

# Overview on Violence Against Women in Vanuatu

## Study on “Women’s Lives and Family Relationships”

Vanuatu Women’s Centre in partnership  
with the National Statistics Office

6 October 2011



Australian Government  
AusAID

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# Study objectives

- Estimate the prevalence and incidence of violence against women
- Effects of violence against women on women victims/survivors
- Effects of violence against women on children
- Attitudes, risks and protective factors
- Coping strategies of women

# Design of the research

- World Health Organization methodology adapted for Vanuatu
  - High quality, used in many countries including Kiribati & Solomon Islands and Fiji
- 8 survey sites chosen (6 rural provinces & urban areas of Port Vila and Lugainville)  
(29 islands, 205 Enumeration Areas)
- Sample developed by National Statistics Office
- Training of interviewers for 4 weeks
- Training for Household listing for 1 week

# Response rate

- A total of 3619 households were sampled; 3281 of these were occupied, and the remainder were either vacant for an extended period or destroyed.
- Household response rate: 96%
- Households refused: 3%
- Households where the residents spoke a different language and were unable to be interviewed: 1%
- Number of ever-partnered women in the sample: 2061

# Types of violence measured in the study

## Violence by current or former husband/partner:

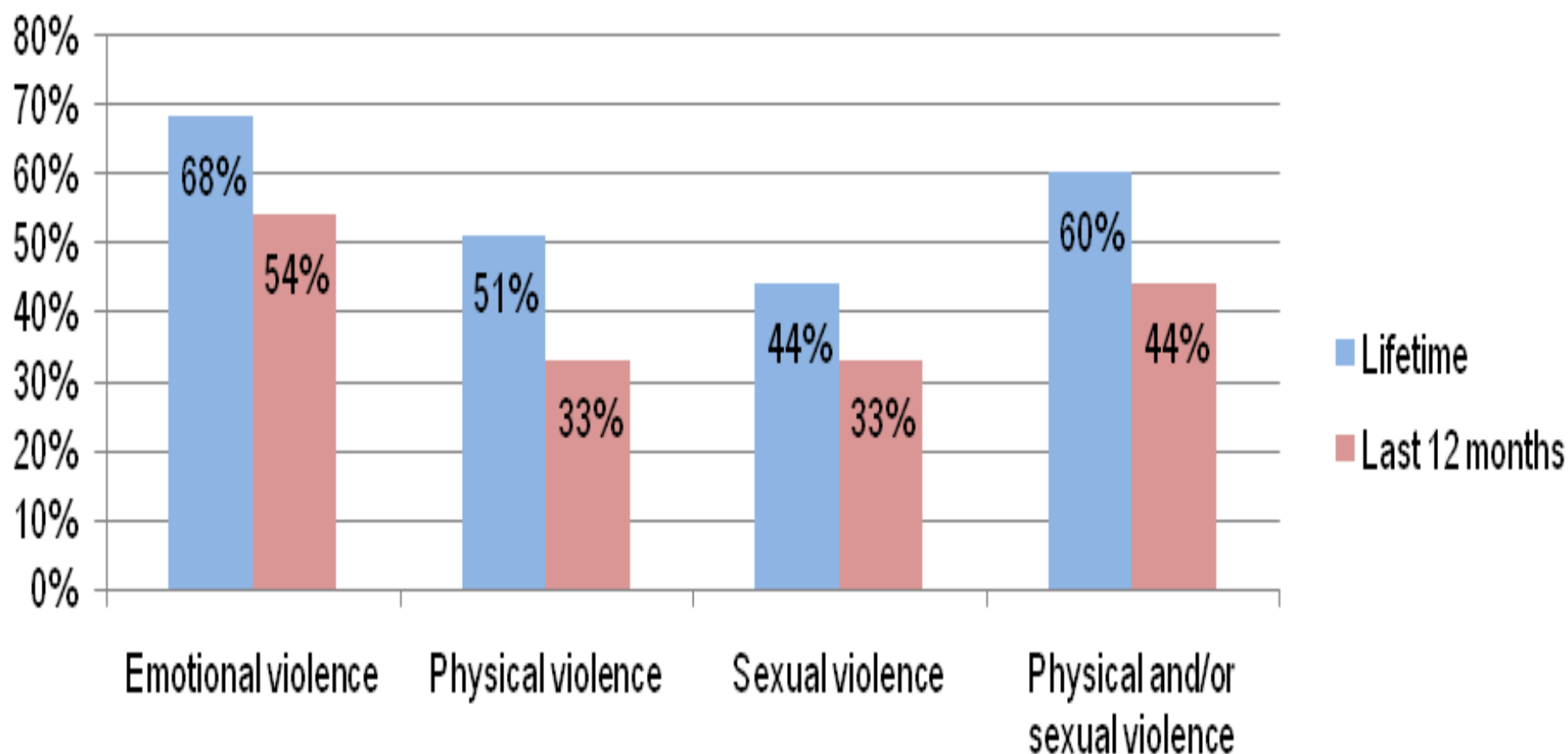
- Physical violence
- Sexual violence
- Emotional abuse and controlling behaviour

## Violence by non-partners (parents, teachers, strangers, brothers, etc):

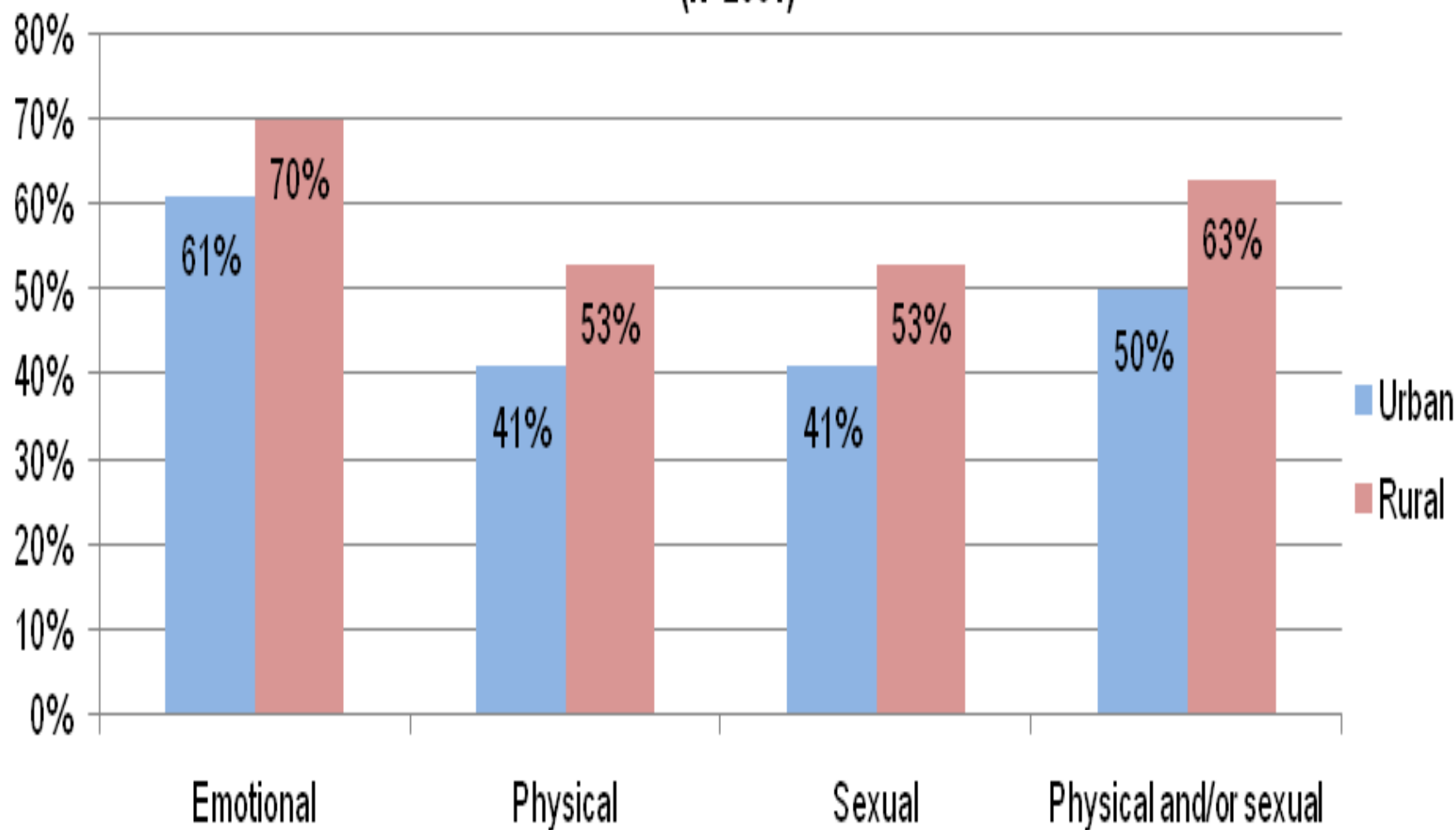
- Physical violence (over 15 years old)
- Sexual violence (over 15 years old)
- Childhood sexual abuse (under 15 years old)

