-2 years	3-5 years	6-9 years	10+ years	Don't know/missing <sup>2</sup>		
<b>Currently married</b>	63.1	0.7	8.7	11.7	8.6	3.6	2.6	1.0	100.0	3,694
Married only once	63.0	0.7	9.1	11.6	8.4	3.5	2.7	1.0	100.0	3,180
<1 year	73.2	2.7	20.9	na	na	na	na	3.2	100.0	256
1-2 years	65.6	1.8	17.0	14.5	na	na	na	1.0	100.0	396
3-5 years	55.7	0.6	9.0	22.3	11.0	na	na	1.4	100.0	502
6-9 years	62.9	0.2	6.1	13.2	12.4	4.4	na	0.8	100.0	606
10+ years	63.0	0.3	6.0	8.5	9.5	6.1	6.1	0.5	100.0	1,420
Married more than once	63.9	0.4	6.1	12.2	10.3	4.2	2.1	0.8	100.0	514
<b>Divorced/separated</b>	46.3	1.8	15.3	21.6	9.8	3.6	0.9	0.7	100.0	495
<b>Widowed</b>	67.6	0.0	5.2	6.8	12.1	3.8	4.1	0.6	100.0	469
Total	61.8	0.7	9.0	12.3	9.1	3.6	2.6	0.9	100.0	4,658

Note: Husband/partner refers to the current husband/partner for currently married women and the most recent husband/partner for divorced, separated, or widowed women.

na = Not applicable

<sup>1</sup> For couples who are not married but are living together as if married, the time of marriage refers to the time when the respondent first started living together with her partner.

<sup>2</sup> Includes women for whom the timing of the first experience of violence and duration of marriage are inconsistent

The results indicate that the majority of ever-married women experienced no violence (62 percent). However, for those who did experience spousal violence, 12 percent of women reported that violence began to occur one to two years after marriage. Nine percent of women reported that violence initiated less than a year into the marriage and the same proportion said that violence began three to five years after marriage. Less than 1 percent reported that violence began prior to marriage.

## 17.12 TYPES OF INJURIES TO WOMEN DUE TO SPOUSAL VIOLENCE

Table 17.15 presents information on the types of injuries ever-married women have endured as a result of spousal violence, and whether they have experienced them in the 12 months preceding the survey. The data show that the percentages of ever-married women who report having ever suffered from any of the types of injuries are very similar to the percentages of women who reported enduring the same injuries within the 12 months preceding the survey. More than one-third of women suffered cuts, bruises, or aches as a result of physical and/or sexual violence. Among women who experienced physical violence, 12 percent suffered from eye injuries, sprains, dislocations, or burns within the 12 months prior to the survey. Nine percent of women who experienced sexual violence in the past year suffered from the same types of injuries in the past 12 months. Seven percent of women reported having ever suffered from deep wounds, broken bones, broken teeth, or any other serious injury, and the same proportion reported that these types of injuries occurred during the 12 months preceding the survey.

Table 17.15 Injuries to women due to spousal violence					
Percentage of ever-married women age 15-49 who have experienced specific types of spousal violence by types of injuries resulting from what their husband/partner did to them, according to the type of violence and whether they have experienced the violence ever and in the 12 months preceding the survey, Zimbabwe 2005-2006					
Violence experienced	Cuts, bruises, or aches	Eye injuries, sprains, dislocations, or burns	Deep wounds, broken bones, broken teeth, or any other serious injury	Any of these injuries	Number of ever-married women
<b>Experienced physical violence<sup>1</sup></b>					
Ever <sup>2</sup>	38.0	10.8	6.9	41.4	1,374
In the past 12 months <sup>3</sup>	39.3	11.5	7.3	43.1	1,060
<b>Experienced sexual violence</b>					
Ever <sup>2</sup>	35.8	9.8	6.6	38.2	628
In the past 12 months <sup>3</sup>	35.6	9.2	6.8	38.0	532
<b>Experienced physical or sexual violence<sup>1</sup></b>					
Ever <sup>2</sup>	34.2	9.3	6.0	37.2	1,602
In the past 12 months <sup>3</sup>	34.9	9.7	6.3	38.1	1,276

Note: Husband/partner refers to the current husband/partner for currently married women and the most recent husband/partner for divorced, separated, or widowed women.

