



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: IT'S MANIFESTATION AND PERCEPTION OF THE PERPETRATOR

Brot
für die Welt

According to the research "Indicator of Risks of Violence against Women." ¹

Executive Summary

The Women's Fund "Sukhumi" conducted research in 10 targeted municipalities, between March and May 2024, —Zugdidi, Tsalenjikha, Senaki, Tskaltubo, Khoni, Kutaisi, Baghdati, Chokhatauri, Samtredia, and Kobuleti—to study the "Indicator of Risks of Violence against Women." 1027 female respondents participated in the quantitative research interviews in total.

Violence against a family member that is coercive, controlling, and threatening is recognized as domestic violence. This complex issue mainly affects women and children.

As part of the survey, respondents assessed: (i) which form of violence is more common, (ii) who predominantly assumes the 'role' of the perpetrator in domestic violence, and (iii) the main factors (causes) of domestic violence.

Gender-based violence is not an isolated process or action but is associated with the existing risks in the environment/context. The environment remains insensitive to gender issues, often assigning women the obligation to endure violence and save a marriage at any cost, particularly for the sake of the children.

In the dominant role, men are typically the recipients of inheritance, the heads of families, and the main breadwinners. On the other hand, women are frequently given subordinate roles, which reinforces their oppression. Victims of family violence sometimes do not realize they are being abused, often considering humiliating treatment to be the norm.

Therefore, when developing various state programs, it is essential to raise awareness among society and women themselves, to increase the recognition of the incompatibility and inadmissibility of violence against women. This includes the timely identification of perpetrators and vulnerable families, the detection and analysis of threats and risks of violence, and the incorporation of appropriate strategies for their elimination into relevant political documents and programs.



STOP

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN!

Findings

- In both 2023 and 2024, the husband most often assumed the role of a perpetrator, with Mean - 4.0 and 4.1. The husband's role as a perpetrator is so clearly identified that individuals with different family statuses received significantly lower evaluations in comparison (See Table #1).
- In both 2023 and 2024, the women respondents participating in the research particularly emphasized the manifestation of psychological violence;
- A significant proportion of physical and economic violence was recorded (83.6% in 2023; 73.5% in 2024);
- In 2024, the rate of economic violence decreased to 35.7% compared to 56.3% in 2023;
- In 2023, substance abuse was identified as a main cause of domestic violence (approximately 47-51%), while in 2024, the challenging economic situation took the lead (Mean = 3.8). However, according to the results, substance abuse was indicated as the second reason this year (See Table #2; Chart #2);
- Sexual violence has a rather alarming rate of approximately 16%. Compared to other studies on violence and security, this rate has increased significantly, and has been influenced by two factors: 1. Only women are involved in the study; 2. Over time, increased awareness of sexual violence has led to greater recognition and identification of it, with less reluctance to acknowledge it. (See Diagram #1).

Chart №1

Who is most likely to be the abuser in cases of family violence?	Mean	
	2023	2024
Husband	4.0	4.1
Wife	2.28	2.3
Father	2.4	2.4
Father-in-law	2.39	2.4
Mother	2.1	2.1
Mother-in-law	2.4	2.5
Son	2.25	2.2
Daughter	2.0	2.07
Brother	-	2.2
Sister	-	2.02

