

South Africa Demographic and Health Survey 2016











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Key Findings

- Partner violence: One in four (26%) ever-partnered women age 18 or older have experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence committed by a partner in their lifetime. The most common form of violence experienced by women is physical violence (21%); 17% of women have experienced emotional violence, and 6% have experienced sexual violence.
- **Controlling behaviours:** 19% of ever-partnered women report that their current or most recent partner has displayed three or more controlling behaviours.
- Injuries due to partner violence: 37% of ever-partnered women who have experienced physical or sexual violence by their current or most recent partner have had injuries as a result.

Gender-based violence, defined by the United Nations as any act of violence that results in physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women, girls, men, and boys, as well as threats of such acts, coercion, or the arbitrary deprivation of liberty, is acknowledged worldwide as a violation of basic human rights. Increasing research has highlighted the health burdens, intergenerational effects, and demographic consequences of such violence (United Nations 2006). Despite many constitutional protections, gender-based violence remains persistent and widespread in South Africa (DWCPD 2014). Violence against women occurs across groups defined by socioeconomic status, race, age, and religion. In South Africa, research on this pandemic by academia, government, and nongovernmental organisations continues to provide substantive information about the nature, scope, and dimensions of the problem. Data on violence against women in South Africa are generally based on police reports or obtained through victimisation surveys, both of which are often considered to be under-reported.

This chapter focuses on domestic or intimate partner violence, a form of gender-based violence. In South Africa, intimate partner violence is a persistent societal problem that has its roots in a highly patriarchal culture that asserts male dominance. Additional factors shown to be associated with the experience and/or perpetration of domestic violence include witnessing of parental violence, experiences of child abuse, poverty, and relationship-level factors such as conflicts. Among women, the health effects of experiences of intimate partner violence include increased risk of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections, injuries, depression, suicidality, and posttraumatic stress disorder.

Prevention of and reductions in levels of domestic violence have been placed on the national transformation agenda as one of the country's priorities. Legal frameworks such as the 1998 Domestic Violence Act No. 116 were formulated to curb the problem. This legislation protects women from domestic violence by providing accessible legal instruments aiming to prevent further incidents of abuse within domestic relationships.

The SADHS implemented the domestic violence module¹ in all households. One woman age 18 or older per household was selected at random to be eligible for the module. If the selected woman was age 18-49, the module was implemented as part of the full Woman's Questionnaire or the full Woman's Questionnaire and the adult health module. If the selected woman was age 50 or older, the module was implemented in conjunction with background sections of the Woman's Questionnaire and the adult health module; for these older women, some information (e.g., birth history, information on sexual activity, and information on women's empowerment) was not collected. In estimating indicators, specially constructed weights were applied to adjust for the selection of only one woman per household. The use of these weights ensures that the subsample of women who were interviewed with the domestic violence module is representative nationally, for urban and non-urban areas, and at the provincial level.

Overall, 8,720 women age 18 and older were selected for the domestic violence module. Of these women, 7,759 were interviewed with the Woman's Questionnaire and/or the adult health module. Privacy must be obtained before the domestic violence module can be administered. Overall, privacy was obtained and the interview with the module was completed for 6,620 women, including 5,865 (weighted) ever-partnered women. The overall response rate for the domestic violence module was 76% (data not shown). Among women who agreed to be interviewed, 85% completed the module.

20.1 MEASUREMENT OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

Violence committed by a current partner (among currently partnered women) or the most recent partner (among formerly partnered women) was measured by asking all ever-partnered women if their partner ever did the following to them²:

Physical violence: push you, shake you, or throw something at you; kick you, drag you, or beat you up; try to choke you or burn you on purpose; or threaten or attack you with a knife, gun, or any other weapon

Sexual violence: physically force you to have sexual intercourse with him even when you did not want to, physically force you to perform any other sexual acts you did not want to, or force you with threats or in any other way to perform sexual acts you did not want to

Emotional violence: say or do something to humiliate you in front of others, threaten to hurt or harm you or someone close to you, or insult you or make you feel bad about yourself

In this chapter, partnered women include women who are in a union (those who are married or living with a man as if married) and women who said they have a boyfriend, partner, or fiancé.

20.2 WOMEN'S EXPERIENCE OF PHYSICAL, SEXUAL, OR EMOTIONAL VIOLENCE BY ANY PARTNER

Physical violence by any partner

Percentage of women who have ever experienced any physical violence (committed by any partner).

Sample: Ever-partnered women age 18 and older

¹ The domestic violence module was referred to as the household relations module in the SADHS Woman's Questionnaire.

² The domestic violence module was designed with the intention of capturing violence against women by current and past partners and persons other than partners. However, due to a skip error in the CAPI program, data on non-partner violence are not available.

Sexual violence by any partner Percentage of women who have ever experienced any sexual violence (committed by any partner). Sample: Ever-partnered women age 18 and older

Emotional violence by any partner Percentage of women who have ever experienced any emotional violence (committed by any partner). Sample: Ever-partnered women age 18 and older

One in five (21%) ever-partnered women age 18 and older have ever experienced physical violence by any partner, 6% have ever experienced sexual violence by any partner, and 17% have ever experienced emotional violence by any partner (**Table 20.1**). Overall, 26% of ever-partnered women have experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence by a partner.

Patterns by background characteristics

- Women age 25-64 are more likely to have experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence from any partner than younger women (age 18-24) or women age 65 and older.
- Women who are divorced or separated (45%) are more likely than women in any other marital status group (21%-35%) to have experienced any form of violence by a partner (Figure 20.1). Notably, however, women who are living together







Percentage who have ever experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence by any partner

with a partner are more than twice as likely as married women to have ever experienced physical violence (31% versus 14%) or sexual violence (10% versus 4%).

- The percentage of women who have experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence by a partner does not vary by residence but does vary by province, from 19% in KwaZulu-Natal to 38% in Eastern Cape.
- Although the relationship is not linear, women's likelihood of having experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence by any partner tends to decline with increasing education and household wealth.

Information on experiences with physical violence only and sexual violence only is presented in Table 20.2.

