

The web-based survey on gender-based violence in Finland – experiences and results

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Presentation prepared by Marjut Pietiläinen, Henna Attila,
Miina Keski-Petäjä, Laura Lipasti, Kimmo Haapakangas &
Juhani Saari

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The Finnish GBV survey

- Statistics Finland conducted the survey to meet
 - Istanbul convention's & international recommendations
 - National information needs
- The Finnish GBV project 11/2019–04/2023
 - Project, steering and expert groups
- Offers internationally comparable data at EU level
 - Implementation of the EU-GBV Survey
 - Prevalence and different forms of inter-personal violence, especially against women.
- Funding: Eurostat grant, Statistics Finland & 3 ministries.
- Nationally, the survey brings also information on violence against men and young women.
- Included national questions on:
 - Covid-19, honor-based violence, feelings of fear, use of shelters, forced marriages and attitudes towards genital mutilation

Data collection

- Survey name: Safety and well-being in Finland 2021
- Preparing the survey (questionnaire, respondent materials), about 8 months
- Data collection in fall 2021
- Self administrative web questionnaire
- Sample size 25,000, including
 - 15,000 women aged 18 to 74
 - 5,000 women aged 16 to 17
 - 5,000 men aged 18 to 74
- Register-based sample represents the whole population
- Response rate 31 %
- Motivational calls by Statistics Finland's interviewers
 - trained to face possible victims of violence