<sup>1</sup> Excludes women who experienced physical violence only during pregnancy

<sup>2</sup> Includes in the past 12 months

<sup>3</sup> Excludes widows

### 17.13 VIOLENCE BY WOMEN AGAINST THEIR SPOUSE

In cases of domestic violence, either person can be the instigator of violent behaviour. Ever-married women who reported that they experienced some form of spousal violence were also asked about instances when they said or did something to physically or emotionally harm their spouse at times when he was not already emotionally or physically hurting them. Table 17.16 presents the percentage of ever-married women who have committed physical violence against their husband or partner when he was not already harming them, by selected characteristics.

Table 17.16 Violence by women against their spouse				
Percentage of ever-married women age 15-49 who have committed physical violence against their husband/partner when he was not already beating or physically hurting them, ever and in the past 12 months, according to women's own experience of spousal violence and their own and husband's/partner's characteristics, Zimbabwe 2005-2006				
	Percentage of women who have committed physical violence against their current or most recent husband/partner			Number of ever-married women (excluding widows)
	Ever	Number of ever-married women	In the past 12 months <sup>1</sup>	
<b>Woman's experience of spousal physical violence</b>				
Ever	6.2	1,261	4.6	1,255
In the past 12 months	6.0	1,060	5.3	1,057
Not in past 12 months/widow/missing	7.3	200	0.8	199
Never	1.3	3,397	0.7	2,933
<b>Current age</b>				
15-19	1.4	317	1.4	315
20-24	2.7	1,053	1.7	1,030
25-29	2.7	928	2.0	881
30-39	1.7	1,436	1.3	1,248
40-49	4.2	923	2.9	713
<b>Employment</b>				
Not employed	2.4	2,337	1.7	2,149
Employed for cash	3.3	1,707	2.3	1,487
Employed not for cash	1.7	612	1.3	551
<b>Number of living children</b>				
0	4.4	413	3.3	393
1-2	2.3	2,218	1.7	2,057
3-4	2.4	1,279	1.6	1,094
5+	2.8	748	1.7	644
<b>Residence</b>				
Urban	3.6	1,638	2.3	1,454
Rural	2.1	3,020	1.6	2,735
<b>Province</b>				
Manicaland	1.3	585	0.8	504
Mashonaland Central	1.3	430	1.4	401
Mashonaland East	4.9	475	3.0	422
Mashonaland West	2.2	429	1.4	384
Matabeleland North	2.8	246	2.8	230
Matabeleland South	2.0	222	1.1	201
Midlands	3.6	614	3.0	572
Masvingo	1.3	645	0.5	577
Harare	3.7	753	2.2	669
Bulawayo	2.1	259	2.4	228

Continued...

