



of birth is one of the highest in the world, among all the countries where the WHO methodology has been used. Only Kiribati and provincial Peru have a higher prevalence of men trying to restrict their wives/partners from seeing their birth family (Fulu 2007: 36; Jansen et al 2009: 57; SPC 2010: 85; SPC 2009: 65; VWC 2011: 70; and WHO 2005: 34).



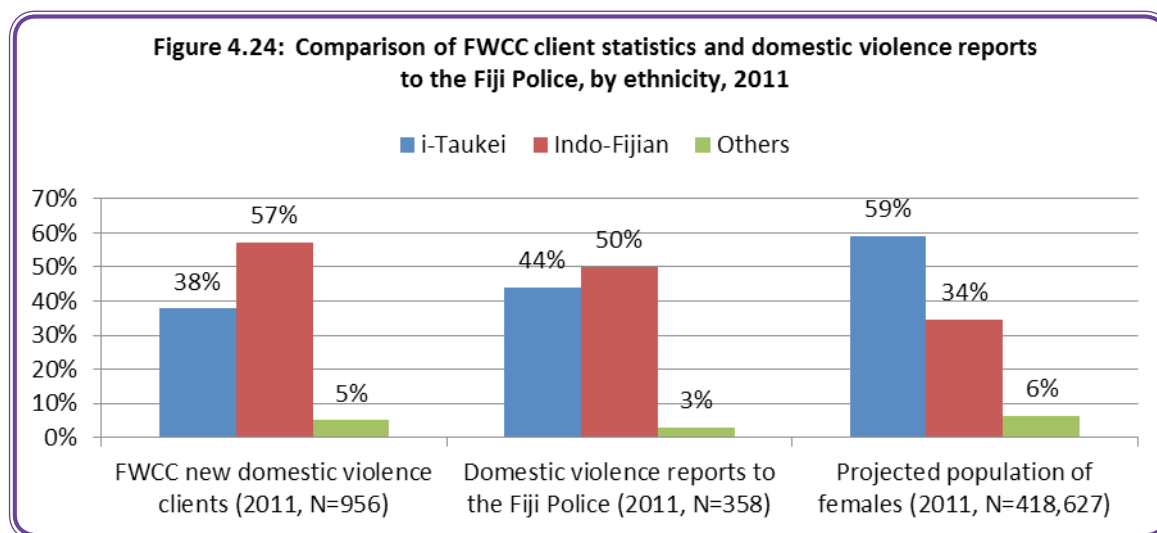
Examining the difference between lifetime and current prevalence for all forms of violence provides a further insight into the nature of gender inequality. As shown above, young women were much more likely to experience physical, sexual and emotional violence in the 12 months before the survey than older women. This indicates that the violence starts very early in a relationship, when unequal power relations are tested and established through controlling behaviours as well as through physical, sexual and emotional violence. FWCC's counselling statistics show that younger women are increasingly seeking help to deal with violence, compared with 5-10 years ago. This is a very positive sign; through many years of public campaigns, media work, marches and community education, young women have grown up knowing and learning about FWCC and women's rights, and some are now willing to take action sooner rather than later.

On the other hand, the findings on current prevalence by level of education are disturbing, because they show that women with secondary and tertiary education are currently more likely to experience all forms of violence. The differences in prevalence between women with secondary, tertiary and primary education are not statistically significant. Nevertheless, they point to a serious missed opportunity for education and prevention work in secondary schools and tertiary education institutions with both young women and men, particularly when one considers the higher rates of current physical, sexual and emotional violence among young women aged 18-29.



4.7.3 Explaining ethnic differences in prevalence

All forms of violence against women are widespread in urban and rural areas, and in all provinces and divisions of the country. However, all types of violence are considerably higher in rural areas, including control over women's mobility. Higher prevalence in rural areas is a trend seen in most other national studies (Fulu: vii; VWC 2011: 57-91; and WHO 2005: 28-30). Sadly, the prevalence of all forms of violence in the Eastern Division of Fiji are among the very highest recorded to date in the world (Fulu 2007: v; Jansen et al 2009: 10; SPC 2009: 61; SPC 2010: 79; VWC: 91; and WHO 2005: 84). Anecdotal information from the FWCC survey team also indicated that some of the most confronting and severe types of violence were reported from the Eastern Division. It is important to stress that violence is extremely high among all groups when compared with global prevalence rates, regardless of ethnicity, religion, location, education levels and socio-economic group. Nevertheless, there is a consistent trend in the survey data for the prevalence of all forms of violence to be lower than the national average for Indo-Fijian women, compared with both i-Taukei women and those from all other ethnic groups combined.¹⁴ This is closely related to different prevalence between religions (because the majority of i-Taukei communities follow the Christian faith), and to the higher prevalence in the Eastern Division, which has a much higher proportion of i-Taukei communities, compared with other Divisions.¹⁵



Note: "Others" includes Rotuman, mixed race, Pacific Islander, Chinese, European and other groups.
Sources: FWCC Client Statistics; Fiji Police Command Centre 2013; Fiji Islands Bureau of Statistics.