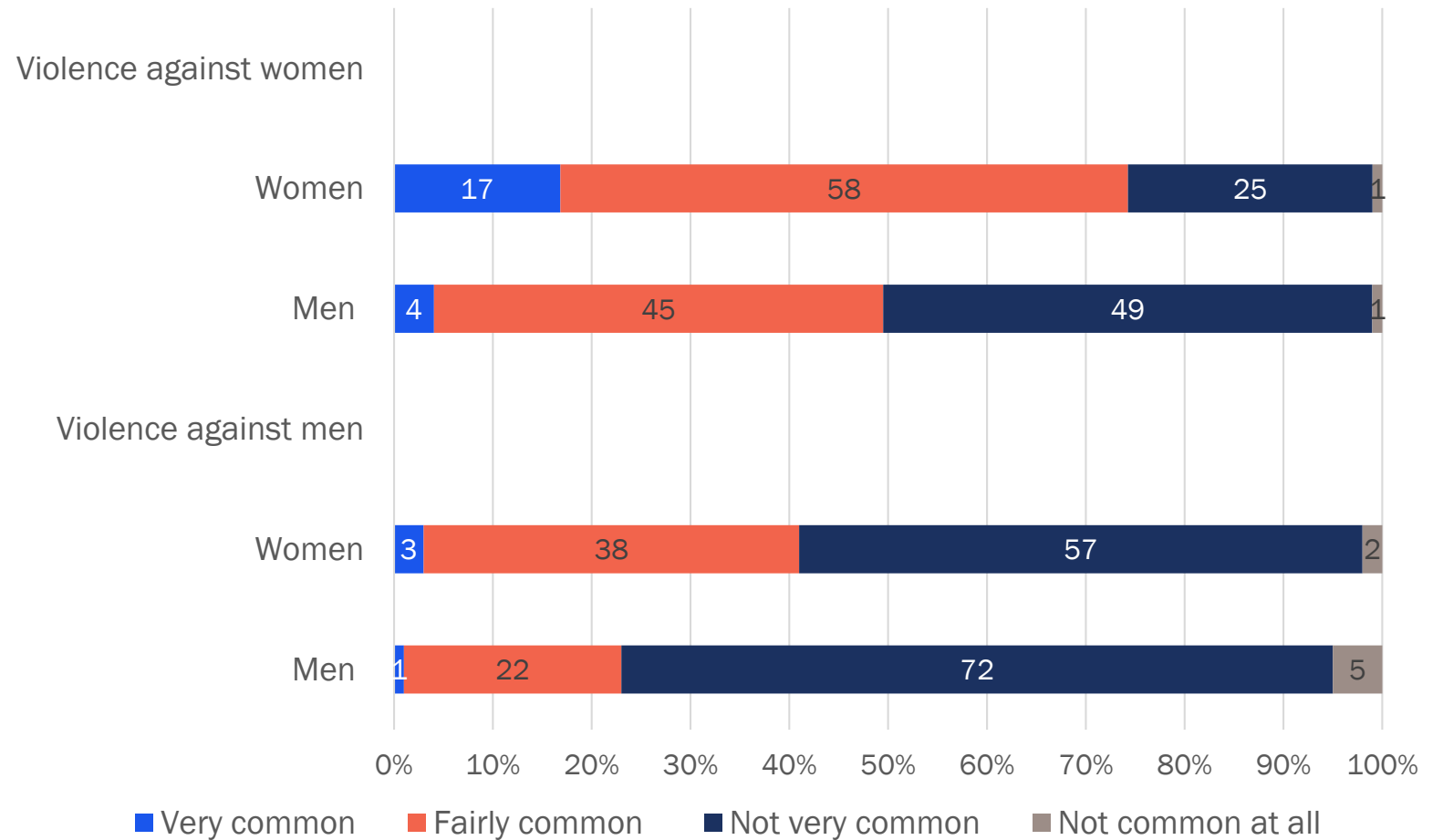




Gender-based violence in Finland – key results

In general, how common do you think intimate partner violence against women / men is in your country?

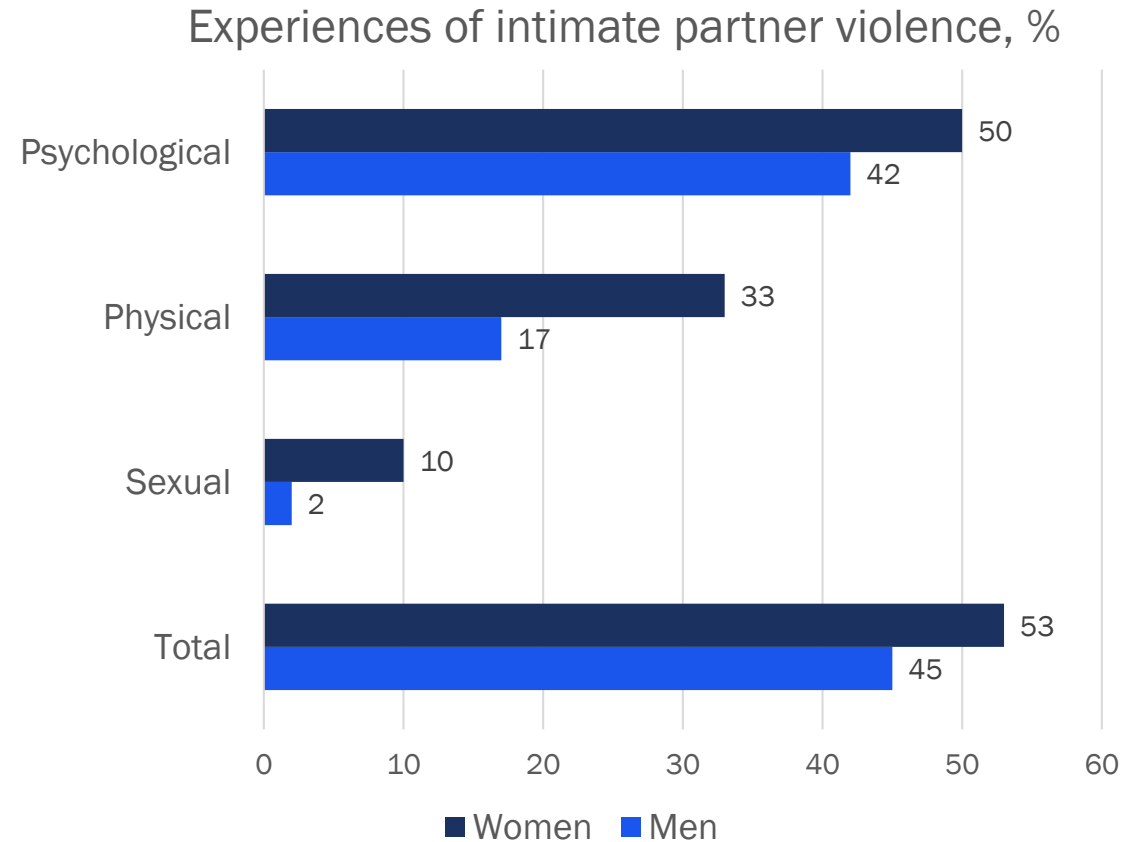
- Women consider gender-based violence more common than men
- Women rated violence against women as far more prevalent than men.
- Women also viewed violence against men as more common than men.



