

Partner Violence: a national survey

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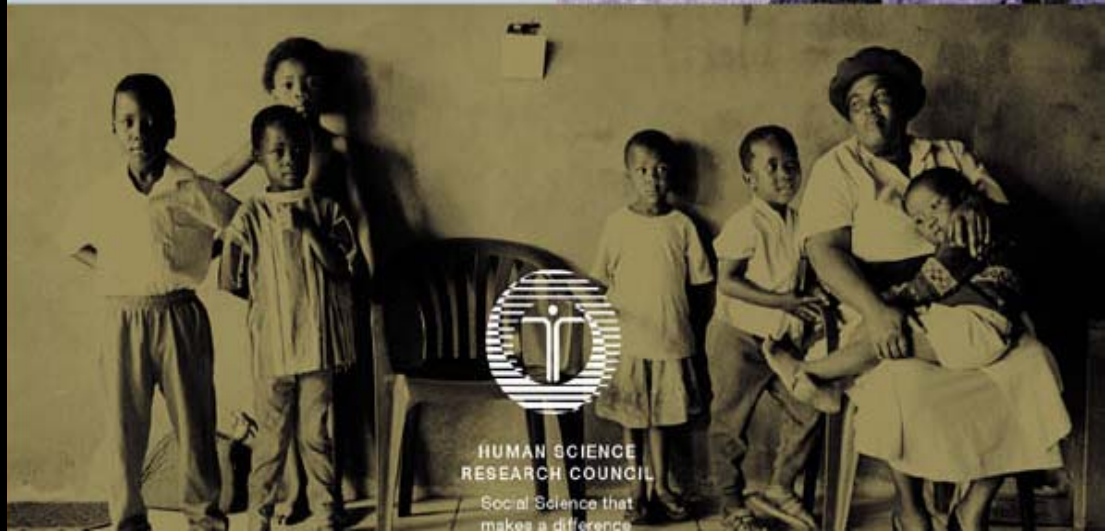
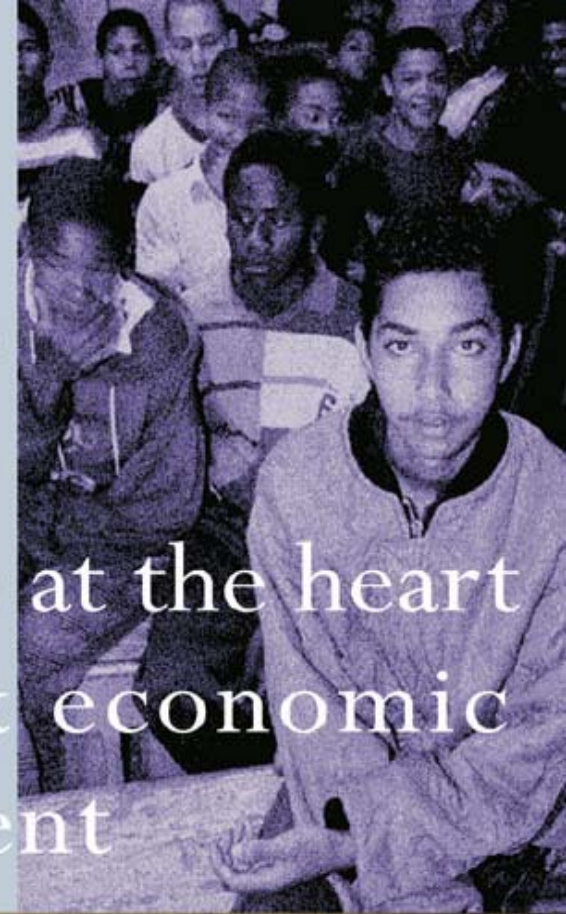
Victim Empowerment
Themba Lesiswe
Durban 2004



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South African Social Attitude Survey (SASAS)

Prevalence of Partner violence in SA

1: Background (Why we did it).

2: Methodology (How we did it).

3: Results (What we found).



BACKGROUND: LIMITED DATA

PV is a high priority social problem:

? But how extensive is it?

? Which populations are most at risk?

