

# Prevalence of Domestic Abuse in Asia

Compiled by the Domestic Abuse and Violence International Alliance<sup>1</sup>

April 18, 2023

This report summarizes six studies on physical abuse, psychological abuse, and/or sexual abuse conducted in the following nine countries or areas in Asia: China, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, and Thailand. The information was obtained from the Partner Abuse State of Knowledge, compiled by Esquivel-Santoveña, Lambert, and Hamel (2013).<sup>2</sup>

To be included in this summary, the study had to consist of community or other large-scale surveys, use a well-validated survey instrument, and report sex-specific prevalence rates. Following is a compilation of the study findings:

## Physical Abuse:

Author	Country	Sample Size	Type of Abuse	Perpetration %		Victimization %		Time Period
				Male	Female	Male	Female	
Straus	India	84	Physical	35	31			Past year
	Japan	120	Physical	25	18			Past year
	South Korea	183	Physical	24	37			Past year
	Hong Kong	521	Physical	23	43			Past year
	China	763	Physical	22	42			Past year
	Taiwan	152	Physical	18	42			Past year
	Singapore	199	Physical	10	28			Past year
	China	3,323	Physical			3	19	Past year
	Urban areas		Physical			6.8	7.7	Past year
Hou	China	388	Physical	24.6	29.4	25.8	22.0	Past 4 months
Chan	Hong Kong	3,740	Physical	9.4	10.5			Lifetime
Fehringer and Hindin	Philippines	944	Physical	25.1	55.8	30.5	27.7	Past year
Pradubmook-Sherer	Thailand	1,296	Physical	41.9	41.2			Lifetime
Average (Mean)				23.5	34.4	16.5	19.1	

<sup>1</sup> [www.endtodv.org/davia](http://www.endtodv.org/davia)

<sup>2</sup> Partner Abuse Worldwide, *Partner Abuse*, Volume 4, Issue 1.  
<https://domesticviolenceresearch.org/pdf/PASK.Tables14.Revised.pdf>

### Psychological Abuse:

Author	Country	Sample Size	Type of Abuse	Perpetration %		Victimization %		Time Period
				Male	Female	Male	Female	
Hou	China	388	Psychological	42.2	44.4	45.4	41.6	Past 4 months
Chan	Hong Kong	3,740	Psychological	53.9	54.4			Lifetime
Pradubmook-Sherer	Thailand	1,296	Psychological	49.2	46.7			Lifetime
Average (Mean)				48.4	48.5	45.4	41.6	

### Sexual Abuse:

Author	Country	Sample Size	Type of Abuse	Perpetration %		Victimization %		Time Period
				Male	Female	Male	Female	
Hou	China	388	Sexual	20.9	15.0	14.4	23.0	Past 4 months
Chan	Hong Kong	3,740	Sexual	7.8	5.9			Lifetime
Pradubmook-Sherer	Thailand	1,296	Sexual	43.2	46.7			Lifetime
Average (Mean)				24.0	22.5	14.4	23.0	

### Summary:

#### Physical Abuse:

- Perpetration: Women report they are more likely to be the perpetrators.
- Victimization: Women report they are more likely to be the victims.
- These paradoxical findings are probably due to the different ways that men and women respond to questions about perpetration and victimization.

#### Psychological Abuse:

- Perpetration: Women are more likely to be the perpetrators.
- Victimization: Men more likely to be the victims.

#### Sexual Abuse:

- Perpetration: Men are more likely to be the perpetrators.
- Victimization: Women more likely to be the victims.

**Summary of Individual Studies:**

*India, Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, and Singapore:*

<p>Straus, M.A. (2008) Dominance and symmetry in partner violence by male and female university students in 32 nations. <i>Children and Youth Services Review</i> Volume 30(3), 252-275.</p>	<p>2,022 (Asia)</p>	<p>Data from the International Violence Study regarding dating violence were collected from a convenience sample of 13,601 students at 68 universities in 32 nations. The subgroup of those reporting more than one incident of assault included 4,239 students. In this table segment, the samples were collected from Asian countries, including India (84), Japan (120), South Korea (183), Hong Kong (521), China (763), Taiwan (152) and Singapore (199), original respondents totaled 2,022 student sample population The average responding gender in this region was 66.1% female. (Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole.) Students included in the study either currently were, or</p>	<p>A consortium of researchers from all major regions of the world took part in this International Dating Violence Study. This section summarizes the research data for Asian countries only. The core questions are the same in every region where the research was conducted. Students who participated in the study were advised of their rights to refuse participation and the purpose of the study. Most universities had a participation rate of 85% to 95%. Dominance was measured by items from the Personal and Relationships Profile – e.g., “I generally have the final say when my partner and I disagree,” and “My partner needs to remember that I am in charge.” Impression management was controlled by using The Limited Disclosure Scale of the PRP.</p>	<p>Prevalence of overall assault reported (past year perpetration) in Asian countries is as follows: India: males at 35%, females 31%; Japan: males 25%, females 18%; South Korea: males 24%, females 37%; Hong Kong: males 23%, females 43%; China: males 22%, females 42%; Taiwan: males 18%, females 42%; and Singapore: males 10%, females 28%. Prevalence of severe assault are as follows: India: males 7%, females 14%; Japan: males 7%, females 10%; South Korea: males 8%, females 19%; Hong Kong: males 7%, females 19%; China: males 9%, females 20%; Taiwan: males 16%, females 26%; and Singapore: males 0%, females 7%. Prevalence of any mutual overall assault are as follows: India: 32%; Japan: 21%; South Korea: 32%; Hong Kong: 37%; China: 35%; Taiwan: 36% and Singapore: 23%. Prevalence of mutual severe physical violence are as follows: India: 12%; Japan: 8%; South Korea: 15%; Hong Kong: 15%; China: 16%; Taiwan: 23% and Singapore: 5%. T Dominance: Taiwan: 2.23M, 2.28 F</p>
		<p>had been in a relationship for one month or more.</p>		<p>China: 2.22 M, 2.15 F          Hong Kong 2.10 M, 2.16 F          India 2.10 M, 2.18 F          Japan 1.90 M, 1.97 F          Singapore 1.96 M, 2.03 F          South Korea 2.17 M, 2.25 F</p>

