



Monetary Cost of Violence against Women- VAW in Jordan
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Abstract

Women across the world, regardless of income, age or education, are subject to physical, sexual, psychological and economic violence. At the global level, 1 in 3 women has experienced physical and/ or sexual intimate partner violence (IPV) ¹. In Jordan 24% of ever-married women experienced physical, and/or sexual violence perpetrated by their husband. Only a fraction of women who experience violence seek help. Only 41% of women who have experienced any form of physical or sexual violence in Jordan sought help; an additional 13% did not seek help but told someone about their experience. Among women who did seek help, 84% looked to their own family for support, 20% their husband's family, 5% from friends, and less than two percent from the police. The low reporting rate is deeply alarming as it demonstrates that very few women seek the help and protection of police. This information highlights a major gap in the available information on the factors leading women to seek help. What is it that is causing the majority of violence against women VAW survivors not to seek help? Why are those in need of help not going to the police? As highlighted by the Jordan Country Gender Assessment on Economic Participation, Agency and Access to Justice², women face more considerable challenges than men to accessing justice, such as: lack of awareness of rights; limited understanding of procedures; and limited financial resources to pay court and lawyer fees. VAW also incurs significant economic costs, both direct and indirect. Direct costs include those associated with the police; health services, legal costs, and costs associated with housing, social and support services. Indirect costs include those related to reduce employment and productivity. Globally, conservative estimates of lost productivity resulting from domestic violence range between 1 and 2 per cent of gross domestic product³. Economic costs of VAW are widespread and every recognizable effect of violence has a cost whether it is direct or indirect. While VAW-related data have improved in Jordan, it remains difficult to research the costs of violence. This paper will focus on the fact that VAW has an imputed monetary value that constitutes a significant drain on Jordan's economic resources. Key words: Prevalence of VAW, Economic costs of VAW.

Introduction

Considering the impact of violence on women's physical and emotional health, her family, and the civilization at large is sufficient to pledge act against this phenomenon. Nevertheless, measuring the costs of this violence adds another layer of its importance and impact. Studying the economic values of women victims to violence produces an analytical tool that allow for comparisons across other social and economic problems and provide inspection that can be used as an advocate device by economists, women machineries, policy and decision makers that will assist having potential decline of societal acceptance of violence against women, as recognizing the effects of its cost can create an awareness around how it affects the rest of the society. This awareness is vital for men who perpetrate violence, who therefore may recognize that they also endure costs for their violent attitude.

Prevalence of Domestic Violence in Jordan

The Demographic & Health Study (DHS) provides the only national-level population information on VAW in Jordan. The 2012 DHS results show that one-third (34 percent) of ever-married women age 15-49 reported that they had been hit, slapped, kicked, or subjected

¹ The World's Women Report 2015

² World Bank Report, 2013.

³ World Bank Report, 2013.



to some other form of physical violence at some point after their fifteenth birthday (Figure.1). Thirteen percent of women reported that they had been subjected to some form of physical violence at least once within the 12-month period before the interview, including 4 percent who reported that they had often experienced some form of physical violence during the period.

