Gender-Based Violence and Female Genital Cutting in the 2010 TDHS

The 2010 Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey (TDHS) provides up-to-date information on the population and health situation in Tanzania. The 2010 TDHS is the fifth national Demographic and Health Survey conducted in the country.

In the 2010 TDHS, more than 7,000 women age 15-49 were asked about their experiences of violence and female genital cutting (FGC).

One-third of Tanzanian women age 15-49 have experienced physical violence in the past 12 months.

Almost 2 in 5 women in Tanzania have ever experienced physical violence since age 15. Most of these women who have experienced physical violence report that a husband, partner, or boyfriend committed the violence.

44% of ever-married women have experienced physical or sexual violence by their current/most recent husband/partner, and 37% of ever-married women experienced such spousal violence in the past 12 months.

54% of women and 38% of men age 15-49 believe that a husband is justified in beating his wife for certain reasons. Acceptability of wife beating is higher among women than men for all of the reasons noted above.

20% of women have ever experienced sexual violence, usually perpetrated by their partners or former partners.

One in ten Tanzanian women who have ever had sex report that their first sex was forced against their will.

35% of ever-married women report that their husband/partner displays 3 or more controlling behaviours.

24% of married women believe that a husband is justified in beating his wife for certain reasons.

54% of women and 38% of men age 15-49 believe that a husband is justified in beating his wife for certain reasons. Acceptability of wife beating is higher among women than men for all of the reasons noted above.
Currently 15% of Tanzanian women have been circumcised. The prevalence of circumcision has not changed since the 2004-05 TDHS.

Nearly three-quarters of circumcisions are performed by a traditional circumciser.

More than 9 in 10 women (92%) believe that circumcision should be stopped.

For additional information on the results of the 2010 Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey, please contact:

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Cover photo: Tanzanian women and men march against gender-based violence. Courtesy of Engender Health.