

# I am so confused and scared of him

## What puts women at risk of intimate partner violence?

New evidence from risk factor analysis of the  
2017 National Study on Gender-based Violence  
in Mongolia



## **Acknowledgements**

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# Foreword

We are pleased to present the findings of the secondary analysis of gender-based violence (GBV) data, which builds upon the first-ever National Study on Gender-based Violence in Mongolia conducted by the National Statistics Office (NSO) in 2017 with technical assistance from UNFPA. This follow-up analysis, initiated in response to the recommendations of the 2017 study report, seeks to deepen our understanding of factors associated with intimate partner violence in Mongolia.

Developed with the expert guidance of Dr. Seema Vyas, violence against women researcher, this analysis symbolizes a collaborative endeavor between NSO and UNFPA. Thanks goes to the kNOwVAWdata initiative, generously funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), for its pivotal role in providing technical assistance, enabling the realization of this secondary analysis.

Consultations with national stakeholders in October and December 2023 enriched the analysis, shaping the discussion and recommendations contained within this report. We express our appreciation to all participants for their invaluable insights and feedback.

This publication is a testament to the courage of the women who participated in the 2017 National Study on Gender-based Violence in Mongolia and the dedication of interviewers who collected their data. Their willingness to share personal experiences has provided critical evidence to combat gender-based violence and advance gender equality.

The findings of this analysis underscore the urgent need for evidence-based interventions to address the root causes of GBV comprehensively. Discussion with technical experts and national stakeholders has identified five priority areas for action, including the development of a National Action Plan to End GBV in Mongolia 2024-2030, strengthening multi-sectoral prevention and survivor-centered response, enhancing GBV data collection and analysis, incorporating GBV content into education curricula, and developing a roadmap for accelerating SDG 5.

We acknowledge the collective efforts of government institutions, donors, development partners, the private sector, civil society, and communities in realizing gender equality in Mongolia by 2030. Together, we remain steadfast in our commitment to ending gender-based violence and promoting a society free from violence and discrimination.



B. Batdavaa  
Chairman  
National Statistical Office  
Mongolia



Dr. Khalid Sharifi  
Head of Office  
United Nations Population Fund  
Mongolia



Photo: UNFPA Mongolia/Davaanyam Delgerjarjal

**'I am so confused and scared of him':  
What puts women at risk of intimate partner violence?**

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New evidence from risk factor analysis of the 2017 National Study  
on Gender-based Violence in Mongolia

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# 1 Executive Summary

*The first national study on the prevalence of violence against women was conducted in Mongolia in 2017. Based on carefully conducted interviews with more than 7,300 women, it found high rates of violence are being experienced, regardless of age, education, employment status or geographic location. One in three (31.2%) ever-partnered women disclosed experiencing physical and/or sexual violence by a current or former partner. Over forty percent disclosed experiencing emotional abuse.*

One of the key objectives of the 2017 National Study on Gender-based Violence in Mongolia was to identify factors that may either protect or put women at risk of partner violence. This analysis was not done at the time of releasing the results, but has now been completed, providing new evidence to support the actions being taken in Mongolia to address gender-based violence. This analysis has explored a number of factors at the individual, relationship, family and community levels - as reported by women responding to the 2017 survey - to determine if they are statistically and significantly associated with intimate partner violence.

## Analysis approach and method

The analytical approach used draws on the ecological framework developed by Heise<sup>1</sup> that was informed by theories that link certain variables to partner violence, and empirical evidence that identified risk factors for partner violence against women. The model conceptualises the interplay of factors that contribute to the risk of partner

<sup>1</sup>Heise, L. L. (1998). Violence against women: An integrated, ecological framework. *Violence Against Women*, 4(3), 262-290. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1077801298004003002>

violence at the individual woman/individual male partner level, the relationship, the community, and the broader macro social environment.

This analysis uses data from a sub-sample of 5,523 women who responded to the 2017 National Study on Gender-based Violence in Mongolia<sup>2</sup>. The sub-sample analysed consisted of 784 ever-partnered women (ever-partnered includes women who had ever been married, lived with, or had been in a dating relationship with a man) whose current or most recent male partner was physically and/or sexually violent towards them in the past 12 months, and 4,739 ever-partnered women who did not mention any physical or sexual violence by a partner in their lifetime.

The outcome (or dependent) variable was physical and/or sexual violence by a partner in the past 12 months. There were 38 independent factors included in the analysis relating to the woman and her male partner such as demographic characteristics, past experience with violence, attitudes towards wife beating (woman), social capital (woman), behaviours (woman's partner); variables relating to the couple such as relative age, educational attainment, children, and household wealth; and two geographical variables (region, and urban/rural location).

Using the sub-sample as described above, univariate logistic regression was used to estimate the crude associations between each potential risk factor and violence by a male partner in the past 12 months. Multivariate logistic regression was used to measure associations accounting for the effects of a number of factors simultaneously.

For the univariate logistic regression, a probability value (p-value) of 0.10 or less was considered significant. Variables associated with male partner violence in the univariate regression were subsequently included in an intermediate multivariate logistic regression model as an intermediate step to find out final variables to be used in the final logistic model. Women's age, region and urban/rural factors were also included in the intermediate and final models regardless of the p-value (both characteristics were included as fixed factors).

For the intermediate multivariable logistic regression model, a p-value of 0.10 or less was considered significant to be included in the final model (together with age, region, and urban or rural location). For this final model, a p-value of 0.05 or less was considered significant to determine which factors were independently associated with male partner violence. All analyses were conducted using STATA version 18.0 and adjusted for weights, clustering and strata.

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More than  
**40%**  
of ever-partnered women reported experiencing emotional abuse from their current or former partner.

<sup>2</sup> Government of Mongolia and UNFPA. 2018. 2017 National Study on Gender-based Violence in Mongolia. <https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/publications/2017-national-study-gender-based-violence-mongolia>.

## Results

Of the 38 potential risk factors explored, 15 were found to have a statistically significant association with higher rates of intimate partner violence.

Six risk factors are clustered around the characteristics of the husband/partner, with low education, unemployment, and growing up in a home where his own mother was beaten, all increasing women's risk of experiencing violence. The behaviours of the husband/partner are also significant risk factors, specifically frequent alcohol use, fighting with other men, and having relationships with other women.

Another seven of the risk factors relate to women's characteristics, particularly her experiences of other forms of gender-based violence, or witnessing such violence as a child. Non-partner sexual violence since age 15, childhood sexual abuse, the nature of her first sexual experience (coerced or wanted), and witnessing her mother being beaten, were all significantly associated with experiencing intimate partner violence. Accepting attitudes towards wife beating, and living with her partner's family, were also risk factors increasing the likelihood of intimate partner violence for women.

Two factors associated with the relationship - low household wealth and having more than two children - were found to be statistically significant risk factors.

Three factors were found to be associated with lower rates of intimate partner violence, known as protective factors. Strong social networks (reportedly being able to count on family support and having neighbours who would help if there was illness in the family) were associated with lower levels of intimate partner violence. Being divorced or widowed was also associated with a lower risk of current intimate partner violence.

## Conclusions and recommendations

Analysis of VAW prevalence data provides robust evidence on key risk factors for perpetration of violence against women. The risk factor analysis paints a clear picture: no single factor dictates the presence of IPV. Instead, a complex interplay of influences across individual, relationship, and community levels emerge as predictors of sexual or physical violence by husbands.

The findings can contribute to ongoing and future evidence-based policy advocacy and programming in Mongolia to address the root causes of gender-based violence comprehensively by targeting individuals, relationships and communities with the greatest risk.

Discussion of the results with technical experts and national stakeholders identified five priority areas for action to continue the work already being done to end violence against women in Mongolia:

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15

potential risk factors were found to have an association with intimate partner violence.

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Strong social networks were associated with lower levels of intimate partner violence.



- 1 Develop and implement a **National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Mongolia 2024-2030** with evidence-informed strategies to enhance response, accelerate the implementation of the legal framework, and prevent violence before it occurs, and continue to build the evidence base for Mongolia.
- 2 Further strengthen **multi-sectoral prevention initiatives and survivor-centred response services** to survivors of GBV, particularly through actors in health and education who play a key role. Ensure all actors lead by example with clear policies and procedures to prevent and respond to GBV in the workplace.
- 3 Develop an **integrated approach to GBV prevalence data collection, analysis and use**, including conducting a regular national prevalence survey. Build research capacity to produce evidence for the Mongolian context and strengthen the capacity of national stakeholders to interpret and apply the findings in policies and programmes.
- 4 Increase **national investment in prevention of GBV** through addressing harmful gender and social norms and promoting healthy and positive ideals of masculinity. A key opportunity to do so is through strengthening national education curricula. Incorporate **GBV content into education curricula at all levels** of education institutions and programmes. Ensure that the national general education curriculum incorporates comprehensive sexuality education, with specific focus on promoting gender equitable norms.
- 5 Develop a **national road map for the acceleration of SDG 5 to achieve gender equality**. As the root cause of gender-based violence, achieving gender equality is inextricably linked to ending GBV. The road map will situate the strategies to end GBV in the broader work to achieve gender equality in all areas of life. It will support government institutions, donors, development partners, UN in Mongolia, private sector, civil society, and communities to meaningfully contribute to the realization of Gender Equality in Mongolia by 2030.