The difference in prevalence between ethnic groups is a very challenging finding for several reasons. First, it does not accord with FWCC's client statistics, which show a higher proportion of Indo-Fijian women seeking help for domestic violence and other matters related to violence against women, compared with their representation in the general population: 38% of FWCC's new domestic violence clients in 2011 were i-Taukei women, compared with 57% Indo-Fijian and 5% from other ethnic groups. This compares with a projected population breakdown by ethnicity for 2011 of 59% i-Taukei, 34% Indo-Fijian and 6% other.¹⁶

14 "Others" includes Rotuman, mixed race, Pacific Islander, Chinese, European and other groups.

15 The Eastern Division includes 91% i-Taukei, 2% Indo-Fijian and 8% others; Central Division includes 62% i-Taukei, 30% Indo-Fijian and 8% others; Northern Division includes 55% i-Taukei, 39% Indo-Fijian and 6% others; and the Western Division includes 48% i-Taukei, 49% Indo-Fijian and 3% others. Fiji Islands Bureau of Statistics. 2007 Population Census. http://www.spc.int/prism/fjtest/cens&surveys/cens&surveystats_index.htm accessed 13 August 2013.

16 Fiji Islands Bureau of Statistics. 2007 Population Census. Tables 1.2A ("Census Population of Fiji by Ethnicity") and 1.2B ("Estimated Population of Fiji by Ethnicity"). <http://www.spc.int/prism/fjtest/Key%20Stats/Population/1.2%20pop%20by%20ethnicity.pdf>.



Similarly, 44% of domestic violence reports to the Fiji Police in 2011 were from i-Taukei women, compared with 50% for Indo-Fijian women and 3% for other ethnic groups (Fiji Police Command Centre 2013). Without the benefit of a national population-based prevalence study on violence against women, FWCC and Police statistics would suggest that there is a much higher prevalence of domestic violence among the Indo-Fijian population (Figure 4.24). The survey findings demonstrate that this initial interpretation is false.

Second, FWCC's experience is also that many of the Indo-Fijian women who seek help are suffering from the most extreme and severe forms of violence; and this appears to be supported by media reports of murders of Indo-Fijian women by their husbands/partners and murder-suicides, as well as by Police data. Of 7 murders and 1 attempted murder of women recorded by the Fiji Police from 2006 to 2010, 63% were committed against Indo-Fijians and the remainder against i-Taukei women (Fiji Police Command Centre 2013). In contrast, the survey findings demonstrate that the prevalence of the most severe forms of violence is higher for i-Taukei women than Indo-Fijian women.

Notwithstanding the data on murders, the survey findings cast the data on women's reporting of violence to FWCC and the Police in a very different light. Taking into account the higher prevalence of physical and/or sexual violence for i-Taukei, and the much higher proportion of i-Taukei women in the population, the findings indicate that Indo-Fijian women are far more likely than i-Taukei women to report violence and seek help from formal agencies and authorities outside their families and communities, and conversely, that i-Taukei women are much less likely to do so. (These findings are confirmed by the data on women's coping strategies, and are discussed further in Chapter 10.)

These ethnic differences in prevalence, along with the ethnic differences in reporting of violence and seeking help, are difficult to interpret. Further research and dialogue is needed to fully explore the factors that may be contributing to these differences, as the results of the survey are disseminated throughout Fiji.

Chapter 5: Non-Partner Violence Against Women & Girls



Summary of main findings

- More than 1 in 4 women (27%) have been physically abused since the age of 15 by someone other than a husband or intimate partner.
- Almost 1 in 10 (9%) have been sexually abused since the age of 15 by someone other than a husband or intimate partner.
- The prevalence of non-partner physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 15 is 31% (almost 1 in 3 women).
- **Overall, 7 in 10 women (71%) have been subjected to physical and/or sexual violence by either a partner or non-partner since they turned 15.**
- 16% of women were sexually abused as children before the age of 15.
- For 5% of women (1 in 20), their first sexual experience was forced, and for a further 24% it was coerced (almost 1 in 4).
- The majority perpetrators of non-partner physical abuse are male family members and teachers; perpetrators of non-partner sexual abuse are mainly male family members and family friends.

