

# How Prevalent is GBV? What are its RH Consequences?

**Time:** 30 minutes

**Activity Objective:**

Discuss the prevalence of gender-based violence, with a focus on intimate partner violence, and its impact on women's and girls' reproductive health.

**Materials:**

PowerPoint or Overheads: Prevalence of GBV

**Activity:**

***Facilitator Note:** If this workshop is being conducted in a particular country or region, try to gather prevalence data specific to that country/region. Look at the most recent DHS data to see if it included questions related to GBV and see if the WHO multi-country study included the specific country or a country from the region. Focus the prevalence presentation on these data.*

1. Begin the presentation with the following points:

- Millions of girls and women suffer from violence and its consequences because of their sex and their unequal status in society.
- Gender-based violence is a serious violation of girls' and women's human rights.
- While men are also victims of violence, violence against women is characterized by its high prevalence in the family; its acceptance by society; and its serious, long-term impact on women's health and well being. Because of the enormous impact of intimate partner violence and sexual assault on women and girls, as well as the availability of data, the prevalence presentation emphasizes these two types of GBV.
- Data on the prevalence of GBV can be difficult to collect and compare. Ask the participants why they think this is so. Facilitate or build on the discussion using the points below:
  - Definitions vary (e.g., not all studies separate or include all types of violence—physical, sexual, and psychological).
  - Data collectors are not trained properly and therefore do not know how to make interviewees feel comfortable.
  - Interview questions are not asked properly or at all (e.g., asking if women were "abused" rather than behavior-specific questions, such as "Have you ever been hit, slapped, kicked, etc?").
  - GBV is also under-reported due to cultural and societal norms around disclosure (such as honor, shame, sense of privacy) as well as fear of further violence.

2. Begin the overhead or PowerPoint presentation on Prevalence of GBV. Introduce it by explaining that the information is based on a WHO multi-country study of violence,

which included violence against women, focusing on violence by intimate partners, one of the most common forms of violence against women.

3. When the first part of the presentation is finished, facilitate a brief discussion on the prevalence data and what the group thinks the impacts could be. Then proceed to the section of the PowerPoint presentation or overhead that describes reproductive health impacts.

4. Ask the group for any final questions or comments.