## 2 Introduction

*Violence against women (VAW) is a human rights violation, a public health concern and harms national economies. It affects all women regardless of geographic location, culture, religion and socioeconomic status.*

Of the many forms of gender-based violence, intimate partner violence is the most pervasive. Estimates reveal that globally, 26% of ever-partnered women have experienced physical or sexual partner violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime.<sup>3</sup> Large shares of women experience psychological violence and controlling behaviours that take a huge toll on their lives and their family around them. Most victim-survivors do not report their experiences due to social and cultural norms, stigma, fear, inaccessible or limited support services.<sup>4</sup>

In 2015 the United Nations General Assembly set Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 5.2—to eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls. This goal has focused attention on both preventing and responding to violence, with government being encouraged to measure the extent of the problem using quantifiable indicators such as those measuring intimate partner violence.

Data and evidence play a crucial role in understanding and taking action to end violence against women. Reported cases of violence represent a small fraction of what

<sup>3</sup> Violence against women prevalence estimates, 2018: global, regional and national prevalence estimates for intimate partner violence against women and global and regional prevalence estimates for non-partner sexual violence against women. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2021. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.

<sup>4</sup> Freedom House (2014). Freedom in the World: Mongolia. <https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/2014/mongolia>.

is happening. While data from administrative records of police, health systems and service providers provide insights into, typically, the most severe cases, prevalence surveys gather data from the general population.

To date, much of these data have come from either dedicated violence against women surveys which use established safe and ethical methodologies, such as that developed for the World Health Organization's Multi-country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence against Women, or from Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) that include the DHS domestic violence module. These dedicated surveys collect socio-demographic data from women, and on their husband/partner, that can be used to identify factors most associated with experiencing partner violence.

Understanding these risk factors assists policymakers and service providers in developing informed prevention and response initiatives to end violence against women and girls.



Photo: Social Indicator Sample Survey 2018. UNFPA Mongolia

# 3

## Gender-based Violence in Mongolia

*In 2017, under the UNFPA's Combating Gender-Based Violence in Mongolia, funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the National Statistics Office of Mongolia (NSO) conducted the first-ever National Study on Gender-Based Violence in Mongolia with technical support from UNFPA.*

The research methodology replicated that developed for the World Health Organization Multi-country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence, which uses a standardised questionnaire and methodology, ensuring comparability of data with other settings, with full consideration for ethics and safety. The study consisted of a quantitative component (a population-based survey) and a qualitative component (in-depth interviews and focus group discussions). It sought, for the first time, to:

- obtain reliable estimates of the prevalence of different forms of violence against women (including estimates for reporting on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators 5.2.1. and 5.2.2.);
- Assess the extent to which intimate partner violence is associated with a range of health and other outcomes;
- Identify factors that may either protect or put women at risk of partner violence; and
- Document and compare the strategies and services that women use to deal with partner violence.

For the quantitative survey component, 7,320 women (response rate 98 percent), aged 15-64 years old, were interviewed throughout the country between May and mid-June 2017, using structured face-to-face interviews conducted in full privacy.

The qualitative component took place in October 2017 in the provinces of Khentii, Darkhan-Uul, Khuvsgul, Zavkhan as well as Ulaanbaatar and consisted of 64 focus group

discussions, 87 in-depth interviews, and 59 key informant discussions.<sup>5</sup> Relevant quotes gathered through this research are included throughout this report.

Five forms of partner violence were measured through the household survey: physical, sexual, emotional and economic violence, and controlling behaviours.<sup>6</sup> It has provided comprehensive quantitative and qualitative information on gender-based violence in Mongolia, which is being actively used to inform the improvement of services and advocate for change.

The study found that gender-based violence against women is relatively high in Mongolia - above the global average. Women in Mongolia experience violence regardless of their age, education, employment status or geographic location.

**My stepfather's relative raped me and my mother. He raped me two or three times. He also beat my mother severely, and beat me too.**

**My mother reported it to the police, but she was forced to back down because he promised to compensate her for it. He gave three million tugrugs, but never again.**

*In-depth interview with a woman aged 15-19 years old*

The survey revealed that:

**30%**

of women experienced physical violence perpetrated by their partners

**17%**

experienced non-partner physical violence.

**14%**

of women were exposed to sexual violence by non-partners, a rate which is relatively high in comparison to other countries of the Asia-Pacific region.


Violence against women is impacting the health of women: 42.8 percent of the women who experienced violence from their partners were injured, and, of those, 71.6 percent were severely injured. Women who experienced physical and/or sexual violence are more likely to self-assess their general health as poor and report a greater number of symptoms of mental health disorders.

Domestic violence affects children and other family members. Women who experienced partner violence were more likely to have children with behavioural problems than those who did not experience violence. There are also signs that witnessing or experiencing domestic violence in childhood increases the chance of being in a violent partner relationship as an adult.

<sup>5</sup> Kherlen and Bor-Undur districts of Khentii province, Darkhan district of Darkhan-Uul province, Alag-Erdene district of Khuvsgul province, Uliastai and Toson-Tsengel districts of Zavkhan province as well as Ulaanbaatar's 6 districts of Bayangol, Bayanzurkh, Sukhbaatar, Chingeltei, Khan-Uul and Songinokhairkhan were selected.

<sup>6</sup> Government of Mongolia and UNFPA. 2018.





**I was beaten until I was almost dead for more than a decade.**

**During the court hearing he kneeled in front of me and begged me to forgive him. Back at home he would beat me shouting "Who are you to bring me before the court?" So, he will never change.**

**I used to hide it from everyone. He used to beat me if I refused to have sex with him.**

**I escaped to survive.**

*In-depth interview with a woman aged 35-64 years old*



# 4

## Theoretical Framework

*The analytical approach used draws on the ecological framework developed by Heise.<sup>7</sup> The framework was informed by theories that linked certain variables to partner violence, and empirical evidence that identified risk factors for partner violence against women.*

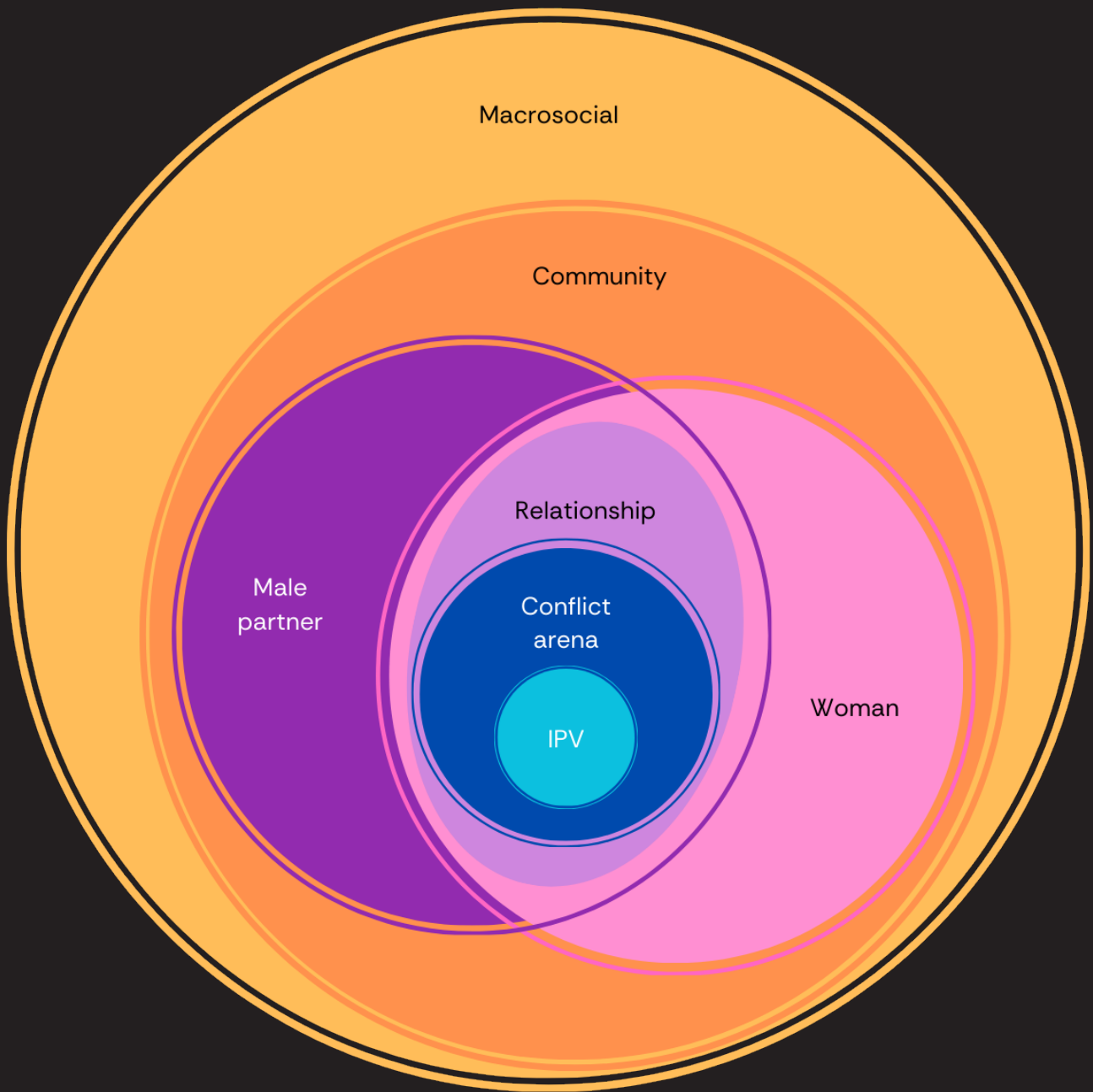
The model uses concentric circles (ellipses) to explain partner violence and to conceptualise the interplay of factors at each level of the social environment that contribute to the risk of partner violence – these levels being the individual woman/individual male partner, the relationship, the community, and the broader macro social environment (Figure 1).

