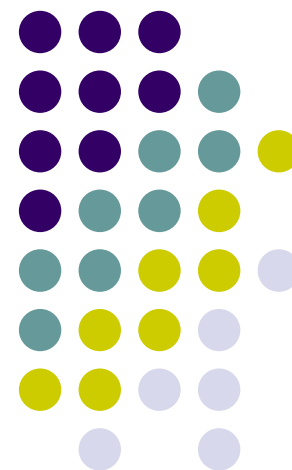
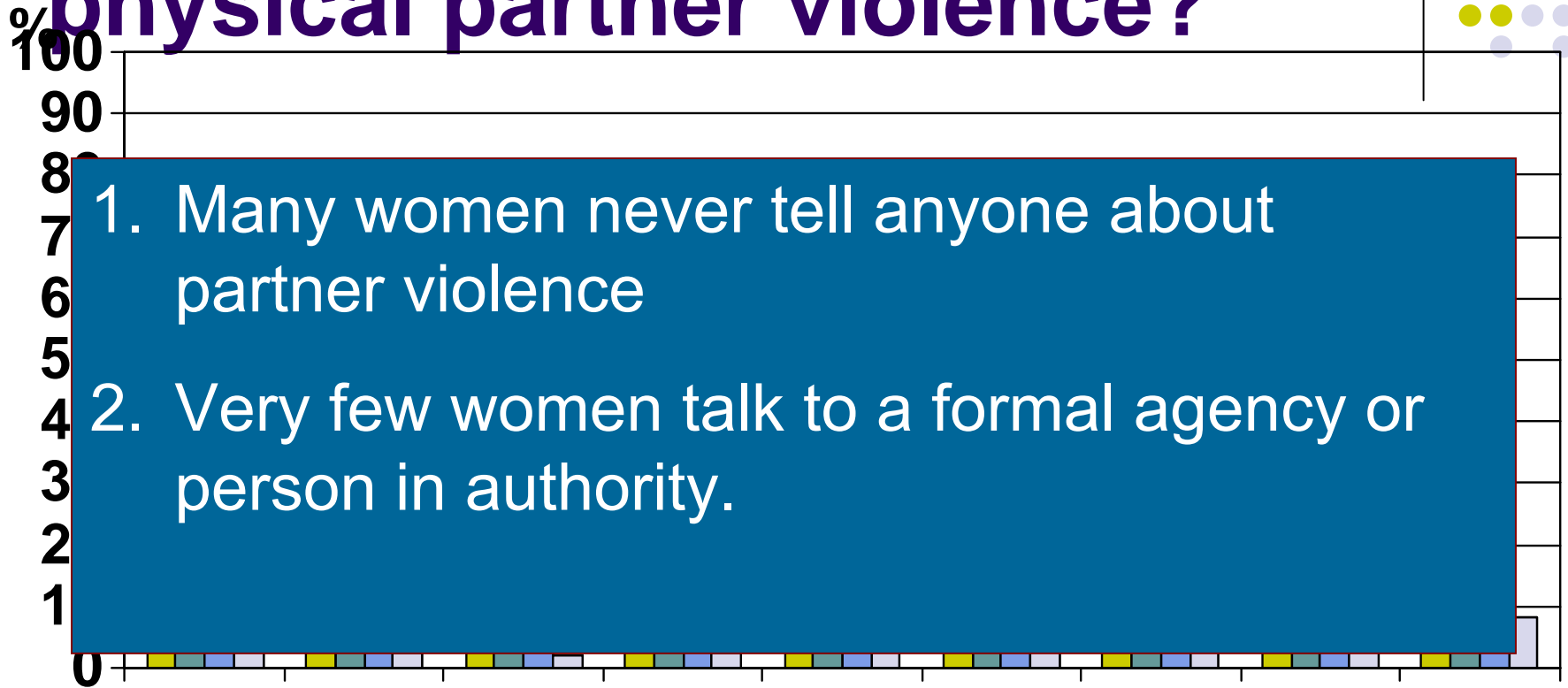
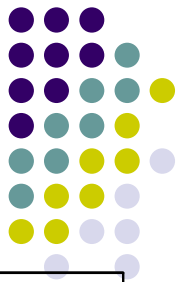


Lessons Learned from WHO Multi-country Violence Study



To whom do women talk about physical partner violence?