This chapter presents findings on the prevalence of physical and sexual violence against women and girls since they turned 15, by people other than husbands and intimate partners. It also provides the overall prevalence of women subjected to either partner or non-partner violence or both. It presents the findings on child sexual abuse of girls (sexual violence under the age of 15), including the age of first abuse, the frequency of the abuse and the perpetrators. Finally, data is presented on the nature of women's and girls' first sexual experience.

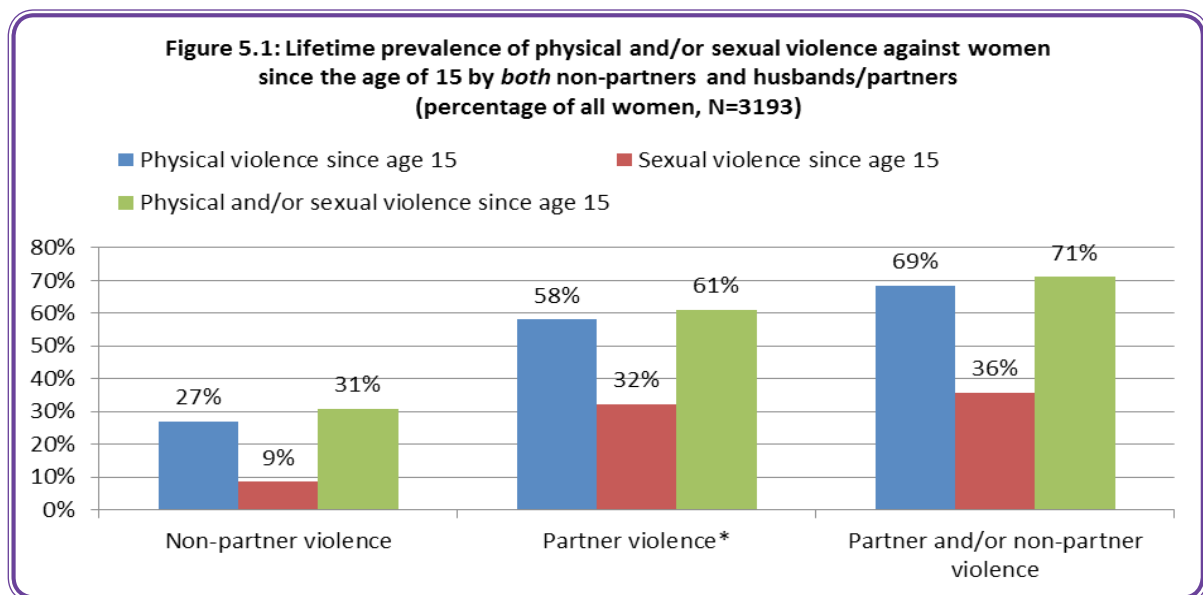
National prevalence for non-partner violence is calculated as the number of women who experienced at least 1 act of violence in their lifetime, expressed as a percentage of the total sample of 3193 women (which includes both ever-partnered and never-partnered women). For physical violence, women were asked whether anyone (other than a husband or intimate partner) had ever done anything to hurt them physically, including by hitting, beating or kicking them, with probes for other forms of physical abuse. For sexual violence, women were asked 2 questions: whether anyone other than a husband/partner had ever forced to them to have sexual intercourse, or whether anyone had attempted to force them.

5.1 Overview of violence against women and girls

5.1.1 Combined prevalence and overlap of non-partner and partner violence

The combined prevalence of partner and non-partner physical and/or sexual violence since age 15 is 71%; this includes 69% of women and girls over 15 subjected to physical violence, and 36% to sexual violence in their lifetime. Fiji's prevalence of non-partner physical violence since aged 15 is 27%. Nine percent (9%) of women have experienced non-partner sexual violence since turning 15 (Figure 5.1).