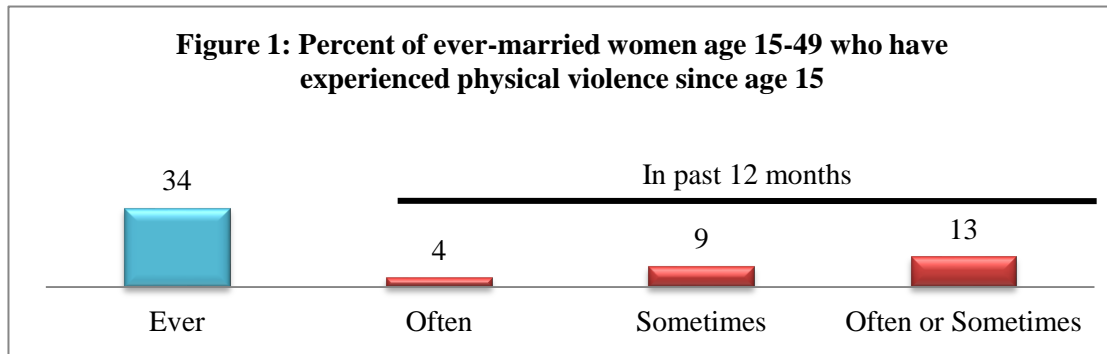


Figure 2 indicate that a woman’s marital status is strongly related to the likelihood that she had ever experienced physical violence; the prevalence of violence is higher among formerly married (divorced, separated, or widowed) women (57 percent) than currently married women (33 percent). The DHS found that factors associated with increased likelihood of exposure to violence among Jordanian women were poverty, low level of education, and non-employment.



Data in Table 1 show the percentage of persons committing physical violence among ever-married women age 15-49 who have experienced physical violence since age 15. The most commonly reported perpetrator of physical violence is the current husband (56.9 percent). More than one in four (27 percent) women report physical violence by a brother, one in five (21 percent) women report physical violence by their father, and one in ten (10 percent) women report physical violence by a former husband

Table 1: Persons committing physical violence	
Person	Percentage of ever-married women
Current husband	56.9
Former husband	9.7
Father	21.2
Mother	14.3



Brother	27.0
Sister	2.8
Stepfather/stepmother	0.7
Other relative	1.0
Teacher	4.0
Other male	0.3
Other	0.6

As for the experience of sexual violence, the data from DHS survey reveals that 9 percent of women have ever experienced sexual violence from a current or former husband. Women living in the camp areas are more likely to report spousal sexual violence (11 percent and 12 percent, respectively) than women living in non camp areas (9 percent. Women who are divorced, separated, or widowed are much more likely to have ever experienced spousal sexual violence (23 percent) than currently married women (9 percent). Six percent of women report having experienced sexual violence in the 12 months preceding the survey.

It is worth mentioning that the information from DHS indicates 7 percent of ever married women experienced some form of physical violence during pregnancy (hit, slapped, kicked, or subjected to some other form of physical violence at least once during a pregnancy). Women who are divorced, separated, or widowed were far more likely to report ever experiencing violence during pregnancy (19 percent) than currently married women (7 percent). The experience of physical violence during pregnancy increases with the number of children, from 3 percent among women who have no living children to 8 percent among women who have five or more living children. The proportion of women who reported physical violence during pregnancy is noticeably higher in camps (10 percent) than in non camps (7 percent). Women in the lowest wealth quintile are more than twice as likely as women in the other wealth quintiles to report physical violence during pregnancy.

Table 2 display data on the Percentage of ever-married women age 15-49 who have experienced specific types of spousal violence by types of injuries resulting from the violence, according to the type of violence and whether they experienced the violence ever and in the 12 months preceding the survey. One-third (32 percent) of women who had ever experienced physical violence reported having ever sustained cuts, bruises, or aches; 9 percent had eye injuries, sprains, dislocations, or burns; and 4 percent had deep wounds, broken bones, broken teeth, or other serious injuries. Overall, 34 percent of women had suffered one or more of these injuries. A similar pattern is seen for injuries sustained in an incident in the past 12 months.

Forty percent of women who had ever experienced sexual violence suffered some form of injury; 39 percent had cuts, bruises, or aches; 12 percent had eye injuries, sprains, dislocations, or burns; and 6 percent suffered deep wounds, broken bones, broken teeth, or another serious injury. A similar pattern is seen for women who had experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months. Among women who experienced either physical or sexual violence, 29 percent had cuts, bruises, or aches; 9 percent had eye injuries, sprains, dislocations, or burns; and 4 percent had deep wounds, broken bones, broken teeth, or another serious injury. Thirty percent of these women suffered some type of injury. Comparable percentages are seen among women who experienced physical or sexual violence in the past 12 months.