# Results: violence by husband/partner

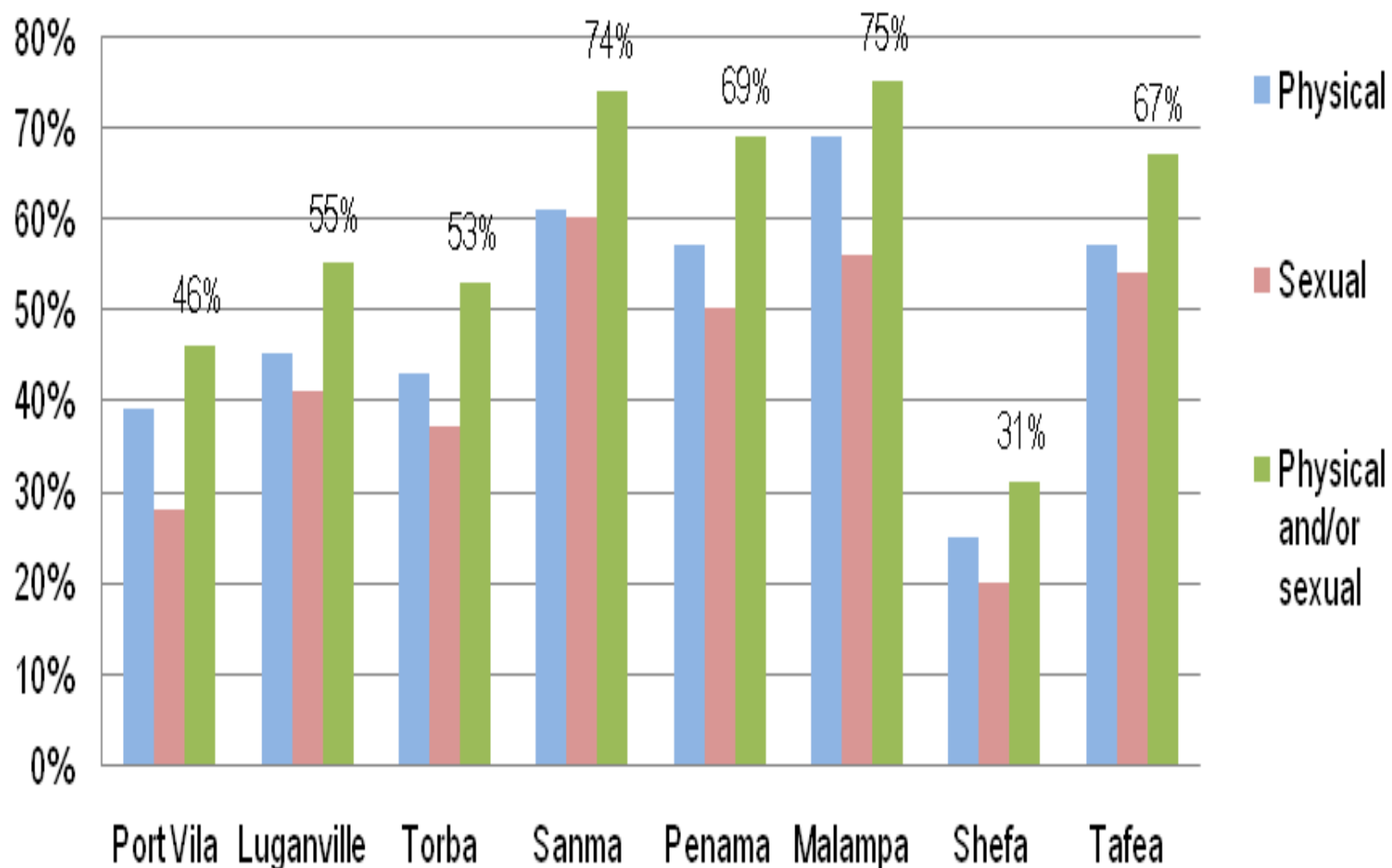
**Chart 4.1: Percentage of women who reported violence by their husbands/partners in their lifetime, compared with the last 12 months, whole of Vanuatu (N=2061)**



**Chart 4.3: Percentage of ever-partnered women who experienced emotional, physical or sexual violence by their husbands/partners in their lifetime, in urban and rural areas (N=2061)**