Comparing partner and non-partner violence over the age of 15 shows that physical and sexual violence by husbands and partners is twice as prevalent as violence by non-partners. Of the 3193 women who participated in the survey, 31% experienced non-partner physical and/or sexual violence since age 15, compared with 61% who were subjected to physical and/or sexual violence by a husband or intimate partner (Figure 5.1).¹⁷



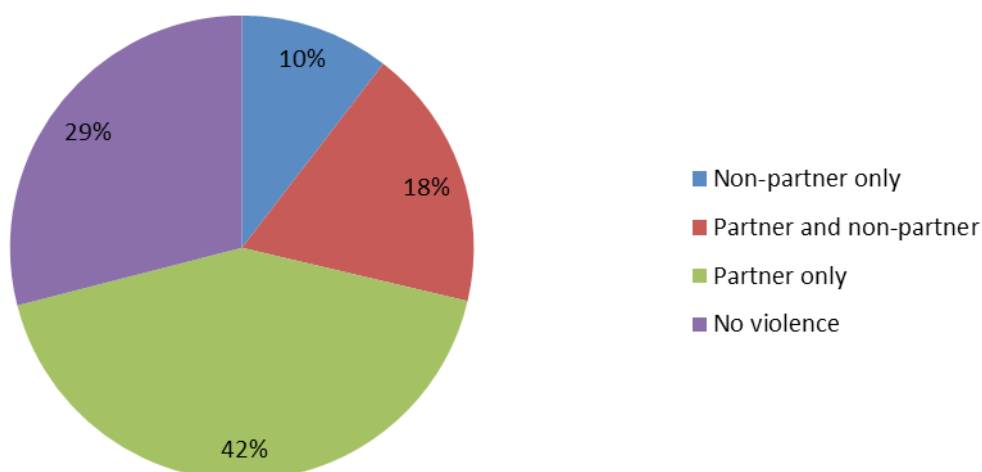
* Note: The prevalence rates for intimate partner violence shown here are lower than those in Chapter 4 because all women (not all ever-partnered women) was the denominator. Source: Table 5.4 of Annex 1.

¹⁷ Prevalence of 61% for intimate partner violence is less than the 64% referred to in Chapter 4, because all women (not only all ever-partnered women) is taken as the denominator for the purposes of comparing partner and non-partner violence.



There is a substantial overlap between partner and non-partner violence against women. Of the 3193 women who participated in the survey, 18% were subjected to both partner and non-partner violence (almost 2 in 10), 10% experienced only non-partner violence only (1 in 10), 42% experienced physical and/or sexual violence only by husbands or intimate partners (more than 4 in 10), and 29% (about 3 in 10) experienced no violence at all (Figure 5.2). Moreover, those who experience non-partner violence are more likely to be subjected to violence by husbands and partners (see Chapter 11).

Figure 5.2: Overlap of lifetime prevalence of partner and non-partner physical and/or sexual violence, percentage of all women (N=3193)



5.1.2 Prevalence of child sexual abuse

Two methods were used during the survey to establish the prevalence of child sexual abuse. Women were asked during the interview whether anyone had ever touched them sexually, or made them do something sexual that they didn't want to do, before they were 15 years old. In addition, at the end of the interview, women were given a card with 2 pictures of a happy and sad face where they could indicate whether or not either of these events had occurred by marking the card (anonymously, without the interviewer knowing their response) and placing it in a sealed envelope (see the questionnaire in Annex 2 and chapter 2).

Table 5.1: Prevalence of child sexual abuse under the age of 15 (number and percentage of women who responded using each method)