Bangladesh prov Bangladesh city Thailand prov Thailand city Peru prov Peru city Tanzania prov Tanzania city Serbia city

■ no-one ■ family ■ friends, neighbours ■ services, authorities

What is the implication of the findings ?



- Interviewer is often the first recipient of this women painful experience
 - Interviewer has huge responsibility to normalize her emotion
 - Interviewer could get affected adversely
- Services are rarely mentioned
 - Reveals limitation of service statistics – police/health
 - Service data are good for monitoring but not for measuring prevalence



Service based data do not represent the actual situation in the population ...

According to police records in Nicaragua, 3,000 women reported domestic violence in 1995

According to population based surveys 150,000 women suffered domestic violence in 1995



A hospital record shows that as

more services are provided and quality of care improved,

More women came reporting violence

How will you interpretate data?

Population-based data on prevalence of violence



- Prevalence figures on violence are highly sensitive to methodological issues
- Population-based research on violence raises major issues of safety and ethics
- Results useful for understanding the magnitude and characteristics of violence



Now I am going to show a table from a paper comparing prevalence rate of violence in different countries



Country	Year of study	Coverage	Sample Size	Proportion of women physically assaulted by a partner (%)		
				Age (years)	During the previous 12 months	Ever
Albania	2002	National	4049	15-44	5	8
Azerbaijan	2001	National	5533	15-44	8	20
Finland	1997	National	4955	18-74		30
France	2002	National	5908	18+	3	9
Germany	2003	National	10264	16-85		23
Lithuania	1999	National	1010	18-74		42
Netherlands	1986	National	989	20-60		21
Republic of Moldova	1997	National	4790	15-44	8	15
Romania	1999	National	5322	15-44	10	29
Russia	2000	Three provinces	5482	15-44	7	22
Serbia & Montenegro	2003	Belgrade	1189	15-49	3	23
Sweden	2000	National	5868	18-64	4	18
Switzerland	1994-1996	National	1500	20-60	6	21
Turkey	1998	E & SE Anatolia	599	14-75		58
Ukraine	1999	National	5596	15-44	7	19
United Kingdom	2001	National	12226	16-59	3	19

What are your observations on this table ?



- Different sample size
 - Different years
 - Different age group
 - Different coverage
-
- Could be different in definition
 - Could differ in asking question
 - Different ethical standard and safety

Challenges to developing a common set of indicators on violence against women



1. Enhancing comparability

- How violence is defined
- How is violence measured

2. Enhancing disclosure

- Opportunities to disclose, context, skill of interviewers

3. Enhancing safety

- privacy, special training for field staff, support for respondents and interviewers

Challenges when measuring violence in population based studies



- Study population (age, regional vs. national)
- Operational definition of violence (who defines, types, frequency, severity, timeframe, perpetrators)
- Ethical and safety measures
- Type and training of interviewers

Effect of “study population” on reported prevalence estimates in Nicaragua



	Current physical violence
All women 15-49	20%
Ever married women 15-49	27%
Currently married women 15-49	30%
Formally married women 15-49	17%

Researcher vs. Self-Defined Rates of Past Year Abuse (Japan)



<u>Type of Violence</u>	<u>Researcher</u>	<u>Self</u>
	(percent)	
Any violence	45	27
Physical	14.7	11.4
Emotional	42	23.2
Sexual	8.5	4.7

Training



- 13 inexperienced, carefully selected interviewers, trained for 3 weeks
- 21 professional interviewers, selected because of their interest in the topic, trained during one day
- Who will provide better answer?
- What difference you expect?

