



APPLYING TO SUPPORT SERVICES OF VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

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.**

Seeking support services for victims of violence plays a crucial role in the early detection of violence and reducing its consequences.

Research indicates that applying for support services for victims of domestic violence is **low**, mostly as a result of insufficient information about available services, distrust regarding service quality, and fear of social stigma and public judgment.

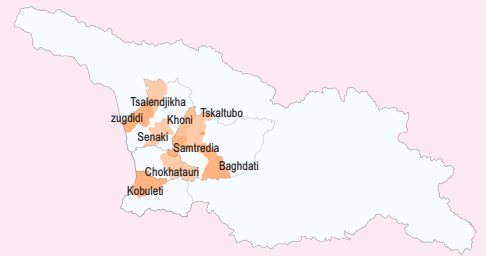
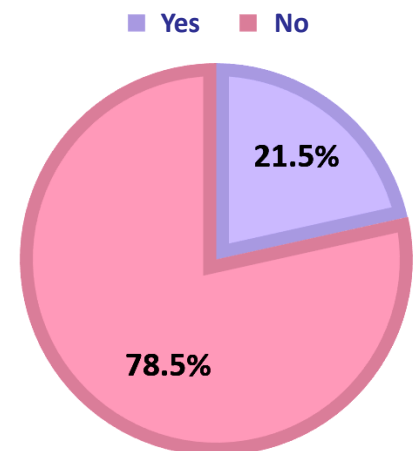


Chart №1

**HAVE YOU SOUGHT
HELP FROM ANY
SUPPORT SERVICES
IF YOU'VE BEEN ABUSED?**



Findings

- In 2023, 16% of the interviewed women reported not seeking help in cases of domestic violence. In 2024, this number increased to 21.5%. However, it's important to note that direct comparison may not indicate a worsening situation due to changes in the question format from the previous year. However, the overall trend highlights a low level of **applying to support services**;
- **In 2023, the highest rate of seeking assistance was addressed to local authorities and the police (112)** (approximately 44-45%). **In 2024, the situation has changed slightly:** women first contacted to the police (48.6%) in cases of violence, followed by the hotline - 116 006 (46.9%), and then local authorities (45.9%). The aforementioned trend indicates two key points: increased awareness of the services provided by the mentioned agencies and growing trust in the police and municipalities. It also shows raised sensitivity and improved responses by these entities to the issue of domestic violence against women. In terms of applying to services, non-governmental organizations come in fourth place, comprising approximately 33-37% of cases. (see chart #2)
- **2024 "Stigma and fear of public judgment" (27.9% of cases) were reported as the reasons why they did not or do not refer to anyone/any service provider in case of domestic violence**, which is fully consistent with 2023 data. A quarter of the interviewed women still emphasize that they "did not know who to apply" (24.5% of cases) or do not believe that they would receive appropriate help if they apply to it (21.4%). (See Table #1, Chart #2).
- The data, which demonstrate society's intolerance of domestic violence, highlight the critical need for greater awareness of and assistance for women who have been victims of violence. It is necessary to raise awareness among women about victim support services, establish the credibility of these programs, and tailor them more closely to women's needs



