



# PERFORMANCE MONITORING FOR ACTION

## GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AMONG YOUTH IN NAIROBI, KENYA

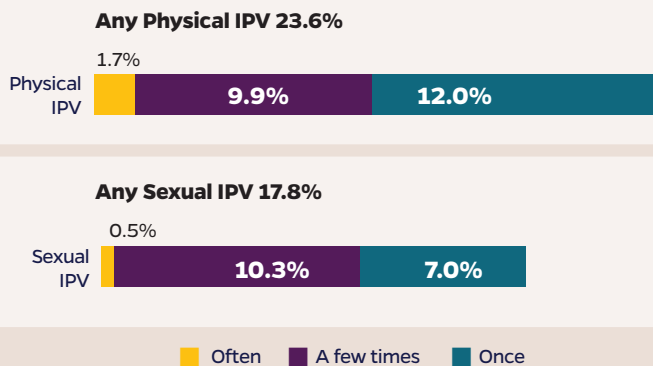
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### Why This Matters

- **Gender-based violence (GBV)**, particularly intimate partner violence (IPV) and sexual violence, is a major human rights violation and public health issue that **affects more than 1 in 3 women globally**. It has both short and long-term consequences for women, impacting their physical, sexual, mental, emotional, and reproductive health (1).
- **Prevalence of GBV is high in Kenya**, with 34% of women over age 15 reporting physical violence and 16% reporting sexual violence at least once during their lifetime (2).
- The COVID-19 pandemic amplified needs for violence-related supports for women, in Kenya and globally.
- In June 2021, **the Kenyan Government committed to ending all forms of GBV by 2026**, with coordinated action across 5 pillars: financing, accountability and leadership, ratification and implementation of laws and conventions, data utilization, and service delivery (3).

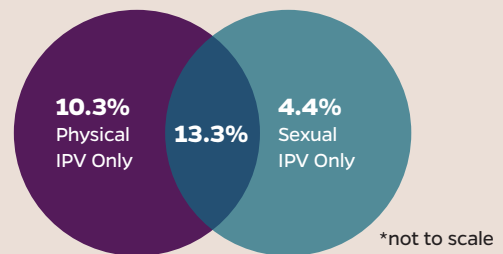
### Key Findings: Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

**Figure 1: Prevalence of past-year physical or sexual IPV among partnered young women, weighted (n=593)**



**Past-year IPV was common among young women (28.1%); 23.6% experienced physical IPV and 17.8% of women experienced sexual IPV at least once.**

**Figure 2: Overlap of physical and sexual IPV among partnered young women, weighted (n=593)**

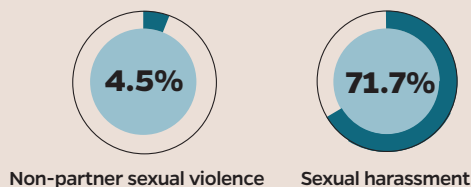


“My husband started asking me to show him all the money I had. The violence started to get worse when his mother told him that I had another man. **When he came home, I would experience hell**, until the neighbors were sympathizing with me because he would beat me the whole night. One day, he beat me, and I had to stay in the hospital for two days.”

- 17-year-old female IDI participant.

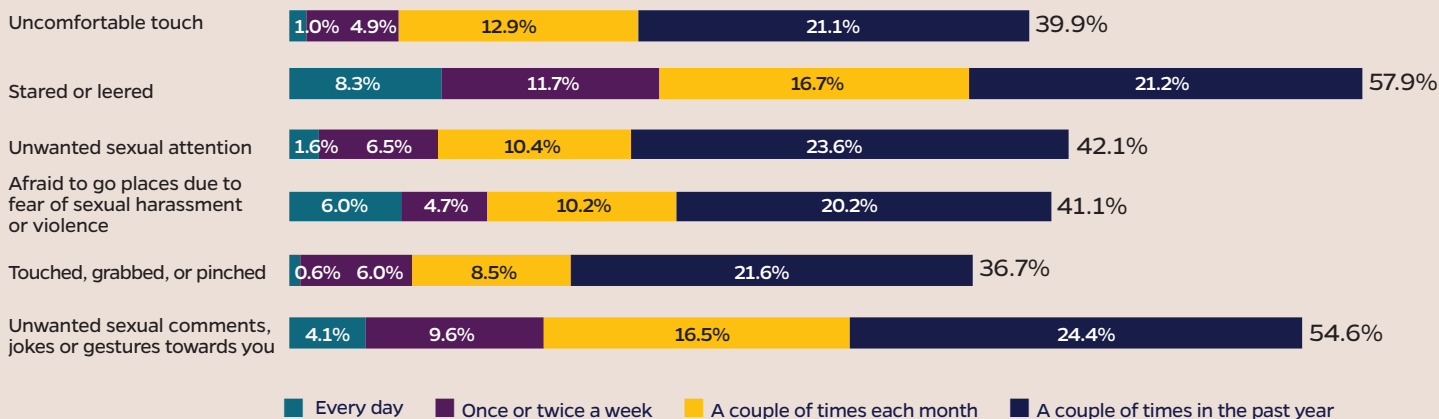
# Key Findings: Public Safety—Non-Partner Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment