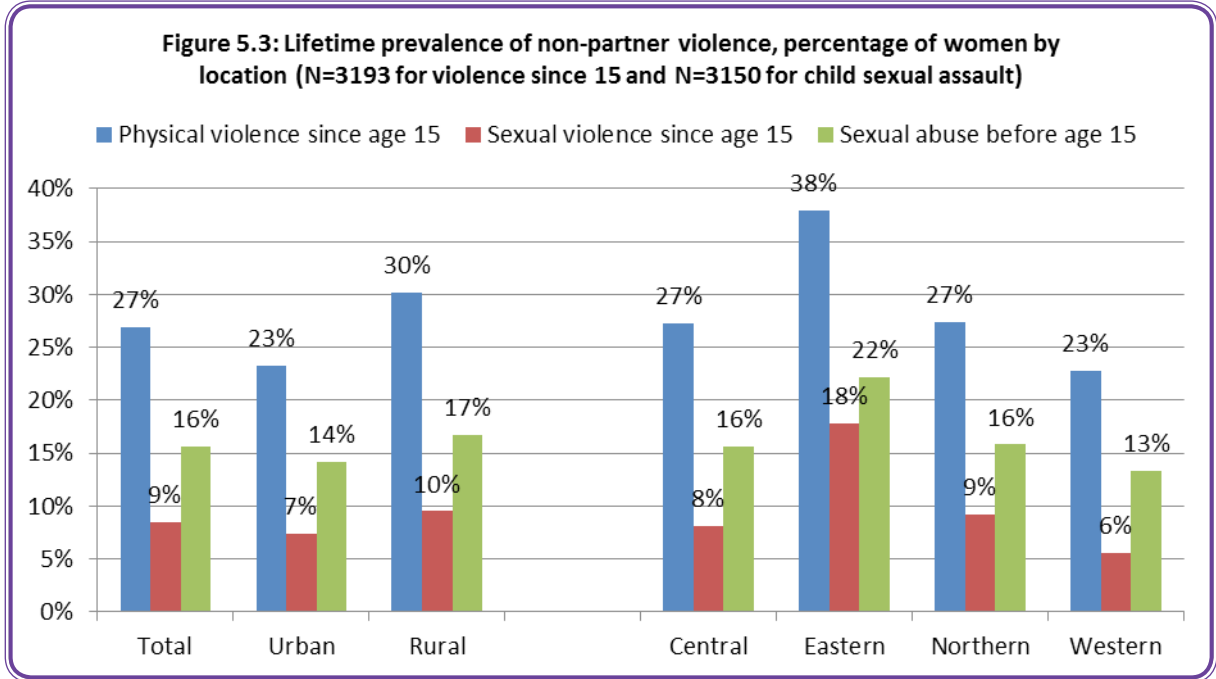
Method used	Number who admitted to child sexual abuse	Total who answered this question	Percentage who admitted to child sexual abuse
Interview	134	3182	4%
Anonymous card	441	3153	14%
Both interview and card	491	3150	16%

Source: Table 5.2 of Annex 1.

Consistent with research on child sexual assault over the world, substantially more women admitted to experiencing sexual abuse as children using the anonymous face card: 4% said they had been sexually abused as children during the interview, and 14% admitted to this when the anonymous face card was used. Combining both methods gives a national prevalence of 16% (Table 5.1).

5.2 Prevalence of physical and sexual abuse by non-partners¹⁸

Prevalence by location



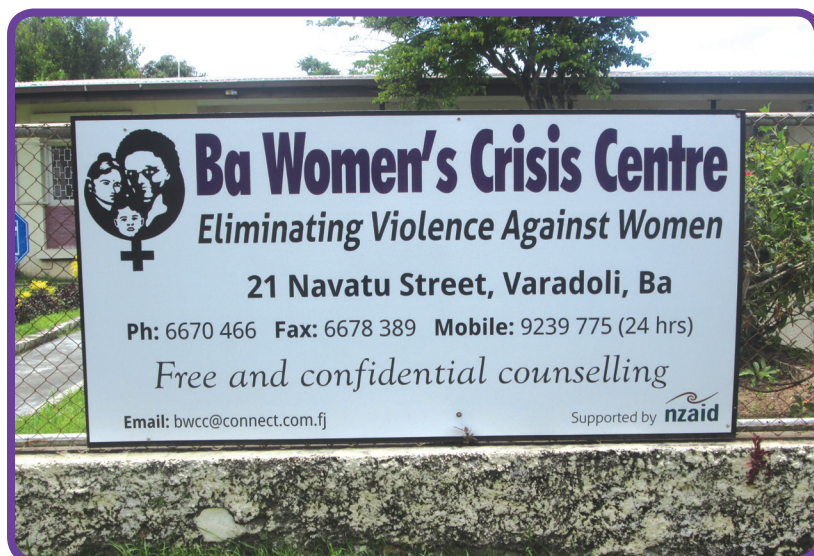
Source: Tables 5.1.1 and 5.2 of Annex 1.

The prevalence of all forms of non-partner violence is higher in rural than urban areas, but almost all this difference is due to much higher rates of physical and sexual abuse in the Eastern Division. The prevalence of physical violence since the age of 15 in the Eastern Division is 38% (about 2 in 5) compared with 27% for the country as a whole and for all other divisions. Similarly, 18% of women (about 1 in 5) in the Eastern Division have been subjected to sexual violence since age 15, compared to 9% for Fiji as whole (about 1 in 10). More than one in 5 women (22%) in the Eastern Division has been subjected to child sexual abuse compared with 16% for Fiji. Interestingly, all these forms of violence are somewhat less widespread in the Western Division, compared with other Divisions and with the national average (Figure 5.3).