Factors at the individual level (woman and her male partner) include the endowments that individual women and men bring to the relationship, such as experiences from childhood and adolescence that shape their behaviours. The couple is then in a relationship which has its own dynamics. Some of the factors characterising the relationship and household may increase or decrease the risk of violence.

The relationship is embedded in a neighbourhood context that may affect the potential for violence, and finally, the system is embedded in a macro-system which refers to the cultural, economic and political systems and structures that inform the organisation of behaviours at the lower levels of the social environment.

<sup>7</sup> Heise, L. (2011). What works to prevent partner violence? An evidence overview. [http://researchonline.lshtm.ac.uk/21062/1/Heise\\_Partner\\_Violence\\_evidence\\_overview.pdf](http://researchonline.lshtm.ac.uk/21062/1/Heise_Partner_Violence_evidence_overview.pdf)

Figure 1 The ecological framework for understanding partner violence



Source: Adapted from Heise, 2011

# 5

## Risk Factor Analysis Approach and Methods

*Using the Mongolia 2017 national survey data on violence against women, a multivariate logistic regression analysis was performed to identify the risk and protective characteristics. The results of the analysis are instrumental to inform future decision-making, policy and strategic development plans related to violence against women in Mongolia.*

### Sample for statistical analysis

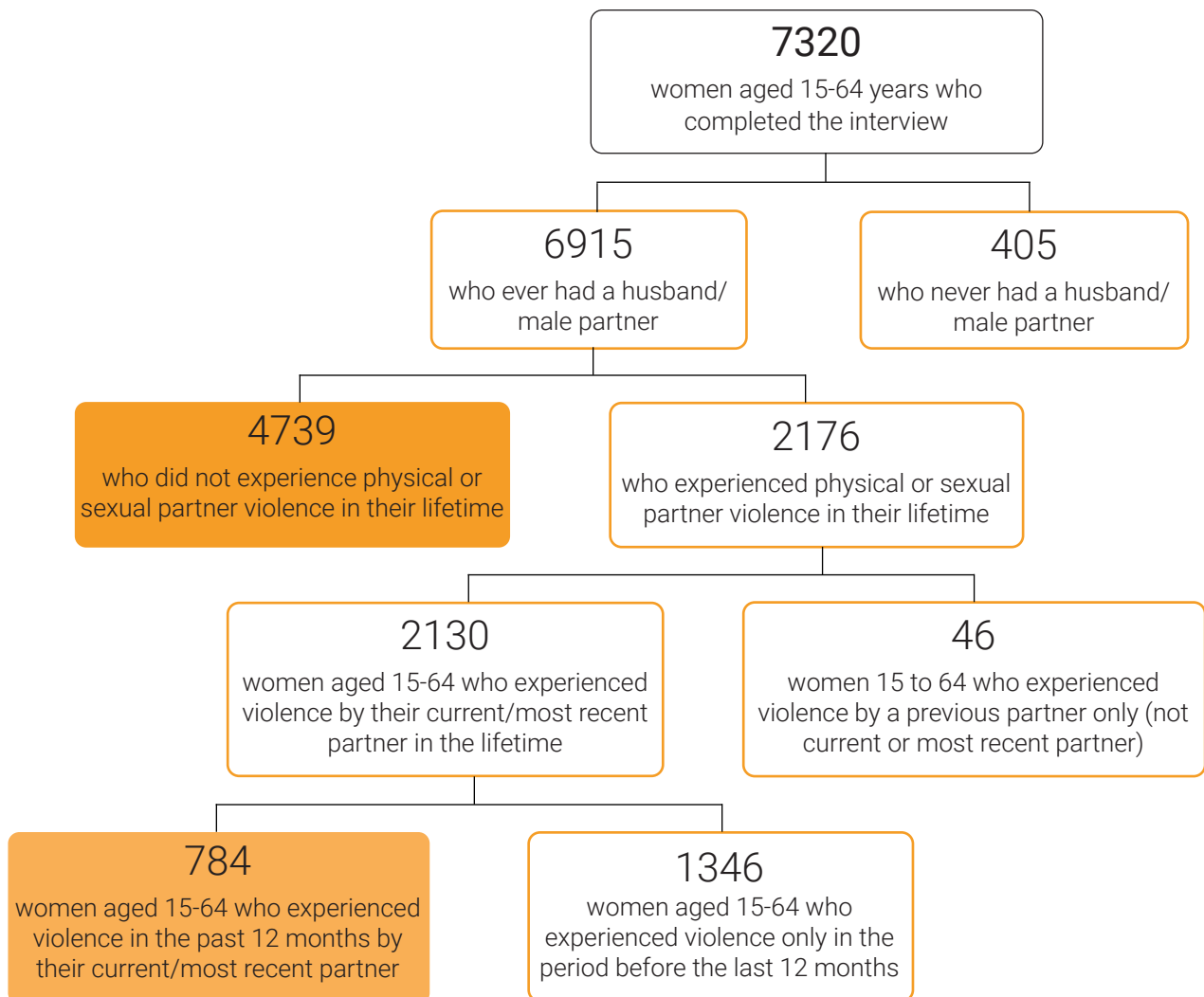
The Mongolia National Violence Against Women Survey used a multi-stage sampling method to select a nationally representative sample of households. In the first stage 534 primary sampling units or “clusters” were selected from all 21 regions of the country and eight districts of the capital city, with probability proportional to size. In the second stage, within each cluster, 15 households were randomly selected. A household survey, which included a listing of the names, ages and sex of all resident individuals, was administered and completed in 7,860 (of 7,810) households. In each selected household, a Woman’s questionnaire was administered to one randomly selected eligible woman (ages 15–64 and resident). Data were used for the 7,320 women where the domestic violence module had been administered.

This analysis uses data from a sub-sample of 5,523 women. The sub-sample consisted of 784 ever-partnered women (ever-partnered includes women who had ever been married, lived with, or had been in a dating relationship with a man) whose current or most recent male partner was physically and/or sexually violent towards them in the

past 12 months, and 4,739 ever-partnered women who did not mention any physical or sexual violence by a partner in their lifetime (see shaded boxes, Figure 2).

Only those women whose current or most recent partner was violent were chosen (and not those who experienced violence by a previous partner only). This was because data on partner characteristics were collected for the current or most recent male partner only. Thus, the 20 women who experienced physical and/or sexual violence in the previous 12 months by a previous partner only were excluded from the analysis. The 297 women, who experienced violence by their current or most recent partner, but not in the 12 months preceding the survey, were also excluded so that any association was not diluted by violence in the past.

**Figure 2:** Numbers of women in the survey according to their partnership status and their experience of physical and/or sexual violence by a male partner, Mongolia 2017



## Variables used in the analysis

**Outcome variable:** physical and/or sexual violence by a partner in the past 12 months. The outcome variable (also referred to as “dependent variable”) in this analysis is physical and/or sexual violence by a current or most recent partner. Any acts of physical and/or sexual violence are included.

**Potential risk factors:** A total of 38 risk factors were explored in the analysis.

Factors included variables relating to the woman and her male partner such as demographic characteristics, past experience with violence, attitudes towards wife beating (woman), social capital (woman), behaviours (woman’s partner); variables relating to the couple such as relative age, educational attainment, children, and household wealth; and two geographical variables (region, and urban/rural location). A list of all the factors explored and subcategories is included in Table 1.

**Table 1** Independent variables used for risk factor analysis for current partner violence in Mongolia, 2017 (underlined categories are used as the reference category)

Variable	Categories
<b>Individual Woman</b>	
<b>Demographic characteristics</b>	
Age group	18-24, 25-29, 30-39, 40-49, <u>50-64</u>
Education	Not attended school, Primary & basic, Secondary, Technical & vocational, <u>Higher</u> , Don't know/Refused/No response
Partnership status	<u>Married</u> , Cohabiting, Dating, Divorced or separated, Widowed
Age at first marriage	16-17, 18-19, 20-21, 22-24 25-29, <u>30+</u> , Never married, Don't know/Refused/No response
Ethnic group	<u>Khalk</u> , All other ethnic
Religion	<u>Buddhist</u> , No religion, All other religion
Earning money	<u>Paid employment</u> , Self-employed or other, Livestock farmer, Not working
<b>Past experience with violence</b>	
Physical violence since 15	<u>No</u> , Yes, Don't know/Refused/No response
Sexual violence since 15	<u>No</u> , Yes, Don't know/Refused/No response
Childhood sexual abuse	<u>No</u> , Yes, Don't know/Refused/No response
Age at first sex	<14, 15-17, 18-21, <u>22+</u> , Not had sex, Don't know/Refused/No response
Nature of first sex	<u>Wanted to have sex</u> , Unwanted/coerced or forced/Not had sex, Don't know/Refused/No response

Woman's mother beaten No, Yes, Did not live together, Don't know/Refused/No response  
 Attitudes on wife beating No reason to hit, At least one reason to hit

### Social capital

Proximity to own family Not close, Close/living with family, Don't know/Refused/No response  
 Frequency of family contact At least monthly, Once a year, Never, Don't know/Refused/No response  
 Can count on family support No, Yes, Don't know/Refused/No response  
 Live with own family No, Yes, Don't know/Refused/No response  
 Live with partner's family No, Yes, Don't know/Refused/No response  
 Grew up in same community No, Yes, Don't know/Refused/No response  
 Neighbours help when ill No, Yes, Don't know/Refused/No response

### Male Partner

#### Demographic characteristics

Age group <24, 25-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50+, Don't know/Refused/No response  
 Education Not attended school, Primary & basic, Secondary, Technical & vocational, Higher, Don't know/Refused/No response  
 Employment status Employed, Unemployed, Not looking for work, Don't know/Refused/No response