20.2.1 Age at first experience of sexual violence by any partner

Among ever-partnered women age 18 and older, 0.3% experienced sexual violence from a partner by age 15, 1% by age 18, and 3% by age 22. Ninety-four percent of ever-partnered women have not experienced sexual violence by a partner (**Table 20.3**).

20.3 WOMEN'S EXPERIENCE OF VIOLENCE BY ANY PARTNER IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS

In the 12 months before the survey, 9% of everpartnered women age 18 and older experienced emotional violence, 8% experienced physical violence, and 2% experienced sexual violence. Overall, 13% of women experienced emotional, physical, or sexual violence by a partner in the past year (**Table 20.4**).

Patterns by background characteristics

- Women's recent experience of physical, sexual, or emotional violence tends to decline with age, from 15%-17% among women age 18-44 to 4% among women age 65 and over.
- By province, the proportion of women recently experiencing physical, sexual, or emotional violence by a partner ranged from 7% in Limpopo to 18% in North West (Figure 20.2).

Figure 20.2 Partner violence by province

Percentage of ever-partnered women age 18 and older who have experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence committed by any partner in the past 12 months



20.4 CONTROLLING BEHAVIOURS BY MOST RECENT PARTNER

Controlling behaviours

Percentage of women whose current partner (if currently partnered) or most recent partner (if formerly partnered) demonstrates at least one of the following controlling behaviours: 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, and insists on knowing where she is at all times.

Sample: Ever-partnered women age 18 and older

Attempts by male partners to closely control and monitor their female partners' behaviour are important warning signs and correlates of violence in a relationship. A series of questions were included in the SADHS 2016 to elicit the degree of controlling behaviours exercised by respondents' partners. Because the concentration of behaviours is more significant than the display of any single behaviour, the proportion of women whose partners display at least three of the specified behaviours is also discussed.

Forty percent of ever-partnered women age 18 and older report that their current (or most recent) partner is jealous or angry if they talk to other men, and 31% report that he insists on knowing where they are at all times. Twenty-one percent report that their partners frequently accuse them of being unfaithful, 15% say that he does not permit them to meet their female friends, and 8% report that he tries to limit their contact with their families. Overall, 19% of ever-partnered women report that their current (or most recent) partner has displayed three or more of the behaviours described above, while half (51%) report that their partner has not displayed any controlling behaviours (**Table 20.5**).

Patterns by background characteristics

 Controlling behaviours are more common in the youngest age group: 24% of women age 18-24 report that their partners demonstrate three or more controlling behaviours, as compared with 15%-16% of women age 45-64 and 11% of women age 65 and older.

- Women's reports of their partners' controlling behaviours vary by province. Overall, the percentage of ever-partnered women whose partner displays at least three of the specified behaviours ranges from 15% each in Limpopo and Western Cape to 28% in Free State.
- Married women (12%) are much less likely than never-married women (23%), women who are living together with their partner (25%), and divorced or separated women (28%) to report that their current or most recent partner displays at least three of the specified behaviours.
- The percentage of women with a partner who displays three or more controlling behaviours declines with increasing wealth, from 22% each among those in the lowest and second wealth quintiles to 12% among those in the highest wealth quintile.
- Women's reports of controlling behaviours by their partner vary greatly by whether or not they are afraid of their partner. Fourteen percent of women who say that they are never afraid of their partner report at least three controlling behaviours, as compared with 60% of women who say that they are afraid of their partner most of the time.

20.5 PREVALENCE OF VIOLENCE BY MOST RECENT PARTNER

Violence by current or most recent partner

Percentage of women who have experienced any of the specified acts of physical, sexual, or emotional violence committed by their current partner (if currently partnered) or most recent partner (if formerly partnered), ever and in the 12 months preceding the survey.

Sample: Ever-partnered women age 18 and older

One in five (21%) ever-partnered women have experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence committed by their current or most recent partner (**Table 20.6**). Thirteen percent of women reported experiencing physical, sexual, or emotional violence in the 12 months preceding the survey.

Fourteen percent of ever-partnered women reported physical violence by their current (or most recent) partner, and a similar proportion reported emotional violence. Sexual violence was reported by 4% of women. Data on specific acts of physical and sexual violence experienced by women ever and in the past 12 months are shown in **Figure 20.3**.

Figure 20.3 Forms of violence

Percentage of ever-partnered women age 18 and older who have ever experienced specfic acts of violence by their partner

Pushed her, shook her, or threw	13	Ever
something at her	7	Past 12 months
Kicked her, dragged her, or beat her up	8 4	
Tried to choke her or burn her on purpose	2 1	
Threatened her or attacked her with a knife, gun, or other weapon	3 1	
Physically forced her to have sexual intercourse with him when she did not want to	4 2	
Physically forced her to perform any other sexual acts she did not want to	2 1	
Forced her with threats or in any other way to perform sexual acts she did not want to	2 1	

Patterns by background characteristics of ever-partnered women

- Women age 55-64 (24%) were somewhat more likely than women in the other age groups (17%-22%) to report having ever experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence by their current or most recent partner (Table 20.7).
- The prevalence of physical, sexual, or emotional violence by a current or most recent partner increases with number of living children, from 15% among women with no children to 32% among women with five or more children.
- The percentage of women who have ever experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence by their current or most recent partner increases from 24% among those with no education to 31% among those with a primary complete education before declining sharply to 13% among those with more than a secondary education.
- Experience of physical, sexual, or emotional violence is most common among women in the lowest wealth quintile (27%) and least common among women in the highest quintile (14%).

Patterns by partner's characteristics and empowerment indicators of ever-in-union women

- In-union women whose husbands/partners had more than a secondary education were less likely to report physical, sexual, or emotional violence than in-union women whose husbands had less or no education (10% versus 15%-25%) (Table 20.8).
- Ever-in-union women's experience of physical, sexual, or emotional violence varies greatly with their husbands'/ partners' alcohol consumption, from 13% among women

Figure 20.4 Violence by partner's alcohol consumption



Note: Figures in parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted cases.

whose husbands/partners do not drink alcohol to 25% among women whose husbands/partners sometimes drink alcohol and 65% among those whose husbands/partners are often drunk (Figure 20.4).