China:

<p>Wang, T., Parish, W., Laumann, E., &amp; Luo, Y. (2009). Partner violence and sexual jealousy in China. <i>Violence against Women</i>, 15(7), 774-798.</p> <p>+ Parish, W., Wang, T., Laumann, E., Pan, S., &amp; Luo, Y. (2004). Intimate partner violence in China: National prevalence, risk factors and associated health problems. <i>International Family Planning Perspectives</i>, 30(4), 174-181.</p>	<p>1,658 men 1,665 women</p>	<p>1,658 men and 1,665 women from mainland China who had steady sexual partner. Ages 20-64</p>	<p>Data from 1999-2000 Chinese Health and Family Life Survey of adults. Probabilistic sample drawn from 14 strata and 48 counties and city districts, selected according to size down the four sampling steps to the level of the individual. Respondents interviewed by same-sex interviewer at private hotel room or meeting facility.</p> <p>Respondents asked if their partner had ever hit them, not including in a joking or playful way, whether they had hit their partner</p> <p>Respondents also asked about sexual jealousy, attitudes about men's rights to control women, and socioeconomic status.</p> <p>Negative outcomes: 15</p>	<p><u>Unplanned pregnancy:</u> <u>Prevalence Rates of Partner Violence</u> 19% reported male to female (MF) violence, 3% reported female to male (FM). Bilateral violence reported by 15% of respondents. 12% of women and 5% of men reported to have been hit hard.</p> <p>Targets of partner violence tend to report less hitting than perpetrators – e.g., 11% of men reported hitting a female partner in past year, but only 5% of women said they'd been hit</p> <p>At age 30 in urban areas, 6.8% of men and 7.7% of women reported partner violence victimization.</p> <p><u>Risk Factors</u> Higher rates of MF and FM violence among younger populations Bilateral violence most common in relationships of 6-15 years Significantly higher rates of MF</p>
---	----------------------------------	--	---	---

<p>Hou, J., Li Yu, Siu-Man Raymond Ting, Yee Tak Sze, &amp; Xiaoyi Fang (2011). The status and characteristics of couple violence in China. <i>Journal of Family Violence</i>, 26: 81-92.</p>	<p>194 couples</p>	<p>Married couples from the community in Beijing, China.</p> <p>Wives were aged 20-59 years (mean age = 36.6 years).</p> <p>Husbands were aged 21-59 years (mean age = 38.3). Community sample It was a combination of a community sample (couples recruited from different neighbourhoods) and a selected sample (couples selected at a family therapy course)</p>	<p>Participants were recruited by the Judicial Office personnel who distributed questionnaires in different neighborhoods, and by students at a family therapy course at the Beijing Normal University.</p> <p>3 subscales of the CTS-2 used (physical, psychological and sexual abuse)</p> <p>Couples asked about perpetration and victimization in past 4 months</p> <p>Administered to couples in various parts of Beijing by neighborhood committees (n=84) and by students at Beijing Normal University</p>	<p><u>Demographics:</u> 172 first marriages 50 without children 119 with one child Age range (wives): 20-59 Age range (husbands) 21-59 32.2% of husbands and 8.2% of wives had advanced degree. Respondents above the national average in income.</p> <p><u>Physical violence perpetration:</u> 29.4% of wives, 24.6 % of husbands Physical violence victimization: 22.0% of wives, 25.8% of husbands</p> <p><u>Psychological abuse perpetration:</u> 44.4% of wives, 42.2% of husbands Psychological abuse victimization: 41.6% of wives, 45.4% of husbands</p>
---	--------------------	---	--	--

