



**NATIONAL RESEARCH ON DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN TURKEY:**

**PREVALENCE OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE
AND IMPLICATIONS FOR PREVENTION**

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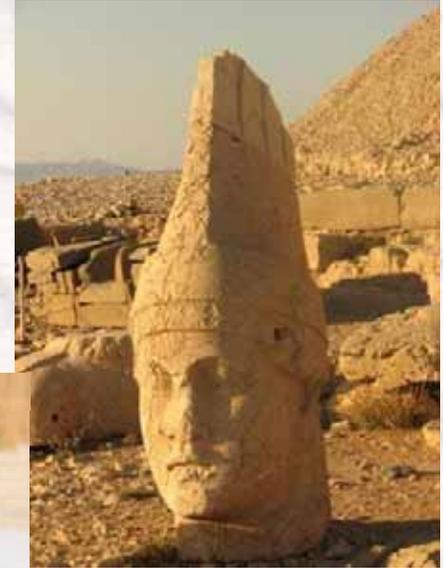
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“... He drinks, pardon me for saying this, but he wants to have anal sex.... He tormented me very much in every way. I mean, there were times when I got up from bed retching like a pregnant woman.... He was such a man, that for example, I was to serve the meals naked. How can one strip and be naked at the meals while serving and eating?”





Turkey



Project structure

***Beneficiary:* KSGM** (The General Directorate on the Status of Women)

***Funding:* EU**

Implementation:

- **ICON-INSTITUT** (Germany),
- **Hacettepe University Institute of Population Studies** (Turkey)
- **BNB Consulting** (Turkey)

Study design

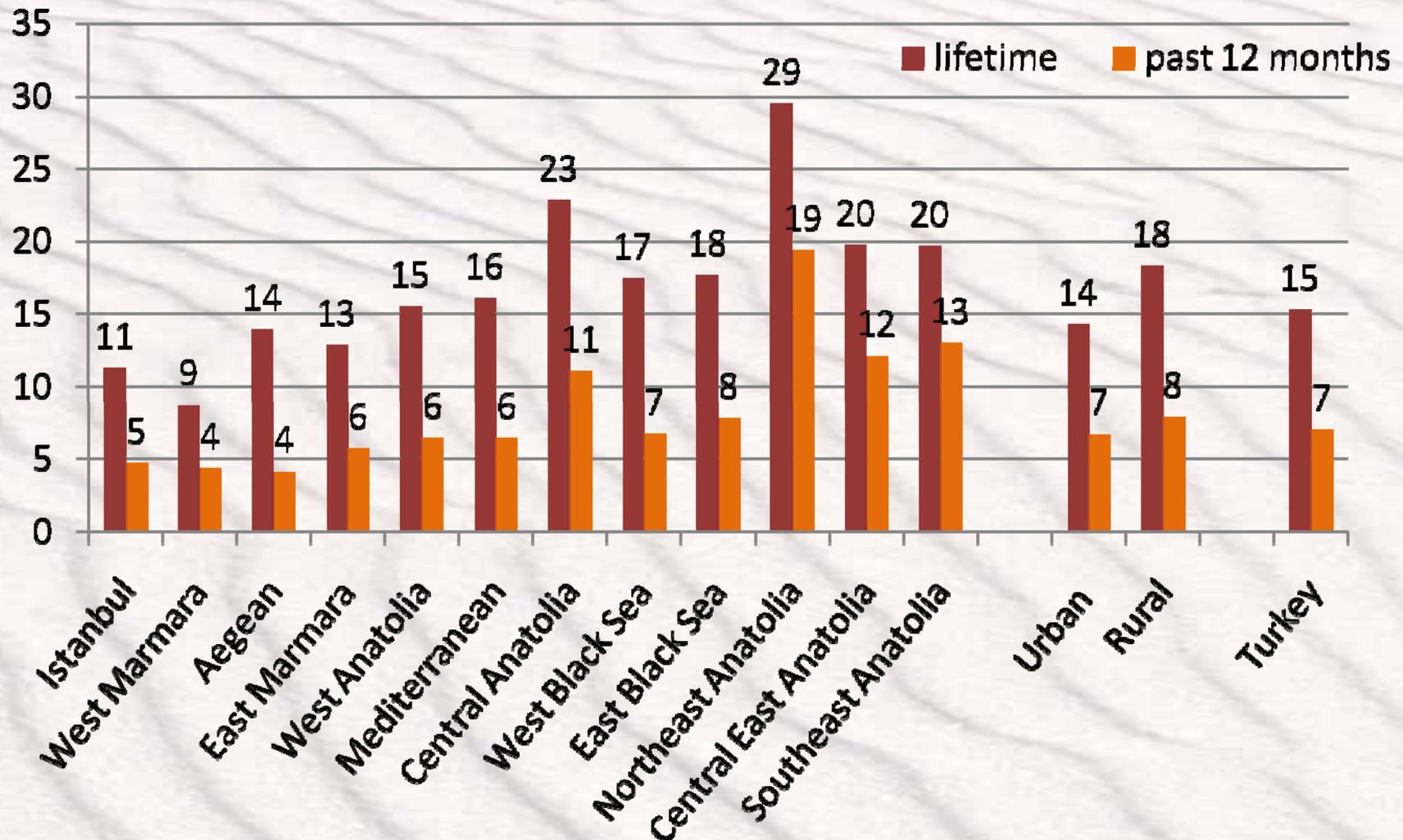
- Quantitative household survey: Sample size of 24000 households, almost 13000 women, representing 12 regions. One woman 15-59 year per household; questionnaire adapted from WHO
- Formative qualitative research: In-depth interviews in 3 cities and focus groups