- The prevalence of physical, sexual, or emotional violence increases with the number of controlling behaviours displayed by a woman's husband/partner, from 7% among women whose husband/partner displays no controlling behaviours to 78% among those whose husband/partner displays all five controlling behaviours.
- Women who said that their mother was abused by their father or their mother's boyfriend (39%) were more likely than those who said that their mother did not suffer such abuse (18%) to report physical, sexual, or emotional violence committed by their own husband/partner.
- Women's experience of physical, sexual, or emotional violence by their husband/partner varies greatly according to their fear of their husband/partner, from 14% among those who are never afraid of their husband/partner to 77% among those who are afraid of him most of the time.

20.6 INJURIES TO WOMEN DUE TO PARTNER VIOLENCE

Injuries due to partner violence

Percentage of women who have the following types of injuries from partner violence: cuts, bruises, or aches; eye injuries, sprains, dislocations, or burns; or deep wounds, broken bones, broken teeth, or any other serious injury

Sample: Ever-partnered women age 18 and older who have experienced physical or sexual violence committed by their current partner (if currently partnered) or most recent partner (if formerly partnered)

Women who experience violence perpetrated by partners suffer different physical health effects that include injuries. Thirty-seven percent of ever-partnered women who have ever experienced physical or sexual violence by their current or most recent partner reported having had injuries as a result (**Table 20.9**).

Cuts, bruises, or aches are the most common types of injuries (34%) reported by women who have ever experienced spousal physical or sexual violence. Nonetheless, a significant proportion of women who have experienced partner violence also report having eye injuries, sprains, dislocations, or burns (18%) and injuries such as deep wounds, broken bones, and broken teeth (11%).

20.7 VIOLENCE INITIATED BY WOMEN AGAINST PARTNERS

Initiation of physical violence by women

Percentage of women who have ever hit, slapped, kicked, or done anything else to physically hurt their current (if currently partnered) or most recent (if formerly partnered) partner at times when he was not already beating or physically hurting them.

Sample: Ever-partnered women age 18 and older

Four percent of ever-partnered women age 18 and older reported that they hit, slapped, kicked, or did something else to physically hurt their current or most recent partner when he was not already beating or physically hurting them. Three percent of women had engaged in such violence in the 12 months before the survey (**Table 20.10**). Findings are comparable among ever-in-union women (**Table 20.11**).

Patterns by background characteristics of ever-partnered women

- Women's perpetration of violence is closely associated with their own experience of physical violence by their partner: 20% of women who had ever experienced violence by their partner and 23% who experienced violence in the past 12 months had initiated violence against their current (or most recent) partner, as compared with 2% of women who had not experienced physical violence by their partner (Table 20.10).
- Women from Western Cape (8%) were more likely to have ever initiated physical violence against their current or most recent partner than women from other provinces (2%-6%).
- Women living together with their partner were more likely than women in the other marital status categories to have ever initiated physical violence against their partner (9% versus 3%-5%).

Patterns by partner's characteristics and empowerment indicators of ever-in-union women

• Women whose husband/partner is often drunk are more likely than those whose husband/partner does not drink to have initiated physical violence (**Table 20.11**).

- The percentage of women who initiate violence against their husband/partner varies with the number of controlling behaviours he displays; 1% of women whose husband/partner displays no controlling behaviours have ever initiated physical violence, as compared with 19% of women whose husband/partner displays all five controlling behaviours.
- Initiation of violence is more common among women who report that their father or mother's boyfriend beat their mother (10%) than among those with no such history (3%).
- Women who are afraid of their husband/partner most of the time are much more likely than those who are never afraid of their husband/partner to have ever initiated physical violence.

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Table 20.1 Experience of physical, sexual, or emotional violence by any partner

Percentage of ever-partnered women age 18 and older who have ever experienced any physical, sexual, or emotional violence committed by any partner, according to background characteristics, South Africa DHS 2016

Background characteristic	Percentage who have ever experienced physical violence by any partner	Percentage who have experienced sexual violence by any partner	Percentage who have experienced emotional violence by any partner	Percentage who have experienced physical or sexual violence by any partner	Percentage who have experienced emotional, physical, or sexual violence by any partner	Number of ever- partnered women
Age						
18-24	17.6	5.2	14.1	18.3	23.4	1,041
25-34	22.2	6.7	19.2	23.3	29.3	1,569
35-44	21.7	7.0	17.6	22.8	27.2	1,116
45-54	21.4	5.6	18.3	22.1	27.4	771
55-64	21.8	6.8	19.3	22.5	27.1	667
65+	16.7	5.6	13.0	16.9	20.0	701
Residence						
Urban	20.2	6.3	16.4	20.9	25.5	3,829
Non-urban	20.9	6.1	18.5	22.0	27.7	2,035
Province						
Western Cape	21.3	4.0	19.6	21.3	26.0	671
Eastern Cape	31.4	6.5	24.0	31.8	37.9	743
Northern Cape	18.7	4.5	16.0	19.8	23.3	126
Free State	21.4	7.5	20.7	22.0	28.0	326
KwaZulu-Natal	13.7	3.1	13.0	14.1	19.3	1,078
North West	29.5	11.8	27.5	31.5	37.3	409
Gauteng	17.7	8.0	12.5	18.8	22.6	1,464
Mpumalanga	26.4	7.0	21.3	27.9	33.4	443
Limpopo	14.2	5.1	12.8	15.3	20.3	605
Marital status						
Never married	18.4	4.8	15.8	19.1	24.7	2,243
Married	14.3	4.1	13.7	15.5	20.7	1,894
Living together	31.3	10.1	22.8	32.1	34.8	689
Divorced/separated	39.7	16.4	34.4	40.3	45.1	338
Widowed	23.8	8.0	16.7	24.3	28.8	701
Number of living children ¹						
0	15.7	4.0	10.9	16.7	20.1	771
1-2	21.4	6.7	18.4	22.2	28.0	2,339
3-4	20.2	6.2	18.3	21.5	27.2	911
5+	35.0	9.7	21.0	35.7	38.5	149
Employment						
Employed for cash	22.1	7.4	17.5	23.2	27.0	1,798
Employed not for cash	17.8	12.9	18.2	22.9	29.4	61
Not employed	19.8	5.6	17.0	20.4	25.8	4,005
Education						
No education	21.4	4.7	15.3	21.9	26.0	497
Primary incomplete	23.8	7.3	18.2	24.7	28.5	614
Primary complete	30.8	5.2	23.8	32.0	37.2	256
Secondary incomplete	23.0	7.5	19.8	24.0	29.7	2,289
Secondary complete	17.3	6.1	14.1	18.0	22.3	1,464
More than secondary	12.1	3.2	13.1	12.4	17.7	745
Wealth guintile						
Lowest	26.4	7.4	21.1	27.7	32.2	1,096
Second	21.2	6.0	17.4	22.1	27.9	1,202
Middle	21.1	6.3	18.4	21.9	26.8	1,181
Fourth	21.5	6.0	16.5	21.8	26.8	1,162
Highest	12.8	5.7	12.8	13.7	18.3	1,223
Total 18+	20.5	6.2	17.1	21.3	26.2	5,865
Total 18-49	20.6	6.2	17.1	21.5	26.8	4,169

