

SF3.4: Intimate Partner Violence

Definitions and methodology

This indicator measures intimate partner violence through the self-reported lifetime prevalence of physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner as well as in the past 12 months. Information comes from the Gender, Institutions and Development Database 2023 (GID-DD 2023) with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations as primary sources.

Attitudes among women towards intimate partner violence are measured through the percentage of women aged 15-49 years who consider a husband to be justified in hitting or beating his wife for at least one of the specified reasons, i.e. if his wife burns the food, argues with him, goes out without telling him, neglects the children or refuses sexual relations. Data come from the GID-DD 2023, which uses data from the WHO with data from the World Values Survey and Eurobarometer to complement missing data.

Key findings

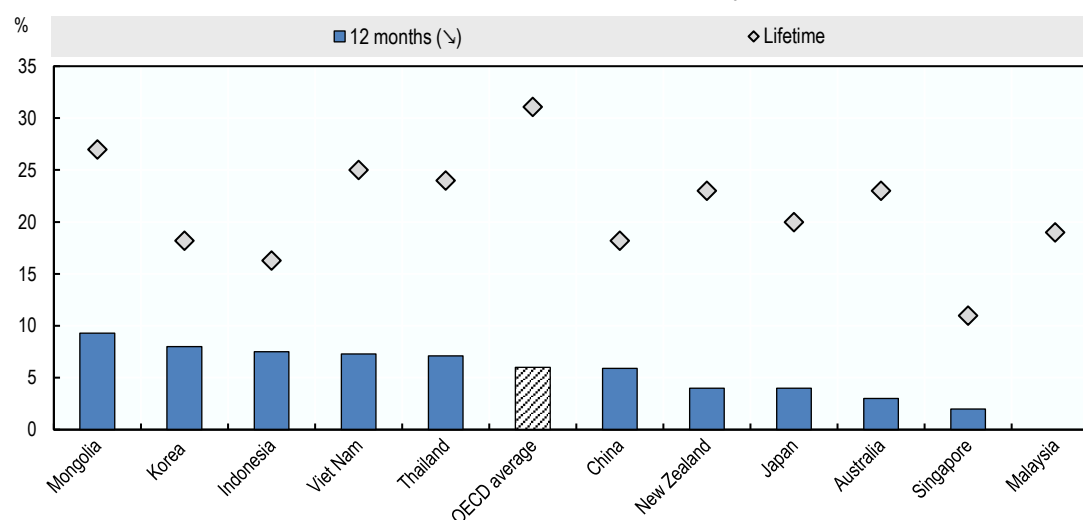
The share of women who reported experiencing intimate partner violence in their lifetime and in the past year varies somewhat across Asia/Pacific countries (Chart SF3.4.A). In some covered countries such as Mongolia, Korea, Indonesia, Viet Nam, and Thailand, over 7% of women reported interpersonal violence from a partner in the past 12 months and more than a quarter of women in Mongolia and Viet Nam reported having been victims of violence in their lifetime. On the other hand, the percentage of women reporting intimate partner violence in the past 12 months was as low as 2% in Singapore and 3% in Australia, while 11% of women in Singapore report experiencing violence from their partners in their lifetime. However, the prevalence of violence against women is likely underreported due to the difficulty in recognising what violence is, the victims fearing retaliation or the lack of resources to escape it.

Social norms can be powerful disincentives for women to report and pursue legal recourse against perpetrators. Social acceptance of domestic violence against women by women themselves weakens the functioning of legal frameworks and is an obstacle to addressing violence against women. The OECD Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) 2023 further highlighted the importance of social norms by identifying that attitudes justifying violence against women are strongly associated with more women experiencing it in the last year. In Asia/Pacific countries, the share of women who say a husband may be justified in hitting or beating his wife differs significantly by country (Chart SF3.4.B). For example, over half the women in Mongolia, Viet Nam, and Malaysia consider a husband to be justified in inflicting violence against his wife, while less than 10% of women believe this in Thailand, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand.