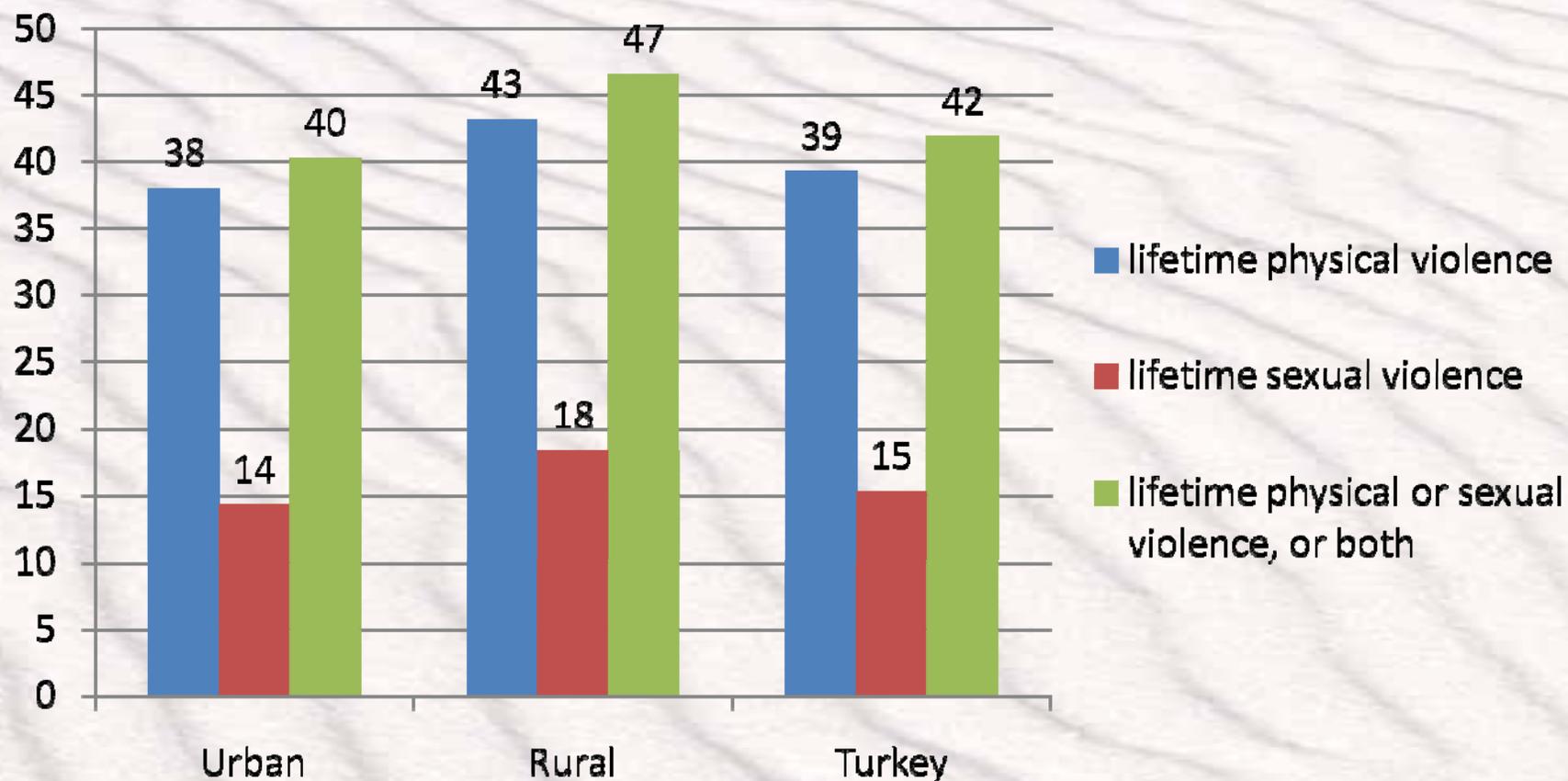
Life time and current sexual violence by partner