Table №1

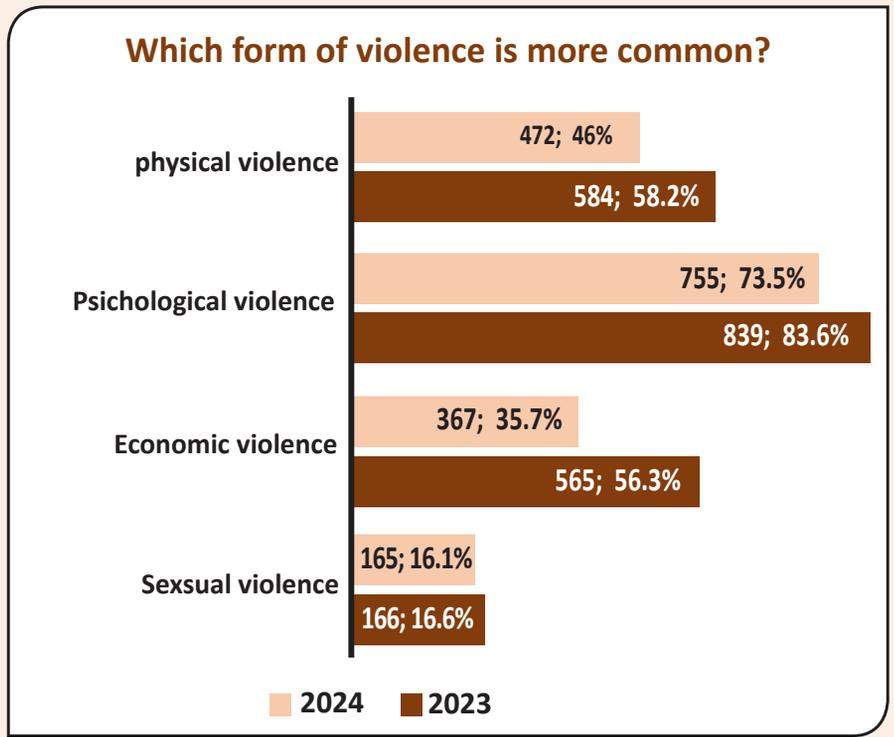
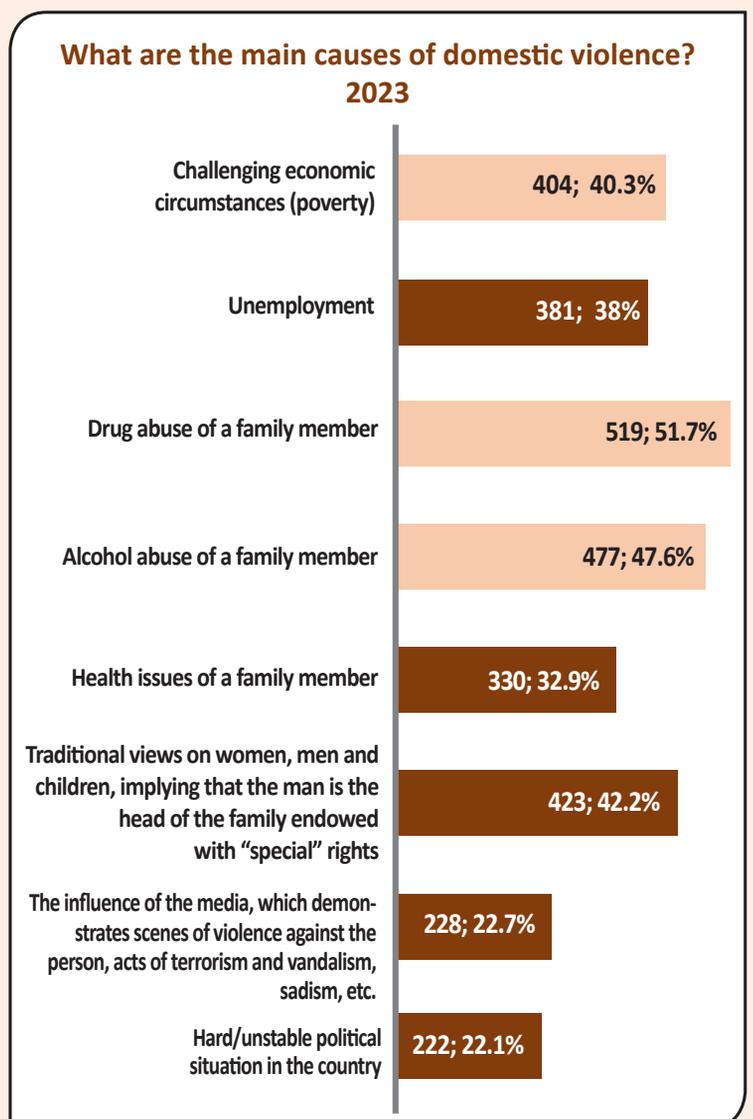


Chart №2

What are the main causes of domestic violence? 2024 г.	Mean
Challenging economic circumstances	3.8
Unemployment	3.2
Drug abuse of a family member	3.4
Alcohol abuse of a family member	3.5
Health issues of a family member	3.2
Traditional views on women, men and children, implying that the man is the head of the family endowed with "special" rights	3.3
The influence of the media, which demonstrates scenes of violence against the person, acts of terrorism and vandalism, sadism, etc.	3.2
Hard/unstable political situation in the country	3.1

Table №2



Recommendations

Economic empowerment:

- Economic empowerment of women and vulnerable group representatives, enhancing employment opportunities (including the development of child-care services, flexible work schedules, day centers, summer kindergartens etc.). Providing various training courses, including professional development, courses on business project writing, etc.; Implementing long-term economic empowerment and employment programs aimed at improving well-being and livelihoods of families;
- Strengthening the role of Women's Rooms and expanding access for the population, including those in remote geographic areas, to information and consulting services;
- Increasing the availability of assistance programs for victims of violence, both in terms of financial support and accessibility across different geographic locations.

Identifying and supporting vulnerable families at an early stage:

- Increasing the involvement of the Child Rights Protection Department, especially social workers and psychologists, representatives of the Mayor and social agents, in communicating with citizens about issues related to violence against women/domestic violence, and in identifying vulnerable families;
- Increasing the sensitivity and involvement of primary health care representatives towards the issues related to violence against women/domestic violence;
- Coordinated cooperation among referral system actors to develop and implement a unified strategy.

Early identification of perpetrators through proactive law enforcement measures:

- Identifying perpetrators/potential perpetrators in districts and settlements, at an early stage, by district inspectors and law enforcement officers through regular visits, conversations with the population, and collecting and disseminating information.
- Establishing a secure communication channel for the population to report information related to vulnerable families to the relevant district inspector or law enforcement officer;
- Police engaging in discussions or interviews with family members identified as high-risk of violence to raise awareness about the criminal nature of violence against women and its legal consequences.

The perpetrator behavior change, at an early stage:

- Implementing perpetrator behavior change programs at an early stage, and ensuring the inclusion of potential perpetrators in these programs;

- Establishing mutual support groups for perpetrators, facilitated by professional psychologists, with a focus on ensuring the inclusion of potential perpetrators;
- Enhancing the role of social workers in monitoring vulnerable families and providing tailored consultations to meet the specific needs of each family.

Rising awareness and increasing competence:

- Implementing the awareness-raising campaigns on gender stereotypes and domestic violence among the Population, including representatives of vulnerable families; Special emphasis on the importance of reporting incidents of domestic violence and zero-tolerance to violence against women;
- Continuously training referral entities on their role and importance in identifying and responding to domestic violence against women, and actively engaging them in information campaigns;
- Strengthening information campaigns on domestic violence in educational institutions (including kindergartens, schools, and universities), along with continuous training for teachers and educators.