VIOLENCE IN WOMEN’S LIVES

Violence may be perpetrated against any individual, but across the world, women and girls are the populations most at risk and most severely impacted. Violence in women’s lives impacts the health of women and their children; it is a violation of human rights and a barrier to economic development. Demographic and Health Surveys collected data on aspects of violence in the lives of women age 15-49 in 34 countries during the years 2000-2012.

Intimate Partner Violence

In every country, at least 10% of ever-married women experience physical or sexual violence. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the prevalence is as high as 64%.

Nearly 1/3 of ever-married women in 6 countries experience physical violence.

More than 10% of women report physical violence during their pregnancy in 6 countries. In Uganda, the prevalence is as high as 1.6%.

Female Genital Cutting

Female genital cutting (FGC) continues to be a problem for many women in Africa. Prevalence of FGC among women age 15-49 has changed little in the last several years.

Seeking Help

In 17 countries, more than 1/4 of women who experience violence report seeking help.

Higher percentages of women report seeking help after violence in Sub-Saharan African countries than other regions.