Table 20.2 Experience of different forms of violence

Percentage of women age 18 and older who have ever experienced different forms of violence by any partner according to current age, South Africa DHS 2016

Age	Physical violence only	Sexual violence only	Physical and sexual violence	Physical or sexual violence	Number of women
18-24	13.0	0.7	4.6	18.3	1,041
25-34	16.6	1.1	5.6	23.3	1,569
35-44	15.8	1.0	5.9	22.8	1,116
45-54	16.6	0.8	4.8	22.1	771
55-64	15.6	0.7	6.2	22.5	667
65+	11.3	0.2	5.4	16.9	701
Total 18+	15.0	0.8	5.4	21.3	5,865

Table 20.3 Age at first experience of sexual violence

Percentage of women age 18 and older who experienced sexual violence by any partner by specific exact ages, according to current age and current marital status, South Africa DHS 2016

		Percentage who by any	Percentage who have not experienced				
Background characteristic	10	12	15	18	22	experienced sexual violence	Number of women
Age							
18-24	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.6	na	94.8	1,041
25-34	0.7	0.7	1.1	2.0	3.0	93.3	1,569
35-44	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	2.0	93.0	1,116
45-54	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.4	1.4	94.4	771
55-64	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	93.2	667
65+	0.0	0.0	0.1	1.1	1.6	94.4	701
Marital status							
Never married	0.4	0.4	0.4	1.2	2.3	95.2	2,243
Married	0.1	0.1	0.3	1.0	1.8	95.9	1,894
Living together	0.1	0.2	0.7	2.1	4.9	89.9	689
Divorced/separated	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.5	4.8	83.6	338
Widowed	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.7	2.0	92.0	701
Total 18+	0.2	0.2	0.3	1.1	2.5	93.8	5,865

Table 20.4 Violence by any partner in the last 12 months

Percentage of ever-partnered women age 18 and older who have experienced emotional, physical, or sexual violence by any partner in the past 12 months, according to background characteristics, South Africa DHS 2016

Background characteristic	Emotional violence	Physical violence	Sexual violence	Physical and sexual	Physical and sexual and emotional	Physical or sexual	Physical or sexual or emotional	Number of ever-partnered women
Age								
18-24	8.8	10.3	3.2	2.0	0.9	11.6	15.1	1.041
25-34	11.7	9.8	3.1	2.1	1.7	10.8	16.7	1,569
35-44	10.4	8.6	2.7	0.9	0.9	10.4	15.0	1,116
45-54	9.7	5.8	1.9	1.4	1.3	6.3	11.6	771
55-64	7.2	6.1	1.0	0.7	0.6	6.4	8.8	667
65+	3.1	1.6	0.3	0.2	0.0	1.6	4.3	701
Residence								
Urban	8.9	8.0	2.2	1.4	1.1	8.8	12.9	3,829
Non-urban	9.5	7.3	2.5	1.4	1.0	8.5	13.3	2,035
Province								_,
Western Cape	10.7	8.6	0.7	0.7	0.6	8.6	13.6	671
Eastern Cape	11.6	12.6	2.2	1.9	0.0	13.0	17.2	743
Northern Cape	7.3	5.1	1.9	1.9	0.9	5.8	17.2	126
Free State	11.1	9.1	1.9	1.4	1.2	9.6	14.5	326
KwaZulu-Natal	7.4	5.7	1.9	1.4	0.8	9.0 6.5	14.5	1,078
North West	12.8	7.3	4.9	1.3	1.3	10.9	18.3	409
	8.2	8.2	3.0	1.9	1.5	9.3	13.2	1,464
Gauteng	0.2 10.2	0.2 7.8	3.0 2.7	1.9	1.5	9.3 9.3	15.0	443
Mpumalanga Limpopo	5.5	3.5	1.5	0.8	0.7	9.3 4.1	7.1	605
Marital status	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.1			000
Never married	9.4	8.9	2.2	1.5	1.0	9.6	14.1	2,243
Married	9.4 8.6	5.3	1.9	0.8	0.7	9.0 6.5	14.1	1,894
Living together	15.5	15.3	4.8	3.3	2.4	16.8	21.5	689
Divorced/separated	8.2	7.7	3.6	1.6	1.3	9.7	12.9	338
Widowed	3.8	3.0	0.8	0.5	0.5	3.3	5.6	701
Education	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	701
No education	5.5	4.5	1.1	0.6	0.6	4.9	8.2	497
Primary incomplete	8.9	8.1	2.8	1.3	1.0	9.5	12.1	614
Primary complete	12.2	12.2	1.1	0.5	0.3	12.7	16.8	256
Secondary incomplete	11.1	9.6	3.0	1.8	1.3	10.7	16.1	2,289
Secondary complete	8.6	7.7	2.7	1.7	1.3	8.7	12.8	1,464
More than secondary	5.7	2.5	0.4	0.2	0.2	2.7	6.7	745
Wealth guintile							•	
Lowest	12.9	13.4	3.5	2.8	2.1	14.0	18.7	1,096
Second	9.7	7.8	3.5 2.9	2.0 1.4	2.1 0.9	9.3	14.3	1,202
Middle	9.6	8.0	2.9	1.4	1.3	9.3 8.8	14.3	1,202
Fourth	9.6 6.2	6.7	2.3	0.8	0.6	0.0 7.6	10.7	1,161
Highest	7.5	3.3	1.7	0.8	0.0	4.2	9.4	1,102
Total 18+	9.1	7.7	2.3	1.4	1.0	8.7	13.0	5,865
Total 18-49	10.2	9.1	2.9	1.7	1.2	10.3	15.0	4,169

Note: Any partner includes all current, most recent, and former partners.