Special training vs professional interviewers



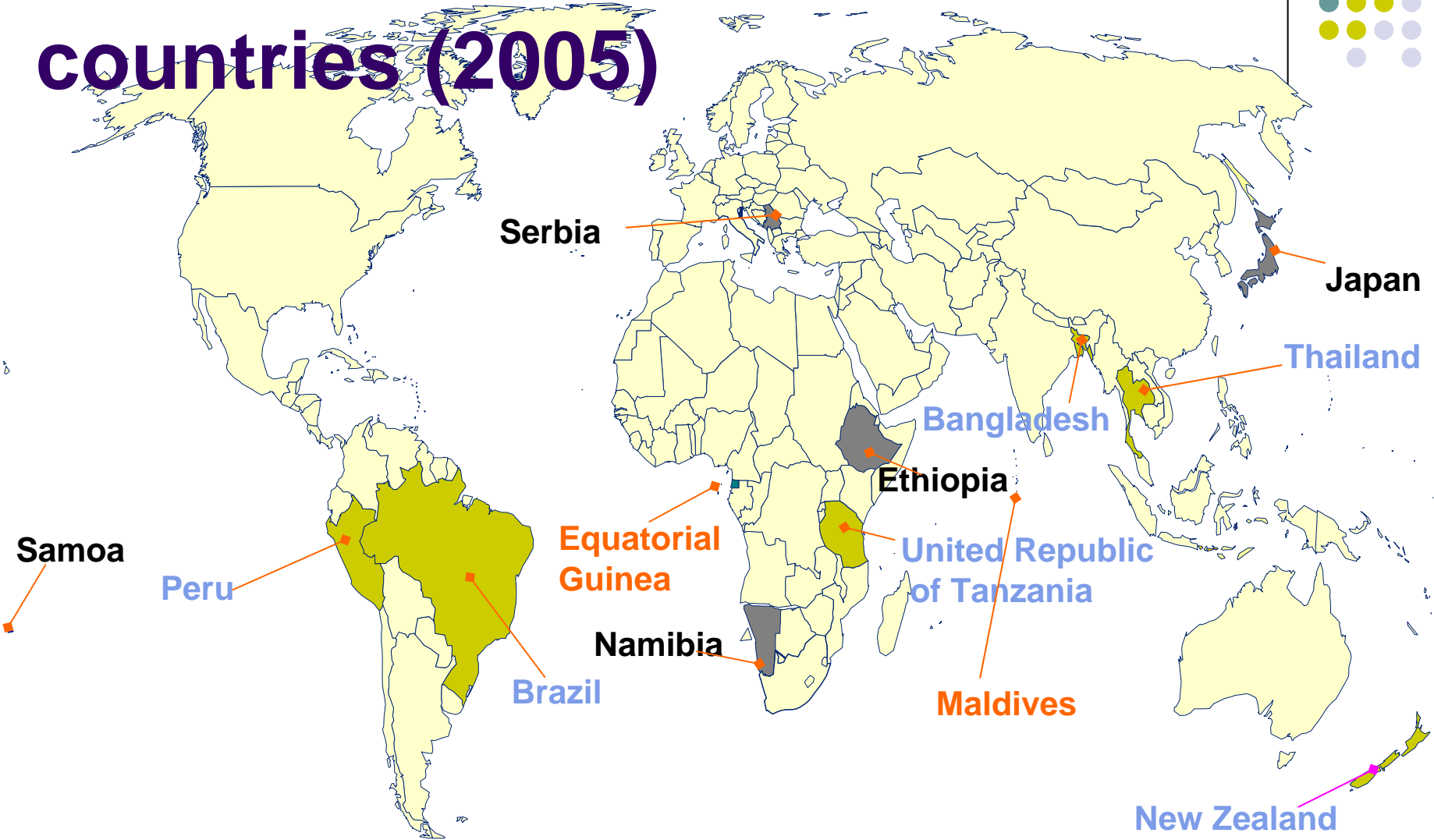
	Inexperienced, 3 week training	Professional, 1 day training
Response rate	93%	86%
Disclosure rate	26%	21%
Respondent satisfaction – with violence	46%	29%
Respondent satisfaction – without violence	46%	38%

What factors could affect disclosure Of violence?



- How the questions are phrased
- Number of opportunities to disclose
 - **Avoid gateway or filter questions**
- Context in which questions are asked
 - **Be careful about preceding question**
- Characteristics and skill of interviewers
 - **Care full selection of Interviewer : empathic, non-judgmental, good listener**
- Social stigma attached to issue

Global study with interviews with 24 000 women in 10 countries (2005)



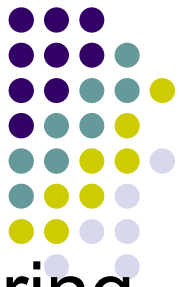
 Countries with two study sites
 Countries with one study site

Objectives



- Estimation of prevalence of violence against women
- Associations between partner violence and health outcomes
- Risk and protective factors for partner violence
- Strategies used by women who experience partner violence (who do they talk to, where do they seek help, what response do they get)

Additional Objectives



- Develop and test new instruments for measuring violence cross-culturally
- Increase national capacity amongst researchers and women's organizations working on violence
- Increase sensitivity to violence among researchers, policy-makers and health providers
- Promote ethically sound research