- **No national prevalence data.**
- **Only one community prevalence survey.**
- **Most information from Clinic Samples.**
- **Conflicting results (different populations and measures).**

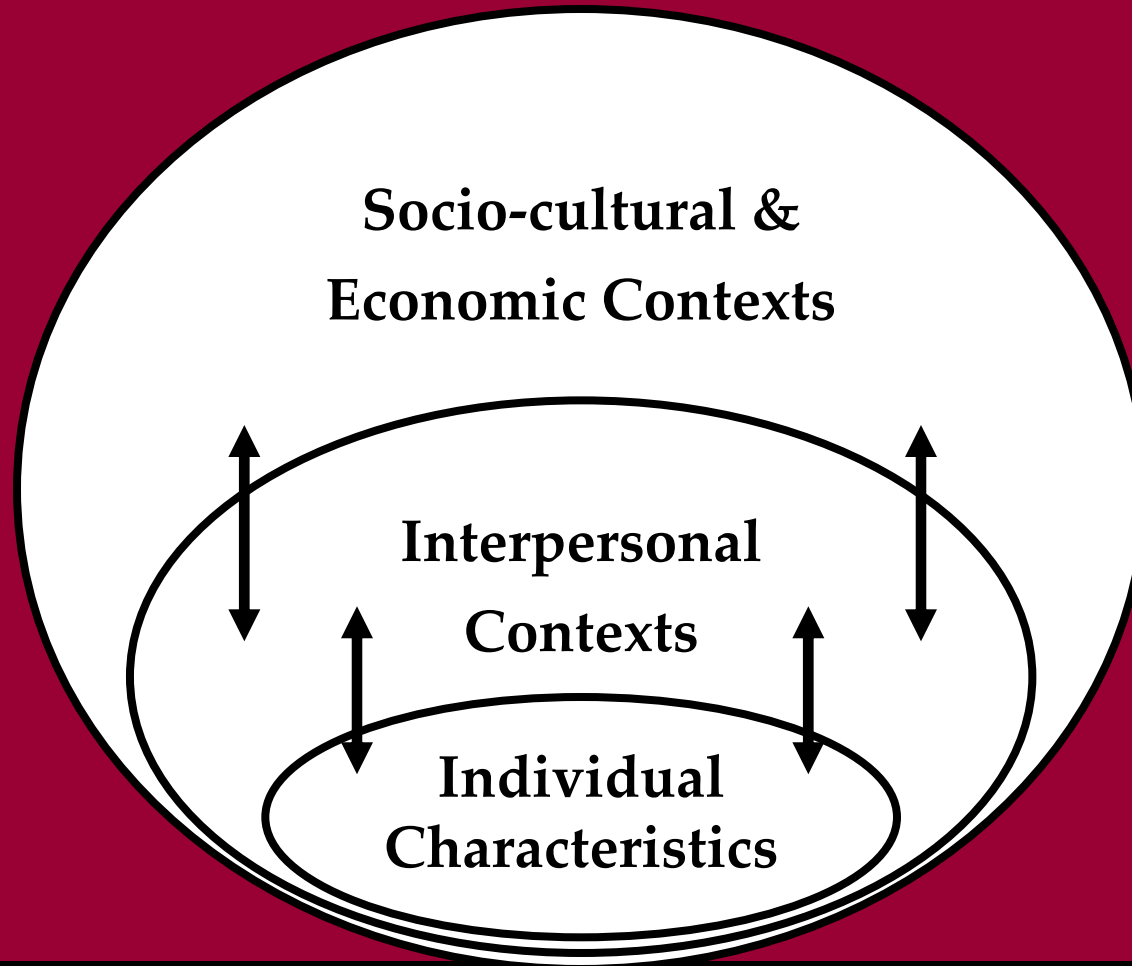


Any model that attempts to understand partner violence:

“needs to present it as a web of associated and mediating factors and processes which are centrally mediated by ideas about masculinity ... the position of women in society and ideas about the use of violence.” Jewkes & Penn-Kekana, 2002



BACKGROUND: PV RISK FACTORS



INTERACTING RISK FACTORS

1. **Socio-cultural:** Patriarchal norms of male dominance & female acceptance of such norms & practices. “Male power naturalised.”
2. **Economic:** Poverty & unemployment undermines male identity in patriarchal communities & increases stress.
3. **Interpersonal:** Low relationship satisfaction; Poor conflict management skills; Social isolation.
4. **Individual (both M&F):** Poor impulse control; Low self esteem; Substance abuse; patriarchal gender scripts; violence in family of origin.