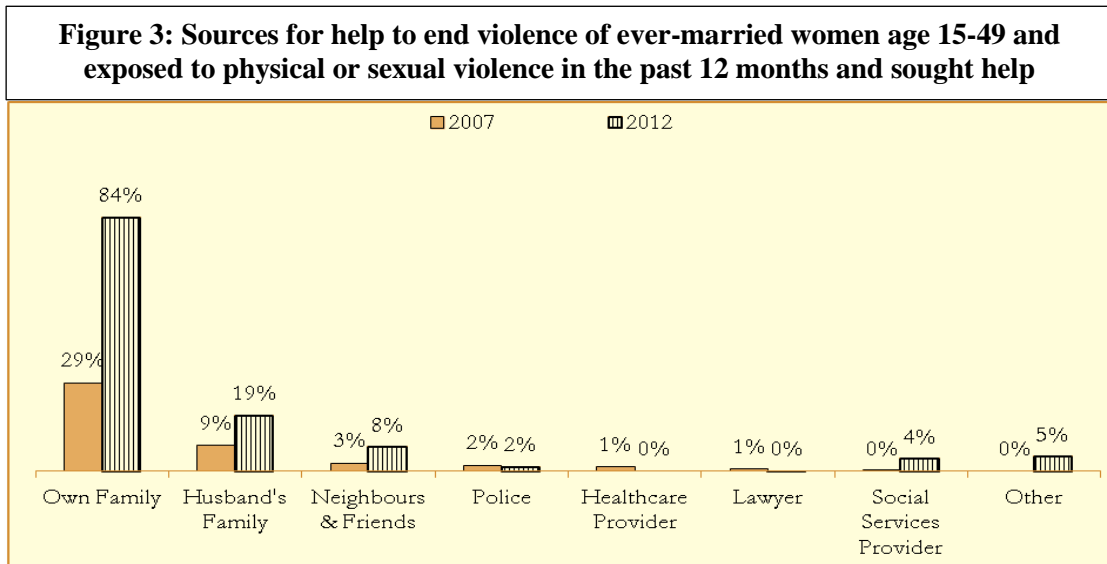


Table 2: Injuries to women due to spousal violence

Type of violence	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
Experienced physical violence¹				
Ever ²	32.4	9.4	4.3	33.7
In the past 12 months	36.2	10.2	2.0	37.3
Experienced sexual violence				
Ever ²	38.9	11.6	6.4	40.2
In the past 12 months	34.9	10.5	3.7	35.9
Experienced physical or sexual violence¹				
Ever ²	29.0	8.5	3.9	30.2
In the past 12 months	30.2	8.9	2.2	31.4

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

The DHS also noted that in 2007, 22% of the VAW survivors sought help to deal with the violence they were experiencing. In 2012 this number almost doubled to 41%. The 2012 DHS found that women who experienced only sexual violence were the least likely to seek help (only 5% of victims) while those who experienced both physical and sexual violence were the most likely to seek help (61%). It should be noted that the overwhelming majority of women who reported seeking help, resorted to family members and friends (Figure 2). On the other hand, only 1.5% of the women who reported being subjected to physical abuse and 3.3% of the women who reported experiencing both sexual and physical abuse sought help from the police.





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After a woman is exposed to a forceful accident, she may ask for a number of healing/ curing services, or she can report the abuse, file a court case, leave her home, or even do all of the above. A series of costs accordingly arises for each sector, beginning with the transportation costs to each service provider, to the health statements, police reporting, the filing of the court cases, to the lawyers, and the costs of medicines and healing processes. In addition, an abused woman may have to miss extra days of work, or in some cases may leave her work which means a decline in her savings and investments as well as a loss of production in the labor market.

Studying the existing literature and research around the methodology of calculating the cost of VAW find that; it differs from one study to another due to differences in access to data and unpredictable levels of societal awareness. Nevertheless, the hypothetical context divides the costs according to their nature into direct costs and indirect costs. Direct costs arise out of cash exchanges on commodities and services and take the forms of capital, labor and material input. The indirect costs have a calculated monetary fund/ value but no material monetary transaction. Table 3 is an overview of the potential type of costs of violence, accompanied by those who potentially bear those costs.