Table 20.5 Control exercised by partners

Percentage of ever-partnered women age 18 and older whose partners have ever demonstrated specific types of controlling behaviours, according to background characteristics, South Africa DHS 2016

	Percentage of women whose partner:							
Background characteristic	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	Displays 3 or more of the specific behaviours	Displays none of the specific behaviours	Number of ever- partnered women
Age								
18-24	52.5	27.8	15.8	6.9	38.3	23.9	38.9	1,041
25-34	43.4	23.0	16.6	6.6	34.4	21.7	45.6	1,569
35-44	44.5	21.6	17.7	9.3	32.7	22.0	46.4	1,116
45-54	31.2	18.6	11.9	8.2	26.4	15.6	58.8	771
55-64	32.3	17.3	13.0	8.6	26.6	15.4	59.6	667
65+	21.9	13.7	8.5	6.1	18.5	11.0	70.9	701
Residence								
Urban	38.9	21.3	14.6	7.4	30.2	19.3	52.6	3,829
Non-urban	41.4	21.2	14.8	7.8	32.3	19.5	47.8	2,035
Province								
Western Cape	26.5	17.2	10.4	8.8	20.9	15.2	65.4	671
Eastern Cape	44.7	31.7	15.0	8.9	35.5	23.7	44.0	743
Northern Cape	24.5	17.7	13.1	9.4	23.6	16.5	65.9	126
Free State	42.1	30.3	20.1	12.2	38.1	27.7	48.6	326
KwaZulu-Natal	43.3	15.6	16.7	5.3	33.0	17.8	48.2	1,078
North West	45.0	23.5	17.3	5.8	39.7	20.3	40.0	409
Gauteng	39.7	20.6	14.7	6.7	29.3	19.9	52.5	1,464
Mpumalanga	45.5	23.4	15.0	8.5	32.1	19.4	45.9	443
Limpopo	36.6	17.5	10.4	7.9	27.5	15.2	53.5	605
Marital status								
Never married	46.8	26.5	15.3	6.7	35.0	22.6	43.9	2,243
Married	29.9	13.2	10.8	6.0	23.7	12.3	60.5	1,894
Living together	50.1	22.8	20.1	9.1	36.9	24.8	40.5	689
Divorced/separated	46.0	30.1	21.8	15.5	38.0	27.8	45.7	338
Widowed	30.7	20.4	14.1	9.0	28.1	18.4	60.1	701
Number of living children ¹								
0	46.0	25.4	13.3	6.8	31.2	18.9	45.5	771
1-2	45.1	23.1	16.7	6.6	35.4	22.2	44.7	2,339
3-4	43.4	23.4	16.7	9.9	34.1	22.9	47.1	911
5+	48.0	24.7	15.9	11.8	30.4	21.6	45.1	149
Employment								
Employed for cash	43.3	22.4	15.5	6.9	33.0	21.2	47.9	1,798
Employed not for cash	51.3	32.4	28.5	15.6	50.5	36.7	25.2	61
Not employed	38.0	20.5	14.1	7.7	29.7	18.2	52.6	4,005
Education								
No education	26.3	12.9	10.1	6.8	20.4	12.2	65.0	497
Primary incomplete	36.3	19.6	13.2	8.7	27.2	17.4	55.3	614
Primary complete	45.1	28.9	19.2	9.7	35.0	25.0	47.0	256
Secondary incomplete	43.8	24.9	16.5	9.0	35.8	22.8	46.2	2,289
Secondary complete	42.6	22.5	14.9	5.9	31.8	20.6	48.5	1,464
More than secondary	31.9	11.9	11.1	4.8	22.8	10.6	58.4	745
Wealth quintile								
Wealth quintile	45.3	26.7	16.7	11.1	32.7	22.2	45.3	1,096
Lowest	43.3	20.7	16.3	8.1	33.2	22.2	45.5	
Second Middle	43.6	22.1	15.3	6.3	33.2 33.5	22.4 20.3	47.9 46.2	1,202 1,181
Fourth	42.2	22.0	14.1	6.9	33.5	20.3	40.2	1,161
Highest	42.2 25.9	23.5 11.9	14.1	6.9 5.6	32.8 22.8	19.7	40.4 65.8	1,162
Woman afraid of husband/partner								,
Afraid most of the time	77.4	62.8	46.6	30.9	72.1	60.2	10.2	298
Sometimes afraid	57.0	35.5	26.7	16.5	45.4	35.1	35.1	826
Never afraid	34.4	16.2	10.5	4.5	25.8	14.0	56.2	4,741
Total 18+	39.8	21.3	14.7	7.5	30.9	19.3	50.9	5,865
Total 18-49	45.0	23.6	16.0	7.5	34.2	21.7	45.4	4,169

Note: Partner refers to the current partner for currently partnered women and the most recent partner for previously partnered women. ¹ Available for ever-partnered women age 18-49 only

Table 20.6 Forms of partner violence

Percentage of ever-partnered women age 18 and older who have experienced various forms of violence ever or in the 12 months preceding the survey committed by their current or most recent partners, South Africa DHS 2016