METHODOLOGY

Sample:

- Step 1: National Household Sample of 2497 men & women.
- Step 2: Extract the 1198 participants who were married or cohabiting (48% of sample).

Key Instrument:

CTS2 (Straus et al 1996).

Key measures:

Lifetime & past year prevalence of violence to partner, by partner and both.



SAMPLE QUESTIONS

1. I threw something at my partner that could hurt
 - My partner did this to me
2. I slapped my partner
 - My partner did this to me

9 questions tapping life time prevalence and past year prevalence



RESULTS

Lifetime Prevalence (victim or perpetrator):

20% of married / cohabiting adults have either assaulted or been assaulted by their partner.

Past year prevalence (victim or perpetrator):

12.5% of married / cohabiting adults have either assaulted or been assaulted by their partner in the past year.

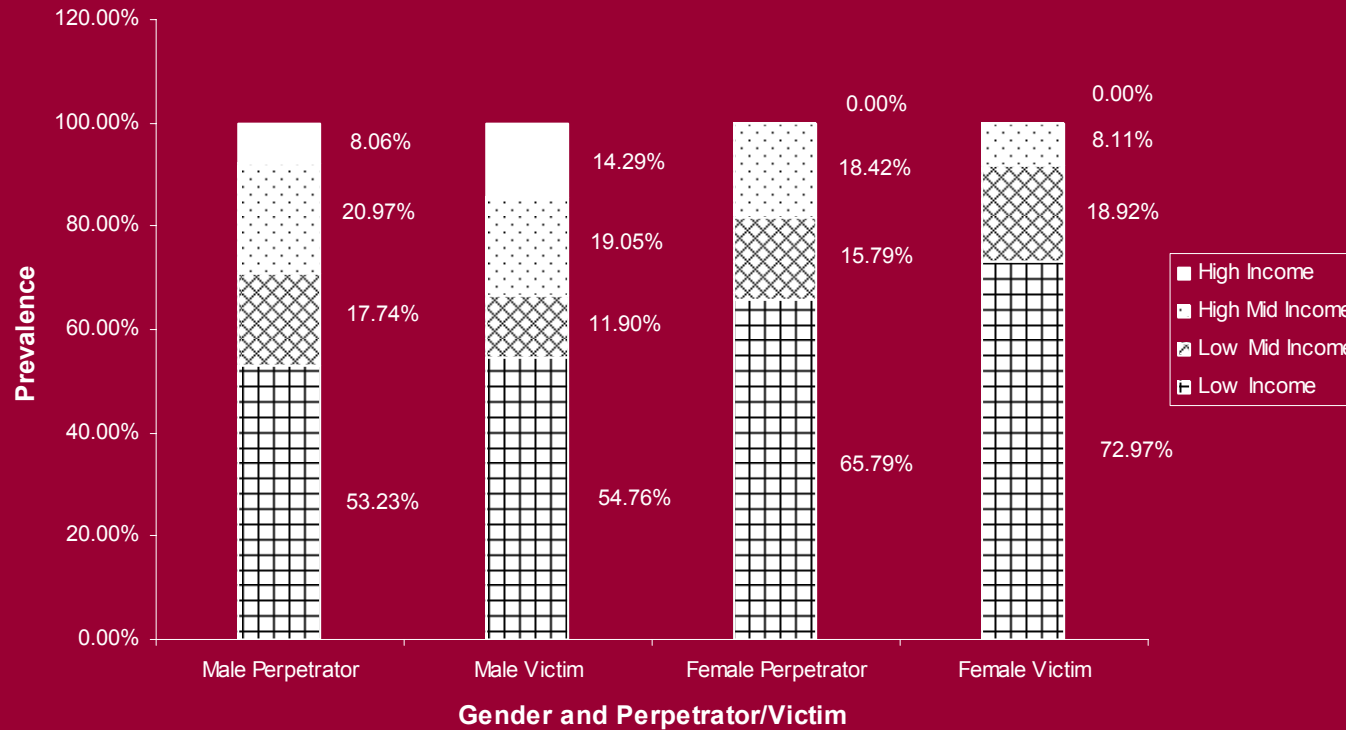
Victim gender (lifetime prevalence):