Percentage of women reporting sexual violence by partner, by region and type of residence, Turkey 2008



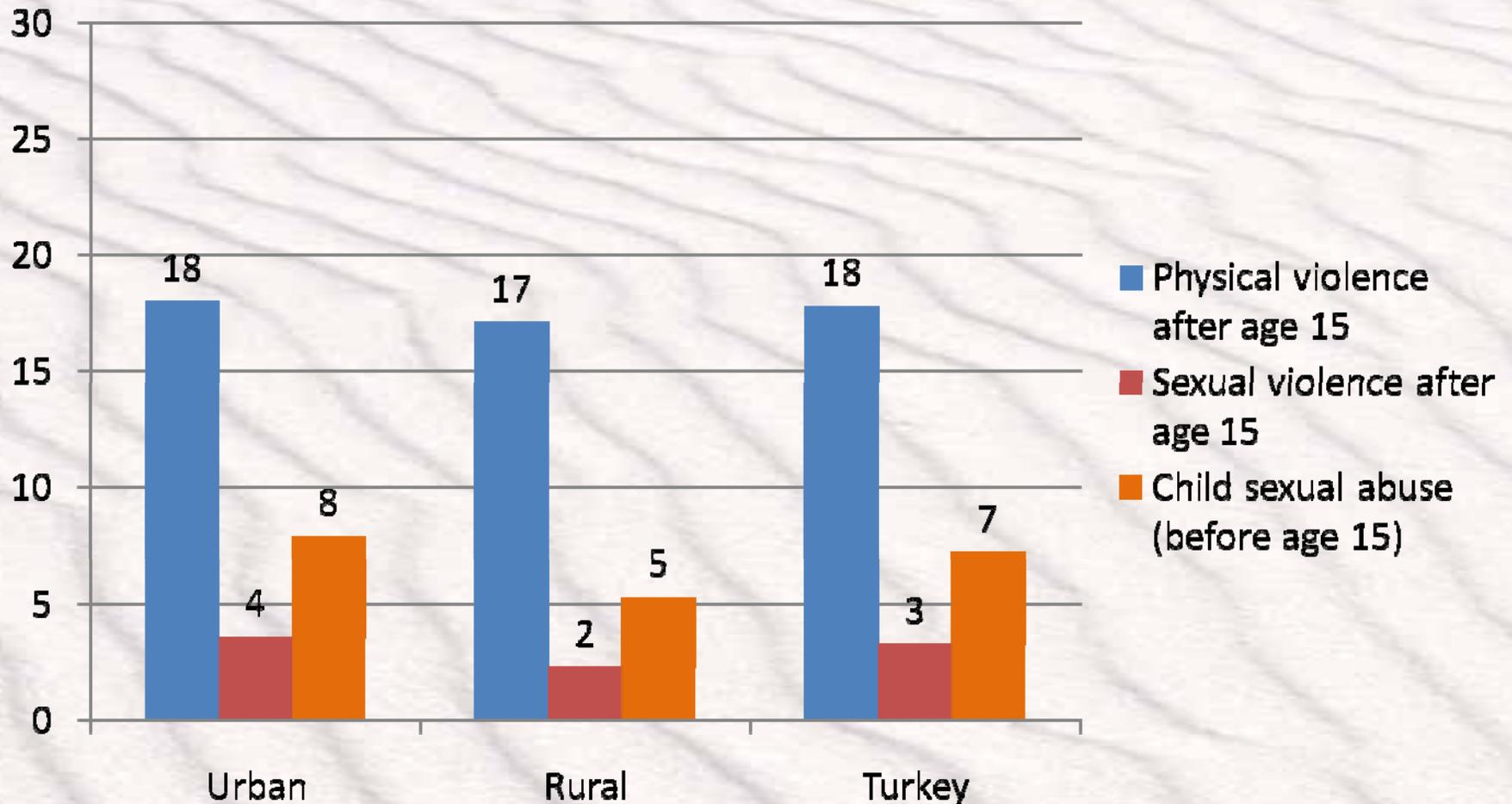
Lifetime violence by husbands/partners

Percentage of women reporting physical or sexual violence by husband or partner, by type of residence, Turkey 2008



Violence by others (non-partners)

Percentage of women reporting physical or sexual violence, by type of residence, Turkey 2008



Silence, stigma and honour

- About half of the women had talked about partner violence for the first time
- Majority never looked for official help
- Sexual violence much more taboo -- in marriage considered as marital obligation and outside marriage risking the honour of the family, with in some regions with risk of death for the woman

Women as property

“He thinks ‘she is my legal wife,... she doesn’t have a place to go, no salary, no money, no future, she has kids.... , what is she to do, she can’t go, no matter how much I torment her, I can do whatever I want, she won’t leave...”

(44 year old woman)



A man's perspective

“Getting a divorce is not good. I mean I can’t think of it, to give my wife to somebody else, my kid will call somebody else father... Of course it shouldn’t be. I am totally against it.”



2004 : new legal context

- New Turkish Penal Code accounting for gender equality and protection of sexual and bodily rights of women and girls