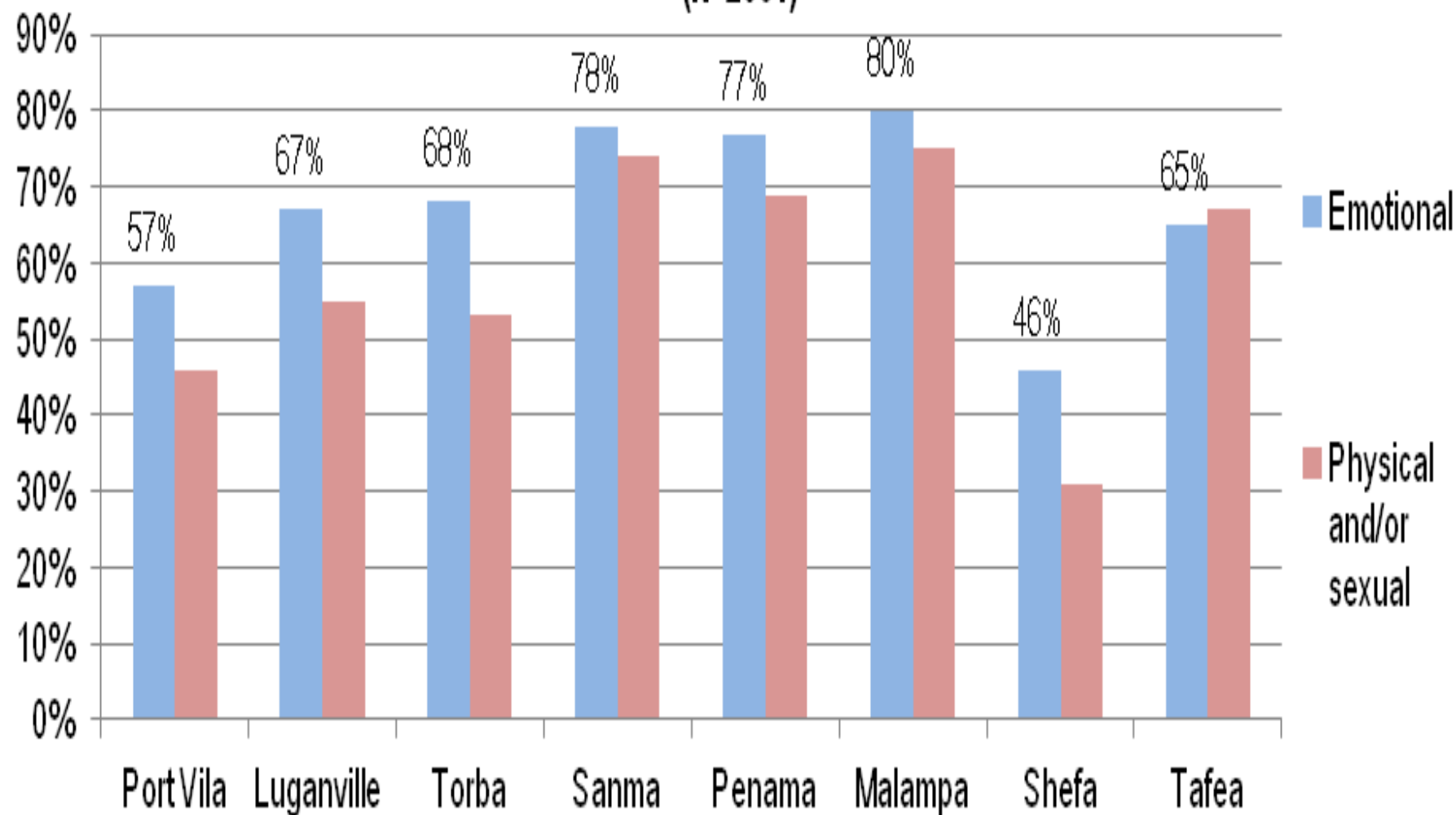


**Chart 4.4: Percentage of ever-partnered women who experienced physical or sexual violence by their husbands/partners in their lifetime, by location (N=2061)**





**Percentage of ever-partnered women who experienced emotional violence compared with physical or sexual violence by their husbands/partners in their lifetime, by location (N=2061)**



# SEVERE AND MODERATE VIOLENCE

- **Severe violence** (punched, kicked, dragged or beaten repeatedly, choking and burning, or hit with a weapon such as a piece of wood, iron bar, knife or axe)
- **Moderate violence** (slapping, pushing and shoving)
- **Women who experienced severe violence was 90% of the sample**
- **Women who experienced moderate violence was 10% of the sample**

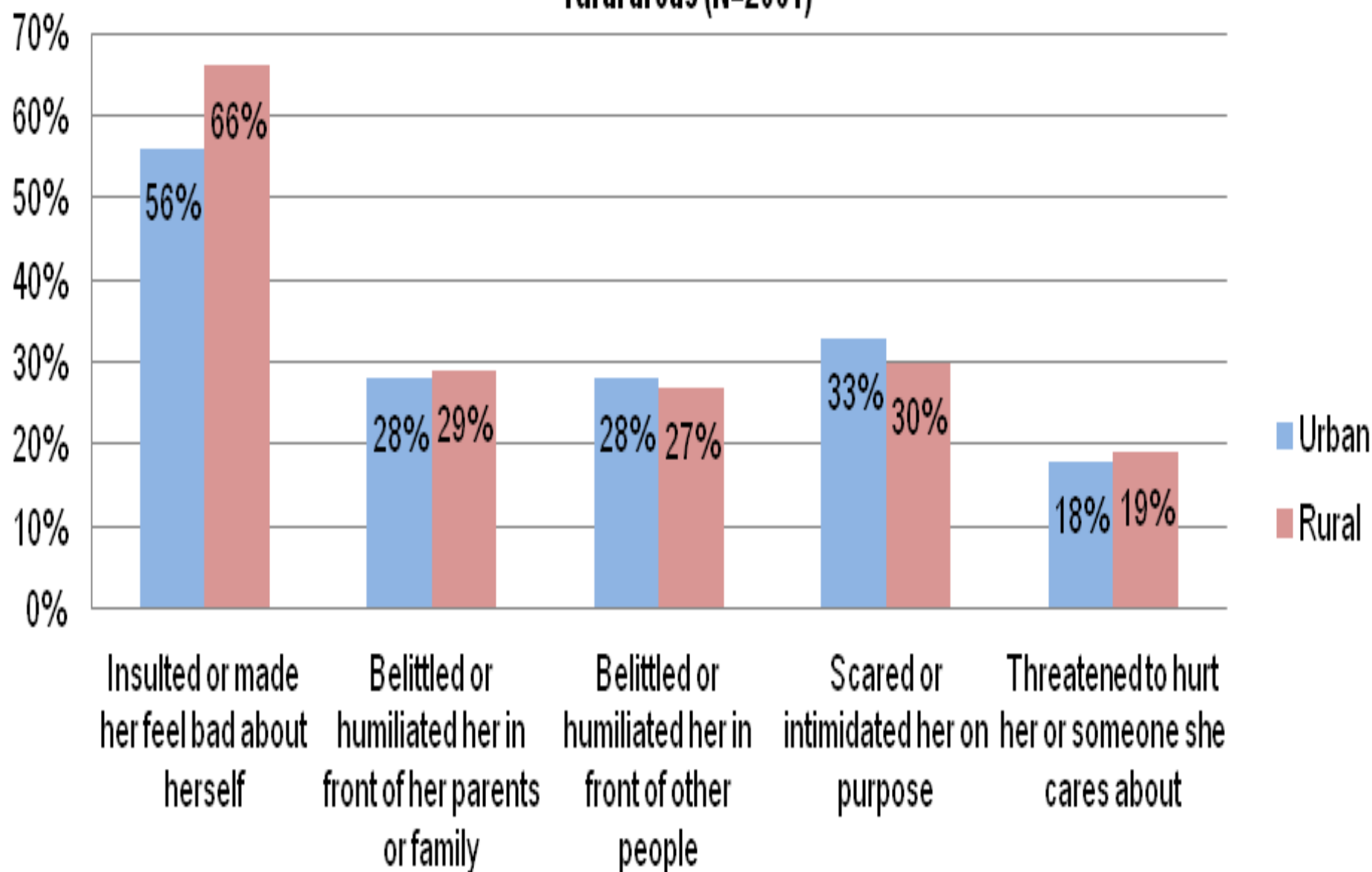
Types of physical violence among ever-partnered women  
who reported they had experienced physical violence by  
their husbands/partners (N=1045)

Types of physical violence	%
▪ Slapped or threw something	89%
▪ Pushed or shoved	48%
▪ Hit with a fist or something else	82%
• Kicked, dragged, beaten up	48%
• Chocked or burnt on purpose	24%
• Threatened to use a weapon	29%
• Actually used a weapon	23%