#### Partner behaviour

Alcohol use Never, Daily, Weekly, Less than monthly, Don't know/Refused/No response  
 Drug use Never used, Has used, Don't know/Refused/No response  
 Ever fought with other men No, Yes, Don't know/Refused/No response  
 Extramarital relationships No, Yes, Don't know/Refused/No response

#### Partner prior exposure to violence

Partner's mother abused No, Yes, Parents did not live together, Don't know/Refused/No response  
 Partner abused as a child No, Yes, Don't know/Refused/No response

### Characteristics of couple/relationship

#### Relational characteristics

Age difference Same or < 4 year difference, He older 5-8 years, He older 9+ years, She older 4+ years, Don't know/Refused/No response  
 Relative education Both the same, His education higher, Her education higher, Don't know/Refused/No response



Relative financial contribution to household	<u>Same as partner</u> , His contribution more, Her contribution more, Woman not working, Don't know/Refused/No response
Woman's role in partner choice	<u>Respondent chose</u> , Other person chose, Never married or cohabited, Don't know/Refused/No response

#### Children of respondent

Number of children born alive	<u>None</u> , 1 child, 2 children, 3 children, 4 children, 5+ children
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#### Household socioeconomic status

Poverty/assets index	Low, Middle, <u>High</u>
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#### Community (Geography)

Region	<u>Ulaanbaatar</u> , Eastern, Central, Khangai, Western
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Urban/rural	<u>Urban</u> , Rural
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### Analysis strategy for identifying risk-factors

Using the sub-sample as described above, univariate logistic regression was used to estimate the crude associations between each potential risk factor and violence by a male partner in the past 12 months. Multivariate logistic regression was used to measure associations accounting for the effects of a number of factors simultaneously.

Results are expressed as odds ratios, a ratio of the odds of violence in a group with the presence of a certain characteristic compared to the odds of violence in a group with the absence of said characteristic (reference group). A crude odds ratio is the result from the univariate analysis that considers the factor of interest and adjusted only for women's age and geographical characteristics. Adjusted odds ratios are the results of the multivariate analysis and they reflect the odds that remain, when the effect of all other factors is also simultaneously accounted for.

For the univariate logistic regression, a probability value (p-value) of 0.10 or less was considered significant. Variables associated with male partner violence in the univariate regression were subsequently included in an intermediate multivariate logistic regression model as an intermediate step to find out final variables to be used in the final logistic model. Women's age, region and urban/rural factors were also included in the intermediate and final models regardless of the p-value (both characteristics were included as fixed factors).

For the intermediate multivariable logistic regression model, a p-value of 0.10 or less was considered significant to be included in the final model (together with age, region, and urban or rural location). For this final model, a p-value of 0.05 or less was considered significant to determine which factors were independently associated with male partner violence. All analyses were conducted using STATA version 18.0 and adjusted for weights, clustering and strata.

## 6 Results

Using the sub-sample described in the methods section, the number of ever-partnered women in each category and for each factor, and the proportion (weighted) of women experiencing current violence by a partner is shown in Table 2 (see Annex).

Also shown in Table 2 are the results of the risk-factor analysis that is, the results from the univariate logistic regressions and the multivariate logistic regressions (intermediate and final models) between each described covariate and current physical or sexual violence by a partner. All regression analyses accounted for the survey design.

### Women's socio-demographic characteristics

Seven socio-demographic indicators relating to the individual woman were explored and assessed for their relationship with current partner violence. These include: age group, educational attainment, partnership status, age of first marriage, ethnic group, religion and employment type

#### Age

The prevalence of current partner violence was lowest among women in the youngest (aged between 15 and 19 years) and the oldest (aged 50 years or more) age groups at 3.2% and 5.5% respectively. Age group was significantly associated with experience of domestic violence in the last 12 months at the univariate level and in both the intermediate and the final model.

The results for the final model showed that compared to women in the reference group (aged 50 years or more), respondents aged between 20 and 24 years were 3.32 times more likely to experience current partner violence, respondents aged between 25 and 29 years were 3.36 times more likely to experience current partner violence, respondents aged between 30 and 39 years were 2.29 times more likely to experience current partner violence, and respondents aged between 40 and 49 years were

Women aged 20-29 were more than **3x** as likely to experience current partner violence than women over 50.

2.08 times more likely to experience current partner violence. All these results were statistically significant. There was no statistically significant difference in the odds of current partner violence among respondents in the lowest age group and aged 15-19.



**He used to hit me sometimes, but not so seriously. Black-eyed women are not as beautiful.**

**I try not to feel afraid when he is intoxicated. I think he might change. He doesn't drink and abuse me every day.**

*In-depth interview with a woman aged 20-24 years old*

#### ● Education

Respondents were categorised into five educational attainment levels. Higher education level was set as the reference category, however, in the univariate model, educational attainment was not significantly associated with current partner violence, and the factor was dropped from the intermediate model.

#### ● Partnership status

Partnership status was significantly associated with current partner violence. In the univariate model, compared to women who were married at the time of interview, women who were either in dating relationships or

who were separated or divorced were significantly less likely to experience current partner violence. Partnership status was included in the intermediate model where significant lower risk association among women in dating relationships remained statistically significant. However, in the final model, women in dating relationships were not less likely to experience current partner violence compared to married women.

However, separated or divorced women were at significantly lower risk. They were 57% less likely to experience current partner violence compared to married respondents.

#### ● Age of first marriage / cohabitation

Respondents were categorised into age groups when they first married or started to live together with their partner. Age at first marriage/cohabitation however, was not significantly associated with partner violence in the univariate model, and thus dropped from the intermediate model.

#### ● Ethnicity

Respondents were categorised into either Khalkh or other ethnic groups. Prevalence of current partner violence measured 14.4% among women who reported they belonged to the Khalkh ethnic group and was 13.5% among women who reported they belonged to another ethnic group. There was no statistically significant relationship ethnic group and current partner violence in the univariate

model, and was thus dropped from the intermediate model.

#### ● Religion

Respondents were categorised into one of the three religious groups (Buddhist, no religion/atheist, and practising other religion). At the univariate level, religion was not significantly associated with current partner violence and was thus dropped from the intermediate model.

#### ● Occupation

In the univariate model, respondent occupation was not significantly associated with current partner violence, and was thus excluded from the intermediate model. The occupation categories were: paid employment, self-employed/other, livestock farmer, and unemployed.

### Women's experiences with other forms of violence

Six indicators of other forms of violence were explored as risk factors for women's experience of current partner violence of which four remained significant risk factors in the final model. The six indicators were: non-partner physical violence since 15, non-partner sexual violence since 15, childhood sexual abuse, age at first sex, nature of first sex, and woman's mother beaten.

#### ● Non-partner physical violence since age 15

Prevalence of current partner violence measured 23.8% among women who reported they had experienced

non-partner physical violence, compared to 12.4% among women who reported that they had not experienced such violence. In the univariate model, women who had experienced non-partner physical violence were significantly more likely to have experienced current partner violence. This finding, however, did not hold in the intermediate model, and was therefore, excluded from the final model.

#### ● Non-partner sexual violence since age 15

Almost one-third (32.7%) of women who had experienced non-partner sexual violence since the age of 15 reported that they experienced current partner violence, compared to 12.4% among women who reported they had never experienced non-partner sexual violence. In the final model, women who had experienced non-partner sexual violence were 2.63 times more likely to have experienced current partner violence compared to women who had not.

#### ● Childhood sexual abuse

Almost 10% of respondents reported that they had experienced sexual abuse in childhood, and rates of current partner violence among women in this group measured 37.6%. Childhood sexual abuse was significantly associated with current husband/partner violence in the final model.

#### ● Age at first sex

Compared to women who reported

Women who experienced non-partner sexual violence were

**2.6x**

more likely to have experienced intimate partner violence.

**37%**

of women who had experienced childhood sexual abuse experienced violence from their current partner.

their age at first sex was at aged 22 years or more (the reference category), women who reported their age at first sex was younger were significantly more likely to have experienced current partner violence at the univariate level. However, this finding was not significant in the intermediate model, and was therefore dropped from the final model.

- Nature of first sexual encounter

Almost 11% of respondents reported that their first sexual encounter had been unwanted or coerced or forced. In the univariate model and in the multivariate final model, women who said their first sexual experience was unwanted or coerced or forced were significantly more likely to experience current husband/partner violence when compared with women who said they wanted their first sexual experience.

- Mother beaten

Women who reported that their mothers had been beaten by their mother's husband/partner when they (respondents) were a child, were significantly more likely to experience current husband/partner violence. A finding that was statistically significant in the final model.

## Women's attitudes towards wife beating

Rates of wife abuse have been found to be strongly associated with acceptance towards the physical chastisement of women.

Women's affirmative response to at least one justification for wife beating was significantly associated with higher risk of violence by a husband/partner, and at both the univariate level and in the final model. Women who agreed with at least one reason that justified wife beating, were 2.17 times more likely to experience current partner violence compared with women who did not agree with any reason in the final model.

## Women's social capital

Seven indicators of women's social capital were explored for their association with current partner violence. The seven indicators were: proximity to a woman's family, frequency of contact with woman's family, can count on support from family, living with woman's family, living with partner's family, woman who grew up in the same community, neighbours helping when illness in the family.



**My parents-in-law, sisters, brothers and all relatives abuse me and blame me.**

**Their abuse is even more difficult than my husband's abuse, and it aggravates the abuse and violence.**

*In-depth interview with a disabled woman aged 35-64 years old  
(The respondent had become disabled as a consequence of the violence experienced)*

- Respondent's proximity to the woman's family

There was no evidence in the univariate

analysis of a significant association between physical proximity to the woman's family and current husband/partner violence.