- Progressive definitions of sexual offences; sexual harassment at the workplace is criminalized, and sentences for sexual crimes are increased.
- Marital rape is criminalized
- Non-discrimination between virgin, non-virgin, married and unmarried women

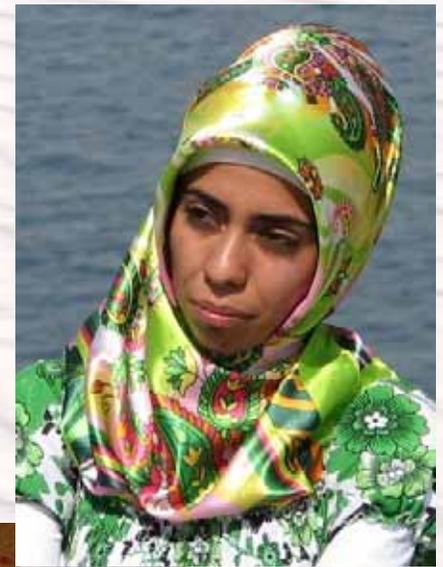
9 June 2009

- The European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg has ruled that Turkey denied a woman her "right to life" by failing to prevent her murder by her son-in-law. It is the first time the court has ruled against a state for failing to protect someone from domestic violence. The case was brought by the murdered woman's daughter, who had repeatedly told police her mother was in danger.
- "The general and discriminatory judicial passivity in Turkey created a climate that was conducive to domestic violence," the court said.

Concluding remarks

- Turkey has for the first time official statistics on domestic and sexual violence, important for awareness and creation of political goodwill.
- Sexual violence by partner and rape in marriage should be not considered in isolation but are part of pattern of partner violence
- Policy changes and legislative reforms are first steps but not enough
- An integrated multi multi-sectoral approach is needed, among which training of implementers

Violence is not acceptable !



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THANK YOU !!!

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<http://www.ksgm.gov.tr/tdvaw/default.htm>