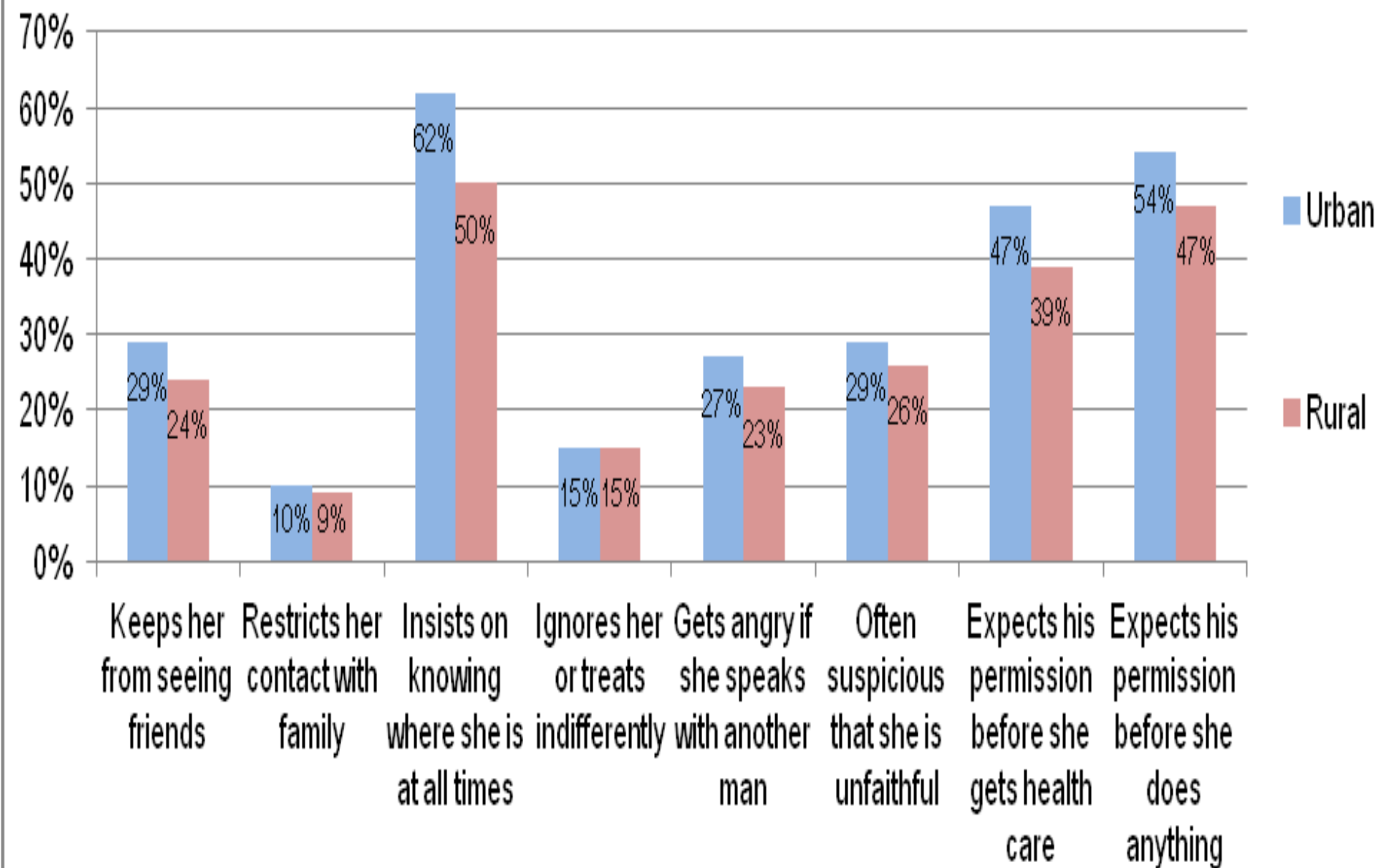
Types of sexual violence among women who reported that they had experienced sexual violence by their husbands/partners (N=910)

Types of sexual violence	%
•Forced to have sex	88%
•Had sex because afraid of what partner may do	78%
•Forced to perform a degrading or humiliating sexual act	40%

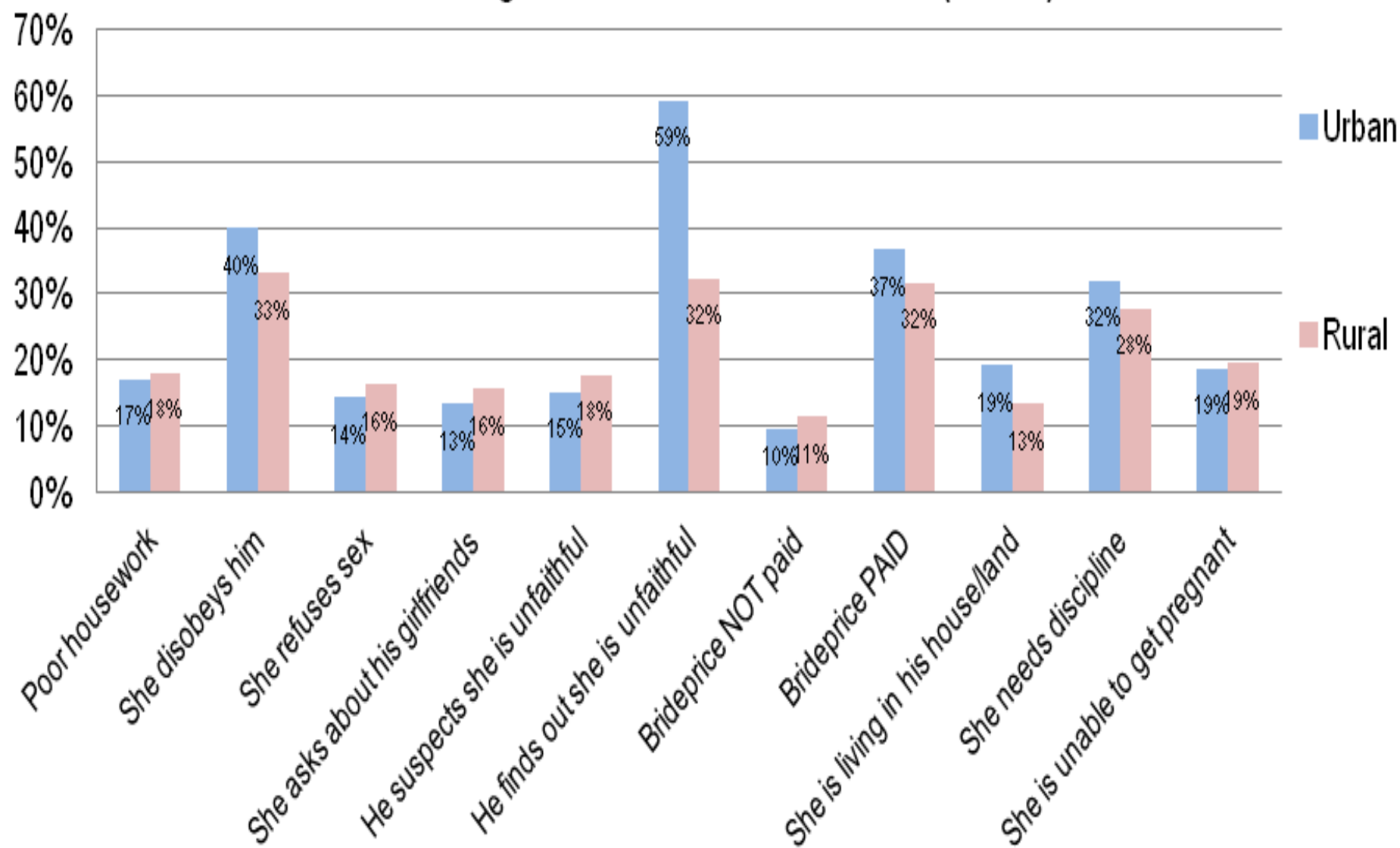
# Types of emotional abuse of ever-partnered women by husbands/partners in urban and rural areas (N=2061)