			<p>(n=110)</p>	<p><u>Sexual violence perpetration:</u> 15.0% of wives, 20.9% of husbands <u>Sexual violence victimization:</u> 23.0% of wives, 14.4% of husbands</p> <p>31.8% of couples both violent; 11.7% wife only violent; 10.6% husband only violent</p>
--	--	--	----------------	---

Hong Kong:

<p>Chan, Ko Ling (2012). Gender symmetry in the self-reporting of intimate partner violence. <i>Journal of Interpersonal Violence</i>, 27 (2), 263-286.</p>	<p>1,870 couples</p>	<p>Adult couples aged 16 or older from the community living in Hong Kong that were married or cohabiting. The sample used in this study was a subset of a representative household survey in Hong Kong carried out in 2004.</p>	<p>Subsample of 2004 Hong Kong representative household survey. Survey on PV perpetration and demographics administered in Cantonese, Mandarin and English. Measures used: Revised CTS-2; Personal and Relationship Profile (risk factors); Acquisitive Face Orientation Scale (measures need for saving face)</p>	<p><u>Prevalence Rates of Partner Violence</u>  <u>Lifetime Perpetration:</u>            Physical abuse: 9.4% male, 10.5% female (severe: 3.4% male, 3.5% female)            Psychological abuse/control: 53.9% male, 54.4% female (severe 18.3% male, 19.7% female)            Sexual abuse: 7.8% male, 5.9% female)</p> <p>No significant differences across gender for all PV perpetration categories lifetime or preceding year, except severe psychological aggression (higher by females) and sexual abuse (higher by males)</p> <p>Injuries caused: 3.3% and female (1.5% severe injury male and female)</p> <p><u>Factors in Agreement/Disagreement</u>            Violence approval, need to save face and negative attribution all correlated with disagreement in PV reporting between man and wife. Social desirability negatively correlated with disagreement</p>
---	----------------------	---	--	---

Philippines:

<p>Fehringer, J., &amp; Hindin, M. (2009). Like parent, like child: Intergenerational transmission of partner violence in Cebu, the Philippines. <i>Journal of Adolescent Health</i>, 44, 363-371.</p>	<p>472 couples</p>	<p>Married or cohabitating young pregnant women in Cebu province, Philippines and their male partners. Average age: 21</p>	<p>Data from Cebu Longitudinal Health and Nutrition Survey, a longitudinal study, at one of the follow-ups. PV perpetration and victimization measured with adapted version of CTS, for previous 12-month period Questionnaire also inquired about maternal and household characteristics, individual characteristics and family of origin violence</p>	<p><u>PV Prevalence</u>            Significantly higher rates of PV perpetration reported by women: (55.8% versus 25.1%)            Victimization rates more similar (30.5% male, 27.7% female)</p> <p>45% of the women and 50% of the men reported having witnessed violence between their parents</p> <p><u>Risk Factors</u>            Higher PV perpetration correlated with</p>
				<p>rural residence, being with partner 25-36 months            PV victimization correlated with witnessing mother to father PV as a child and low joint decision making by the parents</p>

Thailand:

<p>Pradubmook-Sherer, P. (2009). Prevalence and correlates of adolescent dating violence in Bangkok, Thailand. <i>Journal of Sociology &amp; Social Welfare</i>, 36 (1).</p>	<p>1,296 both</p>	<p>Random sampling was used to select participants from out-of-school adolescents, adolescents attending vocational schools, and adolescents attending academic high schools. A stratified clustered random sampling process was used. The sample were from 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade classes in each school, 582 from nine high schools, 613 from ten vocational schools, and 101 who were not in school. Participants were between the ages of 14 and 19 years.</p>	<p>A questionnaire was tested and used. Several instruments were used to measure individual attributes, including demographics, self-reported delinquency behavior, alcohol and drug use, self-esteem (using the Rosenberg's Self-Esteem Scale), family relations and dynamics, interpersonal relationships, and dating violence, relations, partner characteristics and level of commitment (using the Conflict in Adolescent Dating Relationships Inventory).</p>	<p><u>Prevalence Rates of Partner Violence</u> Threatened by partners 49.2% males and 46.7 females; Verbally or emotionally abused 49.2% males and 46.7% of females; Experienced relational abuse 65.8% males and 59% females; Been physically abused 41.9% males and 41.2% females; Sexually abused 43.2% males and 46.7% females.</p> <p><u>Risk Factors:</u> (Rates are listed respectively in order of out-of-school adolescents, vocational school, and high school students) Use of alcohol 22%, 13%, 1.8%; Started dating 55 females and 25 males, 157 females and 167 males, 203 females and 69 males;</p> <p><u>Delinquent Behaviors:</u> 42% getting into group fights; 36% intentionally destroying property; 10% arrested in connection with</p>
				<p>criminal activity.</p> <p><u>Having Friends Who Commit IPV:</u> Psychological abuse 58.8%; Physical and sexual violence against partners 29% (out-of-school and vocational students were significantly higher).</p>