

**Gender-based violence**

**31%** of women in the Eastern Mediterranean Region have experienced violence

**Physical health**  
Violence can affect women's physical and mental health, leading to long-term health problems and disability. It can also lead to death in some cases.

**What are the consequences?**

- Injury**: Bruises, cuts, lacerations, fractures, and other physical injuries.
- Disability**: Women may have long-term physical disabilities.
- Death**: 28% of women who die from violence are killed by their intimate partner.
- Compounded risk**: Women with physical disabilities are at a higher risk of physical and sexual violence.

**Health care providers are ideally placed to address these consequences and support survivors:**

- Evidence shows that survivors who receive care from health services are more likely to seek health services, even if they do not disclose the violence.
- Health services offer a culturally and socially appropriate entry point for survivors.
- The health sector is often women's first point of professional contact after they experience gender-based violence.

**Physical consequences**

**Gender-based violence**

**31%** of women in the Eastern Mediterranean Region have experienced violence

**Sexual and reproductive health**  
Violence can affect women's sexual and reproductive health, leading to long-term health problems and disability. It can also lead to death in some cases.

**What are the consequences?**

- Low birth weight babies**: Babies born to women who have been sexually abused are more likely to have low birth weight.
- HIV**: Women who are sexually abused are more likely to contract HIV.
- Other STIs**: Women who are sexually abused are more likely to contract other sexually transmitted infections.
- Compounded risk**: Women with HIV and other STIs are at a higher risk of physical and sexual violence.

**Health care providers are ideally placed to address these consequences and support survivors:**

- Evidence shows that survivors of violence are more likely to seek health services, even if they do not disclose the violence.
- Health services offer a culturally and socially appropriate entry point for survivors.
- The health sector is often women's first point of professional contact after they experience gender-based violence.

**Sexual and reproductive health consequences**

**Gender-based violence**

**31%** of women in the Eastern Mediterranean Region have experienced violence

**Mental health consequences**  
Violence can affect women's mental health, leading to long-term health problems and disability. It can also lead to death in some cases.

**What are the consequences?**

- Anxiety, depression & post-traumatic stress disorder**: Women who are sexually abused are more likely to experience mental health problems.
- Medically unexplained somatic complaints & grief**: Women who are sexually abused are more likely to experience somatic complaints and grief.
- Compounded risk**: Women with mental health problems are at a higher risk of physical and sexual violence.

**Health care providers are ideally placed to address these consequences and support survivors:**

- Evidence shows that survivors of violence are more likely to seek health services, even if they do not disclose the violence.
- Health services offer a culturally and socially appropriate entry point for survivors.
- The health sector is often women's first point of professional contact after they experience gender-based violence.

**Mental health consequences**

**Is it safe to ask about gender-based violence?**

**Start here**

Are you in a quiet and confidential space?

- NO: It is NOT SAFE to ask.
- YES: It is SAFE to ask.

Is the woman with a partner, family member, friend or other near 2 years of age?

- NO: It is NOT SAFE to ask.
- YES: It is SAFE to ask.

**Pathway of care for gender-based violence**

1. Assess the woman's safety and confidentiality. If not safe, do not ask.

2. If safe, ask about violence. If yes, offer support and referral.

3. Offer support and referral to health services. If yes, offer support and referral.

4. Offer support and referral to health services. If yes, offer support and referral.

**Is it safe to ask about gender-based violence?**

Friday 10th of May 2024 11:12:22 AM