- Respondent lives with the woman's family

This indicator was not significant in the univariate model and was therefore removed from subsequent models.

- Respondent grew up in the same community as she is living.

This indicator was not significant in the univariate model and was therefore removed from subsequent models.

- Respondent's frequency of contact with the woman's family

In the univariate model, women who reported they had infrequent contact with their family (once a year or fewer times) were significantly more likely to have experienced current partner violence. This association was not significant in the intermediate model and was therefore dropped from the final model.



**I used to ask for help from an aunt, my coworker, she used to understand me and help me.**

*In-depth interview with a woman aged 40-64 years old*

- Respondents can count on support from family

This indicator was statistically significant in all models. The results from the final model suggested that if the respondent can rely on support from her family, then she is 58% less likely to have experienced current partner violence compared to respondents who reported they could not count on their family for support. Therefore, this indicator has been flagged as having a significant protective association.

- Respondent's neighbours help when there is illness in the family

This indicator was statistically significant in all models. In the final model respondents who reported their neighbours would help when there is illness in their family were 37% less likely to have experienced current partner violence compared to respondents who reported their neighbours would not help. Therefore, this indicator has been flagged as having a significant protective association.

- Respondent lives with the partner's family

This indicator was statistically significant in all models. The final model suggests that respondents who live with their partner's family are 33% more likely to have experienced current partner violence. Therefore, this indicator has been flagged as having a significant risk association.

Women who can rely on family support were

**58%**

less likely to experience intimate partner violence



## Partner socio-demographic characteristics

Women whose partner had not attended primary or secondary education had significantly higher risks of current partner violence.

Three indicators of male partner socio-demographic characteristics (as reported by women during the survey) were explored: age; educational attainment; and employment status. Resource theory asserts that in addition to economic resources (earnings, social status and education attainment) violence is an additional resource that men with low economic status are more likely to draw upon to compensate.<sup>8</sup> This theory, therefore, views violence as an additional resource that men can use to maintain dominance within the family, and that there will be a correlation between poverty and violence by a male partner.

### ● Partner's age

At the univariate level, compared to women whose partners were in the oldest age category (50 years or older), women whose partners were aged 30 to 39 years or 40 to 49



**The man cannot protect his status as patriarch.**

**He is not even the breadwinner, and has a lower education than his wife. In fact, wives have become the breadwinners. It causes domestic violence.**

Key informant interview  
Khuvsgul aimag

years were at significantly higher risk of current partner violence. However, partner age was significant in the intermediate model and was excluded from the final model.

### ● Partner's education

Prevalence of current male partner violence generally decreased by educational attainment. For example, 32.7 percent of the women ever-partnered with men who had no education experienced violence in the past 12 months, and this compares with 10.1 per cent among women ever-partnered with men who had attained higher education.

At the univariate level, when compared with women whose male partner had higher education, women whose partner had not attended school, or who had attained primary education or secondary education, had significantly higher risks of violence from their current or most recent male partner. In the final model, the significant higher risk association with the male partner not having attended school remained.

### ● Partner's employment status

Male partner employment status was categorised into employed (the reference category), unemployed and seeking work, and not looking for work. In the univariate analysis, compared with women whose male partner was employed, women whose

<sup>8</sup> Goode, W., 1971. Force and violence in the family. *J. Marriage Fam.* 33, 624e636; Gelles, R.J. 1987. *The Violent Home*, Updated ed., Sage, California; and Straus, M.A. 1990. 'Social stress and marital violence in a national sample of American families', in Straus, M.A. and Gelles, R.J. (Ed.): *Physical Violence in American Families: Risk Factors and Adaptations to Violence in 8,145 Families*, Transaction, New Brunswick, NJ.

male partners were unemployed were at significantly higher risk of violence. By contrast, women whose male partners were not looking for work were at significantly lower risk of violence.

In the final model, the significantly higher risk association with male partner being unemployed remained, while the lower risk association with male partner not looking for work was not significant at the 5 percent level.



**My husband is unemployed, but he finds money for drinking.**

**Our section policeman can only call 102 [the emergency hotline] or arrest him for 72 hours. This is the only option for him. The section inspector and policeman give him recommendations and instructions, but he forgets after a week and becomes aggressive again.**

**Our social workers are changed every four years. They only record things on the computer, they never did anything for me.**

*In-depth interview with a woman aged 40-64 years old*

### Partner behavioural characteristics

Four behavioural characteristics, which can also be viewed as expressions of masculinity, were explored: alcohol use,

drug use, fighting with other men, and extramarital relationships.

All of these characteristics are hypothesised to elevate women's risk of partner violence. An in-depth analysis from 14 sub-Saharan Africa countries found significant correlations between men's alcohol use and violence by a male partner. The authors concluded that the most likely causes were behavioural disinhibition—that alcohol use impairs cognitive functioning and increases aggression—and relationship dissatisfaction.

Male partner engagement in extramarital relations has been found to elevate women's risk of violence either because it is an indicator of women's vulnerability or because it raises marital conflict.<sup>9</sup>

- Male partner alcohol consumption

Compared with women whose male partner never drank alcohol, women whose male partner drank alcohol daily, weekly, or once a month or less were at significantly higher risk of current violence in the univariate model. In the multivariate model, the significant risk associations with any amount of male partner alcohol consumption remained.

- Male partner drug use

Prevalence of current male partner violence was not notably different among women who said their male partner had ever used drugs (14.1 percent) compared with women who

<sup>9</sup>Connell, R. and Messerschmidt, J.W. 2005. 'Hegemonic masculinity: rethinking the concept', *Gender & Society*, Vol. 19, No. 6, pp.829-859.

said their male partner never used drugs (13 percent). No significant result was found in the univariate analysis and therefore, male partner drug use was not included in the multivariate models.

- Male partner fighting with other men

Women who said that their male partner had been involved in fights with other men since she had known him were at significantly higher risk of current violence.

- Male partner having extramarital relations

Women who said that their male partner was having extramarital relations were significantly more likely to report current male partner violence.



**My children used to hide under beds because they were afraid of their father.**

**My youngest son is disabled and still lives with me. My other son is addicted to alcohol and he abuses me when he is drunk.**

*In-depth interview with a woman aged 40-64 years.*

## Partner experience with violence in childhood

Overwhelming evidence exists on the relationship between men witnessing their mother being abused and then later abusing a wife/partner themselves. In addition, evidence exists on the relationship between men who were themselves abused as a child and later relationship abuse.

- Partner's mother abused

Women who said their male partner's mother had been abused by her male partner were significantly more likely to experience current violence in the univariate and in the final multivariate models.



**My oldest child is rude to people. He is like his father, threatens to kill others and behaves like him. He has conflicts with others.**

*In-depth interview with a woman aged 25-39 years old*

- Partner abused as a child

Women who reported their male partner had been beaten as a child were significantly more likely to experience current violence at the univariate level, but this finding was not significant in the intermediate model, and was therefore excluded in the final multivariate model.

## Characteristics of couple/ relationship

Three relational-level variables were explored: relative age; relative education; and relative contribution to the household. The latter two characteristics enable an exploration of whether economic or status differentials that favour women lead to higher rates of violence as asserted by relative resource theory.<sup>10</sup> A fourth characteristic, women's role in male partner choice, was also explored.

- Age difference

No statistically significant association between age difference and current male partner violence was found in the univariate analysis. Therefore, age difference between women and their male partner was not explored in the multivariate model.

### Educational level difference

Relative education was measured by categorising respondents into having a lower educational level than their male partner, the same level of education (the reference category), or a higher level of education.

In the univariate model, women who had a higher level of education than their male partner had a significantly higher risk of experiencing current violence when compared with women at the same level of education as their male partner, while women who reported their partners' educational attainment was higher were at significantly lower risk of partner violence.

The characteristic was included in an intermediate model that excluded both the woman's and her male partner's educational level, because of collinearity, and continued to be significant, however, relative education was not significant in the final model.

- Relative financial contribution to the household

The reference group consisted of women who said that they contributed the same as their male partner. In the univariate analysis, the group of women who said that they contributed more than their male partner were significantly more likely to experience violence. While this finding remained significant in the intermediate model, it became not significant in the final model.



**Family income differences and my wife's higher salary make me feel undervalued, which provokes fights and conflicts.**

*In-depth interview with a male perpetrator of intimate partner violence*

- Woman's role in male partner choice

At the univariate level, women who reported that someone else chose her male partner were at significantly higher risk of current partner violence, compared to women who reported they chose their partner (either by themselves or with others). However,

<sup>10</sup> Gelles, R.J. 1987. *The Violent Home*, Updated ed., Sage, California; and Straus, M.A. 1990. 'Social stress and marital violence in a national sample of American families', in Straus, M.A. and Gelles, R.J. (Ed.): *Physical Violence in American Families: Risk Factors and Adaptations to Violence in 8,145 Families*, Transaction, New Brunswick, NJ.

this finding was not significant in the intermediate model and was dropped for the final model.

## Children of the respondent

Aligning with marital dependency theories, family violence researchers argue that women's overwhelming responsibility for caring for children creates pressures for women to tolerate violence.<sup>11</sup>

- Number of children born alive

The reference category was respondents without children and compared with this group, women having any number of children born alive were significantly more likely to experience current male partner violence in the univariate analysis. With the exception of having one child, these significant associations remained.

## Household socioeconomic status

Low household socioeconomic status (poverty) has been consistently found to be associated with higher rates of violence by a male partner in low- and middle-income countries. Theory suggests that the stress of poverty leads men to become violent towards their wives.<sup>12</sup> In this study, a household assets index was used as a proxy for household socioeconomic status households were classified into one of three groups: low, middle or high.