## Control of ever-partnered women by husbands/partners in urban and rural areas (N=2061)



**Women's attitudes to physical partner violence, by location:**  
**"A man has good reason to beat his wife if: ..." (N=2337)**

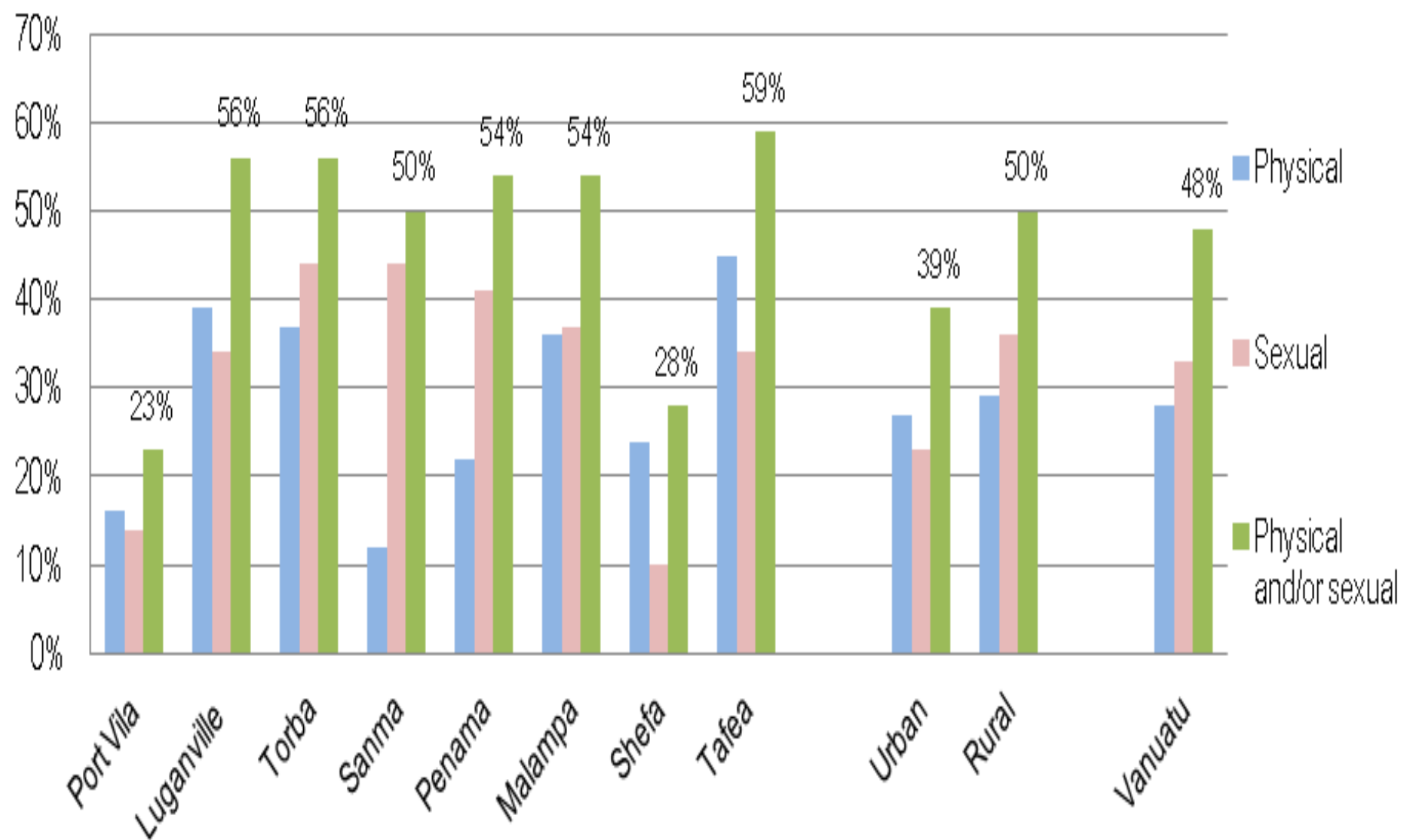


# Violence by non-partners

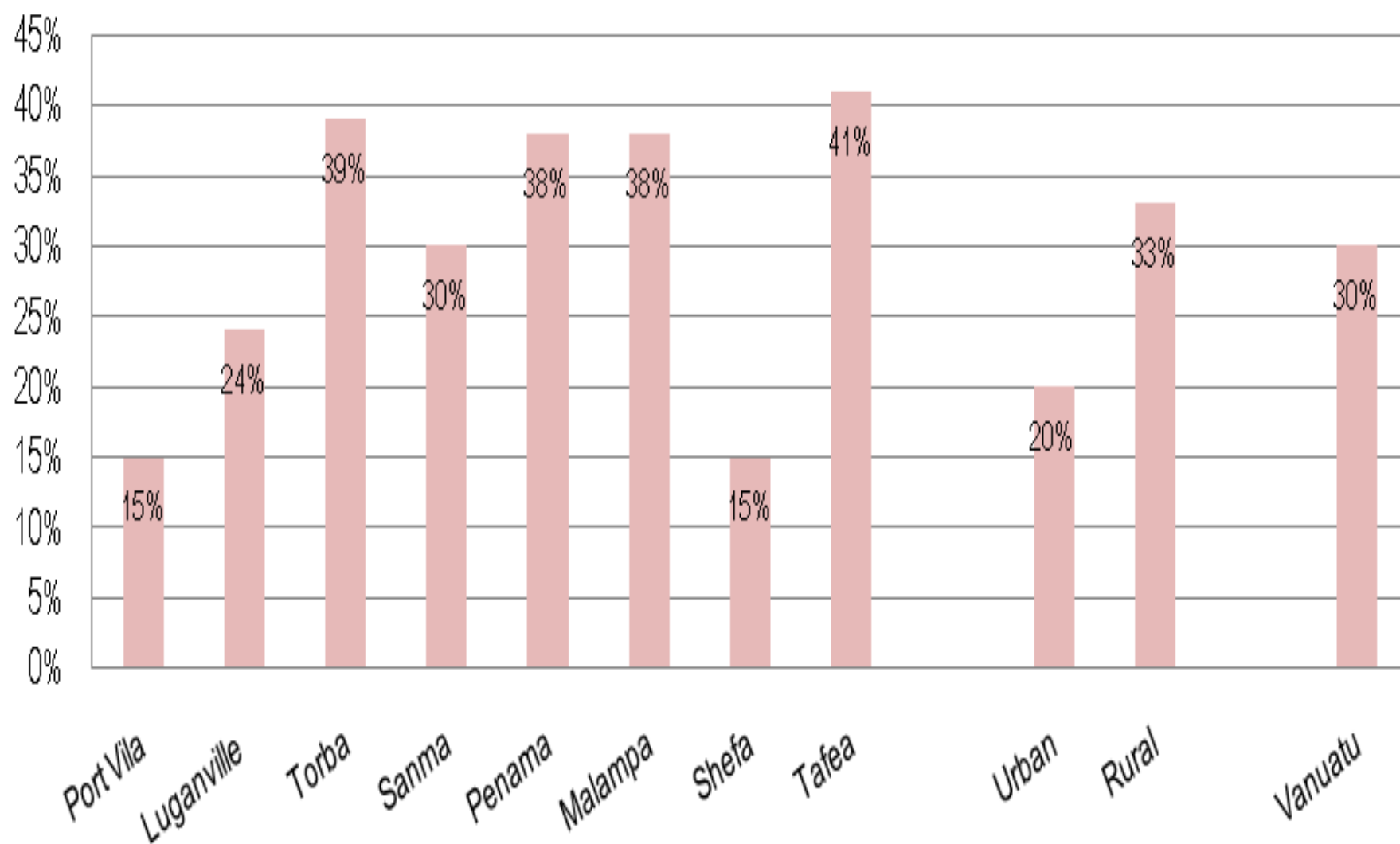
- Physical violence by non-partners (over 15 years): More than 1 in 4 women (28%)
- Sexual violence over the age of 15: One in 3 women (33%)
- Child sexual abuse under the age of 15: Almost 1 in 3 women (30%)
- Forced first sex : 2 in 5 women (41%)