Source: Preliminary results of the Finnish GBV survey 2021, Statistics Finland

Prevalence of experiences on intimate partner violence

- 50% of women and 42% of men aged 18–74 had experiences of psychological intimate partner violence in their lifetime
 - 33% of women and 17% of men aged 18–74 had experiences of physical intimate partner violence in their lifetime
 - 10% of women and 2% of men aged 18–74 had experiences of sexual intimate partner violence in their lifetime
- When measuring this type of prevalence, one act of violence is enough.

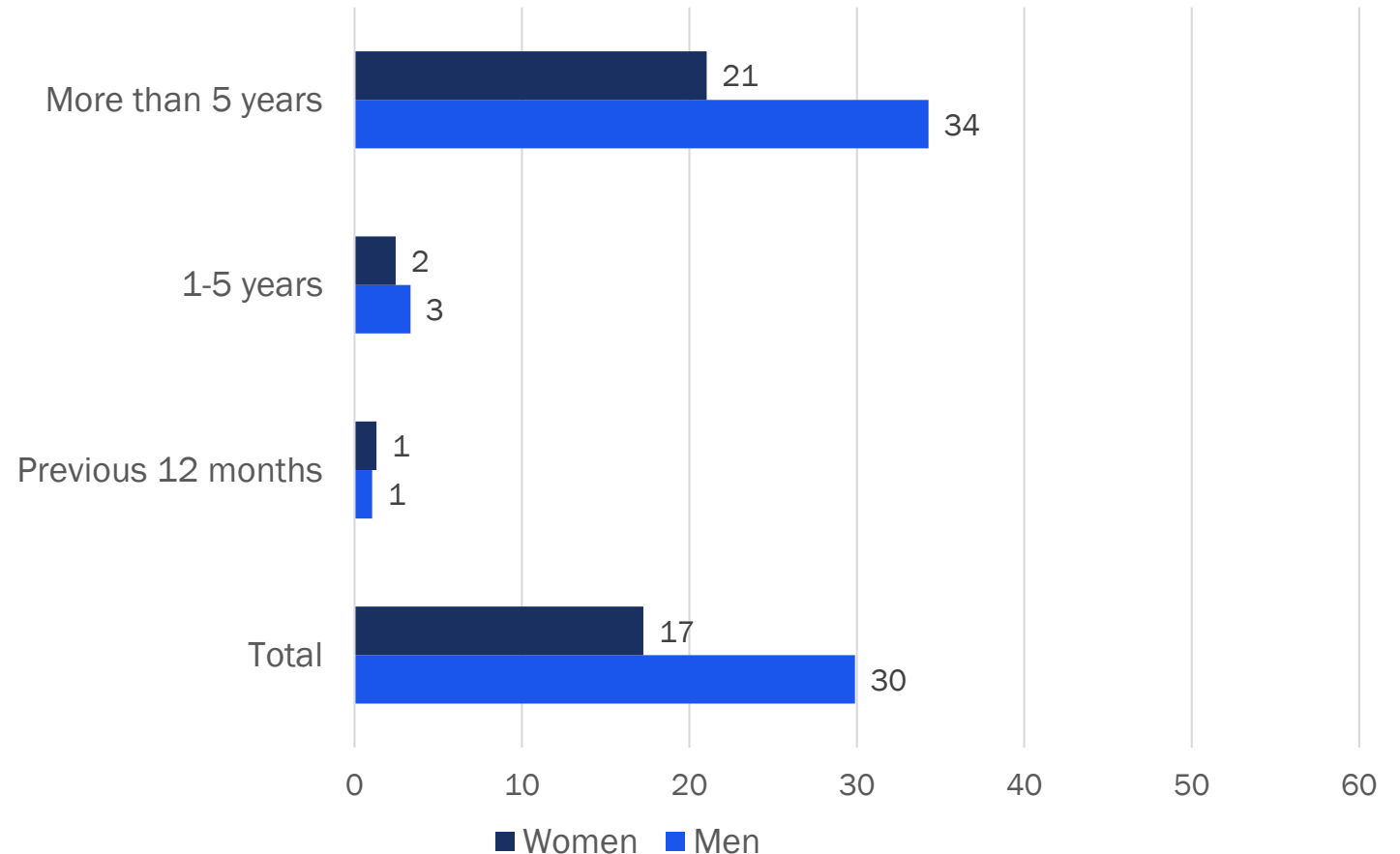