- Household assets index

In the univariate analysis, compared with women living in the richest households (the reference category), as measured by highest level of household assets, women in the lowest asset index households had significantly higher risk of current male partner violence. In the final model, the significant risk association with the lowest asset index remained.

## Geographical characteristics

- Region

The regions where women lived were included as fixed effects in the final model. At the univariate level, region was not significantly associated with current violence. Nor was region significantly associated with violence in the intermediate or final model.

- Urban/rural

As with region, urban/rural location was also included in the model as a fixed effect. At the univariate level, urban or rural residence was not significantly associated with partner violence.

<sup>11</sup> Pagelow, M.D., *Woman-Battering: Victims and Their Experiences*. Vol. 129. 1981, California: Sage.

<sup>12</sup> Gelles, R.J. 1987. and Straus, M.A. 1990.

# Summary of Findings

Of the 38 potential risk factors explored, 15 were found to have a statistically significant association with higher rates of intimate partner violence.

Six risk factors are clustered around the characteristics of the husband/partner, with low education, unemployment, and growing up in a home where his own mother was beaten, all increasing women's risk of experiencing violence. The behaviours of the husband/partner are also significant risk factors, specifically frequent alcohol use, fighting with other men, and having relationships with other women.

Another seven of the risk factors found relate to women's characteristics, particularly her experiences of other forms of gender-based violence, or witnessing such violence as a child. Non-partner sexual violence since age 15, childhood sexual abuse, the nature of her first sexual experience (coerced or wanted), and witnessing her mother being beaten, were all significantly associated with experiencing intimate partner violence.

Accepting attitudes towards wife beating, and living with her partner's family, were also risk factors increasing the likelihood of intimate partner violence for women.

Two factors associated with the relationship - low household wealth and having more than two children - were found to be statistically significant risk factors.

Three factors were found to be associated with lower rates of violence, known as protective factors. These were strong social networks (reportedly being able to count on family support, having neighbours who would help if there was illness in the family) were associated with lower levels of intimate partner violence. Being divorced or widowed was also associated with a lower risk of current intimate partner violence, likely explained if the woman becoming divorced or widowed happened over one year before the survey.

## Risk factors associated with IPV

- 1 Partner's low education
- 2 Partner unemployment
- 3 Partner's mother beaten
- 4 Partner's frequent alcohol use
- 5 Partner fights with other men
- 6 Partner has relationships with other women
- 7 Woman's young age
- 8 Non-partner sexual violence
- 9 Childhood sexual abuse
- 10 Nature of first sexual encounter
- 11 Witnessed mother being beaten
- 12 Accepting attitudes towards wife beating
- 13 Living with partner's family
- 14 Low household wealth
- 15 Having 2+ children

# 7

## Strengths and Limitations of this Analysis

*The strength of this analysis is it uses a rigorously tested methodology, based on high quality data produced employing standard instruments recognized for their validity and reliability. Original data collection adhered to strict ethical and safety protocols, conducted by thoroughly trained and dedicated interviewers.*

The data was generated using the gold standard WHO methodology for measuring VAW, acknowledged globally as an optimal approach for this sensitive topic. This methodology boasts a proven track record in encouraging honest disclosure from respondents who might otherwise be hesitant to share personal experiences.

This analysis has several limitations that are important to note. Firstly, the outcome measure, physical and/or sexual violence by a partner, excludes other types of violence such as emotional and economic abuse. Secondly, since the study utilised a cross-sectional design, it is difficult to establish causal relationships between some of the risk factors and experiences of violence. A third limitation is that data on partner characteristics are based on women's knowledge, and finally, the analysis only explores factors collected in the study; therefore, other factors considered important in explaining violence by a male partner, such as societal or macro-level factors, were not explored.

Despite these limitations, the findings at the individual and relationship level reveal systematic patterns in women's experiences of current partner violence in Mongolia, enabling potential courses of action to mitigate violence against women in the country.





Photo: UNFPA Mongolia, 2024

# 8

## Conclusions and Recommendations

*This analysis examines the tapestry of factors contributing to intimate partner violence (IPV) against women. A comprehensive web of 38 influencing factors were explored for their association with intimate partner violence, encompassing:*

- *Socio-demographic details like age, education, behaviours, and previous experiences with violence for both women and their husbands.*
- *Attitudes towards violence, patterns of behaviour within the couple*
- *Geographic location and available personal support networks.*

These elements echo the “inner circles” of the ecological framework, a widely used model for understanding the multifaceted landscape of intimate partner violence.

The risk factor analysis paints a clear picture: no single factor dictates the presence of IPV. Instead, a complex interplay of influences across individual, relationship, and community levels emerge as predictors of sexual or physical violence by husbands.

Analyses conducted globally, including this one in Mongolia, consistently reveal the complex and contextual nature of gender-based violence. While there is limited utility in comparing the results between settings, the findings for Mongolia echo those from numerous studies worldwide, providing actionable evidence to better understand the causes and potential consequences of intimate partner violence in the Mongolian context.

This analysis and the valuable insights it contains will be crucial for crafting effective interventions and prevention strategies that address the issue at its core, not just its symptoms. Five policy recommendations are made to put this evidence into action, informed by discussion of the results with technical experts and national stakeholders in December 2023:

**Priority Action 1** - National Action Plan: This analysis highlights the critical need for a comprehensive and coordinated response to GBV. It is recommended to develop and implement a costed, evidence-informed National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence in Mongolia 2024-2030 with responsibilities and accountability of all sectoral bodies clearly designated to cover four key pillars: GBV prevention, response, enabling environment and data and evidence building. It is recommended that the National Action Plan is costed and budgeted and includes a detailed monitoring and evaluation framework.

**Priority Action 2** - Strengthened multi-sectoral GBV response mechanisms: Strengthen multi-sectoral and survivor-centred response to survivors of GBV in line with international standards and guidelines. In particular, invest in establishing accessible and quality GBV case management service that supports GBV survivors with comprehensive care in line with their choices.

**Priority Action 3** - Data and evidence: This analysis underscores the need for robust data to inform interventions. It is recommended that an integrated approach to GBV data collection, analysis and use be taken, including conducting a regular national prevalence survey. Building research capacity to produce evidence for the Mongolian context and strengthen the capacity of national stakeholders to interpret and apply the findings in policies and programmes should be a priority

**Priority Action 4** - Invest in prevention of GBV: Increase national investment in prevention of GBV through addressing harmful gender and social norms and promotion of healthy and positive ideals of masculinity. A key opportunity to do so is through strengthening national education curricula with comprehensive sexuality education, including specific components on GBV prevention and response.

**Priority Action 5** - Roadmap for SDG 5: Develop a national road map for the acceleration of SDG 5 to achieve gender equality. As the root cause of gender-based violence, achieving gender equality is inextricably linked to ending GBV. The road map will situate the strategies to end GBV in the broader work to achieve gender equality in all areas of life. It will support government institutions, donors, development partners, UN in Mongolia, private sector, civil society, and communities to meaningfully contribute to the realization of Gender Equality in Mongolia by 2030.

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# Annex

**Table 2** Results from the univariate and multivariate logistic regression to identify risk factors for physical and/or sexual partner violence in the last 12 months.

Variable	Category	Unweighted N=5523	Weighted		Univariate model: Adjusted woman's age, region & location and survey design			Intermediate multivariate model accounting for survey design			Final multivariate model accounting for survey design					
			%	% IPV	OR	p-value	95% CI	AOR	p-value	95% CI	AOR	p-value	95% CI			
<b>Woman's characteristics</b>																
<b>Women's socio-demographic characteristics</b>																
Age group	15-19	136	5.2	3.2	0.56	0.467	0.11	2.71	1.48	0.641	0.29	7.59	1.79	0.352	0.52	6.14
	20-24	359	12.9	14.6	2.89	0.000	1.63	5.13	3.50	0.041	1.05	11.61	3.32	0.001	1.61	6.86
	25-29	756	16.0	19.0	4.01	0.000	2.58	6.25	3.50	0.026	1.16	10.53	3.36	0.000	1.79	6.29
	30-39	1624	26.3	18.6	3.90	0.000	2.64	5.76	2.15	0.071	0.94	4.94	2.29	0.001	1.40	3.75
	40-49	1248	19.8	16.1	3.26	0.000	2.17	4.91	1.71	0.152	0.82	3.56	2.08	0.002	1.30	3.34
	50-64	1400	19.9	5.5	1.00				1.00				1.00			
Education	Not attended school	136	1.7	16.8	1.29	0.380	0.73	2.28								
	Primary + Basic	1344	19.1	12.5	0.94	0.748	0.66	1.35								
	Secondary school	1493	29.7	15.0	1.12	0.481	0.82	1.52								
	Technical/vocational	857	13.8	15.0	1.34	0.166	0.89	2.01								
	Higher education	1536	33.2	13.5	1.00											
	Don't know/Refused answer	157	2.4	22.3	2.01	0.016	1.14	3.54								
Partnership status	Married	4147	67.1	15.8	1.00				1.00				1.00			
	Cohabiting	433	10.6	17.9	0.96	0.841	0.62	1.47	1.00	0.992	0.53	1.89	1.08	0.740	0.68	1.73
	Dating	163	6.0	7.4	0.31	0.011	0.13	0.77	0.13	0.008	0.03	0.59	0.38	0.093	0.12	1.17
	Divorced/separated	422	10.5	11.6	0.57	0.045	0.33	0.99	0.60	0.304	0.22	1.60	0.43	0.049	0.19	1.00
	Widowed	358	5.9	1.4	0.10	0.000	0.05	0.21	0.08	0.000	0.03	0.23	0.07	0.000	0.02	0.22

