Prevalence of Domestic Violence in Eastern Europe: Selected Findings From Reproductive Health (RH) Surveys

Florina Serbanescu, MD
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Reproductive Health
CDC-Assisted RH Surveys: Modules on Violence Against Women

- **Latin America**
  - Paraguay 1995, 1998
  - Ecuador 1999
  - Honduras 2001
  - Guatemala 2002**
  - El Salvador 2003

- **Africa**
  - Mozambique 2001

- **Eastern Europe/NIS**
  - Moldova 1997
  - Russia 1999 (3 urban areas)
  - Romania 1999**
  - Ukraine 1999
  - Georgia 2000
  - Azerbaijan 2001
  - Albania 2002**

** Includes male sample.
Violence Indicators

- Witnessing parental abuse
- Experience of abuse as a child
- Verbal and physical abuse by husband or partner (lifetime and during the past 12 months)
- Physical injuries from abuse
- Reporting of abuse
- Forced sex (ever and by age at first occurrence)
- Gender roles and attitudes
- Perpetrating verbal and physical abuse (men)
Question Design

- Modified Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS): asks about specific acts ranging from “insulted you” to “kicked you, choked you, beat you up”
- Placed toward end of questionnaire
- Questions asked of all women ever in formal or consensual union (no gateway questions)
Lifetime and Recent (Within Past 12 Months) Intimate Partner Violence

Percent of women ages 15-44 ever in union

- Moldova: 15 (Lifetime), 7 (Past 12 Months)
- Russia: 21 (Lifetime), 7 (Past 12 Months)
- Ukraine: 19 (Lifetime), 7 (Past 12 Months)
- Romania: 29 (Lifetime), 10 (Past 12 Months)
- Georgia: 5 (Lifetime), 2 (Past 12 Months)
- Azerbaijan: 20 (Lifetime), 8 (Past 12 Months)
Witnessed or Experienced Parental Physical Abuse During Childhood

Percent of women ages 15-44

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Witnessed</th>
<th>Experienced</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azerbaijan</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Recent IPV by Witnessing or Experiencing Parental Physical Abuse During Childhood, Romania 1999**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parental Abuse</th>
<th>Recent IPV (past 12 months)</th>
<th>N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Verbal</td>
<td>Physical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Witnessed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experienced</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Abortion Experience and Unmet Need of Contraception by Experience of Intimate Partner Physical Violence, Romania 1999

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical Abuse</th>
<th>Ever Had Induced Abortion</th>
<th>Unmet Need of Contraception</th>
<th>N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lifetime</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1,228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3,618</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Past 12 months</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>521</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4,325</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reported Lifetime and Recent IPV Among Women and Men, Romania 1999

Women ages 15-44 (received)
- Verbal Abuse: 45
- Physical Abuse: 29

Men ages 15-49 (inflicted)
- Verbal Abuse: 58
- Physical Abuse: 31

Legend:
- Light blue: Lifetime Abuse
- Red: Within the Past Year
Analysis/Use of Collected Data

- Routine reports from the data sets

- Special uses:
  - Legislation related to violence against women has cited survey data
  - Tracking of data requests
Challenges for the Future

- Strengthen continuity between design and analysis phases of survey
  - Analytic plan development simultaneous with survey questionnaire development
  - Identification of data users prior to data collection
- Enhanced tracking of requests for and use of existing data
Challenges for the Future

- Increase awareness of availability of data
  - Special topics can get “buried”
  - Generate interest in more specialized analysis of available data

- Increase use of data to document and project need for support services and interventions for abused women