10% of the women

5.4% of the men

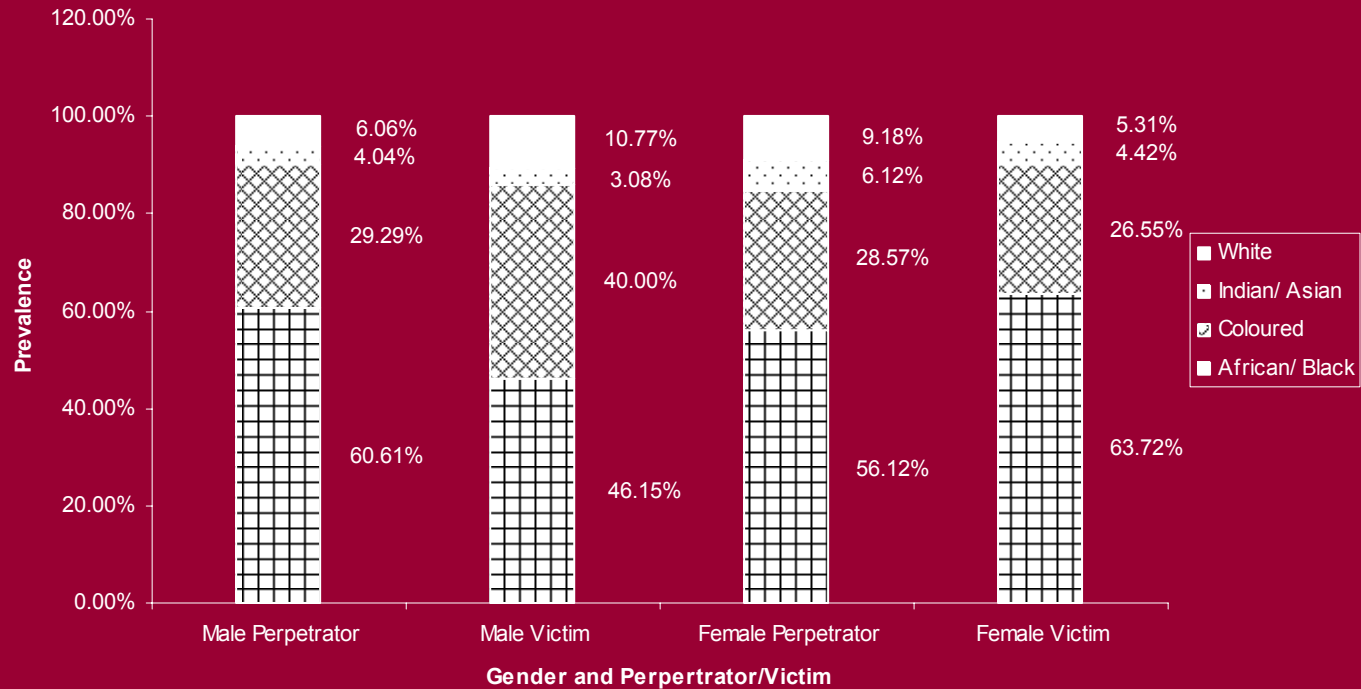


Lifetime Partner Violence – Victim Gender by Income



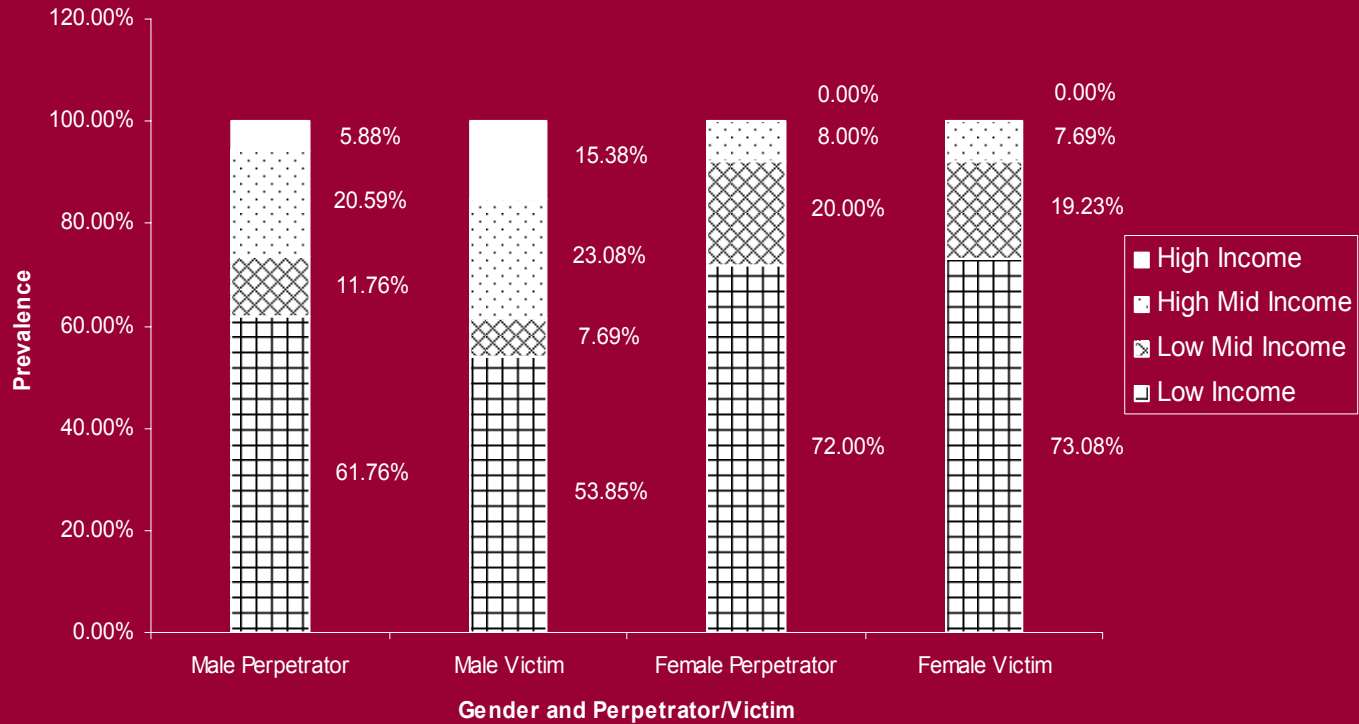
Lifetime Partner Violence – Victim Gender by Race

Lifetime Prevalence Of Partner Violence According to Gender and Race



Past Year Partner Violence – Victim Gender by Income

Annual Prevalence of Partner Violence According to Gender and SES



Who are the most at risk for Partner Violence?

Low income amplifies the probability of partner violence

- **Relationships characterized by violence:** lesser educated men and women and those who are cohabiting;
- **Women victims:** younger, less educated women from poor backgrounds;
- **Male perpetrators:** Cohabiting, low Income men are most likely to beat their partners.



Comparison with other SA studies

- Women victims lifetime prevalence:
- This study 2003: = **9.5%**
- Jewkes & colleagues (SADHS 1998): **26.8% (EC), 28.4% (MP); & 19.1% (L).**
- Women victims Past year:
- This study 2003: = **7%**
- Jewkes: **10.9% (EC), 11.9% (M) & 4.5% (L).**
- Male perpetrators past year:
- This study 2003: = **5%**
- Abrahams, Jewkes & Laubsher (1999): **8.7% (Municipal workers)**



LIMITATIONS

- Translation
- Measuring PV by survey
- Reliability: Recollection / Truthfulness – The figures probably underestimate
- CTS2 does not assess the context in which PV occurs or “who started it”



IMPLICATIONS

Multi-level interventions

- Cultural: Legislation – enforce the domestic violence Act.
- Socio-Economic: Build local level support for vulnerable families;
- Individual & Group: Change *collective norms & practices* that support the legitimacy of male rights to assert power over women..... Target young people.
- Individual: Address problem of alcohol abuse.
- Individual: Increase couple counselling provision.