Variable	Category	Unweighted N=5523	Weighted		Univariate model: Adjusted woman's age, region & location and survey design				Intermediate multivariate model accounting for survey design			Final multivariate model accounting for survey design		
			%	% IPV	OR	p-value	95% CI		AOR	p-value	95% CI	AOR	p-value	95% CI
Age of first marriage/ lived together	16 or 17 years	95	1.1	16.3	0.93	0.873	0.40	2.16						
	18 or 19 years	544	8.1	15.4	0.80	0.470	0.44	1.47						
	20 or 21 years	985	15.8	16.2	0.81	0.473	0.45	1.45						
	22 to 24 years	1360	22.1	15.8	0.80	0.446	0.45	1.43						
	25 to 29 years	968	15.9	13.6	0.69	0.251	0.37	1.30						
	30 or older	353	6.2	16.6	1.00									
	Never married or lived with man	266	9.3	5.8	0.16	0.000	0.06	0.43						
	Don't know/ Refused answer	952	21.6	14.1	0.57	0.067	0.31	1.04						
Ethnic group	Khalkh	4,474	83.6	14.4	1.00									
	All other ethnic	1,049	16.5	13.5	0.97	0.866	0.72	1.32						
Religion	Buddhist	3,297	56.0	14.2	1.00									
	No religion	1,677	31.5	13.4	0.85	0.236	0.64	1.12						
	All other religion	549	12.6	16.7	1.11	0.638	0.71	1.75						
Occupation	Paid employment	1736	31.4	15.0	1.00									
	Self-employed/ Other	499	9.1	16.1	1.18	0.431	0.78	1.78						
	Livestock farmer	1055	12.0	15.4	0.99	0.945	0.74	1.32						
	Not working	2233	47.4	13.1	0.83	0.197	0.62	1.10						
Women's experience of Violence														
Physical violence since 15	No	4,850	83.8	12.4	1.00				1.00					
	Yes	672	16.2	23.8	2.11	0.000	1.45	3.09	0.88	0.621	0.53	1.47		
	Don't know/ Refused answer	1	0.0	100.0	.				1.00					



Variable	Category	Unweighted N=5523	Weighted		Univariate model: Adjusted woman's age, region & location and survey design			Intermediate multivariate model accounting for survey design			Final multivariate model accounting for survey design				
			%	% IPV	OR	p-value	95% CI	AOR	p-value	95% CI	AOR	p-value	95% CI		
Sexual violence since 15	No	4,923	86.9	11.5	1.00			1.00				1.00			
	Yes	599	13.1	32.7	3.60	0.000	2.60 4.99	2.81	0.000	1.81 4.34	2.63	0.000	1.79 3.88		
	Don't know/ Refused answer	1	0.0	100.0	.			1.00			.				
Childhood sexual abuse	No	4,923	87.6	12.0	1.00			1.00				1.00			
	Yes	506	9.9	37.6	4.23	0.000	2.97 6.01	2.84	0.000	1.89 4.27	2.74	0.000	1.81 4.17		
	DK/Refused answer	94	2.5	1.4	0.10	0.000	0.03 0.30	0.53	0.378	0.13 2.16	0.40	0.239	0.08 1.85		
Age at first sexual encounter	14 years or younger	38	0.8	47.5	5.75	0.004	1.77 18.72	1.03	0.959	0.31 3.41					
	15 to 17 years	632	10.5	22.0	2.05	0.000	1.40 3.01	1.15	0.609	0.67 1.97					
	18 to 21 years	3222	58.3	15.0	1.30	0.059	0.99 1.71	1.09	0.623	0.77 1.56					
	22 years or older	1440	23.9	11.1	1.00			1.00							
	Not had sex	112	4.7	2.7	0.13	0.046	0.02 0.96	1.13	0.872	0.26 4.82					
	Don't know/ Refused answer	79	1.9	1.1	0.07	0.001	0.01 0.34	0.12	0.088	0.01 1.38					
Nature of first sexual encounter	Wanted to have sex	4,673	82.4	13.0	1.00			1.00				1.00			
	Unwanted/coerced or forced	637	10.9	31.3	3.01	0.000	2.11 4.29	1.63	0.036	1.03 2.57	1.76	0.009	1.15 2.69		
	Not had sex	112	4.7	2.7	0.12	0.030	0.02 0.81	1.00			1.03	0.974	0.19 5.58		
	Don't know/ Refused answer	101	2.1	1.2	0.07	0.000	0.02 0.23	0.51	0.465	0.09 3.07	0.29	0.292	0.03 2.89		
Woman's mother beaten	No	4,675	82.1	12.5	1.00			1.00				1.00			
	Yes	667	14.2	26.0	2.30	0.000	1.68 3.14	1.60	0.015	1.10 2.32	1.62	0.010	1.12 2.34		
	Did not live together	71	1.1	26.6	2.35	0.055	0.98 5.60	2.19	0.113	0.83 5.76	2.22	0.111	0.83 5.94		
	Don't know/ Refused answer	110	2.6	1.1	0.07	0.000	0.02 0.22	0.17	0.062	0.03 1.09	0.10	0.048	0.01 0.98		
<b>Women's attitudes towards wife beating</b>															
Attitudes on wife beating	No	3,854	72.3	11.2	1.00			1.00				1.00			
	Yes	1,669	27.7	22.2	2.30	0.000	1.82 2.92	2.17	0.000	1.55 3.03	2.18	0.000	1.57 3.02		

Variable	Category	Unweighted N=5523	Weighted		Univariate model: Adjusted woman's age, region & location and survey design			Intermediate multivariate model accounting for survey design			Final multivariate model accounting for survey design					
			%	% IPV	OR	p-value	95% CI	AOR	p-value	95% CI	AOR	p-value	95% CI			
<b>Women's social capital</b>																
Proximity to woman's family	No	1,247	19.2	15.8	1.00											
	Yes / living with family	4,275	80.8	13.9	0.83	0.225	0.61	1.12								
	Don't know/ Refused answer	1	0.0	0.0	.											
Frequency of contact with woman's family	At least monthly	4880	87.2	14.0	1.00				1.00							
	Once a year	446	6.8	21.0	1.73	0.022	1.08	2.77	1.00	0.986	0.67	1.49				
	Never	45	0.8	16.9	1.61	0.349	0.59	4.36	1.49	0.575	0.37	6.09				
	Don't know/ Refused answer	152	5.1	8.2	0.38	0.012	0.18	0.81	1.59	0.423	0.51	5.00				
Can count on support from family	No	187	3	26.1	1.00				1.00				1.00			
	Yes	5,318	96.7	13.8	0.39	0.000	0.25	0.60	0.43	0.004	0.24	0.76	0.42	0.003	0.24	0.74
	Don't know/ Refused answer	18	0	36.2	1.30	0.733	0.29	5.77	0.22	0.007	0.07	0.66	0.25	0.013	0.09	0.75
Living with woman's family	No	4,144	65.6	14.5	1.00											
	Yes	1,110	25.2	16.5	1.06	0.675	0.82	1.36								
	Don't know/ Refused answer	269	9.2	5.8	0.23	0.001	0.10	0.54								
Living with partner's family	No	3,753	61.4	13.5	1.00				1.00				1.00			
	Yes	1,501	29.5	18.5	1.35	0.022	1.04	1.75	1.33	0.060	0.99	1.79	1.33	0.059	0.99	1.79
	Don't know/ Refused answer	269	9.1	5.8	0.26	0.002	0.11	0.62	2.64	0.215	0.57	12.28	0.75	0.576	0.27	2.06
Respondent grew up in the same community	No	3,183	61.9	14.7	1.00											
	Yes	2,339	38.1	13.5	0.83	0.161	0.64	1.08								
	Don't know/ Refused answer	1	0.0	0.0	.											
Neighbours helping when illness in the family	No	1,079	27.0	17.8	1.00				1.00				1.00			
	Yes	4,202	67.4	13.4	0.71	0.029	0.52	0.97	0.62	0.014	0.42	0.91	0.63	0.017	0.43	0.92
	Don't know/ Refused answer	242	5.7	7.7	0.38	0.001	0.21	0.69	0.39	0.006	0.2	0.77	0.42	0.009	0.22	0.80