Source: Preliminary results of the Finnish GBV survey 2021

Non-partner physical violence

- In adulthood, 30% of men and 17% of women experienced physical violence
 - Different distribution than in IP violence
- 83% of perpetrators of physical violence are men
 - Victim woman and perpetrator man: 81%
 - Victim man and perpetrator man: 85%
- Place of occurrence (last episode)
 - Private space 29%
 - Semi-public space 30%
 - Public space 24%

Experiences of non-partner physical violence, %



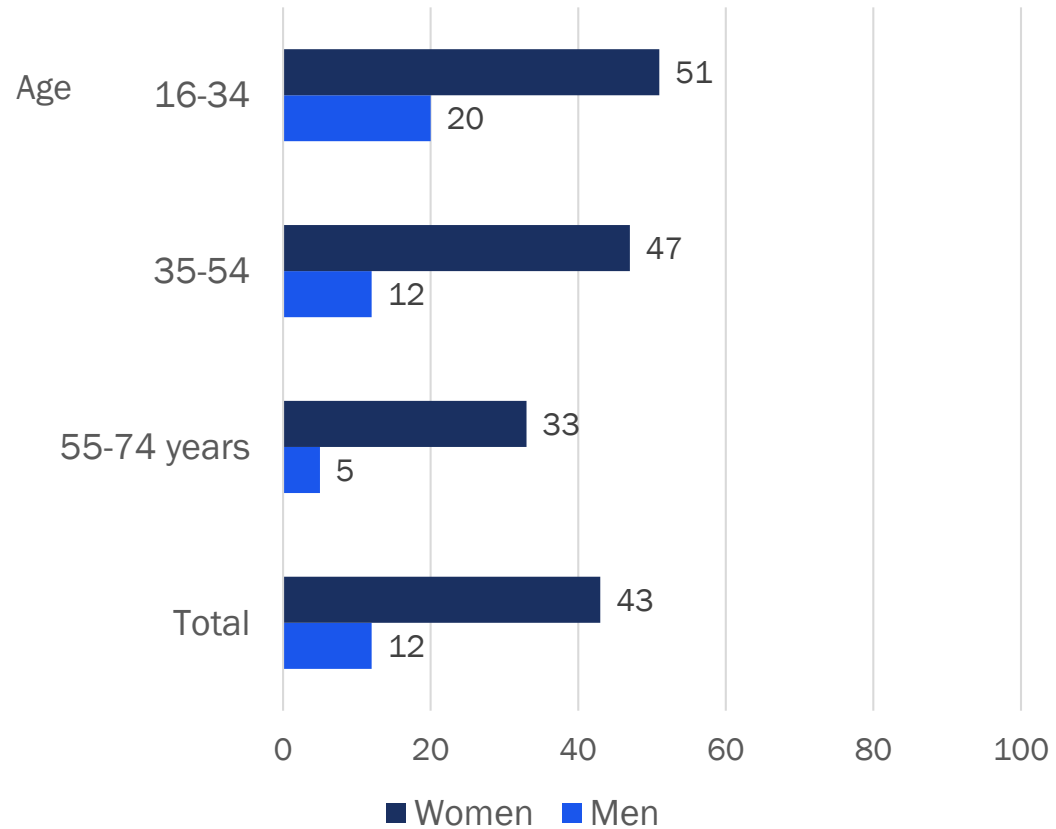
Results in line with the statistics on offences and coercive measures.