Table 17.16—Continued

	Percentage of women who have committed physical violence against their current or most recent husband/partner			Number of ever-married women (excluding widows)
	Number of ever-married women		In the past 12 months <sup>1</sup>	
	Ever			
<b>Wealth quintile</b>				
Lowest	1.5	827	1.2	752
Second	2.6	865	2.0	794
Middle	2.3	827	1.4	741
Fourth	2.3	1,168	2.0	1,045
Highest	4.2	971	2.3	857
<b>Marital status and duration</b>				
Currently married	2.6	3,694	1.8	3,694
Married only once	2.4	3,180	1.6	3,180
0-4 years	2.4	968	1.5	968
5-9 years	1.6	792	1.2	792
10+ years	2.8	1,420	1.9	1,420
Married more than once	4.2	514	2.8	514
Divorced/separated	3.3	495	2.3	495
Widowed	1.6	469	na	na
<b>Education</b>				
No education	2.1	243	1.7	197
Primary	2.2	1,692	1.8	1,493
Secondary	2.7	2,549	1.7	2,344
More than secondary	5.0	173	4.4	155
<b>Husband's/partner's education</b>				
No education	2.5	178	2.3	145
Primary	2.1	1,281	1.3	1,143
Secondary+	2.9	3,099	2.0	2,826
Don't know/missing	0.8	99	1.1	74
<b>Husband's/partner's alcohol consumption</b>				
Does not drink	1.7	3,777	1.2	3,308
Drinks/never gets drunk	(7.6)	43	(5.9)	43
Gets drunk sometimes	6.0	504	4.1	504
Gets drunk very often	6.8	317	4.4	317
<b>Spousal age difference<sup>2</sup></b>				
Wife older	3.3	116	2.8	116
Wife same age	1.7	101	1.7	101
Wife 1-4 years younger	3.2	1,245	2.1	1,245
Wife 5-9 years younger	2.7	1,362	1.7	1,362
Wife 10+ years younger	1.7	854	1.4	854
<b>Spousal education difference</b>				
Husband better educated	3.1	2,134	2.2	1,914
Wife better educated	2.9	884	2.2	793
Both equally educated	2.0	1,441	1.3	1,320
Neither is educated	0.0	69	0.0	60
Don't know/missing	1.3	130	0.8	102
Total	2.6	4,658	1.8	4,188

Note: Husband/partner refers to the current husband/partner for currently married women and the most recent husband/partner for divorced, separated, or widowed women. Total includes 2 cases for which information on employment is missing, 16 cases for which information on the husband's or partner's alcohol consumption is missing, and 17 cases for which the spousal age difference is missing. Figures in parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted cases.

<sup>1</sup> Excludes widows

<sup>2</sup> Currently married women

Three percent of ever-married women reported that they have committed physical violence against their current or most recent husband. Women who are 40-49 years old (4 percent), employed for cash (3 percent), do not have any children (4 percent), live in urban areas (4 percent), live in Mashonaland East (5 percent), are in the highest wealth quintile (4 percent), have been married more than once (4 percent), have more than a secondary education (5 percent), and have husbands who drink without getting drunk (8 percent) are most likely to have reported committing physical violence against their husband.

#### **17.14 WOMEN WHO EXPERIENCED VIOLENCE AND SOUGHT HELP**

Table 17.17 presents information on women who reported they have ever experienced violence and whether they have sought help to stop the violence, by selected characteristics. More than one-third of women have sought some source of help (36 percent). Among women who have never sought help, 21 percent have told someone that they were victims of violence and 35 percent have never told anyone that they were victims of violence.

Women who experienced both physical and sexual violence (42 percent) were more likely to seek help than women who experienced only physical (34 percent) or sexual violence (26 percent). Divorced or separated women were also most likely to seek help (50 percent). With regard to residence, urban women reported a slightly higher percentage of seeking help than their rural counterparts (38 percent compared with 35 percent, respectively). Women living in Bulawayo and Harare, the two urban areas, had the highest percentages of seeking assistance to end domestic violence (45 percent and 44 percent, respectively). Although there is no strong pattern when considering wealth status, women in the fourth wealth quintile reported the highest percentage of help-seeking behaviour (41 percent).