	Ever	Experienced in the	Frequency in the past 12 months		
Type of violence experienced	experienced	past 12 months	Often	Sometimes	
Physical violence					
Any physical violence	13.9	7.6	1.6	5.9	
Pushed her, shook her, or threw something					
at her	13.0	6.9	1.4	5.6	
Kicked her, dragged her, or beat her up	7.9	4.2	1.1	3.0	
Tried to choke her or burn her on purpose	2.4	1.1	0.4	0.7	
Threatened her or attacked her with a knife,					
gun, or other weapon	2.5	0.9	0.2	0.7	
Sexual violence					
Any sexual violence	4.0	2.3	0.6	1.7	
Physically forced her to have sexual					
intercourse with him when she did not					
want to	3.5	2.0	0.5	1.5	
Physically forced her to perform any other					
sexual acts she did not want to	1.7	0.7	0.3	0.5	
Forced her with threats or in any other way					
to perform sexual acts she did not want to	1.7	0.8	0.3	0.6	
Emotional violence					
Any emotional violence	14.1	9.1	2.1	7.0	
Said or did something to humiliate her in					
front of others	8.6	5.5	1.3	4.2	
Threatened to hurt or harm her or someone					
she cared about	5.7	3.3	0.8	2.5	
Insulted her or made her feel bad about					
herself	9.5	6.3	1.4	5.0	
An fame of abusiant and/an an well is to see	11.0	0.5	1.0	0.0	
Any form of physical and/or sexual violence	14.9	8.5	1.9	6.6	
Any form of emotional or physical or sexual	00 5	10.0	0.4	0.0	
violence	20.5	12.9	3.1	9.8	
Number of ever-partnered women age 18+	5,865	5,865	5,865	5,865	

Table 20.7 Partner violence by background characteristics

Percentage of ever-partnered women age 18 and older who have ever experienced emotional, physical, or sexual violence committed by their current or most recent partner, according to background characteristics, South Africa DHS 2016

Background characteristic	Emotional violence	Physical violence	Sexual violence	Physical and sexual	Physical and sexual and emotional	Physical or sexual	Physical or sexual or emotional	Number of ever-partnerec women
characteristic	VIOIEITCE	VIOLETICE	VIOLENCE	Sexual	emotional	Sexual	emotional	women
Age								
18-24	10.6	12.3	3.2	2.5	1.3	13.1	17.4	1,041
25-34	14.4	13.2	3.9	2.9	2.3	14.2	21.5	1,569
35-44	14.4	13.1	3.7	2.0	1.9	14.7	20.1	1,116
45-54	16.0	14.4	3.7	3.0	2.8	15.1	21.4	771
55-64	17.9	18.6	4.9	4.0	3.0	19.5	24.4	667
65+	12.2	14.2	4.9	4.6	3.6	14.5	18.5	701
Residence								
Urban	13.7	13.8	3.8	3.0	2.3	14.6	20.1	3,829
		14.2			2.3			
Non-urban	14.8	14.2	4.3	3.1	2.4	15.4	21.2	2,035
Province								
Western Cape	17.6	15.5	2.5	2.5	2.1	15.5	22.4	671
Eastern Cape	21.4	24.2	4.5	4.0	3.1	24.7	31.4	743
Northern Cape	12.1	13.2	3.7	2.7	1.8	14.3	18.2	126
Free State	17.4	15.2	4.4	3.5	3.0	16.1	22.6	326
KwaZulu-Natal	10.7	9.3	2.3	1.9	1.1	9.8	15.0	1,078
North West	18.0	14.5	7.2	4.4	4.3	17.4	24.6	409
Gauteng	10.5	12.8	4.8	3.7	2.6	13.9	18.3	1,464
Mpumalanga	15.4	15.0	3.9	2.3	2.2	16.5	22.9	443
Limpopo	10.7	8.8	3.5	2.3	1.9	10.0	14.9	605
строро	10.7	0.0	3.5	2.3	1.9	10.0	14.9	605
Marital status								
Never married	12.6	12.0	3.0	2.3	1.6	12.6	18.6	2,243
Married	12.0	10.3	2.7	1.6	1.5	11.4	16.9	1,894
Living together	17.5	20.6	5.4	4.6	3.6	21.4	25.9	689
Divorced/separated	26.3	24.0	10.2	7.5	6.8	26.7	32.8	338
Widowed	15.2	18.6	6.1	5.3	3.6	19.4	24.9	701
Number of living children ¹								
0	8.6	10.7	2.6	1.5	0.3	11.7	15.4	771
1-2	13.5	13.1	3.3	2.3	1.7	14.1	20.0	2,339
3-4	16.1	12.5	4.3	3.2	3.1	13.6	21.4	911
5+	19.4	26.4	8.0	5.8	5.7	28.6	32.3	149
Employment								
Employed for cash	12.6	12.2	4.0	2.5	1.8	13.7	18.5	1,798
Employed not for cash	4.5	14.7	7.4	2.3	2.3	19.8	21.2	61
Not employed	14.9	14.7	3.9	3.3	2.6	15.3	21.3	4,005
Education								
No education	14.3	17.6	3.5	2.9	2.5	18.2	23.6	497
	14.3	17.6	5.8	2.9 4.6	2.5 4.0	20.8	23.6 24.6	497 614
Primary incomplete								
Primary complete	20.8	24.3	3.9	2.6	1.6	25.7	31.4	256
Secondary incomplete	15.6	14.6	4.9	3.7	2.8	15.8	22.2	2,289
Secondary complete	11.7	11.0	3.4	2.6	2.1	11.8	16.6	1,464
More than secondary	10.0	6.8	1.0	0.6	0.2	7.2	13.4	745
Wealth quintile								
Lowest	18.4	20.5	5.5	4.4	3.7	21.6	26.5	1,096
Second	13.2	13.6	3.9	2.9	1.9	14.7	20.3	1,202
Middle	14.8	14.0	4.2	3.3	2.9	14.7	20.5	1,181
	14.0	14.0	4.2 2.9	3.3 2.2	2.9	14.9	20.6	
Fourth	13.7	7.8	2.9 3.4	2.2		8.8	21.3 14.4	1,162 1,223
Highest					1.6			
Total 18+	14.1	13.9	4.0	3.0	2.3	14.9	20.5	5,865
Total 18-49	13.4	13.0	3.6	2.5	1.9	14.1	19.9	4,169

Note: Partner refers to the current partner for currently partnered women and the most recent partner for previously partnered women. ¹ Available for ever-partnered women age 18-49 only