Prevalence by age

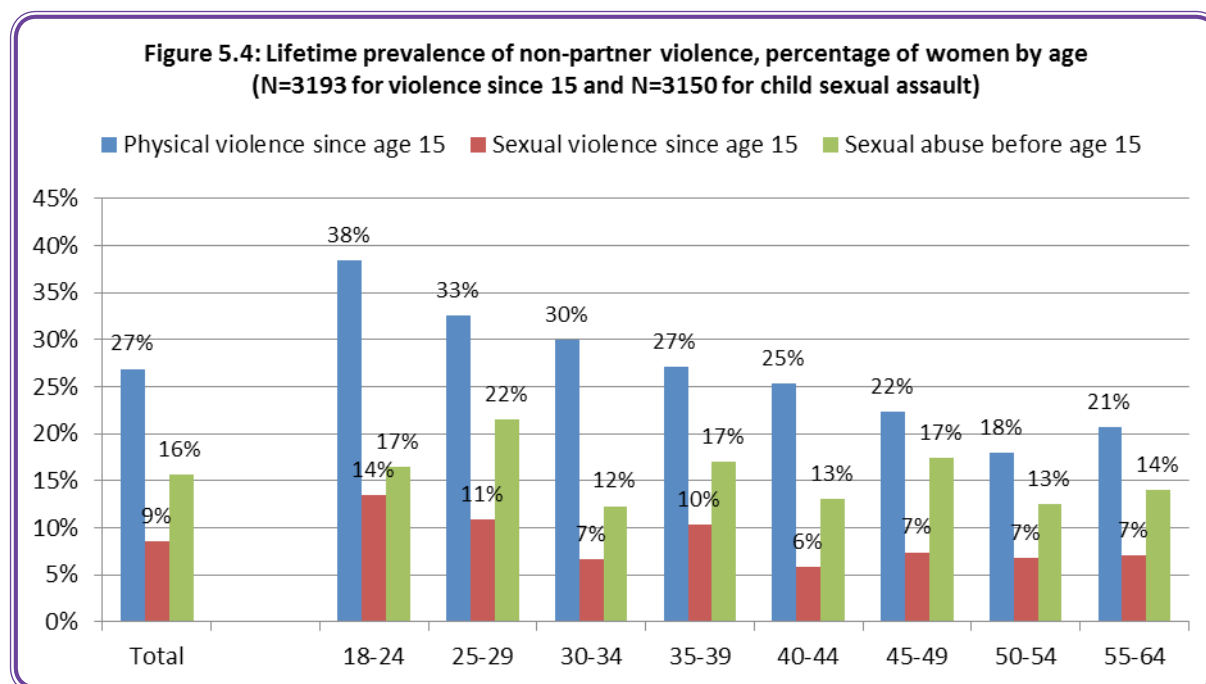
Comparing the prevalence of physical violence by age shows that younger women are more likely to have been physically assaulted in their lifetime than older women: 38% of women aged 18-24 and 33% of those aged 25-29 have been physically attacked, compared to 27% for Fiji as whole. Prevalence reduces steadily until about aged 50 (Figure 5.4). This suggests that there is more physical violence towards young women now than there has been in previous decades. However, it is also possible that older women may not recall incidents of physical violence by people other than husbands/partners as accurately as younger women, particularly if the physical abuse occurred many years ago. It is also possible that older women were more reluctant to admit that they had been physically abused by other people.

¹⁸ All charts in this section show 2 denominators: the percentage of all women, N=3193, for physical and sexual violence since age 15; and N=3150 for prevalence of sexual abuse before the age of 15, due to the 2 methods used to explore this issue (see section 5.1.2) and refusals to answer by some respondents.



When we compare the rates of sexual violence by age, a different picture emerges. For sexual violence since the age of 15, younger women aged 18-24 have a slightly higher prevalence: 14% have been sexually abused compared with a national average of 9%. For child sexual abuse, women aged 25-29 have a prevalence of 22%, compared with the national rate of 16%. Despite these differences and some other small fluctuations in prevalence for different age groups, age does not emerge as a significant factor in women's experience of either

type of sexual abuse. **This indicates that sexual abuse is not a new problem; on the contrary, the findings show a similar proportion of women suffering from sexual abuse as adults and children over many generations** (Figure 5.4).



Source: Tables 5.1.1 and 5.2 of Annex 1.

Prevalence by level of education and socio-economic cluster

Women from all education levels and socio-economic groups are at risk of physical and sexual abuse as adults and child sexual abuse. Differences in rates of physical violence by non-partners suggest that women's risk of being exposed to violence increase slightly with the level of education achieved. However, sexual assault since 15 and child sexual assault occurs at much the same rate, regardless of level of education (Figure 5.5).