# Percentage of women who experienced non-partner physical or sexual violence since the age of 15, by location (N=2337)

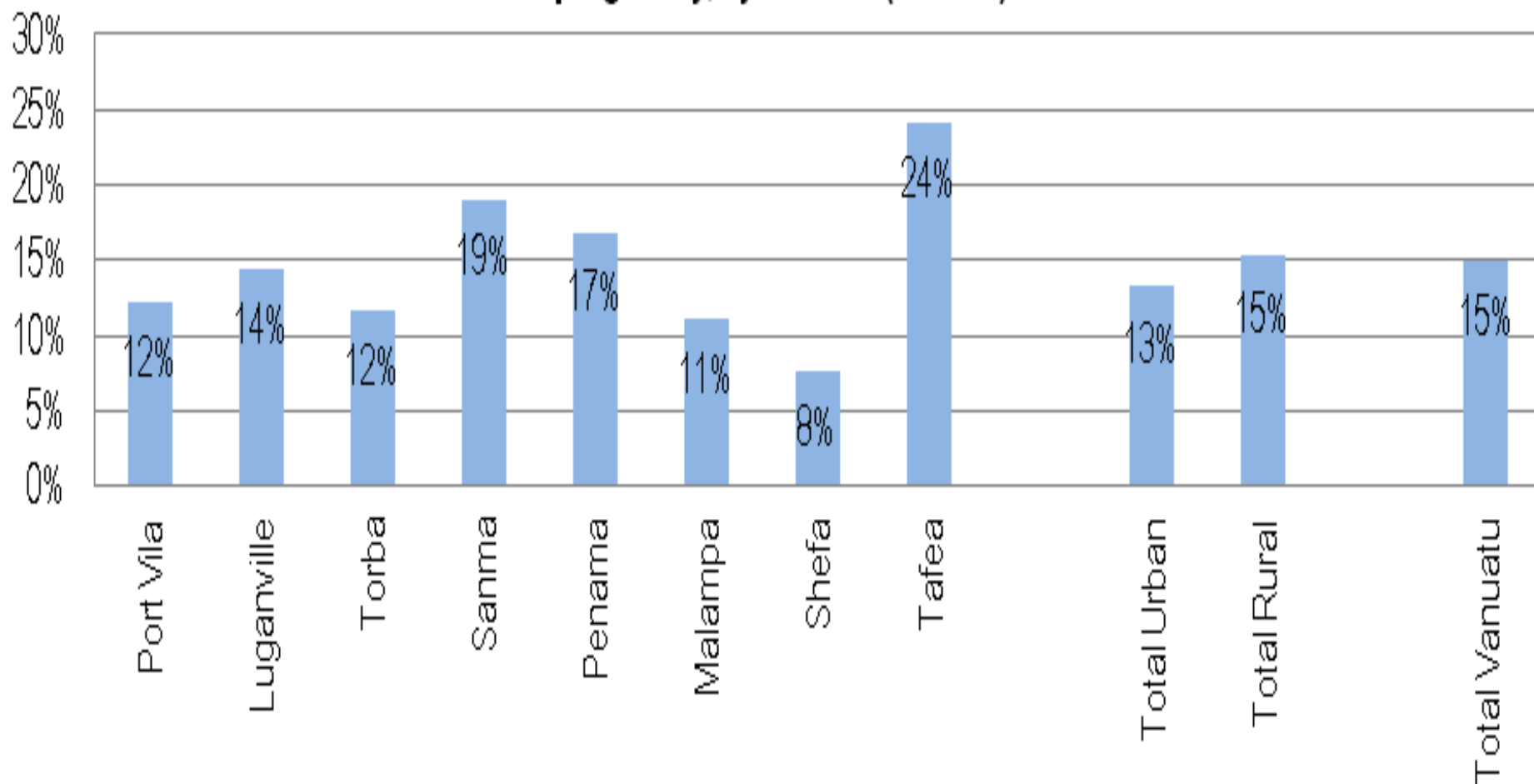


**Chart 5.6: Percentage of women who reported child sexual abuse under the age of 15 years, by location (N=2337)**

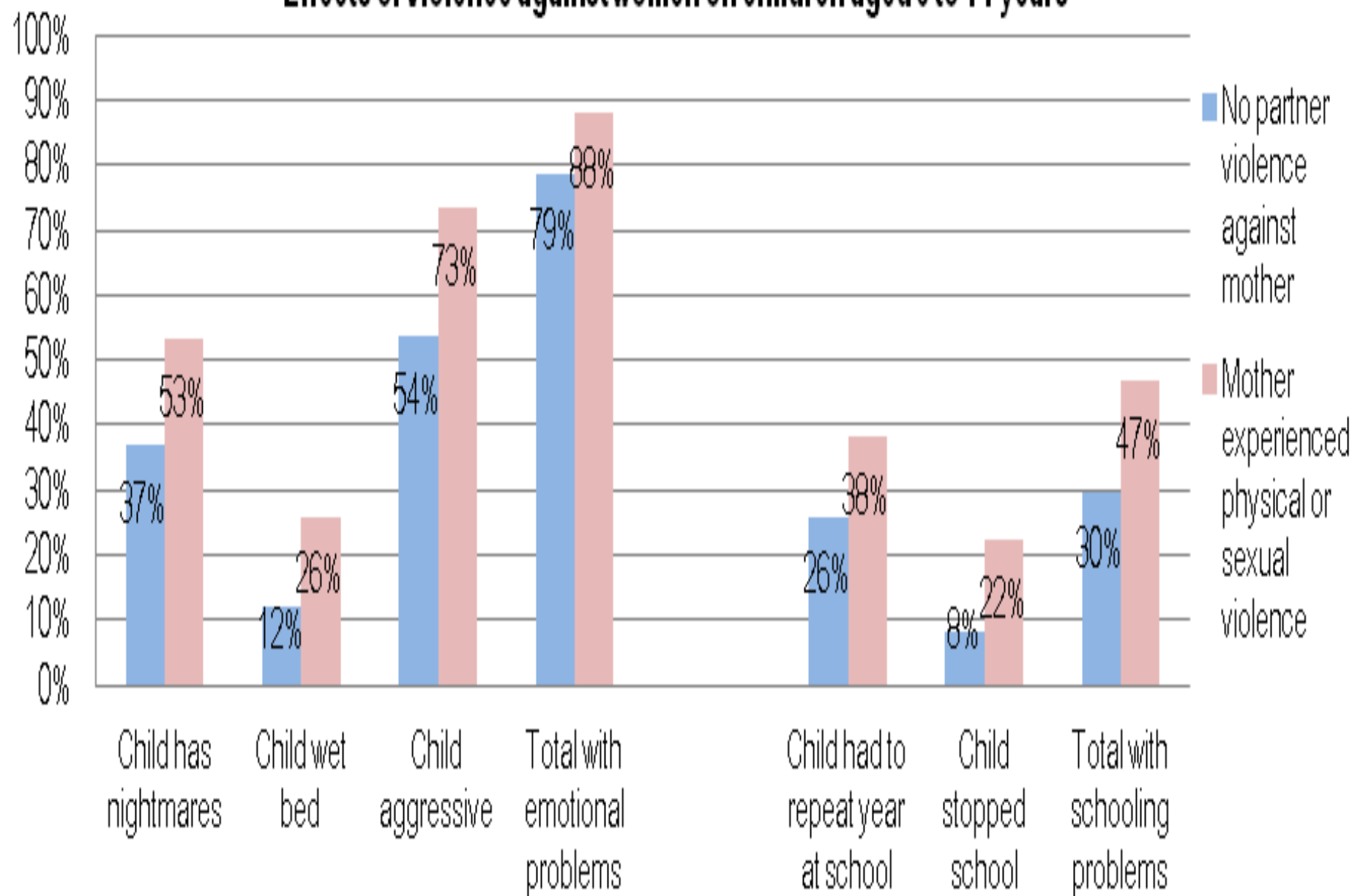


## Impacts of violence against women by husbands/partners for reproductive health and for children

**Percentage of ever-pregnant women who experienced physical violence during pregnancy, by location (N=1891)**



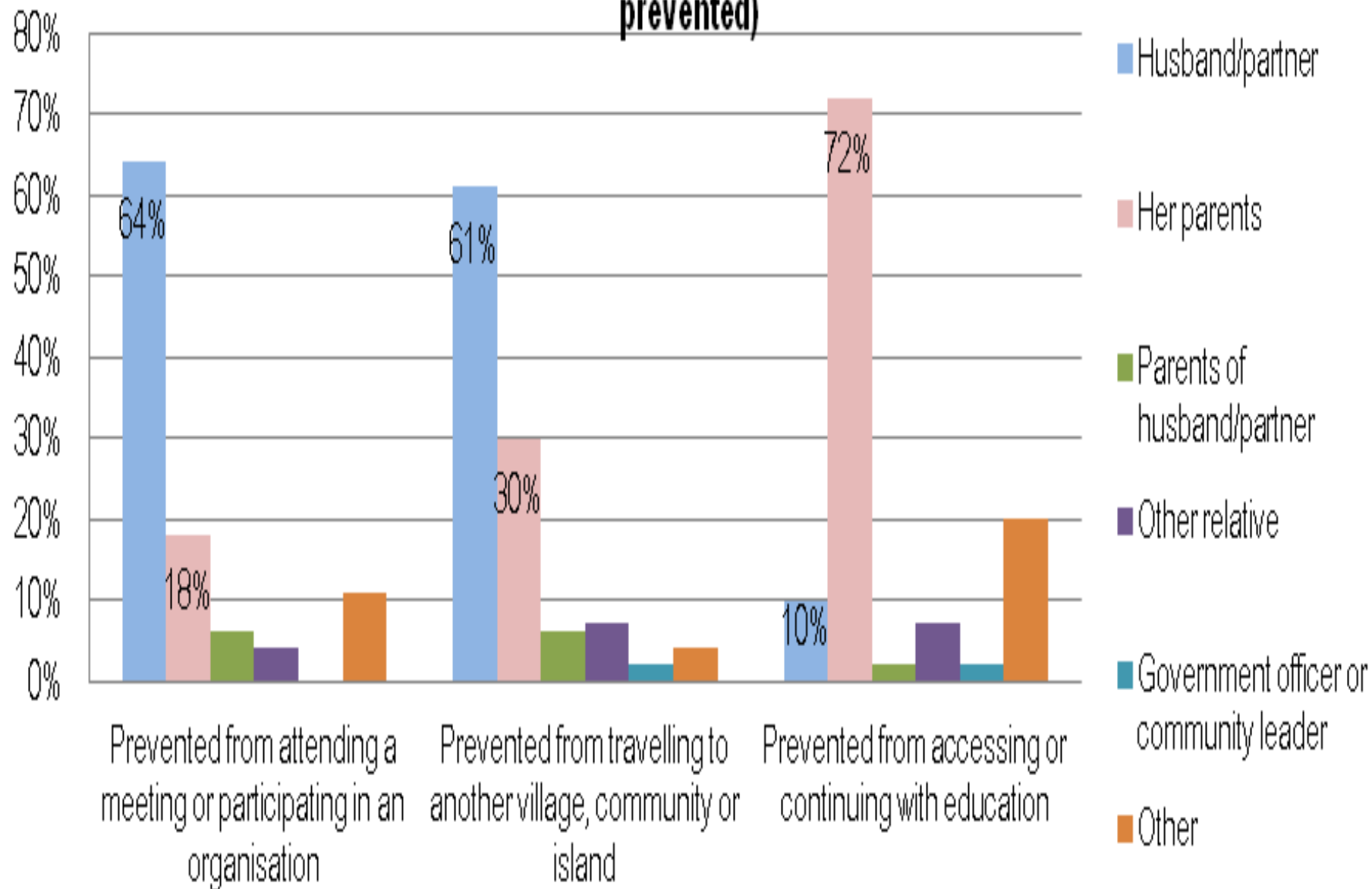
## Effects of violence against women on children aged 6 to 14 years



## Impacts on women's health

- Almost 2 in 5 women (39%) have been injured in their lifetime due to physical or sexual violence by their husband or intimate partner. This amounts to 1 in 4 ever-partnered women (24%).
- More than 2 in 5 (41%) were injured more than 3 times; more than 1 in 5 (21%) now has a permanent disability; and almost half (48%) lost consciousness at least once.
- Women living with physical, sexual or emotional violence have more mental health problems and are much more likely to attempt suicide than women who are not experiencing violence.