Table 20.8 Spousal violence by husband's characteristics and empowerment indicators

Percentage of ever-in-union women age 18 and older who have ever experienced emotional, physical, or sexual violence committed by their current or most recent husband/partner, according to the husband/partner's characteristics and women's empowerment indicators, South Africa DHS 2016

Background characteristic	Emotional violence	Physical violence	Sexual violence	Physical and sexual	Physical and sexual and emotional	Physical or sexual	Physical or sexual or emotional	Number of ever-in-union women
Husband's/partner's education ¹								
No education	17.3	13.5	3.0	2.5	2.3	14.0	20.1	244
Primary incomplete	16.9	16.4	2.3	2.3	2.1	16.4	22.7	276
Primary complete	8.8	10.3	0.9	0.5	0.5	10.8	14.8	107
Secondary incomplete	16.9	18.1	6.1	4.7	3.8	19.5	25.0	866
Secondary complete	10.2	9.5	2.5	0.8	0.8	11.3	15.7	622
More than secondary	7.9	4.3	0.3 5.2	0.1	0.1	4.5 20.3	9.7 24.7	395
Don't know Husband's/partner's	13.3	19.6	5.2	4.5	4.0	20.3	24.7	72
alcohol consumption Does not drink alcohol	9.1	8.3	2.2	1.5	1.4	9.1	13.2	2,154
Drinks alcohol but is never	(12.0)	(2.1)	(0,0)	(0,0)	(0, 0)	(2.1)	(12.0)	27
drunk	(13.9) 16.7	(3.1) 16.5	(0.0) 4.4	(0.0) 2.9	(0.0) 2.6	(3.1) 17.9	(13.9) 24.7	37 1,072
Is sometimes drunk Is often drunk	45.9		20.0		12.4			354
Don't know	40.9	53.8	20.0	17.3	*	56.6 *	64.9 *	5
Husband's/partner's drug usage								
Does not use drugs	13.9	13.9	4.0	2.8	2.3	15.0	20.3	3,502
Sometimes uses drugs	(21.1)	(23.9)	(9.3)	(9.3)	(3.7)	(23.9)	(29.8)	42
Often uses drugs	58.5	68.1	23.9	23.2	17.2	68.9	76.1	53
Don't know	(77.0)	(66.3)	(44.1)	(40.1)	(40.1)	(70.3)	(82.0)	24
Spousal education difference ¹								
Husband better educated	12.7	12.6	2.9	2.1	1.9	13.5	18.1	783
Wife better educated	14.7	16.2	4.3	3.4	2.5	17.1	22.0	858
Both equally educated	12.1	9.1	2.6	1.3	1.2	10.5	16.5	755
Neither educated	19.0	13.6	3.9	3.6	3.6	13.8	22.6	116
Don't know	13.3	19.6	5.2	4.5	4.0	20.3	24.7	72
Spousal age difference ¹								
Wife older	12.4	16.5	3.4	3.1	3.1	16.7	19.2	294
Wife is same age	13.7	18.2	3.3	1.6	0.2	19.8	24.1	168
Wife 1-4 years younger	12.8	12.5	3.7	2.7	2.1	13.6	19.0	934
Wife 5-9 years younger	12.2	10.0	3.0	1.4	1.3	11.6	16.9	729
Wife 10 or more years								
younger	17.4	14.8	3.6	3.3	3.2	15.1	22.0	456
Number of marital control behaviours displayed by husband/partner ²								0.001
0	3.8	4.4	1.1	0.5	0.3	5.0	6.8	2,001
1-2	16.0	17.8	2.4	1.6	1.4	18.7	25.5	993
3-4 5	43.8 66.5	39.0 64.9	14.9 32.7	11.0 31.4	8.6 26.4	42.9 66.2	58.1 77.9	477 151
Number of decisions in	00.0	04.0	02.7	01.4	20.4	00.2	11.5	101
which women								
participate ³								10
0	7.1	7.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.4	8.4	46
1-2 3	21.4 12.2	20.4 12.9	7.3 3.2	6.5 1.9	3.2 1.8	21.2 14.2	29.4 19.3	174 1,589
Number of reasons for which wife beating is justified ⁴								
0	13.2	13.1	3.5	2.5	2.1	14.0	19.3	1,981
1-2	35.5	36.5	13.5	4.5	4.5	45.4	59.8	85
3-4 5	(32.0)	(16.6)	(25.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)	(41.6)	(59.8)	24 12
Father/mother's boyfriend beat mother	07.4	oc /	a -		- -	04 <i>f</i>	00.0	
Yes	27.4	29.4	9.7	8.0	5.4	31.1	39.3	507
No Don't know	12.6 19.5	12.1 23.3	3.8 3.2	2.7 2.4	2.4 1.9	13.2 24.1	18.1 29.9	2,929 186
Woman afraid of husband/partner								
Afraid most of the time	58.5	66.2	31.7	27.5	24.4	70.4	77.0	205
Sometimes afraid	31.6	31.5	11.9	8.2	6.2	35.2	43.7	526
Never afraid	8.9	8.5	1.3	0.9	0.6	9.0	13.7	2,891
Total 18+								3,622

Note: Husband/partner refers to the current husband/partner for women currently in a union and the most recent husband/partner for divorced, separated, or widowed women. Figures in parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted cases. An asterisk indicates that a figure is based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases and has been suppressed. ¹ Includes only women who are currently in a union

^a According to the wife's report. See Table 20.5 for list of behaviours
 ^a According to the wife's report. Restricted to women age 18-49 who are currently in a union. See Table 19.8.1 for list of decisions.
 ⁴ According to the wife's report. Restricted to women age 18-49. See Table 19.9.1 for list of reasons.