**Figure 3: Prevalence of past-year sexual violence by a non-partner or sexual harassment among young women, weighted (n=828)**



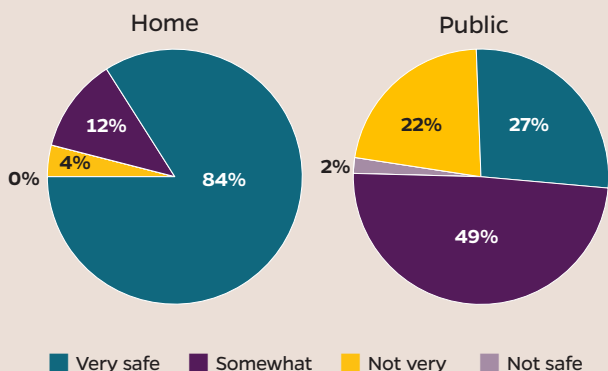
4.5% reported that they were forced to have sex by someone other than their partner. Approximately three-quarters of the women experienced sexual harassment in the past year.

**Figure 4: Types and frequency of past-year sexual harassment among young women who reported sexual harassment, weighted**



**The most common type of sexual harassment was being stared or leered at, followed by unwanted sexual comments, jokes, or gestures.**

**Figure 5: Women’s perception of safety in home and public space, weighted (n=830)**



“Most of the times it happens when I’m walking in my community, and **you meet a man and he throws dirty words at you that I don’t feel okay about...** I prefer to walk away because if you turn and start arguing with him... The words will now change to sexual verbal abuse.”  
- 17-year-old female IDI participant

I think [women] are not safe around gangs... These men are probably addicted to drugs... [there] are those [men] who do not value women... **We recognize him if he beats his wife...** One who makes her not go to look for work... You see, they still keep the old things of a woman having to stay at home and raise the children.”  
- 18-year-old male IDI participant

## Key Takeaways

More than **one in four** women have experienced physical or sexual IPV in the last year.



Sexual harassment is pervasive at **72%**



## Action Steps

- Prioritize **survivor-centered prevention and response** services specifically for IPV given the prevalence.
- **Expand access to survivor support services**, including by training healthcare providers and community health workers to reduce self-blame and facilitate connection to care.
- Invest in evidence-based programs to **transform patriarchal norms** that promote GBV perpetration and stigmatize survivors for seeking help.
- **Increase involvement of diverse gender equity stakeholders**, including legislators, healthcare providers, and community and religious leaders to address GBV prevention and response.

## Methods

Performance Monitoring for Action (PMA) Agile is a longitudinal cohort of adolescents and youth ages 15-24 in Nairobi, Kenya initially recruited via respondent-driven sampling from June-August 2019 (n=690 young men, n=664 young women). From 2020-21, fully remote follow-up data collection was conducted with the cohort to track changes in contraceptive dynamics and assess the gendered impact of COVID-19 (survey rounds at 12-month follow-up from August-October 2020, and 18-month follow-up from April-May 2021 [n=586 young men, n=591 young women]), accompanied by qualitative methods, including focus group discussions (FGDs) and in-depth interviews (IDIs) with youth and relevant stakeholders.

From June to August 2023, data collection with the Nairobi youth cohort (now ages 19-28) was conducted (n=551 young men, n=550 young women), and with replenishment sampling for youth ages 15-19 to account for attrition and cohort aging (n=320 young men, n=281 young women (total n=871 young men, total n=831 young women)). Data collection was in-person, computer-assisted as in the initial wave, with a remote option. These data track and compare contraceptive use and behaviors, gender-related norms and attitudes, and gender-based violence (GBV) experiences and sources of support.

Accompanying qualitative methods included in-depth interviews with youth ages 15-29, sampled purposively based on demographics (N=30, male n=15 and female n=15).

## References

1. Ellsberg M, Jansen HA, Heise L, Watts CH, Garcia-Moreno C; WHO Multi-country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence against Women Study Team. Intimate partner violence and women's physical and mental health in the WHO multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence: an observational study. *Lancet*. 2008;371(9619):1165-1172. doi:10.1016/S0140-6736(08)60522-X
2. KNBS and ICF. 2023. Kenya Demographic and Health Survey 2022: Volume 1. Nairobi, Kenya, and Rockville, Maryland, USA: KNBS and ICF. Accessed September 10, 2023. <https://www.dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR380/FR380.pdf>.
3. Government of Kenya, International Center for Research on Women, UN Women, United Nations Population Fund; 2021. Generation equality forum: Kenya's roadmap for advancing gender equality and ending all forms of gender-based violence and female genital mutilation by 2026. Accessed September 13, 2023. [https://www.icrw.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/GEF\\_Kenya\\_GBV\\_roadmap-05.21-web.pdf](https://www.icrw.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/GEF_Kenya_GBV_roadmap-05.21-web.pdf)

## Suggested Citation

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