¹ <https://sosfsokhumi.ge/map>

Chart №2

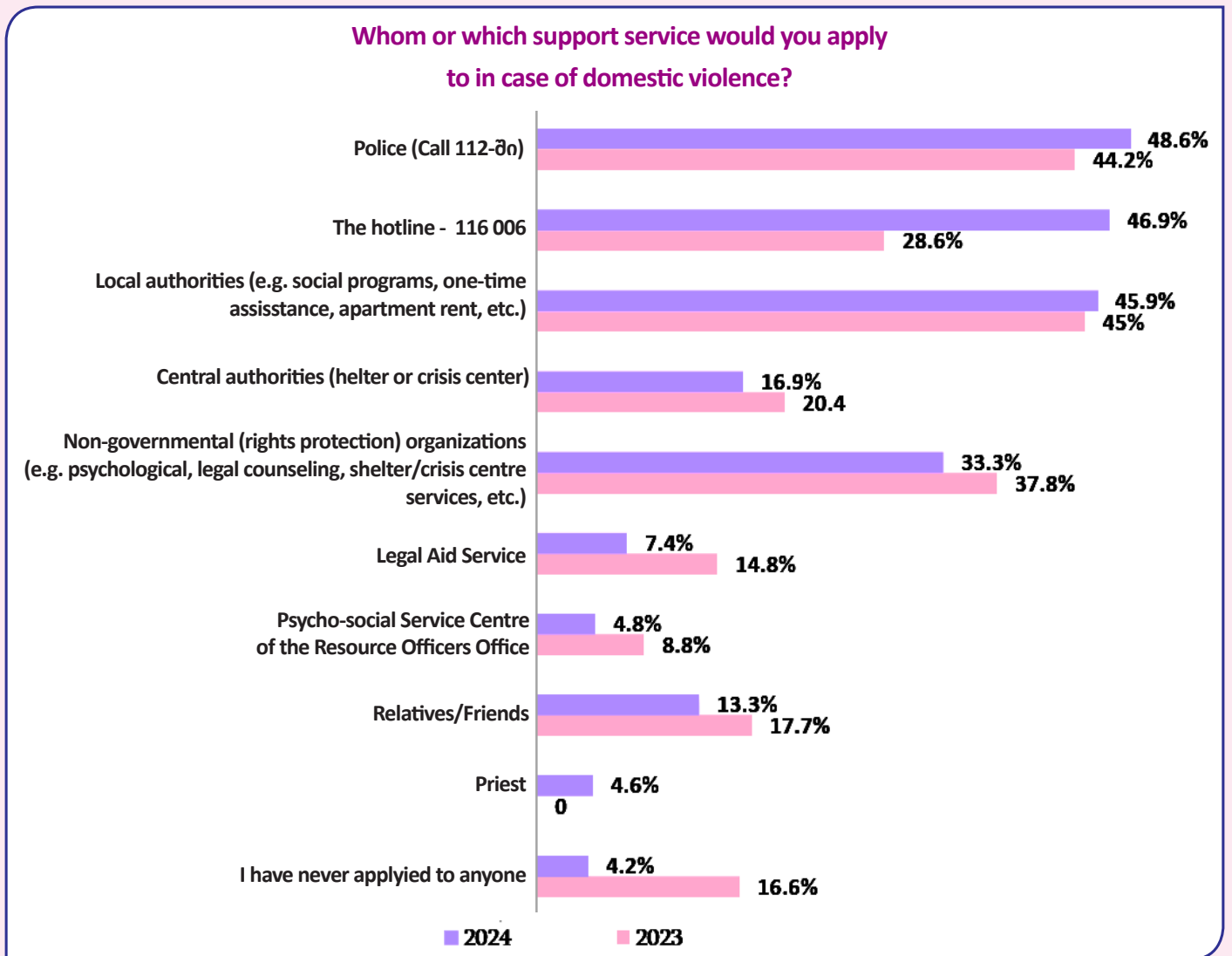
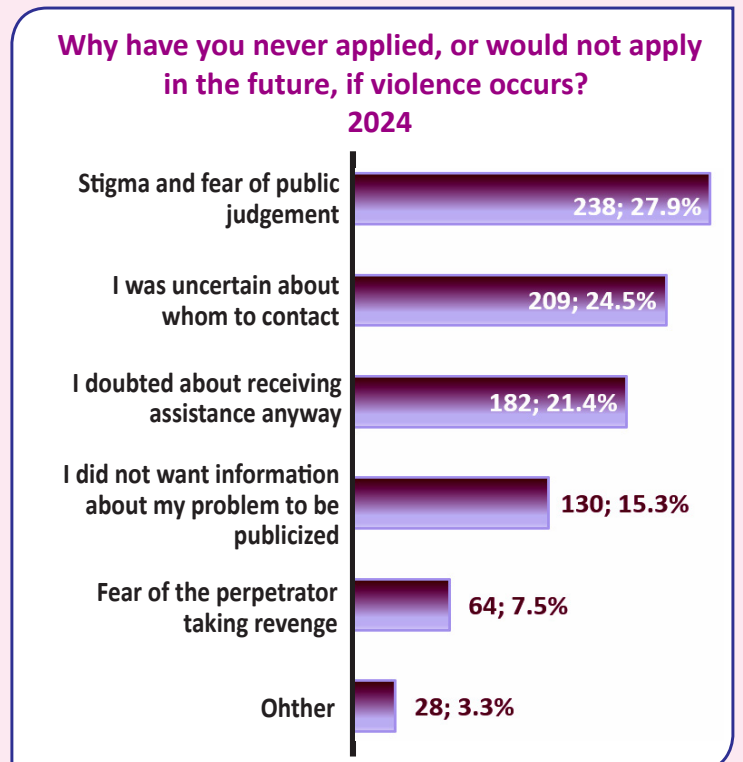


Table №1

Why did you not contact anyone or use support services in case of domestic violence? 2023	No of responses
I was afraid of the negative reaction of family members/relatives/acquaintances	17
I was uncertain about whom to contact	11
I doubted about receiving assistance anyway	25
I did not want information about my problem to be publicized	77

Chart №3



Recommendations

Increasing the visibility and transparency of support services for women affected by violence

- More intensively inform the population about available assistance (e.g., meetings, individual conversations, information campaigns through social networks, flyers/booklets, etc.). The involvement of local government in these information campaigns is significant;
- Increase public awareness about the 116 006 helpline and mobile applications (e.g., 112, Safe You) as well as the children's helpline 111;
- Inform referral entities responsible for addressing violence against women, including doctors, teachers, police, and social workers, about the existing services for domestic violence and violence against women (both municipal and non-governmental). Distribute this information widely with their assistance to reach the population effectively;
- To enhance the credibility of existing services, providing women with comprehensive information regarding the objectives, procedures, and quality standards of these services;
- Intensive efforts by social workers, including those from the Children's Rights Protection Department, with vulnerable families, along with widespread dissemination of information;
- Sharing success stories of women survivors who have transformed their lives for the better after receiving appropriate help;

Raising public awareness and encouraging compassion and support for women survivors

- Conducting wide awareness-raising campaigns about the social harm of violence against women/domestic violence, fostering a sense of collective responsibility in prevention and combating violence;
- Inspiring men to actively support gender equality and to speak out against harmful stereotypes.