## Who prevented women from enjoying their rights (among those women who were prevented)



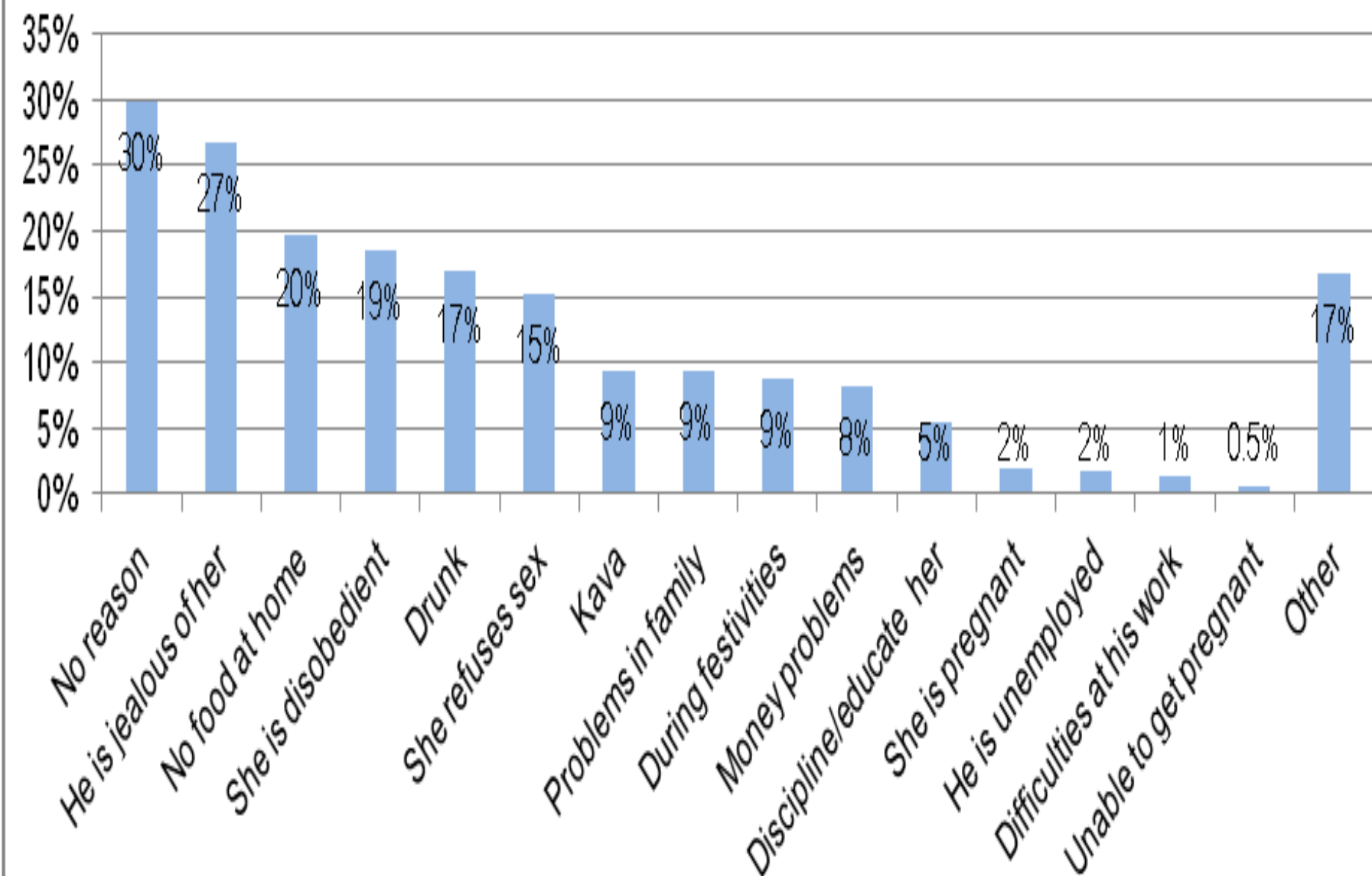
## Other impacts of intimate partner VAW

- 80% of women surveyed earn income (most of them from marketing or trading)
- Work was disrupted for 30% of women who experienced physical or sexual violence

### *Ways that work and income-generation were disrupted (percentage of 311 whose work was disrupted)*

- Husband/partner interrupted work 94%
- Unable to concentrate 14%
- Unable to work / sick leave 13%
- Lost confidence in own ability 13%
- Husband/partner stopped her from working 11%

## Women's views of situations that lead to physical violence by husbands/partners (N=1029)



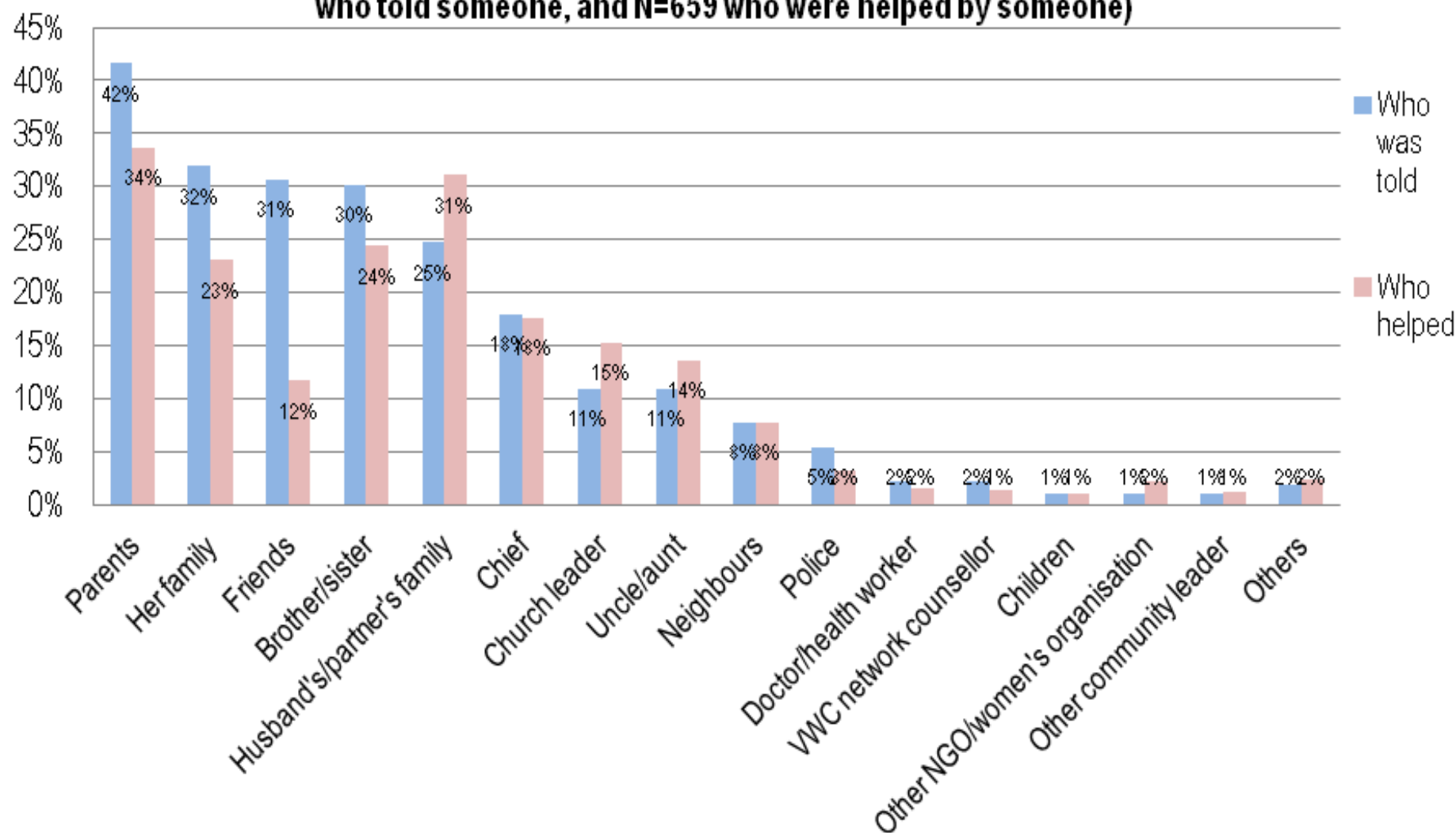


# Women's coping strategies

- More than 2 in 5 women (43%) have never told anyone about the violence, and almost 3 in 5 (57%) have never sought help from any agency.
- Most often told their birth family, friends, and their husband's/partner's family.
- Almost 1 in 4 asked chiefs (24%) and church leaders (23%) for help, 15% asked health agencies, and 1 in 10 asked police.
- About half (49%) have left home temporarily due to violence, but less than 1% left permanently. The most common reason was that they couldn't take any more of the violence.
- The most common reasons for returning home, and for never leaving at all, were that she forgave him, didn't want to leave the children, and her belief in the sanctity of marriage.

# Women's coping strategies

Who was told and who helped women suffering from physical and sexual violence (N=695 who told someone, and N=659 who were helped by someone)



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Questions ?