Table 20.9 Injuries to women due to violence by partner

Percentage of ever-partnered women age 18 and older who have experienced specific types of violence committed by their current or most recent partner by types of injuries resulting from the violence, according to the type of violence, South Africa DHS 2016

Type of 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- partnered women who have experienced physical or sexual violence
Physical violence ¹					
Ever ²	35.9	19.3	11.7	39.4	816
Past 12 months	35.2	16.2	9.4	38.2	443
Sexual violence					
Ever ²	44.1	28.2	15.2	47.2	232
Past 12 months	28.4	17.7	8.8	29.7	136
Physical or sexual violence ¹					
Ever ²	33.7	18.1	11.1	37.1	872
Past 12 months	31.7	14.7	9.0	34.5	500

Note: Partner refers to the current partner for currently partnered women and the most recent partner for previously partnered women. ¹ Excludes women who reported violence only in response to a direct question on violence during pregnancy ² Includes in the past 12 months

Table 20.10 Violence by women against their partner by women's background characteristics

Percentage of ever-partnered women who have committed physical violence against their current or most recent 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 background characteristics, South Africa DHS 2016

	physical v	e who committed riolence against ir partner	Number of
Background characteristic	Ever ¹	Past 12 months	ever-partnered women
Woman's experience of partner physical violence Ever In the past 12 months Never	19.6 23.1 1.8	14.4 21.2 1.4	816 443 5,048
Age 18-24 25-34 35-44 45-54 55-64 65+	4.6 5.6 5.3 2.4 3.1 2.2	4.6 4.1 3.7 1.7 2.1 0.8	1,041 1,569 1,116 771 667 701
Residence Urban Non-urban	5.0 2.9	3.7 2.1	3,829 2,035
Province Western Cape Eastern Cape Northern Cape Free State KwaZulu-Natal North West Gauteng Mpumalanga Limpopo	7.5 4.4 3.9 4.2 2.8 5.8 4.3 4.3 4.3 1.9	5.7 2.9 3.4 2.7 2.0 4.2 3.3 3.5 1.8	671 743 126 326 1,078 409 1,464 443 605
Marital status Never married Married Living together Divorced/separated Widowed	4.5 2.7 8.5 5.2 2.9	3.5 1.9 7.1 3.9 1.4	2,243 1,894 689 338 701
Number of living children ² 0 1-2 3-4 5+	4.8 5.2 4.2 4.4	3.8 4.2 3.0 3.5	771 2,339 911 149
Employment Employed for cash Employed not for cash Not employed	4.7 14.3 3.9	3.3 8.9 3.0	1,798 61 4,005
Education No education Primary incomplete Primary complete Secondary incomplete Secondary complete More than secondary	3.2 3.8 4.6 4.7 5.1 2.3	2.3 3.0 2.7 3.9 3.6 0.9	497 614 256 2,289 1,464 745
Wealth quintile Lowest Second Middle Fourth Highest	3.4 5.4 3.8 3.9 4.6	2.6 3.9 2.6 3.1 3.5	1,096 1,202 1,181 1,162 1,223
Total 18+ Total 18-49	4.2 4.9	3.2 3.8	5,865 4,169

Note: Partner refers to the current partner for currently partnered women and the most recent partner for previously partnered women. ¹ Includes in the past 12 months ² Available for ever-partnered women age 18-49 only

Table 20.11 Violence by women against their husband/partner by husband's/partner's characteristics and empowerment indicators

Percentage of ever-in-union women who have committed physical violence against their current or most recent husband/partner when he was not already beating or physically hurting them, ever and in the past 12 months, according to husband's/partner's characteristics and women's empowerment indicators, South Africa DHS 2016

	Percentage physical v their hus	Number of	
Background characteristic	Ever ¹	Past 12 months	ever-in-union women
Husband's/partner's education ²			
No education	6.2	5.4	244
Primary incomplete	2.8	2.0	276
Primary complete Secondary incomplete	1.3 5.9	1.3 4.7	107 866
Secondary complete	4.8	3.5	622
More than secondary	1.1	0.3	395
Don't know	0.6	0.6	72
Husband's/partner's alcohol consumption			
Does not drink alcohol	2.0	1.3	2,154
Drinks alcohol but is never drunk	(0.0)	(0.0)	37
Is sometimes drunk Is often drunk	5.4 13.2	4.4 8.8	1,072 354
Don't know	13.2	0.0	5
Husband's/partner's drug usage			
Does not use drugs	3.9	2.8	3,502
Sometimes uses drugs	(2.7)	(2.7)	42
Often uses drugs Don't know	17.3	11.1	53 24
	(3.5)	(3.5)	24
Spousal education difference ² Husband better educated	4.1	3.5	783
Wife better educated	5.0	3.8	858
Both equally educated	4.0	2.8	755
Neither educated	3.7	2.1	116
Don't know	0.6	0.6	72
Spousal age difference ²	5.0	4.0	00.4
Wife older	5.2	4.3	294
Wife is same age Wife 1-4 years younger	2.6 5.1	2.3 4.5	168 934
Wife 5-9 years younger	3.5	2.0	729
Wife 10 or more years younger	3.7	2.4	456
Number of controlling behaviours displayed by husband/partner ³			
0	1.3	1.2	2,001
1-2 3-4	4.3 10.4	3.0 6.9	993 477
5	18.5	14.1	151
Number of decisions in which women participate ⁴			
0	1.6	1.6	46
1-2	9.9	7.8	174
3	4.6	3.4	1,589
Number of reasons for which wife beating is justified⁵			
0	4.6	3.5	1,981
1-2	13.0	12.4	85
3-4	(5.0)	(5.0)	24
5	*	*	12
Father/mother's boyfriend beat mother	10.1	6.0	507
Yes No	10.1 3.1	6.0 2.5	507 2,929
Don't know	2.9	1.5	186
Woman afraid of husband/partner			
Afraid most of the time	15.8	13.4	205
Sometimes afraid	8.5	7.3	526
Never afraid	2.4	1.4	2,891
Total 18+	4.1	3.0	3,622

Note: Husband/partner refers to the current husband/partner for in-union women and the most recent husband/partner for divorced, separated, or widowed women. Figures in parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted cases. An asterisk indicates that a figure is based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases ¹ Includes in the past 12 months
 ² Includes only women who are currently in a union
 ³ According to the wife's report. See Table 20.5 for list of behaviours.

⁴ According to the wife's report. Restricted to women age 18-49 who are currently in a union. See Table 19.8.1 for list of decisions. ⁵ According to the wife's report. Restricted to women age 18-49. See Table 19.9.1 for list of reasons.