Table 3: Types and potential costs of violence, and who is bearing the cost⁴

Levels	Who is bearing the cost	Direct costs	Indirect costs	Intangible costs
Individual level	Victims of gender-based violence Perpetrators Other individuals: Family members, peers, neighbors, etc	Out of pocket expenses	Income lost (missed working days) Education lost (missed schooling days) Household work lost Time lost	Suffering, pain, lives of murdered women, negative psychological effectson victims of VAW, theirchildrenand other individuals who witness violence
Local level	Community members: schools, work- places	Prevention Provisionof services	Productivity lost Human capital lost	
National level	Government NGOs	Prevention Provision of services Prosecution	Productivity lost	
International level	International organizations NGOs	Prevention Provisionof services		

The specific objective of this paper is to estimate individual economic direct and indirect cost born by victim of violence (women). However, it is worth mentioning that Jordan does not

⁴ Source: Report to UNFPA by Duvvury and Marcos 2014



have a nationally representative survey that allows estimating these costs with an opportunity of computing macro level estimates. Moreover, the estimates mentioned in this paper are based on interviews conducted with representatives of service providers of VAW from governmental institutions and CSOs as well as women survivors of violence.

Direct Costs

These costs include all types of direct money spent by the victim, these include:

1. The cost of health services: Public hospitals provide services to victims of VAW free of charge. Yet, these costs in the private health sector may consist of:
 - a. Medical consultations which on average cost 10 Jd for General practitioner to 20 Jd for specialist physician
 - b. Hospitalization in the emergency room ranges from 35 Jd (Cuts, bruises, or aches, eye injuries, sprains, dislocations, or burns) to 150 Jd (Deep wounds, broken bones, broken teeth, or any other serious injury).
 - c. An overnight stay in hospital costs on average between 30 Jd to 55 Jd.
 - d. Psychological counseling costs range from 35 Jd to 70 Jd.
 - e. A cost of an operation in hospital like abortion or any gynecologist surgery, range on average from 240 Jd to 340 Jd.
2. The average cost of legal and judicial proceedings range from 400 Jd to 800 Jd.
3. The accommodation of women victims of violence in a private or public shelter is free of charge however it costs the service provider on average 55 to 75 JD per month (private one).
4. The cost of transportation on average ranges from 5 Jd to 20 Jd.

Indirect Costs

1. The cost of missed working days for waged female worker: In order to estimate the financial value of missed working days for female's victim of VAW, an assumption was made using The Jordanian minimum wage⁵ as a proxy for estimating the cost of missed working days. Jordan's Minimum Wage is the lowest amount a worker can be legally paid for his work. The minimum wage rate is 220 Jordanian dinars per month for workers in all sectors. So if a waged female worker missed work for two days after incidents of domestic violence; this means that a woman lost 14.7 Jd (the minimum wage of 220 Jd is divided by 30 days in order to obtain the daily wage and then the outcome - 7.33 Jd - is multiplied by the number of days).
2. The cost of missed domestic work days: Domestic violence victims, especially married ones may stop fulfilling their domestic duties due to violence, especially in the case of injuries. For the purpose of estimating the monetary value of missed domestic work days, the Generalized Replacement approach⁶ was used by assuming that the work can be done by a non-Jordanian female domestic worker who gains an average daily wage of 25 Jd.

Conclusion

This paper focused on understanding the experience of violence and associate costs from the women's perspective. Therefore the findings of the paper are limited by the level of reporting by women with regard to both their experience of violence and their actual help seeking behavior. Nevertheless, the value of the cost developed from violence (including both direct and indirect costs) for women is based on only one incident.

⁵ <http://www.labor-watch.net/en/read-news/1880>

⁶ THE EGYPT ECONOMIC COST OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE SURVEY (ECGBVS) 2015