Source: Preliminary results of the Finnish GBV survey 2021, Statistics Finland

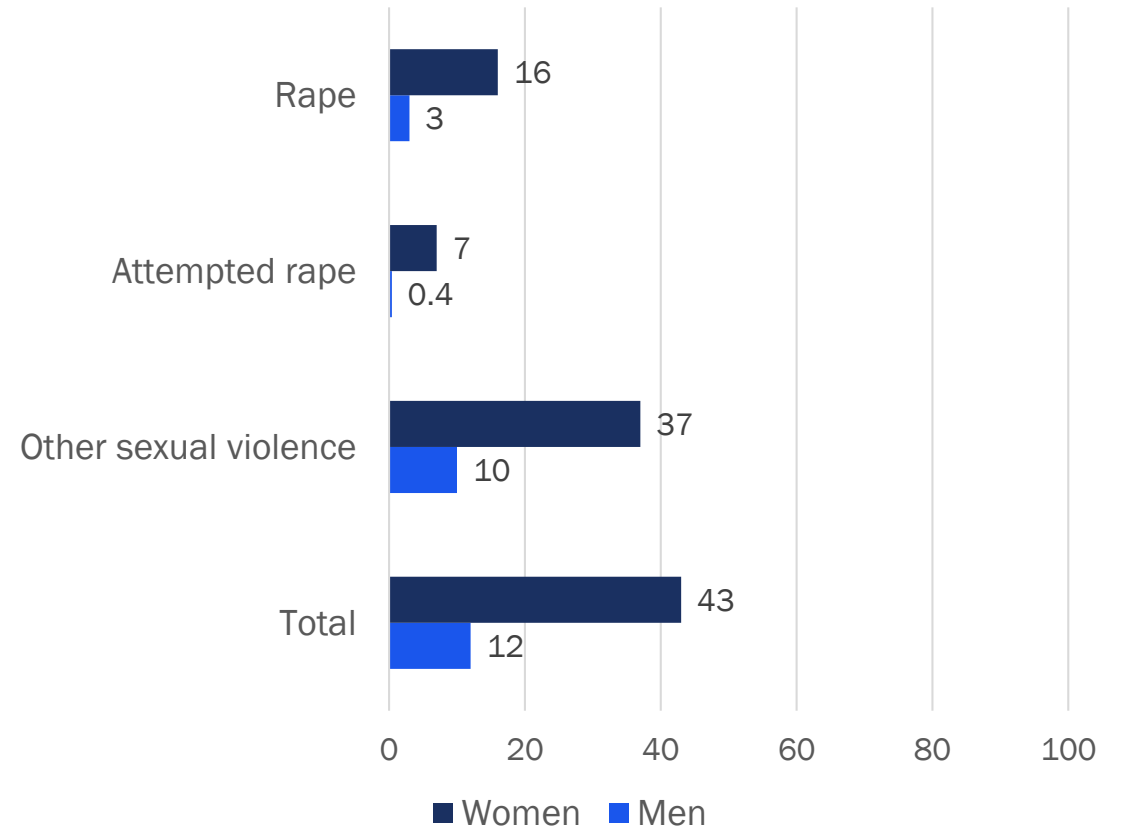


Lifetime experiences of sexual violence

Lifetime experiences of sexual violence, %

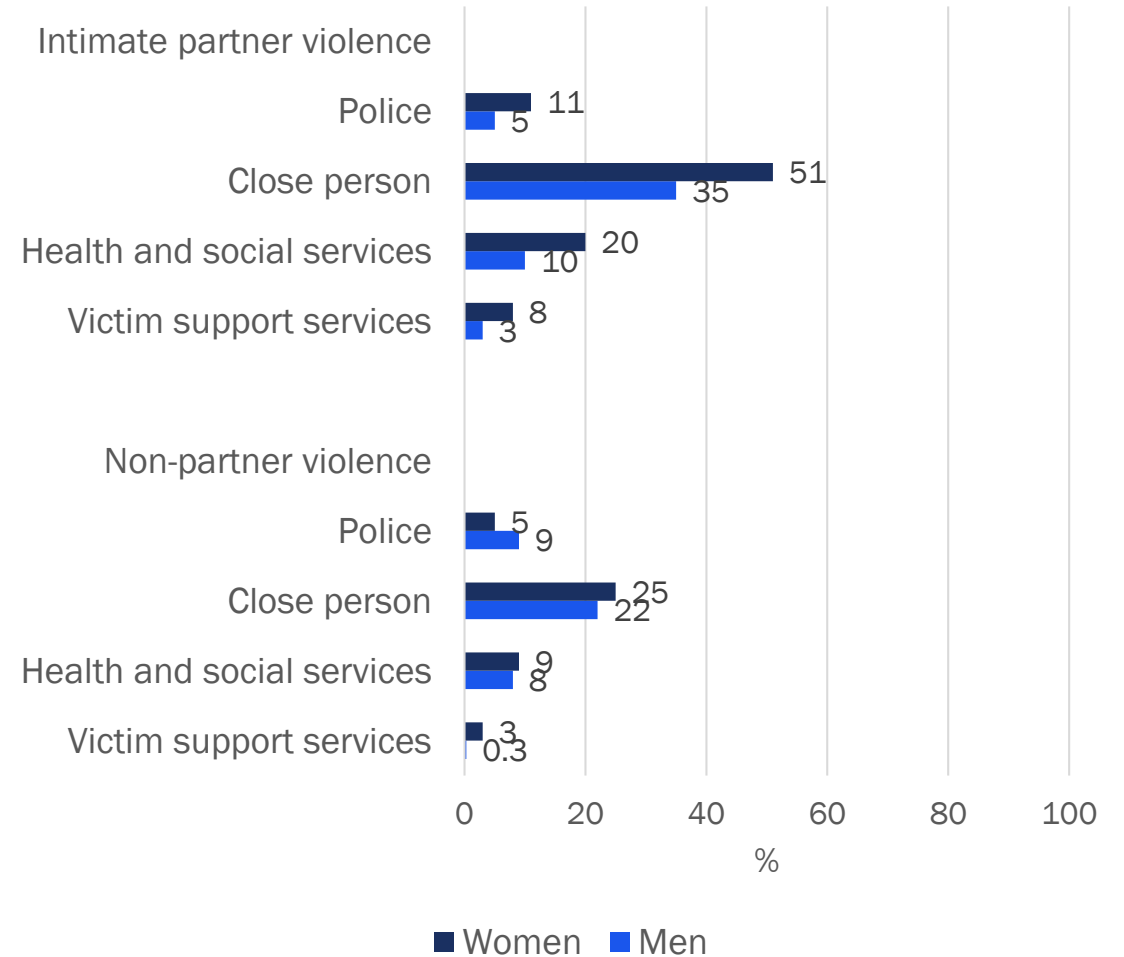


Type of sexual violence, %



Reporting gender-based violence

- Intimate partner violence (physical, sexual + threatening) reported to:
 - Victim support services 6%
 - Health and social services 17%
 - Close person 46%
 - Police 9%
- Non-partner violence (physical, sexual + threatening) reported to:
 - Victim support services 2%
 - Health and social services 9%
 - Close person 24%
 - Police 7%



Source: Preliminary results of the Finnish GBV survey 2021, Statistics Finland



Experiences of the survey project

- Finnish participation in the GBV project required many efforts
- Project group simultaneously involved in several surveys and statistical productions
- Coding of the questionnaire and forming the data sets took more time than expected
 - Translations and national adaptation
- Web questioning method
 - suitable during COVID-19
 - Cost efficient
 - Lower response rate (motivation calls)
 - A paper option was considered but turned out to be too complicated and risky for data conformity
- International guidelines, support and comparability
- Strong cooperation and commitment, co-financing
 - National interests (national sample & national questions)
- Filling the data gap (needs and requirements), brings much-needed information
- Synergies with other projects on the topic
 - [Costs of domestic violence in Finland \(LAKU\)](#)
 - [The impact of the Covid-19 crisis on gender equality in Finland](#)
- Data for researchers available later in 2023
- A complex topic: how to communicate the results



Take away tips

Highlight nationally the importance of information and international obligations

Cooperate and get key stakeholders involved in the project

Allocate sufficient time for the process

Follow the guidelines

Take the sensitivity of the topic into account

Report and utilize the national survey results and bring up the national peculiarities

Compare perceptions and experiences of gender-based violence

Do not forget researchers and use of the data also in the future



Once conducted – easier and less expensive in the future!

Thank you

More information available:

<https://tilastokeskus.fi/tup/sukupuolistunut-vakivalta/index.html>

marjut.pietilainen@stat.fi

henna.attila@stat.fi

miina.keski-petaja@stat.fi

kimmo.haapakangas@stat.fi

laura.lipasti@stat.fi

juhani.saari@stat.fi

