Violence Against Women
An EU-wide survey
Experience of violence in childhood

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FRA
- 28 EU Member States
- 1,500 interviews per Member State
- In total, interviews with 42,000 women
What the survey asked

- Physical and sexual violence – by partners & non-partners (*impact on children*)
- Psychological violence by partners (*impact on children*)
- Stalking and sexual harassment – including cyber
- Fear of victimisation and its impact
- Awareness of law & support services
- Violence in different settings & by different perpetrators
- Experiences since age 15 & in last 12 months
- **Experience of violence before age 15 – by an adult**
How the survey was carried out

- Random sample of women aged 18-74 years old
- All interviews face-to-face
- A standardised questionnaire for all countries
- Separate self-completion component for comparison
- Each interview between 25 mins to over 2 hours
- Female interviewers with specialised training
- 2 years to develop the survey + 1 year for fieldwork
Violence in childhood (1)

What women said about their experiences of violence in childhood - by an adult
**Physical violence before age 15, by an adult (%)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Slapped or pulled by the hair</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hit hard so that it hurt</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kicked very hard so that it hurt</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beaten very hard with stick, cane or belt</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stabbed or cut</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Any physical violence before the age of 15</strong></td>
<td><strong>27</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Perpetrator of physical violence before the age of 15 (%)

- Father: 55%
- Mother: 46%
- Male relative: 10%
- Male teacher, doctor, priest: 6%
- Female relative: 6%
- Female teacher, doctor, priest: 5%
- Other female: 4%
- Step- or fosterfather: 4%
- Male friend: 2%
- Male acquaintance, neighbour: 2%
- Step- or fostermother: 1%
- Men unknown before: 1%
### Sexual violence before age 15, by an adult (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exposed their genitals to you</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Made you pose naked in front of a person or in photographs / video /</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>internet webcam</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Touched your genitals or breasts against your will</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forced to touch somebody’s genitals (or breasts)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forced into sexual intercourse</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any sexual violence before the age of 15</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Perpetrator of sexual violence before the age of 15 (%)

- Men unknown before: 51%
- Male acquaintance, neighbour: 25%
- Male relative: 17%
- Father: 4%
- Male friend: 4%
- Step- or fosterfather: 4%
- Male teacher, doctor, priest: 3%
- Other female: 2%
- Female relative: 1%
Psychological violence before age 15, by a member of the family (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Said that you were not loved</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Said that they wished you had never been born</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threatened to abandon you or throw you out</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threatened to hurt you badly or kill you</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any psychological violence before the age of 15</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Perpetrator of psychological violence in the family before the age of 15 (%)

- Mother: 48%
- Father: 41%
- Male relative: 11%
- Female relative: 9%
- Step- or fosterfather: 7%
- Step- or fostermother: 3%
Using the data for policy and practice

- Evidence about who perpetrators are (much of which goes unreported) needs to be followed-up to identify potential gaps & oversight in authorities’ responses to child abuse.

- For example – women said that half of sexual abuse/misconduct is committed by men who are strangers; therefore, risk of 'stranger danger' and the type of abuse committed by strangers needs to be looked at alongside the share of abuse by men known to their victims.
Childhood experience of violence before the age of 15, by age group and type of violence (%)

- Physical violence
- Sexual violence
- Psychological violence

Graph showing the percentage of violence by age group (18-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60+) for each type of violence.
In line with the Istanbul Convention – EU Member States should be encouraged to review their legislation to reassess the justification of legal time limits, where these exist, on reporting abuse that occurred in childhood

- time limits can be extended
- start of time limits can be delayed until a certain age
- no time limits
Violence in childhood (2)

The impact of violence against women on their children

Childhood violence and adult experiences of violence
Of those women who had experienced violence in a relationship

- 73% of women who had been in a violent relationship (where there were children) said the children were aware of the violence
- 7% said current/previous partner threatened to take the children away
- 3% said current/previous partner threatened to hurt the children
- 3% said current/previous partner did hurt the children
Pregnancy and violence
Alcohol and violence

- Of women who were pregnant during a violent relationship – 20% of victims of current partner violence and 42% of victims of previous partner violence say violence took place during pregnancy.
- Antenatal health providers should routinely check if a woman is at risk of violence.
- A partner’s heavy alcohol use is strongly related to violence in a relationship.
- National violence prevention measures should address this; police could routinely collect data on alcohol abuse in domestic violence cases.
Current health status and experiences of any physical or sexual violence before the age of 15 (%)

- In bad or very bad health: 40%
- Diseases or injuries limit daily activities: 44%
- Considers oneself to be disabled or part of a disabled minority: 49%
- Total: 33%
### Relationship between physical violence in childhood and experiences of physical violence by a partner later in life (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Experienced any form of physical violence by any partner (current or previous) since the age of 15</th>
<th>Never</th>
<th>Once</th>
<th>More than once</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Relationship between sexual violence in childhood and experiences of sexual violence by a partner later in life (%)

Experienced sexual violence before the age of 15 in %

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Experienced sexual violence before the age of 15 in %</th>
<th>Never</th>
<th>Once</th>
<th>More than once</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Experience of physical and/or sexual abuse in childhood can indicate increased risk of abuse in adulthood.

Programmes should target children and families at risk of abuse in an effort to stop the cycle of abuse – with respect to both the present and future.
Renewed focus needed at EU level on widespread and unreported abuse that women experience as children.

Evidence – from surveys and other sources – can be used to address past and current abuse.

Important to gather evidence from children as well as adult women.

Detailed data on the characteristics of abuse needed to target interventions; for example – surveys capture unreported abuse, and who the perpetrators are.
Concluding Points

Violence against children as a fundamental rights abuse

- EU Victims’ Directive states: *Child victims should be considered and treated as the full bearers of rights set out in this Directive and should be entitled to exercise those rights in a manner that takes into account their capacity to form their own views’*

- EU Guidelines on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Child – including general actions to protect children’s rights with regard to protection against violence.
Main results report

- Recommendations at the end of each chapter
- Chapter on violence in childhood
- Future release of dataset

Available at http://fra.europa.eu
Data explorer

- Data by topic, country...
- Visual presentation:
  - Country maps
  - Charts
  - Country comparisons
- Data tables
- All exportable for reuse

Thank you

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