Variable	Category	Unweighted N=5523	Weighted		Univariate model: Adjusted woman's age, region & location and survey design			Intermediate multivariate model accounting for survey design			Final multivariate model accounting for survey design					
			%	% IPV	OR	p-value	95% CI	AOR	p-value	95% CI	AOR	p-value	95% CI			
<b>Male partner characteristics</b>																
<b>Male partner demographic characteristics</b>																
Age group	24 years or younger	341	13.4	9.6	0.54	0.336	0.16	1.89	1.03	0.965	0.31	3.36				
	25 to 29 years	642	14.9	15.6	1.12	0.812	0.45	2.74	0.80	0.662	0.30	2.17				
	30 to 39 years	1565	27.4	20.2	1.84	0.068	0.96	3.53	1.04	0.927	0.48	2.21				
	40 to 49 years	1298	20.8	16.7	1.88	0.013	1.15	3.09	1.34	0.405	0.67	2.68				
	50 years or older	1675	23.7	7.0	1.00				1.00							
	Don't know/ Refused answer	2	0.0	0.0	.				.							
Education	Not attended school	165	2.1	32.7	4.81	0.000	2.87	8.07	1.9	0.048	1.01	3.58	2.03	0.024	1.10	3.76
	Primary + Basic	1,862	26.1	14.3	1.68	0.007	1.15	2.46	0.98	0.951	0.60	1.62	1.05	0.849	0.64	1.72
	Secondary school	1,459	38.1	15.7	1.70	0.006	1.16	2.49	1.09	0.715	0.68	1.75	1.16	0.543	0.72	1.88
	Technical/ vocational	744	13.0	12.1	1.42	0.102	0.93	2.16	1.03	0.894	0.62	1.72	1.08	0.770	0.64	1.81
	Higher education	1,066	25.3	10.1	1.00				1.00				1.00			
	Don't know/ Refused answer	227	3.4	28.5	3.91	0.000	2.45	6.23	1.56	0.202	0.79	3.08	1.62	0.152	0.84	3.12
Employment status	Employed	3788	68.1	13.7	1.00				1.00				1.00			
	Unemployed	997	17.4	23.2	1.92	0.000	1.44	2.55	1.52	0.042	1.02	2.29	1.59	0.024	1.06	2.39
	Not looking for work	703	13.8	6.2	0.42	0.001	0.26	0.70	1.08	0.787	0.60	1.94	1.15	0.650	0.64	2.06
	Don't know/ Refused answer	35	0.7	1.0	0.07	0.009	0.01	0.51	0.06	0.019	0.01	0.63	0.05	0.016	0.00	0.58
<b>Male partner behavioural characteristics</b>																
Alcohol use	Never	1474	28.1	4.8	1.00				1.00				1.00			
	Daily	181	3.0	60.7	44.66	0.000	24.6	81.07	19.94	0.000	9.91	40.11	18.98	0.000	9.54	37.75
	Weekly	1649	27.8	27.5	9.57	0.000	6.03	15.17	5.73	0.000	3.76	8.74	5.44	0.000	3.55	8.33
	Less than monthly	2205	40.8	8.4	1.97	0.005	1.23	3.16	1.93	0.003	1.26	2.95	1.87	0.004	1.23	2.86
	Don't know/ Refused answer	14	0.3	0.0	.				1.00				.			

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			%	% IPV	OR	p-value	95% CI	AOR	p-value	95% CI	AOR	p-value	95% CI			
Drug use	Never used	5,405	98.3	14.1	1.00											
	Has used	57	0.8	13.0	0.91	0.904	0.21	4.04								
	Don't know/ Refused answer	61	0.9	28.1	2.34	0.073	0.92	5.93								
Fighting with other men	No	4,395	77.4	9.0	1.00				1.00				1.00			
	Yes	1,077	21.9	33.0	4.95	0.000	3.79	6.46	2.23	0.000	1.67	2.99	2.28	0.000	1.67	3.12
	Don't know/ Refused answer	51	0.7	3.9	0.43	0.139	0.14	1.31	0.62	0.441	0.18	2.11	0.65	0.457	0.20	2.05
Extramarital relationship	No	4,689	84.1	10.6	1.00				1.00				1.00			
	Yes / may have	624	12.1	38.8	5.62	0.000	4.14	7.62	3.29	0.000	2.18	4.95	3.33	0.000	2.20	5.04
	Don't know/ Refused answer	210	3.8	16.6	1.75	0.038	1.03	2.98	1.43	0.373	0.65	3.17	1.55	0.284	0.70	3.45
Male partner experiences with violence in childhood																
Partner's mother abused	No	4,223	74.6	10.7	1.00				1.00				1.00			
	Yes	292	6.2	54.2	9.65	0.000	6.34	14.7	5.07	0.000	3.00	8.57	5.42	0.000	3.19	9.21
	Parents did not live together	234	4.7	16.7	1.65	0.136	0.85	3.18	1.26	0.598	0.54	2.93	1.31	0.537	0.55	3.10
	Don't know/ Refused answer	774	14.5	14.6	1.41	0.029	1.04	1.92	0.94	0.763	0.63	1.41	1.04	0.871	0.67	1.60
Partner abused as a child	No	3,444	59.4	9.7	1.00				1.00							
	Yes	881	19.2	27.5	3.46	0.000	2.52	4.75	1.35	0.134	0.91	2.01				
	Don't know/ Refused answer	1,198	21.3	14.9	1.62	0.001	1.2	2.17	1.51	0.019	1.07	2.12				
Relationship characteristics																
Age difference*	Same or < 4 year difference	4192	77.7	14.1	1.00				1.00				1.00			
	He older 5 to 8 years	919	14.7	15.0	1.13	0.421	0.84	1.52	1.24	0.211	0.89	1.73	1.25	0.174	0.90	1.74
	He older 9+ years	269	5.0	14.1	1.04	0.888	0.62	1.73	1.25	0.553	0.60	2.61	1.24	0.562	0.60	2.58
	She older > 4 years	141	2.7	15.2	1.31	0.361	0.73	2.37	0.98	0.971	0.43	2.25	0.98	0.965	0.43	2.23
	Don't know/ Refused answer	2	0.0	0.0	.				.				.			

Variable	Category	Unweighted N=5523	Weighted		Univariate model: Adjusted woman's age, region & location and survey design			Intermediate multivariate model accounting for survey design			Final multivariate model accounting for survey design					
			%	% IPV	OR	p-value	95% CI	AOR	p-value	95% CI	AOR	p-value	95% CI			
Educational level difference*	Both the same	2,672	51.5	13.0	1.00				1.00				1.00			
	His education higher	764	14.8	8.7	0.67	0.028	0.47	0.96	0.65	0.034	0.44	0.97	0.68	0.057	0.46	1.01
	Her education higher	1,739	28.6	17.4	1.49	0.003	1.14	1.96	0.97	0.870	0.71	1.34	0.97	0.856	0.71	1.33
	Don't know/ Refused answer	348	5.2	24.6	2.32	0.000	1.61	3.35	1.17	0.510	0.73	1.89	1.14	0.584	0.71	1.84
Relative contribution to the household	Same as partner	1264	17.0	13.4	1.00				1.00				1.00			
	His contribution more	801	14.0	15.2	1.15	0.505	0.76	1.76	1.17	0.535	0.71	1.93	1.14	0.597	0.69	1.88
	Her contribution more	796	12.8	21.0	1.81	0.001	1.29	2.55	1.66	0.038	1.03	2.68	1.58	0.065	0.97	2.57
	Woman not working	2233	47.4	13.1	0.96	0.811	0.7	1.32	1.20	0.423	0.77	1.89	1.15	0.552	0.72	1.83
	Don't know/ Refused answer	429	8.8	10.9	0.81	0.375	0.52	1.28	2.09	0.090	0.89	4.91	2.17	0.059	0.97	4.85
Woman's role in partner choice	Respondent chose	3,571	59.4	14.8	1.00				1.00							
	Other person chose	911	13.2	17.6	1.37	0.029	1.03	1.83	0.96	0.819	0.67	1.37				
	Never married or lived with man	201	6.4	3.4	0.12	0.006	0.03	0.55	0.10	0.006	0.02	0.51				
	Don't know/ Refused answer	840	21.0	13.8	0.68	0.037	0.48	0.98	1.08	0.785	0.63	1.83				
Children of respondent																
Number of children born alive	No children	368	12.0	5.0	1.00				1.00				1.00			
	1 child	768	17.3	9.4	2.88	0.001	1.54	5.36	0.94	0.895	0.38	2.31	0.92	0.835	0.41	2.04
	2 children	1,472	25.1	20.3	9.83	0.000	5.15	18.77	3.74	0.004	1.51	9.25	3.73	0.002	1.61	8.64
	3 children	1,252	20.9	17.1	9.57	0.000	4.54	20.16	2.49	0.052	0.99	6.26	2.54	0.036	1.06	6.1
	4 children	810	12.7	16.6	11.66	0.000	5.48	24.78	2.95	0.032	1.1	7.92	3.07	0.024	1.16	8.15
	5+ children	853	11.9	10.5	9.97	0.000	3.86	25.71	2.24	0.186	0.68	7.42	2.36	0.161	0.71	7.84
Household socioeconomic status																
Asset index	Low	2586	40.0	16.8	1.91	0.002	1.27	2.88	1.83	0.013	1.14	2.95	1.76	0.022	1.09	2.85
	Middle	1838	34.5	14.3	1.51	0.055	0.99	2.30	1.07	0.782	0.67	1.69	1.06	0.795	0.67	1.68
	High	1099	25.4	10.2	1.00								1.00			

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			%	% IPV	OR	p-value	95% CI		AOR	p-value	95% CI		AOR	p-value	95% CI	
<b>Geography</b>																
Region	Ulaanbaatar	1,047	46.3	13.93	1.00				1.00							
	Eastern	653	6.8	13.95	0.98	0.933	0.67	1.45	0.77	0.323	0.45	1.30	0.79	0.369	0.47	1.32
	Central	1,466	15.1	15.34	1.06	0.718	0.76	1.48	0.91	0.661	0.60	1.38	0.95	0.782	0.63	1.41
	Khangai	1,321	19.6	14.70	1.02	0.909	0.74	1.40	0.84	0.417	0.55	1.28	0.88	0.533	0.58	1.33
	Western	1,036	12.2	13.47	0.87	0.438	0.62	1.23	0.82	0.389	0.52	1.29	0.79	0.300	0.50	1.24
Rural / urban	Urban	2,706	66.3	13.94	1.00				1.00				1.00			
	Rural	2,817	33.7	14.83	1.04	0.690	0.85	1.28	1.10	0.574	0.78	1.56	1.10	0.595	0.78	1.54

\* Results are presented from separate analysis i.e. intermediate model was run without age and educational attainment of respondent and of her partner because of collinearity, but all other significant risk factors in univariate models were included.

Likewise with the Final multivariate model only significant factors in the intermediate model are included. The results of these other variables are not reported only for relative age and relative education.





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National Study on Gender-based  
Violence in Mongolia 2017

Read the full study  
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