| |
|---|
| <i>Other relevant indicators:</i> SF3.1 Marriage and divorce rates; SF3.2 Family dissolution and children; CO1.2 Life expectancy at birth |
|---|

Chart SF3.4.A. **Prevalence of intimate partner violence**

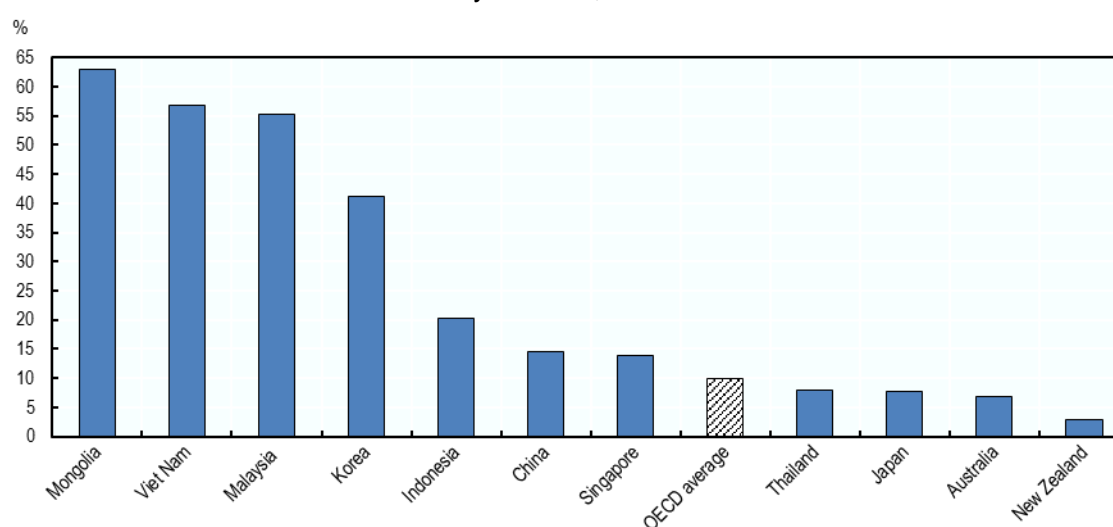
Percentage of women who report having experienced intimate partner violence at least once in their lifetime and in the last 12 months, 15- to 49-year-olds, 2024 or latest



Sources: [OECD \(2023\), Gender, Institutions and Development Database](#)

Chart SF3.4.B. **Attitudes among women towards partner violence**

Percentage of women who consider a husband to be justified in hitting or beating his wife, 15-49 year-olds, 2018-2020



Sources: [OECD \(2023\), Gender, Institutions and Development Database](#)

Comparability and data issues

Data for this Indicator were taken from the Gender, Institutions and Development Database 2023 (GID-DD 2023) which uses different primary sources. The data on the percentage of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15-49 years subjected to physical and/or sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner over their lifetime comes from the WHO, while the data on the previous 12 months is from the United Nations. Both sources are estimated based on household and population surveys with act-based questions. More details on the definitions and methods used by the United Nations are [available here](#).

Data on attitudes towards IPV were taken from the GID-DD 2023 with the WHO, the World Values Survey (WVS) and the Eurobarometer as primary sources. Data from the WHO represents the percentage of women aged 15 to 49 years who consider a husband to be justified in hitting or beating his wife for at least one of the specified reasons, i.e. if his wife burns the food, argues with him, goes out without telling him, neglects the children or refuses sexual relations. Data from the World Values Survey reflects the share of girls and women aged 15 to 49 years who think it is at least somehow justifiable for a husband to beat his wife. For Eurobarometer, the data presents the share of girls and women aged 15 to 49 years who think domestic violence acceptable under certain circumstances or in all circumstances.

Sources and further reading:

OECD (2023), *Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) 2023 Global Report, Social Institutions and Gender Index*, OECD Publishing, Paris <https://doi.org/10.1787/4607b7c7-en> ;
OECD (2025), *Gender Equality in a Changing World: Taking Stock and Moving Forward*, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/e808086f-en> .