Study design



- Formative qualitative research, consultations,...
- Household survey of women 15-49 years
- 1 or 2 sites per country: 1500 women per site
- Standardized questionnaire
- Standardized 3 week training
- All respondents provided with information about sources of support; follow up support offered
- One data entry system, double entry
- Standardized quality control measures

The HH survey Questionnaire



- **Section 1:** Respondent and her community
- **Section 2:** General Health
- **Section 3:** Reproductive health
- **Section 4:** Children
- **Section 5:** Current or most recent partner
- **Section 6:** Attitudes toward gender roles
- **Section 7:** Respondent and her partner
- **Section 8:** Injuries
- **Section 9:** Impact and coping
- **Section 10:** Other experiences
- **Section 11:** Financial autonomy
- **Section 12:** Completion of the interview

Study population in WHO VAW study



Country	Study population
Bangladesh	Women 15-49 ever married
Peru	Women 15-49 ever married/cohabiting, ever dating
Serbia and Montenegro	Women 15-49 ever married /cohabiting, currently dating

Types of domestic violence in WHO study



Domestic

- Partner violence: physical, sexual, emotional, controlling behaviours
- Violence in pregnancy
- Violence resulting in injuries

By others

- Physical violence by others (>15)
- Sexual violence by others (>15)
- Childhood sexual abuse (<15)
- Forced first sex

Measurement of physical violence by partner



Has your partner ever.....

- Slapped or threw something at that could hurt you?
- Pushed or shoved you or pulled your hair?

Moderate

- Hit with his fist or with something else that could hurt you?
- Kicked, dragged or beat you up?
- Choked or burnt you on purpose?

Severe

(in the last 12 months; has this happened once, a few times, many times?)

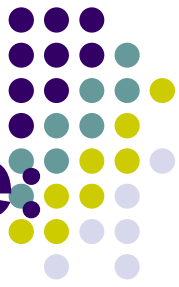
- Threatened to use or actually used a gun, knife or other weapon against you?

Measurement of sexual violence by partner



- Were you ever physically forced to have sexual intercourse when you did not want to?
- Did you ever have sexual intercourse you did not want because you were afraid of what he might do?
- Ever force you to do something sexual that you found degrading or humiliating?

Measurement of emotional abuse:



Has your partner ever....

- Insulted you or made you feel bad about yourself?
- Belittled or humiliated you in front of other people?
- Done things to scare or intimidate you on purpose (e.g. by the way he looked at you, by yelling and smashing things)?
- Threatened to hurt you or someone you care about?

Measurement of child sexual abuse



- Before the age of 15, do you remember if any one in your family ever touched you sexually or made you do something sexual that you didn't want to?
 - If yes, who did this to you?
 - How old were you when it happened first time?
 - How old was this person?
 - How many times did this happen? Once/twice many?
 - Probes: school, friend or family, neighbor; stranger or anyone else?

Putting women's safety first in violence research



- 1. Safety of respondents and research team
- 2. Studies need to be methodologically sound
- 3. Confidentiality for safety and data quality
- 4. Selection and training of team members
- 5. Actions to reducing distress to respondents
- 6. Possibilities of referral, support mechanisms
- 7. Proper interpretation and use of study results
- 8. Violence questions in other surveys

Interviewer training

Training should include introduction on gender and violence

- Training as opportunity for researchers and interviewers to come to terms with own experiences
- Addressing emotional needs of team members
- Role of interviewers: Not counselling, not trying to "save" respondents





“I learned a lot from the beginning of the training, till the end of the survey. The survey opened wounds, but I had to learn to face it and cope with it. The respondents really needed and enjoyed this experience... My career path changed, ... because I could do something which can make a difference...”

Interviewer from Namibia





*"Somehow it made me feel good,
because it was something that I had
never told anyone before. Now I've
told someone".*

Respondent, Brazil

Points to take home



- A population based survey on violence against women should be and can be done ethically and safely
- Women are willing to share experiences with trained and empathetic interviewers
- Build in mechanisms to ensure findings are owned by a wide range of stakeholders
- **Data collection can be an intervention in itself!**

Points to take home



- Define the study population broadly
- Use behaviorally specific questions
- Specify discrete time frames (last year, ever)
- Cue respondent to different contexts and perpetrators
- Give multiple opportunities to disclose