Table 17.17 Seeking help to stop violence

Percent distribution of women age 15-49 who have ever experienced physical or sexual violence by whether they have told anyone about the violence and whether they have ever sought help from any source to end the violence, according to type of violence and background characteristics, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Background characteristic	Never sought help		Have sought help from any source	Missing/don't know	Total	Number of women
	Never told anyone	Percentage who told someone				
<b>Type of violence</b>						
Physical only	33.5	22.1	34.1	10.3	100.0	1,321
Sexual only	47.4	16.5	25.5	10.6	100.0	314
Both physical and sexual	31.9	21.3	42.1	4.7	100.0	889
<b>Current age</b>						
15-19	36.8	24.9	29.0	9.4	100.0	452
20-24	36.2	18.2	37.0	8.6	100.0	627
25-29	27.8	22.3	39.2	10.7	100.0	434
30-39	34.6	19.6	38.4	7.4	100.0	638
40-49	37.8	23.0	33.8	5.5	100.0	373
<b>Employment</b>						
Not employed	35.3	21.5	35.1	8.1	100.0	1,190
Employed for cash	32.1	19.7	38.1	10.1	100.0	943
Employed not for cash	39.1	23.6	32.5	4.8	100.0	390
<b>Number of living children</b>						
0	36.8	21.8	31.5	9.9	100.0	591
1-2	34.0	18.3	38.6	9.2	100.0	1,031
3-4	32.7	23.1	36.5	7.8	100.0	582
5+	36.7	25.8	33.7	3.8	100.0	320
<b>Marital status and duration</b>						
Never married	36.1	22.2	30.4	11.3	100.0	446
Currently married woman	35.6	22.2	34.2	7.9	100.0	1,604
Married only once	36.6	22.4	33.0	8.0	100.0	1,354
0-4 years	36.7	19.5	36.8	7.1	100.0	410
5-9 years	34.3	23.3	32.8	9.6	100.0	359
10+ years	37.9	23.8	30.6	7.6	100.0	585
Married more than once	30.5	21.4	40.6	7.6	100.0	250
Divorced/separated	26.0	16.4	49.8	7.8	100.0	301
Widowed	37.2	16.8	40.6	5.5	100.0	173
<b>Residence</b>						
Urban	32.2	17.2	37.9	12.6	100.0	877
Rural	36.0	23.3	34.7	6.1	100.0	1,647
<b>Province</b>						
Manicaland	34.2	31.6	31.2	3.0	100.0	280
Mashonaland Central	34.1	20.7	39.9	5.3	100.0	240
Mashonaland East	37.1	14.1	41.0	7.9	100.0	295
Mashonaland West	25.8	21.8	38.4	14.0	100.0	251
Matabeleland North	36.5	24.1	37.8	1.6	100.0	90
Matabeleland South	35.2	35.4	25.1	4.3	100.0	123
Midlands	44.8	20.3	31.0	3.9	100.0	479
Masvingo	35.2	25.6	28.1	11.1	100.0	296
Harare	29.1	11.8	44.0	15.1	100.0	390
Bulawayo	18.8	18.6	45.0	17.6	100.0	79
<b>Education</b>						
No education	39.5	22.9	34.6	3.0	100.0	103
Primary	36.7	22.2	35.2	6.0	100.0	877
Secondary	34.3	20.2	36.0	9.6	100.0	1,466
More than secondary	14.0	25.0	42.6	18.4	100.0	78
<b>Wealth quintile</b>						
Lowest	36.4	21.3	36.3	6.0	100.0	418
Second	37.3	24.6	32.9	5.2	100.0	487
Middle	38.7	23.6	32.1	5.6	100.0	502
Fourth	30.7	19.8	40.7	8.8	100.0	610
Highest	31.4	17.0	36.1	15.4	100.0	506
Total	34.7	21.1	35.8	8.3	100.0	2,524

Note: Women who experienced forced sexual initiation but not other forms of physical or sexual violence were not asked the questions about seeking help and are, thus, excluded from this table. Total includes 1 case missing employment information.



Table 17.18 presents information on the sources of help by type of violence. The majority of women who have experienced any form of violence and sought help did so from a family member (50 percent). One-third of women sought assistance from their in-laws, and 10 percent sought help from a friend, neighbour, or the police.

Sought help from	Type of violence			Total
	Physical only	Sexual only	Both physical and sexual	
Own family	52.9	56.7	45.8	50.3
In-laws	28.0	9.3	42.8	32.5
Husband/partner/boyfriend	0.8	0.3	1.4	1.0
Friend/neighbour	10.3	12.4	8.4	9.7
Religious leader	3.5	10.5	4.5	4.5
Doctor/medical personnel	0.5	1.1	1.1	0.8
Police	11.3	4.4	9.7	10.0
Lawyer	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Social service organization	2.3	4.3	2.3	2.5
Other	3.5	3.9	1.7	2.8
Number of women	450	80	374	904